

Mr. Toshitami Kaihara,
The Governor of Hyogo Prefecture

貝原俊民

Foreword

A severe earthquake, (magnitude 7.2), which suddenly hit the area of the southern part of Hyogo Prefecture at 5:46 a.m., January 17, 1995, deprived us of our many precious things in an instant.

This unprecedented disaster had a big influence on animals. We saw many dogs and cats, which had been separated from their owners and become homeless, in various places throughout the disaster-stricken town. The victims who had taken refuge with their pets felt small in the face of the many complaints other people made about their pets.

Because of those conditions, on January 21, four days after the earthquake, the Veterinary Association of Hyogo Prefecture, the Veterinary Association of Kobe City, and the Hanshin branch of the Japan Animal Welfare Society established the Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue Headquarters to help the owners and pets who had suffered because of the earthquake. This organization has been very helpful and I appreciate it.

This headquarters took the lead in the work and many volunteers took part in it from all over the country. The measures taken for rescue were done energetically and devotedly; to distribute food to shelters, to accommodate and to treat the injured animals, to keep animals while their owners can't keep and take care of them, to look after homeless animals, and to find owners or foster families for animals. This group encouraged innumerable victims, and they rescued many animals.

Again, I really appreciate them and would like to express my respect for them. Through this animal rescue activity, I recognized that animals are not only pets, but also members of the family and they are sometimes companions. The importance of making a community where all the living beings can help each other and coexist successfully and peacefully was embodied in this rescue project.

From such a viewpoint, presentey in Hyogo Prefecture 'The Animal Protection Center' (tentatively named), which is the main establishment that will develop our minds toward protecting animals as well as promote other projects for animal protection is being developed.

From this time on I want to do my best to realize a Hyogo wealthy in good citizens. This society should be based on the idea that people should harmonize and coexist with each other, nature, and society.

Last, this report can be utilized inside and outside of Japan for guidance in animal rescue organizations in the case that another severe earthquake should happen.



Mr. Kazutoshi Sasayama,
The Mayor of Kobe City

笹山幸俊

Acknowledgement for animal rescue activities

I really appreciated it when I heard that "animal rescue activities" had been working since just after the Great Hanshin Earthquake occurred and have now managed to complete their mission without fail. I paid my respects to the Animal Rescue Headquarters and everyone involved in the rescue activities because they worked hard and gave a hearty effort for one year and four months.

I remember the time just after the disaster occurred when people were confused; victims asked Kobe City a lot of urgent requests. There were many requests about animal rescue: "I want to look for my pet," "I want you to take care of homeless animals," "I want to help injured animals." At that time, the municipal authorities recognized the importance of animal rescue, however we were short of hands to help animals because it was more necessary for us to rescue human victims.

Then, in order to protect animals and prevent harm, the Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue Headquarters whose leaders are the Veterinary Association of Hyogo Prefecture, the Veterinary Association of Kobe City, and the Hanshin branch of the Japan Animal Welfare Society was established. We supported them by providing them a place to use as the Animal Management Center. After that, rescue materials were sent to them from all over the country. A volunteer staff, which was comprised of citizens, business people, volunteers, and administrators, worked together. Activities of volunteers were developed as centering on the Headquarters.

Now that social demand is increasing for the peaceful coexistence of people and animals, we have to plan for an earthquake more serious than we had never experienced beyond our current institutions and knowledge of earthquakes; therefore, it's vital to record important activities that took place during that one year and four months. We should make the most of the lessons that we learned from the earthquake. I hope we can convey our experiences to future animal rescue workers and their activities and hope we can develop substantial work.



Mr. Fumio Sugiyama,
The President of the Japan
Veterinary Medical Association

杉山文男

Compliments

About two years have passed since the Great Hanshin Earthquake occurred. When I remember the time just after the earthquake, I recall that I was scared to see the number of dead people and the increased suffering as time went by. I understood how the earthquake destroyed our lives and how we had to deal with it seriously. There were as many as 6,279 fatalities, 34,900 were injured, and many people are still in the hospital as well as in temporary housing. Bearing this in mind, I hope they can recover as early as possible and that the city can be rebuilt.

Despite the fact that they themselves suffered as a result of the earthquake, the Veterinary Association of Hyogo Prefecture and the Veterinary Association of Kobe City cooperated with the Hanshin branch of the Japan Animal Welfare Society and established the Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue Headquarters at the end of January 1995, after which they began to rescue injured animals. About 260 million yen has been contributed, from all over the country so far, and more than 20,000 volunteers, including veterinarians, helped them. The rescue effort has now ended, but the total number of animals rescued comes to 1,556. I am grateful to the people and groups who assisted.

I hope this report can be used to prepare for an unexpected natural disaster, and we shouldn't forget "The danger past and God forgotten."

Finally, again I really give my best regards to the people and I appreciate the hard work which was done by the people associated with the Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue Headquarters.

PREFACE

When the earthquake hit the then modern city, the animals that lived with the people were hurt, but they were influenced more by the situations of the people with whom they lived. They were severely injured. This report delineates how we acted in order to save these animals.

On Sunday, October 22, 1997, the symposium of the Great Hanshin Earthquake took place at Kobe Bunka Hall and Mr. Hataya, the chairman of the Veterinary Association of Kobe City, stated as follows:

We can easily remember when the volcano in Fugendake erupted or the earthquake in Okushiri happened, because they occurred recently. At that time many animals were injured and then the rescue effort was developed. However, we have never done such a large scaled rescue effort as that reguired in the aftermath of the Great Hanshin Earthquake. Because of this, we were confused about how to begin and what to do in the beginning of this feat as there were a lot of things we had never experienced. However, many people asked us to help animals that were injured in the earthquake. Because they really hoped for and expected us to do that, the donations that were collected at the Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue Headquarters from all over the country totaled about 260 million yen (at that time). Some groups and corporations supported our efforts. Furthermore, we shouldn't forget all of the volunteers, about 17,000 people from Hokkaido (the north of Japan) and Kyushu (the south of Japan) dedicated themselves to helping animals and supported the Headquarters.

Meanwhile, we learned a lot of things through this activity. Among them, the rescue of animals doesn't simply save their lives but it also leads to other activities that saved victims. Even though victims lost their families, lost their homes, lost their desire to live, or were psychologically affected by the earthquake, they survived because they had a pet. Some of the victims said they wanted to live in order to help their pets survive, and other people who had lived a troubled life said they feel comfortable living with their pets. 69 percent of the animals that had been taken care of in the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe were taken to a foster family that lived in Kobe City, which was destroyed by the earthquake, or in Hyogo Prefecture. The number of people who didn't pay any attention to dogs and cats before the earthquake and started to take care of them or began to keep a pet, increased after the earthquake. Furthermore, the number of people who visit animal hospitals increased. These facts mean that the animals that ran away with people as a member of the family during the disaster and were evacuated also survived.

Through this great earthquake, the Japanese phrase "Hanryo-doubutsu," which is translated as "animal companion," was often used. We noticed that people subconsciously sought to heal their minds by taking care of animals. It helped to put their minds at ease to look after innocent animals.

I think we have to keep in mind that a lot of people were helped by animals when the earthquake occurred and we should do our best to improve the standard of animal welfare.

The Animal Rescue at the Great Hanshin Earthquake

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The Start of the Animal Rescue

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ADMINISTRATION OF ANIMALS IN JAPAN

Five authorities

There are several administrations related to animals in Japan. The veterinarian's main concern is the business on the Domestic Animal Infections Disease Control Law, the Rabies Prevention Law, the Abattoirs Law, and the Poultry Inspection Law. There are the laws, which the veterinarian desires to carry out in spite of no special regulations: the Law for the Protection of Animals, The Bird Conservation Law, and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

In the local governments, the division of the Public Health and Sanitation is engaged in the business on both the law of rabies prevention and the particulars for prevention of cruelty. Though these two laws are closely related, Ministry of Health and Welfare is more concerned with the former and the Prime Minister's Office is more concerned with the latter. Thus, the persons in charge of these laws in the local governments have to contact both of the Ministries. Moreover, the donations of medical supplies for animals were under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The volunteers in the stricken area of the Great Hanshin Earthquake carried out the activities of the animal rescue, because animals were seriously influenced not only by the earthquake, but also by the fact that their owners had suffered massive damages. However, because at least the two Ministries were involved in the animal rescue activities after the earthquake, the animal rescue centers suffered from red tape.

The necessity of the unification of the animal administration has been discussed.

