



# International Aid *for* Korean Animals



❄️ Winter 2015 Newsletter

 Dear IAKA Supporters,

I'd like to start as we always do (and always will) by thanking you for your support, for making our work possible, for believing that change is possible and that even though it may take a long time, Korea can become a better, safer place for dogs and cats.

When I look at the state of animal welfare in Korea today, I see a nation deeply divided. On one side you have the dog farmers and meat peddlers, and the people who still believe that cats and dogs are vermin, good for nothing but their meat and purported medicinal properties. On the other side you have the younger generations, many of whom no longer view cats as pests, who dress up their designer pets, and don't patronize dog markets or dog meat restaurants.

Considering that, in 1989 when I first started my animal activism work, there were no cat shelters or rescues at all in Korea and today we are spotlighting two exemplary organizations that are run specifically for cats (not to mention KAPS' own dedicated cat adoption shelter) and I'd call that progress.

Unfortunately, the organization with the power to effect change the most, the Korean government, still refuses to do anything of note. The government has the resources to effectively end the dog meat trade, declaring the consumption of dog and cat meat illegal, closing down the farms, and starting trade education programs for the farmers so they can continue to support their families. But they do nothing.

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As you know, it has been a few years since I've stopped using IACA resources for international demonstrations and protest. The Korean government and many Korean people remain completely resistant to what they see as bowing to international pressures to change, and would rather go out and consume more dog and cat meat in response to foreign protests. So I've been seeking a Korean activist to work with. One who will petition the government directly, and will work with and educate the Korean people so that they can choose to change themselves.

As the year comes to a close, it's time again for us to take a look at where we started, how far we've come, and where we have yet to go. We here at IACA wish our supporters the happiest of holidays and pledge to continue our work in good faith, for the changes we wish to see in the world.

Warmest Wishes,

*Kyenran Kum*  
Kyenran Kum



## Shelter Showcase

This year, we'd like to give you updates on some of the animal shelters IACA has been working with in Korea. Some we've talked about before and some we're introducing to you for the first time. All of them could use your support for the brave work they do each day. Finding support for their work anywhere in the world is tough enough, but by accept foreign help, they subject themselves to harsh criticism from certain segments of Korean society who want to resist any foreign influence on their lives. That is why I have to tell these organizations to not advertise the fact that they receive support from IACA. Its an unfortunate and unnecessary hurdle these wonderful organizations have to deal with.



## Daejeon Paws

Daejeon Paws is a small, independently run, no-kill shelter located in the central city of Daejeon. Currently it houses about 50 dogs and 8 cats. The shelter was founded and is run by Ms. Jung Nan-young. Ms. Jung has been committed to animal rescue work for a very long time and ran another shelter Daejeon Paws. Unfortunately she was forced to close that shelter in 2008. As a pensioner, with a tightly fixed income, she had to overcome incredible obstacles in order to establish Daejeon Paws in 2010. She was even able to reclaim some of the dogs that were taking in by other shelters and resume caring for them, so deep is her commitment to these animals.



Daejeon Paws shelter dogs.

Ms. Jung's dedication to being a no-kill shelter means that many of her four-legged residents have been there long term, until Ms. Jung and her volunteers can find them a permanent, loving home. Ms. Jung recently lost her income and so the shelter is now run solely on donations and she is helped by a few volunteers. Some of her supporters have set up a Facebook group called Friends of Daejeon Paws where you can find shelter updates and information on how to get donations to Ms. Jung and the animals of Daejeon Paws.

More information available at:

<http://www.animalrescuekorea.org/animal-shelters/daejeon-paws>

## Nabiya Cat Shelter

Nabiya Cat Shelter is a private cat shelter, founded in 2007 by Juyoun Yu, with two locations in Seoul. One is a cat residence for cats that need long-term care, or are otherwise unadoptable. The other is a transitional cat

shelter dedicated to finding permanent homes for the cats that come through there.

