ANIMAL ANGLE

700 Dogs

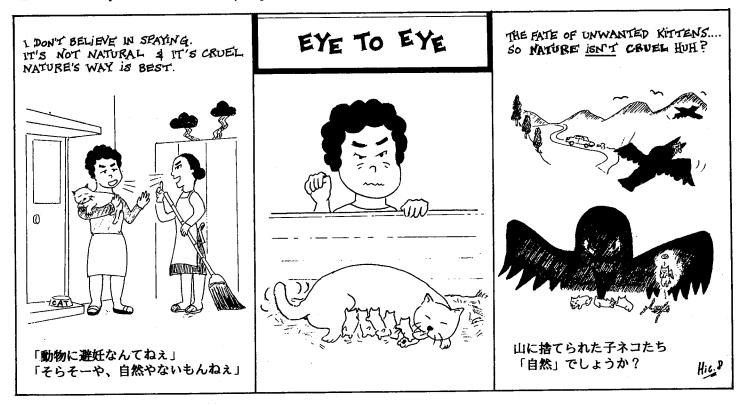
Tadashi Honda, living in Chiba Prefecture, has around seven hundred abandoned dogs which he has rescued over the last 10 years. He has quit his job in order to take care of them. With the help of three volunteers and his family he takes them in shifts by bus to a large field for exercise. He owns a large tract of land (about 10,000 tsubo 1 tsubo = 3.3 sq.m) so he is fortunate to have enough space, but feeding and cleaning all these dogs must be a problem. Food bills run to about Y700.000/month which averages Y1000/dog/month; not much but far more than one person can reasonably afford. He therefore depends on contributions from friends and relatives. He is campaigning for the authorities to take stricter measures against people who abandon pets. All this is very admirable but there are some points which are not clear.

Assuming that half the dogs are female, the cost of spaying would be enormous. At a cheap rate of Y10,000/dog the cost would be Y3.5 million. A film about Mr. Honda shows many females with pups, so one wonders what the total will be in another 10 years. In addition to spaying, other veterinary costs must be huge: vaccination, medicines, filaria prevention, flea collars and so on.

Here at ARK two people working full time are stretched to the limit with 60 animals, so it is virtually impossible for 4 people to look after 700 dogs properly.

Many people devote their life to rescuing animals, as Mr. Honda does. Most however do not have the space and facilities that he does. In some cases animals endure a more prolonged miserable fate than if they had been caught by the hokensho (dog pounds).

Until a proper effective registration system is adopted, when the law can be tightened up and people severely punished for abandoning their pets, the endless cycle of buy, discard, and kill, will continue.



拾うだけでは救いにならない

ペットを捨てる人々に対する罰をも っと厳しくするように行政に運動し ている。これらは称賛すべきことだ が、本多氏にはいくつかはっきりし ない部分がある。

まず700匹のうち、半分がメスと 推定すると、避妊手術の費用がばく 大な費用になる。安くみて1匹が1 万円としても、全部で350万円だ。 また、その様子をテレビでみたが、 多くのメス犬が子犬を抱えていた。 そこで一つの謎は、10年間で本当に 拾ってきた犬は何匹かということで、 避妊手術の他にも、ワクチン、薬、 フェラリア予防薬、ノミ取り首輪な ど、医療費も巨大な額になるだろう。 それにアークでさえもフルタイムで 2人が働いているが、60匹が限界だ。 普通に考えて、4人で700匹の世話 をするのは不可能だろう。

アーク (アニマル・リフュージ・カンサイ) 〒563-01 大阪府豊能郡能勢町野間大原595 電話(0727)37-0712 FAX 37-1645