



Dear supporters,

We're so sorry we missed our last newsletter! We've been so busy getting KAPES Education and Adoption Center up and running that we haven't had a free moment to send out our fall newsletter. Now that the Center is nearly ready, we wanted to make sure to take the time to share all of the wonderful things that your support has made possible.

Thanks to all of Haesun Park's selfless work, KAPES Education and Adoption Center will finally open its doors this November. Haesun has worked tirelessly to find the right building for the Center and remodel it into a state-of-the-art animal advocacy, adoption, and medicine facility. She has put her heart, soul, blood, sweat, and tears into this project, searching for a site for nearly two years, and, ultimately, backing a loan for the building's purchase. Her hard work has more than paid off! The building that will house the Center is in a fantastic location – a vibrant commercial district in Jungnang-gu, Seoul, that is easily accessible by subway.



KAPES Director Haesun Park playing with two rescued cats.

Even after all this work was finished, Haesun didn't have a moment's rest. She immediately started the process of staffing the Center, looking high and low for the most highly qualified veterinarians, trainers, and educators. She's fielded piles of applications and interviewed a number of candidates to find only the most compassionate and skilled veterinarians.

While bringing the plan for the Center to fruition, Haesun has continued to strengthen KAPES' relationship with the Korean government. Through her advocacy work, she helped the Ministry of Agriculture establish a much-needed Animal Welfare Call Center, which routes concerned callers to the appropriate animal-related resources. She also participated in the Ministry of Agriculture's second annual International Animal Welfare Conference in Seoul – a gathering of experts from animal-related professions and animal lovers the world over.

Haesun has met with cooperation from the national government and local governments, most notably that of Sungnam-gu. She is currently working behind the scenes with Sungnam city officials to shut down Moran Market, the largest dog meat market in Korea.

All of these successes are signs that change *is* happening – the Korean conception of animal rights *is* changing. These successes are also signs that advocacy and education, not aggression and protest, are the most effective modes for effecting change.

To read more about these animal rights successes and how you can continue to help, cuddle up with your dog or cat, and read on! Again, we appreciate all you do for animals in need!

Wishing you a joyful holiday season,

Kyenan Kum, IAKA & KAPES Founder



KAPES Education and Adoption Center Moving Forward

As a way to achieve its dual mission of animal-related advocacy and service, IAKA/KAPES has long dreamed of establishing an animal rights education and adoption center in Seoul. In 2006, IAKA/KAPES saw the first ray of hope for this dream project, when the International Fund for Animal Welfare (www.IFAW.org) awarded us a generous, one-time grant to help with the purchase of a building to house the center. After more than 15 years of partnering with IAKA on animal protection advocacy in Korea, IFAW saw this as an ideal way to pass the torch of advocacy in Korea to IAKA/KAPES. The \$500,000 grant represented IFAW's faith in IAKA's readiness to take the lead through a groundbreaking center for animal rights education, pet adoption, and animal care.



The site of KAPES new Education and Adoption Center.

Quickly after the first ray of hope, we met with our first disappointment. While IFAW's grant was generous, KAPES still struggled to find an appropriate building in Seoul's inflated real estate market. KAPES' Director Haesun Park searched for nearly two years, visiting over 100 properties without success.



One of the Center's animal welfare education rooms.

Finally, IAKA/KAPES realized that we had to take a substantial risk to make the education and adoption center a reality. We decided to take on the burden of a half million dollar loan to purchase the right building. After two years of planning and searching, KAPES finally found a suitable site: a small, four-story building in a busy commercial district near Seoul's eastern border. The building is located at 119-10 Myounouk-dong, Jungrang-gu, just steps away from subway line 7.

By the end of June IAKA/KAPES finalized the purchase of the building, and, again, we felt infused with hope. But after we surveyed the building further, we met with another small setback. Upon closer inspection, we discovered the building was in need of drastic remodeling. In particular, the first floor was severely damaged by the fried chicken restaurant that was there previously. Because of the severity of the damage to the building, we had to do more repairs than we originally expected. IAKA is helping to complete this remodeling.



The surgery room in the Center's veterinarian clinic.

