

JAWS Annual Report 2025

(April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026)

GREETINGS FROM MR. MITSUTAKA KUROKAWA, CHAIRMAN

I. ANIMAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES

1. Addressing Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
2. Regarding Animal Welfare Japan (AWJ)
3. Activities as a Board Organization of the Japanese Coalition for Animal Welfare
4. Promotion of Spaying/Neutering of Dogs and Cats
5. Animal ID Promotion Organization (AIPO)

II. EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY

1. The 66th Animal Protection Essay Contest
2. Kazuma Okamoto's Happy Animal Project
3. The Main Event of the Be Kind to Animals Week
4. JAWS Report
5. Seminars, Workshops, Lectures, Academic Societies, and Interviews

III. MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

1. Membership Trends

IV. OFFICE REPORT

1. Annual General Assembly

V. REPORTS FROM OUR BRANCHES

1. Tochigi Branch
2. New Tokyo Branch
3. Yokohama Branch
4. Nagano Branch
5. South Osaka Branch

VI. REPORTS ON FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF 2025

1. Situation of Assets
2. Situation on Income and Expenditure
3. Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026

VII. THE MAIN ACTIVITIES OF JAWS

GREETINGS

Report on the Situation of Activities in Fiscal Year 2025

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

Fiscal year 2025 saw further expansion of our animal welfare activities that target not only companion animals but also industrial animals and animals used for exhibitions. In addition, JAWS worked to resolve various issues, such as growing numbers of animal hoarding and animal abuse cases as well as reports from visiting foreigners to improve living environments of various animals in husbandry, via providing practical advice based on inspections of sites and holding dialogues with the government and political stakeholders. JAWS also worked to give back to the community by sharing knowledge that it accumulated and newest information from both within and outside of Japan through educational workshops and other events. At the same time, JAWS also put efforts into communicating the situation of animal welfare in Japan through the cooperation of its foreign sister organization.

The subsidization of spaying/neutering operations, the main pillar of the animal welfare activities of JAWS, consisted of the conventional subsidies provided by the branches as well as the “JAWS Project for the Subsidization of Spaying/Neutering Operations for Dogs and Cats” which is a project that was rearranged to target both the public and members of JAWS. As a result of these efforts, JAWS was able to subsidize a total of roughly 2,500 animals – 700 subsidized by the Headquarters and 1,800 subsidized by the branches.

JAWS also put its efforts into addressing animal abuse cases as well as engaging in animal rescue and adoption activities; JAWS proactively engaged itself in cases of animal hoarding that required comprehensive approaches to improve the welfare of and secure public hygiene for both humans and animals. Such activities were carried out in collaboration with the local authorities with a perspective of One Welfare.

On the other hand, per our educational activities, JAWS hosted the “Shelter Medicine Seminar,” that addressed appropriate care and management of rescued animals, the “Citizen Forum for Animal Welfare” targeting the general public, and the “Workshop for Disaster Control Measures for Animals” that would address the increasing number of disasters such as earthquakes. JAWS also hosted seminars by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals that delivered knowledge on humane education targeting our future generation and knowledge on how animal-welfare-progressive countries address animal abuse. JAWS also continued to deliver the “Shelter Medicine Collaborative Seminar Series” in collaboration with the Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University. Through these initiatives, we were able to disseminate the concept of animal welfare among young veterinary professionals and stakeholders who would be bearing the future of this industry.

Furthermore, the “Animal Protection Essay Contest” that we hold every year counted its 66th year, and we received many applications from elementary and middle school students with 20 children winning prizes. 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. 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 2025.

Mitsutaka Kurokawa
Chairman

I. ANIMAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES

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

1. Addressing Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

◆ Statistics from the National Police Agency

The number of animal abuse cases charged by the police in 2025, as reported by the National Police Agency, was 172. This is an increase of 12 cases (7.5%) from the previous year, and the number remains high (source: *Status of Arrest, Etc. of Economic Crimes for 2025* published in March 2026 by the National Police Agency).

Number of Animal Abuse Cases Charged by the Police in the Past 10 Years										
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Cases Charged	62	68	84	105	102	170	166	181	160	172
Note: Cases that violate article 44 of the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals such as the killing or the injuring of protected animals.										

◆ Regarding Reports and Requests for Consultation on Animal-Related Issues Received by JAWS

JAWS receives reports and requests for consultation on the care and management of various species from companion animals such as dogs and cats, horses, reptiles such as turtles, and animals used for exhibitions such as capybaras and oriental short-clawed otters. The caretakers of these animals (stakeholders with suspicions of providing inappropriate care or abusing the animals in question) ranged from private pet owners to stakeholders of animal cafes, zoos/aquariums, and managers of school pets. In addition, recently, JAWS also receives a lot of requests for consultation regarding video clips posted on social media. Regarding cases involving social media, JAWS refers the reporters to the police as necessary.

For cases around the general Tokyo-area and locations with branches, JAWS tries to inspect the site based on the information provided to confirm the facts as much as possible. In cases where inappropriate care is confirmed through these visits or if on-site confirmation is difficult, JAWS requests the local animal protection

authorities that have the powers to provide guidance to inspect the site and provide appropriate guidance.

However, there is a considerable number of cases with consecutive complaints and reports, and JAWS believes that there may be an issue in the effectiveness of how the authorities address these cases. Cases where inappropriate care of animals continue for a long span of time could be deemed as animal abuse, and stakeholders need to take a step further in addressing the issue. On the other hand, the involvement of the police tends to be limited in cases where the local authorities are already addressing the issue, and sometimes this hinders the delivery of necessary measures.

For such reasons, the animal protection stakeholders of the local authorities need to further improve their speed and relevance in addressing animal-related issues, and the collaboration with the police needs to be strengthened. It is not easy to completely prevent the inappropriate care and management of animals and animal abuse; however, a thorough commitment to early detection and prompt action is necessary to prevent the damage from spreading.

◆ Addressing Videos Clips of Animal Abuse on Social Media

When finding a video clip of a suspected case of animal abuse on social media, JAWS reports the case to the police with information, such as the URL of the video clip and the account on which the video was found, as well as evidence including the data of the video and screen shots whenever possible. At the same time, JAWS also reports the case to the social media platform. It is said that the police stakeholders are able to identify the person who posted the content and other relevant facts based on posting records and logs that they can get through requests made to the operator of the platform even when the video clip in question has been deleted. For this reason, JAWS believes that it is important to not give up and to report the case even if the content in question has already been deleted.

◆ Regarding Animal Hoarding Issues

There are still many cases of animal hoarding; the background and the situation of the hoarders vary depending on the case, so many cases can be challenging to address. In recent years, there is an increasing number of cases involving stakeholders who are registered type II animal handling businesses that are charged as animal abuse cases.

An example of a case that surfaced this fiscal year would be the case of a cat rescue organization in Ashikaga City, Tochigi Prefecture which was accused by an NPO as the violation of article 44 of the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals (from hereon referred to as the Animal Welfare Act). Stakeholders found over 60 cats kept in an appalling condition on the site. Specifically, the electricity had stopped, the temperature of the place was unregulated, and the excrements of the animals were uncleaned which created foul odor and made the place unhygienic. Furthermore, diseases such as feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), feline leukemia virus (FeLV), and cat flu as well as emaciation were confirmed. JAWS rescued 13 cats in poor conditions (one cat died on the day it was rescued), but many of these cats had diseases or were severely anemic; these cats would need a long time to recover to be able to be put up for adoption or may need a permanent place that would provide them with special care. In addition, these cats need continuous treatment which makes expenses for veterinary care a big issue.

Many animals rescued from animal hoarding situations have health issues. Especially, where close inbreeding takes place there is a high risk of genetic disorders and congenital abnormalities, and for such reasons these animals need a longer period of time to find new homes. There are also animals that are not used to humans and dogs that show aggression, and expert knowledge and time would be necessary to address these animals.

