

# SANCTUARY STORIES

WINTER 2011/2012

# ANIMAL SOS SRI LANKA

Animal SOS Sri Lanka  
UK Registered Charity 1119902

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Happy New Year to all our Wonderful Supporters


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.

## IN THE 6 MONTHS SINCE OUR LAST SUMMER NEWSLETTER

-  We have provided 3,010 veterinary treatments including emergency surgery, sterilizations, vaccinations and life-saving blood tests.
-  We routinely blood test EVERY animal that is admitted to our clinic for life threatening blood parasite diseases.
-  We are currently caring for 300 dogs and 7 cats in our sanctuary.

## Happy Ending for Herbie





Herbie, a stray, lived on a street off Baseline Road in Colombo. He endured some very harsh treatment in the area because of his mangy condition. Over the years before the charity was founded, Kim and Morag visited Herbie, feeding and worming him as well as treating his skin conditions. They always left him with a heavy heart, wondering if they would ever see him again, as we did not have our sanctuary then. But, somehow, Herbie survived and often slept in a bus that was parked in the area. He is an incredible character. Kim and Morag never forgot Herbie and we are pleased to report that there is a happy ending for this remarkable old boy who clung so desperately to life despite considerable odds. Herbie is now living happily at the sanctuary, he has been treated for blood parasites and other ailments and will end his days surrounded by love. We are so happy for him.

## Update On Kitty Kat



Kitty Kat was found as a kitten on a road in Galle. She had a nasty eye infection, ear mites and a respiratory infection. She was very poorly and frail but, with treatment, slowly recovered and is now a healthy adult cat, as you can see from the photos.

-  We also provide emergency veterinary care and rehabilitation to injured wildlife.
-  We are operational EVERY day for animals in desperate need.

12 Cheyne Avenue, South Woodford, London E18 2DR  
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[www.animalsos-sl.com](http://www.animalsos-sl.com)

# SOME OF THE DISABLED STRAYS WE HAVE HELPED AND ARE NOW LIVING AT THE SANCTUARY

## BATTI



A lorry hit this lovely gentle stray called Batti and, although she can get around, she has weakness in her back legs and would not have survived for long on the streets. We agreed to take her in after hearing about her plight from Champa at KACPAW.



## HENRY



We suspect Henry was involved in an accident on the road. When he arrived at our clinic in September his testicle was hanging out, he had a badly fractured leg with massive swelling and also neurological problems. We were not sure if Henry would survive his injuries, but under our care he did. Sadly, his leg could not be saved but he is managing well on three. Henry is such a dear little dog and so happy at the sanctuary, where he is now safe from harm.



## FAITH



Faith was dumped at a vet's in Colombo when she was just 6 weeks old. The vet was told an older dog had bitten her, causing paralysis of her hind legs. When we heard about her plight we agreed to take her in, as it is very difficult to find homes for dogs with disabilities in Sri Lanka. Our vets feel she may never walk again as she has no sensation in her back legs. Despite this, Faith has a heart of a lion and is the happiest little soul, especially when she is playing with the other pups. When she is older Faith may require a cart like we have for Hope, our other disabled dog, who still enjoys a wonderful quality of life at the sanctuary despite her disability.



*"Where there is love there is life."*

- Mahatma Gandhi



## Sanctuary Hit by Tropical Storm

Gale force winds swept the south of Sri Lanka in November, leaving a trail of devastation and death. At least 17 people were killed and many fishermen remain missing. The sanctuary was hit by the storm and numerous trees fell down, some damaging buildings and compounds. There were power cuts in the area but fortunately we now have a generator, which is so useful in situations like this. Thankfully, all our staff and animals survived the ordeal. Our playful mutts enjoyed nesting in the debris and generally having fun in midst of all the chaos.

## A Kitten We Could Not Save

Her owners rushed this little kitten into our clinic: a dog had attacked her and, because she was in pain, they had given her a high dose of paracetamol, not realising this is highly toxic to cats. Sadly, despite all our efforts, the kitten could not be saved.



