



# 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.

## Our Patrons

*We are thrilled to introduce our charity Patrons, Actresses Olivia Hussey and her daughter India Eisley.*

*From Olivia*

'I was in Sri Lanka shooting the film Mother Teresa of Calcutta and during those three months, I saw first-hand the tragic suffering of the many poor dogs, cats and monkeys as well as other animals. At the time I thought the problem there was just too overwhelming! But Kim, you and your husband Gary rolled your sleeves up and began your mission with the 1st dog.... Much like Mother Teresa did with the 1st person she pulled from the streets. You have, and continue to make such a difference. My daughter India, also an actor and myself, are very proud to be co/patrons for Animal SOS and hope to become very active in the years ahead in helping bring awareness and members to this amazing cause/charity. Thank you for caring as much as you do. You and everyone at Animals SOS- Sri Lanka are wonderful angels and India and I are proud to be on board! It is nice to get confirmation that there are still people in the world that truly care as you have proven. We send you much love and light'.

## Basil and Sybil

Basil, an orphaned pup, was found wandering on a main road. He was mangy, hot with fever and after a blood test was diagnosed with Babesia, a dangerous tick-borne disease. Basil was promptly treated and has made a good recovery and is growing fast. Basil now has a girlfriend called Sybil, another frail pup who was saved from being killed by stray adult dogs at a local temple where she was dumped. Sybil was shaking with terror when she arrived at the sanctuary and had lost her bark due to being mauled around the throat. She is fine now and plays happily with Basil



***"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened"***

*- Anatole France*



## Since July '09

- ♥ 8,003 dogs and cats have received veterinary treatments including blood testing, rabies/other vaccinations, spay/neutering and other surgeries.
- ♥ 260 dogs and 5 cats are currently receiving refuge in our sanctuary.
- ♥ 135 dogs and cats homed.
- ♥ We also provide veterinary care and rehabilitation to injured wildlife.



**Tiger Has a New Mum**  
Tiger, the gorgeous kitten on the front page of the last newsletter, has now been found a lovely home. Another happy ending!





# Bus Stop Fred

By Kay Anderson

I found Bus Stop Fred hanging out at the local bus station in Hikkaduwa hence the inspiring name! He was painfully thin and pretty bald, pus coming out of his bottom and wonky legs, poor love. But when you gave him a whistle he'd hobble over, tail wagging and eyes twinkling. I was amazed that an animal in such a state of physical suffering still had such spirit. I gave him some food which he quickly devoured and took some photos of him which I showed to a local vet. The vet told me that Bus Stop Fred had a very bad case of mange which could take months to sort out and until she could examine him properly, God knows what else was wrong with him. I only had 6 weeks left of my trip and I didn't know then if I would even see Bus Stop Fred every day. I was staying in a guest house, so it was not possible for me to provide him with a safe shelter. This is a big problem in Sri Lanka, a lack of safe places for sick and injured animals. Fortunately, after trawling the internet, I found Animal SOS Sri Lanka, which was based an hour and a half away. This was the doggie heaven I had no idea existed!

This was where Bus Stop had to go to get the long term treatment and care he needed. In the meantime I went to the Animal SOS dog sanctuary to see what it was all about. I was met by the amazing manager Debbie and 200 plus bounding, happy, healthy, smiling dogs! These were the lucky ones who had been nursed back from the brink and most were awaiting new homes. I have never seen so many dogs in one place! The sanctuary was an incredible place with green, lush grounds and compounds and kennels of various sizes, separating the young from the sick. But the main pack of healthy, neutered dogs roamed and played free. Debbie gave us a guided tour and in the afternoon that we were there, I didn't see 1 dog fight or any dog mess - the space was remarkably clean! The dogs really were in doggie heaven... I had to get Bus Stop there.

