

An Adoption Program and the Activities of an Owners Society in Hyogo Prefecture

三谷雅夫 兵庫県動物愛護センター 三木支所 課長

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[Slide 1] My name is Mitani and I am from the Miki Branch of the Hyogo Animal Wellbeing Center.

[Slide 2] I would like to talk first about our dog adoption activities and then about how we coordinate with the

adopters.

[Slide 3] In Hyogo Prefecture in 1993, an ordinance was established concerning the adoption and management of animals for the purpose of building a society in which people and animals can coexist in harmony. [Slide 4] As a key facility, in April 1998 we opened our Animal Wellbeing Center. After that, in August 2005, the Tatsuno Branch was opened, followed by the Miki and Awaji Branches.

[Slide 5] This is a map of Hyogo Prefecture. It may be too detailed. Regarding the administration structure in Hyogo Prefecture, we have Kobe City, Himeji City, Amagasaki City and Nishinomiya City. These city areas are shown in gray. They are the heartland cities and they carry out their own work with regard to breeding and keeping animals. With the exception of these four cities, Hyogo Prefectural Government is responsible for the rest of the prefecture. The headquarters of the Center is shown within the green area. It used to be responsible for only the area in green but, since April of this year, the blue and purple areas of Sanda, Sasayama, and Tamba cities were added and placed under its responsibility. The red area is managed by the Miki Branch. The yellow area is covered by the Tatsuno Branch. The pink area is under the responsibility of the Awaji Branch. Up in the north of the prefecture is the Tajima area. At the present time, responsibility is under the Toyooka Health Center system. They are planning to have the same sort of facilities as the other branches.

[Slide 6] This slide shows an illustration of the Center. It is located on the bank of the Mukogawa River. Now, I may digress a little bit from my main topic, but let me talk about some related legislation that is the basis of our work.

[Slide 7] First of all, the Rabies Prevention Law was enacted in 1950. Veterinarians and technical staff members were allocated based on this law and kennels were set up in public health centers. Then in 1973 the Animal Protection and Control Law was enacted. Initially there were many theoretical descriptions, but two revisions were made regarding animal-handling businesses, specifying penalties for abandonment of and/or cruelty to animals. A substantial volume of extra content was added and the name was also changed. The law was enacted and implemented by various local authorities within departments already implementing the Rabies Prevention Law. In 1960, there had been an ordinance concerning family dogs. Later, in 1979, there was another one to cover dangerous animals such as tigers. But after that, very few changes were made to animal legislation until around 1993 when another protection and control-related ordinance was enacted in addition to those made previously. In 1993, as I have mentioned, the ordinance pertaining to the protection and control of animals was enacted.

These ordinances were all implemented by the authorities responsible for implementing Rabies Prevention Law. I want to say that, through this legislation, the health and safety of domestic animals was ensured and that promotional activities were carried out in the interest of proper breeding and care. This makes up a major portion of the work of the administrative agencies.

[Slide 8] I have shown you an illustration of the Center. You may have gained the impression that our main

work consists of adoption, awareness-building or education. However our work, as based on the legal obligations that apply to our activities also includes capturing stray dogs as well as accepting unwanted dogs and cats. We also destroy animals and cremate them if necessary, and we regulate the handling of specific animals. These are the main aspects of our work. As I mentioned earlier, in Hyogo Prefecture, excluding the cities of Kobe, Himeji, Amagasaki and Nishinomiya, in 2008 we destroyed a total of 6,841 dogs and cats.

[Slide 9] Now, going back to my original topic, the purpose of encouraging dog adoptions in Hyogo Prefecture is to deepen people's understanding about the issue of animal control among both dog owners and non-owners alike. We believe this will lead to a reduction in the number of dogs that have to be destroyed. Accordingly, we place an emphasis on coordination and cooperation with those people who adopt dogs. Of course, it is necessary for the dogs to enjoy life with their new families and we need to conduct follow up activities after adoption takes place. We also need to have good cooperation between the adopters and the Animal Wellbeing Center so that we can disseminate knowledge about best practices for keeping dogs.

