

ly some. The clipping I had been sent was about this very subject. The headline to the full-page article reads, "Animal welfare in a callous land" and the even more damning subhead reads, "Please, please, never send an animal to Japan."

This piece appeared in Dog World of Jan. 4, but reading between the lines I might find similar strong words in almost any other pet journal or newspaper covering stories ranging from cats to horses. Japan, it seems, in the reverse of the normally publicized situation, wants to import but is being denied the opportunity. The reason—because live animals are involved.

JAWS (the Japan Animal Welfare Society) was founded in Tokyo in 1954 by British and American residents appalled by the suffering of animals locally. Though most Japanese seem inured to this suffering, there were those who came forward to join the founders in their efforts to alleviate and change the terrible conditions in municipal pounds and teaching hospitals.

Sadly, and horrifyingly for their careful breeders overseas, many of the creatures that ended up in these places were and still are discarded domestic pets, including even those with pedigrees. Pedigreed dogs are, in fact, preferred for experimentation in animal research centers or teaching hospitals since they tend to be more amenable. JAWS helps rescue them in the thousands every year.

But the role of JAWS goes beyond just the helping of abandoned pets. They have campaigned hard for the proper implementation of a forceful Animal Protection Law, though unfortunately for animal life in Japan this law remains weak and poorly implemented.

However, their efforts have led to the setting of proper standards of care for animals used in hospitals and laboratories, as well as for work horses, cattle, zoo animals and those in pet shops. Typi-

cal economy, it can't spare the funds to look after its own animals properly. Others are footing the bill.

You may wonder what all the fuss is about, but think about where you have seen pet dogs. While some are pampered like lapdogs, most are chained up outside in cramped, dirty conditions and under-exercised or not exercised at all by owners too busy to look after them. Keeping dogs in solitary confinement is as cruel as locking humans up in similar conditions. Even worse for the dogs is that the latest models of kennels being sold are not only tiny, but also made of metal, making them like ovens in summer and freezers in winter.

What about this catalog of appalling reports: a purebred Shiba Prefecture dog abandoned in a deep pit between two disused lock gates of the Yodogawa River; three hours required by a vet to free one dog from its filthy matted coat and the muzzle left wired over its mouth by its owner; dogs thrown out of moving cars into traffic; dogs thrown away in the hills to starve; a kitten lying at the entrance gate of a school with its legs, tail and head all cut off and arranged to make it look asleep; a boxer cross thrown away into a fenced pond surrounded by sheer concrete walls and a high wire perimeter fence and left there for three weeks; dogs with scarred muzzles where they have been wired to stop them barking; dogs chained 24 hours a day; more than 100,000 dogs over the last 20 years put down by being beaten to death by just one private company; and strychnine and succin, which inflict a great deal of pain, still being used to put animals down, when alternative painless killers are available.

The fashion of keeping pets seems to have been imported as an aspect of Westernization, but not the concern and compassion for the well-being of the animals that need to go with it. In fact, even quite the reverse.

The 1990 Crufts supplement

nature, breeding pets in the first place is in fact no more natural. Man has taken the responsibility for that: He must also take the consequent responsibility to look after the animals he breeds or allows to be bred.

The extraordinary speed

cerned animal lover and want to learn more of or support the work of the Japan Animal Welfare Society, then please contact JAWS, No. 5 Tanizawa Building, 1-38 Moto Azabu 3-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo. Telephone: (03) 3405-5652 and (03) 3405-5681.

Wildlife extinction called 'malignant'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) Actress Stefanie Powers says the extinction of wildlife is a sign of the wastefulness of modern life.

"The destruction of an animal species is the symptom of a disease that is killing us

all," she said at an appearance to benefit the William Holden Wildlife Foundation in Kenya.

"There is a malignancy of neglect that is destroying the infrastructure of our lives," she said.