Debbie lent me a sturdy, metal cage and a week after meeting Bus Stop he was in the cage in a tuk tuk heading to his new life and brighter future at the SOS sanctuary. Upon arriving at the sanctuary, I helped Debbie to get Bus Stop Fred from the cage and straight onto the table for the vet to blood test and examine him. He was diagnosed with severe mange and the vet explained that he'd been hit by a car or bus, which was why his back end was wonky.

When I left Sri Lanka, Bus Stop's fur was growing back and he had been castrated. He was such a happy dog in his safe and loving home and has quickly established himself as one of the sanctuary's characters.

In gratitude of the wonderful work Animal SOS Sri Lanka does for dogs like Bus Stop Fred, I am doing a Skydive at Wimblington, Cambridge on Saturday 3rd September 2011 to help raise funds for this fantastic charity. The previous date in July was cancelled due to poor weather conditions. Please sponsor this event as I want to raise as much as possible.

*Bus Stop Fred is one of our new sponsor dogs so please consider supporting his care at the sanctuary. See the attached form or check our website for details.*



At bus station



At our clinic



Fred & Kay



Fred now



## Thank You Diananda

Diananda is one of our local staff and helps to keep the sanctuary clean, washing compounds, kennels and main areas. He is also an excellent cook and cooks the afternoon meal for site dogs on Nandini's day off. He also makes a mean rice and curry! He lives locally with his mother and brother and is a main carer for his paraplegic brother.





## Galle Harbour Dog Killings

We have been hearing disturbing news about activities in Galle harbour for some time. A few months back, a couple of American tourists staying on their boat in the harbour, bought a litter of puppies to our sanctuary. They stated that several people, locals and foreigners in the port, had informed them that when the Vietnamese boats arrive, they regularly take local dogs to the beach, kill them and barbecue them to eat. They stated the trusting and friendly dogs were the usual victims. In March, two British tourists also staying on a boat in the harbour, bought a terrified dog that was bruised and traumatised to the sanctuary. The couple claimed that the port authority guards who were laughing and joking, were beating the dog with an iron bar, following her as she ran to hide under a tarpaulin and then beating her through that. The tourists rescued the dog and bought her to us. We named her Lucky, an apt name under the circumstances.

There were other witnesses saying dogs had been killed at the harbour and for several nights running shots were fired and the sound of screaming dogs could be heard. One Australian tourist claimed he had seen a dog chased out to sea by a guard in a dingy trying to drown it with an oar.

We decided we had to act and evacuated 13 surviving dogs including a mum and three pups, from the immediate danger zone, taking them to the safety of the sanctuary. It was quite an operation for our small team and rounding up the terrified dogs was not an easy task. One dog was pregnant and later lost her pups. We engaged other parties including the Governor of the Southern Province to help to stop the killings which are in breach of the current Presidential No-Kill directive for strays.

The events were covered in a national newspaper and it seems that the killings have not resumed. We will continue to monitor the situation. We are happy to report that all the evacuated dogs including Lucky are safe and well.



## Swampy

We were alerted to Swampy on New Years day 2011 by some tourists who had spotted a dog unable to use his back legs. When we went to investigate we found a large, emaciated dog dragging his back legs behind him. However, when we tried to catch him he proved faster than he looked and ended up in a swamp where we eventually caught him! When examined at the clinic, Swampy was found to be suffering from a severe spinal injury, probably from a road traffic accident. As well as being emaciated, he also had bad muscle wastage from not using his back legs as well as mange.

His treatment and rehabilitation began. At first, Swampy was so depressed that he would not even look at any of us but slowly as he began to realise that all we gave him was cuddles and food, he began to respond and his tail emerged from between his legs and began to wag. He is now mobilising well, has a beautiful coat and has gained weight. He smiles at us and is always so happy to be given affection, following us around everywhere.

You can sponsor Swampy at the sanctuary for just £10 per month or £100 for the year. See the attached form or check our website for details.





