

# JAVA NEWS No.109 English ver.

This “JAVA NEWS No.109 English ver.” is a summary of JAVA NEWS No.109 published in Japanese on October 28, 2022.



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## Donation of Monkeys in Mt.Takasaka to Uruguay Canceled!

Oita City, Oita Prefecture was planning to capture wild Japanese macaques in Mt.Takasaka and donate them to a zoo in Durazno Department, Uruguay, South America.

On August 25, 2022, Oita City announced that the plan was canceled due to many voices of opposition from both inside and outside Japan.

### Appeal to Oita City and other areas

Since this plan was fraught with many problems as follows, including the viewpoint of animal welfare, on May 23, JAVA sent a letter requesting the mayor of Oita City to completely withdraw the donation plan. We also sent a letter to the Governor of Oita Prefecture, who had the authority to issue a permit to capture wild animals, requesting not to permit Oita City.

Then, on June 29, we requested the Governor of the Durazno Department and the Ambassador of Uruguay to Japan not to accept the donation.

### Problems with the donation plan

#### ■ The monkeys will be placed in a situation that is contrary to their ecology



Japanese macaques live in groups of about 10 to 100 monkeys, centered around females and children, and lead complex and highly social lives. It is well known that they are very intelligent animals with excellent memories and cognitive abilities.

This donation plan will separate some of the monkeys from their troops. It is great emotional distress and stress for monkeys and it can be said that it is a form of psychological abuse.

Mother and child monkeys living in Mt. Takasaka (taken by JAVA in 2001)

#### ■ Capture and detention for infectious disease testing is harsh

The method being considered by Oita City for capturing monkeys and testing them for infectious diseases was to capture them in cages that were 10 meters square, transfer them one by one to individual cages for testing, and keep them in individual cages for six weeks until the tests are completed. The monkeys that are living freely in the mountains are suddenly trapped, separated from their friends, and confined in cramped cages for long periods of time in fear, not knowing what they will be subjected to or whether they will be killed.

## ■ Transportation is also quite harsh on the monkeys

When animals are transported by air, they are usually placed together with the cargo in the cargo hold. The animals are confined to a small cage in an environment with loud engine noises, pitch darkness, high temperatures in summer, and below zero temperatures in winter, along with the fear of not knowing where they are going to end up. It takes about 30 hours to Uruguay by air (about 1 month by sea) (It does not include transportation time within Japan and Uruguay and waiting/mooring time), which the monkeys will have to suffer through.

There are the following standards regarding the transportation of animals.

- “[Transport of live specimens](#)” Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- “[Animal health measures applicable during transit from the place of departure in the exporting country to the place of arrival in the importing country](#)” CHAPTER 5.5. of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), which Japan is a member of
- “[IATA Live Animals Regulations\(LAR\)](#)” for the transport of live animals by commercial airlines by the International Air Transport Association (IATA)

These situations indicate the transportation of animals places a great burden on the animals’ physical and mental health and is an extremely worrisome practice in terms of animal welfare.

## ■ Keeping monkeys in a zoo is against animal welfare

The monkeys in Mt. Takasaki live freely in nature, but when they are donated to a zoo, they will naturally be housed in a breeding facility.

From administrative documents obtained by JAVA, it was found that the zoo planned to keep the monkeys of Mt. Takasaki in the space enclosed by electric fence. For Japanese macaques, which do not have roosts and live on the move, and whose activity range reaches from a few square kilometers to 10 square kilometers, or even 100 square kilometers in some cases, being confined in small space is a living hell.



The scenery of Mt. Takasaki. It is still blessed with rich nature, and many monkeys live there. (Taken by JAVA in 2001)

## ■ Waste of a large amount of taxpayers’ money

Oita City has already secured a budget of 7 million yen (about 52,000 dollars) in March for preparation costs such as purchasing cages for breeding. It is said that transportation costs would be secured as a budget for the next fiscal year. However, due to the influence of the COVID-19 crisis, Oita City’s finances are in a difficult situation. There is no other wasteful and pointless spending of such a large amount of money.

