

Happy Holidays

from
International Aid
for Korean Animals





INTERNATIONAL AID *for* KOREAN ANIMALS



WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER



Happy Holidays to all of our wonderful IACA supporters. As many of you may know, we usually use this newsletter to update you on the year's developments in regard to the dog and cat situation in Korea, and also to let you know about some of the Korean animal shelters that IACA supports. Unfortunately, with the current political climate, having a real and effective international discussion about the Korean Meat markets and a boycott for the 2018 Olympics is impossible.

This year we thought we'd bring you some more in-depth stories from two Korean organizations IACA is proud to support: the first is a story about Daejeon Paws and its founder Mrs. Nan-Young Jung written by long time supporter and volunteer Deborah Fallon. The second is about Nabia Cat Shelter, as you may recall from the story of Mrs. Yu Ju-Youn in last year's newsletter. She started out only concentrating on rescuing cats but now, after registering as a non-profit, she is actively campaigning and working with other organization to close dog farms, to pressure the government to ban dog meat, to strengthen and revise present animal protection laws, and to punish people who are cruel to animals. IACA has assisted both groups for several years now.




Also another organization has sprung up called Korea Cat Protection Society and they are doing good work rescuing strays, performing TNR (trap/neuter/return) for feral cat populations and educating people about stray/feral cats. When I started campaigning for animals in 1988 I never could have imagined this. When I introduced the concept of spay/neuter for dogs and cats to Korea in 1991 I was criticized by the few veterinarians in Korea. They thought the idea of spay/neuter was very cruel and unnatural. They (and the majority of the Korean population) thought of cats as vermin and thieves and killing them was common. I know there are still horrible cruelties committed to animals but things are changing.

Like Mrs. Jung of Daejeon PAWS, Mrs. Yu of Nabiya Cat Shelter, the Korea Cat Protection Society, there are now many other groups working to help animals; educating, campaigning, and protesting against animal cruelty. It is a slow process, but a wonderful change. The people themselves have to help animals because international protests and petitions don't work in Korea. Some international organizations buy dogs from dog farmers in Korea and bring them to UK or US to have them adopted. This absolutely does not have any effect on the overall Korean dog situation and only helps these organizations with their fundraising. Almost none of that money goes back to help the organizations in Korea actually doing work to end the dog and cat meat trade once and for all. I do have hope that many animal loving Koreans will continue to work hard improving the situation and that there will be many more young Koreans doing animal protection work. We can see it happening.

Wishing you a very Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.



Kyenan Kum

 Like many people involved in animal rescue, it wasn't something I planned. I dog-sat for a friend for a few weeks, and when my friend came and took his dog home, I missed having a little dog buddy. I asked around to see if any of my friends knew of a good place to find a dog of my own and one of my co-workers told me about a shelter near Daejeon where many people volunteered. They told me, "It's been in the news for weeks! The local government told the owner she has to shut down soon because some neighbors complained, but everyone says it's a great shelter."

I looked on the Animal Rescue Korea website [Now the Animal Rescue Network Korea Facebook Group] and found instructions on where to meet other volunteers. The next weekend I took a taxi ride with several strangers down a long country road until we came to a place that changed my life forever. There were several sheds and outdoor pens housing countless dogs. There were volunteers there, harnessing up dogs to get ready to go for walks and others already trekking along the trails surrounding the property. Some were busy



Mrs. Nan-Young Jung and Deborah Fallon



Cleaning on Deborah's first visit to the shelter

scrubbing the floors and cages or carrying water and food to where it was needed. In the middle of it all was Mrs. Nan-Young Jung. From the first time I met her Mrs. Jung amazed me. The whole day she never stopped moving. She was constantly looking after the animals in her care, cleaning their eyes and ears, brushing their fur, trimming their paws. She seemed to be everywhere all at once, caring, cleaning, greeting newly arrived volunteers, and saying goodbye to those who were leaving.



Mrs. Jung saying goodbye to a dog being adopted

It's hard to explain what a positive, joyful experience it was to be there and to lend a hand. Back home I had been to a few other shelters that were filthy places filled with sickly animals, but this was different. At the end of the day, one couple had decided to adopt a cocker spaniel named Goofy. At that time, Mrs. Jung had about 170 dogs in her shelter, and when it was time to say goodbye, she hugged Goofy and tried not to cry. Then she hugged the couple and said, "Thank you, thank you, thank you! I love you!" Since then, I have



The main shed at the original shelter

heard her say the very same thing hundreds of times and always with sincerity.

