

For many of the animals coming into ARK from the Earthquake zones it is often the first time they have ever been separated from their owners and families. Many are old, most are frightened and bewildered, the security of their small world has been shattered. ARK has received not only dogs and cats but also over 60 rabbits and a cockerel for boarding. We cannot mention every one but here are a few stories of the Earthquake animals.

Champ, a handsome male Husky, was hungry and thin from two weeks on the streets of Kobe. Within two days of being rescued his owner phoned and was overjoyed that he had been found safe and well.

Popeye was found in the rubble of a building, weak and shivering. He had lost an eye. His owners have not been found.

Giro and Kuho, both 16 were living with their owner in the shell of her former house. She no longer has the strength or will to keep them as everything she had is gone. They are too old to be rehomed so will become sponsored dogs at ARK.

11 Yorkshire Terriers, mostly old, had been kept by a breeder whose house was destroyed, she no longer wanted them. After neutering they have all found new homes.

Riki, 11 years old and much loved by her owner who travels hours to visit her at ARK. Riki turns somersault of joy when she arrives. Many tears are shed when she leaves.

Takatori, a ^{blind} ~~friendly young~~ white dog came from Nagata district of Kobe where the fires blazed. His owner may have died but we are not sure. We have named him after the station where he was found. *

Ashiya, a pretty grey half American short-haired cat, found under a collapsed house. We search in vain for the owners in nearby evacuation centres but fear they died when the house collapsed. She was neutered and has recently been rehomed.

Asuda, going blind and deaf with old age, was treasured by his owner and never left her side for 15 years. As the quake struck the walls of the house crumbled, Asuda disappeared. His distraught elderly owner has searched every place she has heard of where dogs are being kept. She will never give up her search until she learn of his fate.

Many owners weep at having to part with their pets, even though they know that they will be reunited with them again. We now have over 50 dogs and about 20 cats for long-term boarding. ARK will care for them until they can finally go home.

* He is trusting and friendly although
confused disorientated by his traumatic
experience.