

JAWS Annual Report 2022 (April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023)

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Report on the Situation of Activities in Fiscal Year 2022

I send my best regards to all members and supporters of JAWS and hope that all is well for everybody. I would like to show my sincere appreciation for the continued warm understanding and support regarding our animal welfare activities.

The onset of a new variant of COVID-19 in fiscal year 2022 led to the sharp increase in the number of cases. Due to restrictions on activities, JAWS had to suspend a part of its activities. Even under these circumstances, there were many cases of animal hoarding and animal abuse in areas outside of Tokyo. From the perspective of One Health and One Welfare, JAWS proactively participated in projects that comprehensively assist the welfare of both humans and animals in animal hoarding situations as collaborative efforts with local authorities.

The subsidization of spaying/neutering operations, the other main pillar of the animal welfare activities of JAWS, targeted two prefectures, Fukushima and Nagasaki Prefectures, in fiscal year 2022; we subsidized the operation of roughly 1,600 animals. In addition, our “JAWS Stray Cats Campaign” subsidized roughly 200 animals, and in total JAWS was able to subsidize the operation of roughly 3,300 animals totaling those subsidized by our branches.

On the other hand, per our educational activities, we have advanced the use of online platforms to avoid the transmission of COVID-19, and we have expanded our audience base throughout the country. The “Shelter Medicine Seminar,” that addresses appropriate care and management of rescued animals, was held using a hybrid method; we provided recorded archives of the seminar as we had strong requests from our audience. We also held the “Veterinary Forensics Seminar” with the purpose of training veterinarians who can scientifically assess animal abuse, and we also delivered online the “Citizen Forum for Animal Welfare” targeting the general public; we reached a total of roughly 5,000 views. In addition, we launched a “Shelter Medicine Collaborative Seminar Series” with the Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University in order to disseminate the concept of animal welfare among young veterinary professionals and stakeholders who would be bearing the future of

this industry.

The “Animal Protection Essay Contest” that we hold every year counted its 63rd year, and we received 1,251 applications from elementary and middle school students. JAWS believes that raising the interest of the young generation in animal welfare activities is a challenge for us and our duty. Thus, we perceive the essay contest as one of the events that we should strive to further enhance.

All activities of JAWS are supported by the membership fee and donations from corporations and individuals who have donated to make a social contribution. In addition, from the previous fiscal year, Kazuma Okamoto of Yomiuri Giants supports our animal welfare activities through the “Kazuma Okamoto Happy Animal Project.” We would like to put our utmost effort into continuing our contribution in improving the situation of animal welfare in Japan using the funding that everybody has provided to the organization, and we appreciate your continued understanding and support.

We extend our wishes for the health and happiness of all and hereby present the situation of activities for fiscal year 2022.

Mitsutaka Kurokawa
Chairman

I. ANIMAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES

<Promotion of Spaying and Neutering of Dogs and Cats, etc.>

1. Addressing Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

The reported number of animal abuse cases charged by the police in 2022 as violation of article 44 of the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals (from hereon referred to as the Animal Welfare Act) was 166; this is more or less on the same level compared to the previous year which marked a record high of 170 cases. As for the victimized animals, 91 cases involved cats, 53 cases involved dogs, and other cases reported exotic animals such as horses and rabbits as well as oriental short-clawed otters. Regarding the types of abuse, 74 cases involved abandonment, 49 cases involved neglect, and 43 cases involved the killing or injuring of animals. The reasons that the number of cases charged remains high may be strengthened penalties of animal abuse under the revised Animal Welfare Act of 2018 and the growing public awareness.

However, even if the number of cases that are charged increases there are many cases that are not prosecuted due to the decisions of the Public Prosecutor's Office. And even if the cases are prosecuted it is rare that these cases get actual jail sentence without suspension. JAWS believes that it is crucial for the judicial branch to make more stringent decisions in order to deter people from committing these crimes.

In addition, the insertion of microchips became a requirement from June 2022 for dogs and cats that are sold from places such as breeders and pet stores. With this change, there have been cases on the violation of the Veterinary License Act in which non-licensed breeders have inserted microchips in dogs. The violation of the Veterinary License Act has been an issue with animal handling businesses without veterinary licenses vaccinating their animals. Such acts may be hazardous to the health of the animals and need to be actively brought to charge.

On the other hand, even if the increase in penalties present more opportunities to penalize the perpetrators of animal abuse there still remains the issue of ownership rights which makes it difficult to rescue the victimized animals. For this reason, there is an urgent need to develop laws so that victimized animals can be rescued in a speedy manner; thus, JAWS would like to make proposals so that a provision for emergency rescue would be included in the next revision of the Animal Welfare Act.

Recently, there has been a series of large-scale animal abuse cases of type I animal handling businesses. In a major case during the previous fiscal year, a puppy mill breeder in Matsumoto City, Nagano Prefecture, was arrested and prosecuted for abusing roughly 1,000 dogs and cats; this fiscal year, puppy mill breeders in Neyagawa City, Osaka Prefecture, and Hachioji City, Tokyo, were arrested for abusing small breeds and Kai dogs (a Japanese breed). In all of these cases, the respective local authorities have inspected and provided guidance to the breeders several dozen times. In some cases, this period spanned for several years in which dogs and cats were left in unnecessary suffering and causing deaths for some of these animals. The local authorities have a power to suspend these operations or cancel the registration of these businesses. However, as these cases demonstrate, there are instances where the local authorities cannot take stringent measures despite the fact that the situation of these businesses fulfill the requirements for the cancellation of their registrations; such hesitation only worsens the situation. Nationally, during the five year-period from fiscal year 2017 to fiscal year 2021 there were only five cases in which such administrative punishments were imposed. For the cases in Matsumoto City and Neyagawa City, the local authorities did not cancel the registration of the businesses until the business owner was arrested and a notice on the discontinuation of the business was submitted.

Also, in animal abuse cases, often times stakeholders need to secure a place to temporarily board the rescued animals. As with previous fiscal years, this year too, JAWS received reports of police requesting to board victimized animals in government facilities and being turned down. JAWS understands that these matters need to be addressed in a careful manner due to the issue of ownership rights; however, it is clearly stated in the “Guideline for Addressing Animal Abuse” issued by the Ministry of the Environment that Animal Welfare Centers are to cooperate with the police if they request to temporarily board the confiscated animals. In addition, it is stated that the Animal Welfare Centers must take in surrendered dogs and cats as much as possible; however, there are few local authorities that make this effort, and private organizations that have boarding facilities are left to bear the burden. There are also many cases in which multiple private organizations that are involved in a case confront each other, so even when the local authorities choose not to board the animals and make requests to the private sector, the local authorities need to take the initiative to move the case forward. JAWS is hoping that the animal protection authorities show a proactive stance in

intervening in and collaborating for animal abuse cases – they should not be perceiving these cases as somebody else’s affairs.

Reflecting on the case which took place in Matsumoto City, Nagano Prefecture has drafted an “operation procedure on adverse disposition” and a “notification on enforcement.” A public servant in Nagano Prefecture commented that “we must be aware that it is our job to protect the health and safety of the animals, and it is important to think through for a way to accomplish this rather than think of reasons why we cannot do this.” Perhaps, more animals will be saved if public servants in charge of animal welfare and management all over Japan addressed these cases under similar beliefs.

