



Southern Oregon Humane Society
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For Immediate Release

Saved from the Meat Trade, 8 lucky dogs arrive in Medford

Medford, January 12, 2017 – Eight very lucky dogs will be arriving from Thailand January 20th to Medford, Oregon, where they will get a second chance at life thanks to a partnership between local no-kill shelter SoHumane and Thailand-based Soi Dog Foundation.

Maverick, Renata, Hugo, Klaus, Bashful, Tommy, Darby and Petunia are just a few of the 10,000-plus dogs that have been rescued directly from the meat trade by Soi Dog Foundation.

Most Americans have heard the term, but don't realize that the dog meat trade is thriving in several Asian countries including Vietnam, China and South Korea, with an estimated 30,000,000 dogs being killed every year around the world.

In Asia and elsewhere, many thousands of stray dogs and pets are snatched off the streets and stolen from people's yards. They are crammed together into tiny wire cages and stacked on trucks, traveling for days in sweltering heat with no food or water. Many die in route from suffocation, broken bones or dehydration. Those are the lucky ones as the method of killing includes torture due to the fact that many people falsely believe that stress makes the meat more desirable.

Karen Evans, Executive Director of SoHumane, says they just couldn't say no when presented with the opportunity to help these dogs find forever homes. "We saw this as an opportunity to help these poor animals while raising money to help animals here in Medford as well."

The dogs will be "chaperoned" to the United States by Heather Heath of Las Vegas, who was the high bidder on a luxury vacation package auctioned off last year at SoHumane's annual Toast for Tails fundraiser event. The package, which brought in \$7,550 for SoHumane, includes two round-trip airline tickets to Thailand, stays at two 5-star luxury resorts and a VIP visit to the Soi Dog shelter in Phuket. At the end of the week, Ms. Heath will fly back with the eight dogs to San Francisco, where SoHumane representatives will pick them up and drive back to Medford to start their "happily ever after."

All flight transport costs for the dogs will be covered by an anonymous donor, so every dollar raised at the auction will go to help all of the animals at SoHumane.

Janis Rosenthal, who works closely with both organizations and facilitated the partnership, says it's a dream come true. "It's nearly impossible to adopt out meat trade rescues in Thailand, so coming here is their only hope. These dogs who have suffered unspeakable horrors really deserve a loving home with a safe place to rest their head. Most of them have never known that. I'm very proud that SoHumane has stepped forward to offer them a second chance at happiness."

John Dalley, co-founder of Soi Dog Foundation, addressing the cultural and legal aspects of fighting the meat trade says, “Soi Dog Foundation began its efforts to end the dog and cat meat trade in Thailand in 2011. By the end of 2014, following intense lobbying and publicizing the interception of thousands of Thai dogs destined for the trade, Soi Dog was instrumental in the introduction of Thailand’s first animal welfare law, which included a statute making it illegal to slaughter dogs and cats for human consumption. Although there are those who continue to break the law, the industry has been decimated in Thailand. Soi Dog Foundation is now using the experience gained to use similar tactics in countries where dog and cat meat continues to be consumed.”

Evans says, “We know that the Rogue Valley will welcome these long-suffering dogs with open arms. We’re proud to be a part of such a compassionate community.”

For more information about SoHumane upcoming events:

<http://sohumane.org/news-events.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SoHumane>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AdoptSoHumane>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/adoptsohumane/>

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The Southern Oregon Humane Society is a non-profit charitable organization founded in 1928 whose services benefit the community. SoHumane accepts owner-surrendered cats and dogs and transfers from other shelters. Healthy, adoptable animals are never euthanized for lack of space or time. Prior to adoption, each pet is spayed or neutered, microchipped, and receives necessary vaccinations and medical care. SoHumane’s Federal Tax ID No. is 93-0391640.