

# JAVA NEWS No.115 English ver.

This “JAVA NEWS No.115 English ver.” is a summary of JAVA NEWS No.115 published in Japanese on October 30 2025.



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## <Abuse of Cattle at the Ibaraki Prefectural Livestock Research Center> The Committees for the Inquest of Prosecution Judgment’s Decision was “Non-prosecution appropriate”

Regarding the mistreatment of cattle involving physical abuse such as beating, kicking, and striking with metal implements, as well as inadequate housing conditions including confinement in enclosures with accumulated feces and urine and exposure to extreme heat, cold, and inclement weather, which constitute violations of the Animal Welfare Act, JAVA and three other organizations filed criminal complaints in February 2024 against eight staff members who committed the abuse and their employer, Ibaraki Prefecture (see [JAVA NEWS No.112 English ver.](#)).

In April 2025, we lodged an objection in the Public Prosecutors Review Board against the Public Prosecutors Office’s decision in March that there was “insufficient evidence”, and on June 9th, our representative was informed of the decision that “not indicting is appropriate”.

The reason for that decision was that there was insufficient evidence to overturn the prosecutor’s determination of no prosecution. We deeply regret that neither the prosecution nor the Prosecutorial Review Commission understood that large animals like cattle are equal to dogs and cats under the Animal Welfare Act.

As for the criminal case, there is nothing further we can do, so it is now closed. However, our primary objective was to pressure the prefecture into reviewing its cattle breeding practices, so, we believe this complaint has exposed the problems at the Livestock Center and contributed to the improvements the prefecture is currently implementing. We will continue our efforts to encourage action against the Livestock Center and Ibaraki Prefecture.

### Ibaraki Prefecture Announces Partial Improvements: Part 3

Previously, we reported in [JAVA NEWS No.113 English ver.](#) and [No.114 English ver.](#) that Ibaraki Prefecture is gradually improving. From April to July 2025, the following improvements “1” and “2” have been announced on the Livestock Research Center’s webpage “[Status of Efforts Related to Animal Welfare at the Livestock Research Center](#)”.

\*All photos are from the Ibaraki Prefecture’s website “[Status of Efforts Related to Animal Welfare at the Livestock Research Center](#)”



## 1. Three heat countermeasures (installing fans, misting devices, and sunshades)

### ■ Installing fans on the ceiling of the calving barn



### ■ Setting up sunshades in the egg donor cattle barn paddock



### ■ Installing misting equipment in the cattle barns



It is a common practice for heat countermeasure management in cattle that wetting their bodies to blow air over them and using evaporation to lower their body temperature. For that, fans and mist are indispensable. In the previous issue, we pointed out that the heat control measures with “water showers and fans” were inadequate, and “still lacking misting devices or the ‘dry fog’ system which external experts have recommended installing. Therefore, we can commend the installation of the mist system this time.

However, external experts point out that mist can worsen the environment because the moisture it emits may dampen the bed. In contrast, humidity from mist can sometimes cause stress to cattle. The Livestock Center is now in the pilot phase and will proceed with gradual installation going forward. Therefore, we believe it is necessary to adopt the “dry fog” system recommended by external experts, customized to the livestock management environment of each individual barn.

Moreover, while we reported in the previous issue that water shower is conducted for dairy cattle, it remains unclear whether it is conducted for beef cattle. If they haven't yet, it's worth considering incorporating beef cattle as well, because where the body is drenched with large amounts of water then dried with air has a highly effective cooling effect.

We have repeatedly pointed out that using cheesecloth for agricultural purposes in paddock is insufficient for heat countermeasure management in cattle, because it allows sunlight to pass through, failing to provide adequate shade. The paddock should be equipped with an appropriate roof that provides both sunlight and rain protection.

