

the welfare of the animals.

My presentation may not have been very interesting, but you will find it more interesting if you look at the actual elephant or the Japanese crane. So, please visit the Higashiyama Zoo. Thank you.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

Thank you very much.

Are there any questions regarding the presentation? Please.

○ Questioner

I was able to understand that the zoo keepers at the Higashiyama Zoo are being very creative and putting a lot of effort into carrying out enrichment.

Is there something like a textbook, and is the idea to use a model to develop what you are doing? Or are you basing your activities on results of scientific experiments like those of Dr. Mason, and are you applying the results in considering what types of activities you are carrying out? This is my first question.

The other question that I have is regarding the elephant that was in a poor condition; I think that it was an elephant in Noge-yama Zoo. I live close by, and I feel bad looking at an animal that has a wide range of activities being locked up in a small cage and going back and forth. There are these zoos on one hand, so I think that models developed by zoos like Higashiyama that are putting effort into carrying out enrichment should be spread to other zoos in Japan. Are there any movements regarding this area, and are there any forces of resistance that becomes a barrier for such movements?

○ Tetsuya Suzuki

That is a very difficult question for me to answer. First of all, basically, there are no textbooks regarding enrichment. I think that if you search, there are theories, but as a person in practice, I think that cases should be considered case by case by looking at the zoo, the practice, and the individual animal. I think that consideration by people who see the actual situation will be more effective. However, related to the other question, I think that I would like to spread our activities to other zoos.

In Japanese zoos, there is an elephant meeting where

zoo keepers in charge of elephants gather. I present what our zoo has done in meetings like this. A lot of the zoo keepers that have been in charge of elephants have been in the post for a long time, but a lot of these experienced zoo keepers and also the younger generation are usually very interested in what we do. They think that things we do are very good ideas, and I hear them say that they want to engage in these activities.

However, partly because of the effort it takes, these activities cannot be done individually, and it needs to be done as a team. So I think in this way, it is spreading on the individual level, but it is difficult to spread on the organizational level. However, I think that this will change from now on. Does that answer your question?

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

Are there any other questions? Can we move on?

Then, let us take a 10 minute break and go into general discussion. It is ten past right now so we would like to begin at twenty past. Thank you very much.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

Now it is time so we would like to start the general discussion.

As mentioned in the first part of the workshop, this workshop is on enrichment. However, this does not mean that the workshop only deals with the technical aspects of enrichment. Issues regarding the welfare of animals, the purpose of enrichment, and issues regarding the method of exhibition also came up in the workshop. As Mr. Suzuki and Mr. Horii mentioned, enrichment in itself is not a technique for exhibition. Enrichment is a technique used for the purpose of improving the welfare of animals. However, this is indivisible from techniques of exhibition, and it must be carried out as a set in zoos. Thus, enrichment must be carried out in close relation to exhibition. Also, for visitors, they do not necessarily need to be aware of the division; the fact that animals are behaving the way they should be is meaningful. There are three ways of viewing enrichment based on this meaning. It would be great if we can discuss our opinions and ideas from this perspective.

You can address your questions and comments to any

of the presenters. Please.

○ Questioner

I am sorry that I am asking a question again. I am very impressed by the word, enrichment for 24 hours, that Mr. Suzuki mention during the last part of the presentation. I currently serve as a consultant of the Japan Animal Welfare Society. In the field of animal welfare, the reformation of zoos has been called for internationally by organizations such as WSPA. In these movements, the part regarding behind the scenes, like the sleeping rooms of the animals, have been often forgotten. There has been a case regarding the rescue of polar bears in Mexico where the animals were spending long hours in sleeping rooms in appalling conditions, and this case has been talked about often among stakeholders of animal welfare. This is an example of enrichment for 24 hours.

So, people involved in animals would like zoos to use as much money as possible for places behind the scenes. However, I think that zoos have the issue of allotting money during the process of budgeting and planning, and I think that zoos have a lot of issues and battles behind the scenes because of this. I believe that there are two issues at hand.

First, as my friend, Rob Laidlaw of Zoo Check Canada says, zoos need to include a committee member who has the role of advocating for animals no matter what in decision making organizations for planning, managing, and budgeting. Rob Laidlaw was saying that this was very rare in zoos that he had observed, including those in the United States and Europe. How is the situation regarding this issue in Japan, and is there a possibility that this could be accomplished in the future?