[Slide 10] I would like to show you the numbers later on, but we handle many cases of puppy adoptions, and this is the flow of such adoptions. For deciding the candidate animals, of the puppies obtained by the shelter we choose those that are in good health and make sure that they have a good disposition suited to becoming a family dog. We also check to ensure that any parasites have been eliminated and that the necessary vaccinations have been performed. Regarding discipline, the puppies are given around eight weeks of basic obedience training, such as eye contact, body control, and learning to sit or lie down on command. We also have the facilities for physical contact work. We carry out such work for eight weeks or so in the 'contact room' and enhance the dogs' socialization with people. In this Animal Wellbeing Center, there are lots of dogs, ferrets and cats.

Relationships with these animals are studied.

For adoptions, we generally accept adoption applicants from when the puppies are around ten weeks old. Those people who want to adopt puppies are allowed to have contact with the dogs. When an application is accepted the staff members perform an interview together with checks that assess the living environment, the constitution of the adopting family, and the reason why they want to adopt a dog. After the application process is completed, a number of staff members will determine whether the adoption is suitable or not. Then, at around twelve weeks of age, the puppies will be handed over to their new owners. We hold a meeting lasting for about two hours. We explain why it is necessary for the dogs to be spayed or neutered and why it is important to comply with the relevant laws. Methods for controlling and keeping dogs are also discussed. Two weeks after the adoption, several staff members visit the house to observe the keeping situation and the bonding between the dog and the family members. Where required, they give the family additional advice. Then, one year later, our team pays another visit to the family. Furthermore we provide discipline classes one month after the adoptions for which the owners bring their dog to the Center. We train the dogs for basic discipline.

[Slide 11] The adoption procedure for adult dogs is basically the same as for the puppies. When selecting the candidate dogs we ascertain their disposition and also check for any underlying diseases. But matching dogs with owners well is especially important in the case of adult dogs. So, before coming to a final decision, we allow a trial period of one week (or longer if required). Then, after that, we determine whether the adoption is suitable or not.

Basically, we carry out spaying and neutering of puppies at the Center. This is explained to adopting owners in advance and performed six months after birth. But it has to be done under the responsibility of the owners.

[Slide 12] Moving on to our adoption history, while there were many areas where the branches were late

opening, in 2008 a total of 878 adult dogs and 639 puppies were adopted. In the case of puppies, you may like to know how they live at the Center, so I will show you video images of the puppies when they come here.

[Slide 13] The puppies are placed in quarantine and a member of staff feeds them by hand. This room does not receive sunlight so we take the puppies outside for sun exposure.

[Slide 14] This is a 'model' cat at four weeks and five weeks. The cats and dogs at the center do have contact and the puppies can see the cat-keeping space, which is outdoors. Of course, there are some infectious disease issues but after finishing the first vaccinations we actively bring the animals outdoors. However, because the Center headquarters is close to Tamba Airport, which generates a lot of noise, we do need to allow them to get used to the noise.

[Slide 15] This is the basic discipline training which starts from the eighth week, consisting of sitting down and lying down. Then, there is positive feedback, body control with the forelegs and rear legs, and checking the ears and mouth. So, there is this kind of skinship.

[Slide 16] These dogs are from the same litter and they are very friendly. People can touch them freely. Of course, there are some shy individuals so another circle space is allocated – this one. Also, up until the time of adoption, we walk the puppies on a leash. This is just to get them used to the leash.

Moving on, the main topic of my presentation today is coordination and cooperation with the adopters. Our Center and community wish to serve as role models for keeping dogs and cats which, at the same time, I think is one of the more difficult issues. One-way communication limits this transmission of information. The people adopting our animals also feel the same way and thought they should form a group. We agreed with them so in September 2004 an 'adopting owners group' was formed which has the nickname the 'Only Wan Club'.

[Slide 18] The purpose and activities of the Only Wan Club are shown here. Many doctors participate, and the group and the Center create a dialogue with one another. The keywords defining this relationship are 'cooperation with the Animal Wellbeing Center', 'friendly communication', and 'transmission of regional information'. These are the group's principal activities.

