

Letters To The Editor

Man's best friend

I don't know how famous "Hachiko of Seibu Shinjuku" is with your readers, or how well they can discern the irony with which I employ this phrase, but I feel it is high time someone spoke up for the unfortunate animal.

The animal I am referring to is a full-grown Irish wolfhound that is kept in a tiny cage outside the Collection pet shop (admission ¥200) in the Green Plaza Building in front of Seibu Shinjuku Station in the Kabukicho area.

The original Hachiko, we know, kept vigil outside Shibuya Station out of loyalty. But this unhappy hound is kept in front of Seibu Shinjuku Station for reasons of cruelty and spectacle.

If this were a wild animal, there would probably be a public outcry. Why then is this kind of barbaric practice tolerated in the case of a dog?

I am not an investigative journalist, so I am unable to say what the poor animal's living conditions are like on those rare occasions when it is not confined to its cramped cell with drunks poking their fingers through the wire mesh at it, but from its sad, lackluster expression, I doubt that it ever has a chance to stretch its legs on a patch of

green, rolling parkland.

It is only a matter of time before this poor dog lays its head on its paws, never to raise it again. It is my urgent hope that public awareness of this outrage will make the owner relent before it is too late.

26/4-96
Colin B. Liddell
Tokyo

Readers' Forum

What role should Japan play in the security of Asia?

Selected letters will be published May 25. Letters must be received by May 20 and should not exceed 300 words. Include full name, address, nationality and a daytime telephone number. Confidentiality will be respected if requested. Letters sent to other publications will not be accepted. The Daily Yomiuri reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

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Readers' Forum

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