A VINYL HOUSE

A vinyl house is mainly used for agriculture (for example, in the cultivation of vegetables and flowers), taking advantage of the protection against the wind and the solar heat.

The earthquake struck in the coldest season of midwinter. The vinyl house was probably the best alternative shelter in the face of the cold winter weather. The inside of the house was warm when the sun shone, even if a north wind blew. However, nobody thought about using a vinyl house as shelter at the start. No tents were found anywhere.

More than two hundred animals were kept in a vinyl house which was 120 square meters of 5 m in width and 24 m in length.



The vinyl house in the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe



Animal Rescue Center of Sanda

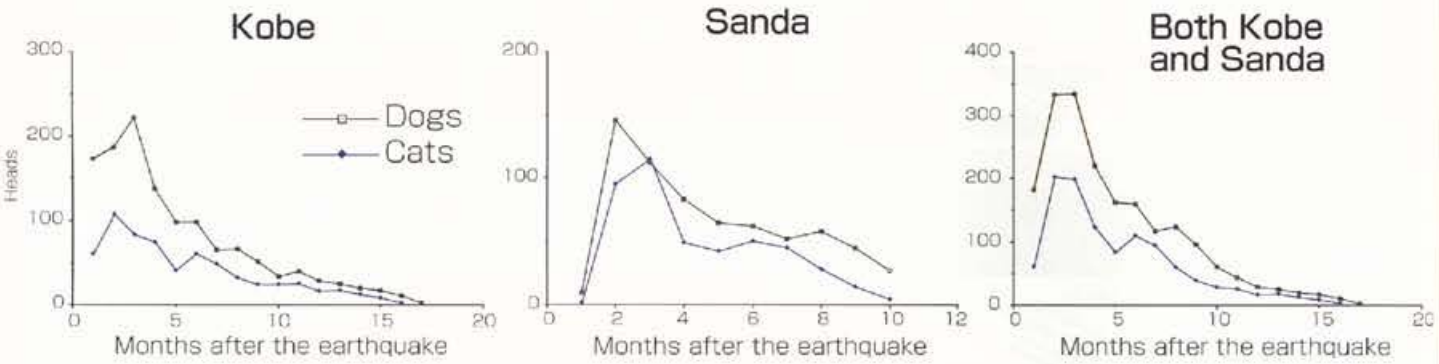


The vinyl house finished the duty.
(Animal Rescue Center of Kobe)

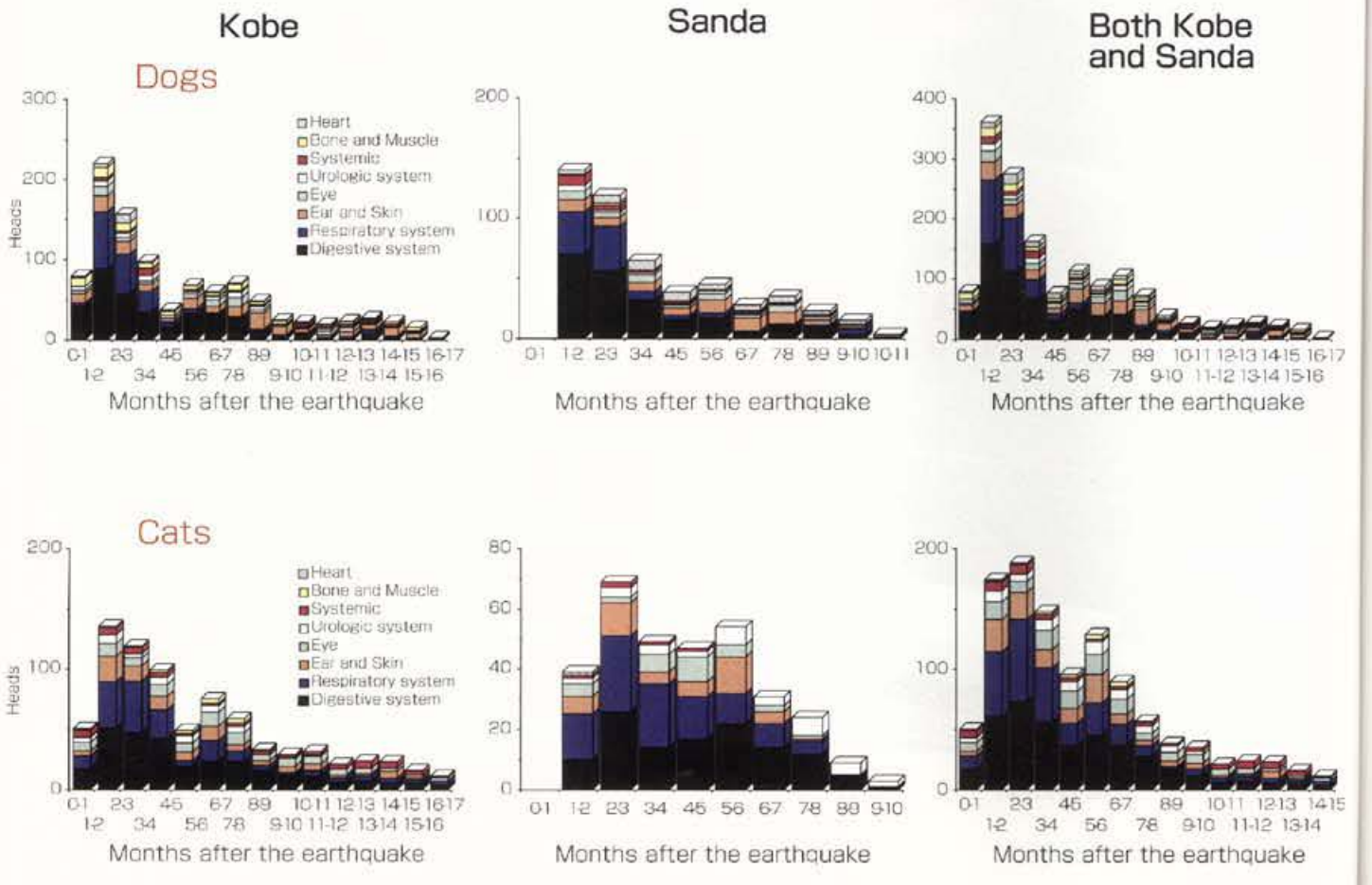
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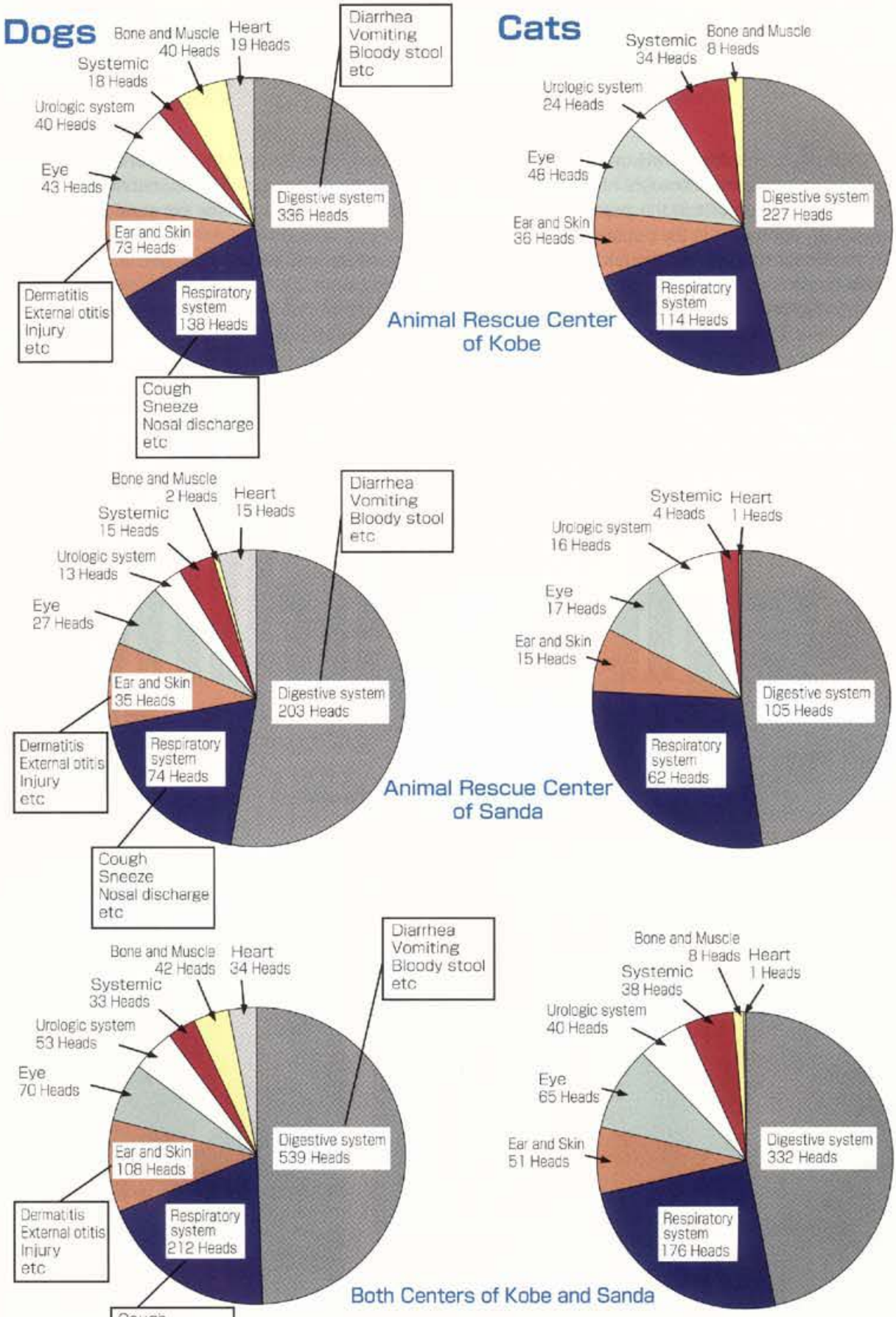
The physical condition of the animals in the rescue centers was checked first, and then, if necessary, the treatments for diseases and the inoculation of vaccines were performed. Volunteers talked closely with the veterinarians everyday, and animals were given personal care by being taken on regular walk, among other things. The volunteers did everything that they could do for the animals under quite inadequate circumstances. However, most of the animals had already displayed physica ailments when they came into the rescue centers. They were obviously exhausted because of the injuries they sustained by the earthquake and the sudden changes in their environment after the quake.