# Thank You to Our Wonderful Fundraisers



THIRD TIME LUCKY FOR KAY AND JULIE

Kay and Julie eventually managed to do their skydive in October to raise funds for Animal SOS Sri Lanka - their previous two attempts had been thwarted by bad weather conditions. We reported on Kay's rescue of Bus Stop Fred in our last newsletter. Kay fell in love with Fred, a stray dog that lived at the bus station in Hikkaduwa, when she was in Sri Lanka and we agreed to take Fred in and nurse him back to health. Kay has been a great supporter of ours ever since. The girls have raised over £2000 for the charity.



PUSHING A BED FOR THE STRAYS

In September, a young supporter of the charity, Kayli Koob, and her fun-loving friends pushed a bed all the way through Haverfordwest, raising money along the way for the strays in Sri Lanka. Unfortunately, the heavens opened, but this great team were not deterred by the rain and carried on regardless, collecting money in their buckets and also through the JustGiving website. The girls raised a remarkable £858 for Animal SOS Sri Lanka.

A big thank you to Kay, Julie, Kayli and friends for helping to raise much needed funds for some very desperate animals. **You are ALL stars!**

Would you consider fundraising for us? If you are interested, please call us to discuss 07773 746 108 or 07816 844 411

Boola

This poor sad old boy we named Boola was rescued from a main road in October. He was in a terrible state and suffering from blood parasite disease, mange, a painful eye condition, which needed surgery, and a tumour on his penis (TVT). Boola's treatment started as soon as he arrived at the clinic and, just a few weeks later, he is like a different dog and is so happy now he acts like an excitable pup.



Happy endings

Some of the

because of YOUR support



jaap

Jaap was named by our Dutch volunteer and was also rescued in October. Jaap, an old dog, was found on a main road and, like Boola, had multiple health problems. Despite being in a terrible state, and in pain when he arrived, this gentle and loving stray was giving his paw to everyone: perhaps he was trying to say 'thank you for saving me'. He continues to recover under our care, still holds up his paw and is adored by all.



*"One cannot look deeply into the eyes of an animal and not see the same depth, complexity and feeling humans lay exclusive claim to!"*

*-Nan Sea Love*

Meena

We found Meena on a main road in Matara in November. She had wire hanging around her neck and some wire round her foot, which had severed most of her toe. She was emaciated, almost hairless, depressed and very scared of people. Meena may have been an abused pet, as wire is often used for tethering dogs and she could have escaped, we do not know, but after a spell in our clinic receiving treatment, and lots of nutritious meals, Meena now lives happily with Nanda, a member of our staff. This lovely gentle soul has found love and happiness at long last and has even learnt to play!!





We found Wispa at the side of the road near a local beach. She was emaciated, bald with mange and covered in weeping sores. This pathetic little girl came straight to us wagging her tail and, although in pain from her sore skin, allowed us to take her off the road. She was treated for all her ailments and looks like a different dog now.

Wispa



Little Bob

Found in the road as a tiny pup and now in a loving home

Thank you for saving these precious lives

x

YOUR support has enabled us to rescue, treat and provide refuge to these animals



Bo

An old hairless dog found by the roadside in a very sad state. He was suffering from blood parasites, skin diseases and other infections. After many weeks of veterinary treatment, Bo has regained his health and has a new lease of life. He will never suffer again and will remain in the safety of our sanctuary for the rest of his days.



Doris

- the dog in the sack

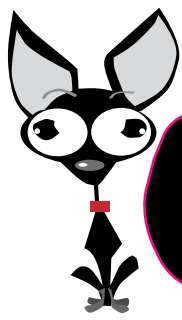
Doris was dumped in a sack at our gates in July; she was very weak and suffering from a cocktail of ailments. Look at her now!



Freddie

Freddie was injured on the road and arrived with leg and abdominal wounds. He has made a full recovery.





the one & only

# FUNNY FING

a small sri lankan dog with a big personality!

