

Apr 4, 1993

To: Ms Jean Pearce (Fax: 03-3454-4164)

Wild Boars in Rokkosan

I saw your article today in which the wild boar problem was raised. Following is the information obtained by Ms Atsuko Sato of NO FUR FUND in early February. I had hoped to gather more information, but it was not possible.

Information according to Mr. Narita, Birds & Beasts Protection Section, Kobe City (tel: 078-331-8181):

- a) Leg-hold traps are not being used. "Hako wana" (box or cage-type traps) are being used by the hunters with "Kōshu Menkyo" (one type of license). Hunters trap wild boars all year round.
- b) The period Nov 15 - Feb 15 is official "Hunting Season" when shooting of wild boars is permitted. (Note: only for the hunters with "Otsushu Menkyo" (another type of license).
- c) The size of the "Hako wana" ensures the capture of one wild boar. It is not known what happens to the captured boars, which become the possessions of the hunting association's members.
- d) Wild boars' meat is consumed only during the winter. (Since it tastes too bad), it is likely that only the boars shot during the hunting season are used for consumption.
- e) Damage by the wild boars has been increasing. The boars, which are usually fed by the mountain-climbers and sightseers, sometimes come down to the shopping area (Ashiya) and residential area, and dash for the shopping bags of shoppers.
- f) (In reply to a question "Why aren't those wild boars cautious towards humans? Is anybody in particular feeding them to domesticate them?")

In fact, there is a village called "Inoshishi Mura" (Boar Village), and there is a man feeding the wild boars near "Kōza-no-taki" in Ashiya, Rokkosan. With nutritious food given, some boars give birth twice a year while it is normally one a year (4 babies at one time).

The section responsible for this area is Forestry Section, Agriculture & Forestry Office.

Information according to Mr. Takahashi, Forestry Section, Agriculture & Forestry Office (tel: 078-361-8558):

(Note: Mr. Ogawa, Section Chief, was travelling and not available for comments.)

- a) If you walk along Ashiya River towards "Kaze-fuki-iwa" (wind-blowing rock) (or Rock Garden), there is a "Chaya" (a small Japanese-type tea shop) and you'll see at least a few wild boars there.