Changes in accommodated animals in the animal rescue centers



Changes in unhealthy dogs (the upper) and cats (the lower)

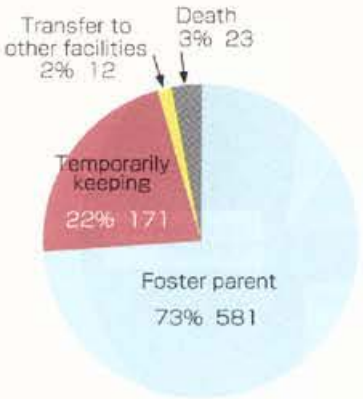



Dogs
Bone and Muscle 40 Heads
Heart 19 Heads
Systemic 18 Heads
Urologic system 40 Heads
Eye 43 Heads
Ear and Skin 73 Heads
Dermatitis External otitis Injury etc
Respiratory system 138 Heads
Cough Sneeze Nosal discharge etc
Diarrhea Vomiting Bloody stool etc
Digestive system 336 Heads
Cats
Systemic 34 Heads
Bone and Muscle 8 Heads
Urologic system 24 Heads
Eye 48 Heads
Ear and Skin 36 Heads
Respiratory system 114 Heads
Digestive system 227 Heads
Animal Rescue Center of Kobe
Bone and Muscle 2 Heads
Heart 15 Heads
Systemic 15 Heads
Urologic system 13 Heads
Eye 27 Heads
Ear and Skin 35 Heads
Dermatitis External otitis Injury etc
Respiratory system 74 Heads
Cough Sneeze Nosal discharge etc
Diarrhea Vomiting Bloody stool etc
Digestive system 203 Heads
Systemic 4 Heads
Heart 1 Heads
Urologic system 16 Heads
Eye 17 Heads
Ear and Skin 15 Heads
Respiratory system 62 Heads
Digestive system 105 Heads
Animal Rescue Center of Sanda
Bone and Muscle 42 Heads
Heart 34 Heads
Systemic 33 Heads
Urologic system 53 Heads
Eye 70 Heads
Ear and Skin 108 Heads
Dermatitis External otitis Injury etc
Respiratory system 212 Heads
Cough Sneeze Nosal discharge etc
Diarrhea Vomiting Bloody stool etc
Digestive system 539 Heads
Bone and Muscle 8 Heads
Heart 1 Heads
Systemic 38 Heads
Urologic system 40 Heads
Eye 65 Heads
Ear and Skin 51 Heads
Respiratory system 176 Heads
Digestive system 332 Heads
Both Centers of Kobe and Sanda

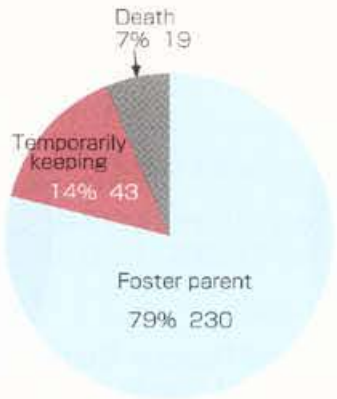
EUTHANASIA

Unfortunately, one is completely unable to keep an animal whenever one wants to. The earthquake by which a modern city was destroyed brought about the need to resort to unusual means. That is euthanasia for animals. At a time when the reports in the papers had settled for the time being, the articles concerning euthanasia for animals began appearing in the papers and the magazines.

Thus, the Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue Headquarters was established, declaring that the activities would be continued until all animals that were being protected were taken back by their owners or into foster homes. It is belived that animals should never be put to sleep. Of course, some animals died in spite of their treatments, and some animals got sick in the centers; however, animals were never put to sleep because they were too old or seriously ill or had too many problems. At the same time, there were several owners who asked for euthanasia. Moreover, there was actually a veterinarian who was persistently asked to perform euthanasia on animals and reluctantly carried it out, putting animals to sleep in his responsibility as a veterinarian. The owners were not able to keep the animal by any means. They could not keep their animals even if an animal rescue centers existed near their homes.



Suffering dogs



Suffering cats

Forty-two of suffering animals were dead in spite of all sorts of treatments. The internal diseases, such as kidney failure and filarial disease, were the main causes of the death.

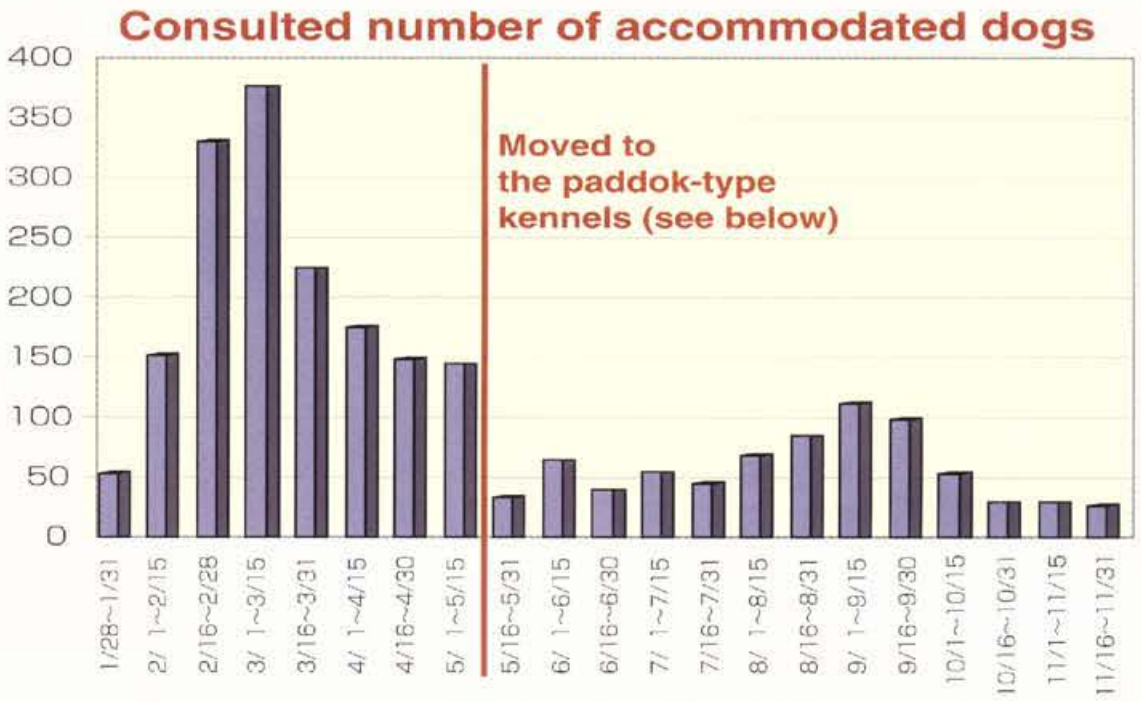




The dogs were dead in spite of all efforts.
(Animal Rescue Center of Kobe)

PADDOCK-TYPE KENNELS

Everybody wants to live in a big house with a large garden. Animals probably would also like to live in that environment. New paddock-type kennels were built on May 13, 1995 in the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe. Dogs were moved from the vinyl houses to the new bigger houses. The physical condition of the dogs improved the moment they came into the new houses.