Nabiya Cat Shelter relies on donations and fundraising to keep its operations running. They have an official Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/nabiyacatshelter](http://www.facebook.com/nabiyacatshelter) where they post adoption photos, updates, and

information on cats that have gone on to find permanent homes. They also have information on how to donate.

## Korean Animal Theme Park (KATP)

Many of you will remember the inspiring story of Ms. Bokja Choi from our last newsletter. She continues tirelessly working for the welfare of her hundreds of canine and feline residents.

While KATP is still a private shelter, which means it relies on donations and fundraising to operate, the city of Pohang is now directing many of its lost and stray cats and dogs to KATP. Ms. Bokja has an army of around 200 volunteers to wash, walk, and feed the animals, but is still in need of donations to cover food, supplies, and veterinary bills.

KATP does not have an official Facebook page and its website is Korean language only, but information on how to donate can be found at:

**More information available at:**

[www.animalrescuekorea.org/animal-shelters/korean-animal-theme-park](http://www.animalrescuekorea.org/animal-shelters/korean-animal-theme-park)



I wanted to help, so I reached out to many world organizations and, with the assistance of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, moved back to Korea in 1990. In 1991, while I was working with the Korean government to pass the first Korean Animal Protection Law, my sister and I established the Korean Animal Protection Society (KAPS) as the first animal organization in Korea with dog and cat shelters.

Non-profit animal organizations were brand new to Korean culture, and Sunnan struggled for many years to keep KAPS running. It was difficult financially and also took a toll on her already poor health. For the last two years her daughter, Sueyoun Cho, has been running KAPS in her mother's place. Early this year KAPS was on the verge of declaring bankruptcy and having to shut down completely, which would have meant relocating the remaining dogs and cats still in KAPS shelters to prevent their euthanization. It was a very sad and stressful time. Luckily, I received some very good news this summer. Mrs. Jung Ah Choi, a long-time volunteer for KAPS, was willing to take over KAPS, assume its financial troubles, and revive the organization.

I am so grateful we have found Mrs. Choi. She is an incredibly compassionate, hard-working, energetic, and self-sufficient woman. She is financially secure and dedicates almost all of her time, energy, and resources to helping animals. She lives in Busan makes the 2 hour commute to Daegu almost every single day.



## KAPS

Many of you know the beginning of this story, but for those that do not: In 1988 my sister, Sunnan Kum, contacted me while I was living in the US. She wanted help launching a worldwide campaign to save Korean dogs and cats from being tortured and slaughtered for consumption. Sunnan was the first person to publicly campaign for Korean dogs and cats and had also been rescuing animals on her own in the meantime.



KAPS dog adoption center under construction.



## Seasons Greetings!

17 years ago, when Mrs. Choi was in college, she rescued a stray cat and contacted KAPS. Since then she has been a volunteer there, helping at the Daegu shelter. She also rescues many cats in Busan and uses one of her properties as a cat adoption center. Right now it houses 63 cats and 1 dog. She is also dedicated to rescuing dogs but finds the situation a bit more difficult.

She has told me that she feels some satisfaction seeing the way younger generations of Koreans are much more concerned about animal protection and the progress that has been made for animals, but she still feels incredible pain over the persistence of the brutal dog and cat meat trade.

After construction of the new KAPS dog and cat adoption centers have finished, she plans to open a cat café to help fund the cat adoption center and introduce cats to potential adopters. Mrs. Choi has a very progressive attitude toward learning animal care and shelter practices from outside countries (a rare thing in Korea), and she plans to work with the government in order to make the capture and selling of stray dogs and cats to the meat markets completely illegal. She also plans to campaign against the animal cruelty carried out by pet shops, puppy mills, and dog breeders.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Choi's dedication to our cause and are excited to see where she takes KAPS in the future!



Mrs. Choi playing with rescues at the KAPS cat adoption center.

### Help Support IAKA - Make a Donation Today!

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