

新潟県中越大震災での動物救済活動

Animal Rescue Activities after the 2004 Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake

新潟県 新発田食肉衛生検査センター 所長・川上 直也
Naoya KAWAKAMI, Director,
Niigata Prefecture Shibata Meat Inspection Center



○ Naoya Kawakami

Hello everybody. I have come here from an extremely snowy Niigata Prefecture. Actually, I was planning to travel by plane this morning, but because of a heavy snow warning my staff prompted me to go earlier. So I came yesterday and was thankfully able to enjoy a relaxed morning.

I feel greatly humbled to hear the talk about the destruction in Kobe at the time of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995. Also, in the Great East Japan Earthquake that struck on March 11, 2011, a great many people were killed and many others had their day-to-day lives destroyed. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my condolences to all those who were affected by the disaster.

In October 2004, I personally experienced the Niigata Prefecture Chuetsu Earthquake. This was the first magnitude 7-class earthquake to have struck Japan since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Although the scale of these quakes and the damage differed in various respects, the people who went through these disasters must have experienced similar thoughts and feelings.

At that time, in the capacity of Animal Welfare and Hygiene Section Chief at the Environmental Health Division of the Niigata Prefectural Government, my position in charge of animals meant that I was doing work directly involved with animals. I learned a number of things that taught me how I should have acted at the time of that disaster and how I should act in the event of a future disaster. So today, I would like to talk mainly about my work at the time of the earthquake.

Everyday, weather permitting, a group of dogs, including my own dog, get together along the shoreline of Aoyama in central Niigata City, which is about a 10 minute walk from my home. Today it is snowing so that won't be possible, but when spring comes around the place attracts large numbers of people with their dogs - people who have all kinds of feelings.

First of all, let me tell you a story about a man whose wife had died leaving him alone. One day he took a casual look inside a pet shop, where he saw a big dog that was unsold. When he saw the dog he was unable to take his eyes off the animal and he thought to himself, "Ah, I'll have to keep this dog." So he bought the dog and took it home with him. Then he took the dog for a walk by the seashore, where many other people with dogs gathered, and he joined in with these people and began to talk with them. Until that time, he had formed a habit of drinking alcohol every day, starting in the morning. But now, he no longer drinks and he exercises everyday.

Here's another story. There was a woman who was living alone, separately from her husband, so she could nurse her aged parents. That woman also said, "I feel lonely and lost without a dog."

Here is what a TV announcer told me, "We can't keep dogs in my condominium building, but when I come here I can meet dogs. It's a joy to come along and talk with acquaintances down here by the seaside."

I believe that, to a considerable extent, animals save us when we save animals.

Here is a photograph of a dog. The owner brought this dog with him when he travelled to Niigata in August as a tourist. He tied the dog up to the outside of his car but somebody must have released the dog and it disappeared. The owner searched high and low for the dog but could not find it. He placed an advertisement in the newspaper and even came back every week to the place where he had tied up the animal to resume his search, but to no avail. Niigata Prefecture is a place that has very heavy snowfall every year, so released dogs and cats cannot survive the winter outside. However, the following year, a report came in about a dog similar to the one that had gone missing. The public health center sent staff out to take it into their protection. They were unable to capture the dog no matter how hard they tried. At that point, we discovered that this dog had been visiting a certain house every day in order to eat the cat food put out there. The householder took this photo of the dog and showed it to us, saying, "This is the dog!" The householder had also renovated the front porch of the house so that he could provide protection for the dog over the winter. The dog was eventually returned to its original owner after eleven months. He was extremely happy to get his dog back.

There are many people who were separated from their pets by the recent earthquake disaster, and I am sure they have similar feelings.

Here you can see the national ratios of dog and cat owners in Japan. The data comes from the Pet Food Association. The number of dogs and cats is now greater than the number of children under 15 years old. That shows the extent to which pets and people are living together.

In my own home we are keeping a three-year-old dog that we got from the public health center. Now he sleeps together with us in the next futon. For all I know this may be a problem from an infectious disease standpoint, but this dog has definitely become a full member of the family. We have to consider this sort of thing as well.

Now, I would like to talk to you about my experiences

during and after the Chuetsu Earthquake disaster. The earthquake struck on October 23, 2004. At that time, I took part in animal rescue activities in the context of my work as Chief of Animal Welfare and Hygiene. This activity, which involved the helicopter rescue of pets that had been left behind in the village of Yamakoshi after all the residents had been evacuated, attracted considerable media attention.

Regarding the response to the 2004 earthquake, in the regional disaster prevention plan that was in force at the time, the subject of animal rescue was not mentioned. So this was the first time such activities had been conducted in Niigata in such a disaster.

I took up my post at the Niigata Prefectural Office in April 2004, and in July of that year Niigata suffered a natural disaster due to heavy rain. My involvement in animal rescue activities began with the activities conducted in response to this heavy rain disaster.

On July 13, 2004 many people had to evacuate their homes as local rivers were inundated by floodwater. Scenes of the disaster were shown on television. I was watching TV casually at home, and saw someone with a pet at an evacuation center. The person was telling the reporter that it was taking a long time for meals to be delivered. I realized that pet food must be in short supply so I ordered pet food to be distributed to the evacuation centers. Also, I could imagine that pet owners would have trouble trying to improvise pet toilets, so I also arranged for the distribution of disposal bags for pet waste.

In Niigata Prefecture, a succession of major disasters has occurred in recent years. In July of last year a similar heavy rain disaster occurred only a short distance away from the site of the 2004 earthquake. Given that such disasters do occur repeatedly, it is obvious that we need to be prepared ahead of time.

This slide shows the damage situation at that time. Here is where we took the animals in our care. Starting such activities for the first time required a lot of effort. To carry them out as administrative measures we had

to persuade our superiors to seek permission from the top prefectural government official. I was asked, "How long will this take?" but I was unable to give a precise answer. Fortunately, my boss gave me permission anyway. He said, "I understand. It's OK." In the case of a flood disaster, even if your own home isn't washed away, it takes time to clean up all the mud from local houses and to make new roads, etc. We also supplied relief provisions on this occasion.

At that time, I was an executive board member of Niigata Prefecture Veterinary Medical Association. So I asked the prefecture's animal hospitals for their assistance and also gained support from the Veterinary Medical Association.

This was when I first heard about the existence of the Headquarters for the Relief of Animals in Emergencies in Tokyo. Also, the Japan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (JSPCA) called me and asked, "Are you short of anything?" I replied, "We can hardly afford to buy any pet food as we have no money." In response, the Pet Food Association sent us a lot of pet food, which we stored at the evacuation centers and also distributed to people with pets in the disaster area.