With Kim when found in 2008



With his pack



Monty & friends by his grave



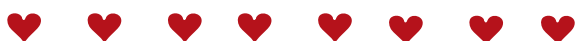
### Our Top Dog Charlie



Charlie, one of our sponsor dogs and 'Top Dog' of the SOS pack has sadly passed away. He died suddenly in the arms of our volunteer Janet, the cause being heart failure. Charlie was a big character of the pack. He was rescued from a street in 2008 suffering from tick fever, mange and a nasty maggot infested leg wound. He was an old boy then, almost toothless. As we did not have a base at the time, we boarded him with a vet in Colombo and took him to our sanctuary in April 2009. From being a humble boy, he quickly established himself as the supreme leader of the pack, watching over the dogs, approving new arrivals and protecting the pups. He was always with his friend Monty, his second in command and it was Monty who sat by his grave pining for hours for his lost friend. We gave Charlie three precious years he would not have had if left on that road. He was so grateful for that and had such a glorious time with us and his pack. We are sure he will be watching his friends from heaven. We will never forget him.



### Percy



Percy was spotted pathetically hobbling around on a road and taken to the sanctuary by Kim. He was in a terrible state as you can see from the photos; depressed, emaciated, a bleeding and fractured hind leg as well as testing positive for blood parasites. Despite his state, we wanted to give him a chance, he had a good appetite and we have worked miracles on dogs in similar states. After some initial progress, Percy deteriorated and we knew that despite all our efforts, he was not going to make it. Sadly, we had found him too late. Percy died surrounded by those who loved and cared for him as opposed to dying alone and in agony on that street. He is now at peace, running free at the rainbow bridge.

### Rocky



We are sad to inform you that our dear blind boy Rocky has also passed away. Rocky came to us in December 2009 after being found seriously injured on the road. He was an older dog and almost died from his injuries but we pulled him through and although he was left blind by the brain damage, he went on to have many happy months with us until his recent death. We will miss him terribly but know he ended his days contented and surrounded by those who loved him including the pups he lived with. Rocky was one of our sponsor dogs.



### Some of our Gorgeous Rescued Cats and Dogs





## The One and Only Funny Fing A Small Sri Lankan dog with a BIG personality!

### Girls and Other Mysteries of Life (the missing bits)

Well, so much to tell as always, life continues to be highly enjoyable with a few exceptions I may add. Several months ago now I was innocently eating a shoe when "Her Indoors", looking a bit sheepish, picked me up and took me to see the needle man. I prepared myself to be brave once more but the next thing I knew I had fallen fast asleep. When I woke up I felt very odd and sleepy. I did not like this so kept trying to get up and run away but strangely my legs were all wibbly and I could not do it. "Her Indoors" had to go out but I did not want to stay in my bed all alone. "Him Over There" offered to stay with me which made me feel a lot better and I went back to sleep then. Come to think of it, so did he. When I woke up I felt much better and ready to continue in my normal fashion, however, I had the strangest feeling that I had left something behind in the needle man's room? You ever have that feeling, like you have forgotten something? I keep looking round but there is definitely something missing. If anyone finds the missing bits can you let me know? Is all a big mystery.....

Yet more dogs have taken over my house, Paws and Ivy, girls, huh! Paws came when she was very very small and had no mummy. Ivy said she sat in a puddle in the middle of the road and pretended to have a limp so that they would think she was injured and bring her here. She forgot that she did that though and stopped limping as soon as she knew she had a paw in the door. She is a very good actress and tells tales about me. Girls are very bossy, I do not think I like them very much; they get together and make life very hard sometimes, one minute they want to play and the next they change their minds without telling me, and just bite my ears. Girls are very confusing you know where you are with boys. Doc is not sure about them either although that is probably because his brain does not work, he is a good mate Doc but I do not think he is very clever.

Brian does not live with us anymore, he got more and more sick so has gone to live in a kennel in the sky, "Her Indoors" cried a lot when he moved there so I ate some of her knickers to try and cheer her up. Where is sky? Is it in Sri Lanka?