Also, I think that probably, in a way, the bad guy is the media. This is the same in the field of dogs and

cats, but the media tend to broadcast very sensational stories or focus on the aspect of entertainment. So, I sometimes think that the famous zoo up in northern Japan that the media picked up in their headlines is the reason why words such as enrichment and behavioral exhibition were misunderstood. The polar bear at that zoo is still going around in circles on the exhibition island.

And Dr. Georgia Mason mentioned that an exhibition with 360 degrees panorama view is very stressful for the animals. But the exhibition of the orangutans that they spend millions on is like a gallery, and the visitors can see all parts of the exhibition. When the media pick up things like this, the public will think that this is something good. I think that Mr. Hori, Mr. Suzuki, and Dr. Ueno have things they want to say or have said regarding this issue, but I want to know if stakeholders of zoos have ways that they can appropriately advertise, for example in the media, what they are doing.

This is the first chance that I have had where this many people from the general public could ask questions to people involved in zoos. I have asked questions individually to people such as Dr. Nakagawa of Ueno Zoo, but this is the first time that I have been in a place where people involved in zoos expressed their frank opinions and where I can ask for their opinions.

Do you think that these things are possible in the future? What is the future prospective for discussions like this between stakeholders of zoos and citizens who want to reform zoos? I think that depending on the case, animal welfare organizations may help with the budget for enrichment through fundraising activities. I think that zoos have an atmosphere where it is difficult for outsiders to enter, but where can these questions be addressed to when considering issues like this, and where can we make a breakthrough?

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

Mr. Hori, do you have any comments?

○ Hidemasa Hori

This is a very difficult question to start out with.

I think that it is difficult to understand the issue without understanding the system of management and operation of Japanese zoos, so I will begin by explaining this. There is an organization called the Japan Association of Zoos and Aquariums; this organization



is one of the cooperating organizations for this event. The association currently has approximately 60 zoos in Japan who are members. Approximately 80% of these 60 zoos are public facilities established by the local authorities. To put it shortly, these zoos are outposts of governments. So people working in these facilities are government officials. We are government officials of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and Mr. Suzuki is a government official of Nagoya City.

Because of our positions, there are rules of confidentiality where we are not allowed to release information that we acquired through our duties. This becomes a considerable restriction. When we speak in the open, perhaps parts of our presentation may violate rules of confidentiality. So one issue we have is that there are no clear standards concerning the range that the rules of confidentiality apply to.

Also, there are considerable discrepancies in how zoos are viewed between people who deal with the animals on the site, such as zoo keepers and veterinarians, and the people in the city offices who are in charge of the management and the operation of the zoos. The governors of Nagoya and Tokyo, for example, are people chosen as representatives through direct votes of the citizens, thus theoretically the opinions of the government represent those of the citizens. When applying this logic, if the city government thinks that zoos should be fun amusement parks, and if they say that this is the image of zoos that citizens want, theoretically, this opinion should be the reflection of what the citizens are thinking.

So, I think that the interests of the local authorities regarding zoos and the animals that live in them and their awareness of the issue become very important factors in shaping zoos.

Along these lines, I think that conferences like this will have an impact, and I think that it is meaningful for people in positions like ourselves to come out and speak out frankly to an extent.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

I will speak from the perspective of a person in a post on the level of management. As Mr. Hori said, many Japanese zoos are public, so they are indeed vulnerable to the voices of the citizens.

The first issue is that citizens do not understand the

nature of animals or have not considered how animals should be. Most citizens are just satisfied, because it is fun to watch – that is, they have fun watching the lions and the elephants. They are not aware of the lives of the animals behind the scenes. Hence, zoos have to communicate to the citizens the lives of the animals behind the scenes, and it is not nice for the visitors to have to imagine a stressful life, but the visitors should also sense that these animals are living. I think that it is most important for the citizens to voice that zoos should be made based on this awareness.

Of course, we are also grateful if citizens could collect money in the form of fundraising, but before that, I think that it will be more effective if citizens can voice their opinions regarding the meaning of zoos, the current situation of animals living there, and the ideal situation of the animals. I think that movements like this will most effectively serve as a momentum. Did that answer your question?

○ Questioner

The reason why I asked that question was that actually, although there are ups and downs, the number of visitors of zoos is gradually decreasing. The issue is, among the voices that I hear around me, the number of people that do not go because they don't want to see the animals in that condition is increasing.