## ■ There is a better international exchange that is appreciated by everyone

Oita City explained that one of the purposes of donating the monkeys was to establish a “sustainable international exchange between Oita City and Uruguay.” However, instead of donating monkeys, it would be better to create opportunities for the people of Oita City and Uruguay to actually come into contact, such as establishing an exchange student system and holding online exchange events between the citizens. We believe that they will help the people of Oita and Uruguay learn about each other’s culture and have very meaningful and sustainable international exchanges. With these methods, there is no doubt that Oita City will receive approval and high praise, unlike the donation of monkeys, which has been criticized both domestically and internationally.

## Oita City’s answer was they would make the donation

In response to JAVA’s request to completely withdraw the plan, we received the following response from Oita City and Oita Prefecture in late July.

### Oita City’s response:

Regarding the donation of Japanese macaques, we plan to donate in compliance with domestic and foreign laws and standards.

### Oita Prefecture’s response:

To capture Japanese macaques in Oita Prefecture, permission from Oita Prefecture must be obtained based on the “Wildlife Protection and Hunting Management Law.” When we receive an application for a permit, we will make an appropriate decision based on laws and regulations.

When an application for capturing monkeys is received, Oita Prefecture is in the position to decide whether or not to issue a permit after examining it. Unless the application is against the law, there is no choice but to issue permits, and we think that Oita Prefecture has no way but to give permission. On the other hand, Oita City was in charge of making the donation plan, so they could decide to withdraw the plan.

Oita City said that they planned to donate in compliance with domestic and foreign laws and standards, but if it does not comply with laws and standards, it is a violation, and of course, it cannot be done. JAVA is not saying that the donation is against the law etc. However, whether it was legal or not, it was extremely cruel because it caused the monkeys pain, fear, and stress. Therefore, we were demanding the withdrawal of the donation plan. Other than that, there were also disadvantages such as using a large amount of taxpayers’ money and damaging the image of Oita City through the anachronistic donation to the zoo.

Oita City did not express any opinion in response to such points made by JAVA and insisted on making the donation.

## Oita City canceled the donation plan!

Even though Oita City continued to take a stubborn stance, it was still at the stage where an application for the capture permit had not been submitted, so JAVA was about to call for everyone’s cooperation again to continue persistently lobbying Oita city. On August 25, Oita City announced that it would stop.

### **Press release of Oita City:**

“Today (August 25, 2022), Oita City received a letter from Durazno Department, Uruguay to effect that it would decline the donation of Japanese macaques for various technical and economic reasons. Oita City has decided to cancel the donation of Japanese macaques.”

<https://www.city.oita.oita.jp/o157/nihonzarukizou.html> (Japanese)

Oita City said that the reason for the cancellation was that the Uruguayan side refused the donation.

It is disappointing that Oita City did not decide to cancel the donation plan on its own in consideration of the monkeys, but JAVA welcomes the result that avoided the suffering of the monkeys.

Regarding the donation issue, not only from within Japan, but also from overseas, a lot of opposition reached Oita City, Oita Prefecture, the Embassy of Uruguay, and the Governor of Durazno Department.

Thanks to everyone's cooperation, the monkeys of Mt. Takasaki will be able to continue to live there without being separated from their families and friends, being kept in the cargo hold of an airplane for long hours, and confined to the zoo in a distant foreign country.

We are really thankful to you!



A child monkey playing freely in the nature of Mt.Takasaki (Taken by JAVA in 2001)

### **Overseas Organizations Support and Cooperate with JAVA**

JAVA also requested cooperation from overseas animal protection groups.

Action for Primates (UK) sent a request letter to Oita City, and also appealed on their website and social media.

One Voice (France) translated JAVA's English call to action into French and spread it on their website and social media.

PETA Asia launched an online petition page.

