



THIS PUPPY IS one of 62 strays that escaped death recently when a group of veterinarians in the Osaka area found owners for them.

Adopt-a-pup system started by Kansai veterinarians

OSAKA — Some 450,000 stray dogs are destroyed at public health centers nationwide each year, a fact that has spurred a group of veterinarians in Higashi Osaka, Osaka Prefecture, to create a system for finding people willing to take the dogs as pets.

Yoshiaki Onishi, chairman of the veterinarians association, said the group decided to start the adopt-a-pet system after receiving a number of inquiries from people who wanted dogs or those who were looking for owners for their puppies.

At a municipal government event April 13, the group put up a notice with information

on 62 dogs and received applications from about 200 people who wanted to take the dogs in.

All the dogs found new homes, Onishi said.

The veterinarians obtained promises from the dogs' former owners to forfeit ownership and screened applicants to determine if they were fit to take care of the animals.

Those who passed the screening received the dogs after signing a pledge that they would file reports on their pets with health authorities and bring them in for antirabies injections every year.

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