

- 2 -

Sadly, this narrow, mistaken concept of animal welfare is very appealing to Buddhists everywhere and to the Japanese in particular. However, it will succeed in keeping Japan at the stage of a third world country in animal welfare, almost indefinitely. For the situation advocated by a famous "no-kill" promoter, Ed. Davin (whom Elizabeth admires), will ensue. He boldly claimed in a full-page advertisement in 'The Animals' Voice Magazine' (Vol. 5, No.3), that humane societies should be "getting out of the killing business - transferring it ... to animal control agencies." (P.41). This doesn't mean that there will be an end to euthanasia at all, but simply that it should be done by the authorities, whose methods in Japan, and many other countries too, are far from humane.

This careful masking of the need for euthanasia and the sad task of doing it, as well as the idea of relegating it to the authorities, so that it may remain largely hidden from the public, is exactly the hopeless situation which has existed in Japan. It is a situation we have worked so hard to change, for as long as the need for exterminating unwanted life is hidden from the public and put into the hands of the authorities, whose methods are mostly unquestioned and unscrutinized, people will not take full responsibility for the lives of their pet animals, nor will they take pet-keeping itself seriously.

It is disappointing indeed that an international society such as IFAW, could promote such a retrograde policy, which is working directly against animal welfare - in Japan at least.

You probably remember that I have been rather skeptical about the very large animal welfare organisations. I have studied the correspondence between you and WSPA of some time ago, and realize that you are skeptical about this organisation at least. However, after meeting the other IFAW representative at Elizabeth's, any admiration for or faith I had in IFAW has completely disappeared. I was shocked to find that this woman appeared to have had little practical experience in animal welfare. Among other zany ideas she put forth, was the one to hire a train to transport animal quake victims - from west Koto to Elizabeth's - several hours and changes of train, when the trains were'nt even running due to quake damage! She also proposed building countless 200-animal vinyl hot-house shelters, when a little knowledge about Japan and animal welfare would have told her it would be quite impossible to man or run such shelters, even if she could have procured the land on which to build them. And of course such hot-houses would be quite unsuitable for living creatures - other than insects - between May and September - 5 months of the year! She also seemed to lack any understanding of the Japanese customs and attitudes, which might be forgiven, but she showed not the slightest interest in even hearing about such things from those of us who have been working here for more than 25 years!