Taking such things into account, early detection and early response is crucial to prevent the escalation of the problem. Specifically, spaying/neutering operations and maintaining an appropriate number of animals are essential, and instead of relying on the owners of the animals to implement these measures it is important to collaborate with relevant organizations that enable early response. Establishing the foundation of collaboration on a daily basis would be important to be able to do this. Furthermore, it is essential for the animal protection authorities to proactively get itself involved in these cases and take appropriate initiatives once a case surfaces.

◆ Regarding School Pets

Every year, there are reports on poor living environments and neglect related to school pets, and there are many issues that are pointed out, such as the lack of care during long holidays, disaster response, and the lack of knowledge of and increase of work load for teachers. Especially post-COVID, the issue on the lack of a management scheme for periods of closures of schools has been exposed, and there

is a situation in which these animals are kept in inappropriate ways. For education using animals, the premise is that the animals are cared for appropriately. If the premise is broken, the initiative will not only be educationally ineffective, but it may also have adverse impacts on children.

Additionally, the fact that the owner of the animals is not clear for school pets makes the locus of responsibility unclear. For school pets it sometimes becomes vague as to who is responsible for managing the animals due to transfers of teachers and the unclear appointment of roles. As a result of such circumstances, there are some cases in which school pets are not cared for appropriately.

Furthermore, in a closed school environment it is difficult for stakeholders who are outside of the establishment to grasp the situation, and there is a structural issue where problems do not surface easily. These issues may delay response, and there are worrisome cases in which the inappropriate situation lingers for a long period of time without enough improvements made. Also, schools and the board of education sometimes do not have a good enough understanding about animal abuse and the inappropriate keeping of animals, and it is criticized that such factors can also contribute in delaying the early detection of and appropriate response to the problem.

In addition, even if the case is reported to an animal protection authority, sometimes stakeholders fail to address the case sufficiently which is also an issue.

Also, there are cases where sick or injured animals are unable to receive proper care at veterinary hospitals due to budgetary constraints; delaying treatment can impact the health and lives of these animals.

Despite these circumstances, the “Course of Study for Elementary Schools” notes school pets as essential, and there is a gap between the rules and what is happening on ground.

For the above reasons, rules should be reviewed to make school pets an initiative that can be taken on by schools that can provide adequate care and management rather than defining it as an essential part of education. Also, humane education should not necessarily be limited to using live animals; it is said that using stuffed animals and educational programs without animals would yield similar outcomes. Stakeholders need to rethink this issue in a wider framework of humane education instead of focusing on just animal assisted education.

◆ Regarding Animals Used for Exhibitions and Wild Animals Kept as Pets

Currently, the Ministry of the Environment is working on the “Standard of Care and Management of Mammals other than Dogs and Cats for Animal Handling

Businesses,” and this is scheduled to be enforced during the next fiscal year. Regarding exhibitions that involve direct contact with animals, there needs to be stringent regulations for young animals and wild animals from the perspective of animal welfare as well as public hygiene. Young animals are still under development, and such activities may be stressful for them or may pose risks vis-à-vis their health; in addition, these activities may have an impact on their mother-child relationship or their behavioral development, thus, forms of exhibitions that allow direct contact with animals should be restricted or banned as a rule of thumb. Also, wild animals are not adapted to situations that place them in direct contact with humans and can feel strongly stressed under such situations; they are also associated with zoonotic risks, so the handling of these animals needs to be even more well thought out.

Furthermore, stakeholders have pointed out animal welfare issues as well as public hygiene risks, including the issue of antimicrobial resistant bacteria, related to animal cafes that carry wild animals. Regulations for these facilities that allow a large number of people to come in contact with animals should be strengthened, and the authorities need to investigate the current situation of such businesses and create standards.

In order to care and manage animals appropriately, there needs to be sufficient staffing vis-à-vis the number of animals, the species that are handled, and the scope of the activities; a constant monitoring system also needs to be put in place. There needs to be sufficient space and enrichment that caters to the behavioral and biological aspects of the animals in the environment where they are kept; measures need to be implemented to prevent abnormal behavior from surfacing, and their health needs to be thoroughly monitored.

The Standards also need to include provisions regarding the handling of animals in entertainment such as *sarumawashi* (traditional shows that use Japanese monkeys). Activities in outdoor environments during the summer season would pose risks to the health of the animals such as causing heatstroke. For such reasons, the use of animals should basically be banned or strictly regulated in these situations, and the Standards should be implemented to prioritize the health and welfare of the animals.

Also, other than animal cafes that carry wild animals, stakeholders have pointed out risks related to public hygiene and problems surrounding alien species in addition to animal welfare issues regarding the keeping of wild animals as pets by the general public. For this reason, strengthening the restrictions surrounding the root of the issue, such as restrictions on the types of wild animals that can be kept

as pets, should be sought for. There needs to be a stringent restriction, eyeing a basic ban, for especially primates as they are difficult to manage, and they pose a major risk in terms of contagious diseases.

◆ Regarding Farm Animals

The World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) revised their international standard Chapter 7.1, “Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare “ of their “Terrestrial Animal Health Code” to include “The Five Domains” model of animal welfare in addition to “The Five Freedoms” during their general assembly in May 2025. This is a move to encourage the evaluation and endorsement of positive states for animals, including positive experiences, instead of focusing on avoiding negative states, such as the “freedom from hunger” or “pain,” and is a move based on the advancement of scientific knowledge. This revision advanced the international standard of animal welfare to a stage where “positive states should be accomplished proactively” from simply “avoiding unnecessary pain.”

In Japan, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) has been periodically convening the Informal Meeting on Animal Welfare (a stakeholder meeting) since 2021; in July 2023, “Technical Guideline for the Care and Management of Various Species of Farm Animals,” “Technical Guideline for Euthanizing Farm Animals in Farms,” and “Technical Guideline on the Transport of Farm Animals” were drafted, and these Guidelines have been disseminated and applied to practice. However, when comparing the situation of Japan to the speedy advancement of animal welfare in the international scenes, the outcomes of the domestic activities are unclear, and it is not easy to objectively assess where the actual improvements were made.

One factor behind such situations is the fact that the understanding of animal welfare has not spread enough among consumers; however, this should not be used as a reason for not being considerate to farm animals on ground. Despite the fact that farm animals are deemed as protected animals under the Animal Welfare Act, their aspects as industrial animals are emphasized on ground, and it has been pointed out that there is not enough acknowledgement of the fact that these animals are “sentient beings.”

In order to satisfy both the economic aspect and the welfare aspect, it is essential for stakeholders to continually monitor the situation and draft policies based on scientific knowledge. Thus, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries needs to establish a scientific advisory council (a science committee) and set up a

system that constantly assesses the situation and reviews policies based on the most recent research outcomes. In addition, instead of simply importing the system from western countries, Japan should build a system that not only reviews policies that promote animal welfare based on situations unique to Japan but also a system that is capable of addressing changes in social aspects such as the balance of sustainable production and economic issues, disaster response, and consumer knowledge.

Furthermore, animal welfare needs to be ensured in slaughtering – the last stages that industrial animals go through. Nationally, there are issues that are unresolved, such as abstaining feeding and provision of water at lairages and appropriately confirming the loss of consciousness of animals during slaughtering, and these points are crucial in discussing the welfare of these animals. However, slaughtering is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW), and in a vertically divided government, it is thought that animal welfare is not promoted comprehensively. Stakeholders need to be aware of the above points and push for improvements under a collaborative scheme across various ministries.

◆ Regarding the Revision and Enforcement of the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals (Animal Welfare Act)

The revision of the Act was initially scheduled for this fiscal year, but due to the political scene, this has been postponed to the next fiscal year.

Under the current law, the police and government stakeholders are only able to investigate and provide guidance, and there is not a sufficient legal framework that clearly allows the rescue of animals in emergencies. As a result, there are cases in which the lives and the health of animals are severely jeopardized; thus, there needs to be a system for the “emergency rescue of animals” where stakeholders such as the government can promptly rescue an animal without transferring ownership rights. In addition, under the current law, there is a possibility of animals being returned to owners who were found guilty of animal abuse if they still have the ownership rights for the animals in question – an issue from the perspective of animal rescue that still remains unresolved. For such reasons, stakeholders need to draft a provision that can ban the keeping of the animals in question by the perpetrators of the abuse.