Now, I would like to talk about our temporary pet housing project. In Niigata Prefecture, an Animal Welfare Center will be completed this April at long last. After the earthquake disaster we had no place to keep pets, so we installed cages in hallways and kept animals there. We arranged for owners to be able to meet their pets on holidays. There was no cathouse either and, as it was summertime, we had to gather the cat cages into one room where we had urgently installed an air conditioner to keep the cats cool.

Also, in order to prepare for future disasters, we have built up a stockpile of pet food, which has been donated in abundance. When I visited the top prefectural government official to seek permission to create this stockpile, he was very impressed. He gave his permission while commenting that, "the era has changed and now is the time to build a disaster-use stockpile for animals." I also gave him a report about

our animal protection and control centers (small-scale facilities annexed onto the public health centers) at five locations throughout the prefecture.

I also ordered that our staff learn how to perform spaying and neutering surgery (or at least simple surgical operations), because, up to that time, their main job had only been to handle complaints about animals or pick up unwanted or nuisance animals.

We drew up a budget for medical equipment and drugs, installed them at the facilities, and made them available for use at any time. I never imagined that they would be called upon that very same year, so it was very good that these preparations had been made. I realized that, if you immediately respond when you notice a potential need, when the issue arises it will always be resolved.

Next, I would like to talk about the Chuetsu Earthquake itself. This is my home. At present, I am living in Niigata City but my family home is located in the countryside, close to the epicenter of this earthquake. This is a photograph of the house taken the morning after the earthquake struck. Had the quake happened at night it would have been a much bigger disaster for us. As it happened, the quake struck at about five in the afternoon. At the time, my younger brother was living in the United States but was temporarily back in Japan. We were waiting for him to come home that evening and had prepared a big meal for the occasion. Then we felt the first tremor. At first, I didn't understand what was happening because the quake was so big. The Shinkansen bullet trains stopped running, so my brother was unable to come home. He had to return to America without meeting us. At the moment when the earthquake struck, my father and I were outside the house but my mother and my wife were inside, so I desperately brought them outside. My wife shouted, "Rescue the dog!" as he was still inside the house. I went back in and brought the dog out.

After that, we lived outside for three days. We could not stay inside because the house was shaking and it was very frightening. We put some chairs out in the garden so we could rest there. At night it was cold, so we slept

in our cars with the heaters on.

During that time the prefectural office was constantly trying to call me on my mobile phone but the connection would cut out quickly. Just when I thought we were connected, the call would cut off. To communicate via telephone can be rather difficult in times of disaster, so I contacted people by e-mail. We had four mobile phones in our family. I made use of them one by one. The e-mail was able to reach recipients immediately. Now, at the meat sanitation inspection center where I work, the emergency communications list includes e-mail addresses as a matter of course. It has been decided that we should contact each other by e-mail because telephones are unreliable in an emergency.

The content of the messages I received from the prefectural office after the earthquake was an inquiry into how we would run our animal rescue activities. At the disaster site we were not able to monitor TV or radio news so we were unaware of the situation in the surrounding area. My thoughts were that the damage might extend over a wide area, that I might lose my job, and that I may not be able to feed my family, etc.

When the disaster happened, I was unable to ask my boss for approval to act, or obtain verbal permission from the top prefectural government official. Yet, somebody had to make decisions. So, I instructed relief workers to adopt the same responses we had used when dealing with flood disasters. Just after the earthquake occurred we had nothing at home, including food. I went to the nearest town the next morning, where convenience stores and agricultural cooperative markets were open as a matter of urgency. Food was being sold so I bought as much as possible and also bought a charcoal stove and charcoal to take home. We had a portable gas burner, but because the interior of the house was messed up and the aftershocks were large, we felt unable to enter the house to bring this out. My parents said, "We can't wash our face or brush our teeth without hot water." Therefore, we tried to cope by heating water on the charcoal burner.

Our biggest problem was the toilet. Without running water, we couldn't use the flush toilet. We were forced to use a corner of the garden as an impromptu toilet space.

At that time, a neighbor told us that the government office was going to give us rice balls and asked, "How many would you like?" We had already bought enough food so we declined the offer. Later, the neighbor told us that the rice balls didn't come.

In times of disaster, aid simply does not arrive quickly, so we must prepare what we can on our own.

On the third day after we were evacuated, thinking that our family life would disintegrate if we stayed in an evacuation center, we decided to get away. Based on information I had received by e-mail from the prefectural office we were able to get to Niigata City. We initially headed toward Niigata City along a route that was difficult to navigate, but after we had crossed one mountain, we found that the people on the other side were carrying on their lives as usual. Restaurants were open and food was being sold in the normal way. However, other people in the disaster area had no knowledge of this situation. We had left in cars packed with blankets and all the food we had, but when we saw how normal the situation on the other side of the mountain was, we felt safe. So, we ate the food we had brought along with us on the way, and returned to our city home in Niigata City.

The Disaster Countermeasures Headquarters was established inside Niigata Prefectural Office. The Governor ordered this on the day of the earthquake in response to the unusual situation. Arriving at our home in Niigata City, we were relieved to find that it had not sustained any damage. When I finally watched TV at home I understood the scale of the disaster for the first time and realized that the people in the disaster area had no clear information. They were living in a situation in which they didn't know what was going on or what would happen in the future.

Damage tends to have similar effects in all disasters.

Access to the disaster area was completely cut off. Even JR (Japan Railways) train services were suspended and a Shinkansen bullet train had also been derailed.

This place is called Myoken-zeki (the site of a weir on the Shinano River). Here a landslide buried a car occupied by a mother and her two children while they were traveling along the road. Eventually, after 72 hours of excavation, the rescue workers were able to save one of the children, a 2-year-old boy. A police dog named Lester found the boy. We watched this drama unfold on TV at the prefectural office. The entire staff was watching while praying for the boy's life to be saved, and at the moment he was pulled from the rubble, the whole place erupted into cheers and applause.

This earthquake struck in the mountainous areas of Niigata Prefecture. The damage was especially great in areas where there were many steep slopes. This is a district where ornamental trout are bred on a large scale. Here, the earthquake resulted in the deaths of 1,290,000 trout, causing damage valued at 6.5 billion yen. As was also the case following the tsunami generated by the Great East Japan Earthquake, the stench from all the dead fish was dreadful. Also, the unsanitary conditions attracted and contributed to the proliferation of many insect pests.

A little earlier, Dr. Yamaguchi (of JAWS) talked about tents erected at evacuation centers for use as places where owners could take care of their own animals. There was an elderly lady who brought two pet cats along with her to one of these shelters. When I asked if I could take her photo, she said, "Please do!" So I took these photos. This elderly lady was living in an evacuation center and because she had nothing much else to do, she would visit her pets and play with them. Then she would go back to the evacuation center to chat with other people.