There is also a rise in the number of requests for consultation and abuse cases involving type II animal handling businesses. There was an animal rescue facility in Fujisawa City, Kanagawa Prefecture, whose stakeholder was prosecuted for animal abuse at the end of this fiscal year, because the person allegedly inflicted violence on animals as a part of obedience training. This organization had been criticized for collecting money as fundraising in front of train stations accompanied by a dog under the scorching sun; however, they seemed to have been successful with their fundraising. Like the organization in this example, unfortunately, there is an increase in the number of animal rescue organizations and corporations that play on the good will of others. There are organizations that make people pay expensive adoption fees or donations, and some are engaged in transaction exclusively on the internet, which is prohibited for type I animal handling businesses, causing various conflicts. Some animal protection organizations and corporations are becoming the last resort for leftover animals from pet auctions and pet stores or retired breeding dogs/cats from breeders; these businesses function as pick-up (sales) operations for unwanted animals. These gray-area businesses are not under strict provisions like the type I animal handling businesses, and they make money playing on the good will of the public. Thus, JAWS believes that there needs to be a legal distinction between these entities and non-profit organizations that truly work hard to rescue animals that are suffering under unfortunate circumstances.

It is not only companion animals like dogs and cats that become victims of abuse. JAWS continues to receive requests for consultation on animals used for exhibitions. This fiscal year, JAWS conducted an inspection in June, October, and January at the Zao Fox Village in Miyagi Prefecture, a place for which JAWS had received many complaints. JAWS confirmed many

instances of inappropriate care and management on the site. If inappropriate care and management continue for a long period of time without any improvements it becomes animal abuse. For this reason, JAWS sent Miyagi Prefecture, the local authority in charge of this facility, a report and a request for improvement after the inspections.



↑ Animal injured on the head with a swollen face ↑ Animals fighting ↑ The inside of the cage was unsanitary posing an inappropriate environment for animals

Currently, the Ministry of the Environment is drafting standards for the care and management of animals other than dogs and cats. However, because there are so many species living in Japan, it is impossible to cover all of them. Thus, JAWS believes that there needs to be materials with items common for all animal species written so that it can be applied to various animals.

There are many grave issues regarding the stress on young animals from the sales in mobile stalls and consumer conflicts that arise from such methods of sales. In many cases, the trucks that are used to transport the animals or event venues are registered as the facility to care for the animals. It is doubtful as to whether facilities complying with the care and management standards can be set up in trucks and event venues and whether these businesses truly comply with the two-day observance period after the arrival of animals at the venue. Often times, these points make it questionable as to why these businesses are able to register. In addition, the stress of being transported is enormous for the young animals, and there are reports that the conditions of these animals on sales deteriorate as time passes. JAWS has been requesting the prohibition of the sales of animals in mobile stalls every time the Animal Welfare Act is being revised and hopes that this would be reflected this time.

As with previous years, JAWS received many requests for consultation regarding animal abuse perpetrated by private pet owners. For animal hoarding cases, depending on the locality, there are cases where human service authorities are proactive in resolving the case but the animal protection authorities are passive or refuse to move. Under article 25 of the Animal Welfare Act, the animal protection authorities are capable of

inspecting and providing guidance to private pet owners that keep their pets in an inappropriate manner. How the animal protection authorities address cases at this timing becomes the key to prevent these cases from escalating into actual animal abuse.

Regarding farm animals, the national government is also engaged under the stance that animal welfare is an important issue. Especially for egg-laying hens, the discussion at the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) on animal welfare and the production system of egg-laying hens is reaching its final stages. Battery cages, operations for keeping egg-laying hens, are already banned in the EU, and there is also an increasing number of countries in Asia that prohibit this method. In Japan over 90% of hens are kept in over-crowded battery cages, and this method has kept the prices of eggs low. However, as with the case during this fiscal year, it has become clear that once (high-pathogenic) avian influenza enters a battery cage operation it is easy for the disease to spread. Also, battery cages infringe greatly on the welfare of the egg-laying hens. JAWS believes that as a developed country, it is time for Japan to consider the banning of battery cages. However, JAWS thinks that the authorities would need to consider the burden on the egg producers with a period similar to the ban in EU where the actual ban was enforced during a 12-year period following the announcement. JAWS also believes that it is important to require manufacturers to print the method of the management of the egg-laying hens onto the egg packages that would be sold in places such as supermarkets. Many consumers often do not know the environment under which the eggs were produced; thus, if this is printed on the pack it would give the consumers the opportunity to think about this issue which would feed into the improvement of farm animal welfare.

2. From the Statistics of the Ministry of the Environment

According to the statistics of the Ministry of the Environment, the number of dogs and cats destroyed in fiscal year 2021 (April 1st, 2021 – March 31st, 2022) continues to decline. The number of animals returned/adopted is falling proportionate to the number impounded, however, the rate of return/adoption has also reached a record high of 75.8%. As for the number of animals impounded, kittens top the list as with previous years. For both dogs and cats, there are more animals impounded for which owners are unknown compared to those brought in by owners. The number of animals

destroyed reached a record low, and the rate of destruction broke 25%. The reasons for destroying the animals are counted using the following three categories: 1) animal is unfit for adoption (has a disease that cannot be cured, aggression, etc.), 2) difficulties in keeping or putting up the animal for adoption due to reasons other than 1) (old age, is injured or has a disease, capacity of the facility, etc.), and 3) dies after impoundment. For both dogs and cats, 1) is the most common reason with 6,725 cases, followed by 2) which counted 4,180 cases.

National Statistics of Fiscal Year 2021 (FY 2020)				
	Number of Animals Impounded		After Impoundment	
	Adult Dogs/Cats	Puppies/Kittens	Returned/Adopted	Destroyed
Dogs	19,229 (22,397)	4,873 (5,238)	21,518 (24,199)	2,739 (4,059)
Cats	11,288 (13,919)	23,517 (30,879)	23,112 (25,385)	11,718 (19,705)
Total	30,517 (36,316)	28,390 (36,117)	44,630 (49,584)	14,457 (23,764)
<p>*The number of puppies and kittens signifies the number of animals not weaned. The numbers in parenthesis signify the numbers from the previous year.</p> <p>The number of impounded adult animals with unknown owners includes animals seized under the Rabies Prevention Act.</p> <p>The number of animals impounded with unknown owners also includes a part of animals impounded based on prefectural/city regulations.</p> <p>The number of destroyed animals includes natural deaths such as deaths of kittens/puppies during impoundment due to causes such as diseases.</p> <p>For local authorities that do not distinguish between adult animals and puppies/kittens, the number is included in the adult animals.</p>				

3. Regarding JAWS UK

As with previous fiscal years, this fiscal year too, JAWS received seven requests for consultation via its sister organization, JAWS UK, from foreigners living both within and outside Japan regarding issues concerning SNS posts and articles. There is an increase in the number of requests we receive from not only foreigners living outside of Japan but also from those who live in Japan.

The content of these requests spanned from companion animals such as

dogs to issues regarding the cat island, Japanese monkeys, dolphins, and meerkats covering a variety of issues.

