



Animal Connection AC

by Arlette Caenen

25th of October 2015 – half a year after the earthquake - flying back to Nepal!

PLANNING

After some time of thinking and talking about the plan I had in my head, I am looking forward flying back to Nepal again. Now not alone, but accompanied by my husband Guido.

From the time the ticket is booked, I cannot stop collecting things for the dogs, the SDC girls and for our god child ☺

Guido is looking worried every day when I show him the things I have bought - look this is for Posar, look this is for SDC, look what I bought for Ngimdiki, look, look, look ...

Bandages, tweezers, warm dog clothes, anti-flea pipets, dog toys, leashes, collars, a warm jacket and fleece, t-shirts, socks, presents for everybody. This is so much fun in advance for me, in Germany they call it "Vorfreude", in the Netherlands "voorpret". Any way, it gives me a lot of positive energy.

From unexpected sides people give me things to bring to Nepal, that is so nice and special! The big transportation box of Sani, a dog who travelled from Kathmandu to Munich in August, goes back to Nepal for the next dog who will travel from Nepal to somewhere on the globe. As a result, I even have a bigger and heavier box to bring than in April, 38 kg will travel to Kathmandu.

AGAIN CRISIS IN NEPAL

As the situation is not very good in Nepal at the time I leave, I also bring things for the SDC staff with me, things they can use for their daily life, but also girly presents ☺

Since September 20th an Indian blockade, due to disagreement of the new Nepali constitution, is going on which has an influence on the fuel and butane gas traffic from India to Nepal. The borders between the two countries are closed and no fuel and gas comes in since a month. This has a strong effect on the daily life in Nepal, restaurants do not have enough gas to cook and some even have to close, taxis are very expensive (if they drive at all), busses are overloaded, long queues at the gas stations and days of waiting for gasoline, inland flights have to shorten their travel schedule etc.

Although thoughts came into my mind if I could travel to Nepal at all I decided to go, no matter what happens. I had to see everybody who I had left in April so suddenly after the quake, I had to go back to the Boudha stupa. So many reasons to go, so less to stay at home. So I took off on October 25th, half a year after the earth quake, it was a nice, but also a strange feeling, not knowing which adventures, emotions and feelings were waiting for me for the upcoming 3 weeks ...

ARRIVING IN KATHMANDU

After a day of delay in Abu Dhabi, arriving at the airport in Kathmandu, there was an unusual atmosphere. An empty airport, no chaos, no crowded arrival hall, no waiting for the visa application, not waiting for hours at the baggage claim. Unbelievable! I had never seen that before, it even was a little bit creepy. A taxi, not too expensive, brought me to the guesthouse. Within one hour after the landing (!), I was glad arriving safely in Boudha with my baggage and big supply box.

HEALING

After a good sleep, the next day, of course the Street Dog Care center is on the program. It was so good to see Sanu, Junu, Maya, Kamala and of course Jasmine, not to speak to see all the dogs again, old and new faces ☺ Emotions flow through my body, tears over my face. What does it feel good being back in Nepal again. A time of healing can start ... a lot of kora's around the stupa, visiting SDC every single day, walking to the Kopan monastery, visiting my dear friend Tendi, a trekking in Solukhumbu, visiting our god child Ngimdiki, seeing my special dog Posar again (I took care for him a lot during my stay in April) and going back to the place where I was on April 25th at 11.56 a.m. All these visits, all these emotions, all the lovely people and dogs I have met, the beautiful nature and being together with my husband and showing him a lot of the things of my stay in April, made me feel so much better.

ACCEPTANCE

Being back home again, I felt my emotions and feelings due to the earth quake became accepted by me. I could accept what has happened, had the opportunity to see everybody again and could also say good bye and hello to old and new emotions and experiences. All these things made me feel good again. My body and mind came on a new level.

THANK YOU !!!

I am very grateful to my husband who supported me going back to Nepal again and who accompanied me on this trip, which was not always easy. Thank you my dear!
A big thank you to Jasmine, who was and is a big support to me and an angel to the dogs in Boudha.
Thank you Tendi and the Solukhumbu trekking crew, who made our trek unforgettable.
Thank you Ngimdiki and family, proud to have such a nice and sweet god child.
Thank you Posar, so ill but so strong and supportive to me.
Thank you SDC team for your warm and loving welcome and making this stay nice and special again.
Thank you Rokpa Guesthouse team you made me feel "home" again.
And last but not least A BIG THANK YOU to all the stupa dogs and the dogs in the center, you gave my day a smile, again and again ☺



Boudha stupa



SDC dogs Choeron & Skinny



At the Street Dog Care center with Guido, Jasmine and the dogs Choeron, Kunsang, Rita and Punte



Tendi & Lhakpa at Pikey Peak



Prayer flags with mantra Om mani padme hum



Ngimdiki & her mother