## More furry purry scary things and a little bit of an adventure.....

Well, as always, life is busy for me here in Sri Lanka. Paws, Ivy, Benson and I are living happily with "her indoors" at the volunteer house and like it quite a lot. We have a variety of new admirers that regularly turn up just to see us. Some of them even bring presents for us to demolish – err, I mean play with. We also, unfortunately, get other doggy imposters turning up to stay with us, luckily they go to their new homes quite quickly so we do not have to share for long. Betty was one of those, she was very small and seemed to like helping "her indoors" with the housework, anyway, she has gone to live with her own "her indoors" now, do not tell anyone but I quite missed her when she left, she was alright for an imposter. One morning, we were minding our own business when suddenly, from nowhere, three things flew over the fence. On investigation I was disgusted to find that they were those furry purry scary things. I specifically asked never to have to spend any time with those things again, yet here they were, wandering about in our garden. "Her indoors" got them quickly as Benson was looking quite hungry. She took them to the sanctuary and I am very pleased to say, I have not had to have anything to do with them since.

Sometimes, "her indoors" goes and stays at the sanctuary with all the other dogs and leaves us here with one of the admirers. One night, "her indoors" had gone and one of the admirers came back, I thought she had left "her indoors" outside so I shot out the gate to look, I ran up and down the road but "her indoors" was nowhere to be found. Suddenly, I realised that I had run too far and decided to come home, I could not get home though!

Every turn I made there were naughty street dogs snarling at me, chasing me and confusing me, I could not find my way home and was very scared so I ran and ran. The next day, I was still trying to find my way home when a man found me, he thought I was very handsome so he picked me up and put me in a cage, he said he was going to keep me. I was very scared and very sad, how would I ever get home? I did not sleep a wink that night, strangely the man said he and his family did not either, something had kept them awake, I did not hear anything, I was too busy shouting. The next day, the man's sister came and saw me, she said I was famous – I could have told her that – she said I was on a poster in the local town and "her indoors" was trying to find me. Anyway, the man who put me in a cage phoned "her indoors" then he let me out the cage. I was running up and down the road, wondering which way to go when suddenly, I heard a voice calling my name, it was "her indoors" !! I raced up the road and jumped right up in the air and kissed her a lot, strangely, her eyes looked all odd and puffy, not sure what was wrong but I think she was quite pleased to see me. I screamed and screamed, trying to explain to her where I had been and what I had been doing, however, I had shouted so much the night before that I had lost my voice, luckily I have found it again now.

When I got home, Paws shouted at me a lot, blimey, she was like a nagging wife, I tried to explain it was not my fault but she chased me round the house telling me off, I think she thought I had been out at the local bar or something, huh, these girls do not understand what we go through. I had a very big dinner and went to bed with "her indoors", she seemed quite tired too, not sure why, I was the one that had been running up and down the roads all night shouting. I was a bit poorly after my adventure, lots of little things had bitten me so I had to go and see the needle man. There, once again, I encountered the furry purry scary things, really, enough now, I have asked, prayed, begged and shouted but nobody listens, they still keep coming into my life..... It was quite exciting going to see the needle man, I got to go in a big red box with wheels, I liked it, I could see all the other dogs on the road and shout at them but they could not get me, I shouted at them a lot and felt very big and important. Anyway, wherever you are, whoever you are, whatever you are doing I send you lots of love for a Happy New Year – whatever one of those is, "her indoors" said it so it must be something important. Love and licks,

