

Caring Of Pets

To the Editor:

I wish to express gratitude to Ms. Elizabeth Oliver for her concern regarding care of animals (June 16, MDN), as I myself was greatly perturbed at an article on "Alley Cat Allergies" (May 17, MDN). The article stated that patients tended to develop allergies caused by the secretions of cats, even though patients did not keep cats at their homes; that some 58 people out of 231 who were tested for cat antibodies came out positive when they kept no cats at home, but only lived in densely populated areas where "it is thought a lot of alley cats hang out," and that doctors concluded that "alley cats were apt to cause allergies." Such articles

only serve to discourage people from caring for the loving the unfortunate felines. Distorted assumptions by specialists and authorities do more damage than good in teaching the public to care of these helpless, innocent animals.

I have had cats for many years, have domesticated alley cats to become sweet, loving pets and companions. I have never been troubled with asthma or any other type of allergies of any kind because of its fur. Cats should not be blamed as causes of allergies based on vague distorted assumptions.

I should be the concern of authorities, including doctors and veterinarians, to educate the public, especially children, as

their assertions could certainly away the behavior of the public towards cats and other animals. Children should be imparted proper knowledge of cats so that they can love them and take responsibility for their welfare, as it is certainly a means to nurturing tender sentiments and love towards our own fellow humans, an element so lacking in today's society.

BESS HIGUCHI
Fussa-shi, Tokyo