## **2. Self-inspection of livestock management condition**

According to the Livestock Center, inspections are conducted using a checklist published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries with inspection items classified into A (once a month), B (once a quarter), C (once every six months), and D (once a year) according to frequency of inspection. This checklist from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has 85 items listed, covering the handling, rearing methods, and rearing environment of cattle, separately for dairy cattle and beef cattle. According to the Livestock Center's report, even category A, which has the highest frequency of checks, is "once a month". Depending on the check item, some may only need to be inspected once a month or even once a year without any problems. However, for items such as "feeding and rumination status", "occurrence of injuries and lameness", and "hoof observations" only checking once a month will delay response to animal welfare measures, and there is a possibility that cattle may be placed in an inappropriate environments or conditions for an entire month. Although long overdue, it is commendable that they have started conducting self-inspections, but we doubt frequency of these checks is appropriate.

### **Please Continue to Make Your Voices Heard**

As mentioned, there are still numerous issues that require improvement. It is important for Ibaraki Prefecture to further advance improvements and continue them. To achieve these goals, it is essential to continue conveying to the prefecture that we are monitoring the progress of improvements and relaying everyone's requests that "we request further progress in these improvements".

### **Request To**

**Governor of Ibaraki Prefecture, Mr. Kazuhiko Oigawa**

978-6 Kasahara-cho, Mito, Ibaraki 310-8555, Japan

"My Proposal" Email form: [https://kouchou.pref.ibaraki.jp/kotyo/hp\\_iken\\_toroku.php](https://kouchou.pref.ibaraki.jp/kotyo/hp_iken_toroku.php)

\*Information current as of June 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

## Update: Efforts to Abolish the National BioResource Project “Japanese Macaques”

### Submission of Petition to MEXT Demanding an End to the Macaques Project

On July 31, 2025, JAVA and PEACE met with the Director, Senior Specialist for Life Sciences, and the Chief of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)’s Life Science Division, which administers the National BioResource Project (NBRP). At that time, we submitted petitions with 22,730 signatures (both handwritten signatures and those submitted via Change.org) calling for the abolition of the NBRP “Japanese Macaques” for breeding and supplying Japanese macaques for animal experiments and a letter urging such a move.



From left: Akiko Mitsunobu (Vice-secretary General of PEACE), Sachiko Azuma (Chief of PEACE), Satoko Wazaki (Head of the Secretariat of JAVA), Kanae Kurata (Director of Life Science Division), Iyo Ishijima (Director of JAVA)

**In both the meeting and the letter, we strongly argued for the abolition of this project, highlighting the following four points:**

1. The project’s monkey experiments are cruel and unacceptable.
2. Details of the project are unclear, with insufficient information being disclosed to the public, and officials continue to conceal the true nature of the project from the public.
3. The number of monkeys provided through the project has fallen far short of the initial target, and the participating institutions have ceased breeding and thus supply, leading to a shrinking project.
4. The project goes against the global trend of moving away from the use of animals in experiments.

**We held a demonstration in front of MEXT to say “No to Animal Testing”**

On the same day, the members of JAVA and PEACE stood in front of the MEXT building holding a banner and placards, chanting, “Abolish the National BioResource Project ‘Japanese Macaques’” and “No to animal testing!”

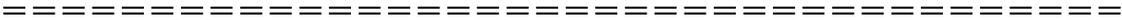


**We are very grateful to everyone who helped with this campaign!**

In order to widely disseminate the growing public opinion against the NBRP “Japanese Macaques”, we will continue to collect signatures on Change.org.

To date, the NBRP “Japanese Macaques” has provided approximately 1,200 baby monkeys to universities and research institutions across Japan. We ask that you continue to make your voice heard and protest against this project until it is abolished.

[Make MEXT hear you voice!](#)



**Revealed Through Open Questionnaires  
The Project Is Being Scaled Down — Japanese Macaques at the External Breeding Facilities Contracted Are “Kept for Care, Not Used for Experiments”**

JAVA and PEACE, collaborating to end the “Japanese Macaques” project, have repeatedly sent open questionnaires and filed information disclosure requests to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the Core Center Kyoto University Center for the Evolutionary Origins of Human Behavior (EHUB), and the sub-Core Center National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS), which are running this project, in order to confirm the keeping and supply status of Japanese macaques as well as future plans.