The center will celebrate its grand opening in mid-November 2010. In its first year of operation, the building will house an education center, animal clinic, and one adoption room. By 2011, the center will be fully operational, expanding to include two more adoption rooms on its second and third floors. When the center is fully realized, it will be a one stop shop, where Seoul residents can learn about animal welfare issues, adopt pets collected from animal control and local shelters, and take pets to a vet for treatment. All rescues up for adoption will receive the necessary medical care to bring them to full health and spay or neuter services prior to adoption. Vet services will be offered to the general public at standard rates, because KAPES will rely on earnings from the clinic to make the center financially sustainable.



KAPES Education and Adoption Center veterinarian, Suhyoung Sohn, playing with rescued dogs and cats.

We're so excited to finally open our doors to the public, and we invite you to visit when you're in the neighborhood. Come take a look at all of our print materials, visit our rescued animals, and get your pets the care they need!

A Veterinarian Who Cares

During her 20 years of animal rights advocacy in Korea, IAKA/KAPES founder Kyenan Kum has met hundreds of veterinarians. When she first began animal rights advocacy, she assumed that veterinarians would be animal rights sympathizers, fighting the good fight. But, to her dismay, her assumption has been proven wrong. Over the years, she encountered a number of vets who seemed completely unsympathetic to the feelings of the animals they treated. She also heard horror stories from many animal lovers about the rough treatment their pets had received at their vets'. In effect, it seemed the veterinarian field – a field ostensibly devoted to the care of animals – was becoming part of the story of animal abuse in Korea.

Seeking concrete evidence of this trend in veterinarian practices, Kyenan conducted a survey of veterinarian students in Korea, which assessed these students' reasons for pursuing the veterinarian profession. The results were disheartening. More than 90% of veterinarian students surveyed had chosen that line of study because they'd been rejected from medical school, not because they were interested in the welfare of animals. Also, most of the students surveyed felt little to no sympathy for animals. Rather, they pursued the profession because they saw it as lucrative.

With all this apathy in the field of animal medicine, it's been difficult to staff the clinic in the KAPES Education and Adoption Center with vets who are highly qualified *and* care about animals. So, we were overjoyed when we received an application from Miss Suhyoung Sung.

'More importantly, she's compassionate towards animals and devoted to animal rights.'

Suhyoung Sohn graduated from the best school of animal medicine in Korea at the top her class. More importantly, she's compassionate towards animals and devoted to animal rights. From a young age, Suhyoung knew she wanted to work to help and protect animals. When she was a child, she had a very special pet chicken who taught her compassion towards all living things. Through the relationship she developed with her pet chicken, Suhyoung learned that all animals are capable of feeling love and companionship, and possess a unique intelligence.

From that time on, Suhyoung began taking steps towards a lifelong career in animal protection and care. While pursuing her M.S. in animal medicine, she volunteered with a number of animal welfare agencies. She has donated her time and considerable skill to a bird protection society; a group that advocates for the welfare of lab animals; and a small, minimally funded clinic offering spay and neuter services.

In addition to volunteering her skills, she has also rescued five dogs who would have died otherwise. In 2002, she rescued her first dog, a one-year-old mixed breed named Hyotae. In 2003, she rescued another mixed breed dog named Bambi who was 4 years old at the time. In 2006, she fell in love with another dog in need of rescue: Manbok a four-year-old schnauzer. In 2007, Yuri was added to the pack, and, finally, last year, Schongi, another schnauzer, came into the family. Instead of being euthanized, these dogs have led full lives under Suhyoung's care. Hyotae is now 9, Bambi is 12, Manbok is 8, Schongi is 2, and Yuri is 10.

'She is a beacon of light in the veterinarian field, and her fresh perspective is a sign of the changing times in Korea.'

After Suhyoung graduated from veterinarian school, she searched for a clinic in Korea that was also concerned with animal welfare issues. Unable to find an organization in Korea that fit, she planned to work towards a PhD in animal welfare and veterinarian practice in England. Luckily, she found our posting for an opening at the KAPES Education and Adoption Center before she left for England. She postponed her doctorate studies to join our unique organization.

KAPES is absolutely thrilled to have Suhyoung on our team at the new center in Seoul. At a mere 28, Suhyoung is filled with compassion and wisdom beyond her years. She is a beacon of light in the veterinarian field, and her fresh perspective is a sign of the changing times in Korea.



Suhyoung Sohn and one of her five rescued dogs.