Throughout that year, volunteers worked tirelessly to help Mrs. Jung find homes for most of the dogs in the shelter. The “Daejeon 150” received much publicity in the press and Mrs. Jung appeared on a Korean television program. In December 2008, the remaining 70 dogs were temporarily relocated to another shelter. Many of the dogs were shy or elderly, and very attached to Ms. Jung. For more than a year, she visited them every week and did her best to care for them. Homes were found for many of them and, in 2010, Mrs. Jung was able to bring 37 of her dogs home to a new shelter, Daejeon Paws, which is currently home to 65 dogs. Mrs. Jung lives at the shelter and her only income is a very small government pension; the shelter survives almost entirely on donations.



The end of a good volunteering day



Gami and Sanho waiting for visitors at Daejeon PAWS

Over the years, I occasionally volunteered at other shelters in Korea, but I always came back to Daejeon Paws because of Mrs. Jung and her warmth and devotion. She knows every animal in her care by name and has a real relationship with each one. Now she's in her mid-60s so the work has become much more difficult. Her hands and knees are red and bent from arthritis, but she keeps going. She has a smile and hug for everyone who comes through the shelter gate and, even in the toughest times, I've been lifted up by her hearty laugh. I asked her once if she had any children. She just patted the nearest doggy head and said with a soft chuckle, “I have a lot of babies!” Since she began rescuing animals over 20 years ago, she has cared for many hundreds of them.

For the past several years, I was involved in organizing volunteer trips, adoptions, and fundraisers for Daejeon Paws. Every so often there's been a serious problem or crisis, but the community has always rallied around to keep Daejeon Paws going a little longer. There was a fire a few years ago and flooding the year after that. This summer, there was major damage to the roof. With the help of donors and volunteers, the shelter has weathered all of these troubles. I've been touched



Deborah walking dogs on her first visit



Mrs. Jung feeding a puppy

by all of the creative ways people have found to raise funds to support the shelter—zombie runs, art auctions, stage plays, book sales, bake sales, concerts, and more. So many people have stepped up and asked what they could do to help. Together, we've been able to help Mrs. Jung accomplish so much!

This summer, when I decided, after 17 years in Korea, to move back to the US, it was hard to say goodbye to the shelter and to Mrs. Jung. I brought three adopted dogs with me; Lotto, Hugo, and Milo. Lotto is from Mrs. Jung's first shelter, Hugo is from the shelter on moving-day, and Milo was a foster failure. Leaving Daejeon Paws for the



Daejeon PAWS' roof was damaged by a flood. Pictured here during repairs.



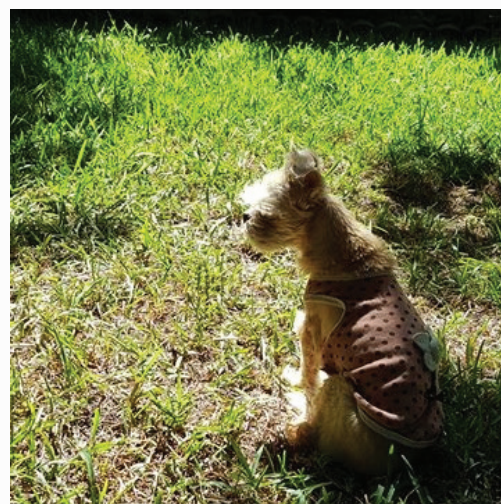
The new roof at Daejeon PAWS almost complete

last time, I left a piece of my heart with Mrs. Jung, but I carry with me three great little buddies along with so many wonderful memories and the certainty that it is possible to make the world a better place. Sometimes life seems so full of troubles and it's hard to feel that our efforts make any difference, but when I see my dogs running around or just sitting in their favorite spot looking content, I'm assured that my efforts have made a difference in at least a few lives.

I consider it my great fortune to have had the opportunity to know someone as big-hearted as Mrs. Jung and to experience the positivity and goodwill that she cultivates around her. To the many donors of the IAKA, Friends of Daejeon Paws, and ARNK, as well as all the other supporters who have been a part of the shelter's story so far, I know what Mrs. Jung would do if you were sitting beside her now. She would give you a big bear hug and simply say "Thank you, thank you, thank you! I love you!"



