



INTERNATIONAL AID *for* KOREAN ANIMALS



WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

 Dear friends,

As another year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the setbacks and successes of 2016. Your support and dedication to animal welfare will always be a source of hope. Thank you. Thank you for your support, your dedication, your concern, and your capacity to care for lives not your own.

It is especially heartening to see that, while in the midst of their own political shakeup, the UK Government still found time to host a debate in the House of Commons decrying the treatment of dogs and cats in Korea. I wish the same could be said for the United States. With the outcome of this Presidential election I fear that international relations will experience greater strain than they have in a long time. This coupled with the rising tensions between North and South Korea – appears to eliminate many roads toward a government-led solution to the animal rights crisis in Korea.

IAKA will continue to focus on animal-welfare education in Korea as well as continue our financial support of KAPS adoption shelter and other Korean rescue operations. We are no longer focusing on international campaigns as they are ineffective. We need to encourage Korean people to make positive changes themselves, which is why we support the small shelters we do. The sad fact is that most of the international organizations do very little to help Korean animals. They are great at media marketing and pull in large donations but the real work is done by the shelters in Korea that actively rescue and care for the animals.

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Happy Holidays

from

International Aid for Korean Animals



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You'll remember the Korean Animal Theme Park from our previous newsletters. Unfortunately, due to the increased amount of strays brought to her, lack of donations, and criticism for handling some of Pohang City's animal control work, Ms. Bokja Choi was forced to close down the KATP.

The shelters IAKA chooses to support are small, dedicated organizations which pour all of their resources into rescuing Korean dogs and cats. They are in dire need of volunteer and financial assistance. I leave you with some stories of hope and success from KAPS, Daejeon Paws, and the Nabiya Cat Shelter and encourage you to support these organizations directly. Thank you again for your support and dedication, and for the hope you give us.

Warmest Holiday Wishes,

Kyenan Kum

Kyenan Kum,
 Founder
 International Aid for Korean Animals

group will aim to pass an amendment to the existing, and largely unenforced, laws currently in existence. It is truly wonderful to see this kind of mobilization and action on the part of the Korean people and is a tremendous step in the right direction.

Daejeon Paws



Hope For the Future

We received some exciting news we'd like to pass on to you. On November 26th of this year, there will be a meeting of representatives from approximately 36 animal protection organizations plus 1000 or more related activists and campaigners in Seoul. The meeting is titled: The Convention of an Amendment to the Animal Protection Law to Ban Dog and Cat Abandoning, Cruel Treatment, and Slaughter. The

Many of our readers will remember Daejeon Paws and the story of Mrs. Jung Nan-young from our last Holiday Newsletter. A lot of positive changes have been happening that we thought we'd share with you:

Thanks in part to funds provided by IAKA donors, Mrs. Jung was able to provide many necessary and life-saving surgeries for the cats and dogs in the shelter. She was also able to make many improvements to the grounds and the outdoor pens for the bigger dogs. A better drainage system was put in place and the outdoor play area for the small dogs was doubled in size.

Mrs. Jung's ability to provide care for the animals in the shelter is still based solely off of donations to Daejeon Paws. We encourage our readers to follow the Friends of Daejeon Paws group on Facebook and to give Mrs. Jung all the support you can.



Nabiya Cat Shelter



Nabiya Shelter Cats



Ms. Yoo Joo-youn, Founder

Yoo Joo-youn, founder of Nabiya Cat Shelter, lived in the United States for almost 11 years. She returned to Korea and 2004 for work – she had no ambitions to open an animal rescue. Not long after she had settled back in Korea she spotted two stray orange tabby kittens alone on a nearby rooftop. She began to offer them food on a regular basis.

After six months there were too many stray cats coming to Ms. Joo-youn for food. She did some research on TNR (trap, neuter, release) practices in America and decided to set up her own organization. At the time, TNR was unheard of in Korea. There wasn't even a vocabulary to describe strays – they were commonly referred to as "Thieving Cats".

Nabiya Cat Shelter ('nabiya' being a folksy term of endearment for a cat in Korean) had difficult beginnings. Ms. Joo-youn didn't have a proper medical facility or equipment or staff necessary to run a successful TNR operation. She rented out an apartment with her own money to use as a place let the cats recover from medical procedures and receive care while waiting for adoption. Eventually Nabiya Cat Shelter amassed a small support group, a few stalwart volunteers, and added a second location to cope with the increased amount of cats being brought in.

Ms. Joo-youn successfully registered Nabiya Cat Shelter as a non-profit organization with the Korean government, a long and difficult process. Getting donations is difficult because most people are indifferent to the plight of cats and strays in general – and Ms. Joo-youn does not have the resource to reach out to the international community for donations. She has spent vast amounts of her own money and rescued hundreds of cats in the process. She works tirelessly, caring for most of the cats herself.

KAPS: Rescuing Wooni from the Dog Farm

A dog farmer in Deagu intended to sell all 180 dogs on his farm meat dealer because the farm was in a Redevelopment Zone. The owner had been forced to sell his land.

While the larger dogs were carried to the meat truck one of dogs, a small Balbari, escaped from his cage and hid. After the meat buyers were gone the Balbari was found by the farmer. The farmer spared the dog's life but left the Balbari alone there when he left his land.



This was taken when we arrived at the farm. He had been locked in the cage for 3 days.

He was finally found by one of officers in charge of the Redevelopment who called KAPS to come rescue the dog. The first night at the shelter he was named "Heang-wooni" which means "lucky guy" in Korean. They call him "Wooni" for short.

He refused to eat or go to the bathroom for the first three days he was with KAPS so they took him to the vet and got him a medical exam to see if he was sick or not, but there was no indication that he was unhealthy. The vet seemed to think his initial problems were caused by shock and stress. Wooni was brought back to KAPS' shelter where he received excellent care and attention from the staff and volunteers at KAPS and was soon behaving normally.

Now he lives a healthy, happy life at KAPS and is just awaiting the right person to come along and give him a home.



Woonie's first night at KAPS



3 months after KAPS rescued him. Wooni is still waiting to be adopted.



KAPS: Cheese, Who Was Found on the Side of the Highway



Cheese's first day at the shelter



23 days later.

Choi Won Hyunhg, who lives in Seoul, was visiting Deagu. While driving accidentally discovered a very small kitten on the side of the highway. The little orange Tabby was about 1 month old. Choi took the kitten in for a night, made sure he was fed and warm and had a spot to sleep, then turned him over to the KAPS shelter and named him Cheese because of his yellow and orange coat.



Lee Jung-eun, visiting the KAPS shelter to adopt Cheese.

After Cheese was at KAPS for about a month, Lee Jung-eun, who also lives in Seoul, saw pictures of him on the KAPS Facebook page and decided to adopt him. She came in with her children and brought Cheese to his new home where he is a healthy, well-loved member of the family.



2 weeks after adoption.

Thank you for all your support! Happy Holidays!



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