JAWS would like to make strong requests to stakeholders to resolve the above issues and will continue, during the next fiscal year, to provide advice on policies via dialogues with Diet Members.

JAWS believes that the enforcement of laws is just as crucial as the revision of

the Act. In addition to the police, animal protection government stakeholders with authorities provided under the Animal Welfare Act are responsible for addressing animal abuse and suspected cases of animal abuse, and often times veterinarians within the government are the ones who are engaged in the actual work. However, there are differences between local authorities regarding how animal-related reports and complaints are addressed, and these differences also pose problems. For example, cases of animal hoarding tend to get reported to animal protection authorities even if it involves abuse; and as a result, the case may only receive advice/guidance, and a long time may pass without the case receiving sufficient support. The case may only receive attention of the police after the situation worsens and a third party makes a report to the police. The “Guideline for Measures Against Animal Hoarding” issued by the Ministry of the Environment points to the importance of collaboration between various departments and agencies, but there are cases where the collaboration between the police and social welfare departments is not functioning sufficiently. On the other hand, there are local authorities that have been resolving these cases via proactive collaborative efforts, and there are stark differences between the way authorities address these cases. Additionally, in animal abuse cases where the police force intervenes there is the issue of procuring places to keep animals that have been temporarily rescued. Under ordinary circumstances, the facilities of the government are expected to serve as a place that accepts these animals, but in reality, there are local authorities that reject requests for the animals to be boarded in their facilities. In such cases, often times the animals that have nowhere to go are entrusted to private organizations. However, this is a grave issue, and stakeholders must think about whether a system that relies on the private sector even for heavily injured/diseased animals or those with problematic behaviors such as aggression is appropriate.

For animal-related issues, stakeholders need to work with a proactive stance that allows collaboration among various related agencies to consider and put into practice measures that would lead to resolving the issue instead of being passive due to limitations in the ways they can address the problem. It is difficult to ensure that these points are carried out with just the revision of the Act and the drafting of guidelines; there is a considerable number of cases that can be sufficiently addressed even under the current system. Stakeholders need to boost the system so that the quality of the ways in which these cases are addressed does not vary depending on the knowledge and the awareness of the individuals who are in charge.

Under the Animal Welfare Act, the animal protection sector of the government is expected to perform crucial roles. The veterinarians who are employed as public

servants who serve the central role need to make decisions and address these issues based on expert knowledge. In addition to their job as public servants, they need to appropriately address these issues based on their expertise as veterinarians, and it is thought that such performance would lead to gaining the trust of the citizens.

◆ Statistics from the Ministry of the Environment

According to the statistics of the Ministry of the Environment, both the number of dogs and cats impounded and the number of animals destroyed in fiscal year 2024 continue to decline from the previous fiscal year. The number of dogs and cats destroyed was 6,830, and it has further declined since the previous fiscal year when the figure fell below 10,000 for the first time. The number of animals impounded also decreased from the previous year to total 39,409. On the other hand, behind these numbers there may be concerning issues such as the passive attitudes of the government taking in these animals, the increase in the number of cases rejected by the government, the increase of unreasonable burden on stakeholders such as private animal protection organizations, and long-term boarding of animals in government facilities. These issues are not illustrated directly by the statistics, but it is believed that they still exist on ground.

National Statistics of Fiscal Year 2024 (numbers from previous fiscal year)				
	Number of Animals Impounded		After Impoundment	
	Adult Dogs/Cats	Puppies/Kittens	Returned/Adopted	Destroyed
Dogs	14,372 (15,827)	3,027 (3,523)	15,427 (17,338)	1,964 (2,118)
Cats	9,238 (9,022)	12,772 (16,202)	17,079 (18,386)	4,866 (6,899)
Total	23,610 (24,851)	15,799 (19,725)	32,506 (35,764)	6,830 (9,017)
*The number of puppies and kittens signifies the number of animals not weaned. The number of impounded adult animals with unknown owners includes animals seized under the Rabies Prevention Act. The number of animals impounded with unknown owners also includes a part of animals impounded based on prefectural/city regulations. The number of destroyed animals includes natural deaths such as deaths of kittens/puppies during impoundment due to causes such as diseases. For local authorities that do not distinguish between adult animals and puppies/kittens, the number is included in the adult animals.				

2. Regarding Animal Welfare Japan (AWJ)

Continuing from the previous fiscal year, this year too, JAWS received multiple inquiries related to the living environment and the situation of animals used for exhibitions from foreigners both living abroad and living in Japan via our sister organization in the United Kingdom, Animal Welfare Japan (ex-JAWS UK).

Among the various inquiries, there were many related to Punch, the Japanese macaque at Ichikawa City Zoo. JAWS organized the inquiries into various issues from the perspective of animal welfare, such as the care and management of the monkey enclosure and the enhancement of environmental enrichment, without being impacted by emotional opinions and contacted the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums to ask them to address the issues.

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

The Japanese Coalition for Animal Welfare (from hereon referred to as JCAW) engaged in lobbying activities targeting Diet Members mainly with the goal of improving the welfare of wild animals in captivity such as those kept at animal cafes and zoos. In addition, JCAW co-hosted a symposium with Wild Welfare, an animal welfare organization that targets animals used for exhibitions, on September 27th at the Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University. The theme of the symposium was “the current situation and issues surrounding the care and management of captive wildlife.”

Furthermore, JCAW jointly worked with Wild Welfare on the “Public Survey on Animal Cafes that Keep Wild Animals” (N = 1007). The summary of the survey is as follows.

[Summary of the results]

Wildlife cafes typically provide direct contact with visitors and various wild animals such as owls, hedgehogs, otters, and meerkats. There were experiences provided such as petting the animals, holding the animals, feeding the animals, and taking photographs with the animals.

The results pointed out that over 20% of the visitors had experienced being injured, such as being bitten, at these cafes. This result highlights the risks

inherent in this business model characterized by visitors directly having contact with the animals.

As for aspects related to public hygiene, the cafes carried species that have been pointed out to be associated with risks of zoonoses such as Salmonella, Leptospira, and bovine Tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*). Many operations had hand-washing and hand-sanitization facilities and provided guidance regarding interactions with animals; however, there were instances that suggested that a certain percentage of visitors had insufficient awareness on hygiene management or had concerns on the hygiene of these facilities.

These results suggest that there are issues in the mismatch of the care and management environment of the cafes and the complicated biological and behavioral needs of these animals. The results also suggest that animals are under stress with constant contact with humans pointing to animal welfare issues and the possibilities of risks such as zoonosis and safety issues such as injuries. The results also portray issues on how hygiene management and visitor guidance is provided, and there may be possibilities that appropriate interventions by the staff are limited.

As for the international scene, Korea revised its law in 2023 to restrict business operations that involve direct contact with wild animals; these types of businesses would need to be re-registered as zoos or must terminate their businesses, and regulations are becoming more stringent in this area. On the other hand, in Japan there is not a sufficient risk-based regulatory framework as such.

There needs to be a regulatory design in place, such as a permission system (a license-based system) rather than a simple registration system, so that only facilities that meet the animal welfare and public hygiene standards could operate. In addition to this, there needs to be clear standards on direct contact with animals and the scope of which species are allowed in such facilities.

4. Promotion of Spaying/Neutering of Dogs and Cats

< JAWS Project for the Subsidization of Spaying/Neutering Operations for Dogs and Cats >

From this fiscal year, the “Campaign for the Promotion of Spaying/Neutering Operations for Dogs and Cats” and “JAWS Stray Cats Campaign” have been integrated to start as a new project, “JAWS Project for the Subsidization of Spaying/Neutering Operations for Dogs and Cats.”