2010 International Animal Welfare Conference in Seoul

This October 2010, the Ministry of Agriculture, once again, stepped up to the plate to protect the welfare of Korean animals. The Ministry sponsored its second International Animal Welfare Conference, gathering animal experts and lovers from all walks of life to discuss animal rights and care. The conference was an even greater success than the first one, drawing over 1,500 participants from animal welfare-related NGOs, the Animal Welfare Department, animal clinics, among others.

The two-day conference was divided into separate themes for each day. The first day centered on the topic of improving conditions in livestock and meat industries, covering issues of livestock treatment and transportation, as well as meat processing practices. The second day of the conference focused on the issues surrounding companion animals. That day, representatives from RSPCA (England) and Hong Kong SPCA presented on anti-cruelty, spaying and neutering, animal adoption, and pet care.

At the end of the second day, KAPES' Director Haesun Park was featured as a keynote speaker. In her address to attendees, she discussed the long history of Korea's current animal protection law. Though the 1991 law was improved in 2007 and enacted in 2008, the government still lacks the resources and infrastructure to enforce the law, Haesun said.



SPCA presenting at this year's International Animal Welfare Conference in Seoul.

She encouraged attendees to cooperate with the government to fill in these resource gaps, making it possible for the government to properly enforce the law. Haesun closed by urging attendees to recognize the government's efforts to protect animal rights, rather than protest against them. At the end of her speech, she received warm applause, signaling animal rights' activists' new willingness to collaborate with Korea's animal welfare government officials.

The Ministry of Agriculture Establishes Animal Welfare Call Center



A poster advertising the new Animal Welfare Call Center at a district office.

These pamphlets are designed and printed directly by KAPES, then distributed to hospitals and interested local government offices.

Many Seoul district offices have helped distribute the pamphlet, including Gwanak-gu and Jungrang-gu. However, the most proactive local government has been Sunngnam City – home to the largest dog meat market, Moran Market. For more information about new developments in Sunngnam City's dog meat market, please see the article below.

We truly hope that our pamphlet will bring attention to this great resource, and will lead to the rescue of animals across Korea.

In May 2010, the Ministry of Agriculture opened a badly needed Animal Welfare Call Center devoted to connecting pet owners and animal lovers with a host of animal protection, adoption, and care resources. The center puts callers in touch with representatives, district officials, shelters, and hospitals, who can provide information regarding animal abuse, animal rescue, animal health and care, lost pets, and animal protection law. The call center can be reached from anywhere in Korea by dialing 1577-0954.

Despite the great need for such a service, the Ministry did little advertising for the center due to limited funding. To make sure the call center receives the attention it deserves, KAPES has developed a pamphlet to spread the word about this important resource.



Another Animal Welfare Call Center poster designed and distributed by KAPES.

Moran Dog Meat Market to Close

For years, Sunghnam City's Moran Market has been a black mark on Korea's animal rights score card. As Korea's largest dog meat market, over 60% of Korea's dog meat and live dogs intended for consumption are traded from this market alone.

This thriving marketplace is made up of two parts: one part is a large, outdoor, temporary folk market held every fifth day. The other part is located in permanent storefronts, and is open every day. The dog meat traders operate primarily out of the large, temporary market, as one of the many types of traders that do business there.

Since 1989, KAPES Founder Kyenan Kum has visited Moran Market to document the many animal rights violations perpetrated by its dog meat industry. During her many visits, she has witnessed traders transport and store dogs and cats in cramped cages without food, water, or necessary medical care. She witnessed market workers rope dogs by the neck and fling them out of the back of their truck to be butchered. She saw market workers slaughter, electrocute, and boil these animals.

But soon abuses like these will come to an end. As part of a new city plan to be completed by 2014, the temporary market is going to be shut down, and new market buildings and an apartment complex will be developed. Though the new development includes an indoor shopping complex, city officials have deemed that the dog meat trade will not be allowed in the new facilities. This is good news for animal

lovers and activists world-wide, because the closing of the temporary market marks the end of a dog meat industry giant and the beginning of a new era.



Caged dogs at Sunghnam's notorious Moran Market.

