

SANCTUARY STORIES

WINTER 2016/2017

ANIMAL SOS

SRI LANKA
Animal SOS Sri Lanka
UK Registered Charity 1119902

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Our
Story.....



There are thousands of stray animals in Sri Lanka suffering from horrific injuries, malnutrition and disease. Dogs and cats with fractured spines, severed limbs and maggot infested wounds; pups and kittens on festering rubbish dumps; animals slowly dying of tick fever, womb infections and bleeding tumours, suffering in agony until they die. With the risk and associated fear of rabies, strays are often demonised, leading to cruelty at the hands of humans. This ocean of suffering and misery is heart breaking for any animal lover to witness, let alone walk away from.

Animal SOS Sri Lanka, a UK-registered charity, was founded on the vision of Kim Cooling who, after witnessing the appalling plight of animals there, particularly the strays, decided to take action to help them. With a distinct lack of safe havens and veterinary care available to strays in Sri Lanka, our work and facilities are a lifeline to many otherwise doomed animals.

Happy New Year to our lovely supporters from the SOS Team



Our Achievements in 2016 (January – December)

- ♥ We are currently caring for 1,008 rescued dogs and 85 cats at the sanctuary.
- ♥ We provided 15,800 treatments for diseases, wounds, fractures and tumours.
- ♥ We sterilized 1,050 cats and dogs and conducted 810 surgeries for other conditions.
- ♥ We conducted 3,830 blood tests-Blood smears/Chemistry/Haematology.
- ♥ We provided 6,800 skin treatments.
- ♥ We vaccinated 2,448 cats and dogs against rabies and 2,465 against other dangerous viruses.
- ♥ We conduct regular outreach programs in the local villages – treating, sterilizing and vaccinating cats and dogs.
- ♥ We provided over 14,500 anti-parasitic treatments.
- ♥ We feed over 1,200 cats and dogs EVERY day



This tiny pup was found curled up near the tyre of the parked container lorry. Thankfully he was spotted and rescued. Kim adopted him and named him Chithral, after the cargo agent who helped us with the shipment at the Sri Lankan end.

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE

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A DESPERATE SITUATION

In October strays were rounded up in some areas of Colombo due to a reported rabies case. Around 38 dogs were collected and taken to the Municipal dog pound. The dogs had been held in the pound for a couple of weeks with no prospect of help. Kim visited the pound, saw the dogs which was heart wrenching, and managed to negotiate the release of 35 dogs on condition the dogs would be quarantined at our sanctuary for a period of 6 months. There was no intention to release the dogs back on to the streets and it was highly unlikely that they would have survived for 6 months in the conditions they were held, so their release to Animal SOS was their only lifeline. We had to arrange vehicles to transport 35 dogs to the sanctuary which is a considerable distance from Colombo. It was a big operation and most of the dogs were very weak, covered in ticks and petrified after their ordeal. En route to the sanctuary one dog with a large tumour on his face tried to escape. We managed to grab him just in time before he jumped onto a main road and he had to spend the rest of the trip in the front of the truck with Kim and Marie, the manager. We ended up covered in urine and dog faeces but were relieved that we had rescued the dogs. We reached the sanctuary in the evening, in the

pitch black and had to get some staff to help unload all the dogs into a large grassy compound. We placed water bowls and large plates of food down in the compound as the dogs were starving. Sadly, one very poorly dog died on the journey, another sweet dog died soon after from end stage babesia despite all our efforts to save her and we lost another too from the same disease. It was just too late for some of them.

The next day we conducted health checks on the dogs and many had tick borne disease like babesia and E.canis. Houdini, the dog that tried to escape, required chemotherapy for his facial tumour (TVT) and is doing well now. Others had wounds and injuries that needed treatment. This rescue mission has stretched the charity to the absolute limit, capacity wise and we are almost out of funds too. Many of the rescued dogs arrived with various diseases and the medicines are expensive, especially those for babesia (a dangerous tick borne disease). Some of the dogs are still undergoing treatment now and there are also vaccination and neutering costs to cover too. We are currently caring for over 1000 dogs and 85 cats at the sanctuary. We gave these dogs the gift of life and only an influx of donations can keep this vital project going now.



