

# SANCTUARY STORIES



# ANIMAL SOS SRI LANKA

Animal SOS Sri Lanka  
UK Registered Charity 1119902



Follow our social channels for the latest news!

SUMMER 2020

## 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 living 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.



## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS JANUARY 2020-JUNE 2020

- ♥ We are currently caring for 1,726 dogs and 60 cats at the sanctuary
- ♥ We provided over 5,750 treatments for disease, wounds, fractures and tumours
- ♥ We sterilized dogs 420 and cats and conducted 150 other surgeries
- ♥ We provided 2,650 blood tests/smears/chemistry/haematology
- ♥ We provided over 3,000 anti-parasitic treatments (worming, tick/flea treatments)
- ♥ We provided over 2,750 vaccinations against rabies and other deadly viruses
- ♥ We feed over 1,900 cats and dogs EVERY day (sanctuary animals and hungry strays in the area)
- ♥ We are operational EVERY day of the year



## KABIIR

We gave refuge to this sweet little boy we named Kabiir. He was run over and left disabled, but now has a chance with us.



## BELLE

Belle arrived at the sanctuary with a paw that was virtually severed. Sadly, she lost the paw but is recovering well in our care. She is so playful and loving.





# INTRODUCING SOME OF OUR SANCTUARY STAFF

We employ 53 Sri Lankan staff, most are from the local village. We have 2 resident vets who look after the clinical needs of our sanctuary animals and also treat emergency cases too. Our General Manager is a British Vet Nurse called Samantha who oversees the project in Sri Lanka and lives at the sanctuary.

With 1,726 dogs and 60 cats to care for, including many 'special needs' animals and critical cases coming in almost daily, there is a huge amount

of daily work. We have 2 adjoining sites with different teams. Our top site spans 1 acre and includes our main clinic, a vet and animal care staff. The lower site sanctuary is 3 acres and also has a clinic, a resident vet and animal care staff. Both clinics are full of critical cases needing a lot of care and attention. Each site has kitchens to cook meals for our resident cats and dogs, as well as extra food for strays in the area, as we do daily feeding programmes. It's a herculean effort.

Every staff member has a role, whether it's cooking meals for our animals in the kitchens, assisting our vets in the clinics, caring for our recuperating animals, home checks, looking after our disabled dogs, or doing rehabilitation including hydrotherapy. Cleaning, feeding and laundry are huge jobs at the sanctuary, however with strict daily routines it ticks over well.



**SAMANTHA**  
(GENERAL MANAGER)



We employ many local families like Chamith, our top site clinic assistant. Chamith's father Lal, is supervisor of the disabled dogs and Lal's wife helps with the compounds at the top site. Nanda is our supervisor at the lower site and his son Mahesh works as a vet assistant at the lower site clinic. Nanda's wife works in our kitchen cooking meals for our animals at the same site.



**DR ASANKA**  
(RESIDENT VET, TOP SITE)



**CHAMITH**  
(VET ASSISTANT TOP SITE CLINIC)







**DR ACHINI**  
(RESIDENT VET, LOWER SITE)



**NANDANI**  
(COOK/KITCHEN)



**MAHESH**  
(VET ASSISTANT LOWER SITE CLINIC)



**LAL**  
(SUPERVISOR OF DISABLED  
DOGS AT TOP SITE)





# SOME OF THE MANY LIVES SAVED & TRANSFORMED



**Woofy before**

**WOOFY** Rescued by tourists, Woofy arrived weakened and anaemic due to blood parasite diseases and also suffering from a nasty nasal tumour which we thought was a TVT (transmissible venereal tumour). We had to treat the blood parasite diseases first and improve his blood count and build him up for the chemo to cure the tumour. However, his tumour did not respond to the usual drug, Vincristine, so we had to try another chemo drug to save his life. It was during the curfews in Sri Lanka due to Covid-19, and we really struggled to get vital meds and time was running out for poor Woofy. His tumour was growing quickly and his breathing was deteriorating. It was a stressful time, but thankfully, once we got the meds, he started to respond and the tumour shrank. Woofy quickly recovered and his health was restored. It was a close shave and he was a clinically challenging case, but we managed to save his life in the end and he is a very happy boy now.



**Woofy after**

**WONDER** On the road and blinded by horrific TVT's (tumours) in her eyes and genitals, plus wounds on her body too, her days were numbered. Luckily, we took her in just in time and she lived up to her name and made a wonderful recovery.



**Wonder before**



**Wonder after**



**Scorpio before**



**Scorpio after**

**SCORPIO**

We were alerted to this dying old dog that was most likely dumped. Scorpio was covered in tumours, almost hairless and totally emaciated. His transformation under our care is remarkable.