Laws related to animals	Contents	Authorities
Domestic Animal Infectious Disease Control Law	Particulars for preventing of occurrence and spread of infectious diseases for domestic animals (including a dog, a plant, etc)	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Rabies Prevention Law	Particulars for preventing of occurrence and spread of Rabies (mainly dogs)	Ministry of Health and Welfare
Abattoirs Law	Particulars for setting up of abattoirs and testing of the meat of cows, horses, pig, etc.	
Poultry Inspection Law	Particulars for setting up of abattoirs and testing of the meat of fowls	
Food Sanitation Law	Particulars for securing of foods	
Law for the Protection of Animals	Particulars for prevention of cruelty to animal	Prime Minister's Office
Brid Conservation Law	Particulars for prevention of cruelty of wild animals	Environment Agency
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species	International treaty about the protection of the rare wild animals and the dealings	Ministry of International Trade and Industry

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF SUFFERED ANIMALS WAS 9300 HEADS

Dogs were 4300 heads; cats were 5000 heads

A big earthquake had not occurred in the Kinki District in postwar 50 years, hence almost nobody had prepared to cope with an emergency. The region of Kobe and Osaka is Japan's second-most populated and industrialized area, after Tokyo, with a total population of about 10 million. The most disastrous earthquake on record occurred in this region and more than 300,000 people took refuge.

This meant that animals who had lived with the people also suffered: animals got hurt and separated from their owners. The estimated numbers of animals who suffered as a result of the earthquake were 4300 dogs and 5000 cats. There were many people who left their animals temporarily or had no choice but to give up living with them. The activities to rescue these animals began just after the earthquake.

At the early stage after the quake, people in stricken areas had neither animal food, nor ways to treat injured animals, nor time to search for separated animals.

The quake, which struck at 5:46 on January 17, 1995, measured 7.2 on the Richter scale and was the first big quake in recent history to hit the Kansai region around Osaka and the port city of Kobe, bringing a lot of death and destruction. Animals were seriously influenced not only by the earthquake, but also by their owners who had suffered massive damages. It suggests that the animals, whose number might eventually exceed 9,000, suffered from bigger damages than the people did. Under such a situation the veterinarians of the Veterinary Associations of Kobe City and Hyogo Prefecture acted dedicatedly with the volunteers of the Japan Animal Welfare Society and the officials of Kobe City and Hyogo Prefecture, in order to rescue injured, unkept, or wandering animals, and help them get over their own damages. In this section, we will report the process of how the animal rescue began.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ANIMALS AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE

Health Center	Number of household (A)	Total or partial destruction (B)	B/A	Number of animals (C)		Number of suffered animals (B/A×C)	
				Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats
Nishinomiya	162,246	1,253	0.007	10,043	14,603	70	103
Ashiya	33,463	723	0.021	2,728	3,012	58	64
Itami	65,690	396	0.006	4,234	5,913	26	36
Takarazuka	71,558	5,057	0.071	5,610	6,411	360	458
Kawanishi	46,695	1,389	0.030	5,694	4,203	171	127
Sumoto	15,069	648	0.043	2,048	1,315	88	57
Tsuna	20,482	7,071	0.345	2,452	1,563	826	540
Mihara	16,410	561	0.034	3,029	1,476	107	50
Amagasaki	192,340	512	0.003	8,679	17,311	27	52
Kobe	569,206	41,330	0.076	35,637	51,229	2,602	3,540
Total	1,193,159	58,940	0.049	80,154	107,036	4,335	5,027

Notes:
(1) The number of breeding dogs was estimated on November, 1994.
(2) The number of breeding cats was estimated by the report of the Prime Minister's Office (the number of household x 0.09, May, 1990).

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GREAT HANSHIN EARTHQUAKE ANIMAL RESCUE HEADQUARTERS

What were the circumstances prompted the activities to rescue suffering animals to begin? Officers concerned with the law to provide for the protection of animals of the Prime Minister's Office were in agony under the circumstances when the activities to rescue injured people were given priority over the rescue of injured animals.

Establishment of the headquarters of Tokyo and the local headquarters.

Day 1, January 19

There was a note attached to a board which said the following: I lost a male tabby whose name was Lucky just after the earthquake. I was searching for Lucky. The cat answered certainly when his name was called; he was friendly and clever. A temporary place to rescue suffered animals was set up in font of the Ebisu Shrine in Nishinomiya City. The boards near the shrine filled with many notes similar to the one above, requesting to search for missing dogs and cats.

The president of the Veterinary Association of Kobe City, Mr. Masahiko Hataya, and the vice-manager of the Hanshin Branch of the Japan Animal Welfare Society, Mrs. Sanae Matsuda, discussed the issue of animals in Kobe City. Mr. Hataya also informed the presidents of the Japan Veterinary Medical Association and the Veterinary Associations of Kinki Area and discussed about the rescue of suffered animals. When Mr. Hataya met with officers of the Department of Health and Welfare of Kobe City, Kobe City offered the place to rescue animals in the Animal Management Center of Kobe City. The chief clerk of the section of Animal Hygiene in the Public Health and Sanitation Division of Hyogo Prefecture, Mr. Toyohiko Kikuchi, was also thinking about the rescue of suffering animals. At the same time, Master Food, Ltd. offered animal food to help save the animals.

Day 2, January 20

Mr. Hataya met with members of the Veterinary Association of Kobe City, in order to discuss the rescue of animals.

The Tokyo headquarters of the Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue, which consisted of 11 groups, was established by the guidance of the Prime Minister's Office, the competent authorities. The officer of the Prime Minister's Office requested that the government begin animal rescue. These actions of government and municipal offices, consequently, brought a great deal of donations and relief goods to the animal rescue centers.

The most important function of the Tokyo headquarters of the animal rescue was to remain in close contact with the local animal rescue headquarters and to send necessary goods to help the suffering animals. These functions were carried out by the Japan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Day 3, January 21

Hyogo Prefecture and Kobe City contacted the Prime Minister's Office and requested the rescue of suffering animals by the Hanshin branch of the Japan Animal Welfare Society, which is only a corporate organization in Hyogo Prefecture. The Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue Headquarters consisted of the Veterinary Associations of Hyogo Prefecture and Kobe City and the Hanshin branch of the Japan Animal Welfare Society. At the beginning, the headquarters were set up in the office of the Veterinary Association of Hyogo Prefecture.

At night, the members of the Veterinary Association of Kobe City started the volun-

teer activities to supply animal food donated by the non-governmental organizations to the stricken area.

Tokyo Headquarters

The Tokyo headquarters, which was established on January 20, consisted of 11 groups.

The Japan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was established on May 23, 1948. In the beginning 150 members were counted. The members at present total 400 and the general director is Mr. Atsushi Koyama. To spread the kindness to animals, a publishing business, a diffusion activity of animal welfare, and the animal rescue at the emergency were performed on recommendation from the Prime Minister's Office.

The Japan Animal Welfare Society was established on October 16, 1957, and it was started from a group of 170 people. The office is set up in Minato-ku, Tokyo, and the general director is Mr. Hitoshi Matsuura. The purpose of the society is to promote the diffusion of the protection of animals and to prevent the ill-treatment of animals. The wide range of activities includes aids for spaying and neutering animals. The present number of members is 2855.

The Japan Pet Care Association, which consisted of 1953 members on May 21, 1979, was established in Tokyo. The present number of members is 4927 and the president is Mrs. Yoshiko Otaka. Their function is the protection of animals

The Japan Society of Human Care of Animals was established on April 1, 1982, and consisted of 15 groups at first. The organization is concerned with the law for the protection of animals. It consists of 63 groups and 6 persons, at present and the president is Mr. Fumio Sugiyama, who is also the president of the Japan Veterinary Medical Association

The Japan Kennel Club was established with 500 members on April 28, 1948. The Japan Kennel Club controls its own studbook and issues certified pedigrees to make breeds improve and promote. At the same time we have been acting with the aim of raising the spirit of love and kindness towards animals by guiding and encouraging the raising dogs. As a part of our activities, we hold dog shows, training competitions, trimming competitions, handling competitions, and agility competitions as well as dog painting contests and dog photo contests. The president is Mr. Hirofumi Keitoku and the number of members is about 160,000 at present.

The Tokyo Society of Human Care of Animals was established with 1147 members on October 1, 1986. Members at present are 1279 and the president is Mr. Koichi Seino. The business is concerned with the law and the protection of animals.

The Japan Association of Animal Hospital Welfare was established with about 100 members on November 1, 1987 for the purpose of the education of veterinarians in private practice. The motto of the association is "to promote the communications between human and animals". The president is Mr. Tetsuya Koreeda and the members at present are 2300.

