


Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

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1. Country/location of visit
Japan, Science Seminar House, North Campus, Kyoto University
2. Research project
Conserv'Session #13: Companion animal abuse with “A Dog Named Gucci”
3. Date
2017. 12. 17
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
none
5. Progress and results of your outreach activity
<p>This month's thematic was companion animal abuse with the film “A Dog Named Gucci” (in English with Japanese subtitles) and invited speakers from Animal Refuge Kansai (ARK): Elizabeth Oliver (founder and director) and Jeff Bryant (representative). The session was hosted by Zsofia Budai and Moe Yanagi, and was a first for Conserv'Session as it focused on animal welfare. The film depicted the case of a puppy who was set on fire in Alabama, USA and then rescued by a man who consecutively worked on changing abuse laws. Then, the discussion focused on (the lack of) laws, animal abuse, animal abandonment and levels of awareness in Japan, with Elizabeth Oliver and Jeff Bryant reflecting on their decades of experience working for ARK.</p> <p>I have learnt during this session that laws, whether in the US or in Japan, are still quasi-inexistent regarding several aspects of animal welfare. Around 10% of the abuses are reported in the US and less than 1,000 are prosecuted. As for Japan, street pets are still killed using gas chambers in Chiba, for example, part of a total of 250,000 cats and dogs that are gassed each year in Japan. As such, ARK does not only act as a refuge but is also involved in several education campaigns, and work with local and national representatives to improve pet animals' condition and policy in Japan.</p>


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From left to right and top to bottom: screening of “A Dog Named Gucci”; Jeff Bryant; Christmas gifts (and Moe’s salary); Elizabeth Oliver; Moe Yanagi translating the speakers’ comments into Japanese.

6. Others

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank our invited speakers Elizabeth Oliver and Jeff Bryant for their participation, and Miku Akiyama and Yoko Sakai for their continuous support, along with Profs. Tetsuro Matsuzawa, Takakazu Yumoto, and Andrew MacIntosh.