

What The Japanese Are Saying

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The following are translations of readers' letters published in the Kiryu Column of The Yomiuri Shimbun.

Annual Rabies Shots For Dogs Necessary?

Dogs are given anti-rabies shots every year. Is it necessary?

Many vaccination shots given to humans last a lifetime.

Dogs used to require two shots a year. Now they need only one, yet the cost is about ¥4,900. I don't believe the cost has changed much.

Is it necessary to continue with the injection when rabies has not been reported in 20 years?

Registration fee is also expensive, costing ¥2,000. It is more costly than a garage registration fee. Since I keep a few dogs, I have to think about it.

I want to ask for the opinions of veterinarians and health center doctors.

Masao Iizuka, 43,
Company employee,
Higashimurayama, Tokyo

I fear that after this tragic incident newspaper companies will vigorously protect themselves, preventing the ordinary person from dropping into branches of newspaper companies to give some information about small incidents or just to chat with reporters.

A newspaper's role as watchdog over people in power will be seriously impeded if they are guarded by police. As well they won't be able to report news from the ordinary person's point of view.

We should not leave police in complete charge of solving this incident. Freedom of the press is at stake. We had better make an effort to protect that freedom ourselves.

Seiji Ume, 59,
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