



animal welfare
มูลนิธิเพื่อสัตว์เกาะลันตา

Volunteer welcome pack.

Thank you for joining us here at Lanta Animal Welfare,
welcome to the team.



Junie Kovacs - Founder of Lanta Animal Welfare



Lanta Animal Welfare (LAW) was founded by Junie Kovacs in 2005. Her mission was to end the suffering of the hundreds of homeless, abused and injured animals on Koh Lanta.

Junie first came to Koh Lanta as a tourist and was deeply moved by the condition of the animals living here at the time. She decided to take immediate action and quit her job as a graphic designer in Norway, selling her car, home and all of her belongings.

Junie knew her savings would not last long therefore she set up the first Thai cookery school on the island, Time for Lime. Time for Lime was the start of her rescue mission with sick animals living with her there onsite. With the profits from Time for Lime Junie bought the land that Lanta Animal Welfare now occupies, she continues to develop the centre with additional facilities being incorporated each year.

Our work

To date, we have sterilised and treated over 60,000 animals, with a further 2500 being treated annually, with your support we continue to grow helping more and more animals each year.

LAW's main focus is the treatment of stray animals and sterilisations. Animals are brought to us for many different conditions; from skin problems to road traffic accidents and poisonings. Stray animals will sometimes stay with us for several weeks to ensure they are fit and well before they are re-released back where they came from. Unfortunately, some of the animals that find themselves needing our help are unable to return to where they came from. This may be because they were too young upon their arrival, they are at risk of abuse or simply because they have undergone treatment for such a long period that we can no longer return them. These animals will remain at the centre and will join our rehoming programme, with over 150 animals each year finding loving homes both here in Thailand and across the world.

Koh Lanta has a veterinary clinic which treats pets on the island called Lanta Pet Friends. Opened by our Clinic Director – Helen Guy – in April 2022.

We hold mass sterilisation and vaccination programmes on neighbouring islands and mainland areas, where there is no access to veterinary care. We also provide first aid to sick and injured animals in those regions. Since 2013, German charity WTG has sponsored our mobile sterilisation and rabies vaccination clinics to control the animal population and reduce suffering. Sterilisation is the only humane way to reduce the number of stray cats and dogs doomed to live a life of misery on the streets. Neutering and spaying just one male and one female will prevent 66,000 unwanted births in six years.



An unspayed female cat, her mate, and all of their offspring producing 2 litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total :



Settling in.

WIFI

Of course we all understand the very first thing you will want to do is join the WIFI, letting your family and friends know you have arrived safely. We have several networks around the centre, the main networks being Volunteer Kitchen and Kitty City. Please refer to the volunteer notice board in the volunteer kitchen for the current passwords.

Security

The door to the volunteer kitchen is operated by a keypad lock, the code for this is changed on a regular basis therefore please ask for the code during your welcome meeting. Please do ensure that you lock the door behind you.

All of the volunteer bedrooms are secured with a padlock, each volunteer will be provided with a key, with a spare being kept in the office. Please do not leave your room unlocked as Lanta Animal Welfare cannot be held responsible for any items that may go missing.

Welcome bag

Upon your arrival you will be provided with a LAW branded tote bag, the bag will contain the following:-

- 3 LAW branded T-shirts or vests. If you would like to change the size or type please do let us know.
- 2 bottles of mosquito repellent
- 4 sachet of electrolytes. It can be very hot and humid helping at LAW so please do keep hydrated.
- LAW keyring and drinks cooler



Additional electrolytes and mosquito repellents are provided in the dog kitchen, please help yourself to them throughout your day

We have a shop onsite which stocks other LAW branded items, here you can buy more t-shirts, dresses or bags. Volunteers receive 20% off the marked prices.

Facebook

We have two Facebook groups that we ask that you join. The first one is **LAW Volunteers**, this is the Facebook group specifically for existing volunteers and employees. The purpose of this group is for news around the centre to be shared, access to the shift rota and general communications. You will have access to everyone at the centre through this group, although it is best to speak to the team in person, if you do need to contact anyone you can drop a note into this group.

The second group is **LAW Family - Adopters and Volunteers**. This group is for both existing and previous volunteers along with hundreds of adopters across the world. This is a great place to keep up to date with animals at the centre, those that are waiting to travel to their forever home and also those that now spend their lives snuggled on a sofa or bed in a loving home.