THE DOG POUND





THE RESCUE MISSION



AT THE SANCTUARY

All dogs given full health checks & names.



Houdini - Treated and Cured





Dogs who already have owners often suffer as much as strays in Sri Lanka and Jimmy is an example of this. We were alerted to a very sick dog in the area with a swollen head and horrific head wound. So, Jimmy was delivered to our sanctuary and we were appalled when we saw him. We promptly admitted him and our vets fought to save his life. He was in such a critical state but we perform many miracles at the sanctuary and, within days, Jimmy's condition improved. The swelling went down and over the next weeks, his head wound healed with the help of Manuka honey. We also treated Jimmy for Babesia, which is a dangerous tick borne disease causing severe anaemia. Like many pet dogs that do not receive love and kindness from humans, Jimmy was quite aggressive and distrustful when he arrived, which was hardly surprising under the circumstances. However, when given love and attention these dogs soon heal mentally and Jimmy is becoming an affectionate boy now and wags his tail and gives you a lick in appreciation for saving his life.

♥ Jimmy



Some Of The Many Lives You Have

In August we opened our gates to see the most tragic sight. A mother dog with her front and hind legs bound so tightly that the wire had cut into her skin. Her 3 newborn and helpless pups were close by. Mum also had a chain around her neck tied to a pole. The pups were around 2 weeks old- 1 boy and 2 girls. We took the family in. All the dogs had a dangerous tick borne disease- babesia gibsoni, and mum had E.canis too. Mum wasn't producing enough milk initially, so we had to bottle feed the pups with puppy formula. We named the mum Badger and her pups Wolfy, Foxy and Coyote. The young mum was probably an owned dog but disposed of when she had the pups because people still refuse to sterilize their pets, but don't want the pups either, so they dump them like garbage. Badger was petrified of humans after her ordeal but gave all her love to her pups. Sadly, her weakest pup Wolfy passed away as he was just too weak, despite all our efforts. However, Foxy and Coyote thrived and Badger was the most amazing and attentive mum. So, once they were neutered and fully vaccinated, we managed to home Foxy and Coyote. But the story doesn't end there. We are constantly getting tiny pups and kittens dumped at the sanctuary and one morning there were two newborn pups outside our gates in a box. We named the pups Noah and Jonah. As Badger's pups were older and eating solids, we decided to put the pups with Badger to increase their chances of survival. Well, 'supermum' Badger stepped up to the task brilliantly. She was still producing more milk at this time and so was able to feed the pups and provide them with all the motherly love she could give. Noah and Jonah thrived in her care and became robust, healthy boys. Badger, Noah and Jonah remain at the sanctuary.



♥ Badger & Pups



♥ Shiru



Another disabled dog we have given sanctuary to after we heard he was going to be euthanized at a vets in Colombo. Shiru is now walking, so another life saved and transformed.





This mum had littered and one of her pups was attacked by a monitor lizard. The pup's leg was completely ripped off and the pup succumbed to the injury. So, to save the family, we took them in despite struggling with so many animals at the sanctuary. Initially mum, who we named Cartoon, wasn't producing enough milk, so we had to bottle feed her pups. However, after a few days of regular meals and comfort, she produced more milk for her 3 surviving pups-Tom, Jerry and Tailspin. Like Badger, Cartoon has been an amazing mum and her pups have grown fast and are healthy and happy. Such a lovely family and 4 more precious lives saved.



♥ Cartoon and Pups

Helped To Save And Transform



♥ Dumped Newborn Kittens
Alby & Tobias

5 very frail, newborn kittens were dumped in a box outside our sanctuary. Some were close to death and passed away but due to the efforts of our dedicated staff, 2 kittens survived with round the clock feeding and care. We named the surviving kittens, both boys, Alby and Tobias. They are our little miracles.

Goviya was delivered to the sanctuary in September and we suspect he may have been a neglected owned dog. He had an horrific head wound, an injury to his tail exposing the bone, was emaciated and had 2 dangerous tick borne diseases- Ehrlichiosis and Babesia gibsoni, which we have treated him for. He has thrived in our care.

♥ Goviya



She arrived with paralyzed limbs after an accident on the road. However, after a short period of rest and care, Chance started walking and then running. This is why we give dogs like Chance a chance!