4. Activities as a Board Organization of the Japanese Coalition for Animal Welfare

The Japanese Coalition for Animal Welfare (from hereon, referred to as JCAW) has been involved in activities related to improving the legislation, such as the drafting of proposals of revisions and discussions with related entities, eyeing the revision of the Animal Welfare Act which is planned around 2025.

5. Submission of Requests/Petitions, etc.

With a request from Sakai City, JAWS drafted and submitted a position statement regarding a video clip that abuses cats created by a You Tuber who lives in Sakai City. JAWS also sent in a request and a position statement to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries regarding the “New Guideline for the Care and Management of Animals Eyeing Animal Welfare.” In addition, there was a phone call to JAWS that provided the information that Kasamatsu Race-Track continues to use Pacoma, an invert soap and preparations, to destroy horses; thus, JAWS sent a query to Gifu Prefecture Association of Racing regarding the use of Pacoma in order to confirm the facts.

6. Collaboration with Other Organizations

JAWS had a discussion with the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums on the drafting of the Zoo Law eyeing to improve the welfare of animals used for exhibitions. JAWS also provided advice for the “Exotic Pet Guide” drafted by WWF Japan. <https://www.exoticpetguide.org/guide/>

7. Academic Network

JAWS convened the meetings of experts for “considering the welfare of farm animals” and “reviewing the need for emergency rescue measures of animals.”

8. Collaborative Research with Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University

The following is the final report on the collaborative research with the Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University which has been continued from the previous fiscal year. This research was a field survey of the situation of animal welfare in zoos all over Japan which was conducted as a joint research project with the Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University; the research serves to fundamentally resolve the current situation in which there are simply too many zoos in Japan and how many of these zoos are silently accepted despite the fact that they sacrifice the welfare of their animals in exchange of collecting visitors and prioritizing profit.

<An Outline of the Results of the Survey of the Current Situation of Zoos in Japan>

【Introduction and Purpose】

Many of the animals used for exhibitions are captive wildlife, and zoos need to be operated in a manner that considers the welfare of all species so that every animal can express their natural behaviors. However, there are no regulations or codes that address zoos or captive wildlife, and it seems like there is much variability in the welfare of animals across Japanese zoos. This research aimed to survey the current situation of animal welfare in domestic zoos by comprehensively assessing their welfare from five perspectives – physical health, nutrition, behavior, environment, and mental aspects.

【Method and Instrument】

The study included mammals, birds, and reptiles kept in domestic zoos. The zoos included in this research were randomly selected members of the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA) and non-JAZA zoos. Thirty-one items on the five domains of physical health, nutrition, behavior, environment, and mental aspects were drafted to evaluate each animal. The mean of each item in the physical health, behavior, and mental domains were used as objective variables, and their correlations with the explanatory variables – 18 items on nutrition and environment – were examined using linear regression analysis. For items with significant results, multiple regression analyses were conducted.

【Results】

Data were collected from 185 species kept in 70 zoos (40 JAZA zoos and 30 non-JAZA zoos) which were visited during the period from October 20th, 2020 to January 19th, 2022. Safety of feeding, behavior restrictions, foul odor/noise, and contamination of environment correlated significantly with physical health scores. Choice of environment, place to hide, species-specific behavior, and foul odor/noise correlated significantly with behavior scores. Mental domain scores were significantly correlated with six items.

【Discussion】

The results suggest that the mental domain is strongly related to other domains and that the environment has a large impact on animal welfare. In addition, the five domains are closely interrelated with the welfare of zoo animals, and all domains are imperative in the improvement of the welfare of these animals. The comparison between JAZA member zoos and non-JAZA zoos revealed that JAZA members scored better in most items related to animal welfare compared to non-JAZA zoos.

【Conclusion】

There is a stark difference in the level of animal welfare among domestic zoos, and improvement is necessary especially in the items relevant to nutrition, behavior, and environment. Also, the welfare of animals exhibited in zoos is a result of the interaction between the five domains, and the welfare of animals is only maintained by fully considering all items. Among these, of special importance are the existence of appropriate stimuli and sufficient choices which create an environment in which the animals can exhibit their natural behavior as well as the provision of a sanitary and comfortable environment in which the animal can relax. In addition, minimizing the negative aspects is not enough; the positive aspects must be enhanced at the same time to accomplish good animal welfare. In order to evaluate animal welfare in a simple manner it is best to assess the environment to see if it is a situation in which animals can exhibit their natural behaviors and if it is clean and comfortable for the animal to relax in.

Furthermore, for the welfare of zoo animals it is thought that aspects such as the social roles and implications of zoos, the clarification of its standards as well as the understanding and compliance of stakeholders regarding these standards, and comprehensive knowledge and skills of the stakeholders are

also important. Future directions of zoos need to be clarified, including the development of regulations, so that domestic zoos can achieve higher standards of animal welfare.

9. Animal ID Promotion Organization (AIPO)

As a member of the National Animal Welfare Promotion Council which consists of three organizations, JAWS has been collaborating with the Japan Veterinary Medical Association and putting its effort into promoting microchips as a member of AIPO. With the revision of the Animal Welfare Act in 2019, sellers of dogs and cats are now required to insert microchips in the animals and register them; this provision was enforced in June 2022. The identification number registered in the small chip serves as a “name tag” which is managed centrally, thus this system is powerful in cases of disasters such as earthquakes in which pet owners and their pets can be promptly reunited in a secure manner. The infrastructure to read these microchips has been prepared within local authorities around the country that have obtained readers, and thus the system will function “in case of emergencies.” JAWS always inserts a microchip in the animals that the organization possesses when they are adopted out.

10. Promotion of Spaying/Neutering of Dogs and Cats

<<Campaign for the Promotion of Spaying/Neutering Operations for Dogs and Cats>>

Continued from the previous year, JAWS Headquarters launched the 29th “Campaign for the Promotion of Spaying/Neutering Operations for Dogs and Cats” targeting two prefectures. Fukushima Prefecture, now in its third year, and Nagasaki Prefecture, in its second year, were targeted. Both prefectures have many animals surrendered and destroyed, and JAWS has received an enormous amount of feedback from these prefectures in launching this campaign. Hence, JAWS decided to reduce the number of targeted prefectures to two in order to increase the number of winners in each prefecture.

Applications were accepted for two months – from September 1st to October 31st, 2022 – and applicants applied via the internet or with postcards. The website of JAWS allows applicants to fill in an electronic form and easily apply, and roughly 80% of the applicants applied via the internet. JAWS

receives some voices from stakeholders who are not too internet savvy, so we also accepted applications via postcards.

Continuing from the previous year, we have introduced a system with which applicants can receive the subsidies via the internet, and this was used by roughly 70% of the stakeholders.

The rate of the use of subsidies (number of animals operated on divided by the number of winners multiplied by 100) was 74% for Fukushima Prefecture and 67% for Nagasaki Prefecture.