This project subsidizes a part of the spaying/neutering operation fees for dogs

and cats without owners and targets both members of JAWS and the general public (non-members). In addition to JAWS Headquarters, residents of Kanagawa Prefecture, Tochigi Prefecture, Nagano Prefecture, Osaka Prefecture, and Hyogo Prefecture can apply for subsidies at the Branches located in their local communities.

The operation must be conducted during the period from April 1st, 2025 to February 28th, 2026 to be applicable, and the application period is from April 1st, 2025 to March 3rd, 2026 (applications must arrive no later than this date). A person may apply for up to five animals annually, but by paying a processing fee of 3,000 JPY per every additional five animals, a person may apply for a maximum of 20 animals. JAWS received applications from all over Japan, and by subsidizing a part of the spaying/neutering operations of dogs and cats without owners JAWS supported activities to stop the increase of animals that have to lead unfortunate lives.

Number of Animals Subsidized

	Females		Males		Total
	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	
Members of HQ	320	5	254	3	582
General Public (Non-Members)	49	0	38	0	87

<Subsidies provided by branches>

The branches of JAWS have also been engaging in the promotion of spaying/neutering by subsidizing a part of the operation fees 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 subsidized.

	Females	Males
Total Number Subsidized by Branches	939	887
Total Number Subsidized by the HQ	374	295
Total Number Subsidized by Branches and HQ	1,313	1,182
Total Number of All Animals Subsidized	2,495	

5. Animal ID Promotion Organization (AIPO)

As a board member of the Animal ID Promotion Organization, JAWS has been collaborating with the Japan Veterinary Medical Association and putting its effort into promoting microchips. 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 precious pets can be reunited promptly in a secure manner. JAWS always inserts a microchip in the animals that the organization possesses when they are adopted out.

II EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY

<Animal Protection Essay Contests, Events, etc.>

1. The 66th Animal Protection Essay Contest

The essay contest, which has been continuing for more than half a century, counted its 66th year this fiscal year, and there were 895 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 Yume Hasegawa (6th grade, Kanagawa Prefecture Hadano City Minami Elementary School) who wrote “The Summer I Learned the Importance of Life,” and the winner of this award for middle school children was Shiina Hiromatsu (8th grade, Ehime University Junior High School) who wrote “For the Happy Last Moment for Both the Pet and its Owner.” Other than the first and second places of the JAWS award, children received awards including the “Showakaikan Award,” the “Kazuma Okamoto Hapy Animal Award,” and the “AWJ Award,” and ten elementary school students and ten middle school students – a total of 20 children – won awards. The commendation ceremony was held at Tokyo Prince Hotel on November 16th 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 everybody that they were very happy and motivated that they were able to attend the ceremony.

2. Kazuma Okamoto’s Happy Animal Project

<“Kazuma Okamoto Hapy Animal Award,” a special award of the Animal Protection Essay Contest>

For elementary school students, Nirai Uezato (6th grade, Ginowan City Futenma Elementary School) and for middle school students, Kaoru Kano (7th grade, Nanjo City Ozato Junior High School) won the “Kazuma Okamoto Happy Animal Award,” a special award of the 66th Animal Protection Essay Contest.

Nirai Uezato’s essay, titled “The Value of Lives are Equal,” was a piece that communicated the importance of keeping pets for their entire lives through her last moments with her beloved dog, Koro, that lived until 15 years old despite having a chronic disease.

Kaoru Kano's essay, titled "The Cherished Life that Became Our Family," was a heart-warming piece about the bond between her family and Mei, a lost dog, and the recitation by the author moved the hearts of many who were there to listen.

The winners received a gift of "Happy Animal Set" which included a bat signed by Mr. Okamoto. Other winners also received commemorative gifts from Mr. Okamoto.

JAWS was engaged in "Kazuma Okamoto's Happy Animal Project" since 2021, but the project, which has been launched as a part of a social contribution project of Yomiuri Giants, will come to a closure once with the transfer of Mr. Okamoto to a foreign team which has been decided in January 2026. For the past five years, JAWS was very much supported by Mr. Okamoto's personality and his strong compassion to animals, and through Mr. Okamoto, JAWS was able to gain an opportunity to introduce our activities to children and those disinterested in animals. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Okamoto and his affiliations.

<Operation of a booth in the concourse of Tokyo Dome>

In order to have more people know about this project and the activities of JAWS, with the courtesy of Yomiuri Giants, JAWS was able to operate a booth in the concourse of Tokyo Dome for three days – May 5th, July 6th, and August 2nd. Roughly 550 people visited the booth, and the booth was a success. JAWS administered a survey at the booth targeting the fans of the baseball team, and as a result, there were approximately 80% to 90% of those who responded that they liked animals; many visitors showed an interest in the pamphlet that explained the activities of JAWS and the donation box of JAWS. On the other hand, roughly 60% of the respondents responded that "they do not know" or that "they have heard about it but do not understand it well" regarding the term "animal welfare." The appropriate understanding of the term "animal welfare" would lead to protecting and providing support for animals, so JAWS felt that this illustrates an important challenge for us to work on.

For those who cooperated with the survey, JAWS prepared a lottery where people can win a ball with Mr. Okamoto's autograph, and the winners of the lottery sent Mr. Okamoto heart-warming messages.



<Ceremony for the presentation of donation>

On Sunday, November 23rd 2025, a ceremony to present donations was held within the “Giants Fan Festival 2025” held at Tokyo Dome as a way to report on the social contributions of various players of Yomiuri Giants. On the mound, Mr. Kazuma Okamoto presented the chairman of JAWS, Mr. Kurokawa, with a plate marked with a donation of one million JPY. The chairman firmly shook hands with Mr. Okamoto showing our continuing gratitude and wishing him further success.



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

The theme for the main event of the Be Kind to Animals Week this fiscal year was “disaster measures that protect both humans and animals,” and the indoor event was held on Tuesday, September 23rd (a holiday) at the main hall on the first floor of Heiseikan of Tokyo National Museum. The indoor event consisted of lectures and discussions regarding evacuation with pets. The outdoor event was held on Saturday, November 15th at Ueno Onshi Park around Shinobazu Pond together with

the event for Animal Appreciation Day. The booth operated by JAWS distributed mini-flashlights that can be used in cases of disasters and a checklist for stocks of supplies and emergency go bags.



4. JAWS Report

This fiscal year, two issues – no. 97 and no. 98 – were issued. In addition to the general activities of JAWS, the reports included topics such as inspections of animal cafes and facilities with visitor-animal-interactions, for which JAWS receives a lot of complaints from foreign visitors, and lobby activities targeting politicians as well as participation at meetings convened by public sectors. The reports were sent to members of JAWS as well as local authorities, veterinary associations, and other relevant organizations.

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

① Seminars

【JAWS Citizen Forum for Animal Welfare】

This fiscal year too, JAWS launched the free online Citizen Forum for Animal Welfare which consisted of ten sets of lectures. This Citizen Forum invites lecturers with expertise from a variety of fields to provide high quality lectures. JAWS also strives to take into account the social landscape and trends, and this fiscal year, taking into account the bear issue with high social interest, JAWS included a lecture by an expert on wildlife.

Each set of lectures is available for two weeks, and participants can watch how many ever times so long as it is within this period. This format provided a learning opportunity for a wide range of audience.

As with the previous fiscal year, JAWS launched a completion certification exam

targeting participants who have registered for all of the lectures in the series.

【RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Seminars】

As with previous fiscal years, this year too, JAWS invited employees and lecturers from the RSPCA and held workshops and seminars. In November, JAWS held the three-day “RSPCA Short-Term Inspector Workshop,” and in February 2026, JAWS held the two-day “Humane Education Seminar.”

The Short-Term Inspector Workshop consisted of a lecture by an actively-working RSPCA inspector on how animal abuse is addressed in the UK and challenges on ground that included specific case examples. In addition, Dr. Tomoko Kihara, an assistant professor of Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University, spoke about animal abuse cases in Japan.

The Humane Education Seminar held in February addressed knowledge and techniques needed to teach the importance of life and respect for animals to children; the seminar was an opportunity to obtain in-depth knowledge that can be applied to practice in education.

