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MDN

## Irresponsible Pet Owners Should Be Prosecuted

To the Editor:

The putting out of poison bait to kill stray dogs (MDN, Nov. 29) is nothing new. Here in Nose they do it regularly, at least once a year. "Powdered acid" refers to strychnine, a hideous poison which causes indescribable agonizing pain, the insides of the animal literally explode.

If you've ever seen a dog die this way the memory can never be erased. It is used by the authorities because it is 1. cheap, 2. effective (in terms of speedy killing), and they don't have to go far to collect the bodies. Human methods of euthanasia are never an option since they are costly and time-consuming.

All things considered however this may be the lesser of other evils, i.e. the slow torture method. Hauling dogs by wire nooses into hokensho trucks (no separation of big/small/vicious/sick or dying) to be transported traumatized to concentration camp hokenshos where they await a ghastly end, sometimes literally bludgeoned to

death.

No, the guilt must lie with the unthinking, uncaring people who dump dogs; with the government for failing to revise the inadequate law (note singular) for animal protection; and with the local prefectural authorities who could if they tried, find a

more efficient registration procedure (a microchip inserted under the animal's skin for example) so that these irresponsible pet owners could be identified and prosecuted.

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