	Number of Animals Chosen				Number of Animals Spayed/Neutered			
	Cats		Dogs		Cats		Dogs	
	Females	Males	Females	Male	Females	Males	Females	Males
Fukushima Prefecture	868	568	21	25	575	488	14	19
Nagasaki Prefecture	459	273	62	54	288	215	34	34
Total	1,327	841	83	79	863	703	48	53
					Total Number Subsidized 1,667			

Also, the “JAWS Stray Cats Campaign,” that subsidizes a part of the cost for the spaying/neutering of stray cats, is now in its seventh year. Continuing from the previous year, applications were received from all over Japan, and JAWS supported these activities to stop the increase of animals that have to lead unfortunate lives.

<<Results of JAWS Stray Cats Campaign>>

Number of Animals that were Spayed/Neutered		
Number of Female Animals	Number of Male Animals	Total
165	116	281

The branches of JAWS have also been engaging in the promotion of spaying/neutering by subsidizing operations so that the number of cats and dogs that have to lead unfortunate lives could be reduced as much as possible. The following are the details of the total number of animals for which operations were performed.

	Females	Males
Total Number Subsidized by Branches	807	627
Total Number Subsidized by the HQ*	1,076	872
Total Number Subsidized by Branches and HQ	1,883	1,499
Total Number of All Animals Subsidized	3,382	

*Includes support activities for spaying/neutering such as the JAWS Stray Cats Campaign and the Campaign for the Promotion of Spaying/Neutering Operations for Dogs and Cats

11. Adopted Animals

Chachamaro, male toy poodle

Chachamaro was looking for a new home due to personal reasons of his ex-owner. Now, Chachamaro lives in a new home and is happy surrounded by his new family!

<<Report from His New Mom>>

Chachamaro loves to be pampered and is very clingy.

Every morning, we go to a neighborhood park where he runs in a field of clovers.

When we return home, he eats a bit and takes a nap. When he wakes up, he plays on the balcony, eats a bit, and takes a nap again. Then he takes a walk. At nights, he sleeps with my daughter.

Our previous family dog, Maro, has already passed, but Chachamaro fills all of the void in our heart.



A photo with his mom; he loves being pampered! ↑ ↑ Fast asleep on the soft couch...

II. EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY

1. The 63rd Animal Protection Essay Contest

The essay contest, which has been continuing for over half a century, was held in a compact manner this fiscal year as well due to precautionary measures against the spread of COVID-19. JAWS received 1,251 applications from elementary and middle school students from all over Japan. With many outstanding masterpieces, the judging process was very difficult, but as a result, the winner of the Minister of the Environment Award for elementary school children was Ayana Sonoda (4th grade, Kanagawa Prefecture Kanrei Shirayuri Gakuen Elementary School) who wrote “What the Pigs Taught Me,” and the winner of this award for middle school children was Tsumugi Horiuchi (7th grade, Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture Sendai Seiryō Middle School) who wrote “My Brother’s Shamisen.” Ten elementary school students and ten middle school students – a total of 20 children – received awards including the “Showakaikan Award,” the “JAWS UK Award,” and the newly established “Kazuma Okamoto Hapy Animal Award.” The commendation ceremony was held, with thorough COVID-19 measures implemented, at Tokyo Prince Hotel on November 20th with H.I.H. Princess Hitachi present. Award certificates and gifts from H.I.H. Princess Hitachi were presented to the winners, and JAWS received comments from the winners noting that the occasion had refreshed and encouraged them amidst the dismal COVID-19 situation.

2. Kazuma Okamoto’s Happy Animal Project

On November 23rd, “Giants Fan Festival 2022 supported by DAZN” was held. The impact of COVID-19 had continued for the past several years, but this festival was held for the first time in three years at Tokyo Dome. Participants surrounded the baseball players on the stage in the field filling the entire dome with these fans, and there was mounting energy in the event, more so than the previous year. The participants were able to see a different aspect of the players who are usually tension-filled. Within the event, there was a ceremony to present donations related to the charity activities that the team and the players were involved in, and the team and the players presented organizations with plates that had the amount of donation printed on them. With Mr. Okamoto’s successful season, a donation of 820,000 JPY

was presented to JAWS. Also, at the venue, Mr. Hara, the coach of the team announced that Mr. Okamoto was going to be appointed as the new captain of the team from the next season, and JAWS is looking forward to the success of the new team that he is going to be leading. JAWS would like to work hard to save as many animals as possible so that we would match the success of Mr. Okamoto. JAWS would appreciate everybody's support.

3. The Main Event of the Be Kind to Animals Week

The main event for the Be Kind to Animals Week this fiscal year was held under the slogan "let us all think about animals and us." As a measure against COVID-19, only the event on stage was held as the outdoor event on Saturday, October 1st at Ueno Park; the indoor event, "2022 Animal Welfare Online Symposium" was held at Taito Ward Lifelong Learning Center on Saturday, September 24th and open to audiences online. The lectures and the discussion of the experts were livestreamed online which was viewed by a large number of people.

4. JAWS Report

This fiscal year, two issues – no. 91 and no. 92 – were issued. In addition to the general activities of JAWS, the reports included issues such as animal hoarding and reports on zoo inspections. The reports were sent to members of JAWS as well as local authorities, veterinary associations, and other relevant organizations.

5. Adoption Events

During 2022, JAWS Headquarters held adoption events for the first time. The Headquarters does not have a facility to board animals, so we put up the information of animals looking for new owners on our website, and our staff members engage in activities such as the assessment and trial adoptions for those who wish to adopt. However, for old animals and animals with diseases, people tend to only look at these attributes, and it is difficult to find new homes for them. In order to feature these animals that have been looking for new homes for a long period of time, the Headquarters decided to launch adoption events.

【First Event at Kamome Café】

We held our first adoption event on June 25th at Kamome Café which is close to Osaki station. This was a small event with one dog and three cats – a total of four animals. All of the animals were very enthusiastic, and they enjoyed interacting with those who visited the event. Visitors had to RSVP in advance as a precautionary measure against the spread of COVID-19, but the event had no RSVPs till the day of the event. However, there were over 3,000 reactions on the internet, and many people cooperated to spread the word. JAWS was able to reconfirm the high interest of the public in animal rescue activities which made us hopeful about launching adoption events once COVID-19 settles. Although there were no RSVPs, the event had a few visitors who came on the spot; JAWS provided consultations regarding animals and had the visitors interact with the rescued animals. The first adoption event held by the Headquarters went smoothly without any issues.

【Second Event at Yamazaki Animal Vocational School】

The second adoption event was held on January 21st, 2023 at the Rainbow Hall within Yamazaki Animal Vocational School in Shibuya Ward, and was a joint event between Tochigi Branch and the Headquarters. The Rainbow Hall is a new facility that was just built in January 2022, and we were fortunate to be able to use a wonderful, clean, and spacious venue with a lot of animal-friendly features.

Seventeen animals – both dogs and cats – participated on the day of the event. Among these animals were some that had attributes that made it difficult for people to want to adopt, such as old animals, animals with missing legs, and animals that had kidney issues; however, during the event the staff monitored their health, and the animals were able to participate at the venue. For animals that were shy, the staff would take care to explain to the visitors the forte of the animals. On the day of the event, many people came to help including students of the cat volunteer club in Utsunomiya University and animal care volunteers of the Tochigi Branch.

Kazuma Okamoto of Yomiuri Giants also visited the event to observe the activities of JAWS. Kazuma Okamoto is engaged in the “Kazuma Okamoto’s Happy Animal Project” as a part of a CSR project of Yomiuri Giants, “Ghands,” and he donates 10,000 JPY per RBI in official games.

