

This is why the Japan Animal Welfare Society needs the support of compassionate people everywhere in its campaign to change the uncaring attitude to animals which is so prevalent in Japan.

Much of the misery is caused by the widespread ignorance of basic animal care. Amongst owners there is also a seeming inability to accept responsibility for the lifelong well-being of an animal. Inadequate shelter, poor diet, neglect and lack of veterinary care often lead to irreversible disease and terrible wounds. It is commonplace for owners to abandon any animal which, for any reason, presents a problem. They do not see it as a living creature needing help.

It is this wholesale abandonment of animals which causes the greatest suffering. JAWS' helpers rescue great numbers of discarded animals, young and healthy as well as old, sick and injured, often dumped in some lonely place or just turned out on to the streets without further thought.

Thousands more, the less fortunate, are impounded by local authorities, who seem incapable of understanding the need to provide even minimal comfort for the sad destitute creatures in their custody. Constant pressure by the Society may have ended the truly appalling conditions of the past. There are many unsatisfactory establishments where dark dungeon-like cells with cold concrete floors often damp, are considered adequate quarters for animals; places where animals are caged or kennelled outside with quite inadequate protection from the elements; places where the old inefficient decompression chambers are in use for euthanasia.

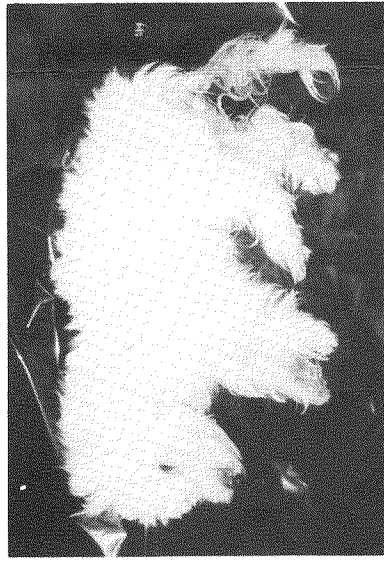
There are still obdurate officials who cannot, or will not, see the need for change.

Unfortunately, the brand new pounds and destruction centres which are now being built may have officials' quarters which are impressive; the shining new experimental establishments may have every possible facility for the researchers. But the animals are still herded together in the usual dark cells well out of sight. Here they wait, the lucky ones will be claimed by their owners, the rest, thoroughbred and crossbred alike, will be destroyed or sent to a laboratory. It is very unlikely that any official will give any thought to the beauty, intelligence, or value of any animal when this decision is made — any more than the owner did when the poor creature was discarded.

Time and time again JAWS' helpers find that the new stainless steel cages, 'scientifically designed' for laboratory animals, are too small. The floors of round metal bars or wire mesh are uncomfortable, even painful, especially for animals which have recently undergone surgery.



Tosa bitch, tied to a tree in a remote mountainous area was miraculously found by a farmer who called JAWS. She was unable to walk and could scarcely stand. She had bad burns on face and hindquarters. She was terrified of everything.



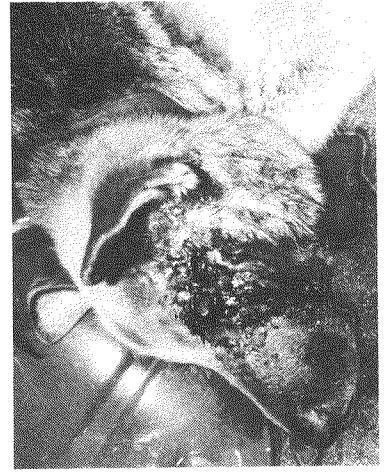
A breeder regularly puts his unsold puppies into JAWS' cages, when they are obviously sick and dying. This two-month-old puppy was beyond help.



Abandoned American Cocker Spaniel beyond help. After it had been trimmed, gangrene was discovered.



Housedog found lying in a pool of water under makeshift shelter. JAWS quickly donated a proper kennel.



Terrible traffic accident wound, untreated for weeks, then this Alsatian was abandoned.



Could not stand after being hit by car; no veterinary treatment sought. Owner just dumped it in JAWS' cages. It was terrified and almost unapproachable.



Victim of the non-enforcement of the Animal Protection Act by the police. JAWS' helpers rescued this Pointer from a mentally-disturbed youth who sometimes tortures animals. Neighbours complain about the noise — not the cruelty.



Gentle Spaniel, filthy and unkempt, waits patiently between grooming sessions by JAWS' helpers.