



TRACKS





Welcome to our new look newsletter which we really hope you will enjoy...

THE LUCKY ONE

Over the last two years there has been a big drop in the number of dogs being transported for slaughter.

With your loyal and generous support we have been able to successfully work with both government and police to severely drive down the illegal trade of dog meat and hundreds of dogs have been saved from a cruel and horrific death.

So it appears that part of the war is being won but we know that the awful traders are still at large and rather than transporting live dogs, they are now trading in meat, which they think will be unidentifiable. The result is that many dogs are still being cruelly killed in illegal slaughterhouses.

With this at the top of our agenda our new investigators have been working relentlessly to trace the dog meat traders and find out where they are working and recent seizures by the police have seen the recovery of several quantities of dog meat, both cooked and raw.

One operation with our investigators working with the National Meat Inspection Service and the Police, led us to a makeshift market stall in North East Luzon and resulted in the arrest of two traders who were caught selling cooked dog meat. Thanks again to the generous donations from IWCT

supporters we are now able to test samples of the meat, using our DNA testing equipment, in order to identify it as dog, enabling us to successfully prosecute these traders. Just last week another woman was arrested in Pangasinan for selling dog meat.

A second raid, led by our investigators and the Police, took us to the North West part of Luzon, and resulted in the arrest of a dog trader who was caught in the act of actually slaughtering a dog! Wonderfully the dog in question was saved and 'LUCKY' is now happy and settled in at the Rescue Centre - **you don't get luckier than that!**



FROM FEAR.....TO A FAMILY!

We found Craig, thin and scared, cowering in a locked cage awaiting his fate at the hands of evil dog meat traders. He was brought back to the Rescue Centre and almost immediately began to wag his tail and he hasn't stopped wagging it since.

He's a happy and caring dog, with an incredibly trusting nature, given what he's been through and it wasn't a surprise when a family chose him at one of our Adoption Days, apparently it was his wagging tail that they fell in love with.

A happy ending for Craig.



LIFE AFTER RESCUE - LEARNING FROM THE BEST

A fundamental part of our role in ending the dog meat trade in the Philippines is the work that is done after the dogs are rescued. The vital rehabilitation and socialisation that is done by our team at the Centre is an invaluable part of preparing the rescued dogs for a secure and loving future in new homes.

For that reason, anything we can learn to improve the methods used within the Centre is enormously important and that is why we were so thrilled to welcome three carers from Dogs Trust, the largest dog rescue charity in the UK and supporter of IWCT.

Amanda, Kirsty and Emir came from three different Dogs Trust centres in the UK and each brought new techniques and ideas on how to rehabilitate and socialise the dogs. Simple tips on how to cope with frightened and unsettled dogs can make an enormous difference when it comes to finding a new home.

A common and very understandable problem we face is fear and our team are keen to learn new methods for helping to calm anxious and scared dogs. The Dogs Trust visitors were able

to introduce techniques to help dogs get used to their new surroundings and help them relax in the presence of different people.

New procedures for handling jealousy amongst dogs were demonstrated, together with ways to avoid fighting and constant barking, common problems faced with rescued dogs.

They also advised placing cameras in kennels to observe the dogs behaviour at night to help identify those that might need more exercise and stimulation during the day.

As a result of the visit we have introduced new toys and treats for the dogs, using recycled items such as water bottles and egg trays, stimulating the dogs senses using spices and cooling them down using Ice Pop treats.

We were also thrilled to be able to show off our new tyre play area, which thanks to your donations was developed last year.

During their stay Amanda, Kirsty and Emir accompanied our veterinary team on one of our Askal Days, where people can bring their dogs to our mobile unit for free neutering, vaccination and worming, another great way to educate and promote caring for dogs as one of the family.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of Dogs Trust and all that Amanda, Kirsty & Emir brought to us during their stay and hope that they may like to come back again in the future. It's a wonderful example of how charities, all striving for the same end, can work together to help animals who are being mistreated or neglected in the hands of humans.





DOG POUNDS IN CRISIS

Having developed our rehoming programme so successfully and with the Rescue Centre able to house up to 600 dogs at any one time, we have been able to turn our attention to helping the dog pounds.