(From Jan. to Nov., 1995 at the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe)



Paddock-Type Kennels
(Animal Rescue Center of Kobe)



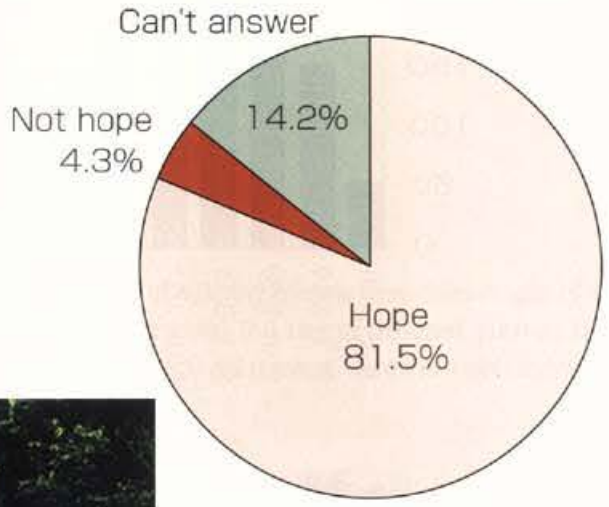
An accommodated dog in the paddock-type kennel
(Animal Rescue Center of Kobe)

TEMPORARY OR REGULAR SHELTER?

A survey has been carried out by the Headquarters of the Animal Rescue of the Great Hanshin Earthquake among the owners who left their animals temporarily in the animal rescue centers and the foster homes.

Do you hope the facilities for the negotiation of transfer of mature dogs or cats, like the animal rescue centers remain permanent? The a large majority of the respondents answered positively, while only 4.3% of the respondents answered negatively. Most of the people who answered yes seemed to feel a kindness toward animals. The reason why twenty-nine people objected was that they felt the owners should keep their animals as their own responsibilities, not leave them easily. It may not be the best choice to transfer the care of one's own animals to others, if you are of the idea that animals should be treated like humans. However, an animal will be never treated like a human being, even in the countries where morale of the animal protection is high. The most important thing may be that a man takes responsibility for the care of an animal.









New facilities of the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe were built on May 13, 1995, and scrapped at the end of June, 1996.

TRANSFER OF MATURE ANIMALS

Eighty-five percent of 1,556 animals kept in the animal rescue centers were mature dogs and cats that were more than 1 year old. The ages of the 1,045 animals that were taken by foster parents were also more than 1 year old.

According to the survey for foster homes and the owners who left their animals temporarily in the animal rescue centers, a quarter of respondents don't hope to take mature dogs and cats. The reasons are as follows: most mature animals don't become fond of their new owners easily; second, it may be difficult to discipline mature animals because they are in a different environment. In fact, somebody answered that it took one year for a mature dog to become his friend. Generally, puppies and kittens take to the new owners more easily.



Foster homes wanted (Suita City, on September 23,1995)



Do you hope to take mature dogs and cats?

(From the survey for foster homes and the owners who left their animals temporarily in the animal rescue centers)

Advantages in the transfer of a mature animal:

1. It is easy to understand the character of the animals.
2. Physical constitution and health condition are known in advance.
3. They have already been trained.
4. The new owner does not have to be worried about the mischief and fawning on the owner that usually comes with having a puppy or kitten.
5. They become calm.
6. They are easy to befriend.
7. An aged animal may be better for a aged person.
8. The affection a pet owner has for a mature pet is increased because they have to care a great deal for the animal.



Foster homes wanted (Himeji City, on October 21,1995)

LESSON

There are valuable comments in the survey of the volunteers (There were 473 respondents).

Good points: **Volunteers cooperate with each other. (35)**
They are attentive in the indication of the volunteer work. (25)
Bad points: **Volunteer work is not smooth because of its bad instruction. (84)**
Problems with human relations (22)
Defects in the adjustment of the amount of volunteers (20)
Improvement to be made:
Adjustment of the number of volunteers (46)
Clear instruction of the volunteer work and its responsibilities (29)
Correct performance of volunteer duties(16)





The number of volunteers per day

	Animal Rescue Center of Kobe	Animal Rescue Center of Sanda
1/26~2/14	64	——
2/15~2/28	84	——
3/1~3/15	89	61
3/16~3/31	85	70
4/1~4/15	68	55
4/16~4/30	57	38
5/1~5/15	45	29
5/16~5/31	31	23

Total number of volunteers from January 26 to May 31, 1995 was about 12,500 people. The numbers of volunteers per day were about 65 and 46 people at the Animal Rescue Centers of Kobe and Sanda, respectively.

TEMPORARY HOUSING AND ANIMAL



仮設住宅での「ペット飼育」

モラル守れば大丈夫だが…

行政の対応あいまい

入居あきらめも

I would like to visit patients who live in temporary housing. I have found that people who have pets are cheerful, optimistic, and are able to live comfortably even though they are old and living alone. People who have pets are able to make friends with other pet owners easily. Although most of the people living in tamporary housing are living on a pension, they offer to pay for the care of their animals without fail. When I see that these people are willing to pay for the treatment of their pets despite the fact that they don't have much money, it makes me want to give them a discount on the cost of the care that is provided to them. Frankly, wealthy people are oftentimes more stingy with their money than these people are.

I am the most anxious about the time when people who have pets move to public housing where they can't have pets. I wonder if it would be possible for them to have a choice. For example, would it be possible for certain public housing establishments to allow pets? Some people complain that animals make too much noise, but children also make noise with their cries and they would not be prohibited from temporary housing. I once heard about an old man whose home was destroyed by an earthquake. He refused to leave his home because he didn't want to leave his cat. He said, " I'll die here," as he held the cat in his arms. What would happen if we took that person's pet away from him? The pet, for him, made his life worth living. (Toshiro Moriuchi, Director of the Alpha Veterinary Hospital, Higashinada, Kobe)

These letters were dilivered to the Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, Toshitami Kaihara.

Temporary housing is supposed to be offered to victims, however, I have an anxiety about people being separated from their pets. I would like the government to try and understand the feelings of people with pets. I hope that in the future people are not forced to unwillingly give up their pets like the victims in Unzen. My greatest hope is for the government to allow people who have been living with pets to remain together in temporary housing.

(Homemaker)

According to the newspapers, having cats and/or dogs is prohibited in temporary housing. If this is true, I believe that the administration in charge of temporary housing is making a terrible mistake. For the victims of disasters, the pets that have survived with them are their best companions. Disallowing victims to keep their pets may be a factor in the social problem of unbalanced mental health. The consolation provided to people by pets is immeasurable. On the other hand, if victims are forced to live apart from their pets in order to live in temporary housing, I believe an already stressful situation will be made even worse. For many people, a pet is a member of the family.

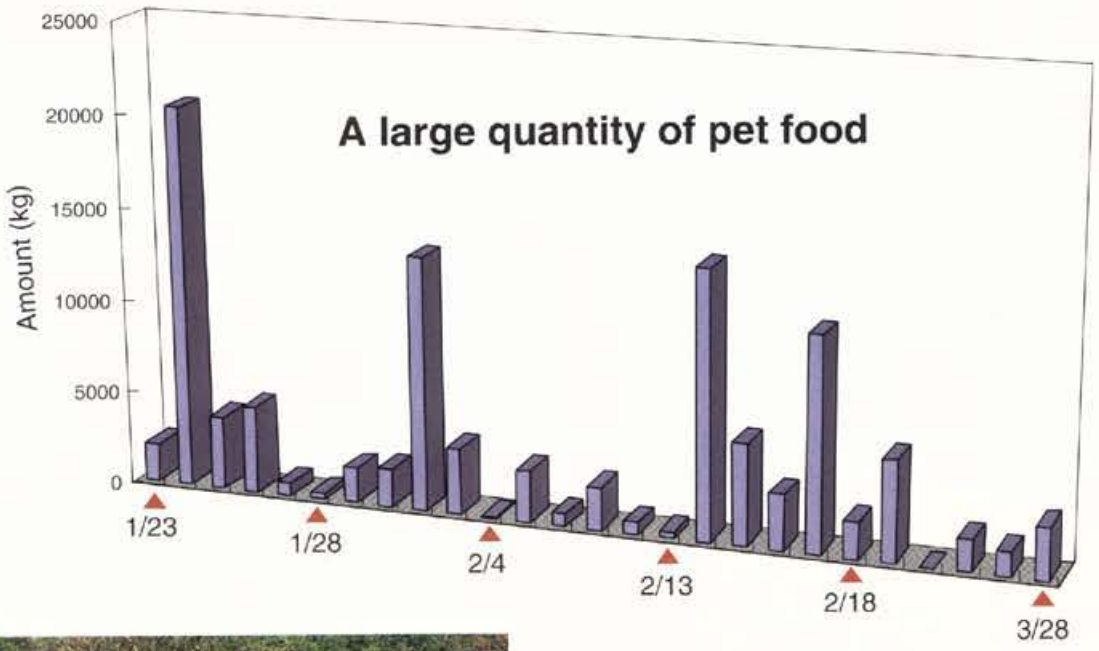
I hope the administration will consider the effect separation from their pets will have on victims and agree to provide temporary housing where people are allowed to keep their pets.

