

✔ こ数年、大阪の町 - で、"あわれな犬の ために"資金集めをして きた石原という男がいま す。傷ついた犬をカート に入れて、自転車で引っ 張っていましたが、通行 人は、怪我をした犬の治 療費が払えないという男 に同情をさそわれ、気前 よく金を与えてきました。 彼らは知らなかったので す――足の傷は事故によ るものではないというこ とを。冷酷無情な男は、 自分のために金儲けをし ようとたくらんで、犬の 足をわざと切断していた のです。

このおぞましいやり口が 何匹もの犬に、主として ダルメシアン犬に、繰り 返されてきました。様々 な動物愛護団体が、男を 逮捕してほしいと、何度も警察に訴えたものの、とりあってもらえませんでした。男がついに起訴されるに至ったのは、とりわけ、「関西動物友の会」の代表者と会員たちの粘り強い働きかけが功を奏したものです。しかし、事件に関する報告書によると、起訴に持ち込まれるまで、警察同様、報道機関も冷淡で、週刊誌一誌を除いては、まったく関心を示さなかったといいます。さらに問題なのは、この異常な残虐男が、好き勝手に犬の手足を切断したり、殺したりするのをやめさせる法的手段が依然としてないことです。

有効な法律があれば、男を刑務所に送って、もう二度と動物を飼えないように禁止令を出すことができたはずです。それにしても、この事件は、動物福祉に関する日本社会のお寒い現状をまたしても露呈したといえます。動物虐待が、ひいては人間に対する犯罪につながるのだという認識が強まるまでには、まだまだ時間がかかりそうです。

1999

ダルメシアン 1 号は左前足を骨折し四角に皮がめくれた状態でした。石原から預かって病院に連れて行き完治したら返すと申し出ましたが、逃げられました。

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オリバー先生と相談して12月5日に石原を探していたら警察で鉢合わせしました。警察に事情を話しましたが、結局どうにもとりあってもらえませんでした。12月末にどなたか

Papers sent in dog-maiming case

OSAKA (Kyodo)—Osaka police on Wednesday sent prosecutors papers on a 63-year-old beggar accused of cutting off his puppy's front leg to help him solicit alms on the street, police said.

The beggar allegedly severed the leg of a three-month-old Dalmatian, which he bought at a pet shop, with a saw at his house in Yodogawa Ward on Nov. 21.

Police believe he has severed the legs of about 10 dogs since 1999 and collected ¥1 million from passersby on Osaka streets by posting a sign reading, "This dog lost its leg in a traffic accident."

The current law to protect and control animals, which took effect on Dec. 1, 2000, allows violators to be sentenced to up to one year in prison or fined a maximum of ¥1 million.

Called Ishihara wandered the streets of Osaka soliciting funds for the injured dog he dragged behind his bicycle in a cart. Passers-by sympathizing with the injured animal and the man's inability to pay for medical treatment, gave generously. What they did not know was that the wounds were not the result of an accident. This callous man had deliberately mutilated the dog in order to make money for himself.

This awful pattern was repeated with many dogs, mainly Dalmatians, and although various animal welfare groups repeatedly went to the police to have him arrested, their appeal fell on deaf ears. It was

mainly due to the persistence by members of Kansai Doobutsu Tomo no Kai, that prosecution was brought against him. However, as the following report of this case reveals, until the prosecution, the press, with the exception of one weekly magazine, were apathetic and indifferent, as were the police. And worse still there is still no legal means to stop this sadist from continuing to mutilate and kill dogs as he wants.

An effective law would have brought this man to prison and certainly have put a banning order on him to stop him from ever keeping animals again. But yet again we have been shown that Japan still has a long way to go in recognizing animal abuse and its potential connection with crimes against humans.

Diary of Events

1999

Dalmatian #1 had its left front leg broken with a square patch of skin missing. I told Ishihara I'd take it to the vet, telling him I'd give the dog back when it was fully recovered, but he ran off.