And Asia for Animals Coalition, of which JAVA is also a member, submitted a letter to the mayor of Oita City with the joint names of 162 member organizations.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

## Keio Shonan Fujisawa Junior and Senior High Dissects Piglet Carcass

Current students and graduates of this school provided JAVA with the following information regarding dissection classes, along with the complaints such as, “It was hard to conduct animal dissection,” and “I was told that if I didn't feel like doing it, I could do another subject, but I hated the fact that the dissection had been conducted in my school. I wish they would get rid of the dissection classes.”

Parents have also voiced their concerns about the adverse effects of having their children experience dissection.

- When I was in the second year of middle school, I had a science class of dissecting pig eyeballs and hearts.
- During the pandemic, the teacher showed the dissection on the monitor in the classroom, and we had to watch it. The teacher told us that students who had difficulty looking at the dissection did not have to watch it. In fact, many students tried not to watch the autopsy by lying down on their desks. The teacher even said that “If it was not during the pandemic, I would have wanted each group to dissect one eyeball.”
- In my high school first-year basic biology class, I participated in a frozen piglet dissection class. The teacher explained that the piglet was obtained from a pig farm near my school.
- Reluctant students were not forced to participate and were given other assignments.
- In the past two years, due to the influence of the pandemic, we did not experience animal dissection but had to watch the video of the autopsy. After watching the video, some students felt sick and could not eat their lunch.

Dissection class has many problems, such as having a negative impact on students' minds and disturbing their sense of bioethics (see “Reasons Why JAVA Strongly Opposes Animal Dissection in Schools” below). This time it was a corpse, but even dissecting dead animals have a negative impact on students.



In July 2022, JAVA strongly requested the school to abolish the dissection of animals (whether living, dead or their organs) in all classes, club activities, events, etc.

We JAVA would like to ask you to protest the animal dissection practice at Keio Shonan Fujisawa Junior and Senior High School, and to voice your desire to abolish it.

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## **Reasons Why JAVA Strongly Opposes Animal Dissection in Schools**

### **Education without animal experiments is gradually becoming widespread**

- Countries such as the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Switzerland have established regulations such as banning vivisection in primary and secondary education.
- In Europe and the United States, there are many veterinary and medical schools where students can graduate without sacrificing animals.
- An increasing number of medical centers are phasing out animal-based methods of training doctors in medical procedures.
- Even here in Japan, the criticism toward animal dissection practice at schools has been increasing greatly, and JAVA has abolished it in a number of schools.
- And also, there are several medical schools that do not include animal vivisection practice in their curricula.

### **Anatomy has a bad effect on students' psyche**

- In numerous shocking murder cases committed by juveniles in Japan, it has been revealed that the juveniles dissected, abused, and slaughtered small animals prior to the incidents.
- In many books and papers, it is pointed out that the experience of dissection has a negative impact on the students' minds.

### **Even dissecting a corpse hurts students and disturbs their sense of bioethics**

- Many schools dissect animal cadavers and organs. Thoughts like “If it’s a corpse or an organ, it shouldn’t be a problem since there’s no guilt about killing the animals.” is the way of thinking of adults who have lost their sense of purity. That’s why JAVA receives many voices from students saying, “I don’t want to dissect a fish corpse or a pig’s eyeball.”
- There is a risk that students may have thoughts such as, “I can do anything to animals as long as I thank them because it is the same as eating,” or become insensitive to killing and chopping up animals.

### **If the schools want their students to acquire knowledge, they should do it by adopting alternative methods**

- There are a variety of excellent learning kits, including computer simulations, videos, and elaborate 3D models.
- Using such alternative methods of dissection has many advantages, such as allowing the students to repeat the dissection process any number of times, and to conduct it at each student’s own pace.
- Numerous studies have demonstrated that students who have undergone dissection and students who have learned by alternative methods do not differ in their knowledge, or that students who have learned by alternative methods do better.
- By choosing a method that does not use animals, students learn that life should not be taken, and they should value it.