(Resident of Nishinomiya)

WELL-LAID PLAN AND SYSTEM (1)

A well-laid plan and system means to carry out something according to a schedule under mutual understandings. For the present activities of the animal rescue, a well-laid plan and system was needed for the services of medical supplies and food for animals, and in the dispatch of the volunteers. A volunteer student disapproved of the excessive food that was sent to the animal rescue center without a well-laid plan and system, and no places to keep those food. In fact, a large quantity of pet food was sent to the animal rescue centers and a lot of food was kept longer than the consumption limit of the product, although the necessary quantity of animal food was required by the Tokyo Headquarters of the Animal Rescue. A considerable amount of the medical supplies were over the term of validity as well, though they were not always superabundant, because some medical supplies were sent barely within their time of validity.

To make better use of relief goods, animal food and medical supplies, especially, must be sent with a well-laid plan and system in which careful consideration is given to the number of rescued animals and their keeping periods.





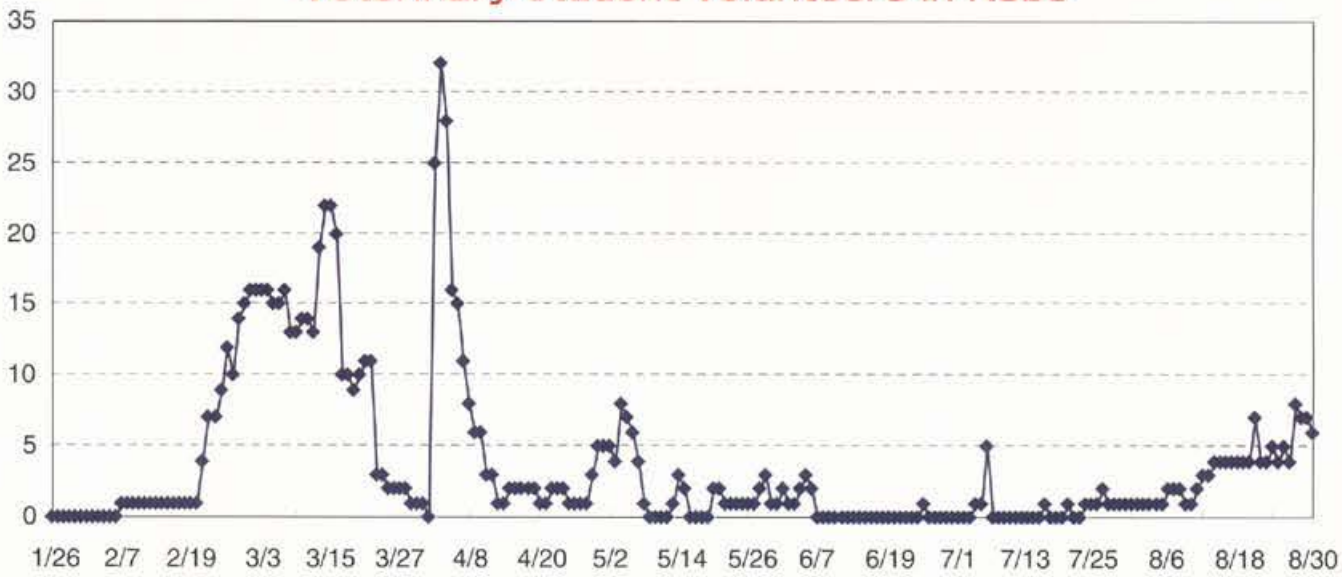


WELL-LAID PLAN AND SYSTEM (2)

A minimum number of volunteers is necessary for the continuous activities of the animal rescue. It is not always correct that the more volunteers there are, the better the service is. The activities of the animal rescue are maintained by a proper number of volunteers. Student volunteers overflowed the animal rescue centers during vacations, however, there were almost no student volunteers when they had classes. A special plan for the staggered vacations of students should be made in the aftermath of a big disaster.

Veterinarian volunteers are more earnest. It is difficult for a veterinarian with good knowledge and skill to continue to work in the animal rescue center for a long time as a volunteer. It is important for the animal rescue centers to make the detailed schedules for veterinarian volunteers in cooperation with the veterinarians. The scheduled dispatch of veterinarians carried out by the Veterinary Associations of Osaka Prefecture, Osaka City, and Yokohama City produced excellent activities in the animal rescue.

Veterinary student volunteers in Kobe







SUPPORT

Prince and Princess Hitachinomiya visited the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe on May 25 and encouraged volunteers.

The Imperial Family of Takamadonomiya took care of a lonely puppy in the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe. Takamadonomiya has had a strong desire to help pitiful animals, and fortunately has a good environment in which to take care of a dog. The mischievous dog gave the family some difficulties, but is now very cheerful.





COMMENTS OF PRINCE AND PRINCESS HITACHINOMIYA

We pray for the souls of the victims and sincerely express our sympathy for the sufferers of the Great Hanshin Earthquake.

Today, that terrible disaster took place just in front of us. We are thinking about the immeasurable difficulties and worries that many people, especially residents in temporary housing, are suffering because of the quake.

We respect the desperate efforts of all citizens towards the reconstruction of their lives and industries.

Finally, we are very glad to know that there are many volunteers to rescue suffering animals.



Dophy

震災"孤犬"高円宮家へ

神戸動物救護センターから

阪神大震災で飼い主とはぐれたペットを保護している神戸動物救護センター（神戸市北区）で生まれた子犬＝写真＝が東京・赤坂の高円宮家に引き取られた。ドフィーと名付けられ、長女承子さまらと仲よく遊んでいる。

薄茶色に白い毛が交じるオスの雑種犬。体長は約四〇㌢。地震直後、母犬が同市西区で逃っているところを保護され、四月二日に他の三匹とともに生まれた。五月に同センターを訪問した宮様ご夫妻から、六十匹のペットが飼い主を求めていると聞いた高円宮ご夫妻が申し出て、今月一日に赤坂御用地内の宮邸に。高円宮妃久子さまは「かわいそうな犬や猫がいることを多くの人に知ってほしい」。センター（078・741・8112）では、飼い主になれる人や義援金を募集している。

A LONELY DOG GOES TO THE IMPERIAL FAMILY, TAKAMADONOMIYA

(Evening news of Mainici Newspaper, June 9, 1995)

The puppy, which was born in the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe in Kita Ward, was taken by the Imperial Family of Takamadonomiya in Akasaka, Tokyo, on June 1. The happy dog is named as Dophy, and is playing with the first-born daughter, Tsuguko, who is 9 years old.

The dog is a male mongrel and about 40 cm in length. His mother was protected in Nishi Ward of Kobe, and Dophy was born together with three sister and brothers on April 2, 1995.

Prince and Princess Takamadonomiya offered to give a home to a lonely dog, since they heard from Prince and Princess Hitachinomiya, who visited the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe on May 25, that more than 60 pets were looking for their new owners.

Princess Takamadonomiya said, "I hope many people know the existence of pitiful dogs and cats after the earthquake".

PREPARATION FOR AN EMERGENCY

〈 Communication equipment〉

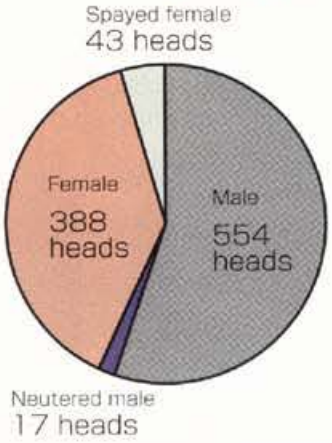
- Mobile radio system
- Portable pocket radio
- Mobile phone
- Fully charged battery
- Shelter equipment

〈Vehicles for animal control〉

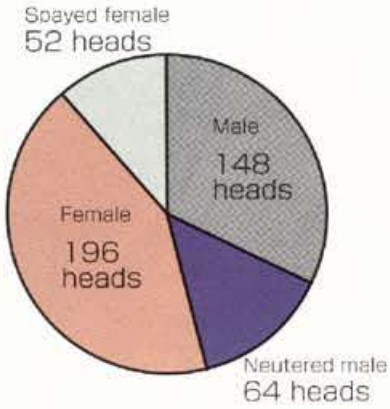
〈Animal shelter equipment〉

- Cages for dogs and cats
- Kennels
- Isolated kennels
- Cages for animals other than dogs and cats
- Carrying cases
- Traps for animals

Suffering Dogs



Suffering Cats



Most of the accommodated animals in the centers were neither neutered nor spayed.

