

Letters To The Editor

3/2/98

Yes, people care about animals

"Does anyone care (about the well-being of animals in Japan)?" asks E. Munro in a letter (Jan. 31). The answer to this frequently asked question is "yes." There are dedicated people in Japan who are working hard to improve the well-being of animals in Japan.

One of the difficulties being faced is that, while there are laws in Japan governing the humane treatment of animals, these laws are weak and cannot be really enforced.

In other words, the laws say what an animal caretaker "should" do with regards to care of animals, but does not allow for inspection, confiscation and penalty if conditions are found to be substandard.

Some of the organizations working to change the laws are the Japanese Animal Hospital Association and the Japanese Animal Welfare Society (Shadan Hojin Nippon Dobutsu Fukushi Kyokai, tel. 3405-5652). Other organizations

work to aid and find homes for animals. An example of this type of organization is ARK (Animal Rescue Kansai, tel 0727-37-0712).

These organizations are all in need of financial support and volunteers and could put you in touch with similar organizations in your area. Don't just complain about the treatment of animals in Japan; do something to help them!

Janice Willard
Tokyo

Readers are encouraged to write letters to the editor. No subject is taboo, although letters are edited in view of space limitations and to ensure clarity.

Address letters to:

Seitaro Matsunaga, Editor

The Daily Yomiuri

1-7-1 Otemachi

Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8055

e-mail: daily@tokyo.yomiuri.co.jp