**MORPHEUS**

Morpheus met with an accident and suffered a fractured leg. A villager, thinking he was helping the dog, cut the leg off. Imagine the pain! The result was a horrific maggot infested stump wound and a dog that was barely alive when he reached the sanctuary in February 2020. Morpheus was also suffering from blood parasite disease and corneal ulcers. It was touch and go, but we pulled this old boy through and now he has a happy retirement at the sanctuary.



**Morpheus before**



**Morpheus after**



# THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT!

## BUSTER

Buster, a dumped boxer dog, arrived at the sanctuary so weak he could barely stand. He was covered in maggot infested wounds and suffering from a tick-borne disease, babesia gibsoni. We nursed him back to health and he is a transformed dog now.

**Buster  
before**



**Buster  
after**



**Ratzy  
before**



## RATZY

We heard reports of a dog that had his leg severed and was doused with boiling water, so agreed to take the dog in. The male dog, around a year old, had a severed leg and a horrific wound on his back which was deeply infected and crawling in maggots. It was touch and go, but we pulled him through. Razzy took time to trust humans again after his hellish ordeal, but is now a friendly, bouncy and loving boy. He will stay at the sanctuary.



**Braveheart  
before**



**Fidget  
after**



**Ratzy  
after**



**Braveheart  
after**

## FIDGET

We suspect Fidget was a dumped pet and we took him in due to his horrific state. He had tumours on his nose and genitals (TVT's). The nasal tumour was flyblown and full of maggots. He was covered in ticks and fleas, so hardly surprising he was suffering from Ehrlichia, a tick-borne disease. It was a struggle, but we nursed him back to full health and happiness.

## BRAVEHEART

Starving to death and with his days numbered, we rescued this very sweet and humble dog just in time. Braveheart is around 2-3 years old and most likely met with an accident which has resulted in weak/fused hind limbs. He was covered in lice and ticks and like a skeleton on arrival. Thankfully, he made a miraculous recovery in our care.



**Fidget  
before**



## BUDDY

We had a shock recently to find a huge German Shepherd had been thrown over our high wall either during the night, or early morning. We have had many cats and pups thrown over our walls over the years, but such a huge dog like Buddy, as we named him, was a surprise. Pedigree dogs are extremely popular in Sri Lanka despite there being an estimated 3 million homeless dogs on the streets. They are often seen as status symbols, but these dogs are also bred relentlessly and when they become ill, or old, they are discarded like garbage, as in poor old Buddy's case. Buddy has some mobility issues, but is a lovely friendly boy. At least he is safe with us now.



Tiana before



Tiana after

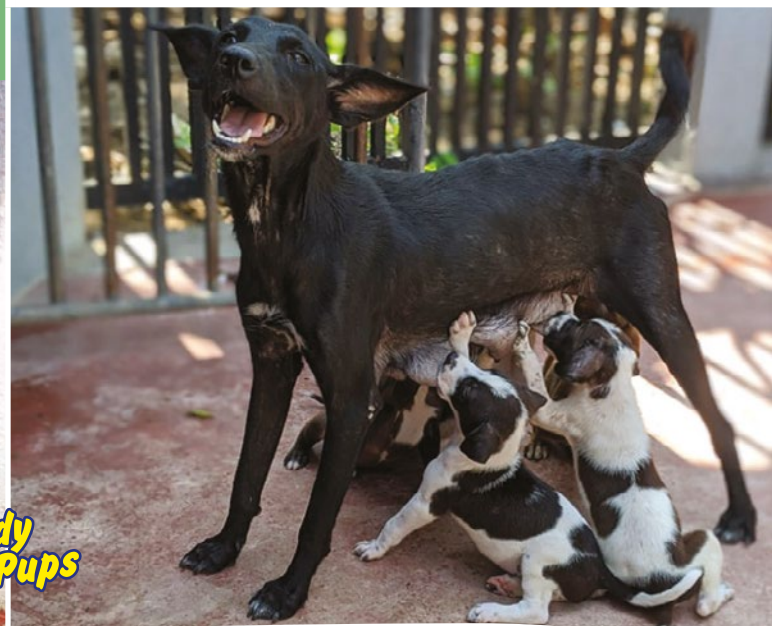


## JUDY

We heard that a heavily pregnant dog had been dumped in the village and was being attacked by some locals who wanted her to abort her pups. We rescued her just in time and she gave birth to 5 healthy pups the next day. Once old enough, we sterilized the whole family and found the perfect home for one of the pups. We are hoping to home the others too. Judy, the mummy dog, remains with us and is a gentle and highly intelligent girl.



Judy & Pups





# NEWS

# COVID-19



Almost no nation has been spared the devastating effects as Coronavirus has swept around the world like a tornado. So many lives have been lost as well as jobs, businesses and global economies in a crisis like no other. It is easy to ponder if life will ever be quite the same again.

