

Animal SOS Sri Lanka

www.animalsos-sl.com

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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 heartbreaking 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 Ending!

'You can't save every dog in the world but to the one you save it IS the world'

This poor dog was found in the road in the most dreadful state. Her ears had been mutilated and she was suffering from severe mange and tick fever.

After months of tender loving care, Emma slowly regained her health and is now living with a loving family.



Since July 2009

- 135 dogs rescued
- 317 dogs treated through blood tests, inoculation and neutering
- 20 dogs homed

We will update you with our achievements in every newsletter!



Sanctuary at Last

Our vision is to achieve a rabies free Sri Lanka, where the community no longer perceives dogs and other animals as a threat and actively engages with them. Therefore, our mission is, through the development of a long-term programme, to reduce animal numbers through humane methods including neutering, vaccination and education programmes. We want to create an environment where companion animals are cared for and no longer represent a threat to the public but, in fact, enhance their quality of life.

We work to western standards and protocols and provide post-operative care and assessment prior to surgery, including full blood screening for tropical diseases, to maximise the investment in the campaign by ensuring treated animals survive. We are the only organisation that works to these protocols. We also offer rehabilitation to recovering animals and a sanctuary base to vulnerable animals that would not survive on the streets.

To achieve this we required a sizable plot, a well equipped veterinary clinic, and adequate kennelling facilities.

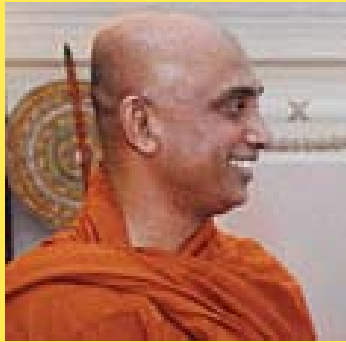


Because of caring people like you, this essential objective has come true. In September 2008 we purchased a 2.75 acre plot of land in Midigama, near Ahangama, in southern Sri Lanka. The land is ideal- quiet, tranquil, and surrounded by countryside with only a few villagers nearby. Since then, due to the generosity of a supporter we have acquired another acre of adjoining land. Other surrounding land is also for sale which would allow us to expand when funds allow. Building works on a surrounding wall started in September 2008, followed by the building of our veterinary clinic and kennelling compounds in February 2009. We formally opened the project in July 2009.

We currently have 106 dogs living in our peaceful sanctuary. Many are orphaned puppies and other vulnerable strays needing a safe haven from the perils of the streets.

We now employ a full-time vet called Nilantha who works in our veterinary clinic with Jo, our volunteer British veterinary nurse. Russell, our site manager, is a volunteer from the UK. We also employ some local staff from the surrounding village to assist at our sanctuary.





Forging Partnerships

Our Sri Lankan Patron

Engagement with the Sri Lankan government is essential to the success of our operational model and we are honoured to have the Venerable Athureliye Rathana Himi as our Sri Lankan Patron.

Venerable Athureliye Rathana, a staunch supporter of our work and vision, was a guest speaker at a presentation of our organisation at the Mount Lavinia Hotel, Colombo, in April 2009. He is an avid campaigner for the rights and welfare of animals in Sri Lanka.

In February 2009, Venerable Rathana tabled in Parliament the Animal Welfare Bill which also seeks to establish a National Animal Welfare Authority as a Private Member's Bill. The Bill provides for the protection of animals from cruelty-to foster kindness, compassion, and responsible behaviour towards animals in the community.

Venerable Rathana is the Honourable Member of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, Parliamentary Group Leader for the Jathika Hela Urumaya (The Nationalist Party), Chairman of the National Drug Prevention Bureau and Chairman of the Unity for Animal Protection.

“Don't feel it's hopeless, we are proving your help really makes a difference!”



Charity Presentation in April 2009

On 5th April 2009 a presentation about our work and vision was held at the Mount Lavinia Hotel, in Sri Lanka. The event was a great success and our presentation was well received by all.

We were honoured to have some very special guest speakers including our Sri Lankan Patron, Venerable Athureliye Rathana Himi. Other guest speakers included Senaka Weeraratna, Attorney-at-Law, and formal legal Consultant to the Law Commission of Sri Lanka on animal welfare legislation, Kanthie Perera, an Associate Member of our charity and President of the World Buddhist Peace Foundation and Kim Cooling, President and founder of Animal SOS Sri Lanka. Kim's speech focused on animal welfare in Sri Lanka, the effects on tourism, and UK and Sri Lankan working partnerships.

