

ANIMAL ANGLE

Crystal

She was barely two months old when she was brought to ARK on a chain as nobody wanted her. Her mother was a Kishu and little did we know then that she was to need all the stoic traits of this breed for the ordeal that lay ahead of her. She was painfully shy of strangers but with other pups and those who gained her trust she was bold and bossy. Time passed. All the other pups found good homes except Crystal who was now six months old. It seemed she would never find a loving home but then a woman and her young daughter visited us. After spending all day with Crystal they decided that they would like to adopt her and could give her the patient handling she needed. We warned them to be careful when letting her out in their garden or walking her as she was so fearful of new surroundings and would try to escape. Finally Crystal had found a home.

The next afternoon the woman's car drew up to ARK and I knew there was trouble. Apparently the woman's daughter had been walking her and as she had seemed so calm she had let her off the lead. This was the chance Crystal had been waiting for and she had fled. We immediately went to the place she had last been seen but it was like looking for a needle in a haystack because it was a dense woodland area. All we could hope was that she would try to make her way back to us. She had a name/address tag on her but it was doubtful that anyone would get close enough to read it. Six days later the woman left a message on the answerphone that Crystal had been found injured by the hokensho and returned to her. We immediately rang her and she told us that Crystal had been found on a roadside apparently heading over the mountains back towards us. The woman had taken her to a

notoriously bad vet and her description of Crystal's injuries was enough for us to demand that she bring her back to ARK even though it was already late at night.

As I lifted Crystal from the car she licked my hand and my heart sank at the sight her battered face. One look at the eye told me that all that remained was the socket and that she would never see from it again but what was more frightening was the paralysis of her back legs. She had been doped by the vet and I desperately tried to find a reflex in her back legs. But no matter how hard I squeezed between her pads she showed no reaction. Then the question I dreaded arose should she be euthanised? Once more I squeezed her foot and I thought she reacted, then I knew that there might be a glimmer of hope. The woman left and we were never again to hear from her. As luck would have it we had recently been told about a skillful veterinarian who ran a 24-hour clinic which was in Fujidera a two hour drive from us. It was now close to midnight but we had nowhere to turn so we rang him. Doctor Korieda said that he would see her that same night if we could get her to him. At his clinic an X-ray showed that her spine had been displaced by 5 cms but could not show if the spinal cord was severed. Surgery was scheduled for late that evening and the heart-breaking decision we made was that if the cord was severed then he was under no circumstances to bring her round from the anaesthetic. The delicate surgery he performed lasted 5 hours but the cord was intact although the spinal column was pushing against it. Without the pinning and adjusting of the column she could never have used her legs again.

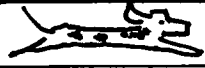
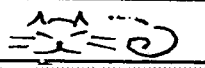
Her spine was brittle and soon after she was reoperated on to replaced the pins which had failed to hold her

spinal column together. She was also placed in a metal corset to prohibit moving so her spine might have a chance to recover. A month passed and Crystal still showed no signs of trying to walk so we asked to be allowed to bring her back to ARK the only home she had ever known and maybe with our care we might get her to walk. Crystal returned to us. Immediately rehabilitation was started and daily we massaged her legs, stood her up and taught her to walk once more. It was literally a race against time as the muscle wastage due to the weeks of immobility had been massive and if not quickly reversed she would never have the power needed to stand again let alone walk.

For the most part she was a happy and loving dog who endured the pain that the exercises must have caused but there were days when she would look at me with frustration and pain written all over her face. Those were the dark days I wished she had not fought so valiantly for life, yet they were few and far between. She desperately wanted to walk and often tripped over her own legs in her haste. Yet within a few weeks she had learnt how to stand unaided and her tail became a great aid in her struggle for balance. Sometimes when she was tired she would still dr her legs yet I only had to say her name and like a scolded child she would stand up.

Over two months had passed and summer was upon us as I stood and looked out of the kitchen window at Crystal. Her walk was like that of a puppet on a string. But I knew at that moment that all the decisions and actions we had taken on Crystal's behalf had been right for she had a quality of life that some Japanese dogs would envy and she was truly happy.

Anne-Marie McGivern

	JAN 1月	FEB 2月	MARCH 3月	APRIL 4月	MAY 5月		JAN 1月	FEB 2月	MARCH 3月	APRIL 4月	MAY 5月
Dogs/ puppies at ARK (1st Jan. 1995) 犬・子犬総数 (9.5年1月1日現在)	97					Cats/ kittens at ARK (1st Jan. 1995) 猫・子猫総数 (9.5年1月1日現在)	30				
捨て犬 Stray/ Abandoned Dogs In	11	33	39	14	21	捨て猫 Stray/ Abandoned Cats In	2	6	3	9	9
Earthquake Dogs In 被災犬 (飼い主不明)	13	19	4	2	-	Earthquake Cats In 被災猫 (飼い主不明)	-	17	7	4	-
Boarding/ Earthquake Dogs 震災犬 (一時預かり)	11	26	11	5	10	Boarding Earthquake Cats 震災猫 (一時預かり)	-	18	22	3	-
Rehomed Dogs 里親が見つかった犬	13	29	17	4	13	Rehomed Cats 里親が見つかった猫	2	3	6	4	-
Died 死亡した犬	-	4	3	2	2	Died 死亡した猫	-	10	1	1	3
Total At ARK 合計	119	164	198	213	223	Total At ARK 合計	30	48	72	79	75
Cause Of Death - Dogs (*Kobe=Earthquake) 死亡原因 (神戸=被災犬)		1 eutha- mised as dangerous, 2 died of filaria, 1 died due to stress (Kobe) やむを得ず 安楽死1、 フィラリア 2、ストレ ス死1	2 died of parvo(1 was from Kobe), 1 pup crushed by mother 感染症2 (内神戸 から1) 母親によ る圧死1	2 pups died of infection/ worms 伝染病・ 回虫2 (子犬)	2 died of infection (possible parvo) from Kobe 伝染病2 (感染症の 可能性有・ 神戸から)	Cause Of Death - Cats (*Kobe=Earthquake) 死亡原因 (神戸=被災猫)		10 died of FIP, FelV- all from Kobe FIP/ FelVに よる 死亡10 (全て神 戸から)	1 died of stress from Kobe ストレス 死亡1 (神戸 から)	Old cat died of FVR FVRに よる死亡 (老猫)	2 kittens less than 10 days old died 生後10日 以内の子猫 2
Miscellaneous Boarding (Earthquake) その他の被災動物							60 Rabbits (at ARK for 3 mon.) 兎60羽 (3 ヵ月滞在)	5 Rabbits and 1 Cockerel 兎5羽と雄 鶏1羽			