

animals was insufficient. Mr. Fukushima is old and infirm and cannot care for them any longer, and because they are living in unsanitary conditions and many dogs have become sick, Nara took action to rectify the situation. As soon as the dogs are treated, Nara wants to negotiate with Mr. Fukushima and give the dogs to new owners, but as we approach animal protection week, the morals of selfish pet owners are being called into question.

Questionable morals of pet owners

Mr. Fukushima came to this lot along side Route 25 over 15 years ago and erected two small kennels. He began collecting abandoned dogs and cats, and planned to incorporate his animal home as the "Japan Animal Protection Society Preliminary Office," based on the four principles: "Do not abandon your animal, do not increase the number of abandoned animals, do not kill an animal you do not want, and do not keep a pet you cannot care for." He has been promoting a 100-year-plan to eliminate stray dogs and cats.

However, his plan to incorporate made no progress. Also, due to the growth in the number of animals over the past ten years, the Nara Public Health Center has been instructing the man. Over the past six months Mr. Fukushima has been suffering from neuralgia and can walk only with difficulty, and is unable to care for the animals sufficiently. Now over 40 dogs are chained inside the kennel day in and day out in poor sanitary conditions and receiving little food, and many are suffering from severe skin diseases.

Animal protection groups such as the Japan Animal Welfare Society (Minato-ku, Tokyo), and Ark (Nose-cho, Osaka, Elizabeth Oliver, Rep.) criticized the man's "cruelty to animals" and began a campaign to save the animals from the viewpoint of "animal welfare." JAWS members sent out 5,000 postcards to inform people of the situation and collected 12,000 signatures, and in June, they demanded that Nara Prefecture take action to rectify the situation. Ark sent out 9,000 letters and in response the prefecture received 400 letters demanding