Initially, we considered that animal accompanied evacuation would be allowed as a matter of course. However, it turned out that the acceptance of pets varied from one evacuation center to another. When a

facility is used as an evacuation center the authorization rests with the manager of the facility. For example, if a school is designated as an evacuation center, the school principal has the authority to decide whether or not to permit pets. For this reason, it is difficult to get every evacuation center to accept pets.

To be prepared for disasters, we must give the widest possible advance publicity about evacuation centers that will accept people with pets.

This is a photograph showing an owner and dog evacuated together and living together at the entrance of an evacuation center. The owner would not enter a room space but instead laid out a futon in a passageway so he could stay with his dog. Even the manager recommended the owner to go into the room, but the owner preferred to stay with his dog and declined the offer. I'm sure owners want to stay with their pets and that pets want to stay with their owners. Also, cats were kept in cages as shown in this photo.

In the wake of the Chuetsu Earthquake, our activities included distributing food and lending out related equipment. Also, we received ten tents from the Self-Defense Forces for the use of people evacuating with their pets.

Next, I'd like to talk about the issue of temporary housing. First of all, I went to the prefecture's Civil Engineering Department and asked them to please allow people to keep animals with them in the temporary housing units. However, they replied that jurisdiction over this matter was in the hands of the municipalities and that the prefecture was unable to make such decisions. Individual cities, towns and villages were in charge of temporary housing management.

At this point, the managers of the public health centers requested the municipalities to allow people to keep animals in temporary housing units. As a result, it became possible to keep pets in temporary housing in Niigata Prefecture. Moreover, the prefecture provided across-the-board backup for this policy.

We also kept some animals temporarily and provided support for the health management of pets in cooperation with the Veterinary Medical Association. In addition, we carried out animal rescue activities in the Yamakoshi area where all the villages had been evacuated.

On top of this, we carried out spaying and neutering operations on pet animals. These operations were conducted by the five small-scale animal protection and control centers spread around the prefecture.

As for the timeline, the earthquake struck on October 23, the relief system was secured on October 25, and the system announced to the mass media on the evening of October 26. On October 27, we set up a Headquarters for the Relief of Animals in Emergencies and began our animal rescue activities.

The support activities included providing pet food, pet sheets and cat litter, and performing free vaccinations. To obtain the necessary veterinary medicines we made a request to the Veterinary Medical Association. At the beginning we had no money, so we received everything free of charge. We were able to obtain cages after making a request to the Headquarters for the Relief of Animals in Emergencies based in Tokyo.

In total, we conducted free spaying and neutering operations on 162 dogs and 614 cats.

This is the food we stored and distributed to those in urgent need.

Now, I would like to talk to you about the animal rescue activities we carried out at Yamakoshi. The situation at that time was recorded in a book. Let me read to you from the text:

“A large group of people stands waiting at a sports ground that has become a gathering spot. The noise of an SDF helicopter grows louder as it approaches the ground. This is a big helicopter that can carry 40 people at once. The wind produced by the rotating blades sends up a cloud of dust so that people on the ground are unable to keep their eyes open. SDF

personnel help aboard children and elderly people one after another. In the middle of the next queue there is an old man holding a dog. He anxiously waits for his turn to board. “I want to take this dog along with me. Please, please let me take it along,” he asks many times with tears pouring from his eyes. “I am so sorry, it has been decided that we can’t take animals. It’s a rule.” “Please let us evacuate together. Or if that isn’t possible, I’ll remain here.” At the time, the situation was that the SDF had to evacuate more than 2,000 people from various mountain villages, so even baggage space was limited. Saving human life was given absolute priority.

This old man had also considered leaving his dog behind initially. But as the time for parting drew close, he found that he was unable to abandon the dog. Even though he was told to evacuate ahead of the animal, he could not bear to leave behind the dog he lived with and loved. He couldn’t give up no matter how often he was told it was an order or how much discomfort the scene was causing the surrounding people. Many people evacuating together at that time witnessed this situation.

On the fourth day after all the villages had been evacuated, only the animals separated from their owners remained in the villages. When the owners thought about the pets they had left behind, they couldn’t stop worrying. The suffering of the owners was only increasing with time. Then, they recalled that old man who took his dog to the evacuation meeting point. Some of the owners must have been saddened as they thought, “That old man was determined to take his dog in spite of the harsh words directed at him or how embarrassing his position may have looked. Why couldn’t I have kept trying like he did?” However, we had to think about how to rescue animals in a situation in which even baggage was limited to two bags per person.”

Under such a situation, the section chief and I made a request to the Vice Governor. We said, “Many animals have been left behind in Yamakoshi. We would like to go there to rescue them. Please let us board a helicopter to rescue the animals.” The Vice Governor said, “I

understand the importance of rescuing these animals, and I understand what you are asking. But our priority must remain the safeguarding of human life. However, you may go on this mission as long as you remain engaged in your other work.” Then he called the person in charge of the helicopter and told him, “Tomorrow, these people will travel to Yamakoshi in order to rescue animals. Please take them on board.”

We made our preparations that night and started our rescue work at 4:00 am. Visiting the disaster area involved some risk, so we made up a team of staff from different sections with no more than one person from each section, so that each section’s work could continue even if an accident occurred during the rescue work.

After October 22, we also began picking up animals. At the beginning, our animal rescue activities were limited to feeding, watering and providing medical treatment inside the disaster area. But we knew that by November heavy snow would arrive and we would be unable to continue these activities on-site. So we decided to pick up and keep the animals.

However, we had the problem of where to keep these animals. Since Niigata Prefecture gets a lot of snow every winter, it is difficult to manage animals in a simple shelter. Accordingly, we decided not to build shelters but, instead, to install container houses in the animal protection and control centers and to keep the animals there. Also, we asked the Veterinary Medical Association for their help. The association’s members told us, “Mr. Kawakami, don’t worry. We have 200 members. If you ask each member to keep just one animal, we can take in 200 animals for you. If we keep two animals each, we can take in 400 animals.” So we contacted each branch of the association in Niigata Prefecture, secured keeping places, and began our pick-up activities.

This is a photograph taken inside the helicopter. The two people in front are our staff members. I was in front of them when I took this photo. The people at the back are engineering work staff. The interior of the helicopter is filled to capacity with animal rescue

goods. The Firefighting Disaster Prevention Flying Corps staff also helped us. We visited sites that nobody had been to since the earthquake struck. We were able to observe on-site situations that nobody else had seen in detail and to record them. Then, after returning to Niigata City in the evening, we reported these situations together with accompanying photographs to the task force. These reports were useful when we embarked on our next round of measures. We visited each site to feed and water the animals there. In addition, we tried to confirm the on-site situation as much as possible and make reports for use later on during the reconstruction effort. This worked out very well. We repeated this activity several times until, eventually, the helicopter chief would even ask me, “So when is the next visit back there?” It was important for us to display an attitude that we don’t just work on animal rescue activities but that we also do anything else to help, including gathering information, etc.

