



141A, High Street, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5AX, England. Telephone: (01732) 866955 Fax: (01732) 866995  
Email: [iwcuk@iwcmail.demon.co.uk](mailto:iwcuk@iwcmail.demon.co.uk) Website: [www.iwctk9.co.uk](http://www.iwctk9.co.uk)

08/09

# *THERE IS HOPE*

## **IT HAS TO BE SAID, AS OF YET, IT IS STILL VERY EARLY DAYS**

Nevertheless, it is fair to say the new working arrangement that Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF) has with the Philippine National Police (PNP) is showing signs of working. Only three months into these new arrangements with the PNP, it has resulted in the police instigating raids in various regions of the Philippines, against three lots of dog traders. Several people have been arrested and charged under the new Anti Rabies law plus about 20 dogs have been rescued and are now in the AKF rescue centre.

Nothing like this has ever happened before. Clearly the police have far greater resources than we have ourselves. One of the raids took place on another island 500 miles away and we are in the process of recovering those dogs. The other two raids took place on the main island of Luzon with AKF personnel being present. One of these raids involved a high profile person (who, for legal reasons at this time, must remain anonymous). I can say we already have this person on remand from a previous apprehension.

The problem we had recently with two dog traders entering a 'Plea Bargain' and escaping with a very minimal sentence has also been successfully resolved. During my June trip to Manila, I first met with senior police officers to discuss this matter, saying that if this was allowed to continue it would be wasting the time of both the PNP and AKF. I also asked for police support at my forthcoming meetings with the Directors of Public Prosecutions (DPP). The police gave me their wholehearted support.

Armed with the backing of the PNP, officials at the DPP showed little or no opposition to my request not to accept 'Plea Bargaining' in any more of the cases we bring before the courts, where the offenders have been charged with illegal dog trading for the purposes of human consumption. I must add that I'm very happy to be able to report this to you as it was causing me considerable concern.

Sadly, there will always be bad news as well as the good - a dog trader we had under surveillance and had even done a 'test buy' to ensure we had everything right, managed to escape. To carry

out this raid we had to first apply for a search warrant, which was granted. However, when we arrived with the police, instead of finding dogs, all we found was an old lady sitting down doing her weekly washing! Clearly someone, somehow, had managed to blow the whistle on us. We have our own ideas how this happened but we cannot prove anything. We will be keeping a very careful eye on this one ...

The local government on the holiday island of Boracay, about 500 miles from Manila, have approached AKF asking for assistance in reducing the number of stray dogs on the island. We did inform them that this would not be within our remit but, to show good faith and maintain the good name of AKF, we agreed to meet with them. Myself and Luis, our External Liaison Officer, went to meet with the Mayor, his assistant who is responsible for Boracay, the regional veterinarian and the local Directors of the Rotary Club.

Once there, we explained that we could only act in an advisory capacity and that we could not take in their stray dogs. (This would overcrowd our centre and have an adverse effect on our commitment to dogs from the dog trade). We advised them where and how to build a dog holding area and to advertise for local people to come and reclaim their dogs. To spay, neuter and release unclaimed dogs. To clean up the island from food droppings, ie from fast food outlets, etc. It is a scientifically proven fact that the less food animals can find will in time, naturally reduce the population of any given species.

Our AKF lawyers have now put all of this into a legally binding document and all the parties concerned have signed it. Luis will be keeping in touch by email with those on the island and will, in about six months time, make a personal trip to ensure that everything is going according to plan.

Next, Luis and I visited the island of Bohol where we have an interest in the 27 foot python. Since we had his new big cage built for him (paid for by Pepsi Cola) he has grown enormously and is one contented snake! As you may well remember, before we interceded the snake was being fed with live dogs - that no longer happens. Right now there are 16 lovely dogs running around the place which otherwise would have been fed to the snake. I'm happy to be able to say that all the dogs are being well cared for and are enjoying life. One of our supporters who sponsors Snoopy has asked for a recent photo of him; please write in again and we will send you pictures of Snoopy.

Already there is a very small amount of greyhound racing taking place in the Philippines. Now there appears to be a much bigger consortium that plans to greatly enlarge on this and has already made an application to the government for a licence to start operations in Cebu, the

second largest island in the Philippines. On my instructions, AKF lawyers have produced a document opposing this in the strongest possible terms. I do not want to see greyhounds that have past their best being thrown out onto the streets.

