

International Aid for Korean Animals

Spring 2010 Newsletter



IAKA/KAPES Project for Struggling Shelters

In 2008, one of KAPES' goals was to help struggling shelters operate better through education and funding. Such shelters are operated by groups or individuals that are not well known in Korea and are often experiencing financial difficulties.

Conditions for the animals are poor, and those who run the shelters don't have the expertise to care for pet animals properly. We are also concerned that shelter owners could be animal hoarders, rather than legitimate protectors of dogs and cats. With owners having no fundamental training regarding care of shelter animals, rescued cats and dogs have little hope of living better lives.

care and adoption practices. But these efforts alone are not enough, since the number of abandoned dogs and cats continues to rise and shelters are overcrowded, making them all the more difficult to maintain.



KAPES Director Haesun Park volunteering at Daejeon Shelter

As with Daejeon Shelter, we hope to give all legitimate shelters the opportunity to improve. Recently we offered our support to two more shelters with excellent management—despite the dire circumstances they face—and we are proud to have Haesun Park (Director of KAPES) working directly with them to help provide cat and dog spay/neuter and to teach proper pet

The future is bright, however, as we have only just begun this project. Entering a new decade, animal protection laws are being strengthened and general awareness of animal abuse is on the rise. Haesun works constantly with the government, lobbying to enforce the law and to

engage in more public education. And it is truly a blessing that we have such programs as Assisted Animal Therapy and the new Korean Animal Assisted Therapy Federation (see page 3). We can hardly wait to find an affordable place in Seoul, however small, to build the KAPES Adoption and Education Center! But without financial assistance, our work to save stray dogs and cats is not possible; that is why we urge you all to continue to contribute to our organization. After all, how sad would the world be without love and nurturing among all forms of life? Make the future of all pets and animals a happier one by supporting these programs to benefit not only our personal lives, but also all living beings in society.

I wish you all a wonderful spring season!

Sincerely,

Kyenan Kum
IAKA & KAPES Founder



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Our Project for Struggling Shelters

Daejeon Update

Over the years, IAKA has continued to assist Daejeon Shelter (on the outskirts of Daejeon City with an average of 25 dogs). Recently, we were overjoyed to hear that the owner, Ms. Jungsoon Park, has fully recovered from surgery and is active and well again! Ms. Park rescues dogs from Daejeon City's local animal

control/dog pound when they are to be euthanized. She also rescues dogs from cruel situations, has them spayed and neutered, and gets them necessary veterinary care to restore them to health so that they are adoptable. Daejeon Shelter is doing better, since we have been giving shelter staff educational materials on proper practices regarding spay/neuter, pet adoption, and fundraising.

Unfortunately, because the property was rented very cheaply in a rundown uninhabitable condition, rain damage has resulted in mold and fungus. A harmful environment for both dogs and shelter staff! The shelter needs constant maintenance and upkeep in order to continue offering its services.

KAPES chairperson, Haesun Park,



KAPES Director, Haesun Park, with the staff of Daejeon Shelter



A volunteer paints the walls in Daejeon Shelter

this year donated all materials to repair the walls and floor. On January 16 she also volunteered her time to paint the building and do repairs. Using a fungicide, she was able to completely remove the mold and fungus and she also put in new floors. Thank you, Haesun, for providing much needed help!

Gumi Shelter

Recently, we came across another shelter that needs our help—Gumi Shelter, managed by Oksun Kim, aged 62, whose only source of income is a small amount of welfare. Located in Gumi City in Gyeongbuk Province, the shelter is currently taking care of 100 dogs. Until a few years ago, Ms. Kim lived in Gangwon Province, where her total assets were approximately \$13,000. She rented land cheaply, living in a shipping container while building cages for 40 dogs. As news spread about her situation, a television company did a story on her. But after the broadcast, many pet owners abandoned their dogs! As a result, Ms. Kim had to take in 60 more dogs, while receiving little support in return. She now refuses to participate in any televised interviews.

In November 2009, volunteers at the shelter asked KAPES for help. In December, Haesun Park went to Gumi City to meet Ms. Kim. Haesun discovered that 60% of her dogs were seniors. The rented land is approximately 7,200 square feet, where the dogs are exercised every day. The shelter receives few donations. Ms. Kim's income and donations are not

enough for food or even basic needs. Also the shelter didn't have any veterinarian; fortunately, Gumoh Veterinary Clinic has since offered spay and neuter services, so now about 90% of Gumi Shelter's dogs have been sterilized.

Gumi Shelter needs urgent support today! The owner of the property has sold the

land, and Ms. Kim will need to relocate by the end of February. She is asking for any kind of help, as well as searching for a new location. A year's rent, including electricity, water, plumbing, and moving expenses, will cost around \$7,500. In addition, the shelter needs new cages, since these are rusty and worn out after years of use. The dogs also need ongoing healthcare, and the remaining 10% who are unsterilized must be spayed and neutered. The total cost needed is \$12,000.

KAPES is helping Gumi Shelter with fundraising through the Internet!

Since January 19, 2010, Haesun Park has fundraised about \$2,000 in Korea. Therefore, we need \$10,000 more. Supporters are donating blankets and food to KAPES to help Gumi Shelter. We will be assisting Ms. Kim with veterinary care, to have all the dogs spayed and neutered, and to buy new cages. We are doing as much as we can. We are also helping Ms. Kim learn to care for dogs properly, as well as instructing her about pet ownership, adoption, and spay/neuter procedures.



