

Soodori



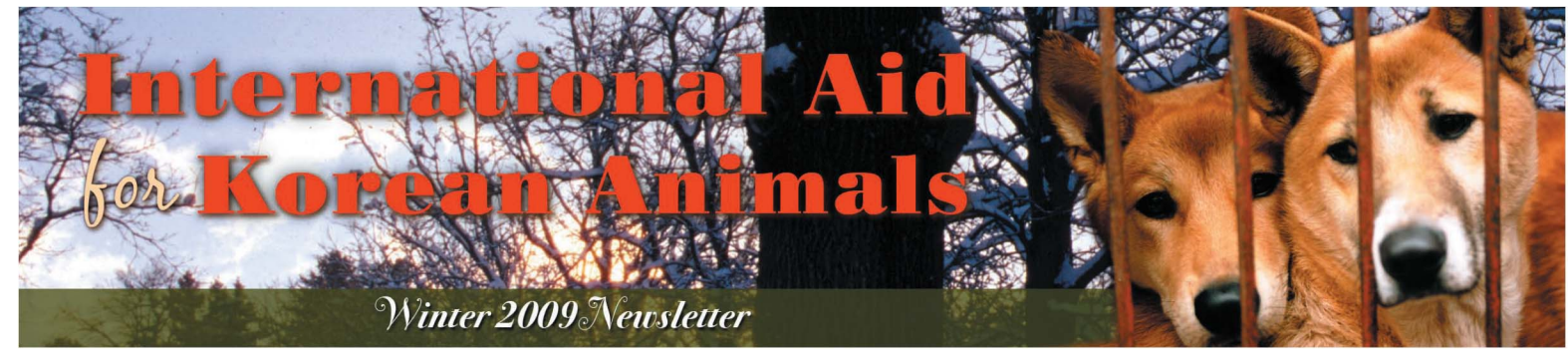
In our last newsletter, we published a story about a mini-Schnauzer that touched the hearts of many of our supporters. Soodori was an adorable little dog that had been used for many years for breeding without proper care or feeding, and without even enough room to sit or lie down properly. When he was rescued, he could barely move—Director Haesun Park and volunteers would give him plenty of care and body massages to help his almost rigid muscles to relax.

We were overjoyed when we were contacted by one of our members, Barbara in London, saying that she would like to adopt him immediately. All our volunteers and Ms. Park (the primary caretaker of the Daejeon shelter) were elated for Soodori, and we took him to the veterinarian to prepare him for the quarantine process. Barbara booked him a very nice kennel near her house for his arrival (as the UK requires a six month quarantine, and she wished to be with him every day), and she and her husband booked airflight to Korea to bring Soodori back with them.

Then, tragedy struck—the vet informed us on October 16th, 2009 that Soodori had passed away. On top of all his other health difficulties, little Soodori had developed a severe case of diabetes and had died from heart failure. I cannot describe how difficult it was to break the news to Barbara, who had

worked so hard to guarantee a good life for Soodori—I could only comfort her by saying that Soodori had done a favor by passing away before she came, so as not to break her heart by dying during the trip to the UK, or just after his arrival. In his memory, Barbara has made a very generous gift to support the Daejeon shelter, and we are very grateful for her support and her deep compassion.

This episode has served as a catalyst for us—Haesun Park in particular was deeply shocked and heartbroken, and is planning a presentation to the Ministry of Agriculture on the desperate need for investigation into puppy mills like the one that mistreated Soodori. We hope to work with the government to change the practices of these puppy mills and pet shops, and to make sure the Animal Protection Law is enforced. Soodori's memory will live on for all of us.



Spirit of the Season

As the end of the year approaches, I am very pleased on the progress KAPES has made, especially in light of their very scarce resources and a culture that can sometimes regard animal protection organizations with skepticism. However, in the spirit of the season, I would like to give thanks to you, our supporters. Without you, KAPES would not be where it is today, a legitimate animal protection organization well on its way to having its own Adoption Center and saving the lives of countless dogs and cats in South Korea. As always, I also wish to acknowledge Haesun Park's hard work. She has taken this organization



KAPES Director Haesun Park and the Chairman of PAC, Andrew Stunell, MP

and truly created something unique, leveraging the very limited resources she does have and implementing several innovative programs, such

as our Assisted Animal Therapy program, over the past year. In this newsletter, you will read about her other successes, such as co-presenting pet ownership classes, working hands-on with animals at the KAPES-supported Daejeon Shelter. Haesun has routinely worked almost double her hours as a volunteer for KAPES, and we need your support! Your contributions are needed to keep these important programs going, and to help build our Adoption and Education Center. Another big thank you to you, our dedicated supporters. Happy Holidays from IAKA! Sincerely, Kyenan Kum, Founder