If you would like to join a local community group there is a Facebook group called Koh Lanta Info, local businesses share details about their services as well as lots of other great information on Lanta.

Contact information.

In the event of an emergency the centre phone is operated 24 hours a day, although after 7pm your call will be answered by the on call vet so please do consider this before making any calls. The centre phone number is 0843 044 331

The names and phone numbers of the centre employees are listed in the dog kitchen. Please be aware that these are displayed for use in an emergency only.

Volunteer bedroom

All of the volunteer rooms have two single beds (but you will not be sharing with anyone unless you are a couple or friends), one fan, shelves for storing your personal belongings and a mosquito machine. Mosquito nets are available from the office along with additional bedding if needed. Please note that it is the responsibility of the volunteers to keep the rooms clean and tidy.

Please do not throw toilet paper or sanitary products down the toilet as the pipes in Thailand are very small and any object can very easily cause a blockage which is expensive to remedy.

Volunteer kitchen

The volunteer kitchen is for everyone's use and must be treated respectfully. You can store your own groceries in the fridge or in one of the plastic boxes provided. However, if you do cook please remember to wash your dishes and return them to the shelf. Please also remember to empty the bin when full and throw any groceries away when you leave your volunteer placement.

Visitors are not allowed unless prior approval has been granted by the centre management. Please keep a noise to a minimum after 10pm.

Recycling

Plastic, glass and cardboard are collected for recycling, please help us to reduce our environmental impact by disposing of recyclable items in the appropriate bins.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in the volunteer kitchen or anywhere within the centre. We have two salas that can be used by smokers, one is at the rear of kitty city which can be used at any time of the day. The sala at the front of the clinic can only be used by staff or volunteers when the centre is closed, this being between 7pm and 7am.

Koh Lanta

Culture

Thailand is predominantly Buddhist, but Koh Lanta has an interesting mix of Buddhists, Muslims, Christians and Sea gypsies. We have many mosques on Koh Lanta and you will regularly hear the call to prayer which our dogs do like to sing along to.

We ask that you respect our community and dress appropriately, although this is a tourist island ladies wearing only bikini tops and shorts and gents going topless will be frowned upon and it is not accepted whilst on site. Please save this for the beach.

Getting around

Koh Lanta's main form of transport is the scooter, however we do advise caution when considering hiring a scooter. The roads can be dangerous as pot holes can appear overnight and the rain can be very heavy at times. Thai locals have been riding on a scooter since they were first born and make it look easy. Sadly all too many tourists are involved in road traffic accidents or sustain leg burns from accidentally touching the exhaust when mounting / dismounting the scooter.

There are businesses on the island that rent push bikes or you can call one of the many taxi tuk tuks. Please remember to haggle on the price as tuk tuk drivers will start high and expect to have a fun negotiation.



Personal safety

Driving

If you do decide to hire a scooter then please do wear your helmet, it is required by Law and the police often set up random helmet checkpoints where you will be fined if you are found riding without one.

Remember in Thailand we drive on the left side of the road and without pavements you will find pedestrians in the road too so please be careful especially at night.

Two things to note about driving in Thailand as these may differ from your home country.

When you want to turn right do not stop and wait in the middle of the road. You need to stay on the left hand side until it is safe for you to cross. (the same as if you were walking)

When a driver flashes you, this does not mean ' go ahead', this means that they are telling you they are there and they are going first.

Health

Koh Lanta is a tropical island, it is hot, humid and has tropical inhabitants. Temperatures are in excess of 30 degrees most days, please stay hydrated and add electrolytes to your drinks. The filtered water on the island doesn't have the minerals you would normally expect from water and dehydration can quickly set in.

We know most people like to tan too but please stay safe and wear SPF. Even the cloudy days can cause sunburn.

Mosquito repellent is provided as there are lots of mosquitoes on the island, they are especially present at sunrise, sunset and in the forested areas. Please apply this before every shift and reapply frequently. Not only are bites uncomfortable but they can carry mosquito borne diseases such as Dengue Fever. Dengue is a virus and includes symptoms such as a severe headache, high fever, pain behind the eyes, vomiting, rash and joint pain. Dengue can spread easily, as such anyone suspected of having Dengue must visit a clinic for testing. Unfortunately anyone suffering from Dengue will be asked to move off site until the fever has passed.

