

that claimed 44 human lives, we came across 3 abandoned puppies near the devastated zone. They were wet, cold, and starving; obviously they had been there for some time. We decided to take them with us on the rest of our Kyushu trip. After food, water, warmth and rest, these guys quickly became very genki. We had a great time camping with them. When we returned to Kansai, we had them de-wormed for a mere 600 yen, and gave them a flea and tick bath to remove external parasites. After that they became even more genki! This time I hawked them at a local train station where hundreds of people were departing from a nearby sports event. The pups all had new homes within a few hours. Follow-up calls later indicated that the new owners were very happy with their new puppies.

Our experience shows that, if one is determined, it is not so difficult to find homes for cute young animals (although abandoned adult animals would probably be a lot more difficult to give away). We are extremely grateful to those friends who helped us and, of course, to those who took the puppies. I hope that this letter might inspire similar efforts by other people who happen to find abandoned pets. Ganbatte!

Sincerely,