It is illegal to allow your dog on the street without a leash in the Philippines and so dog catchers are employed to round up any stray dogs, which are then taken to the nearest dog pound and tragically if they are not claimed within seven days they are put to sleep - **even more heartbreaking when there are willing and loving owners out there!**

Over the past six months we have visited several of these dog pounds and found them to be in a very bad state, overcrowded with poor facilities and low quality food. We set up an agreement with a pound in Manila, providing them with new dog bowls and good quality dog food and we took eleven dogs back to the Rescue Centre for treatment and rehabilitation. All eleven dogs were malnourished and in poor health and sadly two were suffering from distemper and didn't make it. Fortunately the other nine have flourished under our care - all were given names

beginning with A, including Alvin, Anton and Annette. Abbey, one of the frailest and smallest gave birth to three puppies not long after she arrived and happily they are all thriving.

Thanks to the continued generosity of our supporters we have been able to offer these dogs the care and love needed to prepare them for new homes and as a result we returned with them to the dog pound in Manila to hold a special adoption day and we are thrilled to tell you that all nine dogs found wonderful new homes.

Following this success we are working with a second dog Pound, this one in Pampanga, an area between our Rescue Centre and Manila. Like the first, this pound was overcrowded and in a poor state and we immediately supplied new bowls and food. We also agreed to take ten dogs back to the centre. six males and four female were selected but rather wonderfully one of the females, who we named Bonnie, had just given birth to six

puppies and so they of course came too. Back at the Centre the dogs were all vaccinated and fed and they soon settled in. We gave all the new dogs names beginning with B, amongst them Becky, Bella and Bart and stuck to the same theme for the puppies.



We are now looking forward to taking them back to the pound for an adoption day, where we hope to find them all loving new owners.

With these two success stories under our belt we are desperate to be able to continue working with more pounds, providing them with good quality food and helping to rehome as many of the unwanted dogs as possible but for this **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Some of the costs that we have to cover include feeding the dogs for their stay at the Centre, together with their vaccinations and treatment, whatever you're able to give will make a huge difference towards the life of one of these dogs!





THE WAR STILL RAGES ON - GETTING UK MP'S INVOLVED!

IWCT has achieved huge success in the Philippines but thousands of innocent dogs are still being captured and barbarically slaughtered for their meat in other parts of Southeast Asia.

In the spring we saw a landmark day in the campaign to end the dog meat trade when IWCT, together with members of the Asian Canine Protection Alliance, which includes charities from Thailand, Vietnam, China, Korea and Indonesia, met with politicians at the House of Commons to discuss the evil dog meat trade and ways in which the British government can help bring about its demise.

The session was an MP's briefing, led by John McDonnell MP who, having been shocked by the dog meat trade, supported an early day motion in parliament last year, calling for its immediate end - a motion that has received a unprecedented 136 signatures, a fantastic sign that MP's are willing to help.

We were also very fortunate to have our other patron, Dame Judi Dench, in the audience, together

Continued overleaf...



Abbey and her puppies

Our trustee and conservationist David Mills
with our patron Dame Judi Dench

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MP's briefing images
by Philip Durrant



THE WAR STILL RAGES ON - GETTING UK MP'S INVOLVED!

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with other notable attendees actress and animal lover Lesley Nicol and TV Vet Marc Abraham, all helping to raise awareness of this horrific practice.

25 MP's came, together with representatives from other animal welfare groups, and were shown two short films about the dog meat trade, the first an incredibly simple but powerful and harrowing film created by Soi Dog, based in Thailand and featuring Ricky Gervais, Judi Dench and Peter Egan. Both this and a short film of the House of Commons meeting can be viewed on our website www.iwct-uk.org/philippines in the 'WATCH' section.

It was very apparent that although many people have heard about the trade, the majority are not aware of the atrocious cruelty that accompanies it and the fact that in most of these countries, it is only a small handful of people involved.

**IT WAS VERY CLEAR THAT IF
WE ALL WORK TOGETHER WE
COULD SEE AN END TO THE
TRADE COMPLETELY!**

**"Who is going to get this
evil trade banned? If not
you, then who? If not
now, then when?"**