〈Everyday preparations 〉

- A license and an identification tag with name, age, whether the dog has been vaccinated or not, address, etc.
  This should be attached to the collar of the animal.
- Food and water at least for three days
- Photographs or records which list characteristics, body weight, clinical history, etc.
  This information would be useful in the search for the animals.
- Household medicines for chronic illness, diarrhea, disinfection, etc.
- Cages or carrying cases
  They should be convenient for a shelter.
- Lead or rucksack
  Rucksack is convenient for cats or small-sized dogs.

〈Duties of pet owners〉

- Vaccination for keeping off infections.
- Training, so the animals won't be treated as a nuisance.
- Sterilization, it is important when an emergency has arisen.

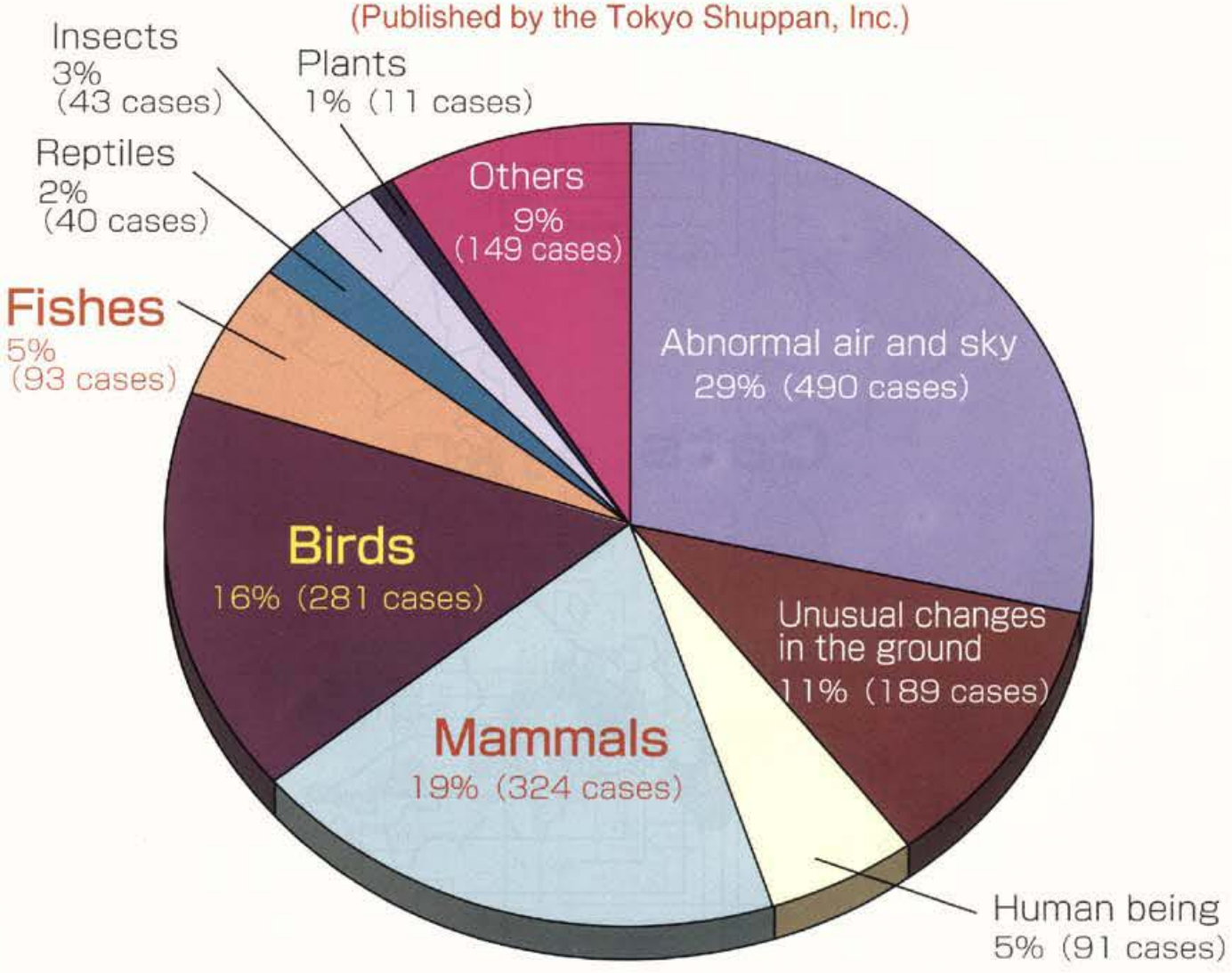
AN ANIMAL HAS A PECULAR CAPACITY FOR SENSING A COMING EARTHQUAKE

- An owner escaped from the disaster because his dog required a walk just before the earthquake.
- A crow sang all night before the earthquake.
- A cat began to act violently several hours before the earthquake.
- A cat was sleeping at an unusual place before the earthquake.
- A dog didn't sleep before the earthquake.
- Many dogs kept barking the day before the earthquake.
- A dog was asking for a walk a few hours before the earthquake.
- A dog, which was kept out of the house, was very nervous, digging a hole in the garden, and wanted to enter into the house.
- A dog was sleeping outside of his house for a few days before the earthquake.

(Extracts from the questionnaire survey for the members of the Veterinary Associations of Kobe City and Hyogo Prefecture)

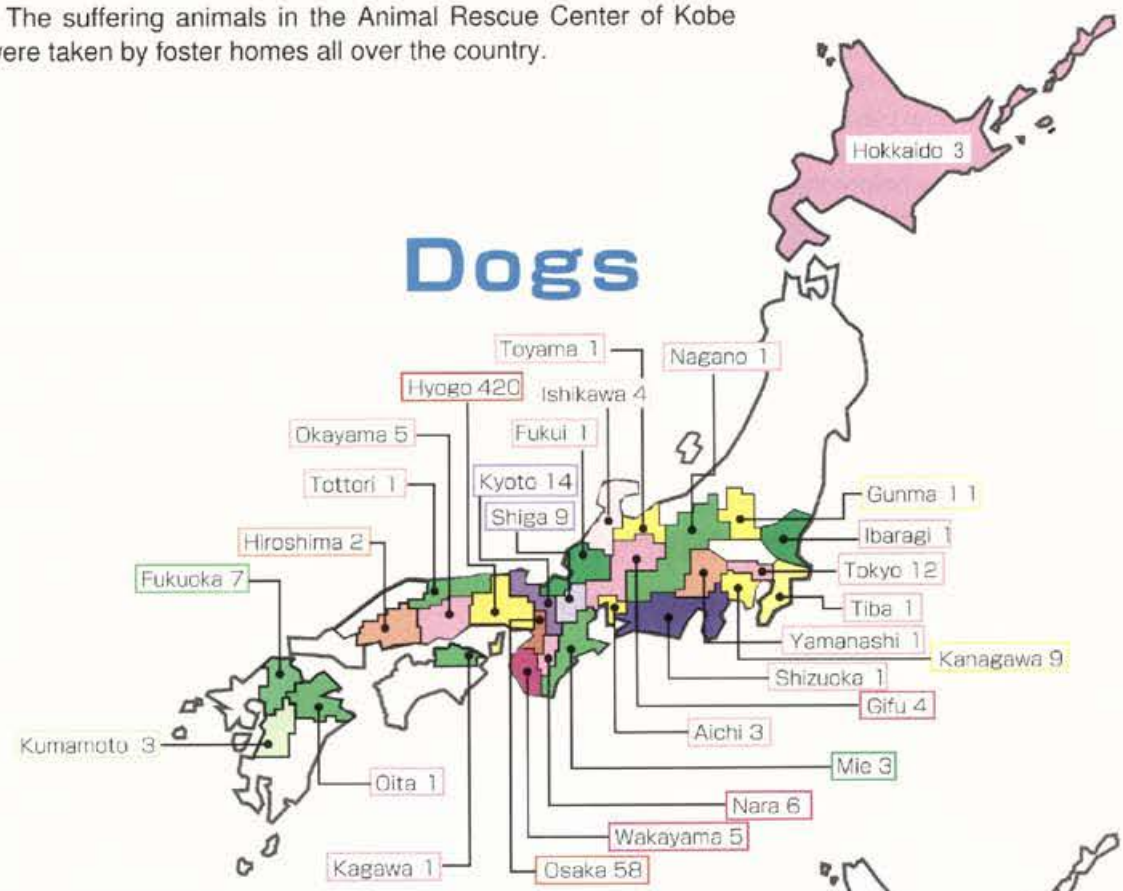
1519 Witnesses of Signs of the Coming Earthquake, edited by Kiyoshi Wadatsumi

