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### (The Farm) Animals in Paradise

April 21st was the right day to do a ceremony for your animals. Every six month all animals receive their blessings.

Although receiving every six month their blessings Bali animals are treated differently here then in the West.

If I watch American celebrities' shows on TV with dogs and cats carried in designer handbags, getting their manicure, pedicure in salons, I can't stop thinking: there is not so much difference with how the roosters here in Bali are treated.

The difference is that in Bali it's men hugging and washing their roosters only to win the next cockfight.



### The chicken and the egg

I had a very interesting discussion at the farm the other day with Dodi and Wayan:

"Why do we still have to buy eggs for our guests Dodi? Why are our chickens still not producing enough eggs?"

"Ibu, that is because we have more roosters than hens."

"Heh? I thought we only had 3 roosters? Wayans 3 roosters are by turns "circulating" and walking free with the hens in the fenced chicken area?" The 2 others are on a perch outside."

And felt like a real city girl again.

Dodi and I went to the hens' fenced area and Dodi explained to me: "this is a baby male, this is a baby female etc. etc. We do have 10 females and 11 males in total."

Ok now I understand the shortage of eggs.

"Dodi, we are going to try to barter all these roosters with hens. What do you think?"

"Oh, Ibu you easily get 2 hens for one rooster, maybe even more. The Farm roosters are famous in the village now. They win all cockfights."

"Dodi, maybe we can learn something from that? Give a rooster good food, a free walking around life with females instead of being under a basket all day and he will be a cockfight champion?"

If I would have known 3 years ago that I was going to live in the most famous for cockfight village in Bali I would have said no thank you!

But how would I have known? In Holland you don't learn anything about cockfighting.

And even Wayan didn't tell me this?

"Sorry Marjan, but roosters and cockfights are part of our Balinese culture"

"You wanted to have a different life in Bali right? Then you have to find your own "balance" black, white, poleng in this culture"

"Wayan, Dodi, we Westerners want eggs and meat, so please barter all roosters, Wayans roosters can stay".

"Bartering our roosters?"

Dodi and Wayan were looking at me as if I was cutting their own balls off!

All roosters bartered, the 3 favorites of Wayan stayed and we have enough hens now I thought. But I was wrong still not enough eggs.

"I asked Dodi again. Why not enough eggs?"

"Because these hens just lay 3-4 eggs a week, kampoeng chicken. And we feed them only with organic rice and corn."

What about the chickens in our neighbor chicken farm? Are they laying more eggs?"

"Yes more."

"Ok, Dodi please buy 2 chickens from him and we can learn about the difference?"

.

The first week, wow these chickens were laying every day an egg. But after a week it stops.

I ask Dodi again. "Why?"

"The food Ibu."

Curious I google the food they are giving.

And ask Dodi again: "Does he use ivermectin? The Dutch Government forbids? Because eggs from a chicken

that takes ivermectine you as a consumer can't eat. The chicken has to be 28 days free of ivermectine?"  
"Dodi laughing...yes, all his chicken get ivermectine daily. Eggs sold daily.  
If you don't give them, they don't give you eggs daily."

We bought more (kampung) hens...and our bartered roosters are still winning...

### 3 Puppies found in the river



Wayans 3 girls were at the Farm for their holiday. They are living in Jakarta with their mom.  
Being with daddy in Bali means exploring nature, taking care of animals at The Farm and in Seseh going surfing with Daddy.

One morning they find a puppy in the river.

"Look Marjan what we found in the river?" "I call her.Shadow and look she (of course it's a girl because can get pregnant) looks so good, white, fat, no skin problem".

We wash her. We gave her food.

I tell Emma and Bella, "we can't keep Shadow here, we have already 2 dogs, but we will bring her to Ubud. To the Bawa (dog foundation) and they will find a good home for Shadow."

Shadow fat from all food and all love slept all day and night.

Next day, kids found another puppy...and another one.

I call Bawa again is it ok if we bring them all 3?

The girls were in tears after leaving the pups behind at Bawa. "Daddy are you sure they are going to find a nice home?"

The picture of Bella, Emma and pups are in the Bawa Article in the Bali Advertiser this month.

## BANJI the Bull

A cow is the symbol to measure wealth in traditional Bali.

The first question you as a western always get is "how many children do you have? How many sons do you have?" (because the eldest son will take care of you when you get old). Followed by "How many cows do you have?".



Banji is a "the luxe bull".

Banji is the baby of Betsie, the cow from my friend Piet in Ubud.

Dodi wanted to buy Banji from Piet because he is beautiful: so strong, so different from the cows and bulls in our village.

Piet told Dodi: "Banji is so beautiful and strong because Banji has a concrete floor to stand on with sawdust, instead of bamboo, Banji has a meadow to run, instead of being on a leach all day like in your village. The food is the same.

The village is excited to see this beautiful bull. Not standing on bamboo but on a concrete floor, has sawdust and is on a little bit longer rope every day.

Believe me or not. Every morning Banji is welcoming me if I pass by. We hug, he is a happy bull.

## We have to find a new home for BEAR (the white dog)



Do you know anybody in Bali who can give this adopted and transformed from ugly to huggy Bear a lovely home? He is fully vaccinated and sterilized!

Bear is very good with children, people and other dogs.  
But he is hunting our neighbor roosters and chicken.

As we are living in a rooster/chicken village and already lost one very much loved dog (Angel) shot by this neighbor, I don't want this to happen again.

Bear needs a (western) home, without chicken/rooster neighbors around.  
He will give you so much love in return with his very serious wrinkled old soul face.

## Balinese and their animals

The blood of almost all animals is used in different ceremonies, to purify the offerings

Cockfights are always connected to a ceremony. The blood is there to purify.  
What about the gambling which is officially illegal in Indonesia?

Hindus believe in reincarnation: if you did something wrong in your past life you reincarnate as a dog. The Bali dog has a job: to protect the house to get a higher reincarnation in his/her next life. Therefore it's not treated like pet.

But modern times made this change a bit. It's trendy now to have a "western dog" Like a Labrador, Golden Retriever, or Rotweiler. The other day I even saw a Husky in the tropics!. It's sad to see that all these western dogs are big business right now. And because many Indonesians have no education in taking care of dogs they almost all end up in a cage in front of their house. "just to show off".

The cats are the only animals that are not used in a ceremony.

Bear is on my lap, together with kitten Sayang, watching me typing this.  
He seems to understand what I am writing about...with his happy serious face.  
You can see him thinking about his reincarnation: "Mine is not too bad".



## Wayans vegetarian recipe

### *Spinach Omelet with Mixed Salad*

#### **Ingredients for 2 persons:**

Quantity	Unit	Item
4	pcs	Egg, salt and pepper
200	gr	Chopped spinach leaves
5	cloves	Chopped Shallots
2	cloves	Chopped Garlic
2	bowl	Mixed salad
1	pcs	Tomato cut in two take out the seeds
3	tblsp	Olive oil
		Salt and pepper to taste

#### **Dressing**

2	tblsp	Olive oil
2	tblsp	Honey
1	tsp	Lime
1	tsp	Wine vinegar
		Salt and pepper to taste

#### **Cooking method**

Heat olive oil in frying pan. Sauté garlic and shallots until golden brown.

Pour the chopped spinach in the frying pan. Stir gently

Add the eggs. Keep on stirring until eggs and spinach cook.

Cut in slices.

Put the omelet on the plate together with the salad and tomatoes.

Add the dressing to the Salad.

Ready to serve.

*Selamat makan!*

***Thank you for reading what keeps us busy!***

***Lots of love from all of us,  
Wayan, Marjan, Team, Kids and Animals***

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