FF xx



me with imposter Betty



The furry purry scary things

## Nuwan

### - our resident Vet.

It's a pleasure to have an opportunity to express my views in this newsletter. I graduated from University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka as a qualified veterinary surgeon and was able to join Animal SOS Organization in June, 2011. My work at the organization is a really pleasurable for me as we offer lifesaving missions every day. It is also my responsibility to keep all the animals at the sanctuary healthy. The main objectives of the organization being, providing quality veterinary care to stray animals, humane reduction of stray population and risk of rabies in humans as well as in animals; the service our country receives is priceless. Therefore as a Sri Lankan, I shall make it

an opportunity to thank the founder of the organization Mrs Kim Cooling for her wonderful initiative. Today, we have over 300 dogs and 7 cats at the sanctuary under my supervision. Almost all the animals brought here are diseased, fractured, wounded and suffering both physically and mentally. But, during their stay here, they undergo blood screening, anti-parasitic treatments, vaccination against diseases such as rabies and all the medication they require to upgrade their health. Sterilization is a major task performed here as the stray dog population is a huge problem to our country. I'm very happy to say unlike in most of other organizations in Sri Lanka, the surgeries are performed under optimal sterile conditions at our clinic.

We use separate autoclaved surgery equipment sets for each surgery. Postoperative care is always done under my observation. That's why serious surgeries I have performed so far like OHE, castration, intramedullary bone pinning and leg amputations were 100% successful.

When we deal with so many sick and injured animals we face difficulties when diagnosing certain disease conditions without the aid of equipment like scanners and X-ray machines. Another major requirement we need is a gas anaesthetic machine for further reduction of risk of pre-surgical anaesthesia. So, it is always your donations that make it possible for us to



give these animals additional clinical facilities. We are looking forward to helping more stray animals in the coming year. Thank you and Happy New Year!

Dr.U.K.N.Shyamal

(BVSc.Hons, EA[Pharm] )

# THANK YOU!

## to Our Wonderful Volunteers

We have had many volunteers since the last newsletter working with us to make a difference to the lives of destitute and suffering strays in Sri Lanka. A big THANK YOU to each and every one of you. Here are some of their experiences.



Jo (Vet)

I recently worked as a volunteer vet for 1 month. I had worked in Nepal and India previously and on arrival I was very impressed with the standards of care and facilities that were available at Animal SOS. As a vet this made my job so much easier; although with nearly 300 dogs to look after there was never a dull moment! Getting the sick older dogs rescued from the streets back to full health was especially heart-warming, as was caring for dogs with behavioural problems due to a lifetime of abuse. There was a nice balance of medical and surgical work and I learned a lot about exotic diseases, which dogs at the clinic are routinely tested for. I was very encouraged to see western standards of asepsis, instrument sterilisation, maintenance of a sterile field in practice and post-operative care. Overall, I found my time at Animal SOS to be extremely rewarding and would highly recommend volunteering to others.



Bob

Hey, my name is Bob and I first came to Sri Lanka for a round-trip with my family in 2008. We really enjoyed the island, with its beautiful nature and wonderful people. Of course, we also noticed the stray dogs and the poor conditions some of them are living in. I've taken the opportunity to visit the country again in 2011 to help the strays by volunteering at Animal SOS. It has truly been an amazing experience working with all these dogs. I can definitely say they've got their own little paradise. The approach of the staff is really professional and the dogs are well taken care of. It's really something special to see a dog coming towards you wagging its tail, whilst all he wanted when he was brought in was being invisible. One other thing that really makes the experience worthwhile is the joy you get from seeing the puppies having fun and exploring the world. Although saying goodbye was hard, I can highly recommend any animal lover to go and join the team in Sri Lanka! By doing so, you can really make a difference.



Dave (Vet)

I volunteered as a vet at Animal SOS this summer and I can truly say it was a life-changing experience. Whether it was treating very sick dogs with tick-borne diseases, caring for lively litters of puppies, climbing coconut trees at the sanctuary or tucking into local cuisine freshly prepared by the ever-friendly staff, there was never a dull moment. It is enormously satisfying to know you are part of making a difference. A typical day would consist of the morning round of medications and checks, surgeries including sterilizations are done each day. After lunch is medications again and heading out for supplies or going to rescue animals in dire straits, or just taking time to bond with the resident animals. This is mostly dogs but we also had several lively cats while I was there too! Animals in need can be brought to the sanctuary at any time so plans always need to be flexible! The local sanctuary staff take great pride in their work, and rightly so too. They are warm, welcoming and passionate about what they do. An important aspect of the whole enterprise is changing hearts and minds and raising awareness about animal welfare issues. In the long term, this is what will secure a future free from suffering for the animals in this unique and wonderful country. I can wholeheartedly recommend anyone who cares about animal welfare and is looking for adventure and an inspiring experience to do a volunteering stint at Animal SOS.



