

Fax [REDACTED] PETA  
From Elizabeth Oliver ARK

10th April 1995

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you so much for sending official PETA letters to the different government offices regarding companion animal victims of the earthquake being allowed to be with their owners in the temporary housing facilities. Whether or not they bend the rules remains to be seen but at least they know that the eyes of the world are upon them. We will keep you posted with developments.

There was however one sentence that might be misconstrued ".....we can provide you with information about animal care or put you in contact with local Japanese groups *who would be happy to help care for the animals*". This might give local governments the idea that they don't have to do anything as there are volunteer groups willing to take these animals. We are trying to put the onus onto the local government to let pet owners look after their own animals so that we are not inundated.

At the moment we are at full capacity and the only other emergency facility at Sanda (run by Hyogo Prefecture veterinary association, Kobe city and JAWS) is also full. We get calls every day by people being refused by the Sanda Centre because it can't take any more. With the power and backing of Hyogo Prefecture and Kobe city, both of which have huge funds (from donations) to make use of, we cannot understand why they haven't built other facilities to cope with this problem.

ARK has received about ¥ 15 million in donations while the Sanda Centre has a budget of at least ¥ 100 million. ( This budget is made up of donation specifically for helping the animals). Despite ARK's limited resources we have as many if not more animals to cope with. We also have to think in the long term, i.e. a year from now, which is about the time it will take for people to have their homes rebuilt and be able to keep their pets again. Even so there may be those who never come back and we will be landed with these unwanted animals.

We at present have six volunteers from the UK working with the earthquake animals at ARK. Most of them are here only three months which means we need replacements. We also have Japanese volunteers who come and go and our staff has increased to seven part-timers. If PETA knows any hard-working animal-experienced volunteers who would like to do a three-month stint we'd be very happy to have them sometime this year. (Air fares would be paid with free accomadation and boarding at ARK).

Thank you all for your support.  
Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Oliver*