At the same time, as previously reported, we have continuously urged the termination of breeding and the supply of monkeys, and ultimately, the closure of the project itself. However, as also reported (see [JAVA NEWS No.113 English ver.](#)), their responses have been consistently “we are not disclosing”.

Since this is a national project funded by taxpayers, it is only natural that the information should be made public. Therefore, in May this year, JAVA and PEACE once again sent open questionnaires to EHUB and NIPS to confirm the situation.

Although the responses once again reflected a culture of secrecy—for example, by refusing to disclose the “source of the macaques” - this time we were able to confirm several things and newly revealed facts, as follows.

## **Latest Numbers of Japanese Macaques Kept and Supplied for Experiments**

### **Number of Monkeys Kept Continues to Decrease, While the Number Supplied Remains Flat**

Up to fiscal year 2021, the official website of the NBRP “Japanese Macaques” published the annual numbers of monkeys kept, categorized into breeding groups (mother groups used for reproduction) and rearing groups (offspring bred for experimental provision). Until fiscal year 2022, the numbers of monkeys supplied to research institutions, the numbers of adopted and non-adopted applications were also made public. However, for some reason, these figures have not been published since then, so we sought clarification through questionnaires.

In response, the latest figures as of March 31, 2025, regarding the number of monkeys kept at EHUB and the external breeding facilities contracted by NIPS were confirmed. The reply also stated that they are “currently preparing to update the information on the official website”, which suggests that our repeated pointing out of absence of public updates has had a meaningful effect.

#### **Number of Monkeys Kept as of March 31, 2025**

Kyoto University (EHUB): Breeding groups – 210 | Rearing groups – 239

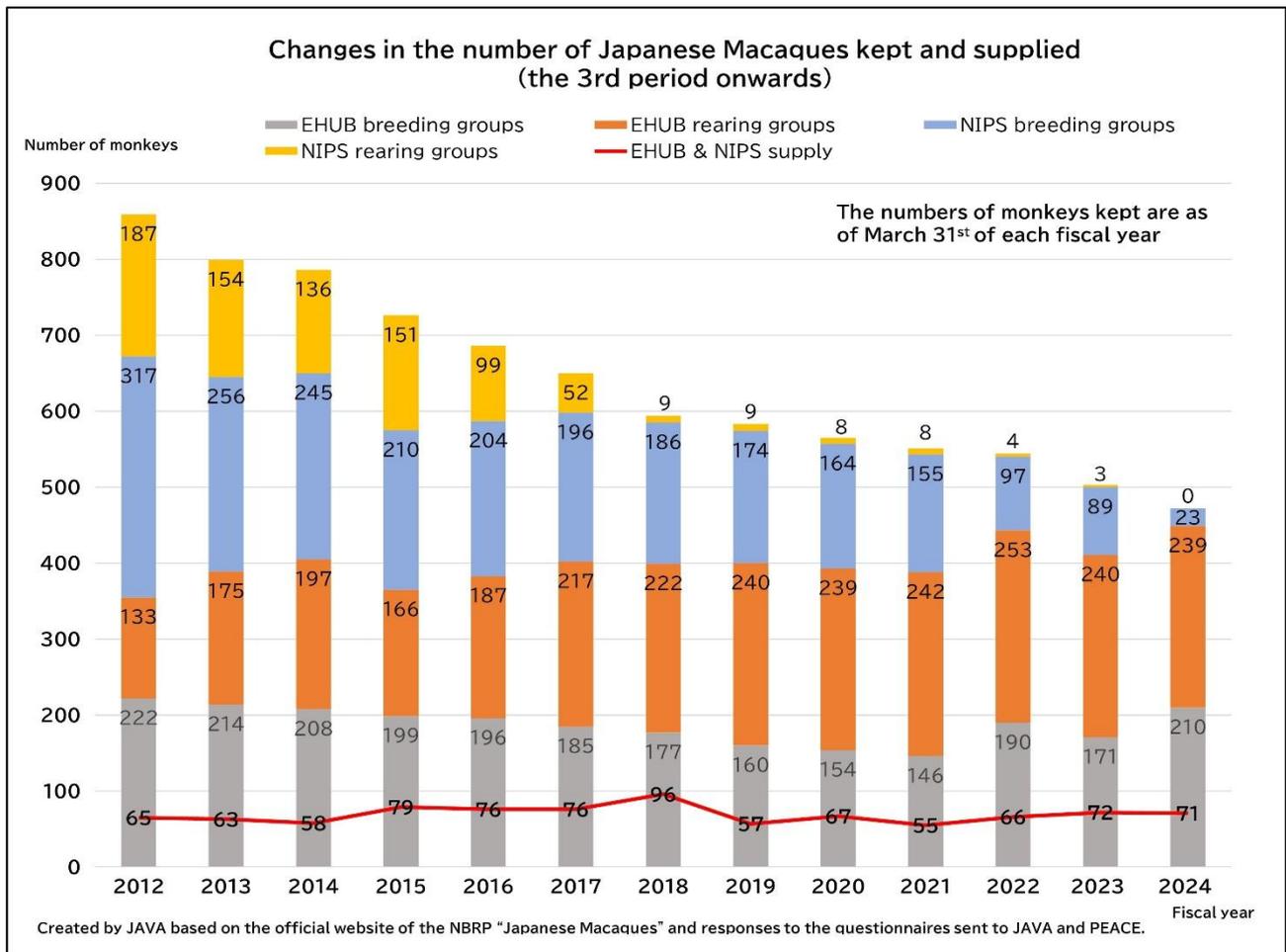
National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS): Breeding groups – 23 | Rearing groups – 0

