

大阪府の動物虐待と動物遺棄の啓発について

Raising Public Awareness of Animal Abuse and Abandonment in Osaka Prefecture

1999年に制定されました「動物の愛護と管理に関する法律」第27条では、

- ・「愛護動物をみだりに殺したり傷つけたりすると、1年以下の懲役または100万円以下の罰金に処する」
 - ・「愛護動物に対し、みだりに給餌又は給水をせず衰弱させるなどの虐待を行うと、30万円以下の罰金に処する」
 - ・「愛護動物を遺棄すると、30万円以下の罰金に処する」
- と定められています。

全国各地でトラブルとなっています外猫も、元をたどれば、無責任な飼い主に捨てられた猫ですし、昨年制定されました「特定外来生物による生態系等に係わる被害の防止に関する法律」で、特定外来生物に指定される動物は、全てペットとして売買され容易に捨てられ野生化したものです。

このように、動物を捨てることは大きな問題であり、法律で厳しく禁止されているのですが、その事を知っているのは、ごく一部の人で、ほとんどの人は知らないのが実状です。

そこで、多くの人に「動物虐待や動物遺棄は犯罪である」ということを知ってもらい、犯罪を未然に防止するという目的で、大阪府では「大阪府動物愛護グループ」が、2003年・2004年と2年続いて啓発のポスター(2000部)とチラシ(20000部)を作製しました。

「大阪府警察本部」は、9月20日～26日の「動物愛護週間」の間、その啓発ポスターを大阪府下の交番に掲示しました。

又、住民が、動物虐待や動物遺棄を警察に通報しても、窓口となる交番の警察官が「動愛法」を知らないでは困るので、各警察署に「動愛法」の周知徹底を図る為に教養資料を添付した内部文書を流しました。警察署によっては、教養資料を基に勉強会を開いた所もありました。

その結果、東住吉警察署と堺東警察署が遺棄の事例に対し、情報提供を求めるチラシを作成し、地域の掲示板に掲示すると共に遺棄現場付近の聞き込みをしたり、鶴見警察署が、公園に犬を遺棄した主婦を書類送検したりと大きな成果をあげることが出来ました。

社会から動物虐待や動物遺棄をなくす為には、行政が適正飼育の指導啓発をし、警察が違法者を取り締まり、住民が地域を監視するというように互いに連携を取り協力していくことが不可欠であると考えます。

動物遺棄は犯罪です

（啓発ポスター）毎年9月20日～26日は「動物愛護週間」です

捨てるために、殺したのですか？



猫一匹放置

警察で捜査しています

猫に関する情報を
お願いします。

堺東警察署

Article 27 of the "Law concerning animal welfare and control," which was enacted in 1999, states that:

- 1) Unreasonably killing or injuring a pet animal shall be penalized by a maximum of one year in prison, or a maximum fine of one million yen;
- 2) Abusing a pet animal whereby it is debilitated through the unreasonable lack of provision of food and/or water shall be penalized by a maximum fine of 300,000 yen;
- 3) Abandoning a pet animal shall be penalized by a maximum of 300,000 yen.

Stray cats, which are a problem all over the country, have their origins in pet cats which were abandoned by irresponsible owners, while the animals specified under the "Law concerning the prevention of harm to ecosystems by specified non-indigenous organisms" are all being sold as pets in Japan, after which they are often abandoned and become feral. As the above illustrates, abandoning animals is a serious crime that is severely penalized under the law, but the reality is that very few people are even aware of this fact.

In order to raise public awareness that animal abuse and abandonment are crimes, and also in order to prevent such crimes, the Osaka Prefecture Animal Welfare Group produced 2,000 posters and 20,000 leaflets in 2003 and again in 2004. The Osaka Prefectural Police put these posters up at police boxes (koban) throughout the prefecture during Animal Welfare Week (September 20 - 26).

Also, because policemen on duty need to have a full understanding of the Animal Welfare Law in order to deal with citizens' reports of animal abuse and/or abandonment, educational materials regarding this law were distributed to every police station in the prefecture. At some of these police stations, the distributed materials were used in special study groups that were held on the subject. The results have been highly encouraging. The Higashi Sumiyoshi and Sakai Higashi police stations drew up posters requesting information regarding cases of abandonment and posted these on local bulletin boards, and also interviewed residents in the area where the animal had been found. The Tsurumi police station prosecuted a housewife who abandoned her dog in a park.

For us to rid our society of animal abuse and abandonment, we believe it is essential that the authorities issue guidelines on proper animal care, the police apprehend those in violation of the law, and residents keep watch in their neighbourhoods. If all levels of society cooperate with each other in achieving this aim, it can be done.

became nationally recognized. As the plight of the animals was picked up by the media, almost 3 billion yen was donated nationwide. Some of these funds were used to run a temporary shelter in Sanda for quake related pets, but it was shut down less than a year later. The remainder of the money was said to be kept back for the next emergency. ARK received not even one yen. Recent media reports have said that some of this money was used to help the pets of the evacuees from Miyakejima. However, no account of how this money was used has ever been made public.

As 2005 begins, ARK has almost 500 animals in it's care, 30 staff and about 30 regular volunteers. ARK receives requests for assistance from all over Japan and is funded solely by caring individuals. I often wonder what ARK would look like if the earthquake had not happened. But just as the tsunami is sure to bring sweeping changes to the many areas it has affected, so too ARK's future will also be tied to that fateful day, January 17th, 1995.