

Last year, a group of vet students visited ARK to learn something about the situation of animal welfare in Japan. We have found hope for animals in the fact that future vets have organized a voluntary study group to make up for what they are not taught at university. Below are some excerpts from their feedback.

"It was good to see what is happening behind the pet boom in Japan. The situation of pets in Japan is not optimistic, but I just hope that conditions will get better." (1st year student)

"It was my first time to visit an animal shelter. Here are some impressions I got. First of all, I was quite impressed by the fact that animals at ARK, about 300 dogs and 200 cats, have equal rights to have happy lives. I have come to respect ARK's staff.

The fate and living conditions of pets, domesticated animals, experiment animals, all created by human necessities, depend on human beings. Therefore, we should appreciate them and guarantee them a maximum quality of life. Of course, at shelters, animals must have good quality of life and I think that ARK is a good example.

Also, I have learnt that we must make greater efforts in caring for animals, providing them with a suitable environment based on their behaviour and character. In this regard, I think that my school neglects animals and more generally, Japan lags far behind in the field of animal welfare. I would like to change the current situation of animals in Japan and let people know what is happening to animals." (4th year student)

"I found that most of the animals at ARK are mainly mixed breeds. We Japanese tend to prefer pure breeds to mixed ones. We, including myself, have to see animals as living entities, not as brand goods." (1st

year student)

"I am impressed with the large scale of ARK as an animal shelter. They have trimmers and the animals are well taken care of. The staff pay special attention to the needs of each animal.

As Ms. Oliver suggested, we Japanese, (if we want pedigree animals) should buy animals directly from good breeders*, as they do in England. Also, I hope there will be more animal shelters in the future, from which we can adopt animals." (4th year student) (* good = reputable breeders with high standards)

"Ms. Oliver has a firm opinion about euthanasia. Her idea may sound too strong or dry for some of the Japanese, but I agree with her opinion. Some say animals are not able to kill themselves, thus, they are willing to live under any circumstances. But I do not find this right. Dogs and cats have been domesticated for centuries by human beings, so, the decision about whether animals are to live or die should be made by humans as well. Of course, we should take huge responsibility and make every possible effort to care for these animals. Merely taking an easy position of 'anti-euthanasia' means an escape from our responsibility and obligation. As I will be a vet in the future, I have to make every effort to fulfill my obligation to animals.

Ms. Oliver also pointed out that there are few shelters in Japan, neutering is expensive and vets are in general less skilled. I was interested in what she told us about the American vet who neuters animals (male cats) within 45 seconds. By cutting the cost of neutering and improving my skills, I would like to play a part in reducing numbers of unwanted animals. It is my dream to conduct neutering operations at ARK." (4th year student)

イラスト募集 ILLUSTRATION CONTEST

めきり延長 deadline extended

前号でお伝え致しましたイラストレーションコンテストですが、あまり作品の御応募が無かったため3月末日まで募集を延長いたしますので、ご応募よろしくお願い致します。

Since we had too few entries for our illustration contest we are extending the deadline of entries to May 31st 2004. We are hoping that many of your friends and family will send in illustrations.

作品テーマ：

犬や猫の動物をテーマにしたもの。

作品サイズ：ハガキサイズ

画材：自由。カラー、モノクロとも可。(ただし、写真やコピーは不可)

応募資格：5才以上

応募方法：ハガキ(または同サイズの用紙)に、作者本人の〒住所・氏名(フリガナ)・年齢・電話番号・Eメールアドレスを明記し、その裏面に作品を描いて送ってください。

※応募作品をアークの会報やPRに使用する際の二次使用権は、アニマル・レフュージ関西に帰属します。

送り先：ARK 〒563-0131

大阪府豊能郡能勢町野間大原 595
景品：入選者の方はユニバーサル・スタジオ・ジャパン一日券、フジ子・ヘミングコンサートチケット、図書券、ギフト券等の中からお選び頂けます。

Theme: Dogs and/or cats

Size: Postcard size

Medium: line drawings, black and white or color (Any medium accept)

Age: From 5 years old and upwards

How to entry: Please draw on the back of a postcard (or postcard-size paper). Write your name, address, phone, on the back and send them to ARK.

※ Submissions cannot be returned.

Conditions: ARK retains the right to the illustrations and to use them in its newsletter or in other PR material.

Prizes: There are four main prizes plus several consolation prizes. Winners can choose their prize from the following: Universal Studios tickets, Fujiko Hemming concert tickets, gift coupons, book tokens and many other surprises.

スタッフ寮募集！！

LOOKING FOR STAFF HOUSE



スタッフ増員に伴い、至急に寮に使用できる借家を探しています。できるだけアークに近い地域で能勢町、猪名川町、川西市、池田市近郊で格安で貸していただける方がありましたら是非御一報を下さい。よろしくお願い致します。

We are searching for a house or dormitory to rent for our staff members. It should be as near to ARK as possible in any of the following areas: Nose-cho, Toyono-cho, Ikeda, Inagawa or Kawanishi. If you know of such a place please contact ARK's office. Thank you.