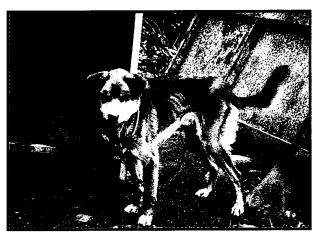
終身刑に苦しむ「つながれた犬」

「真の自由とは、自らの鎖を解き放つだ けでなく、他人の自由をも尊重し、高め るような生き方にある。」

ネルソン・マンデラ



それは日常的な光景です――交通のはげ しい路傍で汚れたプラスチックの小屋に つながれ、排気ガスを吸い込んでいる犬、 騒々しい道端で金属の箱に閉じ込められ た犬、建設器材置き場の裏手で、動いて いる重機に押しつぶされまいとガレキの 中にうずくまる犬、空き地や裕福な農家 の裏で、雨や雪にさらされ、灼熱の太陽 を浴びるもの。塀ぎわの狭い通路につな がれた犬が燃料タンクとか自転車、がら くた家具などにはさまれ、エアコン室外

> 機の熱風にさらされてい ても、飼い主家族は室内で 「涼しい顔」。こんな哀れ な犬が日本中にあふれ、 苦しみ、死んでいくので す――顧みられず、無視 された「物体」として。

しかし、人々は、このよ うな飼育法を残酷とは思 わず、それどころか、正 常とみなしています。犬 を、自分たちと同じよう

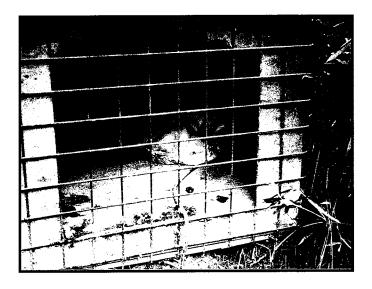
に、極端な暑さ、寒さ、雨、のどの渇き、 飢え、不快さを感じる生き物だとは考え ていないのです。飼い始めた頃は、冒険 好きで、人なつっこく甘えたり、遊んで ほしいとせがむフワフワした子犬が、成 長に伴ない、たちまち、ストレス発散の ために吠え続ける精神分裂症的な半野生 動物と化し、または、生気のない、抑う つ状態の「物体」となってしまいます。彼 らの目をのぞき込み、その体躯を見てご らんなさい――正常なあるべき姿とはほ ど遠い「ぬけがら」のようで、すでに死ん だも同然ではありませんか。



アークの犬をほしいと希望される方に当 方が求める条件のひとつは、絶対に「つ ないで飼わない」ということ。犬を惨め な境遇から救出したとしても、その先 に、鎖につながれる不幸な生活が待って いるのであれば、私どもの努力は無駄に なってしまうのです。その上、日本では、 犬はリードをつけて散歩させるのが普通

Breaking down the Barriers

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." Nelson Mandela



You see them everywhere; chained to dirty plastic kennels by the side of busy roads, breathing in petrol fumes; incarcerated in metal boxes along noisy streets; cowering amidst rubble at the back of construction yards, trying to avoid being crushed by heavy moving machinery; exposed to rain, snow and searing sun on waste bits of land or at the back of affluent farmhouses; chained in narrow passageways

alongside the house between gas tanks, bicycles and household junk with the air-conditioner pumping out hot air while the family sit inside enjoying a cool room. Throughout Japan these dogs exist, suffer and die, as neglected unloved objects.

Yet people do not regard this way of keeping dogs as cruel, quite the reverse, they regard it as normal. They do not see these dogs as living beings able to feel the extremes of heat, cold, wet, thirst, hunger, discomfort, as they might. What starts as a fluffy puppy, adventurous, friendly, eager to please, desperate for love and attention, soon becomes a schizophrenic semi-wild creature barking endlessly to relieve its stress or a lifeless depressed object. Look into their eves. look at their body posture, they are mere shadows of what a normal dog should be. It's as if they have already died.

Here at ARK one of the conditions we make when people wish to adopt a dog, is that it should never be chained. What is the point of us rescuing a dog from a miserable situation and then to subject it to a future of misery on the end of a chain? Besides, since dogs are nearly always walked on leads in Japan and few are ever able to run free in parks, or in open spaces, it is important that they have the freedom to run around their own backyards or gardens.

Ideally a dog should be treated as a member of the family and kept inside but having access to the garden. If kept outside the dog should be free in a wide space surrounded by a fence strong and high enough with a roofed area above the kennel which should be warm and weather-proof. Consideration should be given to whether the dog has enough shade in summer and sunlight in winter and also that it