

Fact: Those involved in animal disposal are members of the untouchable cast, they have no incentive to introduce humane handling of animals coming to them for destruction. Ordinary Japanese people would not be able to do this work.

Fact: Authorities say that unwanted animals are rubbish and they are disposed of as such.

Fact: Vets in Japan run a "business" rather than a "practice". Few of them love animals. Few will carry out euthanasia even when requested to do so by enlightened pet owners because of the "karmic" consequences.

Fact: So dumping and abandoning animals even if they are left to starve, to be involved in traffic accidents or to be eaten alive by crows removes the cause of death from the owner and brings no karmic repercussions.

Fact: There are only a few animal welfare groups in the whole of Japan with a handful of people struggling to run rescue centres. The only animal welfare Act was not passed until 1974 and it is described by Japanese activists as "useless" and unenforceable.

Fact: In a country of some 140 million people, no more than 3-4,000 people belong to animal welfare groups.

Fact: Japanese activists say that it is impossible to change conditions from within Japan. They say that pressure from overseas can be very successful in moving the Japanese Government into action.

THINGS YOU CAN DO

Please circulate this flyer as a matter of urgency. Pin it up in the office, or any place where people may read the information. Photocopy your flyer and circulate to others.

Write your protest to:

The Japanese Ambassador, Japanese Embassy, 112 Empire Circuit, Yarralumla, 2600
or phone the Embassy on (06) 273 3244 OR
The Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Office, 6-1 Nagata-cho 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, 100 Japan.

For more information on this issue contact: Australians for Animals, NSW Inc., PO Box 673, Byron Bay, 2481. Phone: (066) 853633 Fax: (066) 85 3646.

We ask everyone reading this flyer to remember that there are very dedicated Japanese activists and enlightened Japanese people struggling to bring about desperately needed changes. Their extraordinary efforts must be recognised and where possible they must be given every help we can provide.