My compassion for animals does not allow me to turn a blind eye to blatant cruelty to animals. For this reason my next trip to the Philippines in October will be to ask our police contact, Colonel Gumiran at police headquarters, to spare us two of his officers (just for two days) so we can stop lorries that are transporting live pigs. These lorries are grossly overloaded and must cause these animals much fear and pain. The idea is to give a strong legal warning to the owners/drivers of these vehicles, notifying them that we will prosecute them if caught again. The money for this will not come from money donated for the dogs. My hope is that I will have your moral support for this.

I was hoping not to have to write about Network for Animals (NFA) again but just when you think it can't get any worse, it does. John Hughes, a private individual and a good friend of mine, has a dog rescue centre in the Philippines and has been taking in dogs from NFA. He is currently full to capacity with 177 dogs. NFA have informed him that he must, without delay, reduce this number down to 50 dogs by finding new homes for them. This is not possible; John does not have the facilities that we have. We have re-homed 200 dogs but it has taken us two years to do that.

So, what will happen to the dogs? John will not let the dogs go, but already NFA have cut back on paying for the animals' upkeep and are now only paying to keep 70 dogs. I have personally seen copies of NFA's emails to John stating these unbelievable facts. It does not stop there. In their newsletters, NFA have shown photographs of John's staff, claiming them to be NFA staff - but it is John who is paying their salaries, not NFA. Understandably, John is furious.

Furthermore, in their most recent newsletter, NFA are asking for money to pay for the upkeep of 179 dogs and predicting that by or before the end of this year, they will have rescued a further 1,000 dogs. This, in itself, is rubbish - it's quite impossible to predict how many dogs one might be able to rescue in any given time period.

Even if it was possible for them to rescue 1,000 dogs, where would they put them? John is full and will not let any of the present dogs go unless good homes can be found for them. **All of the City Pounds are now not allowed to take in dogs coming from the dog trade.** So what would NFA do with these dogs? The whole thing is a sham to extract money from well-meaning people. Lastly, NFA claim that they cannot afford to keep the dogs - remember they have a mailing list seven times bigger than IWCT.

My last report is one I would much sooner not have to write. It was just past midnight and I was walking back to my hotel when I noticed five or six people looking down at the road. I looked to see what was happening and there was a puppy, about 8/10 weeks old. He had been hit by a taxi, I was told, but he was still alive. What could I do? I am over 100 miles away from our centre and I'm leaving to go home the next day. I knew I could not leave him there so I scooped him up in my hands and stopped a taxi - but the driver would not take me with a puppy that was dripping in blood.

So I walked to the Makati City Animal Hospital, not knowing what I would do if I was unable to raise anybody. Fortunately, the guard came, recognised me and let me in. Within minutes a vet arrived and we cleaned him up, put him on a drip and gave him oxygen. In the morning when I returned, he was x-rayed; no broken bones thankfully and the vet said he had a fifty-fifty chance. The next morning I got the news that he had died at 4am. I knew that I had done my best but why did I have to lose him? I arranged by phone for our people to pick him up and take his little body back to our rescue centre where he was buried with dignity; something he never had in life.

The next part of this letter is also never easy for me to write. I believe that we are doing good for the animals and at last we are really beginning to achieve something that will benefit them. Needless to say, all of this comes at a price. The pound has now started to strengthen towards the peso but is still 25% down from where it was this time last year. Please may I ask you to continue to be as generous as is possible with your donation at this time. Our work is very costly and we would be lost without your continuing support.

On behalf of all the animals we continue to help, a very big thank you to you all.

Yours truly



Charles Wartenberg

Founder, International Wildlife Coalition Trust

[www.iwctk9.co.uk](http://www.iwctk9.co.uk)

*Charles Wartenberg, Founder  
International Wildlife Coalition Trust*

**Registered Office:**  
141a High Street,  
Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5AX  
Reg Charity No. 1035381

*Charles Wartenberg, President  
Animal Kingdom Foundation Inc*

**Registered Office:**  
11th Floor Heart Tower Cond  
108 Valero St, Makati City, Philippines  
Sec No. CN200250376