So there are people that do not go because they do not want to see the animals. If this was the case of Disneyland, people can simply stop operating the machines and just turn off the switches, but you cannot do this with animals in zoos. Then, zoos would have to use just as much money to keep the animals alive even if the number of visitors decreases, and this becomes a vicious cycle. Maybe this is already happening, but I have a sense of crisis that this may happen.

So, my dilemma is how to spread the fact that there are people in zoos that want to reform the system in this way. That is, my dilemma is how to appeal in order to convince the people who are saying that they won't go, without being belligerent. On the other hand, the media has the tendency to look for entertainment, such as chasing the lesser panda that stands on its hind legs. My current dilemma is how to go about doing this amidst these strong tendencies of the media.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

If we say that, as I have explained in the beginning, the role of zoos would start to change. Zoos would have to become educational facilities that give people opportunities to consider issues regarding the earth and the environment. Zoos would need to be creative and put their efforts into how to communicate such messages. I think that there are many ways and levels to do this; for example, messages can be communicated through the handling of animals like Mr. Suzuki is doing, or zoos can be creative to communicate messages as an entire facility. Zoos should consider this, but nevertheless, I also think that the media is an issue.

The media seldom focus on the true role of zoos; they always focus on the entertaining aspects. We would like the media to focus on us in different ways. In order for this to happen, I think that the quality of the citizens needs to be raised, although I think that I am being too tough by saying that citizens should be increasing their knowledge independently.

○ Questioner

This is a comment regarding this discussion, but I think that the key is that we need a scientific approach. There are zoos like Higashiyama Zoo that are being creative and putting out results, but on the other hand there are zoos that really make you wonder whether they are considering the welfare of animals at all. You mentioned that there are limitations, because the stakeholders of zoos are public servants, but there are places that are actually putting out results, so those can be spread as model cases. You also mentioned that those working for the local authorities should have more awareness.

Also, you mentioned how the level of citizens, who vote for representatives in local authorities, need to be raised. Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Nakata, the ex-governor of Yokohama City, and I exchanged opinions with him regarding issues on animal welfare. He said that he did not see the issue that way. There are citizens on many levels, but people are not making their judgments based on scientific facts. People simply see the transient aspect like the aspect of entertainment and the cuteness of the animals. I think that we should follow the example of

results of scientific experiments set by Dr. Mason. For example, if we can spread the information that certain conditions increase the stress hormones in animals and certain measures taken decrease the stress hormones, I think that people can discuss what measures to take based on this knowledge. If people can cooperate with places like Higashiyama Zoo that are putting out results to get a synergetic effect and make that into one movement, I think that we can make some changes.

So to put it shortly, my question is why people are not making use of scientific results in Japan, to clearly point out the direction that people should be heading toward, because there are a lot of scientific results in developed countries.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

How do you think scientists should be involved with zoos?

○ Georgia Mason

It is very challenging to compile scientific data in zoos. It takes a lot of money to collect data in each zoo with a limited number of animals. If there is a fund for these scientific activities, zoos may be able to procure money from there, but normally zoos would have to pay the costs. It is the matter of whether zoos would pay to put their animals in a stressful position like that. So, I think that you are right that this is very important. Of course we have to base our practice on evidence. Otherwise, it leads to ignorance.

I do agree with you that we must base ourselves on data in order to look at the issue objectively and to put out results regarding animals. Generally, my opinion is that I agree with what you said.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

Because I was at a university, I will speak from the perspective of universities. In the case of Japan, throughout our history, people have not recognized zoo animals as research subjects. Of course, as it was just mentioned, the sample is not big enough when we consider zoo animals as research animals. Because of this, researchers tend to think that it is better to conduct research on wild animals or the research should use controlled animals kept in laboratories as subjects if the idea is the same as animal experiments. So for a long time, zoo animals have been thought to be unrelated to research. However, in reality,

understanding zoo animals is meaningful, because it may lead to the understanding of animals in the wild; also, as mentioned previously, zoos exist as facilities to communicate messages. So I think that we can increase the value of zoos by handling animals in a more appropriate way based on scientific evidence, as you mentioned.

In this way, I think that researchers should focus more on zoos. However, in Japan, I think that this has still not happened.

○ Questioner

What is the best way to take a step forward for actual action? I think that everybody here agrees that a scientific approach is necessary.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

Researchers and students have long ignored zoos. However, the number of young researchers using zoos as their field is increasing. So if these researchers give feedback to the zoos and a cycle like that starts to develop, we can also get results like Dr. Mason presented. If results like that are returned to zoos, it can lead to things like what Mr. Suzuki and Mr. Hori presented. They were initially not connected to researchers, but they had communication with a researcher in San Diego who recommended them to carry out enrichment. This is how the enrichment of the giant pandas started. If this type of cycle gets started, I think that zoos would improve.