Our host for the event was Anoma Akmeemana, an Associate Member of the charity in Sri Lanka. Other VIP guests included Iranganie de Silva, an Associate Member and wife of the Minister of Health and Nutrition in Sri Lanka, Dr Daya Hewapathirane, advisor to the President of Sri Lanka and Venerable Bhikkhuni Kusuma, Head of the Ayya Khema Buddhist Mandir in Sri Lanka.

Many other animal lovers and friends in Sri Lanka attended the presentation. The event was covered in the local media.

VIP Visit to Our Site in October 2009

'Madam, this is like Pinnawalla... but instead of elephants, it's dogs'

Chief Inspector of Public Health, on visiting our project in October 2009.

In October 2009 we received a visit by officials from the Divisional Public Health Department. The officials were given a tour of our site and buildings and were immensely impressed with our project and facilities. The Chief Inspector compared our project to the famous elephant orphanage which is a wonderful compliment for such a new venture. The visit culminated in a joint working partnership to eliminate rabies in the area through a coordinated vaccination and sterilisation program. The officials agreed to provide the rabies vaccines and also suitable facilities for the outreach work which is necessary to meet our high standards of animal welfare. This joint project, in partnership with local government, is a major step forward towards achieving our ultimate goals and vision for the suffering animals in Sri Lanka.



Happy Ending!

George was a tiny puppy when he was found in the road with his brother after being run over. He had a large wound all the way down his front leg and many other smaller wounds, all of which had to be stitched. He was really terrified when he arrived and would scream whenever anyone touched him. However with time and lots of tender loving care, he has now turned into a very confident little chap who is always causing trouble! He spends a lot of time with his naughty brother but also loves a good game with the other puppies.

You can sponsor George to ensure he lives a happy and healthy life.



Money Goes a Long Way in Sri Lanka

Here's just a short list of what it costs to treat a stray dog or cat to make it healthy:

£1 - £2

- Worm a dog or cat
- Blood test a dog for lethal tick fever
- Urine Analysis
- Monthly tick and flea preventative treatment for a dog or cat

£5.00 - £12.00

- Treatment for painful Transmissible Venereal Tumours
- Treatment for the lethal tick fevers
- Sterilise a dog or cat
- Fully vaccinate a dog or cat
- Full mange treatment for a dog

£15 - £20

- To feed a cat or dog for a month

£250

- Monthly wage for our vet

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Fundraise

Sponsored walks, quiz nights, fun events, charity auctions, coffee mornings, fashion shows, doing a cake bake, dog biscuit bake, discos, jumble sales, bungee jumps, are just some ideas.



Anything you can do to raise valuable funds for us would be greatly appreciated. Every penny raised will help us save the lives of desperate animals and ensure the continuation of our vital work in Sri Lanka.

Please contact June Brook, Tel: 020 8504 3220, for more information about how you can help.

Our forthcoming charity fundraising events for 2010 will be advertised on our website soon.

How You Can Help Us

We completely rely on your generosity to carry on with our vital work in Sri Lanka. Our charity is a lifeline to so many suffering and otherwise doomed animals and we really are making a tremendous difference. Our charity team in the UK all work on a voluntary basis to ensure that vital funds go directly towards providing lifesaving facilities, rehabilitation, and alleviating animal suffering. Therefore, financial donations in whatever quantity is the lifeline of our charity and the animals we are striving to help in Sri Lanka.

Please Donate

Please make cheques payable to: Animal SOS Sri Lanka and post to: 483 Green Lanes, Palmers Green, London N13 4BS

Sponsor a Dog

Please see the sponsor a dog form in the newsletter.

Leave a Legacy

Leaving a legacy to Animal SOS Sri Lanka would secure urgent funding for our small hands-on group and enable us to help more animals for many years to come. There is no greater gift for an animal lover.

We do not waste vital funds needed for the animals on administrative costs or other expenses. There are also generous tax concessions for a legacy to a registered charity.

Thank you to everyone who has kindly supported our amazing achievements to date. There is still so much to do, but we are making a huge difference to the lives of so many. Please continue to support our vital work with the strays in Sri Lanka.

Wish List

Donations of any veterinary items/medicines would be gratefully received and used directly to help the neglected, suffering, and abused stray cats and dogs in Sri Lanka. Any second-hand, reconditioned, short dated and unused items can be utilised. Please visit our website to see our wish list.

