



I have loved dogs since childhood, but my parents never let me have one and anyway my youth was spent during the war years. As an adult, I worked hard at a company until the age of 66. So, instead of having dogs of my own, I spent time with friends' dogs and also picked up abandoned dogs and found them homes. In doing this, I discovered how little public agencies understood about animals, and how ignorant many pet owners were as well.

To do what I could to improve public awareness, I joined the Elsa Nature Preservation Society in 1979 and have been active with my pen from there ever since. In 1981, which

was the International Year of the Disabled, newspapers featured stories about seeing-eye dogs and I joined a volunteer group working to spread acceptance of these dogs, not only because I loved dogs but because I viewed blindness as a cruel disability. Helping blind people through this group, however, I saw some of them abusing their dogs. I met with people from the Modoken Kyokai (seeing-eye dog association), who had trained the dogs and their blind owners, to demand improvements in the way the dogs were treated. I also looked into other seeing-eye dog groups to find out what their attitudes were, and continued to work with blind people while trying to make them understand, in various ways, how important it is to treat their dogs well. I also brought up this issue in the Elsa

magazine, which I then took around to newspapers and NHK, but none of them wanted to run the story -- they wanted happy stories, not ones where someone was demanding changes. Twenty years later, things remain the same. It's hard to feel cheered when I see TV programmes featuring heartwarming stories of guide dogs, but at least the disabled owners I spoke to understood what I was telling them, and looked after their dogs with warmth until they died.

Around the time my story appeared in the Elsa magazine, Oliver-san contacted me saying she wanted to know about guide dogs in Japan, and we met for the first time. I told her that most guide dogs had good relationships with their owners, that the abuse I had witnessed was an exception to the rule, and that I was trying to make the persons responsible change their ways. At the time, Oliver-san was picking up abandoned dogs she found on her way to and from the university where she taught. When she saw mistreated dogs, she would stop and talk to their owners. She produced postcards and leaflets, which she handed out. Seeing her doing so much on her own moved me very much, and gave me the courage to try harder myself.

Back then, I was living in Higashi Osaka, in the Ikoma foothills, where an abandoned puppy was valiantly struggling to live as a stray in a vacant lot. I gave her food every day for a year, then took her to the vet to be spayed. I asked the vet to keep her while I tried to find her a home, but could find nobody to take her in. I decided to move out of my apartment and give her a home myself, and by the time I found a small house in the same neighborhood and took her in, she was already three and I, at the age of sixty, finally had the pet dog I had longed for. I called her May, as that was when she had been born, and since she would be alone much of the time I made sure she was free to run around the yard, and safe. In spite of all the hardships, sharing my life with May brought me great joy. However in the spring of her 14th year she died, due to a wrong diagnosis by our vet, who then quite nonchalantly lied to me. I sued him and won, but I couldn't bear living in the house that held so many memories and was thinking of moving.

At the end of that year, I saw the ARK calendar and couldn't take my eyes off of one picture. Among the dozens of dogs featured for rehoming, there was one that made me feel May had come back to life. Her name was Emily, and her distinctive air said everything about her. Looking back now, it wasn't so much a physical resemblance as the sense that May and Emily were similar souls. From the following year, 1998, I visited ARK from January through June to see Emily. The first time I met her, she was deep inside a cardboard box, and did not want

株式会社ネオス様（神戸市に本社を置く工業用塗料などの化学メーカー）が、会社創立 50 周年記念行事の一環としてアークに土地を寄贈して下さいになりました。岡山県蒜山高原近くにある 2 千坪（約 1.63 エーカー）の土地で、素晴らしい景色の良い所です。私どもはネオス（株）さんのご厚意に感謝し、この土地を「ホームレス・アニマル」（帰る家を持たない動物たち）のために活用すべく慎重に検討したいと考えています。心から御礼申し上げます。



Donation of land by Neos

Neos, the industrial paint company, decided to celebrate its 50th Anniversary by donating land to ARK. The 2000 tsubo (1.6 acres) piece of land is in a spectacular scenic area near to Hiruzen Kogen in Okayama Prefecture. We are very grateful to Neos for their generosity and will consider carefully how to use this land for the benefit of homeless animals.

Petition to Shiga Prefecture Prosecutor's Office

Shiga Prefecture's Prosecutors Office has been flooded with petitions to have the Shiga breeder who let 29 dogs die of neglect and starvation, brought to court. Petitions came not only from all over Japan but also from overseas as well. Many thanks to everyone who signed the petition, lending their support to making sure that justice in this case of cruelty is achieved.

The case is still ongoing. We will keep everyone updated on its progress.

滋賀県の検察当局には、29 頭もの犬を「飼育放棄と餓死」により死なせた県内の元ブリーダーに司法の裁きを要求する嘆願書が殺到しています。署名は日本各地のみならず、海外からも多数寄せられました。虐待事件被疑者に厳正な裁判を求める嘆願書に署名をし、支持を表明して下さいた皆様に心から御礼を申し上げます。当事件はまだ終わってはいません。これからも随時報告して参ります。