

Don't Mistreat Animals

To the Editor:

Why does the Japanese love of animals and nature not extend to dogs and cats? They have sufficient appeal to become motifs for commercials, stationery and shopping bags, but it seems that the Japanese admiration for the loveliness of animals doesn't extend to any feeling of responsibility or care.

I sympathize with people living in cramped conditions, but other large cities, such as New York, share the same problem and accommodation for pets can usually be had regardless.

Informed people know that well cared for pets do not create a disturbance or unsanitary condition. A pet who is spayed, fed

properly and maintained in good health is not a burden on a neighborhood. It is a shame that landlords prohibit tenants from accepting a pet into their homes.

The Japanese attitude of ignoring animals to an unrealistic extent (don't feed it — it will go away) is unfeeling, to say the least. Just as guilty is the owner who allows unaltered pets to roam freely, oblivious to the puppy and kitten explosion going on right under their noses.

A little responsibility goes a long way. It's a shame that the majority of this burden is being shared by only a handful of people. The Japan Animal Welfare Society (JAWS) deserves the most heartfelt thanks from all

concerned animal lovers. Their selfless good works prove that at least a few of us are trying to cope with the animal problem, instead of trying to sweep it under the rug.

We can make a difference. I urge animal lovers to contact JAWS about adoption, and current owners should make every effort to have their pets spayed. And most importantly, strays should be treated with compassion and kindness. Remember, it is mistreated animals who bite and scratch. Don't be the one, who with a stick, turns a gentle, innocent animal into a mean one.

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