

From: [REDACTED]
To: Liz [REDACTED]
Date: 2002年 2月 27日 水曜日 4:11 PM
Subject: Fwd: [(JP) Animal group strives to change attitudes]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 26 Feb 2002 22:37:30 -0800 (PST)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: (JP) Animal group strives to change attitudes

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nn20020226ml.htm>

HELPING STRAY PETS
Animal group strives to change attitudes

By TETSUSHI KAJIMOTO
Staff writer

URAYASU, Chiba Pref. -- On a freezing Saturday afternoon in February, a group huddles with two dogs in front of the station near Tokyo Disneyland. A banner behind them reads "A society of foster parents -- help us!"

But rather than orphaned children, the group of local citizens asked passersby to become owners of abandoned dogs and cats.

"This is the best possible place to attract attention and call on people from all over the country to become owners of those animals," said Mari Onda, a member of the UC (Urayasu City) Animal Protection Society. Through its weekend campaigns and other PR activities, the 40-member group tries to save the lives of abandoned dogs and cats, and change public attitudes toward pets.

"We want to improve the situation in Chiba Prefecture," where the number of abandoned dogs and cats put to sleep by authorities is the country's second largest and the local government is criticized for being lax in animal protection, said Ryoichi Abe, the group's representative.

In fiscal 2000, the prefectural government took in 17,344 dogs and cats at no charge to the people who no longer wanted them.

In addition, 8,056 stray dogs were caught by authorities after receiving complaints from local residents.

More than 25,000 of these abandoned animals were killed in carbonic acid gas chambers at the prefecture's ironically named Animal Protection Center in the town of Tomisato, and 13 were transferred from there to three research institutes in the prefecture