Mr. Okamoto spoke to the animals in gentle words telling them how cute they were as he held the rescued dogs and cats. When he found a rescued dog that looked like the dog he had before, he approached the animal with care so

as to not scare the dog. Mr. Okamoto was also interested in why the animals were rescued, and the venue had a very relaxing, positive atmosphere during his stay. The adoption event was also introduced on a BS program of Yomiuri Giants, and there was lots of feedback about the caring aspect of the new captain of the team.

The event was held on a very cold day, and we implemented precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but it was a busy event with many visitors. JAWS would like to show its appreciation to all who have cooperated.



↑ Mr. Okamoto holding a rescued dog
(photo provided by Hochi Shimbun)



↑ I got lots of cuddles

6. Seminars, Workshops, Lectures, Academic Societies, and Interviews

6-1. Seminar

① 【JAWS Citizen Forum for Animal Welfare】

As with previous fiscal years, all ten seminars were launched online. JAWS receives feedback of participants who want an in-person event, but there are more voices from people who live far who want this series to continue online; thus, JAWS is planning to continue the series online. The seminar video clips are available online for two weeks, and participants can view the video whenever and as how many times as they want to. Because the series is free of charge and easy for everyone to view regardless of the schedule of the individual participants JAWS receives a lot of feedback on the internet. This fiscal year, a total of roughly 1,500 people participated. Furthermore, as a new initiative, participants are now able to ask questions to the lecturers. Participants can send in questions using a special form, and the responses from the lecturers are posted on the web.

② 【RSPCA Seminars】

<<RSPCA Basic Seminar>>

For the first time in three years, Mr. Paul Littlefair, the head of RSPCA International, visited Japan, and JAWS held the RSPCA seminar for two days. The event was a hybrid seminar launched both in-person and online. The in-person seminar at the venue involved group discussions among the participants as previous years.

<<RSPCA Animal Welfare Basic Seminar>>

In February, the Animal Welfare Basic Seminar was held exclusively in-person. Mr. Paul Littlefair, the head of RSPCA International, and Mr. David Coggan, who worked in RSPCA's education department for a long period of time, served as lecturers and spoke about the basics of animal welfare. Veterinary stakeholders as well as many people from the public participated in the seminar.

<<RSPCA Humane Education Seminar>>

The Humane Education Seminar, which was held for the first time, was a two-day seminar targeting educators. The seminar covered topics such as how “respect for life” can be taught to children, how interactions with animals and nature can help the development and learning of children, and how educators should guide children in these educational endeavors. These topics were discussed in comparison with the Japanese school curriculum guidelines, and basic information as well as application of the information were covered. Mr. David Coggan, who works with the education department of RSPCA and is a teacher and a biologist, led the lecture. Mr. Coggan is involved in drafting curriculums for humane education and training personnel, and he also visits many countries to engage in the dissemination of animal welfare-based humane education.

③ 【Shelter Medicine Seminar】

With the continued sponsorship of Mars Japan Limited and Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Japan Co., Ltd., the first and second Shelter Medicine Seminars were held this fiscal year. This year, JAWS was able to launch the event in a hybrid manner implementing COVID-19 measures. With the in-person style, participants were now able to ask questions to lecturers – which had been difficult with online seminars – and the energetic seminars with people actively voicing their opinions have come back.

④ **【Veterinary Forensics Seminar – Basic Level】**

This seminar targets veterinarians, public servants, and veterinary students and aims to have participants obtain knowledge that would enable them to detect animal abuse as animal professionals. This fiscal year too, the seminar was held completely online. This seminar consisted of a basic lecture on animal abuse as well as actual sample cases beginning from evidence gathering to proving the case; three lectures took on the seminar spanning a series of nine lectures. The series was viewed roughly 1,500 times. Animal abuse is a topic that not only concerns human and animal welfare; it is an issue that also relates to violent crimes and public health issues impacting the entire community. Thus, this is an important discipline for veterinary stakeholders and public servants, and training personnel to be able to address animal abuse is much anticipated.

6-2. Activities as a Board Organization of Academic Societies

A staff of JAWS participates as a board member in the Japanese Association of Veterinary Forensics and the Japanese Association of Animal Welfare Science. The Japanese Association of Veterinary Forensics launched a symposium in September and November and held its second academic conference in March. The Japanese Association of Animal Welfare Science held its third symposium in December under the theme, “farm animal welfare.”

6-3. Lectures

JAWS spoke at the graduate school of Yamazaki University of Animal Health Technology and Mitaka Network University.

6-4. Interviews

This fiscal year too, JAWS received requests for interviews from television companies, newspaper companies, and magazine publishers. We also received a request for interview from an elementary school student.

6-5. Councils and Committees of Ministries and Local Authorities

A staff of JAWS Headquarters served as an ad hoc committee

member of the Animal Welfare Committee of the Ministry of the Environment and as a committee member of the Informal Meeting on Animal Welfare of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. In addition, JAWS also participated in animal-related meetings of Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Chiba City, and Sendai City as members of these meetings. Also, an advisor of JAWS attends the Gunma Prefecture Expert Panel for the Promotion of Coexisting in Harmony with Pets as a committee member. Other than these meetings, there are members of JAWS who are appointed as animal welfare promoters by the local authorities of their communities, and these members work to promote the welfare of animals in their local areas.

III. FUNDRAISING

1. Design Cards and Picture Books Translated by H.I.H. Princess Hitachi

Dot the Fire Dog, translated by H.I.H. Princess Hitachi, and cards designed by H.I.H. Princess Hitachi are available at places such as bazaars. *A Guide Dog Puppy Grows Up* and *It was Jake* have been very popular at bazaars and are sold out. H.I.H. Princess Hitachi kindly donates all of the sales and the royalties of these products to JAWS.

2. Sales of Original Products

The classic products with the logo of JAWS, such as T-shirts, polo-shirts, umbrellas, and rolls of sticky-notes, are very popular. Bazaars have been cancelled due to the impact of COVID-19, but from around October, JAWS has been able to gradually participate in bazaars of various events, and there has been a growing number of opportunities in which we can sell charity goods. JAWS hopes to make use of these opportunities to increase the sales and amount of donations.

3. Donations

As with previous years, this fiscal year, JAWS has received donations and legacies from many individuals, including its members, as well as organizations who have kindly shown their understanding and support for our animal welfare activities.

IV. MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

This fiscal year, there was an increase in the number of members who withdrew due to delinquencies in the payment of membership fees from the impact of the stay-at-home trend during COVID-19. This resulted in a considerable decrease of individual members to 2,078 at the end of March. JAWS will continue its efforts to increase the number of members, but we would greatly appreciate it if stakeholders of JAWS who have acquaintances around them with an understanding of animal welfare could recommend joining the organization.

The following chart outlines the number of members as of the end of fiscal year 2022 (March 31st, 2023).