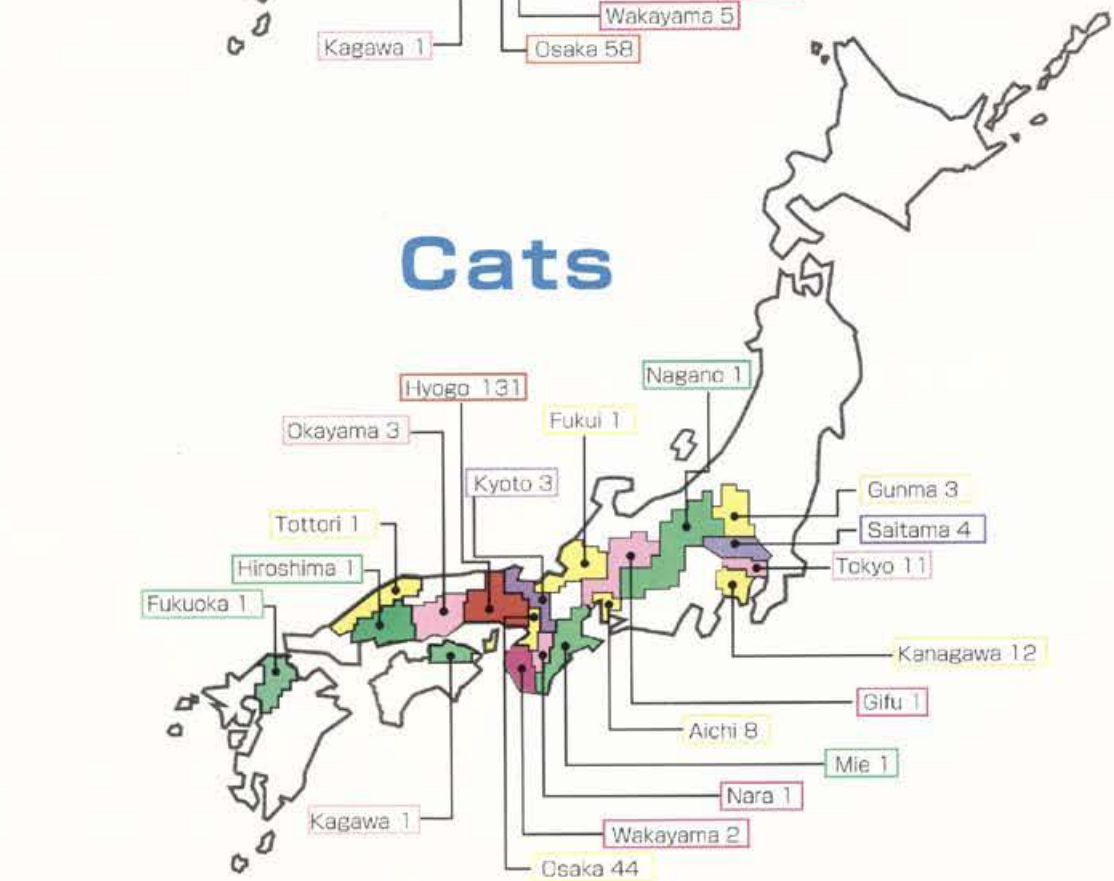
(Published by the Tokyo Shuppan, Inc.)



FOSTER HOMES (ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER OF KOBE)

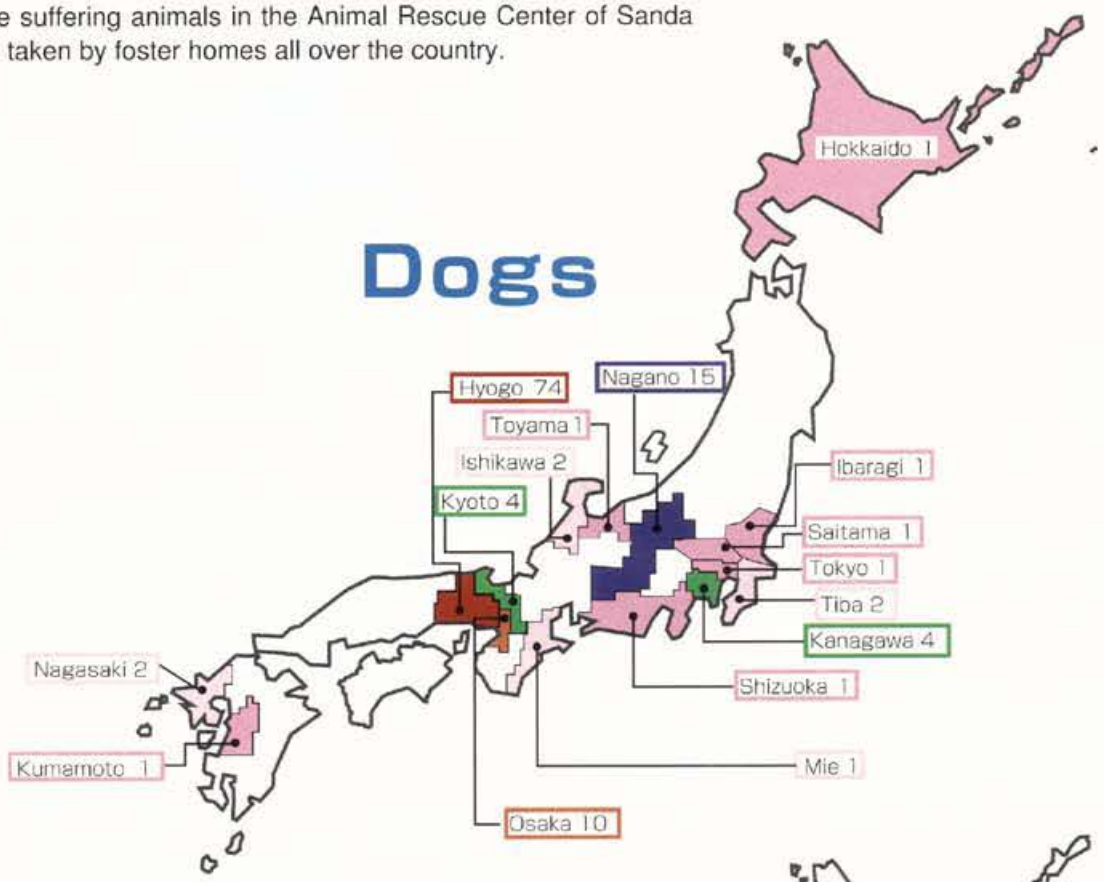
The suffering animals in the Animal Rescue Center of Kobe were taken by foster homes all over the country.