While Sunghnam's government has taken the official position that the dog meat trade will not be allowed in the new buildings, KAPES' worries aren't over yet. Dog meat traders in the permanent storefronts are organizing to reestablish their trade in the planned development, but KAPES is working closely with Sunghnam city officials to stave off their demands. Local government officials have begun talks with the Moran Market Association head and

the dog meat shop owners in an attempt to persuade them against further dog meat trade. They also encouraged dog meat shop owners to begin planning for a future without the dog meat industry.

In addition to working with government officials on the new market plan, KAPES has made a concerted effort to educate Sunghnam residents about animal rights and protection. KAPES is distributing pamphlets to local apartment complexes and district offices about the revised animal protection law and the Ministry of Agriculture's Animal Welfare Call Center.

KAPES sees the closure of Moran Market as a symbol of the changing mentality about the dog meat trade. We're hopeful that this is the beginning of the end for the dog meat industry!

KAPES Works Hand in Hand with KARMA

In early November 2010, KAPES staff and volunteers extended a helping hand to the Korean Animal Rescue and Management Association (KARMA) in the hopes of strengthening the partnership between KAPES and KARMA in the future. KAPES directors Haesun Park and Ho-yong Lee and new hires at the KAPES Center Suhyoung Sohn and Sang-hu Park volunteered for the day at KARMA. The KAPES volunteers helped clean KARMA's facilities, and gave medical care to some of KARMA's sheltered animals.

After volunteering, Haesun and Ho-yong continued to dialogue with KARMA about routing some of their rescued animals to KAPES' new adoption center. KAPES hopes to work closely with KARMA to promote and facilitate pet adoption and increase animal adoption rates. Collecting nearly 100 animals per day, KARMA regularly meets their maximum capacity for rescues, and can only keep them at their facilities for 10 days. Sadly, after this 10 day period, KARMA must euthanize the rescued animal to make room for more stray cats and dogs.

Due to their remote location (two hours away from Seoul), it's difficult for KARMA to connect rescues with new homes. Quite simply, fewer people visit KARMA because they are too far away from Seoul. As a result, only 10% of the animals they collect are adopted, while the other 90% is euthanized. KAPES believes that the prime location of its new center will help some of KARMA's rescues find homes. By jointly promoting animal adoption and bringing rescued animals closer to potential owners in Seoul, KAPES and KARMA will work hand in hand to reduce the rescue euthanization rate and place strays in loving homes.

Eunie: a New Start for a Neglected Dog

by Rosalyn Morrison, KAPES volunteer

When I first met Eunie, I hadn't a thought in my head about rescuing an animal. I was getting ready to move from Yeonggwang, Jeollanam-do to Bundang, Gyeonggi-do, and I was busy with preparations for the move and a new job. But a few days before my planned departure, I met Eunie, and I didn't have a choice – I had to rescue her.

As I walked down the street that day, my eyes fell upon a small, sickly dog leashed to a post with a short chain. There wasn't any food or water in near her, and she was completely emaciated. I looked for her owner to complain about her condition, but he wasn't at home.

'As I walked down the street that day, my eyes fell upon a small, sickly dog leashed to a post with a short chain.'

The next day, as I was heading out of town to Bundang, I went passed the chained dog again. This time, her owner was home, and I asked him if I could take his dog with me. Thankfully, he was willing to part with her, so I put her in a box on my lap, and started off on the five hour drive to Bundang.



Eunie wearing her little, crooked grin.



Eunie using shoes as a pillow.

Two weeks later, I found Eunie a new, loving home with another English teacher named Maggie. I was hopeful that Eunie's trials were over, but I discovered soon they weren't. Recently, Eunie was diagnosed with stage three heart worm, and neither Maggie nor I could afford the 600,000 won (about \$600) for her treatment. Even if we could have afforded the treatment, it wasn't available to us. The production of the medicine Eunie needed – Immiticide – had been stopped in Korea.

After some searching, we connected with IAKA and KAPES and told them our predicament. With IAKA/KAPES' help, Eunie received the medicine she needed. Kyenan called in a prescription with her veterinarian and personally shipped the medicine to us.

'I was hopeful that Eunie's trials were over, but I discovered soon they weren't. Recently, Eunie was diagnosed with stage three heart worm ...'

Eunie is doing better than ever. She is eating more consistently and she's gained almost a whole kilogram! Words can't describe how thankful we are for IAKA and KAPES. Without their help, Eunie may not have had the chance to experience living with a loving owner. IAKA and KAPES' infinite dedication to fight for animals gives me hope that one day Korea will be a happy place for animals and people to cohabitate together.