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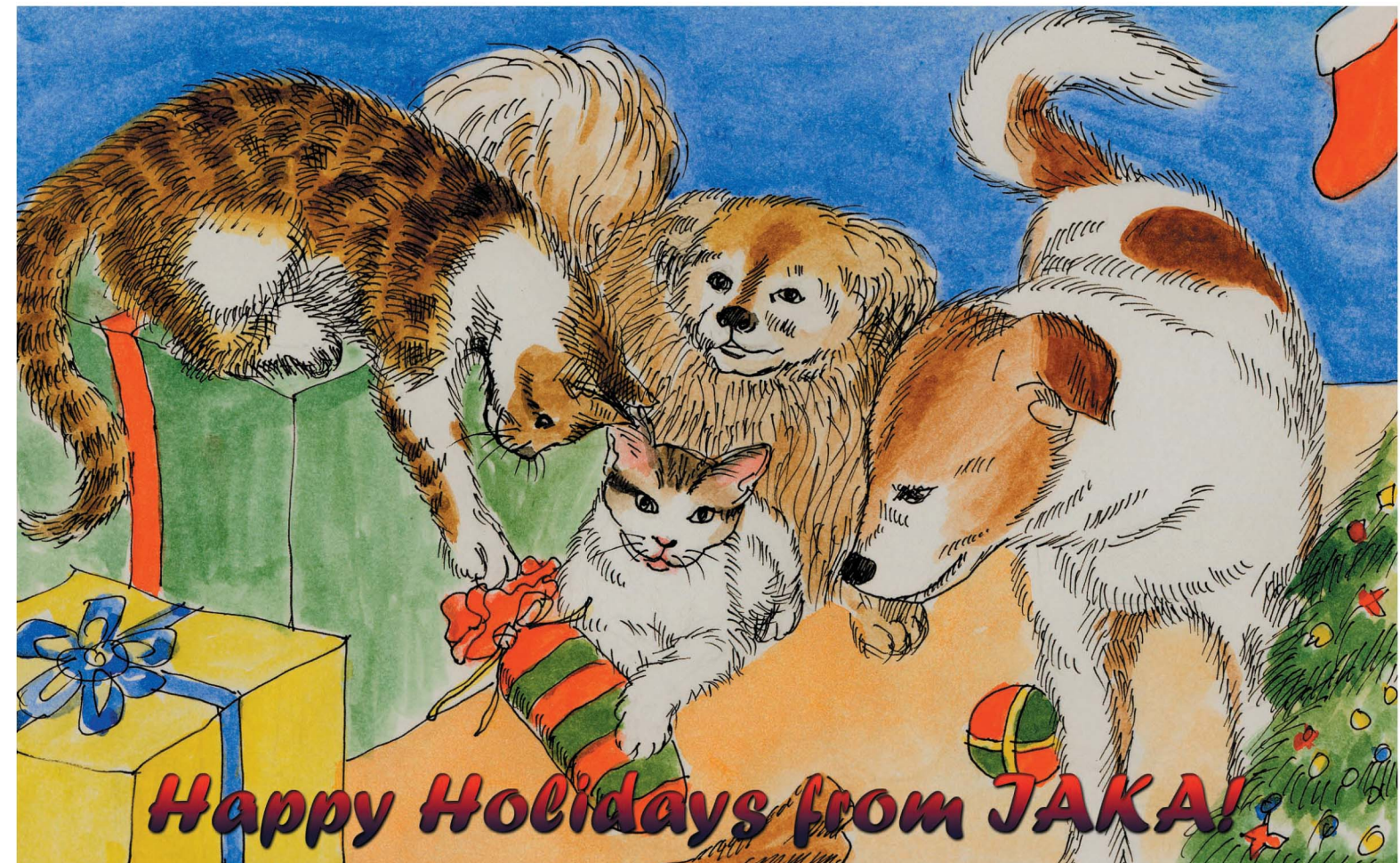
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KAPES Director, Korean Officials Visit UK

There is a dangerous shortage of high-quality animal shelters in South Korea—often they are poorly run, dirty and underfunded. One provision of 2008’s Animal Protection Law (which IAKA worked so hard to pass) is that Gyeonggi Province and most other populated areas are required to build government-run animal shelters and wildlife care centers in the future. Along with KAPES director Haesun Park, Korean officials took a visit to different animal centers in the UK to get a feel for how well-run shelters operate.

