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Anyone who has been watching NHK or reading the newspapers over the past few weeks will be well aware of both the enormous human suffering caused by the Hanshin earthquake and the widespread destruction of homes, highways and other infrastructure in Kobe and the surrounding area. Not surprisingly, the quake has also been bad news for dogs, cats and other animals, many of whom have survived the initial destruction only to be left to fend for themselves in its chaotic aftermath. However, the situation is not all gloom and doom. Some people are hard at work trying to rescue and care for the earthquake's non-human victims. We asked Elizabeth Oliver, the director of Animal Refuge Kansai, what is being done and what needs to be done to help Kobe's animal refugees.

Can you give the readers a rough idea of the scale of animal suffering in the aftermath of the earthquake?

What kind of efforts are being made by the authorities and by NGOs to ease the plight of the earthquake's non-human victims?

ARK is working in cooperation with a US-based animal rescue organization to try to capture stray animals. What have these activities entailed?

How well do you think uninjured cats and dogs can survive if left to roam the streets and will this lead to any long term problems?

What can concerned KTO readers do to help in this difficult situation?

Adopt animals

*Send money
food etc.*

Raise funds.

Volunteer - skilled better