

HELL- HOLE ALERT

Recent press reports in Japan have led people to believe that the situation in Tenri is being expediently handled and that all the dogs are now being cared for. (See letter to the International Committee of Kansai dated September 21 from Nara Prefecture stating "we have been making utmost efforts to improve the situation, with the consensus that priority should be to save the animals.")

All this seemed too good to be true

On September 28, ARK representatives paid an unannounced visit to Tenri. What we found was that Nara was seeking an easy way out and dodging the real issue. Their aim is to pacify local animal activists, mollify international protest and to protect the image of Nara.

True, most of the old man's dogs (with his consent) have been taken to temporary kennels across the street and veterinarians are working around the clock to restore their health. However, the crazy old woman who keeps dogs in the prefab next to the senile man is still in the torture business with at least 30 dogs living in cages; up to three a cage stacked two cages high. Diseased and defeated these dogs are decomposing while still alive. While the Hokensho tells the world they are doing everything possible to 'save the animals,' dogs are suffering mercifully across the road from where they are working.

As we approached her prefab, the old woman ranted and raved calling us killers, while the officials tried to calm her down and smooth things over. They tried to steer us away from her prefab and hurriedly guided us to the new sight where the man's rescued dogs are being cared for. In fact, the veterinarians, the lowest people in the Hokensho hierarchy, are working unceasingly and with great