

He set up a tent outside the shrine where people can bring animals or donations of food, blankets, etc. He just jumped into action. He never bothered to ask for official permission. People like him, and there are quite a few, make all the difference.

As for the government and the local authorities, they have their work cut out dealing with the human tragedy precipitated by the earthquake. Given the scope of the problems they have to cope with and their previous lackluster record on animal issues, it would be naive to expect them to pay much attention to the plight of animals affected by this earthquake.

However, the Japan Animal Welfare Society (JAWS), a government-supported animal welfare organization, is working in cooperation with Hyogo Prefecture to construct a facility at Suzurandai, north of Kobe. I've heard that this facility will house dogs rescued from the earthquake zone in cages stacked one above another.

I gather you are not entirely happy with such facilities?

For short-term accommodation such conditions may be acceptable. But I am concerned that the animals may be kept for weeks or months in cramped cages without adequate sanitation or exercise facilities, which would certainly not be in the dogs' best interests. It would be much better for the dogs and not prohibitively expensive to provide them with individual cubicles that satisfy their basic biological needs.

Since the earthquake, ARK has been working in cooperation with the US-based animal rescue organization IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare). What have these activities entailed?

KEENAN KUM

ANNEMIEKE
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IFAW has sent two people to Kansai, _____ (name) from Korea and _____ (name) from the Netherlands, to assess the scale of the problem. They have built up experience in coping with earthquake disasters, but the Hanshin quake is on a much greater scale than anything they've dealt with before. IFAW has been extremely generous in providing funds for emergency relief. Thanks to their support and the generosity of a local farmer, ARK is expanding its facilities to create temporary accommodation for 200 dogs.

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Among other things, we aim to offer a pet boarding service for people who are temporarily unable to take care of their dogs. We're also trying to form a network of