## 将来を担う子供たちに、いのちの種を蒔く ーアークの教育活動レポートー

**全**てられたり、虐待されている動物を保護するため、アークが「シェルター」としての役割を果たすことは、私たちの行う最も重要な動物保護活動の一つです。

しかし、毎年1,000,000頭とも言われる数の動物たちが殺処分されている現実を前に、その根本的な解決に少しでも近づくため、アークでは現在の保護活動に加えて、将来的な視野を含めた「教育活動」の強化を進

めています。

現在までにいくつかの学校で、「いのちの学習」の一環として授業に参加させて頂きましたが、「イヌにさわるの、はじめて」という子供が、レクチャーの終わる頃には笑顔で犬たちに接している姿を見て、私たちはこの活動の重要性と、将来の社会に対する責任を実感せずにはいられません。アークでは、こういった活動に参加して頂ける、教育関係の団体を募っております。



### 兵庫県宝塚市立西谷小学校5年生

1999年11月2日

宝塚市立西谷小学校の研究発表 会への招待を受け、アークのス タッフ1名と、ボランティアメ ンバー1名が参加しました。

宝塚市教育委員会の今年度の主題「自ら学ぶ子供」に沿って、小学5年生の子供たちが自分で「福部の友だち」「島の友だち」「動物愛護グループ」「絶滅しそうな動物」「ハイブリット・カー」などの研究テーマを決め、その中で「動物愛護グループ」の子供たちが自らパソコンでアークのホームページを探し、Eメールで直接私たちに参加を依頼してきました。

当日は、校舎の廊下にそれぞれの研究材料のパネルが並び、先生方や父兄の方が、自由に教室を回って発表会を観覧出来るようになっており、それぞれの研究発表が始まるまでの間は、別のグループのパネルを見て回ったり、募金活動を行ったりする時間になっていました。

授業の内容は、私達と生徒たちに完全に任された形になっており、前半は生徒たちが組み立てた内容にそって進めることになりました。子供たちは発表・当日までに、事前にアークののはいたので、私たちはペットを取り巻く、具体的な例をあげて話すことにもやく兄の方の質問内容に決ちて授業を進めていきました。

- ●子供たちからの挨拶
- ●自己紹介(ペットを飼っている か、動物が好きかどうかなど)
- ●アークの活動内容の紹介
- ●子供たちとの質疑応答
- ●ボランティアに参加するという のはどういうことなのか
- ●動物福祉全体の問題点について
- ●御父兄からの質疑応答

子供たち全員が非常に活き活きしており、自らがテーマを決め、自分たちで積極的に授業内容を構成していくところに、今

## Reaching Out to the Adults of the Future

#### A Report on ARK's Educational Activities

ARK's role as a shelter for abandoned and abused animals is a core aspect of our animal welfare activities. However, in the face of allegedly one million animals being destroyed annually by the authorities, ARK is now augmenting its rescuel shelter/rehoming activities with future-oriented educational activities aimed at changing this sad reality.

ARK has participated in "life science" classes at several schools so far, and seeing children who had never touched a dog before in their lives play happily with ARK dogs by the end of the lecture is proof enough of the importance of this activity, and of our responsibility to the society of the future. ARK is now looking for educational organizations interested in carrying out these activities with us.

#### 5th Grade Class at Nishitani Elementary School, Takarazuka November 2, 1999

In line with the Takarazuka School Board's policy this year of "Children learning on their own initiative," the fifth-graders at Nishitani had formed research groups to study topics of their own choosing, such as "Friends of islands," "Animal welfare," "Animals facing extinction," and "Hybrid cars." The children in the animal welfare group had used the Internet to find ARK's homepage, and had sent us an e-mail inviting us to their research presentation.

On the day of the presentation, the school's halls were lined with panels displaying each group's research materials, and classrooms were open so that teachers and parents could go from presentation to presentation. Between presentations, the child-

ren had time to look at other groups' panels and conduct fundraising activities for their causes.

The content of the presentations were left up to the children, so the animal welfare group decided that the first half would be conducted by the students, and the second half by ARK. Because the children had studied about animal welfare, we decided to limit our discussion to petrelated problems in Japan and ways to solve them, giving actual examples from our experience. Afterwards, we responded to questions from children and their parents.

The children were all extremely lively and engaged in what they were doing, showing us how valuable it is to give children a chance to choose their own topics, to structure their own lessons, to "learn on their own initiative."

# 6th Grade Class at Kayano Elementary School, Mino

December 14, 1999

We were asked to take part in a "Life Science" lesson at Mino's municipal Kayano Elementary School after an article about ARK's activities appeared in the morning edition of Asahi Shimbun (on October 3)

In advance of our visit, we asked the class to watch a video of a documentary programme which showed ARK as part of its coverage on various problems which deal with animal conditions in Japan, and which introduced animal welfare activities in other countries as well. The programme showed what happens to animals in Japan when they are abandoned by their owners, explained the methods used by the authorities to destroy animals, emphasized the necessity of neutering, exposed the