Poster ad for Gumi Shelter on KAPES website

Daejeon Animal Rescue Stories

Ms. Sunhee Lee, whose name has been changed so she may remain anonymous, is a Korean-Japanese small business owner in Japan. She is also a huge supporter of and volunteer at Daejeon Shelter and works with Ms. Park, shelter manager. For several years, Ms. Sunhee Lee has taken dogs to Japan, where



Ms. Sunhee Lee with the little rescued poodle from the dog meat restaurant

Dongduchun Shelter

This shelter is managed by Ms. YoungJa Kim. Situated in Dongduchun in Gyeonggi-do Province, the local village's government of Dongduchun asked KAPES to help this shelter because of Ms. Kim's financial difficulties. Ms. Kim is currently on welfare, receiving only \$160 for living expenses each month; her only other source of income is from collecting discarded electrical wires and other recyclable items. The animals in Dongduchun Shelter have not been spayed or neutered, so male and female dogs are placed in separate rooms. Because Ms. Kim truly cares for her dogs and does not show any signs of being a hoarder, we want to help her have all her dogs sterilized. Local veterinarians charge \$200-\$300 to spay or neuter dogs (way too expensive!). We hope to find a vet with discounted prices or one willing to volunteer to spay and neuter the dogs as well as provide general healthcare.

Currently KAPES plans on helping with water/plumbing, spaying/neutering all the dogs, and vaccinations. We are also trying to recruit local youth volunteers to help out at the shelter. The shelter has already begun fundraising efforts through the Internet.

they're more adoptable because of the more animal-friendly environment in Japan and Japan's stricter animal protection laws. Over the years, Ms. Sunhee Lee has probably adopted several hundred dogs into Japan.

On January 26, 2009, when passing a dog soup restaurant, Ms. Sunhee Lee spotted four skinny, purebred dogs locked in a small cage in front of the restaurant. They were sickly and starving and most likely would end up being cooked. She wanted to do what any kind-hearted person would want to do—rescue these dogs! She asked the restaurant owner if she could buy the dogs, but he asked \$50 for each dog ... when he probably paid a total of \$28 for all four. Sadly, one of the dogs was cooked while Ms. Sunhee Lee was talking to the restaurateur, so she agreed to pay \$150 for the three remaining dogs. The healthier dog was adopted right away by a Daejeon shelter volunteer.



Minpin rescued from the dog meat restaurant.

The other two, a poodle and a minpin, are still very ill. We hope they will recover fully, with veterinary attention and better nutrition, and will therefore be adoptable.

Ms. Sunhee Lee was heartbroken and hoped that some day a law would be passed to stop the eating of dogs and cats in Korea. By then, we trust our KAPES organization will have grown even bigger and successful enough to educate all Koreans about pet care! (See page 4 for more stories.)

Animal Assisted Therapy Federation

Newly Established Korean Animal Assisted Therapy Federation



Haesun Park receives an award of appreciation from Chairperson Ghushil Oh



Created on November 27, 2009, this research center will study the relationship between animals and humans. Haesun is an executive trustee/director; the chairperson is Ghushil Oh. The federation consists of many professors and organizations researching animal therapy and its benefits regarding the relationship between humans and animals. Haesun received an award of appreciation for all her years of hard work the day the research center was inaugurated. Ms. Park said that animal assistant therapy is needed in our society because the world has become very materialistic – unhappiness and anxiety abound – and having a relationship with an animal can help in so many ways. We are certainly encouraged by these efforts, because they promote a loving relationship between humans and animals.

Baekgu's Story

Rescued on December 26, 2009, this medium-sized dog was badly shaken up and injured after being hit by a car. Not long after Ms. Park's release from



the hospital for cancer treatment, she received news about this dog from a high school volunteer, so tried to save her. Despite a fierce snowstorm, she found her; but she was crying in pain, a sight and sound that were hard to bear. She'd probably been loose for some time when she was hit by the car. Ms. Park took Baekgu to the veterinary clinic, where everyone smelled a dreadful odor emanating from his collar. Someone had fastened her collar so tightly (probably when she was a puppy and had never replaced it) that she'd developed a serious infection (see photo). Baekgu was operated on immediately.

It is shameful that dogs sometimes end up suffering a worse fate than being



At the vet clinic they discover an infected collar is causing the dreadful odor.

butchered for food. Not only the cruelty of eating dogs discourages us, but also the ignorance of pet owners—who should not enjoy the privilege of having a dog!

Gumsooni's Story

Ms. Park of Daejeon Shelter rescued this female Yorkshire terrier, who is around 3 years old. Yorkshire terriers are small dogs often left outside in tiny pens on top of brick blockades in Korea. This dog was leashed on a short chain for three years and given leftover human food. As a result, she was suffering from malnutrition and got sick easily. When Ms. Park found out about this dog, she contacted the owner and bought the dog for \$30. Due to malnutrition, the dog has kidney and liver problems and anemia. She also has life-threatening heartworm. Although she's in a terrible condition,

Gumsooni has a loving personality that has touched all our hearts. The problem is, however, those years of bad nutrition and the heartworm.

Because of her will to live, we made the decision to help Gumsooni. In less than a month, with veterinary care and good nutrition, she has started to recover. Now that she's stronger, we can start heartworm treatment. We're all hoping Gumsooni gets better soon and so will have a "second chance" at life. Unlike the tragic story of Soodori (2009 winter newsletter), this time we shall make

sure Gumsooni is fully recovered before putting her up for adoption.



Yorkshire terrier Gumsooni is calm after receiving veterinary care.

Help Support IAKA/KAPES - Make a Donation

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