○ Questioner

I think that in Japan when the young students become researchers the research results would start to be publicized. Also, for the already existing model cases we need a place that disseminates the information and we need to spread the research results to the general public. When this is done, we can grasp the current situation objectively, and we can see what is necessary to improve the situation. So do you think that private organizations should take the role of disseminating research results and information regarding already existing model cases in other developed countries?

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

Regarding research, I think that the citizens are very studious so there is no problem in disseminating the information. However, it is difficult for citizens to read research papers themselves and gain a profound

understanding on them. In this sense, I think that professional researchers need to break them down into pieces to explain the contents. I think that researchers need to put more effort into these activities.

I have hosted many study groups regarding zoos that include the general public. I think that study groups like what we are doing right now can be used to put effort into publicizing the information.

○ Questioner

For example, I think that the research results from Guelph University should be spread to the general public in Japan, because I think that these are very good studies. Don't you think so?

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

Yes, as I have said just now, I think so too.

So, because I agree with you opinions, I am hosting study groups in many different forms and I accept invitations for lectures to speak about these issues. In this manner, researchers are putting effort into this too.

○ Questioner

So what I have been talking about is already being conducted.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

As I have been saying, there are not many researchers, especially in Japan. I think that even in other countries, there are not many researchers who use zoos as their fields. But compared to other countries, Japan has even fewer researchers. There are probably less than ten researchers who use zoos as their main field. If we include students, the number will slightly increase.

Thus, because we are trying to do this with a small population, there are many areas where we need to put more effort into. So it is not that we are not doing anything.

○ Questioner

So, we are still unclear about what actions need to be taken to make the actual improvement. To me, it seems like you are saying that it simply takes time. Is this correct?

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

It will take time.

○ Questioner

So in a sense, we have to let time solve the issue?

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

No, it is not simply letting just time solve the issue.

○ Questioner

Since we have so many people gathered with the same level of awareness, this opportunity should be used to take action. To me, it seems like you are saying that this is the flow, so the situation will improve as time passes.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

No, I am not saying that. We are not letting just time solve the issue, but it is a fact that the population is very small. Thus, it is true that it will take a long time. If we want to take quick action, the citizens need to put effort into solving the issue as well; we need both sides of the party to serve as two wheels to accelerate the action. At this stage it is a bit difficult for just the researchers to try to move everything forward.

Staff in charge of conference room: Since there are many other people here today, so if there are any questions or comments, this is your opportunity now.

○ Questioner

Thank you.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

No problem.

○ Questioner

I am involved in the field of education, and I really like animals too, so when I go places, including places abroad, I always go to zoos. I was at the Melbourne Zoo in Australia most recently. There, I was only able to see about 30% of the animals that I really wanted to see. If the same thing happened in Japan, I think that especially family visitors would go home upset, because they could not see what they had wanted to. There was a discussion on the power of media, but the media also sends messages that it is the sole important thing to actually see the animal, and they ignore all other aspects.

I forgot the name of the animal that I wanted to see; I think it was something that lived in the Himalayas. I was there for about an hour, but I did not get to see the actual animal. The only thing I saw was a flash of its eyes on the other side of the bush, but I was very impressed. So what I am thinking is that if the only purpose of zoos were to see the actual animals and to exhibit the animals so that the visitors can see them, I think that zoos would not be necessary, because now we have virtual technologies that can do that. I think

that the visitors are also looking for smell and the excitement that we can share with the animal – that is, the fact that there is something living just like us, on the other side of the fence. To get this sensation, we have to go to zoos, because it is impossible to go to the actual site, like places in Africa, where the wild animals actually live.

So as a person from the general public, I would like to feel the smell in zoos, and even if you cannot see the actual animal, I would like to have a guide who is somebody like a professional animal behaviorist. And I would like the guide to explain, for example, that the animal is on the other side of the barrier and if you listen carefully, you may be able to hear the animal snore. I think that explanations like this would be enough to get the children that I take to zoos excited. I think that placing guides like that will also bring out the issue of budgeting again, but I think that this would be enough to satisfy the visitors.

