





Cover Inset: Rob Ffello MP and TV Vet Marc Abraham with Smoocher, rescued from the streets of Thailand, at November's House of Commons debate on the dog meat trade

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# A SHELTER IN URGENT NEED OF OUR HELP

With your generous support we have been able to collaborate with three dog pounds in the last 12 months, all in desperate need of improvement and our help. We have seen great success with all of them, taking between 10 and 22 dogs from each pound back to the Rescue Centre, where they have been treated, rehabilitated and ultimately rehomed. This essential work will continue with your wonderful support.

**We are also excited to be able to tell you about a smaller dog rescue project in desperate need of our help.**

In 2012 Anna-Marie Wharton and her husband set up a small shelter with their own funds, rescuing dogs that were about to be euthanased in the Philippine dog pounds, having been snatched from the streets by the local authority dog catchers and incarcerated in these ghastly pounds. The Whartons had rented a small house and began rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming the dogs, the process which we replicate on a much larger scale at our Rescue Centre in Capas. As well as running this small shelter, they have also been working with local people raising awareness of the importance of the rabies vaccination and of neutering their pets, to prevent over-population. This educational work is essential if we are going to ensure that the Filipinos learn and continue to appreciate and respect their dogs as pets.

Due to limited funds the Whartons are very sadly going to have to give up their current place of residence but they have identified a small holding not far from their current site, close to the beach, which would provide them with an ideal place to relocate their 20 residents and would also allow them to rescue a larger number of dogs from the horrors of the dog meat trade.

Anna-Marie and her husband are a wonderful example of animal welfare activists doing their bit to help fight the dog meat trade and we would really like to help them achieve their goal of establishing this new shelter for the dogs, as well as to offer them our assistance and experience with rehabilitation and rehoming, which is where we need your help to make this move a reality.

**Please give generously; we will keep you updated with their progress.**



Top: Rescued dog Zakura enjoying a well deserved sit down  
Bottom: Anna-Marie with puppies at the shelter

# UK GOVERNMENT TAKING A STAND!

A House of Commons briefing on the subject of the dog meat trade took place in the Spring, chaired by John McDonnell MP, and attended by our patrons Dame Judi Dench and Peter Egan. This provided us and other charities working in Southeast Asia with an opportunity to fully brief MPs on the situation with the dog meat trade and the atrocious cruelty that is still taking place.

**As a result of this briefing, we're delighted to report that on 5th November we attended the first ever British Parliament debate on the dog meat trade in the House of Commons.**

The debate was led by Rob Ffello MP and saw great cross party support and most importantly the UK government's pledge to take action!

During the debate Foreign Minister James Duddridge stated that the government would write to all the embassies in the countries concerned, putting pressure on

them to take much stronger action towards addressing the cruelty and health issues directly associated with the dog meat trade. He added that they would also contact international health agencies, including the World Health Organisation to investigate the human health implications of the dog meat trade, particularly the spread of rabies.

Any claims that the practice had any cultural justification were sufficiently rebuffed and discussion was focussed around the appalling and terrifying levels of cruelty shown to these dogs all over Asia.

Right: Animal Welfare  
Activist Shoshanna Mitchell  
with rescued dog Smoocher

Far right: Smoocher  
checking out the Thames  
for a potential swim

The UK prides itself on being a nation of animal lovers and it's significant that **MPs have made it clear that such animal cruelty is intolerable**, regardless of where it happens in the world, a firm commitment from government to improving animal welfare around the world and it marks a huge step towards us all working together to shut down this barbaric industry across the whole of Southeast Asia.

**Abandoned and left to die on the streets of Thailand, Smoocher was rescued by Soi Dog and adopted by a lovely British couple**





Rob Ffello MP showing his support with IWCT's John Hawkrigde and rescue dogs Holly and Smoocher



# SAVING THE AFRICAN WILD DOG

In the summer we held a fundraising evening, hosted by our wonderful patrons Dame Judi Dench and Peter Egan, to raise funds for a project in Tanzania saving the critically endangered African Wild Dog.

The Wild Dog project is the brainchild of Tony Fitzjohn, protégé of George Adamson, whose work with African Lions was famously depicted in the film Born Free. Since George's passing Tony has continued working in the national parks of Tanzania and Kenya, focusing on the endangered Black Rhino and more recently the African Wild Dog.

Tony's project is based in the Mkomazi region of Northern Tanzania, whose game reserve saw a steep decline in the 1990's, and was on the verge of ecological disaster, which led him to establish the Wild Dog captive breeding programme.

The near extinction of the Wild Dogs in the area was down to a number of factors, including habitats being destroyed, human persecution as the dogs came too close to

urban communities in desperate search of food and the outbreak of disease.

Tony's commitment to increasing the Wild Dog numbers and of maintaining Mkomazi as a national park knows no bounds and he is inspirational to anyone concerned with the future of our planet's wildlife.

The IWCT fundraising event was attended by local supporters and friends and the money raised that night went towards the Wild Dog project. We were thrilled that IWCT trustee David Mills was able to present our donation to Tony at a George Adamson Event in October, which was also attended by our patron Dame Judi Dench and chairman of IWCT Trustees, John Hawkridge. We chose to contribute directly towards the vital Telemetry equipment needed to track



the dogs once they are released from the compound and our contribution will cover those costs for 12 months.

You can also contribute to our Wild Dog Conservation project if you so wish; we will keep you updated as to its progress and the movements of the released Wild Dog packs, using the tracking collars that we have provided.





Tony Fitzjohn vaccinating the Wild Dogs in the breeding programme against rabies and canine distemper

Photo credit: Dr Dana Holeckova

141A High Street  
Edenbridge  
Kent TN8 5AX

T: 01732 866955  
E: [info@iwct-uk.org](mailto:info@iwct-uk.org)  
[www.iwct-uk.org](http://www.iwct-uk.org)



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## NEWS FROM THE RESCUE CENTRE

After investigation work in the Northern province of Benguet, a raid took place in October, which although tragically recovered five dead dogs, we also found one living dog, who we brought back to the Centre and who is now recovering well.

The other dogs were also taken back to the Centre and were given a dignified and respectful burial in the dog cemetery, the least we could do after the terrifying cruelty and ultimate murder that those dogs had suffered in the hands of illegal dog meat traders!



In other news, the DNA Analyser that identifies dog meat precisely, which we donated to the Philippines National Meat Inspection Service, is now fully operational and the authorities are poised to be able to fully identify the exact content of any meat consignment.

This will dramatically help prosecutors in obtaining convictions of dog meat traders. We are very proud that thanks to your wonderful support, the Philippines is the only Southeast Asian country with such sophisticated equipment.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and sincere hope that you are able to continue supporting our work in the new year.