♥ Chance



He was in the last newsletter, but is a big lad now. Jaya was found by Kim crying in torrential rain as a sickly pup and nursed back to health. A supporter from the UK fell in love with him and is going to fund his passage to the UK. He has landed on his paws!



♥ Jaya

TIKIRI



We took this sweet little soul in to save her life. Our charity offers a lifeline to disabled animals from all over the island. Without our help they die on the roadsides or are euthanized. Tikiri, like many strays, suffered paralysis after an accident on the road. Street animals are so vulnerable to accidents as they live by the roadsides and many are killed or badly injured. Tikiri was suffering from babesia when she arrived, so we treated her for that and she has thrived ever since. Her mobility is slowly improving and she can now get around and play with her friends at the sanctuary which is wonderful.



RUPEE

Cruelly dumped and chained to a tree by his owners near the sanctuary, this dog even had a card with his name around his neck. Rupee must have met with an accident and his hind limbs are paralysed. He was discarded as many pets are in their time of need. We took him in and are caring for him at the sanctuary.

OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMS

In a country with so many suffering strays that will never find a loving home and often die agonizing lonely deaths, the best way to reduce this suffering is through neutering. Neutering prevents unwanted litters that are born to suffer and die. We endeavour to do weekly outreach programs whereby our team go out to the local villages and sterilize, treat, health check, provide anti-parasitic treatments, as well as vaccinating dogs and cats against the deadly rabies virus. We also clip nails and clean ears. These programs cost the charity around £350 for the day. We also give out free collars

and leads to prevent horrific neck injuries from chains and tight wires, as well as educational leaflets promoting animal welfare. So, these programs cover many aspects of animal welfare and prevent a great deal of suffering, as well as reducing the risk of rabies in the area. The villagers are very poor people and often unable to afford veterinary treatments for their pets. So, we are often the only lifeline for these animals. The programs are always gratefully received, well attended and conducted in the homes and gardens of animal friendly people in the local communities.



NEWS

The Shipment Arrived!

Huge thanks to all our lovely supporters, trustees and friends, Liz and Colin from Dorset and Somerset Animal Rescue, for the goodies for our sanctuary animals. It was like Christmas day for our rescued cats and dogs!



Farewell Old Friend

We had to say a sad and very tearful goodbye to our lovely old boy Boola. Kim rescued him in 2011 when he was dying on his feet. Boola had 5 lovely years with us, the last few years in a loving home, which is the happiest ending we could ever wish for. Boola had cancer and despite our efforts, we just couldn't save him. RIP sweetheart, you live on in our hearts along with many others that we have loved and lost.



URGENT APPEAL FOR FUNDS TO KEEP OUR SANCTUARY OPEN

We are constantly struggling to find our running costs to keep this vital project going. Our running costs are around £520 a day now. We do so much for such a small charity and always stretch ourselves to the absolute limit to save precious lives, as well as giving a safe haven to so many animals that have arrived at our gates on the brink of death. We tackle every aspect of animal welfare; neutering to reduce unwanted litters, the provision of lifesaving veterinary care to strays that would otherwise die, educating through our outreach programs, vaccinating against the deadly rabies virus which protects humans and animals. We home as many rehabilitated animals as we can, although it's extremely hard to find as many loving homes as we require. Importantly, we also give animals a chance and do not take the easy option to euthanize if there is a glimmer of hope. Our successes prove why we do this and our sanctuary is full of animals that are only alive today because of our ethos.

Unlike most charities, Animal SOS Sri Lanka is run by unpaid volunteers in the UK, including Kim, the founder member, who has given up a well-paid job to donate more time to develop the charity. This means that with our charity MORE funds go directly to the animals. However, it's extremely difficult when we are constantly struggling to get by each month. Please do consider helping with a monthly standing order so we have a more regular committed income and donations are so important too. Leaving a charity like ours a legacy would make such a

tremendous difference for so many animals and we could expand our model to other areas in Sri Lanka where there is no help or hope for suffering strays. It is heart breaking to get requests on a daily basis to help animals that we know will die without our help, but lack of resources and space limit the number of animals we can help and that is often the difference between life and death. We can't do more without more funds.

