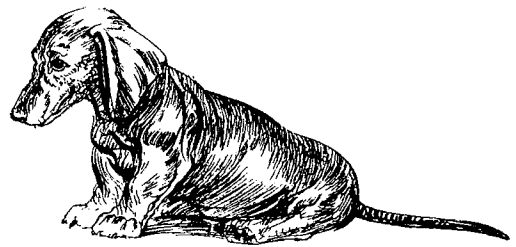




Letter from BADGER バジャーからの手紙



いつもながら、トンデモナイ話だ。ちょっぴりお酒をのんで、いい気もちになった若者がペットショップにはいる。クリスマスも近いし、オクサンと子どものプレゼントにと思って仔犬をえらぶ。いま日本で「はやっている犬」トップスリーにはいるミニチュアダックスフンドだ。ボーナスの半分をはたいて買った犬をつれて帰った。ところが、オクサンはよろこぶどころか「どこかにやってちょうだい」とおこった。「わたし、犬はきらいだし、あかちゃんはアレルギーなのよ。」そもそも、アパートのケイヤクでペットが飼えないんだから、どうしようもない。この話をきいて、アークは仔犬をひきとることにした。だって、この「ムセキニン男」は犬を「ホケンジョにやるか、捨てる」って言うんだもの。女の子だから、ハンショク犬として使われるとタイヘンだし。ヒニンしゅじゅつをして、まもなく新しい飼い主が見つかった。それにしても、なぜかわい世の中だね——なんとなく町で「生きもの」を買っちゃう人が多いなんて。

話は変わって……今度はミオのこと。ミオは老人の家で飼われていた若いメス犬。老人はひとり暮らし。家にとじこもりがちで、近所の人に会うことも少ない。ある日、おじいさんはベッドにねたまま起きてこない。ミオはとまどった——どうして起きないの？ 散歩につれてってよ。どうしてゴハンをくれないの…おなかペコペコだって知ってるでしょう？ ミオは犬だから、主人が死んじゃったことはわからない。ただ、なにか変だと感じただけ。がまん強く、ちゅうじつなわかい犬は、おじいさんのそばでおとなしくねていた——そのまま、10日間、じーっと。ある日、家の外が騒がしくなり、人々のさびげ声とサイレンが……それから、窓がこわされ、制服すがたのアヤシイ男たちが部屋にはいってきた。老人の死体が運びだされるとき、ミオはおそろしさで体がすくんだ。男たちは立ち去る前にしばらく部屋中を引っかきまわして、ますます彼女をこわがらせた。親切な人たちが食べものと水を持ってきてくれたけど、だれもミオをひきとる者はいない。彼女はまだショックを受けたまま……でも、そのうち、まわりの人たちになつきはじめ、やがて、アークに連れてこられることになった。そして……ヤッたね！ 彼女に新しい家族ができたんだ——やさしいおかあさんとムスメさんだ。よかったね、ミオ。

そして、2006年の年明け早々、コイズミ首相があんなバカなことを言うなんて……毎日ホケンジョで殺される“不要な”犬の数をへらしたいと思っているボクたちの願いはどうなるの？

2006年1月5日(木曜日)

[東京] 小泉純一郎首相は、4日の年頭会見の中で、(中国の暦法に基く)十二支のうち戌年(いぬどし)の今年、日本は犬の多産にならって、出生率の低下を食い止めたい旨の発言をした——「今年は戌年です。犬は多くの子供を産み、お産も楽だと聞いています…」

Things never fail to amaze me. A young guy, probably the worse from wear after a few drinks, goes into a pet shop and since it is Christmas time, buys a puppy, thinking it will make a nice present for his wife and baby. It is a mini Dachshund, currently among the top three most popular dogs in Japan and after parting with half his bonus money, takes it home. The wife is anything but happy. "Just get rid of it," she tells him, adding that she doesn't like dogs and the baby already has allergies. On top of everything the contract for the apartment where they live doesn't allow pets.

Hearing this story, ARK agrees to take in the puppy since this irresponsible guy is threatening to take it to the hokensho or give it away. Since it is female we fear that it may end up being used for breeding. Well after a little spaying operation, the puppy readily found a new home but I really despair how casually people can go out and buy a life.

And for a completely different story.....

Mio is a young female dog who lived with her elderly owner in his home. He was a lonely old man who kept himself to himself and seldom had any contact with his neighbours. One day he just lay on his bed, which left Mio puzzled. Why he didn't get up? Why didn't he take her out for a walk? Why didn't he give her supper, he must know she was hungry? Of course as a dog she didn't realize that the old man had died, she just felt something strange had happened. Being a patient and loyal little dog she lay by the body and kept quiet. For 10 days she lay there.

Then one day there was a huge noise with people shouting and sirens outside the house. then a window was smashed and strange men in uniforms climbed in to the room. Mio backed away cringing in fear as they removed the body. They spent time rummaging around, terrifying the poor dog even more before leaving. Some kindly people came and gave her food and water but they couldn't take her home. She was still in shock. But gradually she got used to them and they were finally able to bring her to ARK. I'm happy to report that she too has found a wonderful home with a loving mother and daughter to care for her

And..... what hope do we have to reduce the number of unwanted dogs gassed everyday if the Prime Minister of this country expresses such stupid sentiments as this

Thursday, January 5, 2006

TOKYO Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi expressed hope Wednesday that Japan will follow the example of dogs' prolificacy to stem the falling birthrate as 2006 is the Year of the Dog in the Chinese zodiac. "Dogs whelp a lot but are said to have an easy labor," Koizumi said.