The Veterinary Association of Yokohama City was established with 55 members on November 2, 1955. That number has increased to 370 at present, and the president is Mr. Jiro Matsukura.

The Japan Petfood Manufactures Association was established with 4 groups in October 1979, to improve the quality of pet food. At present the members are 28 groups and the president is Tamiya Kobayashi.

The Japan Pet Products Manufactures Association was established with 51 groups on February 1, 1985, to promote the pet industry. Ninety-five companies belong to the association and the president is Tadaaki Yamamoto.

The Japan Dog Trainers Association was established with about 200 dog trainers on July 1, 1967, to develop each personality, to improve the techniques of training, and to enhance mutual friendship among the members of the association. Although the number of dog trainers is about 1,300, the regular members in the association are about 300 at present. The president is now Mr. Takashi Fujii.

The most important business of the Tokyo headquarters of the animal rescue was to keep close contact with the local animal rescue headquarters and to regularly send necessary goods to save suffering animals. The office of the headquarters was set up at the Japan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Initial movement

The office of the Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue Headquarters was set up in that of the Veterinary Association of Hyogo Prefecture at the Industry Hall of Hyogo Prefecture (7-28-33 Yamate Street, Chuo Ward, Kobe City), and the animal rescue was begun, having a lot of help from various fields, especially in Tokyo.

The principle ideas about the activities of animal rescue were as follows: the animal rescue should be carried out temporarily by the volunteers to save suffering animals and the owners who couldn't keep their animals; the protected animals must not be put to sleep.

At first, three temporary centers, which should be managed by a group of the Veterinary associations of Kobe City and Hyogo Prefecture and the Hanshin branch of the Japan Animal Welfare Society, were expected to be set up in various locations. In practice, however, no facilities to keep animals were found in the appropriate places. The Animal Rescue Center of Kobe was open on January 26, 1995. In the meanwhile, animals that were injured, had lost the owners, or were unable to stay in their houses were protected in the animal hospitals of the members of the Veterinary Association of Kobe City.

The record of Mr. Toyohiko Kikuchi, the chief clerk of the section of Animal Hygiene in the Public Health and Sanitation Division of Hyogo Prefecture

Electricity was cut off in every house in Kobe City, and I heard low earthquake sounds so many times in the darkness.

I confirmed my family's safety first, and tried to capture damage information with my transistor radio.

NHK in Osaka seemed to be unable to get the exact information about the disaster, but I recognized gradually that the earthquake caused tremendous damages in Hanshin.

Although I was anxious about my house, I decided to move to my office because I was also full of fears and anxieties about the facilities to keep dangerous animals such as lions and tigers.

I tried to use public transportation, but all the traffic was suspended. I decided to drive my car to the place to my office. As I thought, there were collapsed houses, fires, asphalt turned up, and scattered debris. I felt as through I was driving through hell as I watched helplessly. I made detours repeatedly and it took 2 and a half hours to drive a route that usually took 20 minute. I finally arrived at the prefecture office at 10:30 a.m.

I couldn't open the entrance door of my office because all the lockers, bookshelves, and personal computers in the room had collapsed. After I entered the room by force, I tried to telephone the facilities that keep dangerous animals. However, all telephone services were suspended, and thus I gave up calling those facilities.

After that, I was waiting for the direction of the headquarters of the measures against disasters in the room of the Public Health and Sanitation Division. Incidentally, there were about 200 staff numbers in my division. At that time, only two of us, the director and myself, could be dispatched. The majority of

our staff were victims of destruction and were blocked by the fatal damage to the traffic networks.

During that afternoon, I got information about water services which were damaged tremendously, and tried to get other information with a pay phone which was the only one that wirked. However, the pay phone didn't work because the circuits were full and the person didn't answer the telephone. Fifteen staff numbers had been dispatched at about 2 p.m. Satellite communication was restored, and finally we could make contact with the stricken area.

I could hardly believe my ears when I heard reports of the disaster. The requests for rescue to the Self-Defense and neighboring prefectures and cities were decided upon to save sufferers and to supply drinking water. It was about 3 a.m. on January 18 that the temporary supply system of water was established. The outage as well improved gradually, and new pieces of information about the damage were obtained one after another. Even on January 18, it seemed that the damage was extended and the number of the deceased increased. The new project for the Public Health and Sanitation Division was to set up a cremation system for 2,000 people.

After that, it was decided to start offering the services of warm meals, baths, and washing clothes to the shelters. Branch offices concerning public health were asked for the rescue of patients from the collapsed hospitals, people from damaged houses, and wounded persons, day and night.

Under these circumstances, I was worried about animal rescue in stricken area and discussed the issue with the Veterinary Associations. On January 19, I dispatched two members of the staff to arrange the programs to rescue suffering animals.

Correspondence of Hyogo Prefecture

Although Hyogo Prefecture thought about the animal rescue in the stricken area as an administrative duty, we decided to ask people to rescue suffered animals. The reasons were as follows.

At the initial stage of the aftermath of the earthquake disaster, all the administrative persons were needed to aid in the rescue of injured people. It was difficult to make the human sufferers understand that the public service employees were occupied in the animal rescue. However, it would not be permitted to leave animals suffering from the point of view of animal protection. Thus it was necessary to find a way to rescue the suffering animals as soon as possible, considering the strong public sentiment regarding animal safety.

When the administration carried out animal's protection at that time, it was difficult to keep suffering animals for a long time because of financial and personal problems, and hence some animals might unavoidably be put to sleep. However, it was not permitted, morally, to kill suffering animals, applying the present law concerning public health to the unusual situations.

Citizens of Hyogo Prefecture strongly hoped to rescue suffering animals. The expectation of the animal rescue of the citizens in Hyogo Prefecture was well served by the unity in the common interests of the animal protection. This idea was supported by the people and the media.

Correspondence of Kobe City

Kobe City received the request of the animal rescue from the president, Mr. Hataya, of the Veterinary Association of Kobe City on January 19. The section of public health in the Public Health and Sanitation Division of Kobe City, the Kobe Animal Management Center, and all the public health offices were working with an extreme urgency in the rescue of sufferers. There was neither people nor time to spare additional work to save suffering animals. Therefore, Kobe City asked Mr. Hataya the animal rescue by the Veterinary Associations.

Kobe City completely supported the Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue Headquarters (which consisted of the Veterinary Associations of Kobe City and Hyogo Prefecture, and the Hanshin branch of the Japan Animal Welfare Society), and offered the space, facilities, and equipment of the Kobe Animal Management Center.

The houses to keep suffering animals, which were vinyl houses for agriculture, began construction on January 24. The rooms of consulting, meeting and treatments in the Kobe Animal management Center were completely opened. On January 26, this area became the center of the animal rescue, which was called the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe.

Kobe City had supported the activities of the animal rescue center for one and a half years.

Initial activities of the animal rescue:

The first activity of the animal rescue was to supply pet food to the stricken area and the refugees because pet shops or related stores were closed.