Our Volunteer - Jo

'I have been working as a veterinary nurse for a few years in the UK and decided that I wanted to do something more challenging! I had met Kim Cooling previously through Liz Stewart's rescue centre, and she told me about her plans to help the suffering strays in Sri Lanka and about opening a sanctuary/ veterinary clinic in Sri Lanka.



It has been a HUGE learning curve for me and very interesting gaining knowledge about the exotic diseases which thankfully, we do not have in the UK. The best thing about the work is that you never know what you might be doing today and being challenged everyday treating such a wide range of complex health problems.

I have found Sri Lanka to be a great place to live and the locals are always very friendly. Just recently we went out to pick up a dog with severe mange and were watched by around 30 very curious locals, all were more than happy to help us try and catch the dog and at the same time learn about what we do and how we want to help'.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kim Cooling on 07773 746108 or email us on info@animalsos-sl.com



Sponsor a Dog

Charlie, an older dog, was found in a road by the team in April 2008, prior to us having a sanctuary base and veterinary clinic. He was in a terrible state, suffering from tick fever, mange and a horrific maggot infested leg wound. After many months of treatment and boarding with a vet in Colombo, Charlie was taken to our site in April 2009.

It was a wonderful sight to see Charlie's reaction when he saw his lovely new home. Charlie has quickly established himself as the grandfather of the pack and although most of his teeth are missing, he endeavours to keep the pack in order. He is a lovely old boy and is such a happy dog now. Please consider sponsoring Charlie or some of the other deserving dogs in our sanctuary for just £10 per month.

Sponsor a Dog



George

George was a tiny puppy when he was found in the road with his brother after being run over. He had a large wound all the way down his front leg and many other smaller wounds, all of which had to be stitched. He was really terrified when he arrived and would scream whenever anyone touched him. However with time and lots of tender loving care, he has now turned into a very confident little chap who is always causing trouble! He spends a lot of time with his naughty brother but also loves a good game with the other puppies.



Julie

Julie was found as a young puppy with her siblings in the streets and taken to the safety of our sanctuary. Julie is a gorgeous little dog with a big personality! When she arrived she was suffering from Babesia gibsoni, caught from ticks- a disease that kills many young pups. Fortunately for Julie, we have a microscope and a dedicated resident vet who is experienced in microbiology- a lifesaver for so many strays. Julie was successfully treated and is now a healthy girl. Julie is such a fearless and feisty little character and is often found causing trouble with her partner in crime 'Blondie'. She gets on very well with all the other site dogs and is happy to spend all day playing without a care in the world.



Rusty

Rusty, named after our site manager, was living near a navy training camp near Galle when our team rescued him. The poor soul had a huge maggot infested wound on his back and was suffering from mange. He was also covered in ticks like most strays and was later diagnosed with tick fever after a routine blood test at our clinic. Rusty must have been suffering for a long time and no-one had bothered to help him. Maggot infested wounds are very common in Sri Lanka and cause a long agonising death to the animal. Rusty is such a humble, good natured dog and allowed Jo to treat and clean his horrific wound without any sedation or fuss whatsoever. Although he is still weak, we are confident that under our care, Rusty will regain his health and spend the rest of his days in our lovely tranquil sanctuary. After suffering so much as a stray, he now has a chance of happiness in his life.



Charlie

Charlie, an older dog, was found in a road by the team in April 2008. (This was prior to us having a sanctuary base and veterinary clinic) He was in a terrible state and suffering from tick fever, mange and a horrific maggot infested leg wound. After many months of treatment and boarding with a vet in Colombo, Charlie was taken to our site by Kim and Morag in April 2009. It was a wonderful sight to see Charlie's reaction when he saw his lovely new home. Charlie has quickly established himself as the grandfather of the pack and although most of his teeth are missing, he endeavours to keep the pack in order. He is a lovely old boy and is such a happy dog now.



Minnie

Minnie, an orphaned pup, was found near the Pinnawella Elephant Centre in October 2009. She was brought to us by two kind volunteers at the centre. On arrival to the site Minnie was very weak, anaemic and full of worms. Thankfully, with some tender loving care, she has made a full recovery and is now a healthy and happy little girl. Although timid and introverted initially, Minnie has slowly gained her confidence and stands up for herself against the other site puppies, even though she is so tiny. Minnie loves her home cooked meals and is the dearest little soul as you can see from the photos.



Tulip

Tulip was rescued from the streets by Kim, Morag and Liz in April 2008. Like Charlie, she had to be treated and boarded with a vet in Colombo as we lacked facilities to care for her at the time. Tulip had a badly fused fractured hind leg-an old road traffic injury. She was also suffering from tick fever, and a bleeding transmissible venereal tumour. The charity funded all Tulips' veterinary treatment and once recovered she was taken to our land in April 2009. Tulip is a sweet natured and quiet dog who has a close bond with Scamp who she mothers. She has a tranquil and contented life now hanging around the office area watching over our resident puppies.