As this photo shows, in the disaster area, a dog was left behind in a car. Upon evacuating, the owner must have thought they would be able to come back soon to rescue it. But in fact it took more than a year before the owners could come back. We have to consider not only that evacuated owners will worry about their abandoned pets, but that they may also harbor a great sense of regret.

The actual pick-up activities involved a lot of walking. Although there were plenty of cars left behind in the disaster area, they belonged to other people, so we couldn’t use them. Whenever an aftershock occurred we would contact the task force via satellite mobile phone but we continued our pick-up activities, discovering animals that had been left behind, including rabbits.

In this area, the rabies vaccination ratio and the registered injection ratio for dogs were both 100%. Under that system, at a pre-arranged time if an owner and dog do not turn up for the injection, the authorities will call them. Also, the authorities are aware of which households keep dogs. When such information is available, it makes rescue activities so much easier. It is important to carry out basic dog registration and rabies

vaccination, and also to implant microchips in cats.

As you can see in this photograph, somebody wrote a message on the road. It says, "Everyone has evacuated to Nagaoka, so please go back home immediately and release the dog." In another case, somebody who knew we were feeding animals left a message at their door saying, "There is a cat living here. Please feed it." The owner wrote this when they returned for a temporary visit.

One owner showed me a picture of their cat and asked me to look for it because they had been unable to find it.

This photograph was taken when we went into a house. A dead mouse had been left on top of a shoebox in the front hall. I imagined that a cat had done this as a sign to the owners when they came back home. As I had thought, this household kept a cat.

This man is a member of our staff who was visiting the disaster area for the first time. While we were doing our work, a dog followed us around, but we had to leave it behind when we left the area. We felt very sad about this. Perhaps we would be better off not becoming so attached. Among the dogs there were some wild ones. We couldn't go to them for feeding, so we fed them by pushing a feeding box towards them with a long bar. Here you can see a dog taking a quick bite of food. In such situations, basic discipline is important.

The dog in this photograph was injured. Female staff members also participated in this activity. But they had trouble with the lack of toilet facilities.

At the site, there were bulls that were raised for bullfighting. (Yamakoshi is well known for a form of non-lethal bullfighting in which two bulls meet and push each other in a ring, rather like sumo wrestlers.) On one occasion I opened a shutter behind which I was astonished to see such a bull. Bulls of this kind are treated as a sort of pet, but we did not have any suitable feed with us, so we gave the bull feedstuff that was available nearby. Then this big bull ate the food

while literally shedding tears.

Almost all of the households keeping cats left their hall doors slightly ajar. When we called, cats would emerge from the interior meowing at us. This is a cat called Rinchan that came out in response to our call.

I'm sure some of you saw the movie entitled "A Tale of Mari & Three Puppies" (Mari to koinu no monogatari). This is a photo of the real Mari-chan. In the movie, there was no mention at all that Niigata Prefecture government personnel were helping the animals by traveling to the disaster area to feed them. This photo shows Mari-chan clutching a dried-carp in her teeth. This is Yuichi, who was played by Eiichiro Funakoshi in the movie. And here are the three puppies.

While obtaining help from the air rescue service, our activities progressed from feeding to picking up animals. From the time we began picking them up, the interior of the helicopter was filled with cages. As you can see in this photo, we sometimes had to travel along pathless routes in order to locate and pick up animals. Pets that came to us when we called them were easy to capture. This cat "commuted" to this house from two kilometers away. And this house cat walked into a cage set up for picking up cats.

After returning from our pick-up activities, we visited the temporary housing units looking for owners. A lot of cats have faces that are hard to distinguish from one another. An owner would tell us, "Our cat is an orange tabby," but there are a lot of orange tabbies, so we couldn't see which was which. To overcome this problem, nametags or microchipping are necessary.

The staff of the Headquarters for the Relief of Animals in Emergencies came on an inspection trip, and I remember that Doctor Yamaguchi was a member of that team.

We also kept animals temporarily. As I mentioned earlier, we also had to vaccinate them to prevent them from contracting or transmitting diseases to other cats hospitalized at the same animal hospital. For this

reason, we monitored the animals' health condition for a while following vaccination to confirm they were disease free. Then we moved them to the animal hospitals that were to take care of them.

This is a photograph of a cat that we kept. Eventually, we had about 250 animals in temporary accommodation. It took about two years following the earthquake before the last of these animals were returned to their owners. It also took a lot of money and labor.

Volunteers also came to help out with cleaning. It was only thanks to the help of many people that we were able to continue the temporary keeping of these animals.

The seasons moved on and the snow began to fall. We kept working even when this meant trudging through deep snow. This is a photograph I took. It is very important to take photographs and keep records when doing this kind of activity. When we talk to people later, it can be very difficult to convey to an audience exactly what the situation was like, but photographs really help. While it does take some effort to keep taking photographs while working, it should definitely be done.

In that particular year, Yamakoshi was covered in snow, its heaviest in 19 years. In these circumstances it was difficult to continue visiting the disaster area to rescue animals. But even in this heavy snow, cats came to us for food.

From now on I would like to talk about temporary housing.

We did draw up a set of provisional rules - First, pets should be kept indoors, (although in reality, many people did not do this). Also, pets should be vaccinated and spayed or neutered. We made spaying and neutering operations available free of charge and placed nametags on all pet animals. It is troublesome if we can't see who owns which pet. In addition, we organized a pet owners' association.

This is a photograph showing the situation in Fukushima at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The situation was the same as that at the time of the Chuetsu Earthquake.

This photo is from the time of the Chuetsu Earthquake. This is the place where we delivered a cat rescued in Yamakoshi to its owner who was living in temporary housing. It is easy to locate an owner if the cat is microchipped but very difficult when not.

Keeping pets in temporary housing facilities was permitted but the details were decided through discussions among the residents. In this instance it was decided to install a pet house close to the houses and to keep the animals there. This photo shows the pet house. The interior looked like this. We told the owners that we could install an air conditioner but they said air conditioning was not needed. When somebody visiting from one of the involved organizations saw the condition in which the pets were being kept, he told us, "What a poor way you have of taking care of them. Niigata people are so cold-blooded." We could only reply, "this is what the owners wanted". In Yamakoshi, owners kept their dogs in unheated places such as front entrances, even in winter.

Next, I will talk about the transfer of pets. We did not destroy pets when we couldn't locate their owners. Instead, we found new owners to adopt them. We held a transfer meeting where we were able to rapidly place the animals with new owners just by saying, for instance, "This is a cat from Yamakoshi." Volunteers came along to support us and they also transferred the cats they had been keeping at the same time. This is a photo showing a cat with its new owners.

