



ARK
ANIMAL REFUGE KANSAI
JAW & NOSE BRANCH

595 Noma Ohara, Nose-cho, Toyono-gun, Osaka-fu 563-01

〒563-01 大阪府豊能郡能勢町野間大原595

TEL.0727-37-0712 FAX.0727-37-1645

FAX To [REDACTED] (IFAW)

I too have had irate phone calls from NHK and Hyogo Prefecture about the bad press Japan has received over the statements that Japanese eat dog meat.

The press release stated that pet dogs from the earthquake are in danger of being sold for meat or for experiments.

The Official from Hyogo confirmed today that this was indeed true in the past (ie before the earthquake) but that now special measures are being taken to rescue these animals and to hold them until their owners or new owners can be found. However I pointed out that a friend in Amagasaki city (in Hyogo Prefecture) had noticed 3 dogs frightened and wandering after the quake, which then disappeared. A day later she found they had been caught by the city pound. (We are sure they had no intention of saving them).

Japanese generally do not eat dog meat knowingly but Koreans living in Japan do. Indeed Japan has to import a lot of dog meat from China to supply the demand.*

It is difficult to get evidence of dogs being slaughtered in the pounds because the work is done by the 'untouchables', a discriminated class in Japan and these people will not reveal their source. Dogs sold illegally for experiments are easy to document. I have a press cutting exposing this (10/1/95) (a week before the quake). ~~Office~~ Employees of the Osaka Prefecture pound had ^{pocketed} ~~made~~ ¥17 million over 5 years selling dogs for experiments. They got off with a warning.

* There are restaurants in Tokyo + Osaka selling dog meat dishes.

My feeling is that once the international eye is turned away from the earthquake, the dog pounds will move swiftly to prevent the problem of stray animals growing - with too many to catch, they will resort to poison.

I suggest Mr Yamamoto investigate the dog pounds in this country.

Elizabeth Oliver