MORE furry, purry, scary things came in. These ones were really small and looked like bats, I was not quite so scared of them at first but then they got bigger and chased me. No, I do not like these things. Please do not send me any more

I have discovered something very good, digging. It is very good fun and I do it as often as possible. I do not like having dirty feet though so I clean them on "Her Indoors" clothes. She does not like that very much. I wonder why she does not like joining in with the fun, I think it is because she does not have paws, I will try and get her some. Well, I am going to carry on with life's important jobs, digging. *See you soon, Love and Licks, FF xxx*



Funny Fing

Why do I feel so funny??



Dig, Dig, Digging, wonder if I can dig to that England place?



Bossy women Paws & Ivy take over my life!



The ever present furry purry scary things.

### Farewell Brian

Brian was featured in our last newsletter. He was rescued from a bus stand in November 2010 after being thrown out by his heartless owner after developing a huge fungating tumour on his leg. Despite all our efforts, Brian's tumour had already spread, we had reached him too late. He had some very precious weeks with us, living in Debbie's apartment and experiencing love and compassion for the first time in his life. Although we could not heal him physically, he healed emotionally, regaining his trust in humans and forming a remarkably close bond with Debbie our manager. He spent his last night sitting on Debbie's lap and stayed there all evening. He was an amazing dog, he broke all our hearts, but we feel blessed to have known him.



Brian

*A Special Request from one of our Supporters who gave us a donation to include this tribute to her late sister Brenda, an animal lover.*  
**'Remembering my sister Brenda who left this world on 1st March 2011 and is now with her much loved dogs; Fred, Jess and Max. In our hearts forever'**





# Some of the Many Happy Endings Because of YOU!



'An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language.'  
- Martin Buber



## Frankie and Vincent

Dumped as pups near the sanctuary, it appeared that Vincent had one of his ears cut off and Frankie had such severe rickets he could hardly stand, both dogs flourished under our care. Frankie now has straight legs and lives happily with a westerner who lives in Sri Lanka, one eared Vincent remains at the sanctuary.

## Lottie and Gemma

As pups Lottie and Gemma were found next to their dead sibling. Lottie had a broken leg. Both these gorgeous sisters were treated and are now living happily at the sanctuary.



## Olly

Rescued from the streets, Olly had a fever, mange/broken weeping skin and tested positive for dirofilaria repens, a mosquito-borne disease. Well, just a month later look at the difference!! Another precious life saved.



## Melissa

Our lovely old girl Melissa has made tremendous progress with us as you can see. She is now enjoying her twilight years at the sanctuary and will never suffer on the streets again.



## Kitty Kat

Kitty was found by the side of the road in Galle. This tiny kitten had a nasty eye infection, ear mites and a respiratory infection. After treatment she seems much brighter now, is eating well and gaining weight.



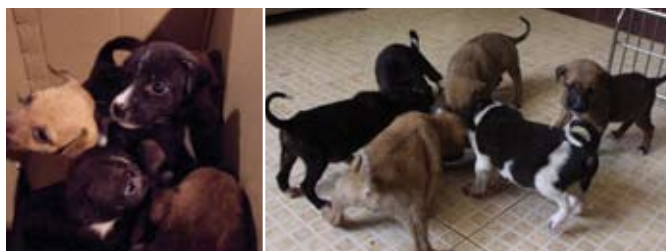
## Steve

This lovely emaciated boy was dumped at the sanctuary and is so appreciative of all the love and care we are giving him. Steve's hair is growing back beautifully after only a month with us. He now has a secure future.



## Rosemary

Arrived weak and emaciated and minus a paw, look at her now!



## Dumped Pups

Dumped in a box near our sanctuary, these gorgeous pups are thriving in our care



## Hessie and Molly

Hessie and Molly were bought in by a Sri Lankan lady who has been working at a local children's hospice. She had looked after the dogs since they were pups, now about 9 months old. The place was closing for a month and she was going home to Colombo. The Principal told her to throw the dogs outside and not let them back in again as the parents had complained about them. Neighbours told her if she left them outside they would poison them. They are safe with us now, have settled in well and are very sweet natured dogs. Both have been sterilised at the sanctuary.



