

Connected Lives, Expanding Learning

Rethinking Our Regional Animal Protection through Overseas Research Activities and Volunteering

Futaba Future High School (Fukushima)

Background

We started our research project in our school class. We all love dogs and cats, so we made this team. Through researches about various problems about pet animals, we got interested in animal welfare.

What we did

① Research and Volunteers in Iwaki, Fukushima

- Volunteering at "Ohana" in Iwaki City
 - Some cleaning tasks
 - Floor and wall cleaning
 - Toilet cleaning
 - Give water
- What we realized at Ohana
 - We realized how important the shelter is for these animals.
 - They can get enough food.
 - They have a safe place to sleep.
 - They can receive medical treatment.
- What surprised me
 - how friendly the cats were
→they feel love from humans
- Our feelings
 - We could feel that they truly trust people.
 - This experience changed our perspective on animal welfare.



② Study Abroad to the U.K.

- Volunteering at "Mudchute Park and Farm"
 - cleaning their rooms
 - providing food and water
- Petting event in farm
 - Great opportunity for children
- Interviews
 - How did you come to accept pets?
 - Do you have your animal microchip?
 - Do you know animal welfare?
- What surprised me
 - the high level of animal welfare awareness
 - The way people treat animals



③ Activities in New Zealand

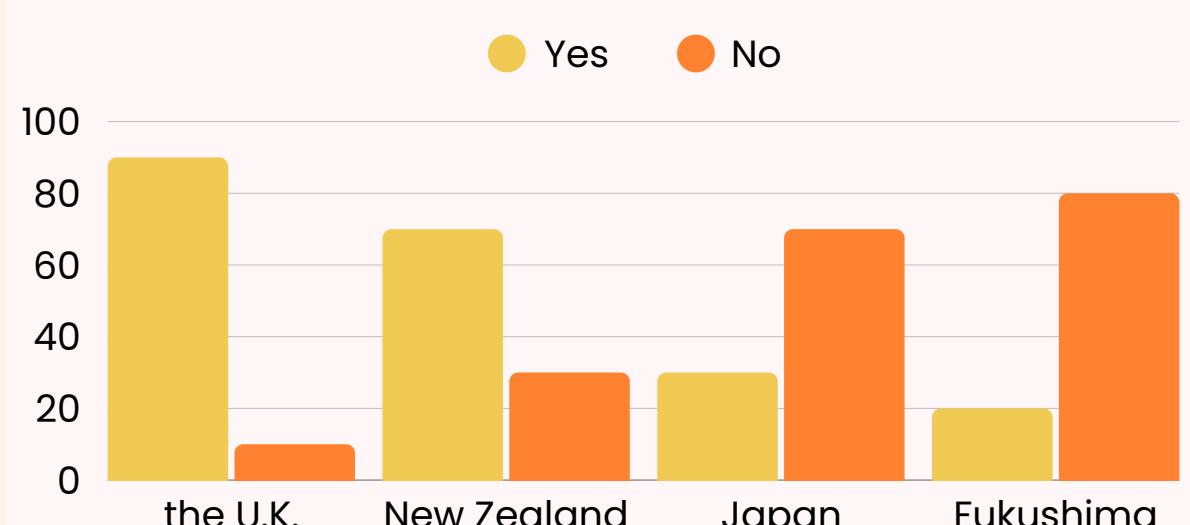
- Volunteers
 - Taking care of rabbits and guinea pigs
 - Playing with pregnant cats, rabbits and guinea pigs
 - Preparing towels on floor
 - Throwing away garbage
- Interviews to people in Nelson
 - How did you come to accept pets?
 - Do you have your animal microchip?
 - Do you know animal welfare?
 - Do you buy products that take animal welfare into consideration?
- Observation of daily life
 - Poles for leads of dogs (convenience stores)
 - No dog houses in gardens
 - Fences in gardens
 - Puppies school ("Pepstock")



We realised they have systems that consider the well-being of animals.

Problems in Fukushima and Japan

Do you have microchips on your pet?



The number of
cats
killed in shelters (令和5年度)

- Fukushima(641)
- Hyogo(401)
- Gifu(363)

The number of
cats and dogs
killed in shelters (令和5年度)

- Fukushima(685)
- Hyogo(447)
- Gifu(383)

What we considered

- To stop killing animals, it is important for each person to change their awareness and actions.
- It is important to make pet owners feel responsible for taking care of their pets
- We need to remove negative images about rescued cats and dogs. For example, rescued dogs and cats do not attack people.

Our vision

- Continue volunteer activity (at Ohana)
- Collect money for animal welfare
- Help animal adoption event
- Awareness-raising campaign (Presentation, SNS)



References:

動物愛護管理法に関する調査検討義務報告書 自然環境管理センター

"New Zealand's unbreakable bond with pets: Insights from the latest Companion Animals NZ Report" - Companion Animals NZ <https://www.companionanimals.nz/articles/>
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https://www.env.go.jp/nature/dobutsu/aigo/2_data/statistics/dog-cat.html (Reference: 2025-12-19)