

PET TAILS

by Yukiko Mukai



Sachan the tanuki

Sachan: One of the Family

Sachan is a tanuki (raccoon dog) that our family rescued from a hole in ground being cleared to make way for a golf course. His parents had already left the den, so before it was destroyed, we decided to bring him home. His eyes were not yet open, and he refused milk, but we heard that a neighbour's dog had just whelped, so we took the baby tanuki to the dam. The mother dog immediately

started to lick his backside, and allowed him to suckle. She raised him as one of her own.

Raising him has been quite a hard job. Our whole family has bite marks, and we realize now how easy it is by comparison, to raise a dog or a cat. We have given Sachan inoculations against dog diseases like distemper, and to keep our dogs from attacking him, we've built a sturdy fence with a screen door and netted roof.

There is a law actually, that you cannot keep a wild animal as a pet, but Sachan

can no longer survive in the wild and the natural habitat for wild animals is decreasing year by year. Is there really any law, protecting animals?

Sachan is now almost 2 years old. He's more mature and a little quieter, but only lets members of our family touch him and is always on his guard. Although he cannot go out like a dog, he likes walks and whenever we take the dogs out he whimpers that he wants to go too. Sachan has truly become one of the family.

さっちゃんとはゴルフ場の造成地の巣穴で拾われた狸の赤ちゃんでした。まだ目も開いてなくミルクも受けつけず困っていたところ、産後の母犬に見せると、なんとお尻をなめたり、お乳をあげようとするので、その犬にまかせてみると、自分の子と同じように育ててくれました。

でも育てるのはなかなか苦労が多く、家の者の手足はかまれて傷だらけ、他の犬にかまれないように頑丈な柵をして、とても注意が必要です。本当は野生動物

を勝手に飼ってはいけない法律がありますが、いまさら自然では生きてゆけないし、野生動物たちの住む自然は年々狭くなっている日本に、本当に動物たちを保護する法律があるのでしょうか。

さっちゃんは今、1才7カ月。少し大人になっておとなしくなりましたが、警戒心が強く家の者しかさわらせません。散歩が大好きで、犬を連れて行く時、一緒に行きたがって鼻をならします。すっかり家族の一員です。



Sachan's adoptive mother

PET CARE

How to Protect Your Dog from Filaria (Heartworms)

Filaria is the single largest killer of dogs in Japan. It is carried by mosquitoes and causes parasitic worms to collect in the dog's heart. If left untreated, it will endanger the life of your dog within 8 years.

Prevention

First, avoid letting your dog get bitten by mosquitoes. Keep your dog inside the house or have a screen door fitted to the kennel or use mosquito coils, being careful not to start a fire.

Second, give your dog filaria-preventative medicine; either a daily type from April through November, or a once-a-month medicine from June through November. At present, the only medicine for preventing filaria is the oral type. Injections DO NOT prevent filaria, they only kill the heartworms that are already spreading inside the body.

Before deciding on the type of filaria medicine to give your dog, always have a health check and blood test taken. Giving an injection or medicine to a dog suddenly without a checkup can prove fatal.

フィラリアからあなたの犬を守ろう

フィラリアは蚊が運んできて、犬の心臓にたまる寄生虫です。放っておくと、命にかかります。

そこで予防は、第1に蚊にさされないことです。犬舎に網戸をつけて、蚊取線香をたく。第2にフィラリアの予防薬を飲ませることです。蚊の出る時期に毎日飲ませるタイプ(4~11月位まで毎日)と1月に1回飲ませる薬(6~11月位まで毎月)があります。フィラリアの予防薬は、現在飲み薬以外にありません。注射は予防薬ではなく、今わいているフィラリアを殺す薬です。むやみに注射をしてもらうと、ショック死することがあります。フィラリアの予防をする前に、必ず血液検査をしてもらってから、獣医に相談の上、薬を決めましょう。

First Contact

Approaching an unfamiliar animal, especially one which is frightened, is more difficult than approaching your own pet. In first contact, avoid sudden movements or a loud voice. Speaking quietly, offer it the back of your hand to sniff. Squat down, make yourself small (humans appear huge from an animal's level). Gently scratch around the neck or chest area. The animal will gradually relax under your touch.

動物に近づくと き

あなたはかわいい犬や猫を見て、すぐ頭をなでようと手を出したりしませんか。でもちょっと待って!

ほとんどの犬や猫にとって、知らない人間はこわいのです。まずやさしく話しかけてしゃがみ、相手の様子を見てから、そーっと首や胸の方をなでてあげて下さい。動物たちは声をよく覚えています。よろこんでいるのか、こわがっているか、怒っているか、きっと心の中が様子を表われているでしょう。そして多くの動物たちと友達になって下さい。