We do not intend to deny the importance of ‘observing’ and ‘investigating mechanisms’ in education, but these conducts must be done in a painless way and in a way that does not trample on the dignity of life. It is extremely cruel to chop up and look at the internal organs of living animals or the animals that once had lived in order to satisfy human curiosity as if examining the structure of a machine.

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## <Invasive Alien Species Act Revision> Regulations of Red-eared slider under the revised act

On May 11, the revised Invasive Alien Species Act was passed and enacted, and the Red-eared slider will be designated as an “Invasive Alien Species.” 156 species of animals and plants have been designated as “Invasive Alien Species” as of August 1, 2021. The following activities are prohibited in principle for the designated species, except when permission is obtained from the Minister of the Environment.

- raising, growing
- storing, transportation
- import
- transferring \*sale constitutes a transfer
- releasing



However, a very large number of Red-eared sliders are already raised (Ministry of the Environment estimate: approximately 1.6 million), and if the above regulations are applied, many of them will be released outdoors for reasons such as “it is troublesome to obtain a permit to keep them,” and instead, special measures will be taken in order not to damage the ecosystem. The special measure means that “for the time being, some of the regulations will not be applied.” As a result, for the time being, such as “raising not for sale by individuals” and “free transfer between individuals” of Red-eared sliders will be permitted, and “transferring”, “import”, and “releasing” will be prohibited (scheduled to be enforced in the spring-summer of 2023). Incidentally, this special measure is applied to the American crayfishes that are in the same situation as Red-eared sliders.

\*The Ministry of the Environment states, “We do not specify the period this special measure is applied at this time.”

### Requests to the Ministry of the Environment about the Cabinet Order

JAVA is pleased that the prohibition of the import and sale of Red-eared sliders that JAVA has appealed to the Ministry of the Environment is applied by this revision of the law and raising not for sale by individuals and free transfer between individuals of Red-eared sliders is permitted. Unfortunately, however, the “prohibition of breeding” and “improvement of killing method” which JAVA had also requested were not included (please refer to [JAVA NEWS No.108 English ver.](#) for details).

As for the special measure for Red-eared sliders, it would be specifically determined in the Cabinet Order to be issued around October 2022. JAVA and PEACE (an animal rights group) are working on this issue together, met with the Director of the Wildlife Division, and submitted a written request on June 14. They responded on July 29.

## **The Ministry of the Environment's response is not a major achievement, but a step forward**

### **JAVA's Request 1**

Even if no money exchange takes place, there is a possibility that transactions may continue, actually, no different from sales. Therefore, "exchange" is also considered a "sale" and should be prohibited.

---We were able to elicit the view of the Ministry of the Environment that while not all exchanges constitute a "sale" there are cases where the exchanges of the Red-eared sliders constitute a "sale." That is when the changes are done on the condition that can be converted into monetary value.

### **JAVA's Request 2**

Since all the Invasive Alien Species are designated under the same name even though different regulations are applied, please use a different designation for Invasive Alien Species to which a special exception is applied by- laws such as Red-eared sliders.

---We received a positive response from the Ministry of the Environment that they will take this request into consideration including the possibility of establishing a common name.

### **JAVA's Request 3**

The Ministry of the Environment has stated at the national assembly that they will make the method of killing known to the owners who kept the Red-eared sliders but not be able to continue keeping them anymore, but please do not propose killing them.

In addition, the freezing method indicated by the Ministry of the Environment as the way to kill them is a very cruel method that violates the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health). Therefore, we ask that you do not use this method.

---The Ministry of the Environment's reply was that they recommended in principle lifelong breeding, not killing. JAVA has repeatedly pointed out the problems of killing Red-eared sliders by freezing. Their response is the same as before, but this is the first time that they stated in their response to us that they will refer to the OIE guidelines, which is a step forward.

### **JAVA's Request 4**

Although the "prohibition of breeding" was not realized in the recent revision of the law, please consider making this a reality in the future.

---The Ministry of the Environment's reply was that they want to urge keepers of the red-eared sliders that unintended and easy breeding does not happen. We hope to see our requests be realized in the future.

