

千代田区「飼い主のいない猫の去勢」 香取章子

cate, veterinarian's receipt, and an application for reimbursement. The amount that was paid is then remitted a few days later by the ward to their bank account.

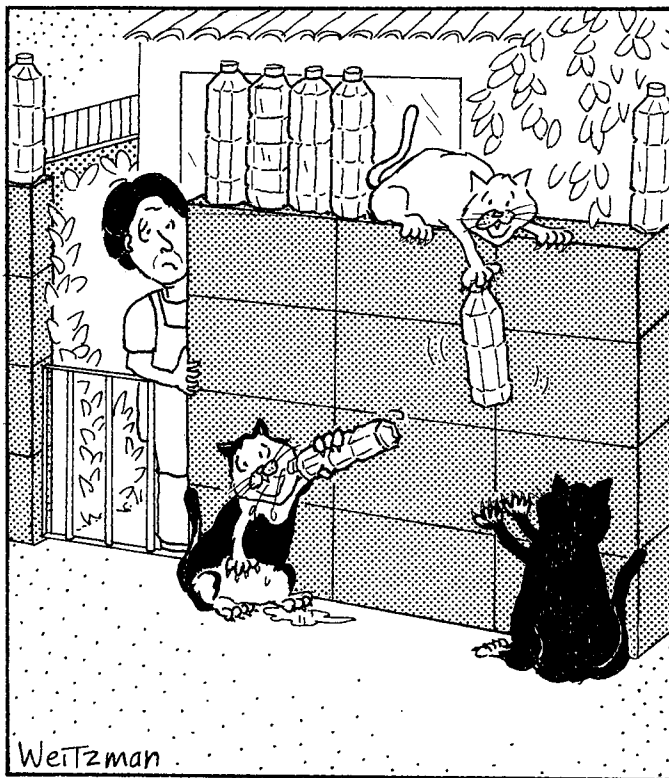
The maximum amount covered by the subsidy is ¥17,000 for neutering males, ¥20,000 for spaying females, and ¥25,000 for spaying pregnant females. The operation may be performed at any veterinary clinic to be eligible for the subsidy. The ward's annual budget for this program in fiscal 2007 is ¥3,000,000.

When the program was first started, there were inevitably some voices raised against it, with protests about tax money being spent on stray cats. However, when hokensho workers and volunteers explained the logic behind the scheme, namely the importance of the humane treatment of animals and the large number of complaints received against stray cats, such voices were no longer heard and there was an increase in the number of people supporting the program, as well as volunteers.

The impact of the program is quite obvious. Before it was initiated, the ward received as many as two or three complaints a day about stray cats. Today, there are almost none. Instead, there is a rise in inquiries from people wanting to bring in a homeless cat for spay/neutering generally, and asking how to apply for the subsidy specifically.

Chiyoda-ku is not alone in these efforts. More and more wards and

cities in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, not of few of them working hand-in-hand with local volunteers, are putting similar programs in place.



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People in Action

We are Susan and David from Shiga-ken, and we've started a new group to help people who want to help stray cats in their own communities. The group is called Japan Cat Network, and we've been meeting in Kyoto on the third Sunday of every month at 1:00 in the Kyoto Tower Starbucks near JR Kyoto. Our goal is to provide support and information on TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return).

The great thing about TNR is that you can have an impact on animal welfare in your own community, right now. TNR has been used effectively in many countries throughout the world, as well as right here in Japan, as a humane approach to the stray cat population. Though cats that are returned to live outside are certainly in more danger than cats that live inside, many can still have happy, healthy lives. Returning them to their original location means that new cats are unlikely to take up residence in that location, further limiting the scope of the existing problem.

Afterwards, with a small amount of mainte-

nance, these cats can be an attractive part of the community. Simply removing cats from the streets is a kind and noble task but eliminating the potential for reproduction on those streets is an effective and enduring one. Let us know if we can help you get started, or if you can help us. For more information, please see our website www.japancatnet.com or contact Susan or David at info@japancatnet.com.

あなたの町で「野良猫の保護活動」を始めませんか

こちらは、滋賀県のスーザンとデイヴィッドです。私たちは、各地で野良猫の保護にあたる人たちの支援するため、新しいグループを発足させました。グループ名は Japan Cat Network (ジャパン・キャット・ネットワーク) で、毎月第3日曜日午後1時に京都で例会を開いています。場所は、JR京都駅近くの Kyoto Tower Starbucks (スターバックス京都タワー店)。目標は、(猫をわなで捕えて、不妊去勢手術をしてから元の場所に戻す) TNR活動に関する情報提供と支援を行なうことです。

TNRの素晴らしいところは、誰でも、今すぐ、住

んでいる地域で動物福祉に貢献できること。TNRは、野良猫数を人道的にコントロールする方法として、日本だけでなく、世界中の多くの国で実施され、成果を上げています。地域で野良猫として暮らす猫は、家庭内の飼い猫に比べると確かに危険が大きいとはいえ、多くが健康で幸せに生きられるのです。猫を元の場所に戻すのは、そこには「新参者」が定住しにくい、抱えている問題を地域内に制限できるからです。

その後、ちょっとした管理を続けるだけで、猫を地域の魅力ある存在として育てていきます。野良猫を町からなくすこと自体、環境を守る立派な活動とはいえ、猫の繁殖を防いでこそ、真に持続性のある、有意義な仕事なのです。活動を始めたいと思われる方、また、私たちの運動をご支援くださる方は、下記宛で連絡をいただきたく、よろしくお願い申し上げます。



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(Susan / David)までご連絡ください。