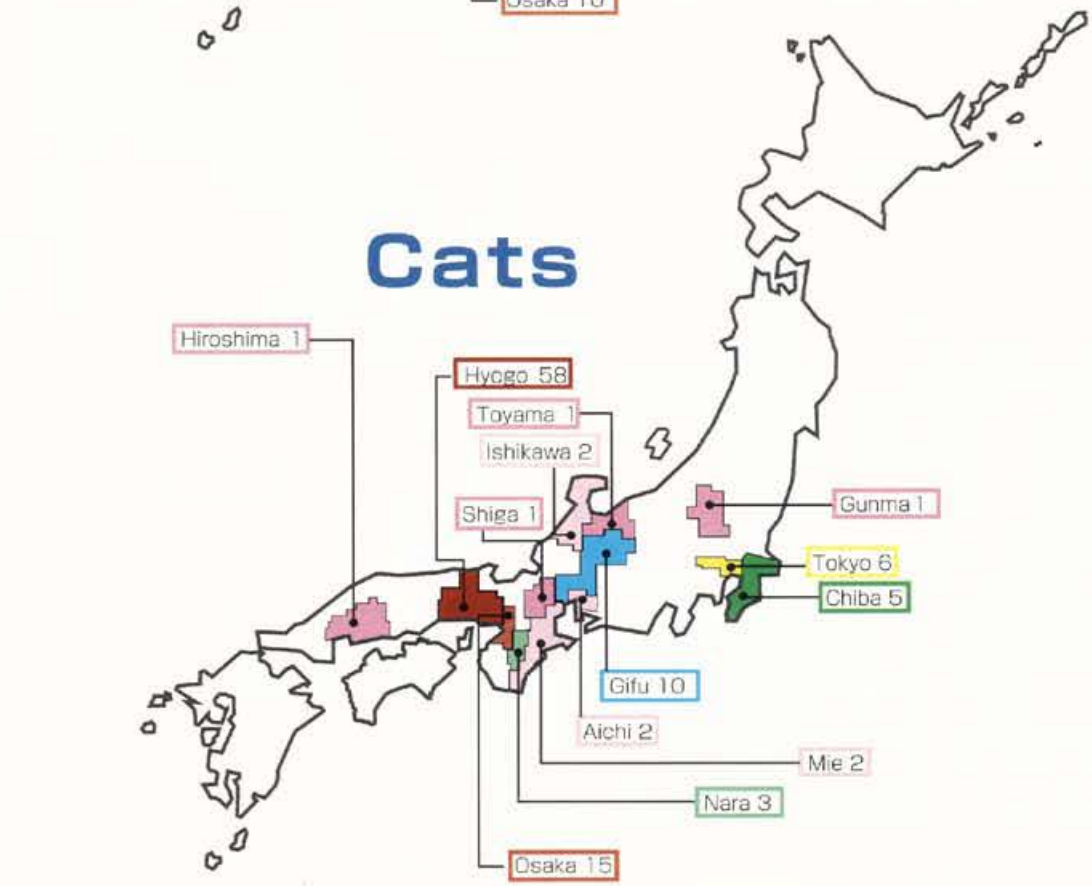




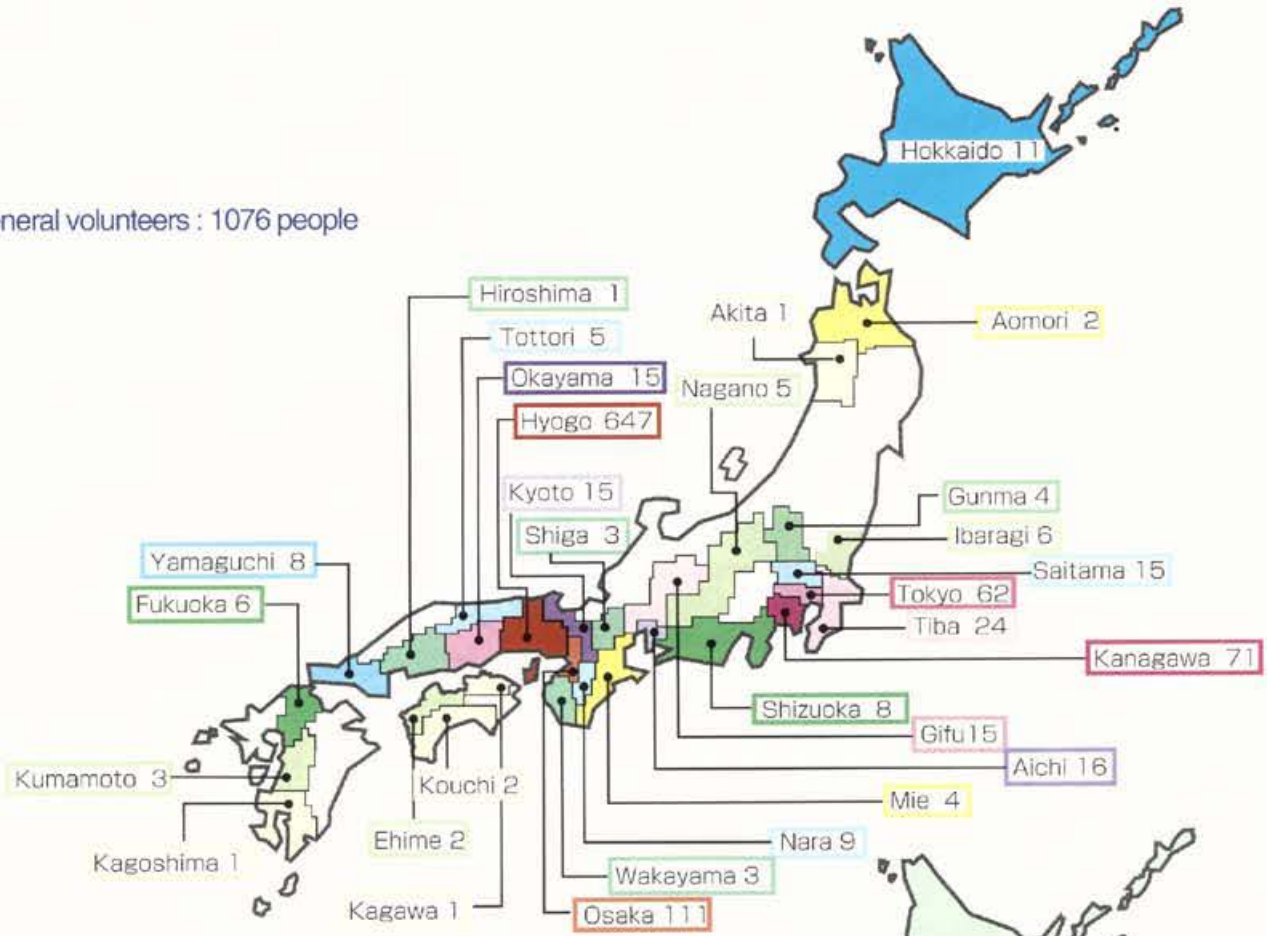
FOSTER HOMES (ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER OF SANDA)

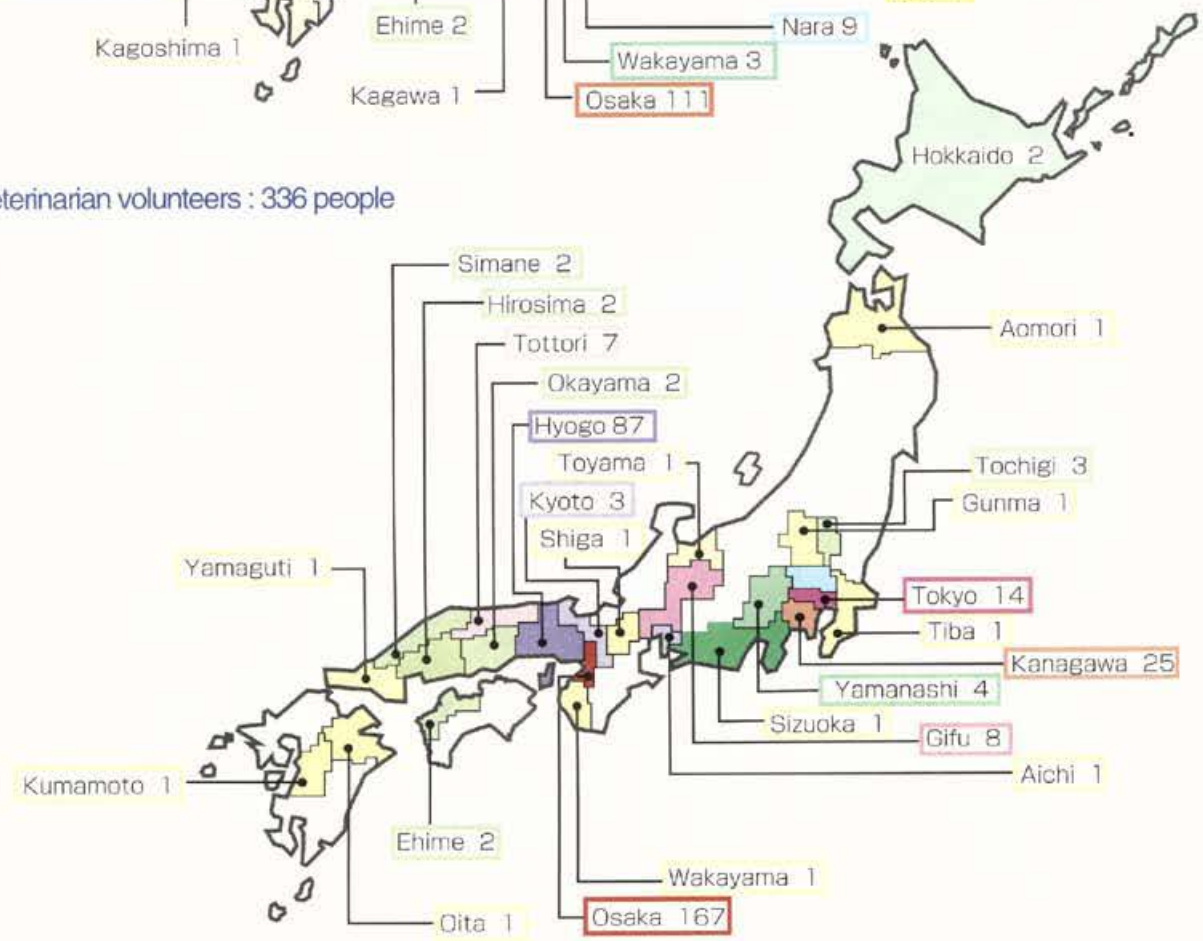
The suffering animals in the Animal Rescue Center of Sanda were taken by foster homes all over the country.





