

Flavour of the Month

Pet Ownership in Japan

Elizabeth Oliver of ARK

Thursday, May 13, 7:00 pm on Zoom

In many countries people wanting to adopt a pet choose to go to a rescue centre or a shelter. Pet shops may not exist but even if they do, they only sell pet food or goods, they don't sell live animals. However, in Japan pet shops are abundant and people enjoy the same choice as they would buying a new car or TV: colour, size, pattern, price. Pets go in and out of fashion so, for example, this month's flavour might be Apricot Poodles and next month Golden Retrievers. The result of this impulse buying means that many pets get discarded when they get too big, become uncontrollable or have behavioural issues. This lecture will outline the problems of pet ownership in Japan and show how organizations like ARK can help by setting standards of pet care through education and by example.

UK native Elizabeth Oliver, MBE, founded Animal Refuge Kansai (ARK) in 1990, to rescue unwanted, abused and homeless animals. The original shelter is in Nose, Osaka, and there is a new facility in Sasayama, Hyogo, and Tokyo ARK, where animals are in foster homes. After health checks, vaccinations, micro-chipping and neutering, animals are adopted by loving families. In 30 years, ARK has rescued thousands of animals including many from the 1995 Kobe earthquake and the 2011 Tohoku earthquake.

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See <http://luj.tokyo/maps> for map; Tel: 03-3225-0425

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