

The Hell-Holes of Japan BY JACK CARONE

The photos send a cold shudder through you. Dogs of every description stand and huddle chained to cages, boxes and each other, some bound so tightly they cannot move. Bags of dog food rot in the sun and rain, while nearby dogs starve to death. Black plastic bags of dead animals are thrown among the living. Smoke bearing the smell of dead dogs and cats wafts across the ramshackle yard of sad-eyed prisoners. A sympathetic taxi driver stops to leave food for the pitiful victims. An old man, the human warden of this place, walks heavily and with difficulty across this expanse of suffering.

As we are pulled into the snapshots, we wonder; have we wandered into the lair of an animal dealer selling pitiful creatures into the slavery of the puppy mill or laboratories? No, shockingly, we are at the residence of a would-be Good Samaritan; a person who initially was trying to help unwanted, lost or abandoned animals, but who has gradually sunk into a situation out of control. This human has gone from protector to collector. Often, here and elsewhere, the aspiring humanitarian is an

acute, and without legal remedy here in Japan, and in this place known as the hell-hole of Tenri. Hundreds of tiny ghettos all over Japan mirror the conditions here. Although Japanese animal welfare workers submitted a petition of more than 7,000 signatures to the local governor, so far there has been almost no response. Animal advocates in Japan who fight the best they can often must conceal their identities for their own personal and political protection. One such anonymous advocate states the problem succinctly: "There is no effective law in Japan for the protection of animals, and there is no authority with the slightest interest in



While the carcasses of dogs and cats—and garbage—burn in nearby piles, the living animals go hungry.

Marine Mammals

Congress is considering legislation to end all killing of dolphins by United States and foreign purse seine fleets operating in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean. Rep. Gerry Studds (D-MA) was joined by Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Rep. Porter Goss (R-FL) in sponsoring the International Dolphin Conservation Act of 1992 (HR5419). Under terms of the bill, there will be a rapid phase-out of the United States dolphin kill quota, which presently stands at 20,500 per year. Then, a moratorium on setting nets on dolphins by both foreign and U.S. fleets will be established. Support letters to: President Jacques Delors, The European Commission, 45 Avenue d'Auderghem, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium. For further information, **Earth Island Institute**, 300 Broadway, Ste. 28, San Francisco, CA 94133. ■ **The Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas filed a federal lawsuit** against the Commerce Department (and others) over the government's refusal to approve the resort's swim-with-the-dolphins proposal (which would allow members of the public to swim with the hotel's six captive dolphins). Animal rights protesters staged a demonstration and press conference days prior to the filing of the Hotel's lawsuit. Their presence in- and outside the hotel caught the media's attention throughout their three-day stay. They highlighted the Mirage's swim-with dolphin proposal and protested dolphin captivity in general, reminding the public that "dolphins belong in the ocean, not in the desert." ■ **The marine equivalent of "cat's-eye" reflectors in the road** could save countless dolphins and porpoises that would otherwise die entangled in fishing nets. The simple plastic devices reflect the dolphins' sonar signals and stop them from swimming into the nets. Limited tests by British researchers showed how dolphins did not mistake the reflectors for fish and "chase" them; they halted about 100 meters from the "net" and bombarded it with sonar. After this, researchers say, they "hammered it acoustically from behind, then got bored and swam off." Larger-scale tests will resume as soon as researchers can find adequate funding. ■ **Marine Animal Productions (MAP)** has captured 221 dolphins from the Mississippi Sound since 1973; 98 alone were for the U.S. Navy's use in cruel and abusive experiments. Others were used in roadshows or sent to amusement parks. Over half of all the dolphins captured by MAP are now dead. Please let the following Hershey officials know that you are not amused

at dolphin circus acts, and that the once familiar brown wrapper of a Hershey Bar now conjures up unpleasant images that ruin your appetite. Comments to: Mr. Troy E. Stump, Director/Curator, ZooAmerica, Hersheypark Drive, Hershey, PA 17033; Mr. J. Bruce McKinney, President, Hershey Entertainment & Resort Company (HERCO), 300 Park Blvd., Hershey, PA 17033; Mr. Richard A. Zimmerman, Chief Executive Officer, Hershey Foods Corporation, PO Box 810, Hershey, PA 17033 (cc Mr. Paul Hoch, Director of Public Relations). Call Hershey toll free (800) 468-1714 M-F 9-4 EST. ■ **During the convention of more than 4,100 national and international tour operators**, sponsored by the Travel Industry Association and highlighting a private evening tour of Marine World Africa USA, in Vallejo, CA, this summer, some 250 animal rights activists representing the 21-member organizations of the Dolphin Liberation Coalition (DLC), greeted them. Six activists were arrested after lying down in front of three tour buses, each holding one of the 35 "tombstones" representing the dolphins and orcas who have died at Marine World. For further information: DLC, PO Box 20184, Oakland, CA 94620. ■ Spain became a dolphin-safe country when ASCONSER, the largest group of tuna canneries in Spain, joined the rest of the Spanish tuna industry in adopting dolphin-safe corporate policies. For details or other information, contact **Earth Island Institute**, The Dolphin Project, 300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133; (415) 788-3666. Also write for details regarding Norway's announcement that it would continue its "scientific" whaling despite the International Whaling Commission's resolution disapproving it. Under a government sponsored program, Norway will kill 110 minke whales this year. ■ **Since 1985, the Whale Rescue Team (WRT)** has been rescuing whales, dolphins and sea lions from the death grips of drift and set gillnets along the Southern California coast. WRT provides a quick response and rescue team to entanglement problems of all sea animals, as well as investigates other marine problems such as marine mammal shootings, poaching, and pollution of their habitats. WRT began as a project of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, but is now acting independently from the organization. The Team needs your help to continue its work in ending the suffering of marine animals. For more information, contact The Whale Rescue Team at 115 South Topanga Canyon Blvd., Suite 129, Topanga, CA 90290; (310) 455-2729. ■



elderly person whose faculties and judgment have declined as the numbers of animals and the magnitude of the responsibility grow geometrically and beyond sanity and workability.

This phenomenon is seen everywhere, but the situation is currently rampant,