We will patiently continue working to realize regulations that are as close to the form that JAVA seeks as possible because we do not want to sacrifice any more Red-eared sliders.

\*This information is current as of the end of August 2022.

## Fur News

JAVA is a member of the Fur Free Alliance (FFA), an international alliance of more than 50 animal protection organizations working to eliminate fur.

In this issue, we report on the countries that have recently banned fur farming and the actions we can take to eliminate fur.

### Good News!!

#### **Bulgaria: Ban on breeding and importation of American mink!**

On June 2, 2022, Bulgarian Minister of Environment Borislav Sandov announced a ban on the breeding and importation of American mink. This has led to the last remaining fur farms in Bulgaria close.

The legal basis for this ban is Bulgaria's Biodiversity Law. The Minister of Environment may impose restrictions on the keeping and importation of exotic animals, plants, and fungi if the accidental release of exotic species endangered native species. The damage to biodiversity caused by American mink escaping from fur farms was a serious problem in Bulgaria. Although the reasons and basis for this ban are not desirable, it is a landmark decision and one that should be celebrated.



CAAI, Bulgarian animal rights organization and a member of FFA, has been working constantly for years and welcomes this historic development.

Source: <http://www.furfreealliance.com/bulgaria-bans-breeding-and-import-of-American-mink/>

#### **Malta: Ban on fur farming!**

On August 9, 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture of Malta announced an immediate ban on fur and foie gras production. Since there are currently no working fur farms in Malta, this ban is meant as a precautionary measure to prevent fur farmers from moving in from other countries.

Source: <http://www.furfreealliance.com/malta-introduces-ban-on-fur-farming/>

## Take action to end fur!

To eliminate fur, we need to reduce demand. Here are some concrete actions that each of us as consumers can take.

### ■ Utilize the “Fur Free Retailer list”

The “Fur Free Retailer program,” which FFA is developing worldwide, provides consumers with information on brands, stores, and online shopping sites that have made a written commitment not to sell fur. We hope you will use this information as a reference for your shopping.

Fur Free Retailer list: [English](#) [Japanese](#)

### ■ Pay attention to Quality tags! Give your honest opinion to brands, stores, and the Consumer Affairs Agency

The Household Goods Quality Labeling Act requires the labeling of tags on clothing and other items. Eco-fur is a textile product, so the material must be labeled, but real fur is not a textile product, so it's not eligible. Therefore, Eco-fur is the one that has a tag. But if it is difficult to figure it out, ask the shopkeeper,



such as “Is it real fur or Eco-fur? I don’t want to buy it if it’s real fur.” It is also a good way to provide consumer feedback to product manufacturers and brands.

Please report to the Consumer Affairs Agency of any comments that the labeling is “confusing.”

The more inquiries and opinions from consumers, the more likely it is to lead to a change in the company’s policy and an amendment to a law.

### Consumer Affairs Agency

Central Common Government Offices No.4, 3-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8958

Inquiry form: <https://form.caa.go.jp/input.php?select=0001> \* Only Japanese is supported

### ■ Let’s talk about the cruelty of the fur industry to the people around you!

Tell your friends and family the fact about the fur industry when you are shopping or at other times when it is easier to talk about. It.

Let as many people as possible know about it and choose a favorite fashion friendly to animals.

## News from other countries

In these pages, we introduced some news articles selected from the newsletters and email news sent from overseas organizations. JAVA NEWS No.109 carries the following three articles. The three articles were translated into Japanese to share them with the readers.

You can read the original articles appeared in JAVA NEWS No.109 at the URL below:

[Premiere of “The World’s Best Animal Welfare” - an animated film about the reality of broiler chickens](#) (Djurens Rätt)

[1,000 Chickens Burned to Death at Costco Supplier's Slaughterhouse](#) (PETA)

[Bear Cubs kidnapped from their mothers, Exploited in Encounters with the Public at Yellowstone Bear World](#) (PETA)

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