Koh Lanta isn't a wealthy island and although theft and crime is low please take sensible precautions.

Snakes, lizards, scorpions and monkeys are just some of the inhabitants of the island. Please stay vigilant when walking in the forest and let the shift supervisor know if you do encounter snakes or monkeys as they will adjust the walking routes for the day.

Volunteer programme

Induction

On your first shift you will work alongside one of the team, they will provide you with a tour of the centre, introduce you to the staff and other volunteers and then commence your training. Your training will include information on the rota, feeding procedure, cleaning protocols, waking routes and LAW expectations, animal training and much more.

There are signs around the centre that serve as little reminders on how to do things. Remember, please do not feel embarrassed to ask questions, we are here to help.

Safety is paramount, we have numerous protocols in place to ensure that the risk to both the team and animals is kept to a minimum. We have a lot of sick animals in our care and diseases spread quickly if our protocols aren't adhered to.

Your first shift is likely to be in the afternoon, working from 1pm to 7pm although this will be confirmed upon your arrival.

What does a shift look like?

The volunteer programme operates 6 hours per day, 5 days a week, usually on two shift patterns. 7am to 1pm and 1pm to 7pm, with each volunteer having one 15 minute break whilst on shift. The supervisor will let you know when you can take your break. You will always have two days off together.

Morning Shift 7am – 1pm

The morning shift will start at 7am, when we expect you to be ready to start. The morning will start with dog walking from approximately 7-11. After that the tasks will vary from cleaning, training and socializing with our cats and dogs. You may also be asked to help show some of our dogs to tourists on the tours. But don't worry, our experienced tour guides will do all the talking.

Afternoon Shift 1pm – 7pm

The afternoon shift works in reverse to the morning shift. You will be cleaning, training and socializing before we start walks about 3.30-4pm. We do walk some of our kennel dogs in the middle of the day but these walks are usually short walks.

Volunteering at Lanta Animal Welfare requires people to be physically fit. Most days you would walk between 15 – 20,000 steps in hot, humid and sometimes wet conditions.



Animal Transformations

This is what some of our previous volunteers have helped us achieve. Thank you for joining us and helping us to continue to transform the lives of sick and injured rescue animals.

Clifford before



Clifford after - now living in the UK



Tippy before



Tippy after – now in the UK with his brother



Varagorn before



Varagorn after – now living in the USA



Expectations

We hope everyone will enjoy their time here at LAW but we treat the work we do here seriously. We have a passion for animal welfare and safety of our animals and the team are paramount. We welcome people from all walks of life and encourage a sense of humour but we ask that you respect our procedures and work to our expectations.

Please ensure that you arrive to your shift on time and don't overrun on your breaks. Feeding time starts at 7am and we have lots of hungry mouths that are expecting you.

If you are sick and unable to volunteer please let the shift supervisor know by posting a note into the LAW volunteer Facebook group. We prefer this method of communication as it is guaranteed that someone on shift will see it as opposed to direct message.

We try to schedule a mix of both morning and afternoon shifts but flexibility is expected. Two days off per week will be scheduled but this will be scheduled to suit the overall rota. If you have a specific need, such as a visa run please let us know a week in advance so that we can plan accordingly.

Smoking is only permitted during your allocated break, smoking is strictly prohibited whilst on a dog walk.

Lanta Animal Welfare has a zero tolerance policy on drug usage.

Alcohol consumption while not on shift is permitted in the volunteer kitchen and volunteer bedrooms only providing it does not affect your work.

Mobile phones are not permitted whilst on shift, unless permission has been granted to enable photos or videos to be taken.

Animal interactions should be conducted in a safe, humane and compassionate manner. We only use positive reinforcement and training methods. Anyone found to be treating an animal in our care in any other way will be asked to leave the volunteer programme.

Please respect the team and other volunteers. Everyone is here for the animals and we welcome people from all walks of life.

Our staff work extremely hard and deserve their time away from the centre. If you need to speak to them please do so in person whilst on shift and avoid sending messages out of working hours unless it is an emergency.

We no longer have a night shift.