Honorary Members	1	Associate Members	1,748
Corporate Members	26	Junior Members	15
Life Members	131	Total	2,104
Sustaining Members	183	(Total of Individuals)	(2,078)

V. OFFICE REPORT

1. Annual General Assembly

The annual general assembly for fiscal year 2022 was held on June 17th, 2023 from 13:30 at Standard Conference Room located in Higashigotanda. The first agenda, “The Approval of the Financial Documents for Fiscal Year 2022,” was presented and approved. Following this, “The Reports of Activities for Fiscal Year 2022,” “The Plan of Activities for Fiscal Year 2023,” and “The Budget for Fiscal Year 2023” were presented, and the assembly closed at 14:00.

VI. REPORTS FROM OUR BRANCHES

<Looking for New Homes for Animals/Providing Subsidies for Spaying/Neutering, etc.>

- ① There are currently five branches that are active.
Sagami Branch terminated its activities, and the branch members and activities were taken on by Yokohama Branch.
- ② JAWS UK, a sister organization of JAWS, also follows the activities of these branches and regards them highly. JAWS UK proactively cooperates with and supports the activities of these branches.
- ③ The five branches each work to provide consultation on the care and management of animals, look for new homes for animals, subsidize spaying/neutering, and address animal hoarding issues while tackling problems and issues that are unique to their communities. The following is a report on their situations.

- Tochigi Branch
Akiko Kawasaki, Head of Branch
- New Tokyo Branch
Rumi Inoue, Head of Branch
- Yokohama Branch
Shoichiro Ieiri, Head of Branch
- Nagano Branch
Sumiko Tokuma, Head of Branch
- South Osaka Branch
Chizuru Yamautsuri, Head of Branch

1. Tochigi Branch

① Many Requests for Support and Consultation from Local Authorities Regarding Animal Hoarding

Because of the impact of the 80-50 issue (the issue of senior parents and their socially withdrawn children) and our aging society, there is a growing number of requests for consultation regarding animal hoarding. Since the Ministry of the Environment issued the “Guidelines for Preventing Animal Hoarding” to address animal hoarding issues, when a case starts moving, it is now easier for private and public sectors to collaborate.

In animal hoarding cases, often times, the hoarders are incapable of making appropriate judgements due to issues such as dementia and mental disorders. Because of this, there are cases in which not only the welfare of animals poses an issue, but the physical health and public sanitation of the hoarders and the surrounding people are jeopardized. If animal hoarding issues can be detected and addressed early, then it can also lead to the prevention of self-neglect of the hoarders as well as the neglect of animals; early detection and intervention can reduce the risks of public health issues and minimize societal loss.

However, animal hoarding cases are known for their high recidivism. For this reason, we believe that it is necessary to establish measures within legislation such as possession bans and emergency rescues. The Branch will continue to work to prevent recidivism and engage in early detection and intervention of these cases.

② Adopting Animals as an Organization

Tochigi Branch is an organization registered with Tochigi Prefecture Animal Welfare Consultation Center as an organization that can adopt animals from these authorities to further look for new homes for them and is actively involved in promoting the adoption of dogs and cats that would otherwise be put down. The Branch takes on animals with injuries and diseases that need medical attention which would be difficult for other organizations to address. The support from everybody is extremely helpful in covering veterinary expenses. Many of the treated animals now live happy lives with their new families; we hope that adopting rescued dogs and cats becomes a choice that is widely available for those who want pets.

③ Adoption Event at the Library

As with the previous fiscal year, the Branch held an adoption event at a library in Tochigi Prefecture. The library held an event that featured books related to animals, and the visitors not only observed the rescued animals but also took interest in various issues regarding animals including how and where these animals were rescued. Local university students also helped out at the event, and our public education efforts ended in success.

④ Measures Regarding Community Cats

With the support from everybody, we provide subsidies for spaying/neutering operations, and the Branch is getting the impression that the concept of measures regarding community cats is gradually catching on in Tochigi Prefecture as well. The Branch would like to continue to make use of subsidies to prevent the over reproduction of animals and the increase of unwanted animals.

⑤ A Series of Mysterious Deaths of Cats in Utsunomiya City

Utsunomiya City experienced a series of mysterious deaths of cats in which it is suspected that poison was used. The Branch is collaborating with the local neighborhood associations, the Utsunomiya City Public Health Center, and the police; the police is currently working on identifying the poison used and investigating to identify the perpetrator. The Branch is working on rescuing all the cats from the site so that no more cats would be victimized; the Branch is also having the cats undergo necessary examinations and providing the police with the information obtained.

The staff of the Branch worked to address the issue during Christmas and New Year vacations and commuted to the veterinary hospital every day for the treatment of the animals. The veterinarian also kindly opened the clinic on New Years to address this case. Addressing this case was a team effort – the staff of the veterinary hospital as well as the staff of our Branch worked full throttle. Fortunately, the cats that were seriously impacted also recovered, but some of them are left with mild kidney dysfunctions. The Branch hopes that these cats could find understanding homes that would take them in. The Branch would like to express its appreciation to those who have donated; it was because of the funding from everybody that we were able to cover the costs for the examinations to assist the investigations and the veterinary expenses for the treatment.

For all issues – animal hoarding cases, subsidies for spaying/neutering operations, adoptions as an organization, and the everyday care and management of the animals – behind the lives of the saved animals are not only our efforts but the assistance of everybody who supports the activities of our Branch. Every time the Branch drafts its annual report, we are able to reconfirm this point. Every time we see an animal that we saved restart a happy life we feel that the animals share their happiness with us, and we cannot express how grateful we are for those who support our activities. Once again, we would like to thank everybody for their support.



↑

The cat had an injured ear but is well once again!



↑

The cat had its leg amputated but is now leading a happy life



An animal hoarding site that we addressed

- 1) Number of Animals Subsidized for Spaying/Neutering Operations (total number of dogs/cats = 111)

Dogs	Males→0		Cats	Males→47	
	Females→0			Females→64	
	Total	0		Total	111

- 2) Number of Dogs and Cats that were Adopted (total number of dogs/cats = 61)

Dogs	Males→2		Cats	Males→23	
	Females→0			Females→36	
	Total	2		Total	59

(Akiko Kawasaki, Head of Branch)

2. New Tokyo Branch

① Looking for New Homes of Animals from a Closed Down Breeding Operation

A type I animal handling business (breeding operation) within Tokyo closed down their business due to the staggering of sales of dogs from measures against COVID-19, related restrictions of movement of people, and changes in the economic situation.

Also, because article 44 of the 2019 revision of the Animal Welfare Act now adds “keeping a large number of animals in a limited space and debilitating them” as a part of the definition of animal abuse, Tokyo Metropolitan Government filed criminal charges against this business; the Metropolitan Police Department investigated the site and found 104 dogs of Japanese breeds which they rescued.

After the breeding operation closed down, many animal protection groups (certified) collaborated. The organizations found new homes for close to 100 dogs over the period of two years, and stakeholders have been working to adopt out adult dogs.

New Tokyo Branch was also involved in the sharing of information regarding this case and cooperated with the adoption of one Shiba dog and one Kai dog during the final stages of the rescue operation. These breeding operations sometimes close down their businesses when there is a change in generations; thus, stakeholders collaborated in the form of a task force, shared information, and held workshops to train stakeholders to prepare for adoptions and to carry them out. From this case, the Branch reconfirmed the importance of networking in implementing animal welfare activities.

