



My name is Susan Swier and I'm a writer from the US, working in Malaysia for respond.io. I've lived here for eight years and am actively involved with rescuing, fostering and rehoming cats and dogs.

I've always loved animals, and I adopted my first two cats when I was living in Taiwan in 2013. They moved here with me in 2016 and are still with me. I started volunteering at a shelter in 2017 and learned about the plight of strays in Malaysia. Someone dumped an unwanted litter of newborn puppies there and I offered to take them home and bottle-fed them even though I'd never had a dog. All four puppies survived, and I adopted one of them, Merrell. My family now includes four dogs and three cats plus an endless stream of temporary residents!

My dogs bring me so much joy, and I believe every dog deserves to have a loving family, but sadly, that's not realistic or possible in Malaysia. Countless litters of puppies are born every day and face abuse simply for existing; the only way to end the cycle of suffering is with TNR. If the stray population is controlled and kept healthy through neutering and vaccination, perhaps people will learn to have the decency to coexist peacefully with strays rather than harming them