## Thank You to Our Wonderful Volunteers

There have been many more wonderful volunteers helping us to make a difference to the lives of so many animals in Sri Lanka. We want to thank each and every one of them. Here are the words of some of our volunteers.

### Ellie

I jumped at the chance to spend almost three months this year surrounded by wonderful, happy dogs that have overcome unthinkable suffering and are now living in Doggy Paradise – the beautiful sanctuary on the south coast of the island. Volunteering at the site was a varied role, socialising the younger dogs so that they could be re-homed successfully and giving all the dogs lots of affection and playtime. I also helped in the clinic when I could, assisting with micro-chipping, worming, removing ticks, and feeding and watering the animals in the clinic. I helped with feeding the rest of the 250 dogs and cats, bathed them and also helped the site manager Debbie with post re-homing checks to ensure the dogs were being cared for properly by their new owners. Of course seeing the suffering each new arrival had endured first hand was heart breaking, but knowing I was making a practical difference to these dogs' lives really helped. The three months I spent living on site with these beautiful animals was the most special, memorable time of my life and I can't wait to go back. The charity is quickly developing its vital work so it's an exciting time to be involved, although there is so much more to do. I'm so glad that Animal SOS Sri Lanka exists – if you decide to volunteer with them it will be one of the best decisions of your life and one you will never forget!

### Serena - Vet

I feel so privileged to have spent time at SOS Sri Lanka, and particular furry faces will always stay with me. One's like "Fraggle", a tiny lonesome pup picked up from the street, whose shy yet resilient nature melted my heart on day one. Disabled "Princess", who had the challenge of hoisting her paralysed back legs behind her, yet learnt to move with as much ease as her friends. Finally of course "George", who was constantly determined to never let any door close on him, which really summed up for me the spirit of all the animals and people I met at the sanctuary. Thank you SOS Sri Lanka for letting me into your world for 2 weeks, you give the animals of Sri Lanka a chance of a normal life amongst a sea of suffering, which is truly a gift. I can't wait to see you all again soon x

### Linda - Vet

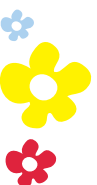
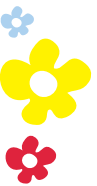
I volunteered for 2 weeks in June 2011. Many dogs needed treatment for infected wounds/abscesses, mange (demodex), ticks and fleas as well as routine vaccinations. During my visit I also became familiar with diagnosing and treating exotic blood borne diseases, such as Babesia gibsoni and Dirofilaria (Noctiella) repens. I also saw the odd case of transmissible venereal tumour which required treatment. The clinic has a microscope as well as basic staining facilities and with all the dogs on the site and new arrivals, I soon became confident in screening for blood borne diseases. I was surprised with the wide range of medication they have on the site and if needed, there are possibilities for blood transfusions and intravenous fluid therapy as well. One of the aims of the sanctuary is not only to treat sick and injured strays, but also to sterilise animals they bring to the site in order to try and reduce the number of unwanted puppies which are commonplace around the area. I truly enjoyed my time at the clinic and every day I felt I made a difference to animals both on and off the site. I found all staff and locals very kind and hospitable and they were extremely grateful for my help due to the heavy workload. Overall, the whole experience was unique and truly rewarding which I will always treasure.