② Looking for New Homes for Dogs of Deceased Elderly Owners

The Branch put up for adoption a Welsh corgi that needed a new home due to the death of its elderly owner. In addition, the Branch also addressed an eleven-year old Scotch terrier that was left by a couple that consecutively passed away due to COVID-19. The terrier had oral issues and an oncological disease, so it was a difficult case to put up for adoption. However, both dogs found new homes with families that had experiences with dogs.

Number of Animals Subsidized for Spaying/Neutering Operations (total number of dogs/cats = 0)

Dogs	Males→0		Cats	Males→0	
	Females→0			Females→0	
	Total	0		Total	0

Number of Dogs and Cats that were Adopted (total number of dogs/cats = 4)

Dogs	Male→2		Cats	Male→0	
	Female→2			Female→0	
	Total	4		Total	0

(Rumi Inoue, Head of Branch)

3. Yokohama Branch

This time, the Branch would like to report on a rescue case of abandoned cats that we addressed in collaboration with the reporter and the government. Through this case, the Branch felt that there is an urgent need to improve the awareness and the skills of public servants to address such sites.

- November 29th: There was a phone call from H.
H received a phone call from the hospital on November 25th, informing that H's younger brother-in-law had been hospitalized since November 21st. H visited the house of his brother which was filled with garbage and found nine cats hiding away.
H commutes to his brother's house every day to clean up the litter and feed the cats. However, commuting takes a one-hour-and-a-half train and bus ride; his wife has a physical disability which would make it difficult to continue to commute every day. He was also informed by H's doctor that it is unlikely that H would recover.
H wanted to take the nine cats to his house, but he already has two cats. In addition, it would be difficult due to the physical condition of his wife. Thus, he consulted the local government (Environmental Health Department of Asahi Ward), and they referred him to Yokohama Branch of JAWS.
- December 4th: The vice-head of the Branch and a staff inspected the site. There was foul odor as the staff got close to the apartment. The garbage in the room to which they were led was already removed; however, the stench that had seeped into the room was so bad that the two that inspected could not stop their tears and runny nose.
The cats were not used to people, and they were running away as soon as they saw the Branch staff. H cleaned the litter and fed them every day but said that he could not touch them. The staff confirmed several cats that ran under the table had faces stained with eye mucus and discharge from noses. H, his wife, the vice-president of the Branch, and the staff of the Branch discussed what would be best for these cats. It was decided that among the nine cats two would be taken on by H's family, one would be taken on by Yokohama Branch, and the remaining six would be rescued and entrusted to Yokohama City Animal Welfare Center.
- December 8th: H was unsuccessful with the capturing of the cats.
H tried to capture one of the cats and failed. H consulted the Branch,

and the Branch provided advice on how to capture cats and points to be careful about.

- December 9th: H captured one cat.
- December 10th: H captured another cat.
- December 12th: The Branch called the Environmental Health Department of Asahi Ward.

The Branch consulted the local government regarding the six cats that needed a place to board. The Branch provided consultation to the public servant in charge regarding how to capture the animals and the manpower and equipment necessary. The local government told the Branch that they would take on the job of capturing but wanted the Branch to accompany them if they are unsuccessful; the Branch accepted their request. It was mid-December, and considering the stress on the cats that have to live in a room without a heater and the burden on H and his wife who had to commute to care for the cats the Branch requested the government to address the case as promptly as possible.

- December 13th: H captured another cat.

The cats that were captured were sent to a veterinary hospital where they were spayed/neutered and administered blood tests. The cat that was captured on this day had pyometra and was hospitalized for several days after being spayed.

- December 15th: The staff of the Environmental Health Department of Asahi ward set up traps for the cats.

The staff of the Environmental Department set up six traps on the site to get the cats used to them.

- December 20th: Six cats were captured.

Two cats were already captured by H when three public servants visited the site. Two more cats were trapped, but the remaining two did not get in; they were running around the house, so the stakeholders had to corner the cats a little by little to catch them. The six cats were taken directly to the Animal Welfare Center where they were boarded.

[Discussion]

All of the cats were captured after three weeks from the initial request for consultation.

From the dialogue with the local government, the Branch felt the lack of awareness of the public servants regarding how to catch cats that are not used to people (including the dangers involved). It is imperative for public servants to confirm the actual site, and the Branch hopes that local

governments would obtain skills to address these cases through experiencing the site and refrain from relying just on desktop theories.

This case was very meaningful from the abovementioned aspect. The Branch hopes that the government proactively involves itself in these cases in the future.



After H cleaned the room, the remaining cats were huddled in cardboard boxes or under the table



The cats are fluffed up due to the cold, but they were physically very thin and emaciated



A rescued cat at H's home; the cat is very relaxed

Number of Animals Subsidized for Spaying/Neutering Operations (total number of dogs/cats/rabbits = 69)

Dogs	Males→0		Cats	Males→29		Rabbits	Males→0	
	Females→1			Females→38			Females→1	
	Total	1		Total	67		Total	1

Number of Dogs and Cats that were Adopted (total number of dogs/cats = 25)

Dogs	Males→2		Cats	Males→7	
	Females→3			Females→13	
	Total	5		Total	20

(Shoichiro Ieiri, Head of Branch)

4. Nagano Branch

As with previous fiscal years, the Branch was able to offer a helping hand to animals under unfortunate circumstances because of the support from our members who had passionately engaged in rescue activities. The Branch actively engaged in TNR activities, and similar to the situation during the previous fiscal year, our annual budget for the subsidies for spaying/neutering operations was depleted by the end of the year.

The Branch promotes the rescue of animals that have been put under unfortunate circumstances for various reasons, but the most memorable case of dog rescue was the case of a breeding operation that has been getting guidance from the government for several years for the purpose of improving the care and the environment of the animals. The Branch has also been rescuing one animal at a time from the breeding operation in a timely manner, but we were able to get them to surrender multiple animals at once. However, the breeding operation still has many animals, and the rescue of these remaining animals is a major issue that we have to tackle during the next fiscal year. The animals are under an environment that is on the verge of violating related laws, and there are still many of them suffering under this condition.

On the other hand, the Branch addressed several animal hoarding cases in terms of cat rescue. Most of the sites of these cases were houses full of garbage where it was difficult for the owners of these cats to lead appropriate lives; from these cases, the Branch got the impression that issues surrounding cats are closely associated with the issue of poverty. For some cases the house was cut off from lifeline utilities. Under such financial circumstances, it would be impossible for the owners to spay/neuter or provide veterinary care for the cats. The Branch collaborated with the local government to address these rescue cases. However, it takes time for these cases to amount to a hoarding situation of 20-30 cats, so if the local government could intervene and provide guidance early on at the point when there are only several cats (it is difficult for the private sector to intervene until the actual issue surfaces) it may lead to reducing the number of these tragic cases.

Recently, there has been a growing interest in animal welfare, and there are pet owners who actively seek to adopt rescued animals. The Branch will continue its activities to further garner the interest of the society in “the Five Freedoms,” the basics of animal welfare, so that Japan catches up with countries that are more advanced in animal-related issues.