【Shelter Medicine Seminars】

With the continued sponsorship of Mars Japan Limited, two seminars – the fourth and fifth seminars – were held this fiscal year at the Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University.

The fourth seminar addressed issues on the capacity of animal shelters as well as scientific evidence related to population management and included a presentation on the introduction of Osaka Prefecture Animal Welfare and Management Center and how they address animal hoarding cases (a presentation by a stakeholder of the local authority).

The fifth seminar provided an introduction to emergency veterinary medicine as well as a lecture on volunteer work in animal shelters and included a presentation on addressing impacted pets during the 2024 Noto Earthquake (a presentation by a stakeholder of the local authority).

The participants were very active, which is a distinctive characteristic of in-person seminars, and many participants were satisfied with the event.

【Workshop for Disaster Control Measures for Animals】

There are natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, and forest fires, every year in Japan, and there is an increasing need for disaster response including measures related to animals. Taking into account this situation in Japan, JAWS

hosted this workshop targeting public servants and veterinarians who play central roles in disaster response for animals.

This workshop consisted of a lecture by an employee of the Ministry of the Environment regarding disaster control measures related to companion animals and a lecture by an employee of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries regarding disaster control measures for farm animals.

Furthermore, Dr. Aki Tanaka, specially appointed professor of Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University, gave the lectures “Introduction to Disaster Control Measures” and “Shelter Medicine During Disasters,” Dr. Jun Toyama of Niigata Prefecture gave the lecture “Measures for Pets During Disasters Taken by Local Authorities,” Ms. Junko Hirai, the chairman of Animal Navigation in Case of Emergency, an NPO, gave the lecture “Disaster Control Measures Learned from the 2024 Noto Earthquake,” and Dr. Jun Saeki, a professor at Teikyo University of Science, gave the lecture “Current Activities and Future Challenges of Japan Veterinary Medical Association’s Crisis Management Office.”

In addressing disaster response for animals, it is crucial for relevant public sectors and other related organizations to collaborate with each other, and this workshop became an opportunity to confirm the importance of building such a collaborative relationship before the disaster strikes.

② Activities Related to Academic Societies

A staff of JAWS participated in academic societies in order to contribute to the development of the field of animal welfare science and veterinary forensics.

【Japanese Association of Veterinary Forensics】

- Launched symposiums and workshops (June, September, December, February)
- Hosted the fifth academic conference (March)

【Japanese Association of Animal Welfare Science】

- Carried out discussion on the drafting of a textbook for animal welfare science
- Hosted the fifth symposium (April)

③ Lectures and Publications

A staff of JAWS Headquarters lectured at Yamazaki Animal Nursing Vocational School and Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University.

JAWS also gave a lecture with the theme “regarding animal abuse” at Nagano Branch.

Regarding publications, JAWS co-supervised the writing of the book, *Introduction to Animal Welfare*, published by Junposha Co., Ltd. JAWS also drafted a pamphlet, “How to Keep Rabbits.”

④ Interviews

This fiscal year too, JAWS received requests for interviews from media stakeholders, such as television companies, newspaper companies, and magazine publishers, and cooperated to disseminate information related to animal welfare.

⑤ Councils and Committees of Ministries and Local Authorities

A board member of JAWS served as a committee member of the Liaison Council of WOA of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Meeting to Discuss the Prevention of Dog Bite Accidents of Gifu Prefecture, and the Meeting to Discuss How to Address Animals with Strong Aggression from the Perspective of Animal Welfare of Kanagawa Prefecture.

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, a staff of JAWS Headquarters also participated in animal-related meetings of Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Sendai City, and Kashiwa City as members of these meetings. A staff of JAWS also participated in the training session of the operation of Kawasaki City Animal Rescue Headquarters and engaged in strengthening the collaboration among stakeholders in animal rescue efforts during disasters.

Also, an advisor of JAWS served as a committee member of the Animal Welfare Promotion Council of Tokushima Prefecture as well as the Council for the Promotion of Coexisting in Harmony with Cats of Kobe City.

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.

⑥ On Site Inspections, etc.

As a rule of thumb, JAWS refers those who provided information on animal abuse and inappropriate keeping of animals to a relevant agency so that the person who provided the information himself/herself can report the case. However, JAWS acts as a mediator when a foreign person who has difficulties corresponding in Japanese contacts JAWS.

This fiscal year, there were roughly 30 e-mails of inquiries from foreigners regarding domestic animal issues. For cases that are located at a distance that cannot be confirmed by JAWS, JAWS contacted the local authorities of that location to have them address the issue. For cases that are located at a relatively close distance from JAWS, JAWS inspected the site as much as possible and provided information to the local authority of that location.

Among these cases where JAWS inspected the site during this fiscal year, six cases were private households, six cases were animal cafes, one case was a pet store, and one case was an urban park. For the cases that involved private households, three cases involved dogs, two cases involved turtles, and one case involved a parrot.

⑦ Academic Network

JAWS obtained useful advice and opinions from legal experts such as lawyers and applied this information to perform our activities and to address various issues.

⑧ Committee of Environment-Related Organizations/Department of Environment of the General Bureau for Associations of the Liberal Democratic Party

JAWS attended their “Social Gathering for Policies related to the Budget and Taxation System” and communicated requests regarding the following points.

- JAWS requested an establishment of a system that would restrict or ban the keeping of the victimized animal by those who were found guilty of animal abuse.
- JAWS requested a field survey initiated by the government, the establishment of standards for the care and handling of animals, and the strengthening of restrictions related to animal cafes that carry wild animals as there have been public hygiene risks, including the risks of antimicrobial resistant bacteria, confirmed in these animal cafes.
- JAWS requested the strengthening of restrictions addressing the root cause of the issue, such as limiting the types of wild species that can be kept as pets, from the perspective of issues related to invasive alien species; for especially primates, JAWS requested a ban by a rule of thumb or a stringent permission system.

⑨ Lobbying Activities Targeting Diet Members

In addition to the above requests, JAWS appealed to Diet Members regarding the need for an emergency rescue system for animals.

JAWS also requested the establishment of a scientific advisory council (a science committee) for the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; JAWS appealed to the stakeholders that there needs to be a system that enables the drafting of

policies based on scientific evidence in order to be able to review the most recent scientific knowledge and global trends in further promoting the welfare of farm animals.

III. MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

1. Membership Trends

This fiscal year, the number of members who withdrew due to delinquencies in the payment of membership fees and the retirement of life members remains high, and this resulted in a decrease of individual members to 1,817 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 is an outline of the number of members as of the end of fiscal year 2025 (March 31st, 2026).

- Corporate Members: 20
- Life Members: 85
- Sustaining Members: 170
- Associate Members: 1,519
- Junior Members: 23
- ◆ Total: 1,817(Total of individuals: 1,797)

IV. OFFICE REPORT

1. Annual General Assembly

The annual general assembly for fiscal year 2025 was held on June 20th ,2026 at Office Circle N located in Higashigotanda.

The first agenda, “Amendment of Articles of Incorporation” in conjunction with the reform of Public Interest Law was presented and approved. In addition, “The Approval of the Financial Documents for Fiscal Year 2025,” and “Approval of the Appointment of Directors and Auditors” were presented and approved.

Following this, “The Reports of Activities for Fiscal Year 2025,” “The Plan of Activities for Fiscal Year 2026,” and “The Budget for Fiscal Year 2026” were presented, and the assembly closed at 14:30.

V. REPORTS FROM OUR BRANCHES

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

- There are currently five branches that are active.
- AWJ (Animal Welfare Japan), a sister organization of JAWS in the UK, also follows the activities of these branches and regards them highly. AWJ proactively cooperates with and supports the activities of these branches.
- 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 put efforts into resolving animal hoarding issues while tackling problems and issues that are unique to their communities. The following is a report on their situations.

