

biggest obstacles to progress in animal welfare here and limits the exchange of information and cooperation between groups.

My prime objective is for ARK to become a centre for exchange of information both from within Japan and with organizations abroad, to promote education and to work towards changes in the law for protection of animals. At the same time at a practical level we take in animals in need, neuter them, treat them if necessary and rehome them. In reality of course this difficult, as JAWS has found out over the years, as the number coming in quickly overtakes the number going out. We either have to take the JAWS line of euthanasia or we have to reject cases because of lack of space. This is a very delicate issue and one that I am now having to face. Japanese are vehemently against euthanasia in any form which is why the number of abandoned animals is so huge. The staff here are also against it and this is understandable as they become attached to the animals they look after every day. I know that if I come out in favour of euthanasia, ARK will lose its support overnight. Every day we are inundated by phone calls of people who've picked up animals but who can't keep them or people who have animals they no longer want (the reasons are often trivial). If we refuse to accept them, or suggest they take them directly to the Centre themselves, we know that they may go straight out and dump them. If we take them in, we ourselves have to make the difficult decision and will also face criticism as a result. It's really a Catch 22 situation.

2. Japan has a population of 120 million and JAWS has a membership of about 2000., having been in existence for over 30 years. JAV A (Japan Anti-Vivisection Association), founded less than 10 years ago, has a membership of 1500 and is growing fast. But this gives you an indication of the general lack of involvement and disinterest in animal welfare by the public at large. Many people claim to love animals but often they are potential Tenri case-types, sentimental and unrealistic. It is not so difficult to get initial support as Japanese have a tendency to jump on something new, especially if it's had media coverage, but it's difficult to sustain this support over a long term. ARK is in a pretty precarious financial position since JAWS withdrew its financial support (it was paying for one assistant) so we keep going mainly through boarding or special appeals to sponsor certain animals. Any shortfalls are made up from my own pocket which means from my university salary. I need 2 full-time staff plus 2 part-timers in order to give myself time to handle the organizational side. I would like to devote more time to investigation and data collecting but this is impossible. You mention about ARK helpers going out to Tenri. This has been impossible for us as it is