This is one of our latest rescues named Flo. We were asked to rescue a local stray with 'part of his head missing'. These are the sort of appeals we get on a daily basis. It's stressful especially when we are low on funds and can't expand our work. Fortunately for this brave soul, we took him in and we are confident he will survive. We will do an update on Flo in the next newsletter.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are really desperate for funds. With over 1000 rescued strays at the sanctuary and appeals every day to save dogs and cats from unimaginable suffering and horror from all over Sri Lanka, we are stretched beyond words and struggling for survival. We have always been hand to mouth because with our charity funds go directly towards helping and saving the lives of animals in need and there are so many animals in desperate need on the streets of Sri Lanka. Unlike most charities, there are no salaries in the UK, no plush offices, just some dedicated volunteers like Kim, the founder, working every hour under the sun to keep this vital project going. It's a true labour of love because we are totally committed to helping these suffering animals and to saving lives. These animals are doomed without us. However, we can't do this alone. We are really struggling and need your help more than ever to keep going.

PLEASE, PLEASE DONATE to help us continue our mission.



There is no greater gift than the gift of life

AN URGENT APPEAL FOR THE STRAYS IN SRI LANKA



Before



After

Imagine the suffering this dog endured after having his leg severed in an accident and the stump becoming infected with maggots and pus. We rescued him just in time and nursed him back to health and happiness. Animal SOS Sri Lanka is a UK Registered Charity battling to help the forgotten street animals in Sri Lanka. We are caring for over 1000 rescued stray cats and dogs at our beautiful sanctuary in southern Sri Lanka including Tanar, the dog in the photo. We also conduct feeding, homing, neutering and rabies vaccination programs too. The charity is run by unpaid volunteers, so, with us, more funds go directly on saving lives and alleviating animal suffering. We desperately need donations to continue our lifesaving work, so PLEASE help us.

HELP US TO GIVE THESE ANIMALS A FUTURE BY DONATING TODAY

I enclose ☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ Other £

Please make cheques payable to: Animal SOS Sri Lanka.

Post to: 12 Cheyne Avenue, South Woodford, London E18 2DR

Or make a secure donation online www.animalsos-sl.com

GIVE MORE AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU:

☐ **GIFT AID.** I would like Animal SOS Sri Lanka to reclaim tax on this & all future donations until I notify you otherwise.
I confirm I am a UK taxpayer & that I pay as much income or capital gains as Animal SOS Sri Lanka will reclaim in the tax year (currently 25p in every £1 donated.)

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DONATE BY CHEQUE

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Post to: 12 Cheyne Avenue, South Woodford, London E18 2DR

SPONSOR A DOG

Please complete the form in this newsletter, online via www.animalsos-sl.com

MONTHLY STANDING ORDER

Having regular monthly funds is a Godsend and helps us to continue caring for the dogs and cats at the sanctuary, continuing our vital outreach programs and rescuing other desperate cases. You can download a standing order form from our website www.animalsos-sl.com or complete the form in this newsletter.

GIFT AID

Gift Aid increases the value of donations to our registered charity by allowing us to reclaim basic rate tax on your gift. If you pay higher rate tax you can claim extra relief on your donations too. So, if you are a UK tax payer and have not already completed a declaration, please check the Gift Aid section in the advert below. If eligible, tick the circle in the advert, include your full details and return to us so we can make your donations go even further, at no extra cost to you. You can download a Gift Aid form from our website www.animalsos-sl.com

GIVING LIFE THROUGH A LEGACY

If you are an animal lover and want to leave a legacy to make a real difference to the lives of cats and dogs in desperate need, there is no better way than remembering Animal SOS Sri Lanka, a UK Registered Charity, in your will. You can see where your legacy will go with us, that is directly towards saving and transforming precious lives and not on administrative costs or huge salaries. The survival of our whole project depends on having the funds to continue our work. A legacy will give us the security we need to continue our project without having the worry about just getting by each month. We can also grow as a charity, set up more projects in areas where there is simply no help at all for the strays. The sky is the limit to what we can do and achieve with more funding. With our charity all members of our dedicated UK team work as unpaid volunteers to ensure more funds actually go directly towards helping and saving the lives of animals. There are generous tax concessions for leaving a legacy to a registered charity too. Our UK Registered Charity No is: 1119902.