<Network of JAWS Branches>

- Tochigi Branch
Akiko Kawasaki, Head of Branch
- New Tokyo Branch
Nobuko Takayanagi, Head of Branch
- Yokohama Branch
Shoichiro Ieiri, Head of Branch
- Nagano Branch
Sumiko Tokuma, Head of Branch
- South Osaka Branch
Sakae Kawanaka, Head of Branch

1. Tochigi Branch

● Requests for Consultation and Cooperation from Local Authorities

There has been an increasing number of requests for consultation from departments of local authorities that oversee the welfare of senior citizens and children.

There is an overwhelming number of cases where consultation is requested regarding the hospitalization/institutionalization or the death of seniors with pets that are left behind; in many cases, the situation is urgent, and stakeholders do not have any information on the animals that were left behind but need to rescue these animals, because there is no longer anybody at the house.

However, it is fortunate that in some cases the care managers are able to actually contact us. Sometimes, the animals are left behind inside the house, but nobody has the keys and stakeholders are unable to enter. In other cases that the Branch has heard about, both humans and animals in the household have passed away without anybody realizing...

Even if one is young, one never knows what may happen. The Branch would like everybody to think about this issue as something relevant to their own lives; the Branch strongly believes that it is the responsibility of the owner as a family member of the pets to share the information regarding their pets with others so that should something happens, the pets could be rescued and protected. In addition to the efforts made by individuals, the Branch believes that there should also be a system within the society for safeguarding the animals.

● Issues Related to Animal Hoarding

Every year, the Branch hopes that the year would be free of animal hoarding issues...

However, the Branch was involved in several cases this year as well. Among the cases in which there were multiple emaciated cats within unsanitary environments, the Branch requested the Animal Defense Team to take on one case, and this case actually resulted in being accused.

Furthermore, the Branch continues follow-up work with past cases, such as periodically monitoring the situation, because people who collect animals beyond their capacity for care tend to go back to acquiring animals.

Many hoarders refuse to surrender the ownership rights of their animals even if they are found guilty of animal abuse, and it is a dilemma to have to return the animals to these people... The Branch strongly requests a legislative vehicle for the establishment of a system for the emergency rescue of animals and orders that make

pet-keeping bans possible.

This time, the Branch addressed a site that had over 50 cats with many of them in poor conditions – such as those with feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency virus; the veterinary medical bills are soaring, and the members of the Branch are having a hard time rescuing these cats. The Branch would like to show its sincere appreciation to the donors who support these activities.

- **Adoption Event at the Library**

The Branch held an adoption event at a library in Tochigi Prefecture; the library cooperates with the Branch every year in holding these events. During the past several years, the local authority that helps out with the promotion of the event and the library collaborate to hold the adoption events, and it seems like this collaboration is becoming a custom.

- **Consultation Event for Cat Day at Utsunomiya City Public Health Center**

With a request from Utsunomiya City Public Health Center, Dr. Asako Sato, the vice-head of the Branch, lectured and provided consultation. Utsunomiya City is becoming more and more progressive, and the Branch is very pleased to see this.

- **Measures Regarding Cats without Owners (Community Cats)**

With the support from everybody, the Branch is operating a subsidization scheme for spaying/neutering operations.

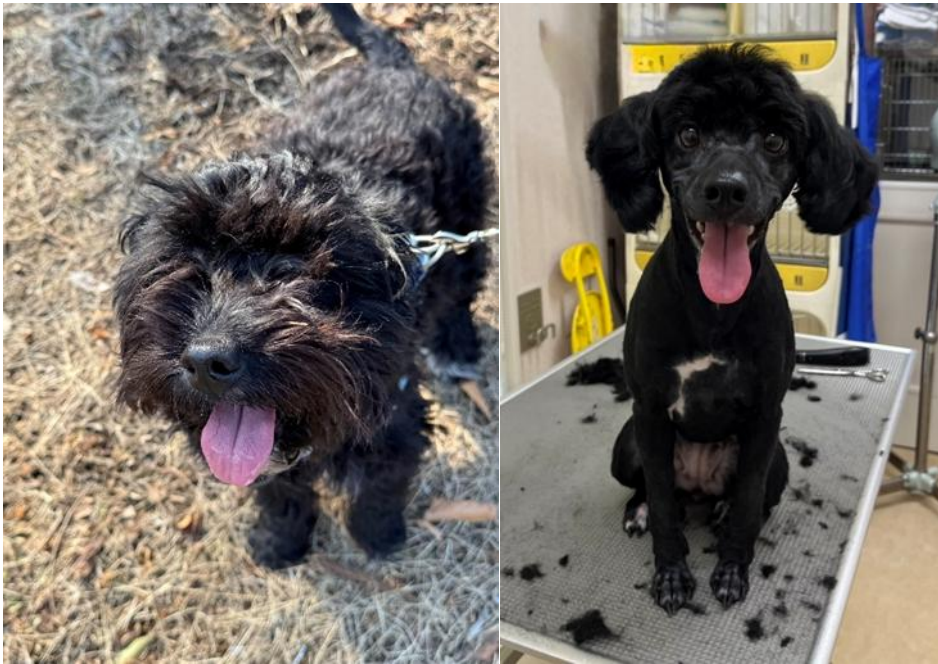
There is an increasing number of cases where the person who consults the Branch is able to resolve the issue at hand by himself/herself by using this subsidization scheme. The subsidization scheme is also serving as an opportunity to promote civic activities, and the Branch hopes that these initiatives would further expand.

- **Appreciation for Donations**

The Branch feels the love of the supporters to their own cats and dogs in every form of support that everybody provides the Branch – donations, food, and supplies. The Branch is moved by the compassion of everybody. The Branch is grateful for the support and when using these resources for the rescued animals with ill health, the Branch thinks about the dogs and cats that have lived happy lives with the donors and the feelings of the families of these animals who have chosen to donate the resources that their beloved animals have left them. The Branch truly appreciates all the support. We hope that people will continue to contribute to our activities so that fewer animals have to experience these sorrowful situations.



A cat with failing health found at an animal hoarding site



Before

After

1) Number of Animals Subsidized for Spaying/Neutering Operations (total number of dogs/cats = 118)

Dogs	Males	0	Cats	Males	55
	Females	0		Females	63
	Total	0		Total	118

2) Number of Dogs and Cats that were Adopted (total number of dogs/cats = 44)

Dogs	Males	1	Cats	Males	18
	Females	2		Females	23
	Total	3		Total	41

(Akiko Kawasaki, Head of Branch)

2. New Tokyo Branch

This fiscal year, New Tokyo Branch cooperated with Tochigi Branch and put its effort into rescue activities of kittens that were rescued from animal hoarding situations. Among the rescued kittens, there were many kittens that were roughly one month old, and there were many that were in poor health. These kittens were cared for at the veterinary hospital and the grooming saloon attached to the Yamazaki Animal Nursing Junior College and Vocational School which are the operating base of the Branch. The staff at these facilities, student volunteers, and faculty volunteers provided continuous care to the kittens including care during holidays. As a result, all of the kittens were able to grow up, and we were able to raise the kittens into conditions that would allow adoptions.

The Branch also accepted animals temporarily rescued by Tochigi Branch and raised for a certain amount of time but needed permanent new homes. These animals went through necessary veterinary treatment, got vaccinated, were spayed/neutered, and had microchips inserted before selecting an appropriate new home for them and putting them through trial adoptions. As a result, all of the cats were matched with appropriate, loving homes, and there were no cats that were returned after trial adoptions.

Furthermore, the environment in which the cats were able to interact often with humans promoted their appropriate socialization, and they adapted smoothly to their homes after they were adopted out. These cats were mainly adopted by students, faculties, and their affiliations, so the Branch will be able to get continuous reports on how they are faring.

In addition, in the beginning of the year, the Branch also addressed an animal hoarding case in Hachioji City where a senior citizen had 22 small dogs. The Branch took in three dogs; as a result of examinations, cryptorchidism and mast cell tumors were confirmed in some animals, and surgery was conducted as treatment. Especially for the mast cell tumors, large portions of the tissue were removed to completely remove the tumor and to confirm that there was no metastasis, and these animals were put up for adoption after treatment.

