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By early February, IFAW's airmail-letter-designed Earthquake Appeal was circulating the U.K. A JAWS and IFAW supporter immediately contacted the U.K. JAWS' office, forwarding the appeal letter and questioning whether it was in fact true that "...there is little food, scarce water and no shelter" for animal earthquake victims. Of course we were able to assure her and other callers, that it was quite untrue. From a few days after the quake - before IFAW even arrived in Japan, foreign pet food companies literally swamped rescue shelters with top quality pet food donations, so that many earthquake animal victims have been eating better than ever before in their lives! Water has not been scarce after the first day - local supplies having been cut off has meant that people have had to queue for it. However, the rescue shelters in each affected district have always had more than enough, thanks to thoughtful citizens in the area.

The IFAW circular was of course appealing for funds and mentioned sending £32,000 to Japan, plus teams of IFAW "experts". ARK's special earthquake newsletter mentioned "ARK is desperate for funds...", but if ARK indeed received the sum of £32,000 which IFAW mentioned sending, it would certainly be more than enough to cover the shelter constructed near Elizabeth's home and to run it until the hot weather sets in, when it will become useless. ARK's newsletter also mentioned other "generous donations" - on top of the IFAW sum.

Rather than promoting the concept of "no-kill" with no alternatives even mentioned, a campaign for adequate animal protection laws in countries like Japan, where they are lacking, or non-existent, would be more meaningful. A group of animal welfare workers in this area had planned such a campaign and Elizabeth had agreed to make available the photographs and footage prepared by one of her English helpers. It is quite obvious that these have gone to IFAW, although Elizabeth was not honest enough to tell us this - even after three trips of 120 kilos each, to her home, to discuss these! We will await the resultant glossy literature from IFAW using these photos and footage...await to see if they are used as fictitiously as IFAW's first Japanese earthquake appeal info! It would certainly be a relief to have IFAW use its funds and manpower to launch a Japan-wide appeal, and for the resulting influx of animals to be delivered to Elizabeth's group and to other "no-kill" societies, relieving us of the bulk of the work and the need for euthanasia - which we all hate so much.

I wonder, though, just how much of the funds will actually filter down to these animal workers. I wonder how many of IFAW's other appeals contain fictitious or false statements similar to the Kobe earthquake appeal letter. I am very worried that you and your sister, and now Elizabeth, too, may be just pawns in a multi-million dollar chess game - kept on the board with promises of meagre help, with clever glossy advertisements to keep the funds rolling in, and clever