Spot

Spot was found on a busy street near Weligama. She was cowering in a ditch, alone and terrified. At approximately 2 months old she was possibly taken from her mother and dumped-sadly this is common fate for female puppies in Sri Lanka. Spot was tested for blood parasites and was positive for E.Canis, a tick-borne disease. She was successfully treated for this and also mange. Spot is now healthy puppy and enjoys the company of humans. She is still a timid little girl but is gaining confidence as she becomes stronger and bigger. She hangs out with Tulip and Scamp, another timid little puppy with a sad start in life.



Scamp

As a tiny pup, Scamp and her siblings were placed in black bin liner and thrown onto a busy road. The bag was torn apart by the speeding cars and with it the lives of Scamps family. Somehow Scamp, the sole survivor, managed to scramble to a gutter where she lay helpless for days in the heavy rains without food. With no hair, covered in ants and being gnawed by rats-her pitiful cries were ignored by all of those who passed by. Luckily for Scamp, a member of our team spotted her just in time-she was barely recognisable as a puppy. Scamp was taken to our site and after weeks of tender loving care and treatment for blood parasite disease (Babesia gibsoni) and mange, this courageous little dog regained her health, as well as her ginger and black hair! Scamp was such a quiet and sad little puppy when she arrived, despite all the efforts of Tulip-her surrogate mother, Spot- her best friend, and our local carers. We can only imagine how the horrific experience has scarred her. This dear little soul is now safe in our care and will be for the rest of her natural life. We are pleased to report that Scamp is blossoming and slowly gaining her confidence.



Blondie

Blondie is a fabulous little dog. She was found as a small orphaned puppy near our site by Kim and Morag, and has continued to blossom ever since. Blondie likes to be involved with every activity on the site and is a real little madam. She is adored by our resident vet nurse, Jo, charming her way into Jo's living quarters including the bedroom. Blondie enjoys the company of humans and the other dogs on the site. She loves lots of attention and spends her days playing happily or getting into mischief with Julie. She thinks she's a big dog and likes to act as the leader of the pack, bossing the other dogs around.



Monty

Monty, a friendly and lovable stray from Colombo, was hit by a car and left with injuries to his hind legs-a common injury in Sri Lanka. He came to our site in April 2009, and has made a miraculous recovery. Monty likes to sit with Charlie, his mentor, and enjoys his stress free life in the peace and tranquillity of our sanctuary.

**If they could say
thank you, they
would BIG TIME!**

More Happy Endings

Godfrey

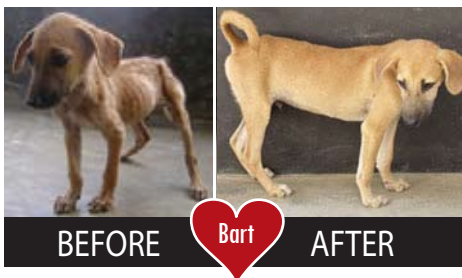
Godfrey was hit by a car in the capital Colombo and sustained horrific injuries to his back and pelvis. As you can see, under our care he has made a full recovery and races around the site like he owns the place!

Turkey

We rescued Turkey from the road near our site when he was a small pup. He was hot with fever and had no hair because of mange. Blood tests revealed that he had Ehrlichiosis and Babesia -both serious tick-borne diseases that cause the deaths of thousands of strays and pets alike in Sri Lanka. Fortunately for Turkey we found him in time and he is now living with a friend in Sri Lanka as a much loved pet.

Bart

Another orphaned puppy saved from the streets and nursed back to health.



Thank you, Kate & Shereene

We are delighted to have two 4th Year veterinary students from the UK who are currently gaining work experience at our project in Sri Lanka. The girls are really enjoying the experience and learning a great deal about the many complex health issues that affect stray animals in the country.



Pups in a Well

Acts of animal cruelty are sadly quite common in Sri Lanka and in November 2009, we were alerted to some pups who had been thrown into a well.

Sadly one pup had already drowned but five other pups were successfully rescued. All were taken to the safety of our sanctuary. The pups were named after famous footballers and their partners-Beckham, Rooney, Cole, Cheryl and Coleen. Cole was the weakest of the litter and had obviously suffered from his terrible ordeal and was very frail. Sadly, despite all our attempts to save him, this little pup passed away on Russell's lap a few days later. Fortunately, his four stronger siblings continue to thrive and remain in the safety of our sanctuary.

