

クラフツドッグショーを訪れて

岡村華 (アーク・スタッフ)

20,000匹を超える犬が集まるクラフツドッグショー。トレーニングされた犬や、猟犬たちを紹介し、機敏さや服従さを披露する。他にも見事にブラッシングされた、同じ血統の犬同士で美しさを競い合う。また障害物競走などもある。障害物競走では、素早くひとつひとつこなしていく犬や、逆走して行く犬、シーソーが怖くて前に進めない犬など、バラエティーに富んだとても楽しい競技だった。

他には、ドッグフードの会社や、犬の保険会社、フロントライン、犬の雑貨用品店などのブースが立ち並び、ARKのようなイギリスの施設が、グッズを売ったり紹介をしている。一つのホールに100以上のブースがあり、それが5つのホールまである。驚いたのが、色々なブース

の前を通ると一つの袋をくれる。中には、その施設のパンフレットやステッカー、バッジにペンが入っている。フロントラインのブースでは、シール付きのダニの小さなぬいぐるみもらった。発想がとてもユニークだ。

犬のしつけがキチンと出来ていることにも驚いた。どの犬を触っても決して吠えたり唸ったりはもちろん、咬んだりしない。飛びついたり

もしないし、じっと尻尾を振っている。だから犬を連れながらも買い物ができる。日本では考えられない事がとても悲しい。本当に犬の表情がとても面白かった。仕事をしている顔、疲れた顔、様々だった。人にとっても過ごしやすい場所だけど、犬にとっても面白い場所だったと思う。私にとって忘れられない場所になった。



Visiting the Crufts Dog Show

by Hana Okamura (ARK staff)

More than 20,000 dogs took part in the Crufts Dog Show. Trained dogs,

including hunting dogs, displayed their sharpness and obedience by following their owners' commands, while elsewhere, carefully groomed dogs vied with others of their breed in "beauty contests." There were obstacle races as well, featuring a wide variety of participants: those that quickly and efficiently cleared all the obstacles in their path, others who ran the wrong way, and others still who came to a complete stop in front of the see-saw, afraid to proceed. There was something for everyone, and it was great fun.

In addition, there was a huge array of booths set up by dog food manufacturers, animal insurance companies, Frontline and other pharmaceutical companies, and makers of dog toys and other pet goods. British animal shelters also had booths to sell products and introduce the public to their activities. There were over 100 booths in one hall, and five halls in all! What surprised me was that, many of these booths would hand you a bag

as you passed, containing pamphlets and stickers, badges and pens. As an example of the creative ideas I saw there, at the Frontline booth, I received a tiny stuffed animal in the shape of flea!

I was also surprised by how well-trained all the dogs were. None of the dogs there barked or growled when petted by strangers, and biting of course was out of the question. Moreover, the dogs at the show did not jump up, but quietly stood wagging their tails. This is why, in England, people can take their dogs shopping with them.

It's sad that this would be unthinkable in Japan. It was wonderful to see the dogs' varied expressions: their intentness when working, their tired faces after competing... In addition to being a fun event for human participants, I got the feeling that the dogs enjoyed themselves a lot too. It was an experience I will never forget.