

Pets are mistreated in Japan

I would like to express my concern over the welfare of pets in Japan. It is an issue worth addressing.

Living in Yokohama for just four months, I have seen two dead cats by the side of the road, obviously having been hit by cars. Neither were strays (they had collars) but were once beloved pets. Yokohama, as well as other cities in Japan, is too big a place to let cats outside alone.

All over my neighborhood are dogs kept outside day and night, summer and winter, rain or shine. They are usually kept on a short chain in a very tiny, usually dirty yard. Are they watchdogs? Perhaps. But why do I see so many families with two dogs chained up in the same yard? Wouldn't a house alarm be more economical and efficient? Man's best friend should not spend his whole life locked up on a chain, filthy and cold.

Another distressing thing is to watch monkeys being trained. Japanese television frequently airs trainers literally beating the poor animals. I've always heard that the Japanese really respect life and avoid even killing an insect. After living here and seeing the abuse and neglect, I have doubts about their principles.

SUSAN L. TENHOR

Yokohama

Japan Times

Sunday

19th Jan 1992