This is a dog, named Rocky, who was one of the last dogs to be transferred. His owner decided to move into a private apartment and so he had to give the dog away. Rocky was introduced on an NHK TV program.

Even so, there were pets for which new owners were hard to find. This cat was one of those left until the end. His name was Boss. He may have been a stray cat and

he was infected with the feline immunodeficiency virus. When I put my finger into his cage, he attacked it with his claws and bit so hard that blood spurted out. The staff at the animal protection and control center, who didn't keep cats themselves, were unaware that a cats' claws should be clipped. They still had to learn such basics also.

Finally, we did find a place for Boss. It took two years before he met his new owner. He was transferred to a person living in Niigata City. In spite of the fact that he had bitten me, as soon as he arrived at his new home, he jumped straight onto the lap of the lady of the house and demanded to be held. He was totally calm. The new owners had prepared a cat bed, litter box and milk for him. As soon as he arrived at his new home Boss ate a meal and by the time we were about to leave he had already settled down by himself in his bed. I told this story to the Governor and he mentioned it at a press briefing. I'm quite sure that Boss must have been the only cat in Japan to be introduced in that way by a prefectural governor.

Boss died in July 2007, something that was also written about in this book. Let me read the relevant part. "On the night before he died, he kept crying at a time different to his usual time. He was using his last ounce of energy to talk to us, knowing full well that the time to part from us had come. I wish he could have lived much longer." Boss was telling his owners, "Thank you. I have been happy here."

The week after this cat died, another earthquake struck in the Chuetsu region of Niigata Prefecture. This was the Chuetsu Offshore Earthquake. However, after the 2004 Chuetsu Earthquake we had already introduced animal rescue measures into the Niigata Prefecture Regional Disaster Prevention Plan. So we were able to deal with this situation smoothly. The person in charge of the plan happened to be the same person who had arranged the helicopter transport for us when we carried out animal rescue activities in Yamakoshi. He understood our work very well and it was he who said, "Let's include animal rescue measures into the regional disaster prevention

plan," at the time when it was being drafted.

The most important of the animal rescue measures within a regional disaster prevention plan concerns the role of owners. In the first place, pets belong to their owners and are members of their owners' families. So it is the owners who should play the main role in protecting their pets. They should therefore be conscious that, in principle, if a disaster strikes they should not rely on the government to help them protect their pets. They should do so through their own efforts just as they protect the people in their family. Other things owners should do include training their pets not to bite people, attaching contact information to pets' collars, etc.

I will now talk about prefectures. One of the roles of Niigata Prefectural Government is to secure essential supplies and another is to carry out animal protection activities. When the Great East Japan Earthquake struck, people evacuating from the area entrusted their pets to the animal-keeping facilities attached to the evacuation centers. In accordance with the Niigata Prefecture Regional Disaster Prevention Plan, Niigata Prefecture set up a Headquarters for the Relief of Animals in Emergencies on March 18. However, the neighboring prefectures had no such headquarters and I think this was a problem. If each authority develops its own activities for dealing with such situations, I don't think activities will go very smoothly.

Next, let me talk about the role of municipalities. Cities, towns and villages should establish facilities that have the capacity to accept and keep animals properly. Also, municipalities should carry out evacuation drills involving people accompanied by pets as part of their general disaster-preparedness drills. In Niigata, the Veterinary Medical Association and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals also have their roles.

In the context of disaster preparedness, I think the following five things are particularly important: First, we need to establish relationships of trust between people and animals, between individual animals such as dogs, and between individual owners.

Second, pet owners should make a contribution to their local community and enlighten other people about the variety of things that can be done to add value to their local community.

Third, pets need to undergo basic discipline training.

Fourth, pet owners should practice animal protection activities.

Fifth, pet owners should prepare properly for potential disasters. For example, they should get their pets vaccinated and prepare emergency-use supplies, etc.

As for establishing relationships of trust, this is a sports festival for dogs. At this kind of event, the owners and dogs play together in a cordial atmosphere. In fact, the owners seem to enjoy it more than the dogs do. That's an important point. Owners can take advantage of these gatherings to exchange information and make friends with each other.

This is a food eating competition where pets have to eat food from different kinds of container. Pets that can only eat from their own special dish are quickly eliminated.

This is a Halloween party for dogs. The event has its detractors, but the owners are enjoying themselves very much. Also, this provides an opportunity for dog training, such as attaching an Elizabethan-style collar of the kind used after dogs have had surgery, or putting socks on their legs to protect their paws. Whether the dogs enjoy this sort of event or not is difficult to say, but the owners certainly have fun. And it's very good if owners and pets can enjoy such activities together.

With regard to regional contribution activities, we carried out home visit activities to help dispose of garbage and to establish personal contact with people. This is a photograph taken on such a visit. The person here is a prefectural office staff member.

In addition to the prefectural level, the cities, towns and villages became involved. It's important for public administration personnel to join in.

Animal accompanied evacuation practice drills were

conducted. Here, with the cooperation of a privately operated dog run, the participants practiced walking through rubble piled up inside a facility. Apart from that, people practiced putting several animals into cages together.

Also, people accompanied by animals participated in general emergency disaster drills held at the town level. When I was working at the public health center, I talked to the local town authority to arrange for people accompanied by pets to take part in these general emergency disaster drills. As a result, people with dogs came trooping into the sites where the disaster drill participants were gathered.

The municipality and the prefecture provided the reception facilities. Pet owners joined in the exercises accompanied by their dogs, ate emergency food, and took part in a smoke drill. At the end, the owners and their dogs lined up together with the rest of the participants. In this way, the event provided good PR for pet owners and pets alike,

This is a photograph of the volunteers at a welfare-related evacuation center for people evacuated after the Great East Japan Earthquake. At this evacuation center, pregnant women, mothers with children, and elderly people in need of care were evaluated. I asked one of the volunteers what kind of meals the evacuees were eating. Her answer was, "People are mostly eating bread and jam, bananas, rice balls and packed lunches, so when they get hot food they appreciate it very much." A group of young mothers with small children living in Nagaoka City had formed a volunteer group, called "Manma", to support the evacuation center. At the time, I was working in the Meat Sanitation Inspection Section so I told the parties involved that the owner of a meat-related business had made an offer of support. He had said, "Please let me cooperate in some way... Since the earthquake struck, I have been wanting to help the victims of the disaster, but I didn't know how. I'm glad to have heard about such a good cause." Even now this man continues to support the victims by providing them with meat.

This photograph shows a scene of volunteers visiting the evacuation center in order to prepare meals outdoors. On that particular day, the elementary school children had been given a compensatory day off, so there were a lot of children at the center. They were delighted with the food, happily exclaiming, "Great! It's meat!" A meat-related company had donated a supply of high-quality meat for the event, and the happy children really appreciated the taste.