**Total: 472 monkeys**, showing a further decrease compared to the previous fiscal year, as illustrated in the graph below.

**Number of Monkeys Supplied in FY2024 – 71 monkeys**

**Cumulative Number of Monkeys Supplied Since FY2006 – 1,190 monkeys supplied to 40 institutions**

*Note: EHUB has corrected the figure previously reported in JAVA NEWS No.113 — the cumulative number of monkeys supplied from FY2006 to FY2023 was 1,119 not 1,120.*



### No Monkeys Supplied to Overseas Research Institutions

On the NBRP website, many research papers using Japanese macaques supplied through this project are listed as results reports.

Some of the researchers conducting these studies are affiliated with overseas research institutions, and certain papers state that the studies were conducted in accordance with U.S. animal experiments guidelines. For this reason, we requested confirmation as to whether any Japanese macaques from the NBRP "Japanese Macaque" project had been exported and used in overseas experiments. The response stated: "There have been no cases of monkeys supplied to overseas research institutions".

If the monkeys were to be exported abroad, the transport time would be far longer than within Japan, resulting in a significantly greater burden on the animals.

### Japanese Macaques at the External Breeding Facilities Contracted Are "All Being Kept Without Being Used for Experiments" While the Living Environment Is Unknown

As reported in [JAVA NEWS No.110 English ver.](#) and [JAVA NEWS No.113 English ver.](#), NIPS has entrusted the care of its Japanese macaques to a private company, Amami Wild Animal Research Center, located on Amami-Oshima Island.

According to the data shown in the above graph, as of March 31, 2024, the company was keeping 92 monkeys. Since NIPS had already ended both the breeding and the supply of young monkeys, the question arose as to what would happen to the remaining mother-group animals.

JAVA and PEACE repeatedly asked the operating institutions about the future of these monkeys, but from 2021 to 2024, the response had consistently been “under consideration”, with no progress made.

This time, however, the response stated that “regarding the treatment of monkeys kept at the facility entrusted by NIPS, an announcement will be made through the official website”. Finally, in July 2025, the official NBRP “Japanese Macaques” website of Kyoto University announced that all the monkeys would be kept on the grounds of Kyoto University and NIPS without being used for experiments.