Incidents like this prove that we have a mammoth task ahead of us to protect animals from cruelty and abuse in Sri Lanka.

Thank you, Russell

Russell is our site manager in Sri Lanka and is a dedicated and hardworking member of our local team. He is totally committed to the welfare of animals especially those who are neglected, abused, and underprivileged. Having spent most of his life surrounded by dogs and learning about them, Russell's dream has always been to work in an environment where he can make a difference to the lives of animals.

Russell is wonderful with our sanctuary dogs and has created a calm, healthy, balanced and loving environment for these traumatised animals to live in. Russell has spent some time in Sri Lanka before joining our team and is a great asset to our project.



Russell says:

'We are making such a huge difference on so many levels, to so many animals - whether it be a successful socialising of an unruly stray, or going out in the three-wheeler to collect a sick or injured animal (much to the amusement of the locals), or the first time a dog is able to walk after being stuffed into a tiny cage for its whole life, or just a simple bath for a dog who has been rolling in poop... I get the same buzz.'

'We get a lot of dogs hurled over the walls, and although the manner of their arrival is horrible, the fact they HAVE arrived fills me with joy because I know that within days, sometimes hours, these pups will have side-stepped the horror of a life as a stray in Sri Lanka and will soon become a valued member of a balanced, energetic, constantly evolving pack. This for me, is the greatest reward on earth and as an animal lover, I consider myself very, very lucky to be a part of something so special and wonderful. I feel I am the richest man for this experience.'



We ARE making a difference!

A Day in the Life of Animal SOS Sri Lanka

Three miracles in a day

One day in November, Jo and Russell were alerted to a stray dog living near a navy training camp near Galle. They were told the dog had a terrible wound so lost no time looking for him.

This gentle dog that we named Rusty, was soon found and he had a huge maggot infested wound on his back-he was literally being eaten alive and no-one had cared enough to help him. He had been suffering in agony for months. On the way back to the site with Rusty in our tuk tuk, 2 tiny and helpless orphaned female pups were spotted. They were also covered in maggots and fly eggs. All three dogs were taken back to the safety of our sanctuary and were given immediate treatment in our veterinary clinic.

Rusty allowed Jo to clean and treat his wound without any sedation. He was covered in ticks, suffering from mange and later tested positive for tick fever (Ehrlichiosis). We are pleased to report that under our care, all three dogs are recovering well as you can see from the photos. Dear Rusty is totally devoted to Jo, our brilliant vet nurse, and follows her around everywhere.

Three more happy endings and three more reasons why our work in Sri Lanka is so vital.

You can sponsor Rusty for just £10 per month to help pay for his keep and veterinary treatment at the sanctuary. Please see our sponsor a dog scheme in this newsletter.



Huge Maggot Infested Wound



Pups Eaten Alive With Maggots

BEFORE

AFTER



Eaten Alive

An Emergency Appeal for Sri Lanka's Suffering Strays

Rusty was rescued by our team in November. Like many strays in Sri Lanka, he had suffered in agony for months with a huge maggot infested wound-literally being eaten alive. Rusty, a gentle and trusting dog, is now recovering well in the safety of our sanctuary along with many other strays that have suffered similar horrors.

You can sponsor Rusty and other dogs in the scheme for £10 per month (standing order) or £100 a year for each dog. This will help with veterinary and feeding costs. Please see our website for more details.

Animal SOS Sri Lanka is a small and dedicated UK registered charity striving against tremendous odds to alleviate the suffering of thousands of stray animals in Sri Lanka. We desperately need funds to continue our vital work so we can help other animals like Rusty.

WE PROVIDE:

- Lifesaving veterinary care to stray animals
- Refuge, rehabilitation and homing
- Sterilisation and rabies vaccination programs
- Animal welfare education

I enclose: £100 £50 £25 £10 other £ _____

Please make cheques payable to: Animal SOS Sri Lanka.

Post to: 483 Green Lanes, Palmers Green, London N13 4BS.

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

Mr/Mrs/Ms: _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____

GIVE MORE AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU

Gift Aid. I would like Animal SOS Sri Lanka to reclaim tax on this and all future donations until I notify you otherwise. I confirm I am a UK tax payer and 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) Signature _____ Date _____

www.animalsos-sl.com





Some of the Many Dogs Currently at Our Rescue Center Needing Your Help



‘Thank you for saving our lives’