This is a photograph showing all the members of the volunteer group Manma.

The Great East Japan Earthquake struck on March 11, and a Headquarters for the Relief of Animals in Emergencies was established in Niigata Prefecture on March 18. The need for such facilities was stated in the regional disaster prevention plan so we were able to set it up immediately.

This photograph, showing the construction of an emergency pet shelter, was taken on the day before the Animal Rescue Headquarters was set up.

On March 31, 2011, there were about 9,000 evacuees living in Niigata Prefecture and, as of February this year, the number was still about 7,000. From now on, we are considering what more we can do to provide these people with direct support.

That's all from me. Thank you very much.



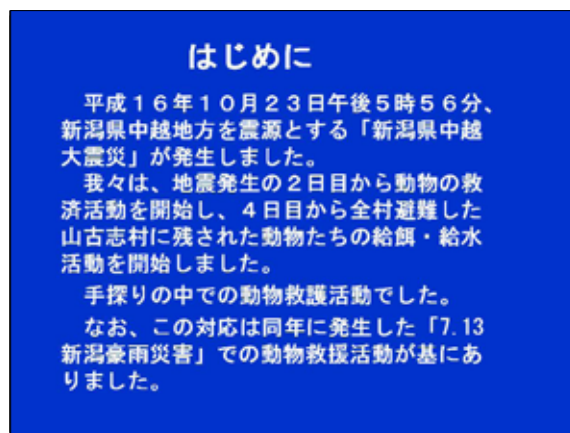
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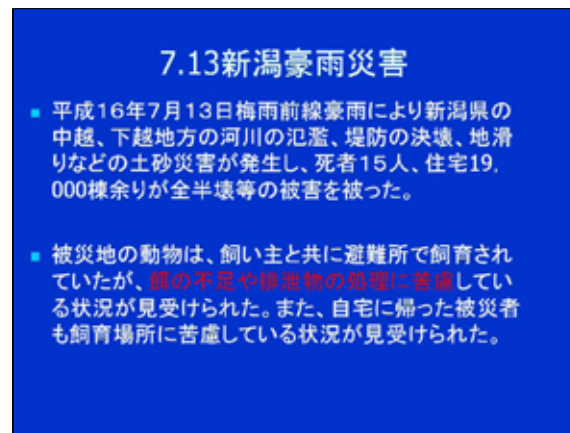
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【Slide 6】



【Slide 3】



【Slide 7】



【Slide 4】



【Slide 8】

7.13新潟豪雨災害での動物救援

- 動物預かり
7月15日～9月10日まで(58日間)
保護動物38頭(犬、ねこ、うさぎ)
- 支援物資の提供
犬用フード 1,760缶
猫用フード 1,300缶
排泄物処理袋 1,900袋
ポケットティッシュ 2,500個
- 負傷・疾病動物の治療(県獣医師会協力病院)
診療70頭、預かり60頭

【Slide 9】

7.13新潟豪雨災害 預かり犬



【Slide 13】

7.13新潟豪雨災害 支援物資



【Slide 10】



【Slide 14】

7.13新潟豪雨災害 物資の提供



【Slide 11】

豪雨災害後の対応

- 物資の提供
- 動物保護管理センターを診療施設として届出
- 職員への治療、繁殖制限手術実習の開催
- 動物保護管理センターへの手術器具、医薬品の配置

【Slide 15】

7.13新潟豪雨災害 預かり事業



【Slide 12】

新潟県中越大地震の発生

Slide 16】



【Slide 17】

被害状況

○ 人的被害状況(人)

死者	重症	軽傷
67	635	4,160

○ 家屋の被害状況(棟)

全壊	大規模半壊	半壊	一部損壊	合計
3,175	2,166	11,638	103,767	120,746

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【Slide 18】



【Slide 22】



【Slide 19】



【Slide 23】



【Slide 20】



【Slide 24】



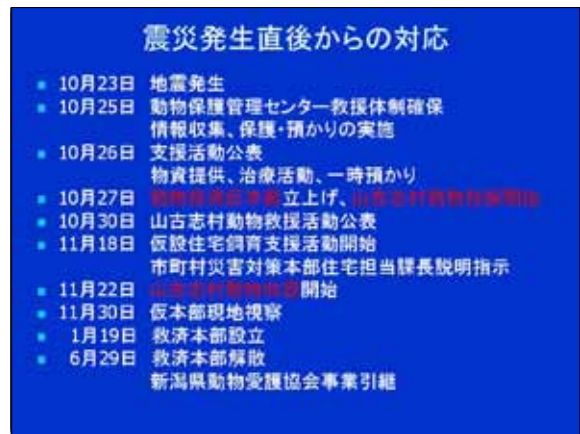
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【Slide 29】



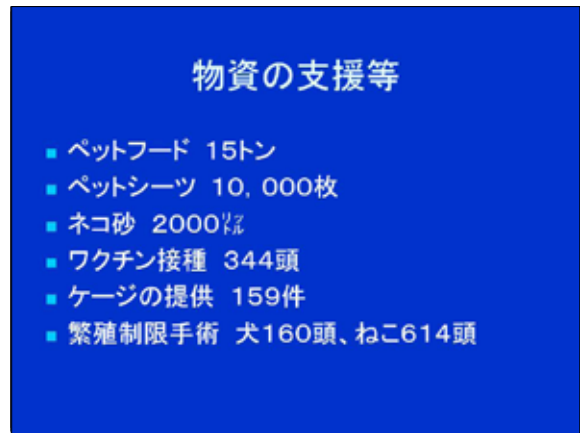
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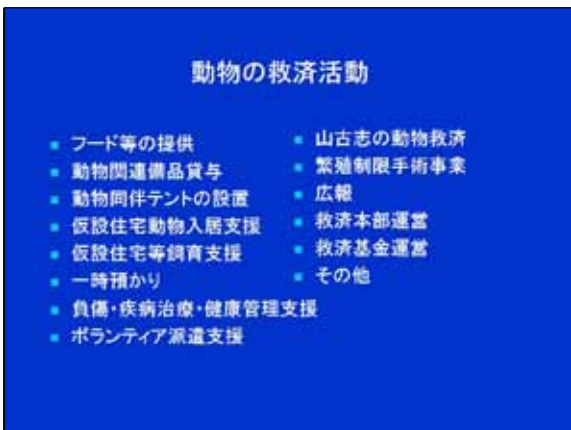
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【Slide 27】



【Slide 31】



【Slide 28】



【Slide 32】

山古志村での動物の救援活動



【Slide 33】



動物の救援活動(動物用物資の運搬)

【Slide 37】



【Slide 34】



動物の救援活動(航空隊員の協力)