As you mentioned, I think that we should not ask the stakeholders of zoos to do everything. I think that we, citizens, are responsible for being educated that animals are not all about seeing the actual thing and that they are living things that share a lot with us. It would be great if visitors of zoos can visit to learn these invisible aspects of animals. Zoos are the only ones that can play this role, so I would like the zoos to take on this role; I think that the role of the citizens is education. We need to be more knowledgeable, and we are the ones that have to take action to change to media.

The special television programs on animals are appalling. They only increase vested interests. I think that we need more education, and as a citizen, I feel responsible for this. I would like to thank everybody for the meaningful discussion.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

Regarding guides that are in charge of the explanation of animals, currently, many zoos have the cooperation of volunteers to serve as guides.

Also, about supporting the invisibility of animals – most of the times, the visitors do not agree. Mr. Suzuki, from the perspective of practice, what do you think about this?

○ Tetsuya Suzuki

From the perspective of a person involved in practice,

it helps to have places where animals cannot be seen from the visitors. However, one of the reasons why we keep animals in zoos is that we want to send out messages regarding the animals. That is, we want the visitors to see the attractiveness of the animals – elephants or Japanese cranes, or whatever the animal is. Thus, in this sense, I have doubts regarding the invisibility of animals. Also, speaking from Japanese values, I am not sure if people will accept not being able to see the animals. So, I think that my approach is to keep the exhibition so that the visitors have visible access to animals and to do whatever we can within this parameter. Does that answer your question?

Also, there are professional guides, and I think that hearing from an animal behaviorist would be interesting. However, I think that it is most interesting for the visitors to hear from people like zoo keepers who are actually involved in practice. I think this would be fun for children as well, so please catch a person like that to ask things. I think a lot of people working on the site like to tell stories, and there are very few people who do not like to talk; so it would be great if visitors could make use of these people.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

What do you think about not being able to see the animals?

○ Georgia Mason

It is very difficult for me to comment; I think that we should respect the choice of the animals when they do not want to be seen. Of course, it is a wonderful thing if the animals want to be seen, and people go to zoos for this reason. However, if the animals do not want to be seen, I think that we should not force them to be seen. So, I think that sometimes, zoos have to say, “I am sorry, but the animals also have their privacy.” Some species can be very sensitive, while others do not mind being seen. I think that this is an important point to consider. If animals do not want to work, and if the animals want to take a nap, I think that their choices should be respected.

○ Questioner

I think that you have given me the answer that I was looking for. I forgot to say this when I asked the question, but I think that when we share the experience with animals, they are not simply for watching, but we

learn that animals are the same as us. For example, when we see a sleeping animal, we learn that animals also get tired. Through this, we learn respect, welfare, and empathy. I think that zoos are places where we learn these things. I think that in this sense, zoos teach us a lot of things. I wish good luck for everybody involved in zoos.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

Are there any other questions and comments?

○ Questioner

Thank you for the valuable lecture. I am a student from Osaka Prefecture University.

There are not many people in our university who are interested in zoos. We only have a few people like this, but there are people who want to get involved. However, currently we are only engaged in holding study groups and sometimes participating in symposiums. Are there plans on the side of zoos to use students interested in zoos to do something together? It would be easier for students to start an activity if zoos can tell us what kinds of things they are looking for. Please let me know if you have anything in mind.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

Do you have anything to say, Mr. Hori?

○ Hidemasa Hori

For example, if I wanted to do something with the students individually, there are many organizational constraints, and it would be very difficult. Thus, unfortunately, many people give up doing anything at this point. These constraints from the system get in the way more than you can imagine.

Also, the concept of welfare has been mentioned, but I think that this concept had not existed throughout Japanese history. We have the word, “aigo” meaning “animal protection.” I think that this concept did not exist in Europe. I think that the concept of “abuse prevention” exists in western cultures but the concept “aigo” does not exist. Until a while ago, there was a word in Japanese, “inu-chikusho” meaning “dogs and beasts”. I think that this is a difficult word to translate into English. It is a word that expresses the view that animals are lower beings compared to humans, and the view that animals therefore should not deserve as much as humans. For example, even now, people from the older generation do not like it when we use

the expression, to “give” food to animals. You do not “give” to animals you “feed” them. I think that these cultural backgrounds and the social psychological aspects intertwine in a complicated way to affect our relationship with animals. Thus, it is very difficult to clearly answer why we cannot take a scientific approach with our management of animals.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

Did that answer your question? We are going over time, but we can stay for a little while, so we can take some more questions.