[Slide 19] Regarding membership fees, there is an admission fee of 1,000 yen and yearly fees of 1,200 yen. (That's what I understand). The activities of the Only Wan Club include holding reunions, agility and lecture meetings, training classes, and the publication of a journal. I have brought along some photographs, so let's look at them now.

[Slide 20] This one shows a reunion of the adopted dogs. At our facility, the lawn area is narrow and so limited in extent. Because there were many participants we divided the activities into two. This is the first one in which 50 households (which means 50 dogs, as well as approximately 120 family members) participated. The activities shown in the photos include a bread-eating competition, spoon relay, and musical chairs.

[Slide 21] It was raining on this particular day so we held this meeting indoors. It meant that the dogs were crowded together but they didn't fight. So I think a certain degree of socialization was achieved. At these events, we organize sports-like activities and the dogs compete to get high scores. They are awarded points on the basis of their team performance. On arrival at the reception desk, if the dog has a dog tag, or if their owners present a slip showing that the dog has received a rabies prevention injection, they get extra points.

[Slide 22] After ten years, we had these beautiful cherry blossoms. During this season we have held 'agility and dog café events'. These dogs are from the same litter, and they are undergoing agility training. Of course dogs have to be kept on a lead so they practice walking on a long lead. We provide awareness and information for that also.

[Slide 23] This is a class situation which is open not only

to Club members but also to the general public. It had been ten years since the first dogs were initially adopted so they were now in the autumn stage of life. So we invited the photographer Ms. Kodama to talk about the nursing of old dogs. We also invited Professor Iwasaki from a university veterinarian department. He explained about grooming and nail cutting based on veterinarian expertise.

[Slide 24] This one shows Asahiyama Zoo, and Mr. Bando who was the Director of the Zoo at that time was invited to speak. [Slide 25] In this one, the speaker Mr. Dohjo Yohzo, the famous radio personality in Kansai, who lives in Itami City, talked about judging the dogs' personalities.

[Slide 26] These photos are from a discipline class. The adopter called together some walking friends and about 10 people and dogs gathered. We provided a discipline class.

[Slide 27] Preparation for events is not easy but these photos show a small-scale get together. The owners and dogs get together every month on the first Monday of each month for small reunions. (This one was during the summer vacation so plenty of children came along). We don't push anybody to attend the meets but, up until the adopted dogs are one year old, we do recommend that they attend to help their socialization. So, while the meet-up is on a Monday and attendance is not compulsory, we do strongly encourage the adopters of dogs younger than one year old to attend.

[Slide 28] Here is an example of a newsletter designed in a handwritten style. This style is intentional.

[Slide 29] This is a photograph of the Miki Branch opening ceremony. This is me in the yellow jacket with members of staff as well as some of the adopted dogs and their owners. We invited some local children, and held a lecture on discipline. Here, I think that they are listening to cardiac sounds.

[Slide 30] This is a committee meeting, which might include husbands, wives and children attending. They have come together for this meeting, and they enjoy

being able to do a different kind of work. Fun is an important focus. From collecting up small fees they can create a pool of funds by which they can make promotional goods. They think about the contents themselves (rather than being told what to do by the Center) and make products such as tags

[Slide 31] This photograph shows how careful we are about where our dogs can defecate or urinate. We always retrieve their droppings and take them home. The bag can also carry a 2 liter plastic bottle. If a dog urinates in the wrong spot, we pour water from the bottle to clean the area.

[Slide 32] This photo shows the Tatsuno Branch. [Slide 33] This one is the Miki Branch where I work. Last year we had a reunion, as the photo also shows. [Slide 34] This one is a reunion at the Awaji Branch. The systems at these branches are not yet fully organized and they do not have owner groups up and running. However, while they may only be at a preparatory stage the adopters from each branch are joining in with school visit activities, contact work and children's seminars. They are very cooperative.

[Slide 35] Let me now talk a little about cat adoptions. There are cat-specific viral diseases so we have to ask how can we evaluate each cat's health status correctly, or their temperaments? How can we ensure that owners are fully taking care of their cat indoors? These are some of the issues we have to consider - how to evaluate, how to report, etc.