To cure injured animals

To keep animals which could not be kept by earthquake sufferers temporarily

To keep stray animals which lost their owners

To search for their owners or foster homes

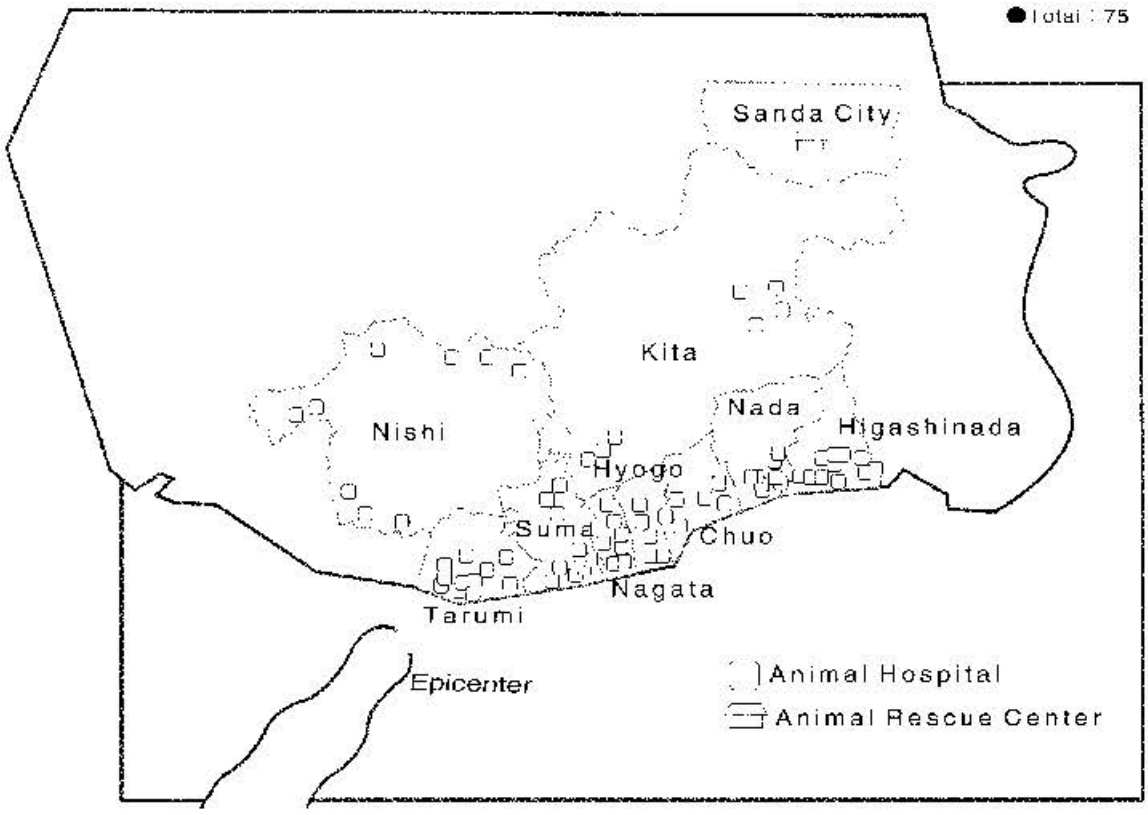
To consult about animals

The base of the animal rescue was not given until the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe was open on January 26. In the meantime, these devoted activities were carried out in the animal's hospitals of the Veterinary Association of Kobe City. However, the animal hospitals were filled with rescued animals soon.

THE INITIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE AND THE VETERINARIANS

The Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue Headquarters was established four days after the quake. Five days after establishing the headquarters of the animal rescue, nine days after the quake, the temporary rescue center of animals was produced at Kita ward in Kobe. Thereafter, the Animal Rescue Center of Sanda was opened on. Consequently the system to rescue animals which were injured, unkept, or wandering had been completed. However, those animals had to be treated only by the veterinarians at the stricken area until the rescue system of animal was established. In this section, according to the results of a questionnaire investigated by the Veterinary Associations of Kobe City and Hyogo Prefecture, we will report the actual activities of the veterinarians belonging to the Veterinary Associations and think about the role of the vetrinarians under such disasters as this big earthquake.

Animal hospitals in Kobe



ANIMALS AND PEOPLE IN THE STRICKEN AREA

On the morning of January 17, I was in the consultation room. The first floor of the rental apartments was divided in the consultation room and the residence. It woke up, and I had already gazed blankly at the TV news of NHK at 5 o'clock. I was feeling something like a premonition. My dog wasn't calm either. Later, I was to hear the various stories of the precursory behavior of dogs and cats from their owners.

The shock of 5:46 a.m. was unexpected. A thud together with intermittent pressure attacked me. With the continuous shock my waist was lifted and the building leaned north. A television flew in front of my eyes. The room became dark immediately. Although fortunately I didn't have even one scratch, I looked outside full of fear for what I might find there: It seemed to be a bad dream. People walked about without shoes, a wooden house had no first floor, and the smell of gas permeated the air.

The door wasn't open in the hospital. While it was dark, only the ramp of transfusion pump was on and off. Dogs in the leaned animal rooms were safe.

I heard voices of people asking for help. I went into the house that the plea for help was coming from, together with some young people from the neighborhood.

It was getting light. Animals were carried one after another. There were dogs that couldn't run because of broken bones, bruises, and lacerations. Obviously, animals were sufferers, too.

While I was feeling relieved that I was a survivor, I really thought that I needed to perform my duties as a veterinarian. There was nothing to work with, however.

From nothing

There were animals needed to treatment in front of me. I had to open the hospital. The door was broken and the inside was so littered with debris that it left me nowhere to put my feet. I used the broken door as a treatment table. The Roentgen couldn't be handled on the occasion of the bone fracture. There was no electricity or water. Because the external injuries had to be washed with a disinfectant, 1% Hibitane liquid was very useful. Suture thread and needles were scattered out and so I used a disposable thread with a spine that I found in the drawer. The spare set of sterile utensils for operations that I prepared before the earthquake was used.

I remembered my memories of years ago when I worked at a mutual aid association. When I was present during the childbirth of one of the cattle, lacerations of the parturient canal were found. The bleeding was profuse, so we couldn't return to the clinic. We sutured the wound in the field with the thread and needle we had on hand. Probably, the cattle would be dead if we hadn't done so. At that time, I felt like I was performing a task like those that must have been the origin of veterinary medicine.

Necessary supplies and transport of the hospitalized animals

At the time of the earthquake, I had almost nothing except for a small amount of cash. No water, food, poly tanks, gas cylinder for the cassette stove, kerosene, oil heater, etc. We had not prepared at all for a disaster of this magnitude. The next day, January 18, I left for my parents' house by car with a friend who was under the same circumstances as me, hospitalized cats, and my lovely dog. This choice held the least risk for me, although I felt a sense of guilt toward the animals who would visit my hospital. I thought that I would return to my hospital as early as possible.

I obtained kerosene, a heater, and a cassette gas cylinder soon. However, there was a shortage of poly tanks. The 20 liter poly

tanks disappeared in an instant. I was given some from the sake dealer in the neighborhood and, on the evening of January 23, I at last got the poly tanks I wanted.

During the 10-hour trip to my parents' house, my cellular phone wasn't working at all. On the evening of January 19 I was finally able to call my parents and friends. It was the evening of January 26 that the telephone in the hospital was reset.

Restoration of the hospital

My superior in Tokyo arrived at my parents' house on January 23. He said that he wanted me to return to Kobe with him. I came back to Kobe grateful for the reinforcements on January 24. At 2 p.m. I arrived at my hospital together with the cats which felt fine, and did a cleanup of the hospital. However, the hospital wasn't returned to its natural state easily.

I decided, with my superior's advice, to secure some extrahands to help with the cleanup. It was impossible for just the two of us to clean up the hospital quickly. Medicine was scattered everywhere and materials had fallen down. When the pet food from Osaka was delivered to the refugees, I asked if anyone would volunteer to help. Fortunately, a student wanted the job. I asked straightforwardly him to work. He worked hard to clean up the hospital. The combination of the student and the animal health technician who had gone to work on January 25 was wonderful and the cleanup was accomplished.

On January 26, a businessman from Kyoto Daiichi Chemical came for the inspection of the analyzer, and offered a substitute machine on the same day. I received it on the next day. Though the portable type of roentgen was ordered through my friend, it was delivered at night on January 28. All the people helped me to start my job in the hospital with great sincerity and diligence. The importance of animal medical treatment and pride toward their work motivated people to help in this cause.

Rescued animals

The rescue of suffering animals was carried out after the need for human rescues and the recovery of the remains had been met. On February 2, the 17th day after the earthquake, a cat was rescued and on February 4 a dog was saved form the collapsed house by a rescue team of the Fire Defense Agency and police officers of Osaka Prefecture, respectively. The same things were reported on February 10 and 16. They were accommodated in my hospital because those places were near my hospital.

Two cats died together within a few weeks of coming to my hospital, while the two dogs were recovering fine. I don't understand what kind of treatment they needed, because they never took water and food. The animals rescued in the Higashinada ward taught me the importance of the life.

The large car of the Tokyo Fire Defense Agency ran with a siren on the narrow way. It moved back and forth with a policeman and a member of the Self-Defence Force. The seriousness of what happened was felt. I asked a neighbor, "Did they come to help anyone?" The woman said, "Yes, it was a cat." I felt her statement was serious and gentle.

People and animals' hope for reconstruction

An old woman who was physically challenged took a walk with a dog at 10:00 a.m. as usual. She said "No matter what is here, I must take a walk everyday." Her house and store were totally destroyed. I was surprised that she continued her valued daily life in the unusual situation.

I recognized deeply the depth of the bond

between people and animals. I discovered that the significance of veterinary medicine was embodied in that woman.

We, veterinarians, will contribute to reconstruction in the aftermath of this earthquake. It is important for veterinarians to open their hospitals even in unusual situations like this (of course, it was needless to say that we must also do our best to rescue our families and neighbors).

The earthquake taught me that our veterinarians played important roles in the society.