Charities have suffered too, particularly small charities like ours with no huge reserves for situations like this. The closure of our 2 charity shops in March was a devastating blow, reducing our income even further. With such a large number of animals whose lives and survival solely depend on us, the last months have been extremely stressful to say the least.

Sri Lanka has had strict curfews in place and extremely low death rates compared to the UK. There are 11 reported deaths from Coronavirus in Sri Lanka at the time of writing this newsletter. Due to the strict curfews, we had to obtain special passes from the local police to enable our staff to come to work at the sanctuary. We have faced huge problems collecting injured and critically ill animals and getting essential supplies for the sanctuary, including medicines and food. Food prices have risen which has substantially increased our feedings costs.



Tourism has ground to a halt, with airports closed along with restaurants, hotels and bars. Countless street animals throughout Sri Lanka have perished due to starvation. Despite our financial crisis, the thought of street cats and dogs starving in our immediate area was too much to contemplate, so, we increased our feeding rounds to cover as many animals as possible. This entailed cooking more food at the sanctuary every day.

**We are currently feeding around 1900 cats and dogs EVERY day.**

**Cooking 850 kilos of rice, fish and vegetables EVERY day!**

**With inflated food prices, we are now spending £700 EVERY day keeping all these animals fed and alive.**

**PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN!**



## URGENT APPEAL FOR FUNDS

We have gone through an extremely difficult few months and need your help now more than ever. So many lives depend on us and giving a lifeline to critical cases that would otherwise die in agony without our assistance.

We give a second chance to so many otherwise doomed animals; they only have us. Donations directly **SAVE** and **TRANSFORM** lives and also transform communities too.

We are working to make rabies a risk of the past and helping the life chances of children through education which, in turn, promotes compassion towards animals and hope for a better future. Remember, with our charity, donations go directly to



the animals as we all volunteer our time for free here in the UK. Our running costs are currently around **£40,000** a month. This is a huge amount for a small charity and our feeding costs have escalated too.

*Your donations can help us in many ways:*

- Fund our weekly neutering and rabies vaccinations outreach programmes that benefit so many animals and humans, reducing animal suffering and unwanted litters. **The cost of a daily outreach programme is approximately £500** and covers vet fees, medications/treatments and educational materials.

- Fund the daily care of animals living at the sanctuary. The costs of medications, veterinary care, monthly anti-parasite treatments, vaccinations and care staff at the sanctuary.

- Fund our vital feeding programmes – **over 1900 cats and dogs fed EVERY day** - the sanctuary animals and starving strays in the area that wait patiently for their only daily meal.

## HELP US BY DONATING

### Donate by Cheque

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

### Monthly Standing Order

Having regular monthly funds helps us to continue caring for the dogs and cats at the sanctuary 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.

### Giving Life Through a Legacy

*There is no greater legacy than giving the gift of life to others.*

We give a glimmer of hope to so many otherwise doomed animals. The miracles we perform in healing almost lifeless animals and restoring them physically and emotionally cannot be measured by words alone. Their survival depends on OUR survival and the best way to ensure our survival is through YOUR support. Legacies can give us financial stability, ability to grow and expand our vital services and give life to so many more desperate animals. There are also generous tax concessions for leaving a legacy to a UK Registered Charity. Animal SOS Sri Lanka's Registered Charity Number is 1119902. We are a small charity doing a HUGE amount of vital work in Sri Lanka. The charity is run by unpaid trustees who absorb the administrative costs, so donations go directly to the animals. This shows how much we really care and for any animal lover, there is no greater way of directly helping and saving lives than remembering our charity in your will.



# RESCUED JUST IN TIME!

THEN



NOW!



We do not know what happened to Beauty, a stray dog in Sri Lanka, but when she arrived at our sanctuary we fought the greatest battle to save her life. She arrived collapsed, dehydrated and had a fractured jaw, an horrific facial injury and prolapsed eye. She also had blood parasite diseases. We gave Beauty what she needed the most, a chance, and, after many weeks of specialist care and surgery to repair her jaw, she pulled through and is now a healthy and very contented girl at our sanctuary. These happy endings are only possible because of the dedicated work of Animal SOS Sri Lanka, a UK Registered Charity working flat out every day to save lives and alleviate animal suffering in Sri Lanka. The charity has saved 1000s of otherwise doomed animals over the last decade and is currently giving refuge to over 1800 homeless strays. However, we desperately need funds to continue this lifesaving work.

Please LIKE us on

[www.animalsos-sl.com](http://www.animalsos-sl.com)

**PLEASE HELP!**

**PLEASE HELP US TO CONTINUE GIVING THESE ANIMALS A FUTURE BY DONATING TODAY.** *There is no greater gift*

**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.....

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

Mr/Mrs/Ms.

First Name.....Surname.....

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** {E} **info@animalsos-sl.com** {T} **07773 746108**

**thank you!**