Sprinkles: the Tabby Kitten

On July 16th, I was going to dinner at a restaurant in Yeonggwang to meet my friend who'd agreed to take care of my dog while I was out of town. As I was walking into the restaurant, I noticed an adorable tabby meowing outside. Even though I was leaving to go out of town the next morning, I knew I couldn't just leave her there. So, I took the kitten inside to ask my friend if he would take care of her while I was gone, too. Fortunately, Tony, a fellow animal lover and English teacher, agreed.

I didn't really know what I would do with the kitten once I returned, because my dog, Lucy, isn't particularly cat-friendly, but I was willing to take a risk.

'Worried for her safety, I began a quest to find Sprinkles a better home, posting pictures on Facebook and contacting everyone I knew.'

Sprinkles stayed with Lucy and me for two weeks following my return, and every second was difficult. I kept the two animals in separate rooms, but I was still scared that at any moment Lucy would attack and even kill the kitten.

Worried for her safety, I began a quest to find Sprinkles a better home, posting pictures on Facebook and contacting everyone I knew. After scouring through my address book, I finally received an email from an English teacher named Jenna who said she was interested in Sprinkles.

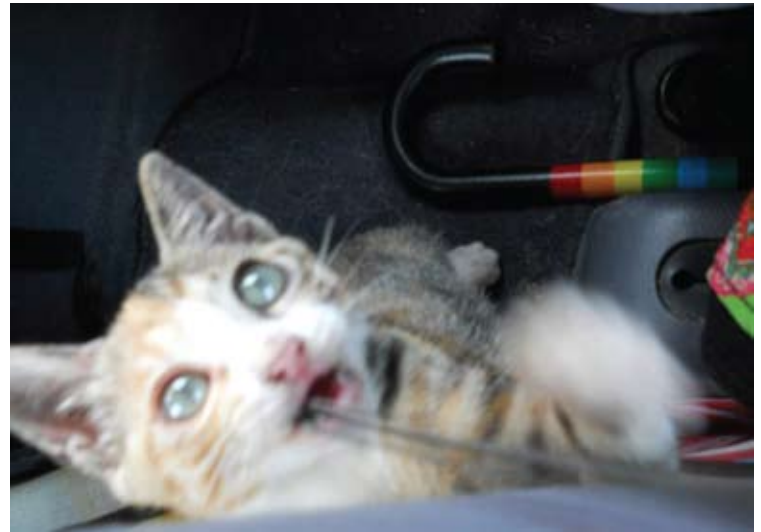


Sprinkles purring and smiling in the arms of her rescuer, Rosalyn.

by Rosalyn Morrison, KAPES volunteer

I met Jenna in Gwangju, Jeollanam-do (the Southwest region of Korea) later that month. She was extremely kind and loving – obviously, a good mommy-to-be for Sprinkles. I felt ecstatic that I had finally found the perfect home for the kitten, but I was extremely sad to see her go.

'Every rescued kitten counts towards eliminating the plight of feral cats in Korea.'



Sprinkles playing with a stick.

I've kept in touch with Jenna, and she tells me Sprinkles is doing well and has become friends with her rabbit, Sangchu. Springkles is very healthy and now weighs a full kilogram more than when I first rescued her. It really feels good knowing that Spinkles will live happily with Jenna and Sangchu and that there's one less homeless kitten on the streets. Every rescued kitten counts towards eliminating the plight of feral cats in Korea.



Happy holidays from IAKA and KAPES!

Help Support IAKA/KAPES - Make a Donation Today!

I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution:

- 25 50 100
 500 1000 Other amount _____
 US\$ UK£ Other currency * _____

* All currencies accepted.

Mailing Information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

I would like a receipt or acknowledgement

Pay By Credit Card:

Please charge my gift to my:

VISA Mastercard American Express

Card # _____

Exp (MM/YY) _____ Signature _____

Please mail to:

IAKA, PO Box 20600
Oakland, CA 94620

Please make your
donation payable to
International Aid for
Korean Animals
(IAKA)

IAKA is a registered 501(c)(3) foundation in the U.S.

IAKA UK is a registered charity in the UK #1115187