(By Toshiro Moriuchi, the veterinarian of Higashinada in Kobe)



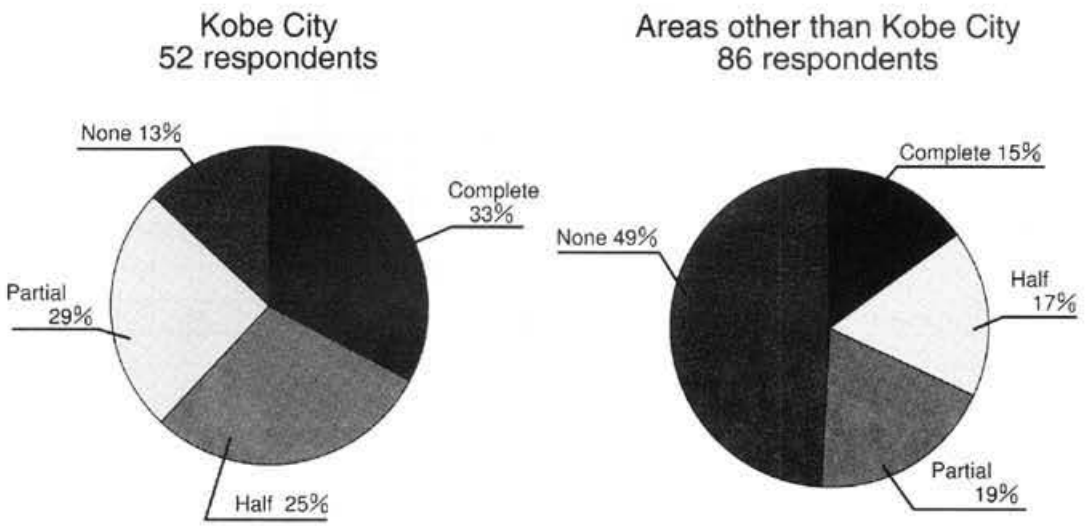
Questionnaire survey
Method

The number of people surveyed was 276, of which the members of Veterinary Associations of Kobe City and Hyogo Prefecture were 74 and 202, respectively. The group was divided into three classes according to a degree of damage; heavy, middle, and slight damage. The time was also divided into three periods; the first period was from January 17 to the time when the animal rescue centers were established, the second period was when the existence of the animal rescue centers was not commonly known yet, although the centers were operated, and the third period was when that the Kobe and the Sanda Animal Rescue Centers were fully operational. The period of survey was from June 1 to 25, 1995. The recovery rates of the survey were 70.3% and 42.6% in the Veterinary Associations of Kobe City and Hyogo Prefecture, respectively.

Damage to the members of the Associations

The figure showed the damage conditions of the members of the Veterinary Associations of Kobe City and Hyogo Prefecture who answered for the survey. Damage conditions were shown in the four degrees: complete or total, a half, partial, little or none. More than 50% of the members of the Veterinary Association of Kobe City suffered from total or partial damages in the quake.

However, it was their work and fulfillment as veterinarians to cure suffering animals. The relations between the degrees of the damage of their houses and the number of suffering animals to cure are shown in this page.



Damage of respondents

It is shown in percentage that the degree of damage of respondents, which classified in four groups, complete destruction, half destruction, partial destruction, and no destruction. A number in parentheses is shown number of respondents.

Examination and treatment of animals after the quake

Veterinarians in Kobe

During the first period, the veterinarians who had suffered heavy damage couldn't work, as everybody can understand, whereas those who had suffered damage in the middle of the spectrum had to take care of many stricken animals. The veterinarians who suffered the partial destruction of houses examined 74.4% of suffering dogs after the quake, while, about a month after the quake, those whose homes were damaged totally examined 61% of dogs. On the other hand, veterinarians who had sustained total damage of their houses examined a half of the suffered cats.

This means that there were many suffering animals as much as the area that there were great damages, and that the veterinarians in the stricken area must take on their relief.

Veterinarians in areas other than Kobe City.

The main cities of Hyogo Prefecture outside of Kobe City, such as Takarazuka, Ashiya, Kawanishi, Nishinomiya, Itami, and Amagasaki, were also stricken by the earthquake. The survey also showed that the veterinarians in the stricken areas must engage in the animal rescue. The veterinarians who suffered complete destruction examined many suffering dogs. This tendency was remarkable in the third period, when the prospect of the reconstruction was made.

On the other hand, these conditions were clearly observed in suffering cats. These data will be a precious record when a system of the animal rescue is considered in the future disaster.

Treatments of suffering dogs by the veterinarians with their own practice in Kobe City

		Number of houses	Fracture	Incision	Bruise	Burn	Vomiting	Diarrhea	Poor appetite	Cough	Total
First period	Complete	17	8	10	0	0	48	58	65	17	223
	Half	13	53	59	14	1	405	411	417	32	1405
	Partial	15	7	15	10	3	27	36	34	13	160
	None	7	7	9	6	0	28	23	18	3	101
Second period	Complete	17	0	4	5	0	18	18	26	3	91
	Half	13	0	0	0	0	5	4	7	4	33
	Partial	15	1	7	3	1	4	13	12	11	67
	None	7	0	2	0	0	16	22	0	8	64
Third period	Complete	17	0	6	0	0	51	61	67	0	202
	Half	13	3	0	0	0	7	1	1	0	25
	Partial	15	1	0	1	0	4	8	8	2	39
	None	7	1	0	0	0	26	31	0	0	65

According to the details in the treatments for suffering dogs, the veterinarians who had suffered half destruction treated 74.3% of all suffering dogs at the early days (first period). At the latter days (third period), the veterinarians who had suffered complete destruction treated 61% of all suffering dogs.

Treatments of suffering cats by the veterinarians with their own practice in areas other than Kobe City

		Number of houses	Fracture	Incision	Bruise	Burn	Vomiting	Diarrhea	Poor appetite	Cough	Total
First period	Complete	17	4	11	6	0	27	19	28	12	124
	Half	13	1	3	0	1	3	9	6	1	37
	Partial	15	5	17	6	2	12	15	19	0	91
	None	7	2	3	1	11	7	10	6	0	47
Second period	Complete	17	1	2	3	0	15	15	28	10	91
	Half	13	1	1	0	0	4	10	5	4	38
	Partial	15	1	1	2	1	1	4	5	0	30
	None	7	0	0	3	0	1	7	8	7	33
Third period	Complete	17	1	3	1	4	38	37	30	30	161
	Half	13	1	2	1	0	15	17	20	6	75
	Partial	15	0	0	4	0	2	4	12	1	38
	None	7	0	0	0	0	10	31	0	0	48

According to the details in the treatments for cats, the veterinarians who had suffered complete destruction treated about a half of all suffering cats at any period. The veterinarians treated 41.5, 47.4, and 50% of all suffering cats, respectively at the first, second, and third period.

Treatments of suffering dogs by the veterinarians with their own practice in areas other than Kobe City

		Number of houses	Fracture	Incision	Bruise	Burn	Vomiting	Diarrhea	Poor appetite	Cough	Total
First period	Complete	13	13	41	50	4	33	39	46	36	275
	Half	15	17	16	26	0	13	12	22	8	129
	Partial	16	15	45	37	1	28	31	50	1	224
	None	42	4	11	4	2	32	25	21	4	145
Second period	Complete	13	0	0	0	0	7	15	16	5	56
	Half	15	1	2	2	0	10	6	9	3	48
	Partial	16	5	0	1	0	9	7	10	3	51
	None	42	0	1	0	0	11	6	2	0	62
Third period	Complete	13	1	1	1	0	35	39	4	28	122
	Half	15	0	0	0	0	4	6	6	0	31
	Partial	16	2	0	2	0	3	8	7	0	38
	None	42	0	0	0	0	6	5	7	0	60

According to the details in the treatments for dogs, the veterinarians who had suffered half destruction treated suffering dogs during all periods. Especially, it was remarkably at the third period when the reconstruction would improve the outlook. In this period, a veterinarian treated more than nine heads of suffering dogs a day.