VOLUNTEERS (ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER OF KOBE)







ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER OF KOBE

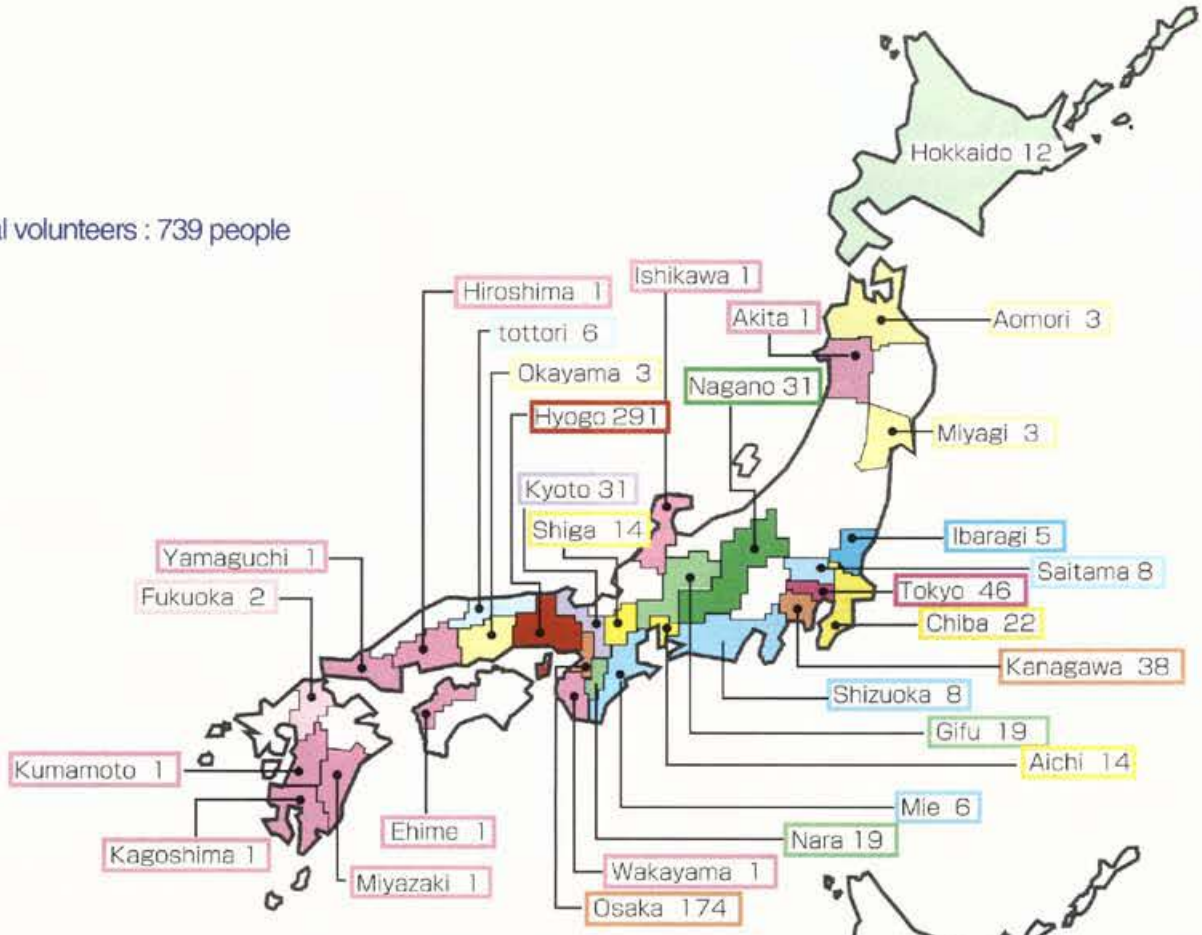




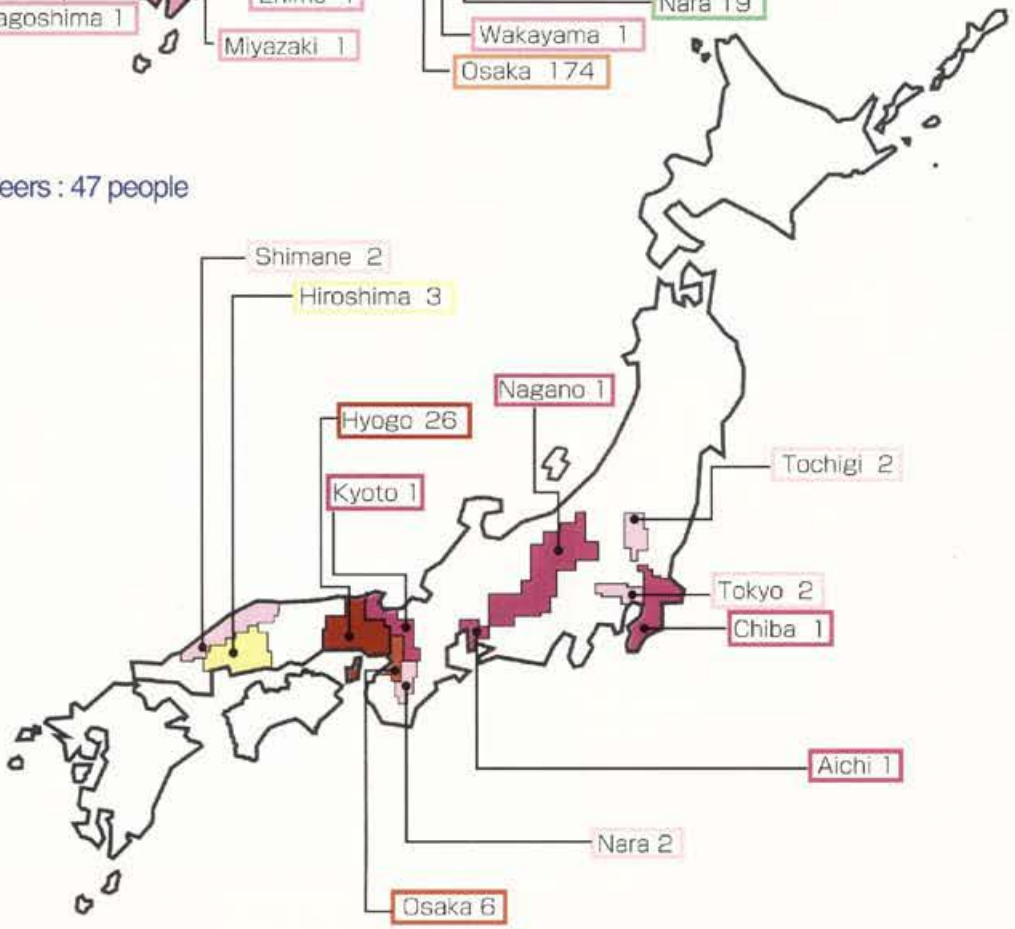


VOLUNTEERS (ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER OF SANDA)

General volunteers : 739 people



Veterinarian volunteers : 47 people







ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER OF SANDA





EDITING POSTSCRIPT

More than 3 years have passed since Kobe, Japan, was struck by the Great Hanshin Earthquake. Time blunts the edge of sorrow of the worst disaster in post war. However, we must not forget it. This special report was written with the disaster still weighing heavily on our minds.

There is no written report published on an animal rescue in the history of the big earthquake disasters. Everything was a first experience, and it was really a continued series of trials and errors.

Actions speak louder than words or thoughts, and they accomplish more. Everybody wants to help both people and animals in the earthquake disaster. It was this report that wrote these things.

Now, however, we must think closely, because the Great Hanshin Earthquake which hit a modern city, has taught us important lessons. Much to our regret, we could not refer to those lessons. We wanted this report to focus on animal welfare in disasters.

We are grateful to the people and groups which contributed precious materials, and wish to extend a special thanks to the printing company, Nisshindo, Inc.

THE ANIMAL RESCUE AT
THE GREAT HANSHIN EARTHQUAKE

October 1998

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