【Slide 38】

動物の救援活動

- 10月27日から、全村避難(10月25日)した山古志村へ、ヘリと陸路で生活衛生課及び動物保護管理センターの職員を派遣し、給餌・給水活動を開始した。
- 現地立ち入る際は、危険地帯への立ち入りとなること等から、生活衛生課職員と動物保護管理センター職員3~4人を基本に班を編制した。
- 11月22日以降は、収容活動もあわせて実施し、犬1頭、ねこ90頭、ハムスター2匹を収容した。

【Slide 35】



【Slide 39】



動物の救援活動(ヘリによる救援)

【Slide 36】



【Slide 40】

活動実績(10月末現在)

月	活動日数(日)	派遣人数(人)	ヘリ(回)	車両(回)	備考
10	2	4	1	1	
11	13	44	6	7	
12	23	66	6	17	
1	2	4		2	
2	4	10		4	
3	5	12		5	
4	6	12		6	
5	7	15		7	
6	5	13		5	
7	6	16		6	
8	7	16		7	
9	6	13		6	
10	5	10		5	
合計	91	235	13	78	

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保護収容数等(16.12末)

	犬	ねこ	その他
健康状態確認	43	40	16
保護収容数	1	90	2

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【Slide 46】



【Slide 43】



【Slide 47】



【Slide 44】



【Slide 48】



【Slide 49】



【Slide 53】



【Slide 50】



【Slide 54】



【Slide 51】



【Slide 55】



【Slide 52】



【Slide 56】



【Slide 57】



【Slide 61】



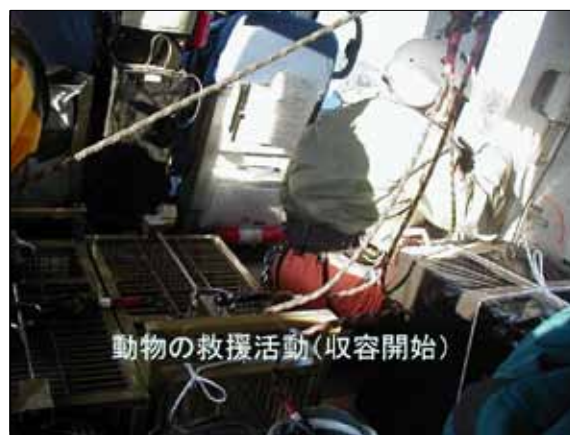
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【Slide 63】



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【Slide 64】



【Slide 65】



【Slide 68】



【Slide 66】



【Slide 69】



【Slide 67】



Slide 70】



【Slide 71】

預かり事業



【Slide 72】



【Slide 76】



【Slide 73】



【Slide 77】

動物の一時預かり

受入動物	犬	ねこ	その他	合計
預かり数	85	169	4	258

【Slide 74】



【Slide 78】

保護ねこ預かりねこの飼育



【Slide 75】

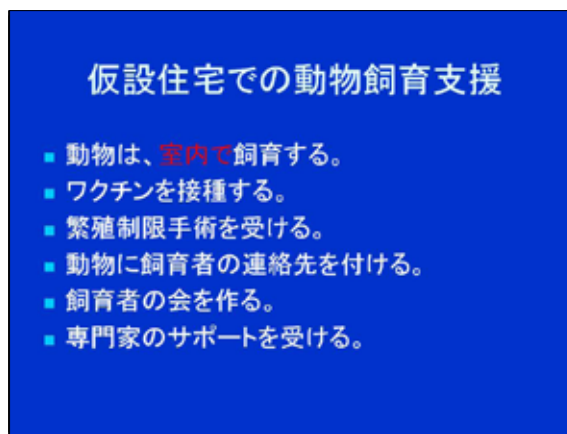


【Slide 79】



雪の中の動物救援活動(保護箱を運ぶ様子)

【Slide 80】



仮設住宅での動物飼育支援

- 動物は、**室内**で飼育する。
- ワクチンを接種する。
- 繁殖制限手術を受ける。
- 動物に飼育者の連絡先を付ける。
- 飼育者の会を作る。
- 専門家のサポートを受ける。

【Slide 84】



雪の中の動物救援活動(19年振りの豪雪)

【Slide 81】



仮設住宅の状況(仮設で犬と共に)

【Slide 85】



雪の中の動物救援活動(19年振りの豪雪)

【Slide 82】



仮設住宅の状況(仮設で犬と共に) 福島県大熊町

【Slide 86】



雪の中の動物救援活動(餌を待つねこ)

【Slide 83】



仮設住宅に戻ったチコちゃん

【Slide 87】



仮設住宅に併設されたペットの家

【Slide 88】



被災動物の譲渡会(魚沼会場)

【Slide 92】



仮設住宅に併設されたペットの家

【Slide 89】



新しい家族

【Slide 93】



被災動物の譲渡会

【Slide 90】



【Slide 94】

3会場で譲渡会を実施した。

対象動物	対象数	譲渡数	未譲渡
犬	3	3	0
ねこ	28	25	3

【Slide 91】



被災動物の譲渡会(ボランティアの応援)

【Slide 95】



【Slide 96】



【Slide 100】



【Slide 97】



【Slide 101】

最後まで残ったねこたち

		
ヒグ	ボス	トラ
白黒 〆 去勢済み ・ Fiv(+), Felv(-)	白黒 〆 去勢済み ・ Fiv(+), Felv(-)	白茶 〆 去勢済み ・ Fiv(-), Felv(-)
Fiv: ねこ免疫不全ウイルス Felv: ねこ白血病ウイルス		

【Slide 98】

平成19年7月11日ボスの死

- 最初にボスに会った時、抱き上げようとしてケージに手を入れましたら私のひとさし指に爪を立てて「がぶっ」とかみつきました。
- しかし、他の猫にないふてぶてしい顔をしていましたので、大好きな猫になりました。
- 飼い主が見つからず保健所でずっと面倒を見ようとしていた矢先にやさしい飼い主が見つかりました。
- 一同飛び上がって喜んだことが思い出されます。
- 知事に報告したところ、記者会見で発表してくださいました。
- 「ボス」は震災時の動物救援活動の象徴だったのかもしれない。
- みんなに心配され愛されてボスは幸せだったと思います。

【Slide 102】



【Slide 99】

相沢さんコメント

- 亡くなる前の晩、ボスはいつもと違って、ずっと鳴き声を出していたわね。
- ボスはもうお別れだということがわかって、最後の力をふりしぼってお話してくれたのね。
- もっと、もっと長生きしてほしいかった。
- でも、心を通い合わせた毎日は楽しかったね。
- ありがとう、ボス