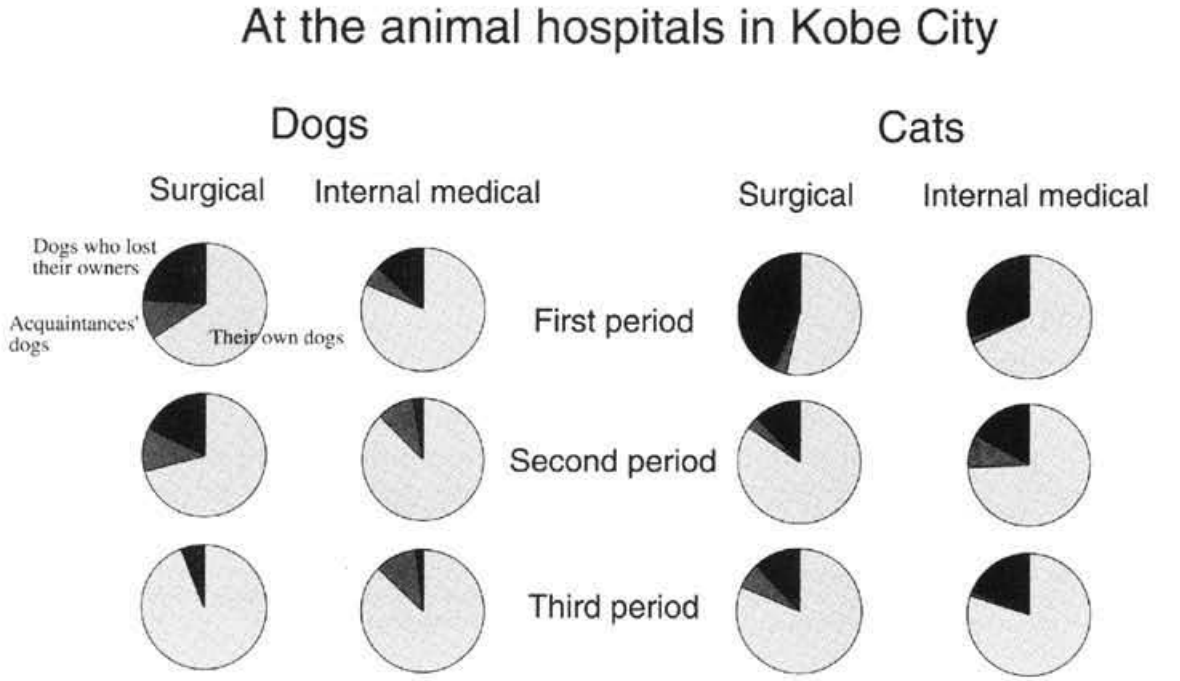
Treatments of suffering cats by the veterinarians with their own practice in areas other than Kobe City

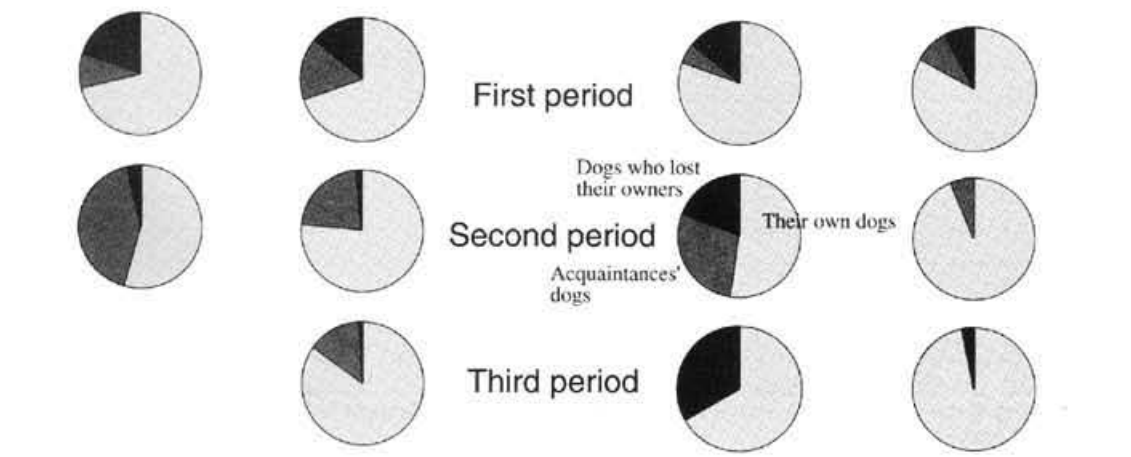
		Number of houses	Fracture	Incision	Bruise	Burn	Vomiting	Diarrhea	Poor appetite	Cough	Total
First period	Complete	13	6	17	9	6	25	47	18	0	141
	Half	15	2	12	9	0	4	9	12	4	67
	Partial	16	4	18	19	2	15	15	14	0	103
	None	42	3	7	4	2	16	14	14	0	102
Second period	Complete	13	0	0	0	0	2	8	10	0	33
	Half	15	0	1	2	0	2	9	9	4	42
	Partial	16	0	0	1	0	7	6	5	0	35
	None	42	0	0	1	1	5	3	4	4	60
Third period	Complete	13	0	0	4	0	1	2	0	1	21
	Half	15	1	0	0	0	5	1	8	0	30
	Partial	16	1	0	0	0	0	11	10	0	38
	None	42	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	47

According to the detail in the treatments for cats, suffering cats were brought to the veterinarians regardless of the damage of veterinarians.

What kind of suffering animals were brought into the veterinary hospitals? (1)

The suffering animals brought into the veterinary hospitals were in various conditions: one third of them were animals brought by the acquaintances and those which lost their owners. This means that people couldn't desert these suffering animals and took them to the animal hospitals to be treated. People must have realized how dear life is, because people lost a lot of lives in the earthquake disaster. These feelings of people would be the origin of the animal rescue.

