



ARK
ANIMAL REFUGE KANSAI
JAWS NOSE BRANCH

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Taro - Victim of his own friendliness.

Taro was a large bear-like dog of an amiable disposition kept by the gasoline stand at Noma Naka (near where I live in Nose). He was very popular with children and customers alike. The Muramoto family who owned never tied him, he sat in favourite places around the gasoline stand and sometimes wandered slowly around the neighbourhood. Last autumn Nose yakuba with Ikeda hokensho put out poison² (strychnine) to kill stray dogs. One of the places they chose was near Noma Naka - Taro was tied up during the poisoning night. On that occasion no dogs were poisoned because many people around there like dogs and feed the strays. Nose yakuba and probably the hokensho were frustrated because they failed to kill any dogs in spite of many being reported. A week or two later men with guns with Osaka Prefecture armbands were seen roving the fields looking for dogs to shoot. Local people became angry because 1) men with guns look very threatening, 2) there was no warning from Nose yakuba. People assumed the danger to their own dogs was over. As far as I know they shot one or two dogs that day. A week later I heard through local talk that they were coming again. I warned everyone I knew to tie up their dogs for safety. Taro was left untied as usual because perhaps the Muramotos didn't take the warning seriously. The men with guns came on the Tuesday. On Saturday I was at the gasoline stand and the Muramotos were worried that Taro hadn't come home since Tuesday. I advised them to phone the yakuba and Ikeda Hokensho. Noe yakuba said two dogs had been caught but couldn't describe them, neither had collars they said. Taro was wearing a collar with his registration number on it. Ikeda hokensho were even less cooperative and said they didn't know how many dogs had come from Nose nor what they looked like. The weekend passed. On the Monday I advised them to check with the Prefectural Office and Morinomiya although it may be too late (they thought). Neither place offered any information or help. If it had been my own dog I would have gone myself to Morinomiya to check but the Muramotos, like so many people don't know the hokensho system and are easily put off from seeking the truth. They still believed by some magical chance that Taro might come home, they couldn't believe that the hokensho would kill someone's dog in that way. Taro was undoubtedly the easiest target, even for an amateur gunman.