

# Dog Gets New Lease On Life, Friends

IKEDA, Osaka — A stray dog, hit by a car and with its rear leg broken, was operated on after the driver who hit the animal carried it to a veterinarian.

About 10 p.m. Thursday, Takayuki Taira, 42, a company worker of Ikeda City sighted a white dog suddenly dashing into the road ahead of his car and applied the brakes, but it was too late.

Noticing that the dog's left rear leg was broken, Taira, an ardent dog lover thought he should do something and phoned his veterinarian friend Susumu Ohashi, 40, in Minoo City.

When asked by his friend who was going to pay the medical expenses and who was going to take care of the dog after it recovered, Taira hung up.

Returning to the site Taira found many young students around the injured dog and heard their conversations. One of them said a dog in such a poor condition should be sent to a health office (where stray dogs are usually disposed of) if nobody will take care of it.

Thinking that if he left the dog there it would not survive, and what emotion the youths would feel from the incident, Taira made up his mind to take it to the surgeon although he had to pay 30,000 yen for an operation.

The operation was conducted successfully about 2 a.m. Friday. According to the surgeon it would take about one month for the dog's leg to heal.

It is the first experience for Ohashi who had been a surgeon for about 15 years, of a stray dog receiving such kind treatment.

When stray dogs meet such tragedy, they are usually left with nobody's care but it is a heart-warming story for such a cold-heart time like today, said Ohashi.

In response to the Mainichi Newspapers which carried the news of the dog, Mrs. Misao Nishida, 55, wife of Saburo Nishida, 60, a foodstuff company executive of Kyoto, volunteered to raise the dog after it is discharged from the hospital.

The Nishidas had raised four dogs since about 1965 but they



The stray dog after receiving an operation.

died one after another with the last one dying on Friday.

"It could be God's deed that on the day my dog died, the stray dog's life was saved," said Mrs. Nishida.

Surgeon Ohashi said, "The injured dog could be recovered enough to walk within a half month and then I would like to hand it over to the new owners."