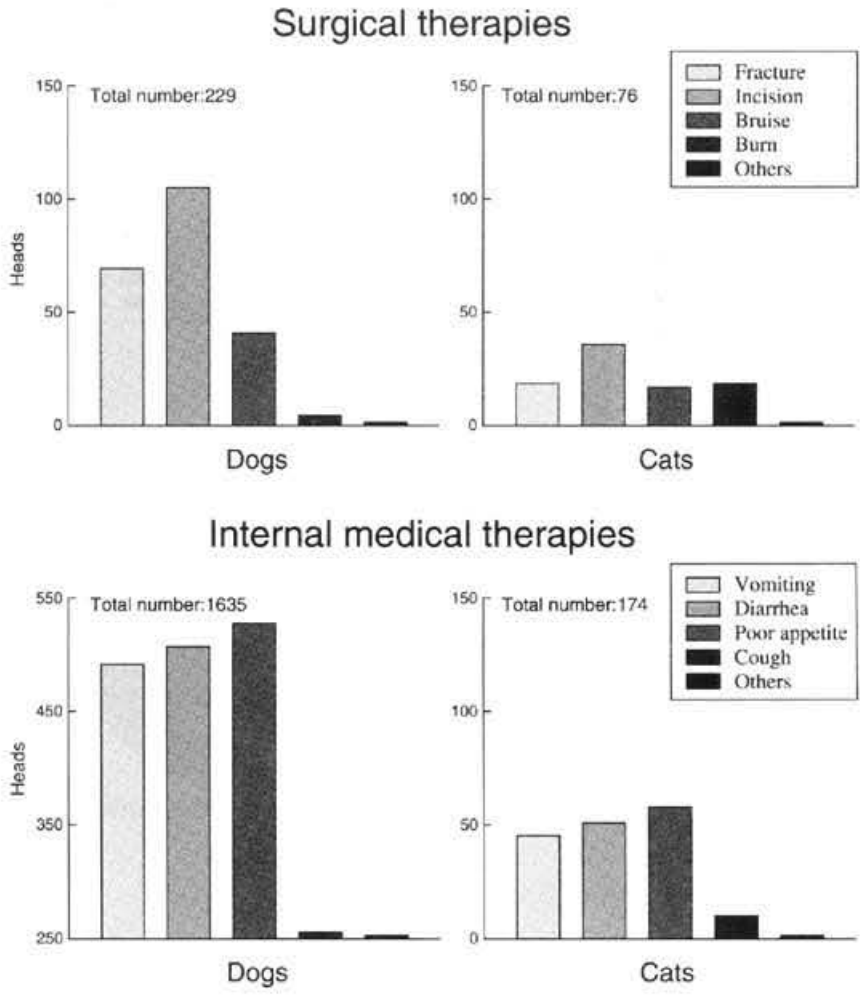




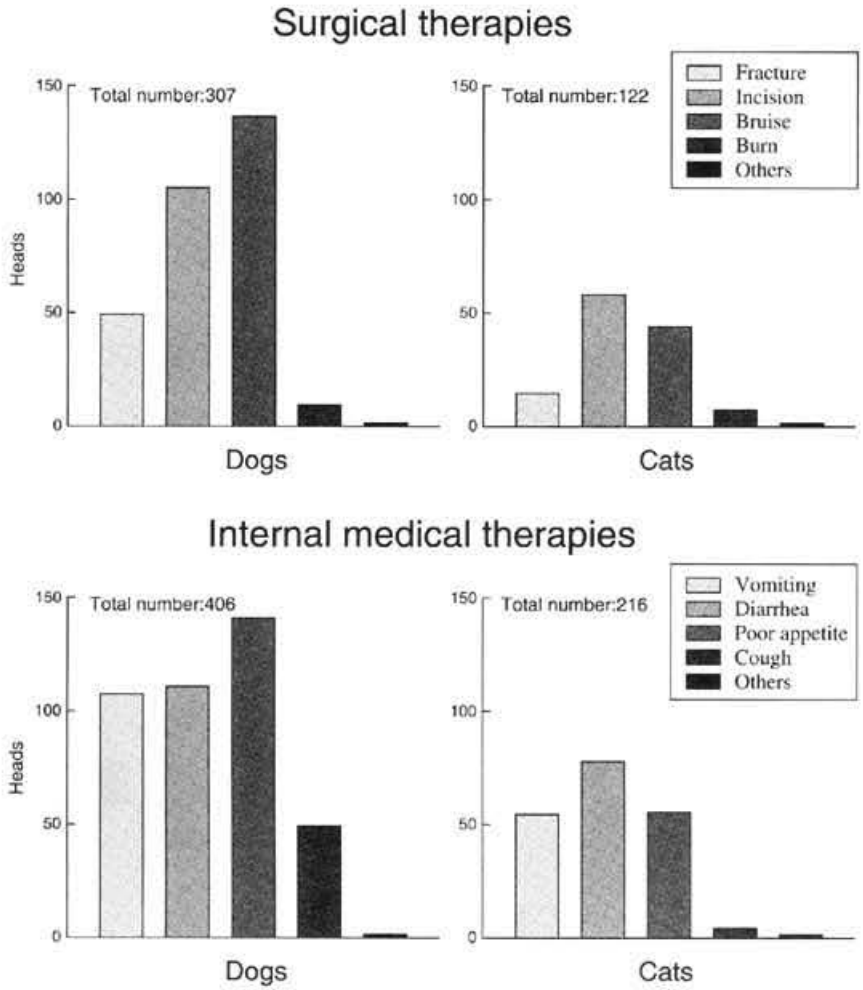
What kind of treatments was administered to the suffering animals?

In both dogs and cats, the therapy by internal medicine rather than by surgery were needed during the first and also the second periods. For instance, poor appetite, diarrhea, and vomiting were common symptoms of the animals. At the first period, sensitive dogs were often seen, and their typical behavior was to bite people, suggesting a kind of stress syndrome. At the second period, the surgical operations for contraception were required more frequently, compared to the prequake. From the second to the third period, animals which were buried under the broken materials were taken into the clinics, and they often had no appetite.

For days after the quake, the dogs which took internal treatments reached 7 times (1635 heads) the amount of dogs which required surgical treatments (229 heads) in Kobe.



The numbers show those of total animals that the veterinarians with their own practice in Kobe City treated from the earthquake on January 17 to January 26 when the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe was set up.

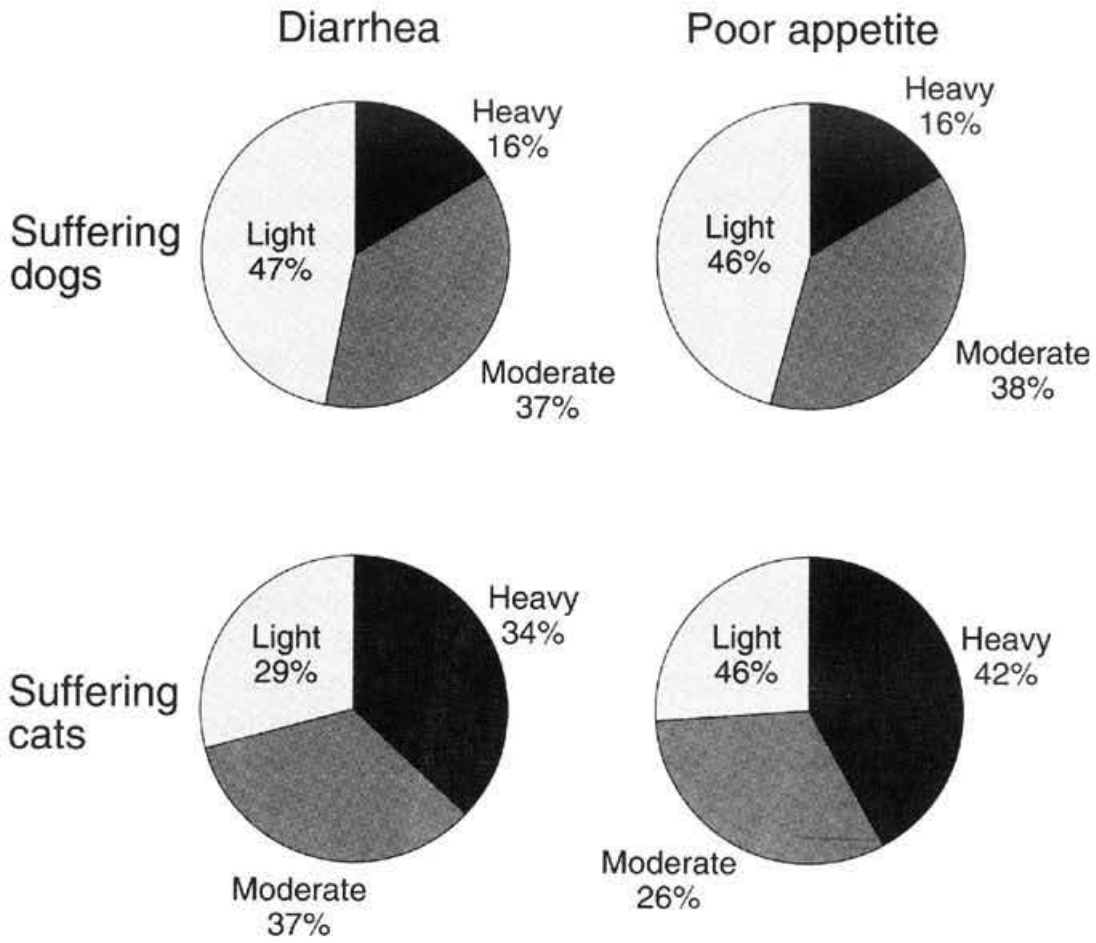


The numbers show those of total animals that the veterinarians with their own practice in areas other than Kobe City treated from the earthquake on January 17 to January 26 when the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe was set up.

What kind of suffering animals were brought into the veterinary hospital? (2)

The animals bearing various kinds of disturbances were brought into the animal hospitals. The animals with moderate or light disturbances were much more than those with serious problems.

The figure presented the animals showing diarrhea and bad appetite after the earthquake; the relatively light symptoms of diarrhea and bad appetite were observed in 1/3 dogs. These animals would be never brought to the hospitals, if the earthquake disaster hadn't occurred.



ANIMALS IN THE REFUGES

People who lost their houses due to the earthquake disaster were forced to live in the completely unusual environment of the refuges. Some people lived with their animals in the refuges. How did people live with their animals in the different spaces of the refuges?

A questionnaire investigation was done by the Japan Pet Care Association.

Object :

(1) Population

Survey area	Number of shelters	Number of refugees
Nada	91	21,177
Higashinada	110	20,094
Ashiya	51	5,353
Nishinomiya	155	14,815
Kawanishi	11	364
Total	418	61,803

(They are based on the data of the Public Health Center.)

Survey area	Number of shelters	Number of refugees	Number of individual survey
Nada	25	17,444	54
Higashinada	18	11,381	63
Ashiya	11	2,824	36
Nishinomiya	12	3,388	50
Kawanishi	2	100	7
Total	68	35,137	210

(2) Sample number 68 shelters
Owner 210 people

(3) Sampling process

●When sampling of survey areas, though it was intended to reflect the whole as much as possible, the necessity of a quick survey and the convenience of transportation were taken into consideration.

●It was extracted from the refuge whose scale (the number of the refugees) was as big as possible so there would be more enhance of equality of the survey area.

●The households which lived in the refuge were looked for, and survey of the owners was done at random. The owners were surveyed while taking their dogs on a walk near the refuge, too.

The contents of the survey

Ⅰ Survey of the breeding conditions of the suffering animal in the refuge.

(refuge survey)

(1)The presence of the refugees who have pets and the correspondence

(2)The complaint about the pets and coping with the trouble

Ⅱ Survey of the behavior of the suffering animal and the owner (individual investigation)

(1)Did you take shelter with the animal from the beginning?

(2)When keeping an animal in (or near) a refuge or a home, what kinds of things are important?

(3)As you bring animals to the refuge, are there good results?