A Yorkshire terrier immediately after rescue



The Yorkshire terrier after being spayed



An animal hoarding site

Number of Animals Subsidized for Spaying/Neutering Operations (total number of dogs/cats = 400)

Dogs	Males→0		Cats	Males→211	
	Females→5			Females→184	
	Total	5		Total	395

Number of Dogs and Cats that were Adopted (total number of dogs/cats = 157)

Dogs	Males→7		Cats	Males→42	
	Females→53			Females→55	
	Total	60		Total	97

(Sumiko Tokuma, Head of Branch)

5. South Osaka Branch

① Behind the Scene of “Zero Euthanasia”

When looking at animals, there are many issues of concern, such as animal hoarding, animal abuse, pets and elderly, and abandonment of animals, and these issues have been lingering for years without any effective measures in place. The Branch hopes that the national government would address these issues that disrespect life with more sincerity.

For a long period of time, there has been a word that has been irritating me like a smoldering charcoal fire deep inside my heart. This word, indeed, is “Zero Euthanasia,” the term used to describe the stopping of all euthanasia of unwanted animals.

The Asahi Shimbun article dated May 28th, 2019 which I had saved writes “uncounted deaths from the ‘destruction of dogs and cats’” and “those ‘unfit for adoptions’ excluded.” It is understandable that animals that die from injuries and diseases while being boarded at public health centers and animal welfare centers are excluded from the number of animals destroyed. But for the first time, I have learned from the article that there are “uncounted deaths” other than these cases. What constitutes these deaths? I would like to introduce a quote from the article.

“With the revised Animal Welfare Act enforced in 2013, there is now a provision that states that local authorities such as prefectures must ‘strive to end the destruction of animals.’ The Ministry of the Environment has requested the local authorities to divide the tabs of animals deemed ‘unfit for adoption’ and those ‘that have died due to diseases and injuries...’ However, among 121 local authorities 73 responded that they had drafted ‘standards or guidelines’ to assess animals unfit for adoptions and 34 local authorities had not drafted such documents... In case of Tokyo Metropolitan Government that has announced in fiscal year 2018 that they accomplished Zero Euthanasia, they had categorized and destroyed 146 cats and dogs as unfit for adoption. There were also 211 animals that had died due to diseases or injuries while being boarded.” Tokyo Metropolitan Government does not have a guideline.

There is an impression that this point is serving as a loophole and being used as a means to accomplish the goal.

The “leftovers” that were not adopted can be squeezed into the “special category” – the fact that such decisions that disregard the lives of these animals go unchallenged is an illustration of human ego and horridness.

One begins to wonder if lives have to cater to human expectations and requests to be considered as a living being. This is pure human arrogance and a blasphemy. It seems like the ugliness of human beings is swirling behind this dressed-up word, “Zero Euthanasia.” On a different note, both Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City report the number of animals that have been destroyed.

② Events and Meetings

- 1) Nakanoshima Festival: May 3rd – May 5th, 2022
- 2) Sakai City Animal Welfare Fair: September 23rd, 2022, at Sakai City Animal Guidance Center
- 3) Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City Joint Workshop for Animal Welfare Promoters: February 8th, 2023
- 4) Osaka Prefecture Animal Welfare Promotion Council: March 16th, 2023
- 5) Osaka City Animal Welfare Promotion Meeting: March 30th, 2023



Distributing treats and having visitors experience the reading of microchips (Sakai City Animal Welfare Fair)



Booth with coloring books for children (Sakai City Animal Welfare Fair)



A dog that visited the event

Number of Animals Subsidized for Spaying/Neutering Operations (total number of dogs/cats = 854)

Dogs	Males→43		Cats	Males→297	
	Females→88			Females→426	
	Total	131		Total	723

Number of Dogs and Cats that were Adopted (total number of dogs/cats = 290)

Dogs	Males→38		Cats	Males→59	
	Females→124			Females→69	
	Total	162		Total	128

(Chizuru Yamautsuri, Head of Branch)

VII. REPORTS ON FINANCIAL AFFAIRS <Fiscal Year 2022>

1. Situation of Assets (unit: 1,000 JPY)

	FY 2022	FY 2021
Cash equivalent	28,608	16,755
Supplies	967	697
Other current assets	46	4,012
Fixed assets	227,811	224,247
Special assets	214,724	210,359
Others	13,087	13,887
Total assets	257,433	245,711
Total debt	14,371	10,738
Net assets	243,061	234,973

- Our net asset at the end of this fiscal year is 243,060,000 JPY which is an increase of 8,090,000 JPY.
- Our cash equivalent increased by 11,850,000 JPY.
- Per special assets, we dug into 10,000,000 JPY of the Animal Rescue Fund with 25,000,000 JPY remaining at the end of this fiscal year; we also dug into 15,000,000 JPY of the Funds for the Prevention of Abandonment of Dogs and Cats with 15,000,000 JPY remaining at the end of this fiscal year. 167,150,000 JPY of the special assets is restricted net assets (specified securities); there was an increase of 30,930,000 JPY.
- JAWS plans to use its animal related funds and restricted net assets among the special assets to strengthen its animal welfare activities beyond fiscal year 2023.

2. Situation on Income and Expenditure (unit: 1,000 JPY)

	FY 2022	FY 2021
Balance brought forward from the previous account	234,973	206,246
Income from membership fee	32,866	31,554
Income from donation	59,579	75,184
Income from fundraising	2,735	3,031
Other income	7,607	5,980
Total income	102,787	115,748
Operating expense	74,802	69,428

General expense	28,542	28,187
Business expense	46,260	41,241
Management expense	16,973	14,661
Expenses for fundraising, etc.	2,924	2,933
Total expense	94,699	87,021
Balance to bring forward into the next account	243,061	234,973

- Our overall income for this fiscal year decreased by 12,960,000 JPY.
- Our income from membership fee increased by 1,310,000 JPY compared to the previous fiscal year.
- Our income from donations (donations from the public and specified donations) decreased by 15,610,000 JPY.
- Our overall expenditure for this fiscal year increased by 7,680,000 JPY.
- Per our operating expense, our expenses for animal rescue decreased by 3,230,000 JPY, and our expenses for spaying/neutering subsidization of dogs and cats decreased by 360,000 JPY; however, our PR expenses increased by 8,600,000 JPY, because we proactively held seminars and engaged in research activities.
- Our income and expenditure for this fiscal year produced a surplus of 8,090,000 JPY, and we will carry forward 243,060,000 JPY for next fiscal year.

3. Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023 (unit: 1,000 JPY)

Balance brought forward from the previous account	243,061
Income from membership fee	33,000
Income from donation	42,650
Income from fundraising	5,500
Other income	8,850
Total income	90,000
Operating expense for animal welfare activities	100,000
General expense	29,500
Business expense	70,500
Management expense	17,000

Expenses for fundraising, etc.	13,000
Total expense	130,000
Balance to bring forward into the next account	203,061

- For the budget of fiscal year 2023, JAWS expects a decrease in the income from donations but is planning to enhance its animal welfare activities such as animal rescue and the subsidization of spaying/neutering operations, as well as public education activities such as its seminars and the essay contest. We are planning to be in the reds by 40,000,000 JPY.
- JAWS will continue to work to increase the number of members and the amount of income from donations to create a stronger foundation for its activities and would like to further strengthen its animal welfare activities.