○ Questioner

I am a third year student at the Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University.

It may be impolite for a student to ask questions, but Mr. Hori just mentioned that he actually considered doing something with students at the zoo. I would like to know what kind of activities you were considering.

○ Hidemasa Hori

Before coming to Ueno Zoo, I was at an aquarium for a long time. I was at an aquarium for seven years. At that time, there was a student who wanted to conduct a research with zoo animals for their senior thesis. I was in charge of the penguins then, so I suggested that the students do a research on vocal communication of penguins – that is, communication of information through their voices. I exchanged opinions with the professor of these students, and we talked about conducting such research for three years using three students. This is how I collaborated with the students. We were able to make this happen, because the professor recognized that collaborating with an aquarium was valuable from the perspective of research and education. As it was mentioned earlier, some people think that animals kept by people are inappropriate and lack value as research subjects for biology, so I think that the attitude of the researchers and educators play a big role in making something like this happen.

On the other hand, zoos in Tokyo are under the Department of Greenification in the Bureau of Construction, in Tokyo Metropolitan Government. Thus, the management and the operation of zoos fall under parks and greenification. So education and research have nothing to do with zoos. Because of this, we do

not get any budget or personnel for these purposes, and people think that research and education are not jobs to be taken on by zoos in the first place. So, zoos do not have organizational structures that can welcome students unconditionally. This is the constraint that I was talking about; we can only work with students if it does not inhibit our duties. It is very difficult to actively engage in research and education in collaboration with universities.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

I think that we can take one more question.

○ Questioner

I am a faculty at a pet academy.

Listening to the lectures on enrichment, I thought that people here are actively engaged in such activities. However, I think that there are differences depending on where the zoos are located and how interested the zoos are. I think that some zoos are carrying out enrichment, while others are not.

As mentioned in the beginning, people suggested Ueno Zoo that they make improvements because pandas were expressing stereotypic behaviors. Like this, in Japanese zoos, are zoos able to make suggestions to other zoos in their vicinity? If this is already done, I would like to know how it is done.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

Do you mean the details of the kind of enrichments that are carried out?

○ Questioner

I mean, how methods of enrichments are being communicated. What kinds of activities there are to do this.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

As Mr. Suzuki mentioned, like the zoo keepers in charge of the elephants, zoo keepers in charge of different animals would have places where they can gather with their own kind to exchange opinions, so these meetings will be opportunities for these activities. However, as mentioned previously, even if the individual is interested and wants to carry it out, that does not necessarily mean that the zoo would accept the suggestion from the individual to carry it out. So I think that in current conditions, it would be difficult to spread the activities – that is, it would be difficult for zoos to copy what is putting out results in other



zoos and as a result, spreading the activity in this way. Please.

○ Questioner

Dr. Mason, are the zoos in your country private or public?

○ Georgia Mason

I am British, but I live in Canada, so I have two home countries.

In the U.K. zoos take many forms. Some are private and some are operated by cities. I do not know a lot about the situation in Canada, so I cannot say.

However, I think that the majority of the zoos are private.

○ Questioner

I think that the difference between Japan and the U.K. can be attributed to this.

○ Georgia Mason

Well, to tell you the truth, I do not know. This is a very difficult question so I cannot say. How the animals come to zoos and why people go to zoos are very profound questions. I think that cultural differences also play a role.

○ Questioner

So it is not a simple issue. I understand.

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

Is there anything anybody wants to really ask as a last question?

The person in the back, I apologize, but please keep your question short.

○ Questioner

I am a third year student at Teikyo University of Science. Thank you for the lecture.

I am talking on a very large scale, but does it mean that improvements may be made if we can change the country? Do you think that that is the case?

○ Yoshikazu Ueno

It is not really the country. It is the difference in culture. So if we are able to change the cultural context as well, we might be able to make a difference. However, since this is impossible, we should change what we can within our values. In a sense, science provides us an objective perspective. How we accept science becomes a cultural issue and issues regarding our values. However, science gives us a different way of looking at things compared to these other facets. This

is why we refer to science as something objective.

Thus, the issue becomes how we understand animals from this perspective. We need to develop our culture into one in which we can consider our responsibilities of understanding animals as citizens and human beings. This is how I think about the issue as a person who has been studying animal welfare and bioethics in university.

I think people still have things they want to ask. If there are any questions, please ask them individually.

I would like to close the workshop now. Thank you very much.