The strength of our Branch is in the fact that veterinarians, veterinary nurses, and groomers are the main stakeholders of the Branch which enables us to promptly address medical issues at the veterinary hospital that serves as our operation base. The Branch would like to continue to contribute to the improvement of animal welfare.



One-month old kittens rescued at Tochigi Three small dogs rescued at Hachioji

1) 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

2) Number of Dogs and Cats that were Adopted (total number of dogs/cats = 15)

Dogs	Males	1	Cats	Males	5
	Females	2		Females	7
	Total	3		Total	12

(Nobuko Takayanagi, Head of Branch)

3. Yokohama Branch

Yokohama Branch would like to report on some of the cases that were addressed from requests for consultation it receives on a daily basis.

[October – Request from a person who wanted a female senior dog]

A couple reaching their 70's contacted the Branch telling us that they wanted to adopt a senior dog.

- Both of them lived with dogs since they were children, but they lost their 17-year old dog in December; taking into account their own age, they wanted to adopt a senior dog that experienced an unfortunate circumstance and needs a new home. Coincidentally, the Branch took in a ten-year old female dog in October, so the Branch interviewed the couple. Because the couple did not have children, the Branch was hesitant to adopt out to them due to their age; however, the couple was proactive and told the Branch that “they wanted to live another fun ten years with the dog” which led to the adoption of the dog.

[February – A request for consultation from a person who rescued a dog]

There was a request from a person who rescued a dog that was thought to be a toy poodle; the person did not know what to do with the dog and wanted Yokohama Branch to take on the dog.

- The Branch advised the person to confirm with the police and the Animal Welfare Center to see if there are any reports of lost dogs submitted to the authorities and to simultaneously check at a veterinary hospital to see if the dog has any microchips inserted. However, after that the person did not get back to the Branch.



[March – Request for consultation from the police]

The request was about two senior brothers who had a dog, but the older brother was involved in a crime and was in temporary detention.

The younger brother has a disability and is unable to live alone, so the older brother was taking care of his daily needs. This time, the younger brother was going to use a short-stay service, but they had nobody whom they can ask to take care of the dog while the younger brother was away. They had consulted pet hotels and veterinary hospitals, but they were unable to find a place to board the dog and did not know what to do. The police were unable to take care of the dog. For such reasons, they had consulted Dr. Hyodo from before, so they wanted the Branch to help them this time as well.

- The Branch communicated to them that Yokohama Branch could look for a new home for the dog if the owners could surrender their ownership rights. However, the owners did not want to surrender the dog, and they wanted a place to temporarily board the dog while the older brother was in detention. Thus, the veterinary hospital decided to provide its pet hotel service to them to board the dog. The veterinary hospital boarded the dog under the condition that they would think of surrendering the dog and putting it up for adoption in case the detention period is extended, and the older brother was unable to come out of detention. Two weeks after this, the detention period terminated, and the older brother and the police came to pick the dog up.

[Requests for consultation from a staff at a nursing home and a guarantor company]

The Branch has been receiving requests for consultation regarding how to address pets of those who are living alone with no families. Stakeholders are unsure of how to address these cases and want to know what the options are. The options would be as follows:

1. Find a new home for the animal
2. If the person wants to use a nursing home for cats, choose a place that would take care of the animal for the rest of its life; this option would require some amount of deposit to be used for the expenses to care for the animal
3. Entrust the animal to an animal protection organization that would look for a new home for the animal

For options 2 and 3, the Branch told the stakeholders that it would be better if the owner of the animal could prepare documentation that would allow the surrendering of the animal while he/she is still well.

[Other requests for consultation that the Branch received]

In 2020, a policeman visited a site of a solitary death case where there was a cat. While they were looking for relatives of the person who deceased, the police department was taking care of the cat as a lost item. However, they were unable to find any relatives, so they consulted the Environmental Health Department of the ward. The Department referred them to Yokohama Branch.

- The cat brought into the Branch by the policeman in charge was a calico cat that was roughly ten years old. The Branch decided to take in the cat and asked the policeman in charge to write his name in the column for surrendering ownership rights within the document for adoptions. The cat was with Yokohama Branch for three months and found a new home where the cat still lives a happy life as of today.



- 1) Number of Animals Subsidized for Spaying/Neutering Operations (total number of dogs/cats = 4)

Dogs	Males	0	Cats	Males	2
	Females	1		Females	1
	Total	1		Total	3

- 2) Number of Dogs and Cats that were Adopted (total number of dogs/cats = 5)

Dogs	Males	1	Cats	Males	1
	Females	3		Females	0
	Total	4		Total	1

(Shoichiro Ieiri, Head of Branch)

4. Nagano Branch

Recently, the association between human welfare and animal welfare has been surfacing in real-life issues in Nagano Prefecture. Amidst the aging society, there have been endless cases of cats that have nowhere to go with senior citizens who have been keeping them or feeding them as community cats deceasing or being institutionalized. It is great if those who inherit the animals are cooperative, but sometimes these cats are handled as if they are adverse legacies which is very heartbreaking to watch.

There was actually a case where cats were trapped in the house when the senior resident who lived alone in that house was institutionalized. A neighbor reported the case, and the police and the public health office unlocked the house to find starving cats. After they were fed and recovered, these cats were spayed/neutered; we tried to look for new homes for these cats, and volunteers are continually taking care of the ones that could not find new homes. These cases often consist of ten or 20 cats – not just one or two. In order to prevent such situations, it is important to collaborate with the social welfare sector and for pet owners to discuss what to do with their animals when they can no longer care for them.

In Saku City located in the east of Nagano Prefecture, collaborative efforts with the social welfare-related departments have started in which stakeholders also take into account animals when assessing the situation of living of those who need support. Support for humans and animal-related issues are closely tied together, and intervening at an early stage prevents isolation and hoarding. The collaboration between the city government, the public health office, and volunteers is coming into shape, but the cooperative efforts and the sharing of information need to be further enhanced.

Different cases have different backgrounds, and a blanket procedure is not feasible. The volunteers are striving to help every living being as they face various cases and are experiencing the importance of mutual support. The Branch also feels that continuous activities are only possible with the support and understanding of local communities. The Branch would like to work toward a community in which both humans and animals can live peaceful lives together, and we would like to put our efforts into such work by continuing our cooperation with relevant agencies, members of the community, and our supporters.



1) Number of Animals Subsidized for Spaying/Neutering Operations (total number of dogs/cats = 700)

Dogs	Males	0	Cats	Males	347
	Females	0		Females	353
	Total	0		Total	700

2) Number of Dogs and Cats that were Adopted (total number of dogs/cats = 185)

Dogs	Males	41	Cats	Males	45
	Females	53		Females	46
	Total	94		Total	91

(Sumiko Tokuma, Head of Branch)

5. South Osaka Branch

The year went by very quickly – it was a year that reminded us about the difficulties of the activities we engage in with various issues surfacing within the Branch and finding differences in opinions among stakeholders of the Branch.

The Branch also received many requests for consultation from members as well as those whom we are not familiar with. The Branch wants to be as much help as possible; however, it is hard to decide how much help to offer – deciding what distance to keep is a difficult task.

For example, for animal hoarding cases, even if the people surrounding the hoarder have realized that there is an issue, the situation will not improve unless the hoarder himself/herself is aware of it. Some hoarders show a strong negative reaction to advice and guidance provided by the government, and the Branch is experiencing the difficulties of addressing these cases.

Amidst such situations, the volunteers feel that they want to prioritize saving the animals, and they provide various support, such as bearing the costs for spaying/neutering operations, finding new homes for the animals, and providing supplies such as food, pet sheets, and cat litter. However, the Branch has mixed feelings about the current situation where volunteers have to bear all the responsibilities that the pet owners are supposed to be bearing. There were instances in which the Branch felt that a system that makes irresponsible pet owners bear the social responsibilities in some form is necessary.