【Slide 103】

ボス

- 僕のことを大事にしてくれてどうもありがとう。
- ぼくは本当に幸せだったよ。
- おかあさんのこと、みんなのこと、いつまでも忘れないよ。

【Slide 104】

3 県の役割抜粋

- 所要物資確保 に努める。
- 動物の保護を行う。
- 動物救済本部を設置する。

【Slide 108】

新潟県地域防災計画

■ 愛玩動物の保護対策

1 計画の方針(抜粋)

県は、市町村等関係機関や県獣医師会、県動物愛護協会等関係団体と協力体制を確立するとともに、県獣医師会、県動物愛護協会等と「動物救済本部」を設置し、飼い主の支援及び被災動物の保護を行う。

【Slide 105】



【Slide 106】

2 飼い主の役割

動物を同伴して避難できるよう、訓練を行っておくとともに、連絡先を記載した名札等の装着、ワクチンの接種、動物用避難用品の確保に努める。

【Slide 107】



4 市町村の役割

- (1) 県と協働し「動物救済本部」に対し、避難所・仮設住における愛玩動物の情報を提供し、及び活動を支援する。
- (2) 避難所を設置するに当たり、**動物飼育の困難者を受け入れられる施設を設置する。**
- (3) **避難所確保時には、動物の飼育に配慮する。**

【Slide 109】

新潟県中越沖地震

【Slide 113】

5 (社)新潟県獣医師会の役割

- (1) 県と協力し「動物救済本部」を設置し、**動物の救済活動を実施する。**
- (2) 緊急動物用医薬品の備蓄及び緊急配送体制を整備し、発災直後の県・市町村からの要請に備える。

【Slide 110】

被害状況

- | | | |
|----------|------|---------------------------------|
| 1 人的被害 | 死者 | 15名 |
| | 負傷者 | 2,345名 |
| 2 住家建物被害 | | 41,917棟 |
| | (全壊) | 1,319棟 |
| 3 その他 | | 東京電力柏崎原子力発電所の火災
および放射能漏れ事故など |

【Slide 114】

6 (社)新潟県動物愛護協会の役割

- (1) 県と協力し「動物救済本部」を設置し、動物の救済活動を実施する。
- (2) **発災の時から迅速可能なボランティア情報を集約し、動物救済本部へ提供することにより被災地でのボランティアの円滑な活動を支援する。**

【Slide 111】



【Slide 115】

7 動物救済本部の役割

必要に応じ、緊急災害時動物救援本部に支援を要請し、次の活動を行う。

- (1) ペットフード等支援物資の提供
- (2) 動物の保護
- (3) 相談窓口の開設
- (4) 動物の一時預かり
- (5) 飼い主さがし
- (6) 仮設住宅での動物飼育支援
- (7) 被災動物の健康管理支援
- (8) ボランティア及び募金の受付・調整・運営

【Slide 112】

新潟県中越沖地震動物救済本部の設置

- 新潟県地域防災計画に基づき設置
- 設置者・・・県・県獣医師会・県動物愛護協会
- 事務局・・・県福祉保健部生活衛生課内

【Slide 116】



【Slide 117】



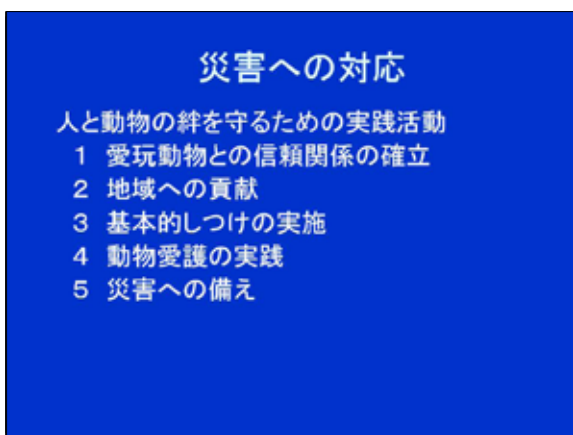
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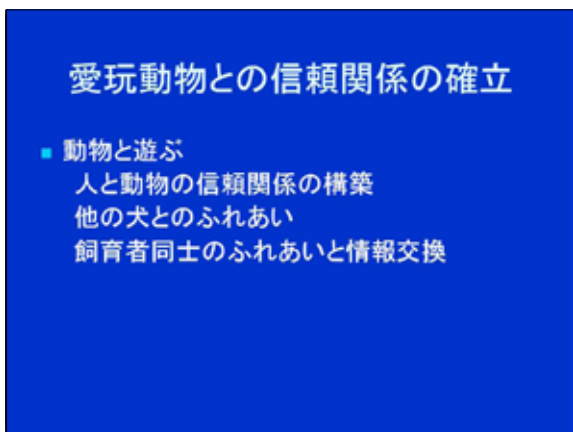
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【Slide 124】



【Slide 125】



【Slide 129】



【Slide 126】



【Slide 130】



【Slide 127】



【Slide 131】



【Slide 128】



【Slide 132】



【Slide 133】



【Slide 137】



【Slide 134】



【Slide 138】



【Slide 135】



【Slide 139】



【Slide 136】



【Slide 140】



【Slide 141】



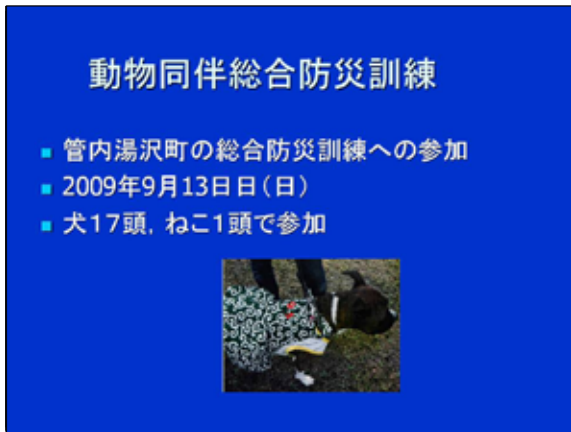
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【Slide 146】



【Slide 143】



【Slide 147】



【Slide 144】



【Slide 148】



【Slide 149】



【Slide 153】



【Slide 150】



【Slide 154】



【Slide 151】



【Slide 155】



【Slide 152】



【Slide 156】



【Slide 157】



【Slide 161】

3月18日新潟県動物救済本部設置

新潟県動物救済本部は新潟県地域防災計画及び新潟市地域防災計画・・・に鑑み通常の飼育が困難になった者及び被災動物に対し支援を行う

【Slide 158】



【Slide 180】

3月18日新潟県動物救済本部設置

- 支援物資の提供
- 相談窓口の設置
- 一時預かり(悪癖、高齢、病気等)
- 避難動物の健康管理支援
- ボランティアの受付等

【Slide 159】



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【Slide 163】

新潟県への避難者

- 23年3月31日 9,222人
- 24年2月 3日 7,095人



【Slide 164】

ありがとうございました。



【Slide 165】