[Slide 36] We were a little late starting our program but we carried out our first adoptions, starting in 2007. Cat adoptions take place on a trial and error basis, and we have lists of people wanting to adopt cats. By 2008, we had successfully arranged the adoption of six adult cats and nine kittens.

[Slide 37] Lastly, let me talk about the future challenges that loom ahead. A major challenge is the selection and fostering of candidate animals as I mentioned before. At the present time, we have lots of puppies, mostly typical Japanese type dogs. The mongrel rate is very high, and

most of them are between four to five weeks old. The Center does have limitations and the puppies have to spend a lot of time there. So they do have to like people and do have to be able to get on with other dogs and cats. They also have to be resilient enough to cope with the changed environment. We have to help these dogs and cats to become good family animals so they can be adopted. We need to accumulate know-how in this area more and more.

With regard to dog adoption, I have talked about determining their disposition and coping differently depending on their breed, and about matching dogs with owners. We need to improve the quality of all these things. We also have to ask questions about the adopters, for example, how to determine the appropriate adopter age, family situation, and dog-keeping environment. Will the dog be kept indoors or outdoors? How much time is an owner likely to be absent during the daytime? Then there are sterilization-related matters, such as the adopter accepting the need to sterilize. What is the owner's understanding of the dog's personality? All these things are rather ambiguous but we have to ask them, as well as many other things, in order to evaluate and decide whether to accept specific adopters or not?

We are proceeding on a trial and error basis, but we believe it is necessary to enhance or improve the quality of our activities. There was a talk on standard operating procedures earlier so, if we can incorporate such requirements into our operating procedures and guidelines, we should compile a manual that helps all staff members to cope with specific situations uniformly. And in order to cope with situations that a manual cannot cover, which may depend on the animal involved, staff experience needs to be improved.

Adopters, centers and corporations are all important as I previously mentioned. We ask them to spread our information as widely as possible within local communities which is an easy thing to say but actually difficult to implement. Right now, there are the people at the Animal Wellbeing Center and the Director of the Only Wan Club, and they are becoming the hub and

core of our operations. But there are many adopted dogs and cats out there, especially in the Hanshin area where there are a large number of owners in a limited area. These adopters should get together, talk and exchange information without going through the Center or Only Wan committee. That is the way that we believe things should work, and positive information transmission is an important way to achieve this. Consider newsletters compiled by local groups. If you keep a puppy, then naturally, you should be going to classes to learn things. We believe building that kind of framework is necessary, and we want to do it.

[Slide 38] So, today I have talked mainly about our Center's dog adoption activities including the coordination and cooperation of the owners. Last but not least, I would like to express my thanks to Mars Japan Limited, Knots Japan, the Japan Animal Wellbeing Center, and all the people who are involved. I would like to express my hearty thanks for giving me this opportunity to talk to you.

Thank you very much.

兵庫県の譲渡事業と飼い主の会の活動

兵庫県動物愛護センター
三木支所 三谷 雅夫

【Slide 1】

兵庫県動物愛護センター及び健康福祉事務所の位置

【Slide 5】

動物の愛護及び管理に関する条例

- 平成5年4月1日施行
- 第1条(目的)
「この条例は、動物の愛護及び管理に関する所要の措置を講ずることにより、県民の動物愛護思想の高揚、動物の健康及び安全の保持、動物による人の生命、身体及び財産に対する侵害の防止並びに公衆衛生の向上を図り、もって人と動物が調和し、共生する社会づくりに寄与することを目的とする。」

