

The First Charity-run Clinic Finally Opens – Aiming to halve the number of killings in Kobe in 5 years



Animal Rescue System Fund in Kobe (ARSF Representative: Hiro Yamasaki, 986 members) opened its No More Homeless Animal Clinic which specializes in the control of overpopulation in Nada-ku Kobe, on November 11th 2006.

It is an NPO-run charity clinic like those found in North America. It focuses on the sterilization of mainly stray cats in a short period of time, including early age sterilization (an operation which can be done at the age of two months), and examines how this should lead to a reduction in the number of killings in the community over five years.

The organization is planning a spay/ neuter campaign starting in March, prior to cats going into heat and giving birth. For more information, please contact the clinic by phone at the number below or mail. This is the first full-scale operation to tackle the problem of over-population of homeless animals in Japan.

There are over 5,000 shelters in the U.S. At first they were just taking in abandoned pets but they soon realized that this did not solve the overpopulation problem. Then, at the beginning of the 90's, individual veterinarians and animal protection organizations worked together to open low-cost spay neuter clinics, and charities which had a clinic on their property launched free spay/neuter campaigns across the country. Finally, joint cooperation by the public and private sectors was achieved. There are many international conferences aimed at tackling the stray dogs/cats problem, and even the US Post Office issued stamps promoting spay/neuter. Their efforts have produced spectacular results: the number of killings, 10 million in the 70's and 80's, has been halved to five million.

In Japan, about 70 to 80% of dogs and cats killed at hokenjo are under three months of age, and the number of kittens killed is miserably high because the Japanese government has ignored the overpopulation problem of stray cats. In addition, almost all the facilities use killing methods which are categorized as inhumane by international standards. Early-age sterilization (the operation before the first heat, at the age of three to four months and before adoption) has been approved by the American and State Veterinary Medical Associations and this has shown that major organizations endorsed by government has the biggest effect. We need the Veterinary Associations in Japan to work for the protection of animal in this way.

**Please contact Hiro Yamazaki at the Animal Rescue System Fund (Japanese or English) for further information.
078-856-3229 – spay@animalrescue-sf.org**

British Hills Sponsored Swim Carla Francis ブリティッシュヒルズから



On November 27th 2006, British Hills held a sponsored swim for ARK. Roland Walker and Micheal Barry swam 200 lengths of the 25 metre pool. After completing the final length Micheal Barry said "the first 60 were the

hardest", Roland Walker added that he "found momentum after the first 100." Two days later Micheal still had sore shoulders.

During November, the pub staff at British Hills organized a "Guess the first day of snowfall" contest, where people paid 500 yen to reserve a date in November or December. The correct guess won all the money collected. However, due to early snowfall, the bet was void so the kind pub managers Daniela Compton and Nichole Casey decided to donate the money to ARK. The total money raised was 36,500 yen.

British Hills teachers Roland Walker and Carla Francis discovered ARK when they found a stray kitten and needed advice on where to get the kitten micro-chipped. The UK has strict guidelines about importing pets but thanks to ARK, the kitten named Gershwin is due to fly to London in February 2007

2006年11月27日、ブリティッシュヒルズ (British Hills) はアークのために「スポンサード・スイム」(チャリティー競泳)を開催しました。ローランド・ウォーカーとマイケル・バリーが5000m(25mプールを200回)泳ぎました。完泳後、「最初の60回が苦しかったね」とマイケル。一方、ローランドは「半分を過ぎたあたりから調子づいてきたよ」と言っています。マイケルは、レース後2日間、肩の痛みが残ったとか。

11月、ブリティッシュヒルズ内にあるパブのスタッフは、「初雪予想コンテスト」を主催しました。客は500円を払って、11月/12月の「初雪が降る日」を指定するというもの。ぴったり当てた人が集まった賭け金全部をもらうという仕組みです。ところが、この冬の初雪はブリティッシュヒルズから予想よりも早く降ったため賭けは無効となり、パブのマネージャー、ダニエラ・コンプトンとニコル・ケーシーの親切な計らいで、結局、賭け金 (総額36,500円に上る) はアークに寄付されるという成り行きに・・・

ブリティッシュヒルズの先生であるローランド・ウォーカーとカーラ・フランシスがアークに出会ったのは、1匹の野良猫から——拾った猫をどこでマイクロチップ登録すべきか助言を求めているときにアークを知ったのです。英国はペット輸入に厳しいガイドラインを定めているものの、アークのお蔭で、ガーシュインと名づけられた子猫は2007年2月にロンドンへと旅立つ予定です。

(カーラ・フランシス)