Jade

Volunteering at Animal SOS this year (2011) has been by far my best holiday/volunteer project. Although I am not a vet there was lots for me to help out with, e.g. socialising puppies, cleaning out in the clinic, de-ticking, a bit of physio with the disabled dogs, bathing, playing and generally giving a lot of love to a lot of very special dogs. It is great to be involved in a volunteer project that genuinely needs your help/support where you can clearly see the benefits of the intervention but also where there is no pressure in terms of following a particular timetable. I was free to get involved with whatever I fancied doing each day. Although, I am a strong believer that the more you put into something, the more you get out of it.

If you want to volunteer at our sanctuary in Sri Lanka, please take a look at our website [www.animalsos-sl.com](http://www.animalsos-sl.com) for details or call Kim, on 07773 746 108

*"The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy." Kalu Kalu*



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are operational EVERY single day of the week to take in sick and injured strays as well as orphaned pups and kittens that desperately need our help to survive. We also care for and give refuge to 300 dogs and 6 cats at our beautiful sanctuary. These animals have all been nursed back to health and are now safe from harm and suffering on the streets. Our work also involves neutering and vaccinating dogs and cats, protecting both humans and animals from the threat of rabies, as well as reducing the suffering and heartbreaking plight of unwanted litters on the streets, which are a common sight in Sri Lanka.

As you can see from our newsletter, our work has saved and transformed COUNTLESS lives, animals that would not be here today without YOUR support.

**WE DESPERATELY NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE GIVING A LIFELINE TO THESE NEEDY ANIMALS BECAUSE, WITHOUT YOU, WE CAN'T HELP THEM.**

## SAVE A LIFE TODAY BY DONATING



## SAVE A LIFE TODAY BY DONATING

### DONATE BY CHEQUE

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

### SPONSOR A DOG

Please complete the form in this newsletter, or look at our website for details.

### MONTHLY STANDING ORDER

Please complete the standing order form in the newsletter or download the form via our website. We rely on regular donations to help with our sanctuary's running costs

### GIVING LIFE THROUGH A LEGACY

If you like the work we do then please consider remembering Animal SOS Sri Lanka, a UK-registered charity, in your will since this will make a significant difference to the lives of so many more really desperate animals. We are only a small charity and the scope of our work is determined by the donations we receive. We know there is so much more we can do and achieve if we have the resources available. Most strays have no hope of veterinary care when they are sick and injured, and die alone on the streets, a heartbreaking thought for any animal lover. A legacy to a small 'hands-on' charity like ours would mean so very much. There are also very generous tax concessions for leaving a legacy to a registered charity. Our UK Registered Charity No is: 1119902. All members of our UK team do this important work as volunteers so more funds go directly to help the suffering animals in Sri Lanka

# AN URGENT APPEAL FOR THE STRAYS IN SRI LANKA



There are 1000's of suffering strays living and dying on the streets of Sri Lanka, many are malnourished, sick and injured. Animal SOS Sri Lanka is a small UK registered charity dedicated to helping these desperate animals. We have a beautiful sanctuary in southern Sri Lanka where we currently care for over 300 ex stray cats and dogs that we have nursed back to health and happiness, including Bus Stop Fred, the dog in the photo. We have a veterinary clinic for strays and conduct neutering/rabies control programs, adoption schemes and animal welfare education.

## 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](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.)

Mr/Mrs/Ms.....  
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