Over 80% of the requests for consultation received by the Branch come from residents of Sakai City. The Branch has felt this from before, but the way the stakeholders of animal protection authorities of Sakai City address these various issues still has a lot of challenges. Many of the cats that are up for adoption at the moment are those rescued in Sakai City.

Also, the community where the head of the Branch lives in is located close to the center of Osaka City and is next to downtown areas such as Dotonbori and Namba. The living environments for cats that survive in the backstreets of the downtown districts can be very harsh; because there are many restaurants in the area, the cats must eat food that is placed directly on the ground. In addition, there is a large flow of people in these areas, and there is a considerable number of cats that are limping due to falling from outdoor staircases or being harmed by people.

The Branch does its best to rescue these animals, but there are many cats that are not used to people which makes adoptions more difficult, and the Branch is having a hard time. However, the Branch feels strongly about saving as many lives

as possible and leading them to an environment where they are able to live safely for the rest of their lives; such feelings drive the Branch to continue to look for new homes for these animals, conduct interviews, and engage in transportation work of these animals.

Lastly, the Branch would like to report on an animal rescue case that it engaged in during April 2025. There was a report that “people can hear meowing of kittens from an open lot.” When the Branch checked the site, the Branch found out that a cat that was being fed by the neighbors had given birth to four kittens.

The Branch successfully rescued both the mother cat and the kittens; they were kept together before weaning, and then, the mother cat was spayed. After that, the household that was feeding the mother cat officially decided to keep her as their pet.

The kittens grew up at a volunteer’s home and were adopted out as pairs to new homes.

A part of the left ear of the mother cat had been missing before she was rescued; the veterinary hospital examined the ear when the cat was spayed, but they could not figure out the cause of the injury.



The four cats born in Sakai City



A shot after the mother cat and her four kittens were rescued together



A cat with one ear missing from Namba

1) Number of Animals Subsidized for Spaying/Neutering Operations (total number of dogs/cats = 1,004)

Dogs	Males	30	Cats	Males	453
	Females	92		Females	429
	Total	122		Total	882

2) Number of Dogs and Cats that were Adopted (total number of dogs/cats = 295)

Dogs	Males	40	Cats	Males	71
	Females	128		Females	56
	Total	168		Total	127

(Sakae Kawanaka, Head of Branch)

VI. REPORTS ON FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

1. Situation of Assets

(Unit: £ : Converted foreign exchange rate £ = ¥ 200)

<Balance Sheet>	FY2025	FY 2024	25/24 change
Cash equivalent	154,516	120,594	33,922
Supplies	12,927	12,082	845
Other current assets	21,354	0	21,354
Fixed assets	1,165,269	1,162,562	2,707
Special assets	1,092,112	1,083,225	8,887
Others	73,157	79,337	▲6,180
Total assets	1,354,067	1,296,183	57,884
Total debt	84,368	75,472	8,896
Net assets	1,269,699	1,220,711	48,988

- Our net asset at the end of this fiscal year was £ 1,269.7 thousand which is an increase of £ 49 thousand.
- Our cash equivalent increased by £ 33.9 thousand.
- £ 760.7 thousand of the special assets was restricted net assets (specified securities), £ 125 thousand is the Animal Rescue Fund, and £ 150 thousand is the Funds for the Prevention of Abandonment of Dogs and Cats. £ 75 thousand of the specified securities was used for the increase of the Funds for the Prevention of Abandonment of Dogs and Cats.
- 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 2026.

2. Situation on Income and Expenditure

(Unit: £ : Converted foreign exchange rate £ = ¥200)

<Income Statement>	FY2025	FY 2024	25/24change
Income from membership fee	189,620	189,890	▲270
Income from domestic donation	221,280	229,050	▲7,770
Income from fundraising	22,110	22,160	▲50
Other income(incl. charity related)	86,164	122,220	▲36,056
Total income	519,174	523,500	▲4,326
Business Operating expenses	332,045	339,915	▲7,870
General expense	147,130	147,315	▲185
Business expense	184,915	192,600	▲7,685
Administration expenses	93,385	121,895	▲28,510
Expenses for fundraising, etc.	44,755	45,210	▲455
Total expenses	470,185	507,020	▲36,835
Total balance	48,989	16,480	32,509
Balance to bring forward into the next account	1,269,699	1,220,711	48,988

- Our overall income for this fiscal year decreased by £ 4.3 thousand.
- Our income from membership fee was almost same as the previous fiscal year.
- Our income from domestic donations decreased by £ 7.7 thousand .
- Our overall expenditure for this fiscal year decreased by £ 36.8 thousand .
- Per our operating expense, our expenses for animal rescue increased by £ 2 thousand, and our expenses for spaying/neutering subsidization of dogs and cats decreased by £ 12 thousand; our PR expenses increased by £ 2.2 thousand.
- Our balance for this fiscal year recorded a surplus of £ 49 thousand, and we will carry forward £ 1,269 thousand for next fiscal year.

3. Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026

(Unit: £ : Converted foreign exchange rate £ = ¥ 200)

Balance brought forward from the previous account	1,269,699
Income from membership fee	189,500
Income from domestic donation	267,500
Income from fundraising	22,500
Other income	43,500
Total income	523,000
Operating expenses for animal welfare activities	502,500
General expenses	162,500
Business expenses	340,000
Administration expenses	101,500
Expenses for fundraising, etc.	50,500
Total expenses	654,500
Tobal balance	▲ 131,500
Balance to bring forward into the next account	1,138,199

- For the budget of fiscal year 2026, JAWS expects an increase in the amount of donations but is planning on continuing to put emphasis on 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 red by £ 131.5 thousand.
- 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.

VII. THE MAIN ACTIVITIES OF JAWS

In order to save as many lives as possible...

- ◎ **JAWS works to disseminate information on the revision of animal related laws, etc.**

JAWS strives to spread information to the public regarding the Animal Welfare Act which was revised in June 2021 and at the same time works to establish related legislation to resolve various issues that still remain unresolved.

- ◎ **JAWS engages in animal rescue activities in cases of disasters and emergencies.**

When there are volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other large-scale disasters, JAWS engages in rescue activities of animals impacted by the disaster in collaboration with the national government, local authorities, and other related organizations.

- ◎ **JAWS promotes spaying/neutering operations.**

The fundamental measure to stop the increase of unwanted dogs and cats that are abandoned is spaying/neutering operations. JAWS cooperates with its branches to launch campaigns that subsidize these operations and rent out devices to capture cats.

- ◎ **JAWS provides guidance on the appropriate care and management of animals.**

Whether it stems from laziness or whether it is intentionally done, keeping animals in an appalling living environment is animal abuse. JAWS addresses cases in private households and at the same time surveys the situations of stakeholders such as animal handling businesses, zoos, and other animal facilities and makes proposals for improvements.

- ◎ **JAWS supports stakeholders to look for new homes for animals.**

JAWS continues to put its effort into finding warm loving homes with compassion and proper knowledge for animals that are surrendered by their owners.

- ◎ **JAWS works toward a complete ban of animal fighting.**

Forcing animals to fight for entertainment is dreadful abuse. JAWS works towards a national ban for such abuse.

- ◎ **JAWS holds workshops, seminars, and symposiums.**

JAWS works to deepen the understanding of and enhance the knowledge of animal welfare through seminars and lectures inviting both domestic and foreign experts as well as symposiums co-hosted with other organizations.

- ◎ **JAWS holds the “Animal Protection Essay Contest” every year.**

JAWS has held the Essay Contest for over 60 years targeting elementary and middle school students from all over Japan. The honorary president of JAWS, H.I.H. Princess Hitachi, attends the commendation ceremony.

© **JAWS collaborates with other animal protection organizations.**

As a member of the “Steering Committee for the Main Event of the Be Kind to Animals Week,” the “Japanese Coalition for Animal Welfare,” and “Animal ID Promotion Organization,” JAWS proactively works with other organizations.

© **JAWS accepts requests for consultation via telephone.**

JAWS addresses various requests for consultation from the public regarding animal-related issues.

Please help us protect lives of beings that are jeopardized; we await your support.