In the event of misconduct your placement may be terminated, your accommodation cancelled and your deposit retained.

Tours



Lanta Animal Welfare does not receive any government funding, we rely solely on donations and visitors are one of our biggest opportunities to seek donations. Visitors see first hand the work we do, here our story and meet some of the animals. We simply could not survive without donations so it is essential that we greet them with a welcoming smile, spend time with them and educate them on our mission.

In the dry season (Nov – April) We will have multiple tours per day. In the wet season (May – Oct) we will usually just have one tour per day. We are always closed on Sundays for tours. The tours are done by one of our dedicated voluntary tour guides or full time staff. We no longer ask our general volunteers to help with the tours. If anyone asks you about a tour please refer them to our website. Spaces on the tours are limited, so it is essential that guests book in advance.

The first part of the tour covers off our history, the work we do and introduces them to the cats. We then see our clinic and the dog kitchen where we usually meet some dogs. Followed by a walk around the dog areas to see the dogs. The tour then heads to Time for Lime to see where the cooking class

takes place and sometimes meet some dogs. The final part of our tour heads to our intensive care (C-Section) area before finishing back in Kitty City where people can have a look in the shop.

Cats and dogs of Koh Lanta

We have a dedicated outreach team that monitors the population of animals on the island. Many of the animals you will see on your travels may be confused as being stray but most of the cats and dogs on Koh Lanta are either owned or have feeders.

Our outreach team manages our Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) programme. With stray cats and dogs coming into the centre on a daily basis for sterilisation.

Please do not take matters in your own hands. If you have any concerns about an animal, either its overall health or for sterilisation please speak to the Animal Care Manager in the first instance.



The LAW team structure

The team can be best described as split into two functions, the clinic and centre. Our Clinic Director heads up the clinic and outreach team, this team consists of vets, nurses, animal catchers, mobile clinic coordinator and outreach coordinator and reception.




The centre is managed by our General Manager who has several direct reports. An Animal Care Manager, Adoptions Manager and Fundraising Manager.

Animal care is the responsibility of our Animal Care Manager, they manage the animal care assistants, supervisors, kennel assistants and the volunteers.

Adoption

All volunteers have their favourite cat or dog, it's hard not to fall in love when you hear their stories. We are experienced in transporting animals all over the world so it has never been easier to adopt from LAW and take your favourite home.

Annie chose her human as soon as she met Anso from Germany. From the first time they met they were inseparable.

Annie when she arrived at LAW	Annie and Annso on Lanta	In their new home
		

LAW does not profit from animal adoption, we only ask that the adopters cover the fees incurred in getting your chosen cat or dog medically fit to fly and the associated travel costs. Adoption fees are paid in two instalments, the first being made to secure the animal and cover the vaccinations, microchip and blood test. The second installment is made when the travel itinerary has been agreed and the airline costs are known.

The first installment to volunteers is at a discounted rate as we do not charge for the export application or paperwork.

If you would like to know more about adopting please contact our Adoption Manager or email adoption@lantaanimalwelfare.com

Please note, we can only assist with the adoption of animals in the care of LAW. We have limited capacity at LAW and it is the clinic director who manages the centre intake, based on animals needing medical care. We are unable to take in healthy animals and house them pending a volunteer adoption.

Without people like you it wouldn't have been possible to treat, care for and find loving homes for some many rescue animals.

In the last 10 years we have rehomed over 800 cats and dogs, with over 550 going to homes all across the world.



Flight volunteer

We all want the best for our animals and we work hard to get them to their forever homes as quickly as possible. This is where you might be able to help, doing an incredibly rewarding and important role when you leave LAW.

If you are flying out of Thailand then please speak to our adoptions coordinator about being a flight volunteer. It is free, we organise all of the paperwork, we will help you with check in and depending on your destination we might be able to help with some of the flight costs.

If you haven't yet booked your ticket then please do talk to the Adoption Manager as there are some restrictions on the airlines we can use. You can speak to them in person or on email adoption@lantaanimalwelfare.com

What better way to end your placement than seeing a fur baby reunited with their loving family.



Mark volunteered with us for 4 months in 2020 and not only did he fall in love and adopt Poppy but he was a flight volunteer, helping 4 dogs make their way to the UK.

Thank you for choosing to volunteer with us.



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