### Kathryn (Vet) and Kelly (Vet Nurse)

In Feb 2011, it was an honour and a pleasure to be able to offer our time and knowledge to so many deserving animal companions at the sanctuary and performing outreach work within the local area. It was indeed an experience we shall treasure forever, the amount of unconditional love radiating from these animal companions is amazing considering the trauma they have all endured before reaching this kind refuge. It is a unique experience to see a pack of this size live so well together, you quickly know who's who and find your favourites, although they are all special. The SOS staff are fabulous, sharing their kind, caring souls in the hard work they perform each day, constantly smiling and aware of those who need that little extra some days. We performed our Veterinary tasks alongside Dr Nilantha- sterilising many dogs and cats and vaccinating and micro-chipping them. Our work also involved treating for ticks, fleas, worming, as well as treating animals in the hospital for various ailments. The general and site managers Debbie and Tom are angels to behold. We were fortunate and grateful to have been part of something so special. God bless each and every animal that enters Animal SOS, it is a safe haven for all.



**If you want to volunteer at our sanctuary in Sri Lanka please look at our website [www.animalsos-sl.com](http://www.animalsos-sl.com) for details or call Kim on 07773 746108**





# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## AN URGENT APPEAL FOR HELP

Because of YOUR support 8003 animals have been helped since opening our facility in July 2009. Many are alive today because of YOU. As you can see from this newsletter, many animals come to us in a very desperate state and require a great deal of care and rehabilitation to survive. We are their lifeline. We also provide vital outreach programs where we vaccinate dogs and cats against rabies as well as conducting sterilisation programs to reduce the population of unwanted litters born to a life of hardship and suffering. We also have a growing number of ex strays in our beautiful sanctuary adding to feeding costs and veterinary care. Many of these animals like our disabled dogs and young orphaned pups and kittens would not survive on the streets. Funds are needed to care for these animals so they can live out their days with us in peace and surrounded by love. We desperately require funds to continue with our lifesaving work and also to expand our work to reach many more suffering animals without hope. We are only a small charity, so we rely on your support more than ever now.



**WE CAN'T HELP THESE ANIMALS WITHOUT YOU. YOUR DONATIONS ALLOW US TO SAVE LIVES AND PREVENT MISERY AND ANIMAL SUFFERING. PLEASE HELP US TO CONTINUE HELPING THEM.**



*'No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted'*

## PLEASE DONATE BY CHEQUE

Cheques payable to: Animal SOS Sri Lanka  
Post to: 12 Cheyne Avenue, South Woodford, London E18 2DR

## SPONSOR A DOG

Help us to financially support the care of a chosen animal at the sanctuary. Please complete the form in this newsletter or visit the website for details.

## MONTHLY STANDING ORDER

Please complete the standing order form in the newsletter or download the form via our website. Regular donations help with our sanctuary running costs.

## GIVING LIFE THROUGH A LEGACY

Leaving a legacy to our small UK Registered Charity will make a significant difference to the lives of so many very desperate animals. A legacy would enable us to expand our work and model to other areas in Sri Lanka where strays have no access to care and veterinary treatments when they are sick and injured. A heart breaking thought for any animal lover.

A legacy for a small 'hands-on' charity like ours would mean so very much, so please do consider Animal SOS Sri Lanka in your will. There are very generous tax concessions for leaving a legacy to a registered charity.

Our UK Registered Charity No is 1119902  
All our charity team in the UK work as volunteers

# An Urgent Appeal For The Strays In Sri Lanka



Please like us on

### A Mother's Love

1000's of stray mothers many sick through disease and hunger, search desperately for food to provide milk for their pups. Many die, leaving their vulnerable pups alone to slowly starve or perish on the roads.

Our charitable organisation helps these desperate strays by providing refuge in our beautiful sanctuary, veterinary care, rehabilitation, homing and vital neutering and rabies control programs to stop this cycle of suffering and misery on the streets. We also work with local communities to promote compassion for animals.

## HELP US TO CONTINUE THIS LIFESAVING WORK BY DONATING TODAY

I enclose  £100  £50  £25  Other £

Mr/Mrs/Ms.....

Address.....

Email.....

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](http://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.)  
Signature.....  
Date.....

{E} [info@animalsos-sl.com](mailto:info@animalsos-sl.com) {T} 07773 746108

# www.animalsos-sl.com



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