Deborah's adopted dog, Hugo, ready to go to America



Lotto spent 7 years of her life in Mrs. Jung's shelter. She was adopted by Deborah and is now 16, enjoying her new home in the US

Mrs. Yu Ju-Youn began rescuing cats out of a single apartment. Now she rents three spaces for cats and small dogs (apartments in the middle of crowded Seoul are not sufficient to properly house or care for medium and large dogs). She cares for on average 150 cats in the three shelters. 67 cats and a few of the dogs have been adopted since 2016. Nabiya Cat Shelter has two full-time paid staff at the shelters, about 15 Korean volunteers, and 4 foreign volunteers to help with communication, facilitating adoption, fundraising, and the promotion of Nabiya Cat Shelter to foreign communities. Mrs. Yu herself is incredibly involved in rescuing and caring for the animals and instituting TNR programs. She sent along a list of her activities for 2016 and 2017 (both with the shelter/rescue and her campaign and political activities).

In February of 2016, 13 cats were found abandoned in a crate and were rescued by Nabiya Cat Shelter. To date 11 of those cats have been adopted.



Mrs. Yu Ju-Youn at one of the cat shelters



Feeding time for the cats

The following month was the first conference of animal activist groups in Korea working toward the revision of the animal protection laws and the prevention of cruelty and abandonment toward cats and dogs.

From April to June of 2016, Mrs. Yu Ju-Youn rescued 21 kittens who were due to be euthanized by Inchun City's Animal Control. To date 16 of them have been adopted. Also in June several cats were rescued from Dongdaemun Meat Market and, while on a TNR



Naptime for 8 rescued kittens

mission, a dog was rescued, given medical treatment, and adopted. June also marked the 2nd conference of the animal activist groups, with a focus on banning illegal dog farms and further revising the animal protection laws.

In August of 2016 4 puppies were rescued from the dog market in the Huam-dong district. 2 of them were adopted in Korea and 2 in the united States.

In September the 3rd conference of Korean animal activist groups met to continue working on revisions to the law.



Nabiya Cat Shelter's kiosk at a coordinated protest event

November 2016, Nabiya rescued a severely injured cat from Jiri Mountain on Jeju Island. The cat had a large portion of muscle torn off its backside. The cat was treated and rehabilitated at Nabiya cat shelter and then

adopted by the person who called Nabiya in to get help rescuing it.



An injured cat rescued from Jeju Island

The next month a special Citizen's Concert was organized in order to raise awareness and garner the Korean people's support for revisions to the animal protection laws with another activists conference held in

January of 2017. December also saw the rescue of a cat with disabled rear legs and the beginning of the Nabiya Project; placing winter cat "homes" in certain areas for strays and feral cats to use as shelter from cold weather.

In February of 2017, Mrs. Yu participated in an Anti-fur conference.



The rescued cat during rehab. It was later adopted by the person who called for his rescue.



One of the Council for Animal Protection Related Group's campaign posters

April of 2017, Nabiya rescued a cat with a paw missing and part of its leg bone exposed. The cat was successfully treated and now lives at Nabiya Cat Shelter. Also that month a stray/feral cat feeding station was installed near the National Assembly (with government permission!)

In May 11 cats were rescued from an animal hoarder in the Bukahyoundong district before the building they were living in was demolished. 10 cats were adopted and one lives at the shelter.

In June the City Offices of Gangwon Province wanted to fund new business signs to cover up dog meat advertisements during the 2018 Olympics and Nabiya Shelter participated in a large protest against the decision. The government scrapped the program. Throughout the summer they also participated in demonstrations and protests during the infamous Bok days. In June they protested at the Gyoungdong Dog Meat Market, in July at Moran Dog Meat Market, and in August at Insadong, a heavily trafficked tourist area in Seoul. August also saw them participate in a large group protest against cruelty toward dogs in the Gupo Dog Market of Busan. And all Korean Animal Welfare groups gathered together for a large protest in Seoul to stop the eating of dog meat.



Nabiya Cat shelter is part of the Council for Animal Protection Related Groups. This Council wishes to Enact a Special Law Prohibiting the Slaughter of, Cruelty Toward, and Abandonment of Dogs and Cats.

In October, Nabiya Cat Shelter participated in a protest against the Director of the Iksan City Animal Shelter. The corrupt shelter agreed to sell euthanized dog corpses to dog meat restaurants. Mrs. Yu and Nabiya also began holding regular protests at Insadong in Seoul every Thursday to demand a law banning abandonment, cruelty, and dog slaughtering. These are all positive

steps in the right direction and mark a shift in the attitudes of at least some Korean people toward the treatment of dogs and cats. We can only hope that more Koreans follow suit and join Mrs. Nan-Young Jung and Mrs. Yu Ju-Youn and all the other tireless spirits like them. As always IAKA will remain firm in its commitment to support those working to change the situation for all Korean dogs and cats.



Nabiya Cat Shelter at an anti dog and cat meat demonstration

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