(4)What kind of conditions were you and your animal in at the time of the earthquake?

(5)At that time, what did you and your family do for the kept animal?

(6)What kind of reaction and behavior did animal have due to the seismic shock?

(7)Is there anything resembling what is sometimes thought of as seismic sequelae about the present animal's condition?

(8)How much time passed until the animal was calm and behaved with in the same way as usual?

(9)About the future correspondence behavior

(10)Do you remember now any that may be translated as forecast behavior before the earthquake?

(11)Do you have anything to say about the administration and the volunteer activities of the future animal rescue activities?

Person who live in the refuge	157
Person who moved out the refuge	12
Person who did not go to the refuge	41
Total	210 households

How to survey

Surveyor ( ) interviewed each person.

Results

68 refugees (It was rejected by one refuge.) 210 households

Total number of kept animals

Dogs - 230 heads (owners-184 persons)
Cats - 87 heads (owners - 50 persons)

(Data of birds and small animals were excluded from total numbers because they were few.)

People could keep their animals in the refuges

The refuges where people took their animals were 56 of 67 places (83.6%). The majority of the refuges permitted animals in the refuges. Consequently, there were 11 refuges in which no animal was kept. The five refuges prohibited keeping animals in the rooms. In the others (6 refuges), at first some people lived with their animals and thereafter they left the refuges.

Almost no troubles in the refuges: people coexisted with animals

There were some complaints concerning the animals in 5 refuges and severe troubles with animals in 3 places. In the others (48 refuges), people coexisted with animals without serious troubles.

About 40% of dogs were with their owners in the refuges, while about 60% of cats were in their broken houses

Places animals were kept: 37.0% of dogs lived with their owners in the refuges, and 19.7% of dogs were in their damaged houses

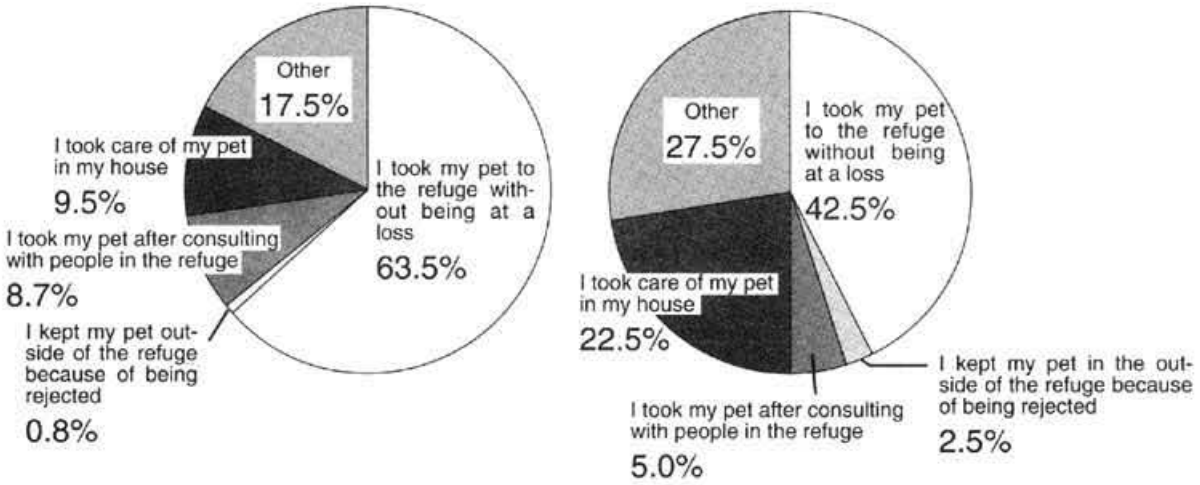
On the other hand, about a half of cats, 57.5%, were in the broken houses, and a quarter of cats, 25.5%, coexisted with their owners.

Most of the people who kept their pets in the refuges (63.5%) brought pets to the refuges without hesitation. On the other hand, however, the cat owners who brought pets without hesitation were 42.5%.

(The owners of dogs were 137, while those of cats were 40 samples.)

Conditons of the coexistence of people and animals	Place	Percentage
A. People and animals coexist well	7	12.5%
B. People and animals coexist without negotiations	41	73.2%
C. People and animals coexist under consultations among the persons concerned about animals	5	8.9%
D. There were some comp aints and troubles among people in the refuges	3	5.4%
Total	56	100.0%

Correspondence for taking with the animals to refuges



Refuge and the Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue Headquarters

This investigation was done about one month after the earthquake. At that time the Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue headquarters had already been established and the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe continued the activities of animal rescue. The animals in the refuges took food supplied by the animal rescue center.

The Animal Rescue headquarters took care of animals that were given up by the owners or lost their owners in the refuges, and kept animals that were difficult to keep temporarily. Some of those animals needed foster homes.

TO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE

Animal rescue began on January 17

Even someone who had expected the Great Hanshin Earthquake would never have prepared animal food in advance. Thus, one of the necessary materials in the initial stage of the animal rescue was the food. In the initial activities of the animal rescue, actually, to supply the food to the stricken area and refuges was critical work.

The correspondence to the companies of pet food was quick requesting the supply of the food. The Master Food, L.t.d. offered the donation of food under the direction of the president in the United States of America, just after the earthquake. In a way, the donation of pet food caused a competition among the pet food manufacturers. In fact, Frisky L.t.d. made the support system for the activities of the animal rescue, although the head office building in Chuou ward in Kobe was destroyed by the earthquake.

To avoid the competition among the companies, only the Tokyo headquarters received supporting goods like pet food, and the Japan Veterinary Medical Association received supporting materials such as cages for animals and medicines. These relief goods and materials were sent to the Animal Rescue Centers.

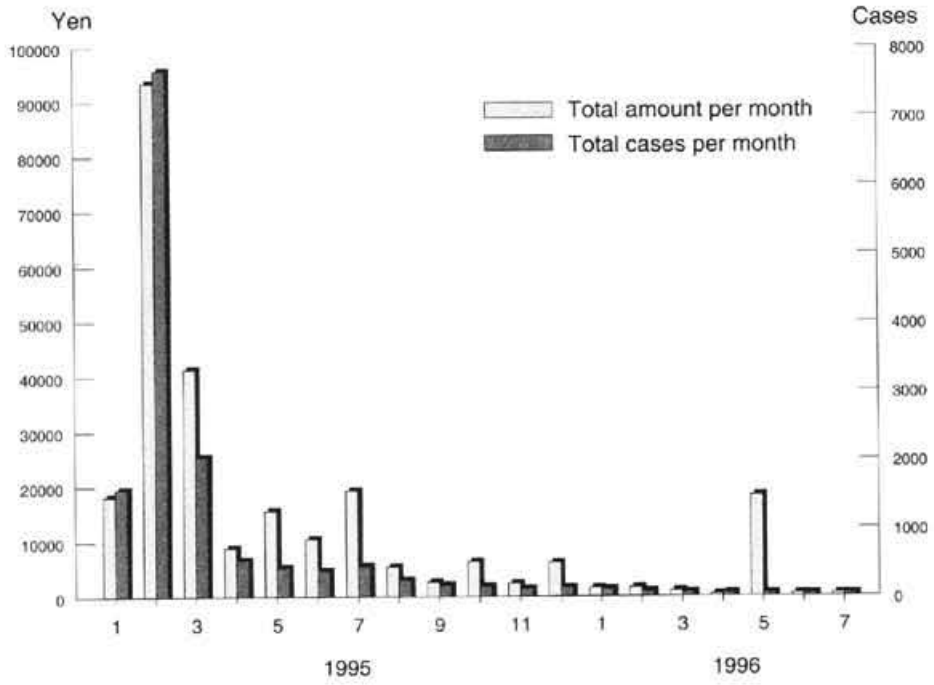
Donations and correspondence of the mass media

The Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue headquarters opened the accounts of the donations in the Sakura Bank on January 26, and in the post office on March 18. At the same time the Tokyo headquarters opened the window to receive the donations.

The total amount of money raised was 18,183,222 yen and the number of the donations was 1560 until January 31. The number and amount of donations in February were 7662 cases and 93,488,264 yen, respectively. Although the donations decreased in March, still 41,922,916 yen (2076 donations) was collected. The correspondence of the mass media increased public interests in the activities of the animal rescue and the donations which were never expected in advance.

The terrible scenes of the great earthquake which occurred in the modern city were seen all over the country. The activities of the animal rescue were also reported to the people. However, the misunderstanding or distorted reports of the mass media threw cold water on the activities of the animal rescue.

Donations through the bank



Donations through the post office

