

SURVEY OF ANIMAL RELIEF EFFORTS

January 25 - JAVA staff members conduct a survey of animal relief facilities. The Kobe City Zoo reports that no animals have been injured by the quake - but our staff finds that all zoo animals are kept in their night-time housing even during the day. Three animal shelters are also reported. The Kobe City Animal Welfare & Control Center has erected a tent in a shady area behind its main building. Animals are kept there inside narrow carriers stacked on top of each other. The Center is planning a shelter in another location that will accommodate several hundred animals.

The Nippon Animal Welfare Society (JAWS), Hanshin Relief Center, is accepting animals.

The shelter run by Animal Refuge Kansai (ARK), a private animal welfare group, offers the best conditions for animals. ARK is now building a facility to accommodate 200 animals. They are looking for funds and volunteers.

News papers report that 90% of the fish at Soma Aquarium have died as a result of a power black out. Wines and pharmacies to medical schools in the region are also out of service - but nothing is known about the status of laboratory animals at such facilities. The local Association of Veterinarians estimates that a total of 9,000 pets (4,000 dogs and 5,000 cats) have been affected by the quake.

REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR HUMANS AND THEIR PETS

Due to initial fears, few stray dogs have been seen in the area affected by the quake. Now, our staff is concerned that pet owners may abandon their animals if they move into housing where pets are not allowed.

Even on 1/29 morning, JAVA has asked the government to provide temporary housing where pets and their owners can live together. We have been told that there are no regulations prohibiting such an arrangement and we intend to see that such facilities will actually be provided.

We wish only the happiest solution, for human quake victims as well as their animal companions.

PROVIDING INFORMATION TO EVACUEES

On January 30, JAVA staff members visited evacuation centers throughout the area in order to: 1) Tell evacuees that they could bring their pets with them when they moved into temporary housing. 2) Encourage evacuees to avoid killing animals and to contact animal welfare groups if problems arise. 3) Inform evacuees that food is available and that veterinarians will treat sick or injured animals for free. JAVA staff members also conducted a survey of dead, injured or abandoned animals as well as animals in evacuation centers.

JAVA members continue to visit affected areas to survey the situation, distribute food and needed information and provide moral support to evacuees and their pets.

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Reported by [redacted] and [redacted]

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