

る」ことを示したのです。

「彼は精一杯のことをした」というのが当局の判断だったため、責めを負うべき老人は、残念ながら、告発を免れたものの、病気と資金不足と増え続ける犬の数に負けてしまいました。彼が動物を収集したのは、金儲けのためではなく、野良犬を助けたいとの一心からだったにせよ……ついには、万策尽き果て、最悪の事態を招く結果になったのです。

日本各地でひっそりと暮らしている何千人もの動物コレクターやホーダーのことはさておき、ドッグパークなど、動物を“食いもの”にする営利事業については無視できません。これらは、大衆の目にふれる公然たる施設ですから、役所に登録させ、管理監督するのは、市民の税金によって養われる公務員として当然の義務でしょう。

一般大衆も、ブリーディング業界、ペット産業の行き過ぎた営利主義に用心する必要があります。あなたが“食べごろの”人気商品を買うことが、“賞味期限切れ”のため

に抹殺される何百何千匹もの子犬の運命と関係があるとしたら……どう思いますか？ ペットショップ裏手のケージで、また、“子犬製造工場”の薄暗い小屋でひそかに処分される子犬たちの悲惨さを知るべきです。消費者がもっと賢くなれば、不正な商売に従事するペットショップと（本来あるべきブリーダーではなく、利益のために犬を売る）いかがわしい繁殖業者の多くは立ち行かなくなるはずで、実に簡単なことではありませんか。

この悲劇に直面するとき、感傷的に反応して、かわいそうな動物を救うために尽したいと願うのは簡単です。とにかく、犬をかわいがってくれる家庭に引き渡そうとする傾向が見られます。しかし、ここには、危険な落とし穴が——犬の飼育に伴う責任を理解しないで安易に里親を引き受けるとの危うさが——ひそんでいます。多くの場合、こうした犬は獣医師による集中治療を受ける必要があるものです。（中には、残りの全生涯を通して……）いずれにせよ、中途半端な費用ではありません。このような育ち方をしてきた動物を助けるには金銭

的負担がかかります。動物がどんな履歴を持っているかとか、どのような精神的、肉体的問題を抱えることになるかを、人々は認識しているのでしょうか。それとも、現実をないがしろにして、感情のままに動けばいいと言うのでしょうか。また、別の危険もあります——ふつう、こうした犬が健康体に戻るのに時間がかかるので、今すぐに不妊手術を強行するのは適切ではありません。新しいペットの飼い主は、不妊手術をきちんと受けさせることができますか？あるいは、それを怠って、またしても、子孫をふやす悪循環を繰り返すのでしょうか。

広島的事件は、何千頭もの動物が家を失った阪神淡路大震災のような自然災害ではなく、人間の金銭欲が産み出した人的災害です。適切な対応があれば、未然に防げたはずで、広島県は、このような事態を招いたことの責めを負うべきです。不祥事の後始末をつけて、責任者を動物愛護管理法違反により確実に告発することこそ、県当局がなすべき務めです。

Many ARK supporters and other people are confused by the similarity in names between an organization called "ARK Angels (presided over by Mr.Toshihiko Hayashi)" and ARK. ARK would like to state categorically that there is NO CONNECTION between ARK Angels and ARK (Animal Refuge Kansai). ARK originally proposed that Mr.Hayashi and his group join a foster programme, instigated by ARK, using the name of ARK Angels. However, Mr. Hayashi started his own activities without notice, and has continued his activities against the spirit of ARK. We would like to inform everyone of this fact so as to avoid misunderstanding and confusion.

welfare amongst local governments in this country and showed what they can do if pressured.

Unfortunately the old man was not prosecuted as he should have been because the authorities felt, 'he had been trying his best,' but was overcome by ill health, lack of money and sheer numbers. This old man was not in the business of collecting animals to make money; what started as a wish to help stray animals ended in a situation beyond his means and his control.

Leaving aside collectors or hoarders of which there are thousands hidden from view across Japan, we need to concentrate on the commercial exploitation of animals like those in dog parks. These places are in public view and should be registered and inspected as part of the duty of public authorities, whose salaries are paid for out of taxes.

The public too should be made aware of the rampant commercialism in the breeding /pet shop industry. They should be told that in buying that 'flavour of the month' puppy, they are contributing to the misery of hundreds and thousands of similar puppies that past their 'sell-by date,' die in cages at the back of pet shops or in dark sheds in puppy mills. If consumers get wiser, many badly-run pet shops and suspect breeders (any breeder that sells dogs for profit is not a true breeder) will go out

of business, it's as simple as that.

It is easy in the face of this tragedy to be overwhelmed with sentimentality, with a strong desire to plunge in and rescue these poor creatures. There'll be tendency to get these dogs into caring homes as soon as possible. But there is a danger that people will adopt these dogs without understanding of what they are taking on. Many of these dogs will need intensive veterinary care, some for the rest of their lives and all this will cost money. Rescuing animal that have been bred in these conditions is costly. Do these people realize where these animals came from, what psychological and health problems they are likely to have or are they just letting their hearts rule over the realities. There is also a risk that since many of these dogs need a lot of time to be brought back to good health, at this stage they cannot undergo the trauma of neutering. Will these new owners neuter their new pet or will they start another cycle of breeding ?

This case is not a natural disaster as it was when thousands of animals /were left homeless by the Great Hanshin Earthquake, it is a man-made disaster created by greed. It could have been prevented. Hiroshima Prefecture and Hiroshima city bear much of the blame for letting this situation develop and it should be the Prefecture and City that picks up the pieces and ensures that those responsible are prosecuted under the Animal Protection Law.