

アドバイザー・メッセージ Advisor's Message

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神戸アニマルケア国際会議も第2回目を迎えました。今回は東日本大震災に津波というとてつもない自然災害に襲われ、さらにその上に、原子力発電所事故という今までに経験したことのない災害が覆いかぶさって、いまだに先行きが見えない中、人と動物の絆・飼い主責任・社会における動物の地位等、人と動物の関係が改めて問い直されています。小動物についてはすでにいくつかの自治体では同行避難を基本としていますが、多くの人や動物が一つの場所に集まりますので、普段からの健康管理、感染症（特に人と動物の共通感染症）の予防や他人に迷惑のかからないようにしつけることは必要不可欠なことです。飼い主が動物への責任も社会への責任もきちんと果たすことによって、動物は市民権をえられ、緊急災害時にも同行避難が当たり前という社会になるのです。

私は、人も含めたすべての動物にとってストレスは万病の元であると思っています。今回のケア会議で、人と動物の双方の幸せのために、社会の安全・安心のために、人と動物の絆・動物の福祉に基づいた健康管理・医療についてそれぞれのワークショップで幅広い議論が交わされ、人と動物の心身の健康に寄与できればと願っています。

This year, we are holding the 2nd Live Love Animals International Conference on Animal Care in Kobe 2012. In 2011, Japan was struck by an enormous natural disaster in the form of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the accompanying tsunami. This was compounded by a major nuclear power plant accident - a type of disaster that the Japanese people have never experienced before. This disaster will have long-term implications that we are not yet able to fully ascertain. Under these circumstances, the relationship between people and animals, as evidenced by human-animal bonds, the responsibilities of pet owners, the status of animals in society, etc., are once again being reconsidered.

With regard to small animals, a policy of 'accompanied evacuation' in times of disaster has already become an established policy for several local government authorities. In cases where large numbers of people and animals gather within a single place it is essential to conduct animal health management on a routine basis. Likewise it is essential to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, and to train pet animals so that they do not make trouble for other people.

If owners would always carry out their responsibilities to their animals and society properly, and if our animals are ever given civic rights, then we will have a society in which accompanied evacuation in times of emergency becomes a matter of course. I think that for animals and people alike, stress can lead to the development of many kinds of diseases. So at this care-themed conference I hope that, in the interests of a happier society of people and animals, and a society in which both can feel safe and secure, that wide-ranging discussions will take place during each workshop. These workshops all relate to animal health management and medical care based on human-animal bonds and the principles of animal welfare, so I also hope that this conference will make a contribution to improving the mental and physical health of both people and animals.