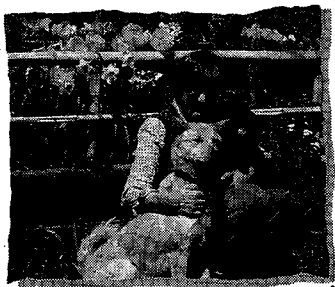


Working with and for Animals

Elizabeth Oliver



Ms. Elizabeth Oliver was born in Somerset in the West of England. She was educated at Malvern Girls' College and graduated from the Agricultural Faculty of Nottingham University. She came to Japan in 1968 and became a lecturer at Osaka Institute of Technology. She lives in Noma Ohara a mountain hamlet in Nose-cho, Osaka Prefecture. Her home has become the ARK Centre for rescue of stray animals and the promotion of education in the care of animals. Her other interests include organic gardening and protection of the environment.

Everyone loves tiny kittens and puppies they are so appealing and playful. Unfortunately they grow into adult cats and dogs all too quickly and then people don't want them. It is a sad fact of life that only about 10% or less of kittens or puppies born will find kind and loving owners who will take care of them throughout their life. Every year millions of pets are thrown away or abandoned in Japan. They die miserably ; either victims of starvation or traffic accidents, caught then killed by the Hokensho, used for experiments in hospital or cosmetic company laboratories, or eke out an

existence on the city streets or in the countryside. Those that survive breed, and their semi-wild off-spring become a menace to society. Many people don't see or don't want to see it as a social problem. Yet their taxes are used to exterminate this living 'gomi'.

ARK (Animal Refuge Kansai) was started in 1990 to draw people's attention to the plight of unwanted animals. It aims to prevent suffering, to promote education in the better care of animals and to stimulate a fresh approach, a new consciousness through a network of volunteers.