【Slide 2】

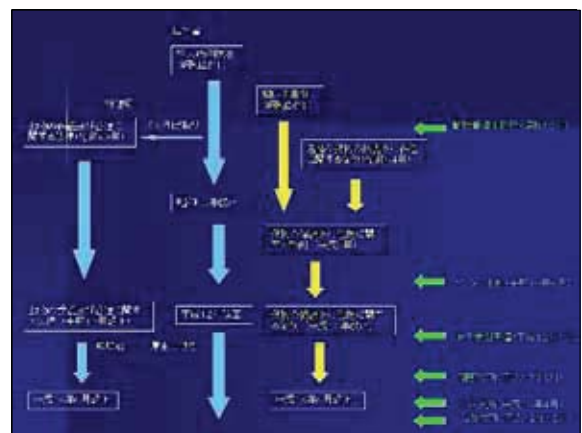


【Slide 6】

兵庫県動物愛護センター

- 「人と動物が調和し、共生する社会づくり」のための基幹施設
- 開設 平成10年4月1日

【Slide 3】



【Slide 7】

支所の開設

- 動物愛護センター : 平成10年 4月
- // 龍野支所: 平成17年 8月
- // 三木支所: 平成19年 4月
- // 淡路支所: 平成19年10月

【Slide 4】

平成20年度殺処分数(県管轄分)

- 成犬 : 1,465
- 子犬 : 517
- 成ねこ : 1,288
- 子ねこ : 3,571
- その他動物 : 0
- 合計 : 6,841

【Slide 8】

犬の譲渡事業の目的

- 譲渡者(新しい飼い主)との連携
- 譲渡者が正しく(楽しく)飼う
- 地域での正しい(楽しい)飼い方を広める

【Slide 9】

譲渡実績

		12	1	2	12	1	2	12	1	2	12	1	2	12	1	2	12	1	2	12	1	2	合計	
本 用	ボス	2	2	6	5	7	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	52
	了犬	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14
運動支所	ボス																							0
	ヤク																							
三木支所	ボス																							0
	ヤク																							0
淡路支所	ボス																							0
	了犬																							0
合 計	ボス	2	2	6	5	7	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	52
	ヤク	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14

【Slide 12】

犬の譲渡事業の概要 I

- 譲渡候補犬の決定
- 健康管理
- しつけ
- ふれあい
- 譲渡者の決定

【Slide 10】



子犬保管室

日光浴



【Slide 13】

犬の譲渡事業の概要 II

- 譲渡会
- 譲渡後調査
- しつけ方教室
- 成犬の譲渡
- 譲渡実績

【Slide 11】



猫と...

屋外で...



【Slide 14】





Slide : : A

オンリーわん倶楽部の活動

- 譲渡犬同窓会
- アジリティ&ドッグカフェ
- 講習会
- しつけ方教室
- ちよこつと同窓会
- 会報誌の発行

Slide : : A



Slide : : A



Slide : : A

譲渡者との連携

- 継続的な連携
- 「譲渡犬飼い主の会」の設立

Slide : : A



Slide : : A

オンリーわん倶楽部

(兵庫県動物愛護センター譲渡犬飼い主の会)

(目的)
第2条 本会は、兵庫県動物愛護センターと連携のもと、会員相互の親睦・交流を行うとともに、犬の正しい飼い方等を地域に情報発信することにより、人と動物が共生する社会づくりに寄与することを目的とする。

(事業)
第3条 本会は、前条の目的を達成するため、次に掲げる事業を行う。

- (1) 譲渡犬同窓会等の親睦・交流のための事業
- (2) 犬の正しい飼い方等に関する知識の習得のための事業
- (3) その他前条の目的を達成するために必要な事業

Slide : : A



Slide : : A



講習会

【Slide 23】



ちよこっと同窓会

【Slide 27】



【Slide 24】



会報誌

【Slide 28】



【Slide 25】



【Slide 29】



しつけ方教室

【Slide 26】



【Slide 30】



【Slide 31】



【Slide 35】



【Slide 32】

支所	譲渡犬数	2023年度		累計	
		譲渡	育成	譲渡	育成
龍野支所	12	10	2	10	22
三木支所	8	7	1	7	15
淡路支所	5	4	1	4	9
合計	25	21	3	21	46

【Slide 36】



【Slide 33】

-
- 譲渡候補動物の選定・育成
 - 譲渡者の決定
 - 地域の譲渡者間の連携の強化
 - 情報発信(地域活動との連携)

【Slide 37】



【Slide 34】



【Slide 38】