The trip was regarded as a great success and a step towards one of our major goals: a network of modern shelters in South Korea. Haesun and a vet accompanied animal-related officials from Gyeonggi Province, Pyoungtaek City, Ichun City, Goyang City, Suwon City, Pochun City, Hwasung City, and Sungnam City to many different sites in the UK. All were impressed with the high standard of animal care and the quality of the management at the shelters, which included Wood Green Animal Shelter, Bettersea Animal Shelter, the RSPCA, and the WSPA. The officials were also taken to Whitepond Farm (an RSPCA project), a Freedom Food Farm (a model in the UK for the high standard, humane raising of livestock), which was very beneficial for Korean officials directly related to livestock

management.

Finally, the party visited the Pet Advisory Committee, or PAC. The PAC is an organization which draws strength from many groups: animal welfare organizations, veterinary groups, as well as local authorities and environmental health groups in the UK. Though there is little that exists like it in Korea, we see it as a model to follow for the ever-evolving partnership between KAPES, the South Korean government, and veterinary associations there. They were also invited to the historic Parliament by Chairman Andrew Stunell, MP (Member of Parliament).

Haesun Park stated that the UK visit was very enjoyable and a tremendous help to the cause. She is confident that KAPES will one day have animal centers up to the standard set by the UK, and hopes that our organization will be instrumental in securing government-run locations as well.



TOP: Haesun Park, and Korean officials visit the Bettersea Animal Shelter. BELOW: Haesun and Sue Ketland, Head of Training and Skill Development, at the Wood Green Animal Shelter.



Pet Ownership Classes



ABOVE: Haesun gives a class on pet ownership and health. RIGHT: A young Korean woman and her companion animal sign up for class.



In Korea, many pet owners are faced with few resources to learn about caring for their companion animals, a disparity that KAPES works to address. For this reason, we helped produce a two-day event with the Gyeonggi Province Veterinarian’s Association on petcare. The class and lecture series occurred on October 29th and 30th, 2009.

KAPES Director Haesun Park was present to deliver a lecture entitled, “Pet Care and Etiquette for the Parents of Loving Animals.” The lecture focused on the importance of spay/neuter for your new animal, health care, and also where to find your first companion dog or cat. Particular stress was made upon avoiding pet stores in Korea, as they often take poor care of their animals. Adoption was presented as a superior option. As usual, Park gave out plenty of informational material. Pet owners and potential future companions were pleased to have the opportunity to learn, and requests were put in for future classes.

Chuchu’s Story

Lost, cold, and hungry, a mixed-breed yellow dog named Chuchu once roamed the streets of Seoul, near the Hyatt Hotel. She was often kicked and mistreated by passerby, as she was larger and more likely to be considered a “food dog” than a pet.



One day, as happens to so many strays in Seoul, Chuchu was captured and taken away. Dragged into the mountains to be hanged, Chuchu was lucky enough to escape her captor and be spotted by a compassionate local resident, Ms. Yu Jiun. In an unexpected turn of events, Chuchu gave birth to

six puppies not long after, as she had not been spayed. Ms. Yu had little choice: she had fallen in love with all seven dogs, and decided to keep them all. However, after neighbors complained about the noise and the police were called, Ms. Yu called KAPES for help. KAPES was able to inspect the

house and report the situation to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Guangmyoung City government. We found the dogs all well cared for, and we were also able to mediate with the neighbors and the local governments.

The positive outcome of this story is that Chuchu and her six puppies are now living in comfort with Ms. Yu, and she

has made appointments to have all spayed/neutered. She was also given educational materials and given guidance in pet care. Congratulations, Chuchu and Ms. Yu Jiun!

TOP LEFT: Chuchu and her new family. TOP RIGHT: KAPES’ new poster

BOTTOM LEFT: Dogs at the Daejeon Shelter play happily. BOTTOM RIGHT: A worker installs our new security camera system at the Daejeon Shelter.

Daejeon Update

Located on the outskirts of Daejeon City, our Daejeon shelter is one of the few safe, clean shelters in its immediate area. Unfortunately, we have had reports from neighbors of attempted break-ins at night: though no dogs or equipment have gone missing yet, KAPES has decided to take the expensive step of installing an alarm system and surveillance camera at the shelter. Though there is no evidence as to who has been attempting the break-ins, the police have been notified, and dog farmers and dog meat dealers are always suspect.



New Poster

In the short two years of its existence, KAPES has become an influential voice on animal welfare in South Korea. We have recently designed a new poster and brochure, both of which will appear on the display boards of 1,570 apartment complexes in Nowon-Gu, the northeastern district of Seoul in December. These posters and brochures will include information on pet ID, microchips, usage of etiquette bags, and general pet care. We have also included information on the new Animal Protection law. This is an exciting opportunity to reach thousands of pet-owning Koreans across Seoul, and we soon hope to distribute to the entire country!

