

What would you do ?

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Thus, euthanasia is still far better than the fate met by most workhorses in Japan.

Dogs and cats, as our most common pets and companions, are much loved by human beings, and as such there are many people adamantly opposed to euthanasia for these animals. However, the number of animals requiring refuge from homelessness or abuse is simply too high; it is near impossible for activists to rescue and rehome all of the many animals that come to their attention.

There is, quite simply, a limit to the space available for even the temporary shelter required until new homes can be found -- if they can be found at all.

What is better? To care for a limited number of animals to the end of their natural

lives, while closing your eyes to the rest, or to care for every animal that comes your way for a limited time, and then euthanize them when their time is up? It is not an easy question to answer. Trying to have it both ways, without proper consideration of your financial, spacial and physical limits, ultimately leads to the out-of-control conditions that were discovered in the Tenri and Shizuoka cases, where people took in more and more animals until their homes and gardens were overrun with dirty, half-wild dogs and cats.

Ideally, animal welfarists should never have to resort to euthanasia - but the reality is much more complicated, and each individual/organization must work for the good of animals in accordance with his/her beliefs. These beliefs may diverge, as people

do think differently, but we should remember we are all working for the same goals and refrain from wantonly criticizing and attacking others. We have every right to disagree, but differences in approach must be respected. In particular, there are those who practice euthanasia themselves, but sharply criticize and even disparage others for euthanizing animals: such behavior is not worthy of true animal lovers, and ought not to be encountered.

There will be those who disagree with ARK's philosophy and methods, but we are doing our best to help animals in accordance with our beliefs, and intend to continue doing so.

(This article was written in consultation with ARK's advisory committee.)



きょねんのおわりに、と
つてもがなしいことがあつ
た。オリバーさんの犬のな
がでいちばんとしうえのキ
ツネが、ボクたちを置いて
てんごくにいつてしまったん
だ。キツネは16ねんかんオリ

バー家のいちいんだつた。たすけだされるときは、ほねとかわ
ばかりの小犬で、それからさきも、ずっとほうきやふくろを
こわがってたら、だれかにひどくなぐられたんだってことは
はっきりしていた。キツネはまわりのへんがにとつてもびんか
んで、いつも何がいかにして、とくにじしんとがみな
りをこわがっていた。

もしアークの人たちにたすけられなかつたら、キツネやボク、
それにここにいるみんなが、いつたいていどうなっていたらうか
って考えると、ほんとにくらいきもちになる。たくさんの、い
わゆる「がい主がいる」犬たちが、ろうやに入れられた人みた
いに、みじかいくさりにみじめにながれて、ひどいてんきも
いっしょうけんめいがまんして、たいくつききて、だれにも
かわいがられずにいるのを見ると、ボクたちがあつたがいお家
にすんで、あいされてあんげんでいるのは、ほんとうにラッキ
ーだとおもうんだ。

バジャーからの手紙

Letter from BADGER

The year end was a sad time
for us. Kitsune the oldest of
the house dogs passed away.
He had been in the Oliver
household for 16 years. When

he was rescued he was just a skeleton of a pup and someone
had obviously beaten him as he retained his fear of sticks
and bags ever after. He was very sensitive to changes around
him, a constant worrier, especially frightened of earthquakes
and thunderstorms.

It is sobering to think of what might have become of
Kitsune or me or any of us if we had not been rescued.
When I look around at many so-called 'owned' dogs kept
miserably like prisoners on short chains, enduring extremes
of weather, bored and unloved, I think we are really lucky to
have found love and security in a warm home.

悲しいことに去年天国へ旅立った多くの
仲間達のことをアークのみんなは忘れは
しない。逝ってしまった仲間の足跡は永
遠に私達の心に残るし、愛することや笑
うことについて教えてくれたことはずっ
と消え去ることはない。今はもうここに
いない一人一人に、一緒に過ごせたこと
と、又そうすることで私達自身が豊かに
なれたことをとても感謝しています。キ
ツネやリキ、その他多くの仲間たち安ら
かに眠って下さい。どうも有難う。



We remember all our
animal friends who sadly
passed away last year.
Their footprints remain
forever in our hearts and
the lessons they taught
us about love and
laughter endure. To each
we are grateful for
allowing us to share
their lives and in turn
enriching ours.