Babes in the Wood

There have been some pretty shocking cases of animal abuse and neglect which have passed through the gates of ARK, but few as heart-wrenching as the one which occurred not long ago in our very own backyard.

It was around the time of Obon and the rain had been falling continuously for days. Early one morning, taking a group of dogs out for their morning walk, an ARK helper suddenly became aware of a soft whimpering coming from within the trees. When she went to investigate, there, huddled together beneath the scant shelter of a fallen tree, were three tiny puppies. They were soaked through and their little bodies shivered uncontrollably. Weak with hunger and fatigue, dazed and numb, they hardly knew what happened as they were scooped up and carried home.

The puppies could not have been more than one month old and, by their condition, they had obviously been abandoned several days before. Returning to the scene to check that none had been separated and left behind, just a short distance away there was found one more puppy huddled alone on the forest floor. This puppy, the smallest and weakest of the litter, was lucky to have been found at all for t could hardly be seen being literally covered in a swarming mass of blue bottle flies.

All of the puppies seemed to be specked with tiny white spots. Upon closer inspection, to the horror of those involved, these specks turned out to be worms, live, squirming maggots which covered the puppies' bodies. There were millions of them, and the puppies had to be soaked repeatedly in warm water and combed in order to remove them all. The next day gaping craters had appeared in the puppies' skin. From within these holes larger maggots could be seen writhing in masses. Pouring iodine into the holes and forcing the maggots out one by one was the only way to get rid of them.

Normally maggots are laid as eggs within the dead and rotting bodies of carcasses. When the veterinarian was asked why this might have occurred on the live bodies of the puppies his answer added a further dimension of horror to the story. What probably happened was that the puppies had been attacked by crows, their flesh pecked and ripped by the birds until it was raw and bleeding. From there flies came, attracted by the blood, and laid eggs within the wounds. The eggs hatched into maggots which then burrowed within and feasted upon the skin and flesh of the puppies.

Can you imagine the terror and pain these poor puppies endured? Can you imagine someone dumping these tiny creatures, hardly weaned from their mother's body, and leaving them to this kind of fate? How could this sadist sleep at night after committing such an act?! Yet this kind of thing is done all the time. These puppies were found in time to be rescued and nurtured back to health; but many others are not so lucky and will die alone and terrified never knowing a warm touch or a kind word.

The puppies are older now and have all been taken to new homes where we hope they are loved and happy. Perhaps they have been able to forget the horrors of their past, or perhaps a dim memory of it will haunt them for the rest of their lives. We can never really know the full affect this kind of ill treatment may have on animals. We can only hope that a new home with a loving and attentive owner will show them that not all humans possess such cruelty and that, with the right family, they can be happy and safe for a lifetime.

Kirsten Lutes

置き去られた 小さな命たち

その日はお盆の時期で、何日間も 雨が降り続いていました。早朝、犬 達と朝の散歩をしているとアークの スタッフの一人が突然、木々の中か らする小さい泣き声を聞きつけまし た。彼女が調べにいくとそこには三 匹の小さな小犬が、木の近くで体を 寄せあっていました。小犬達はびし ょ濡れで、がたがたと震えていまし た。彼女は自分のジャケットをブラ ンケット替わりに、小さな濡れた小 犬達を拾い上げ、家に連れて帰りま した。彼等は生後1ヵ月と思われ、 状態から見て数日前に捨てられたよ うでした。現場を調べに戻ると、何 も無かったはずなのに、さらにもう 一匹の小犬を見つけました。この小 犬はハエの群れに覆われ、見つけら れたのは本当に幸運でした。小犬達 は最初、小さな白い斑点ができてる ように見えました。ところが近づい て調べると、なんと彼等の体は生き てうごめいているウジ虫に覆われて いたのです。何回となく小犬をぬる ま湯につけ、その虫を全部落とさな ければなりませんでした。

次の日、彼等の皮膚にパックリと 開いた割れ目をいくつか発見しまし た。それらの穴の中から大きなウジ 虫が沢山出てきました。消毒液をそ の穴に入れ、ウジ虫を一匹一匹取り 出すことが、それらを取り除く唯一 の方法でした。生きた動物の体にウ ジ虫がわくのはとてもまれです。ウ ジは普通は腐敗した死体に卵を生み ます。獣医さんによると彼等に起こ った訳は、きっと小さくて助けが無 かったため、カラスに襲われたか、 鳥のくちばしによって肉をついばま



れ、そして血に引きつけられたハエ が、傷口に卵を生んだのだろう、と いうことでした。そして卵からかえ ったウジ虫は、その穴にもぐり込み 血と肉を食べていたのです。

あなた方は、これらのあわれな小 犬達が耐えつづけた恐怖と痛みを想 像できますか?これらの小さい命を 母体から引き離し、そしてこの様な 運命に置き去ることを想像できます か?こんなひどい仕打ちをした怪物 は、どうしたらすやすやと眠れるの でしょう。この子達は幸運な方です。 彼等は健康に戻れるうちに救われま した。けれど多くの動物達は、不運 にも死んでしまったり食べられてし まったりするのです。

彼等は皆、新しい家族に貰われて 行きました。きっと彼等は過去の惨 事を忘れることができるでしょう。 あるいは生涯その思い出につきまと われるかもしれません。こういった 動物への虐待行為は、彼等にとって どれほど苦痛か、人間には決して解 らないでしょう。私たちがただ願う ことは、全ての人間がこういった残 虐行為をしているのではなく、愛情 に満ちた飼い主もたくさんいて、家 族と共に彼等を幸せにし、命ある限 り守る努力をしているということを 彼等に示してやることです。



A Happy New Year from the Staff, Volunteers and Animals at ARK

今年もあとわずかです。ア ークへのご協力本当にありが とうございました。

毎年、年賀状を下さる方へ。 経費節約のため、お返事を出 せませんが、どうぞ皆様良い お年をお迎え下さい。

食費のスポンサー代 1年3万円 3カ月分8000円 1カ月分3000円 食費と医療費スポンサー代 15万円 3カ月分1万3000円 1カ月分5000円 全経費のスポンサー代 1年7万円 3カ月分1万8000円 1年7万円 3カ月分1万8000円 1カ月分6000円 その他ご相談に応じます。くわしくはア ークまでご連絡下さい。