However, the statement did not specify what kind of environment the monkeys would be kept in, and this remains unknown<sup>※</sup>. Because these animals should be allowed to spend the rest of their lives in conditions close to their natural environment and in consideration of animal welfare, we requested that MEXT instructs EHUB and NIPS to ensure such conditions when submitting the petition.

※ During the 17th Open Symposium on NBRP Japanese Macaques, held on August 27, 2025, JAVA directly asked the Representative about this matter and was told that, at present, the monkeys are being kept in individual cages for quarantine purposes.

### **No Plans to Introduce New Monkeys — Expectation for Further Downsizing of the Project**

As for the possibility of introducing new breeding mother groups, the response was the same as last year: “At present, there are no plans under the NBRP Japanese Macaques project to introduce new breeding mother groups”.

Previous responses have revealed that EHUB last introduced Japanese macaques from external sources in FY2009, and NIPS in FY2004. Considering the monkeys’ lifespan of about 30 years, the number of breeding mother groups will naturally continue to decline, and since there are no plans for new introductions, the project is expected to continue shrinking.

### **No Change in Attitude Regarding the Project’s Future**

In the latest questionnaire, we once again asked, “Do you have any plans to bring the NBRP Japanese Macaques project to an end?” However, the answer has remained unchanged since 2021: “We will continue to consider the future of the project while listening to guidance and opinions from relevant authorities”.

To change this stance toward a clear declaration such as “The project will be concluded with the current 5th phase”, we must make our voices opposing the NBRP “Japanese Macaques” project even stronger.



## We Held a Parliamentary Meeting: “Thinking About What Should Be Done to Protect and Improve the Welfare of Laboratory Animals and Farm Animals”

On April 15, 2025, three organizations—JAVA, PEACE, and Animal Rights Center Japan—held a joint meeting at the First Members’ Office Building of the House of Representatives. We are working together to promote amendments to the Animal Welfare Act. The purpose of this meeting was to inform the members of the Diet about the problems faced by laboratory animals and farm animals, and to gain their understanding and support for the revision we are seeking.



### **A Full Venue and the Attendance of 18 Diet Members**

All 200 seats at the venue were filled, creating an atmosphere full of interest and enthusiasm. A total of 18 Diet members from different political parties, as well as 19 secretaries attending on behalf of additional members, joined the meeting.

So far, revisions to the Animal Welfare Act have mainly focused on dogs and cats, while laboratory animals and farm animals have been largely overlooked. As a result, Japan has fallen behind the rest of the world in legal protections and measures to improve the welfare of these animals.

In this meeting, we shared the current situation and issues faced by laboratory animals and farm animals. We also invited speakers from various fields, including companies that are taking advanced steps in animal welfare. The program was as follows:

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## Program

### Opening Remarks:

#### Why We Organized a Meeting Focused on Laboratory Animals and Farm Animals

Satoko Wazaki (Head of the Secretariat of JAVA)

### Special Guest Speech:

Mariko Kawaguchi (Rikkyo University Graduate School of Social Design Studies Specially Appointed Professor)

### Topic Presentations on Laboratory Animals

#### ■ Current Situation Surrounding Laboratory Animals

Sachiko Azuma (Chair of PEACE)

#### ■ The Historical Significance of Regulating Animal Experiments

Akifumi Ueda (Director of Citizen's Science Initiative Japan)

#### ■ Efforts to Eliminate Animal Testing in the Cosmetics Industry

Aki Shibata (LUSH JAPAN G.K. Buying Team NAT & Buying Support)

### Topic Presentations on Farm Animals

#### ■ The Current Situation of Farm Animals

Chihiro Okada (Representative Director of Animal Rights Center Japan)

#### ■ Building Awareness of Animal Welfare Within Corporations

Dai Kato (J.P. Morgan Securities Japan Co., Ltd. Corporate Social Responsibility Associate)

#### ■ Corporate Initiatives Moving Forward Together with Consumers

Yoichi Maeda (COOP SHIZENHA CONSUMERS, Cooperative Union)

### Q&A Session Between the Three Host Organizations and Relevant Government Ministries

#### Participating Ministries:

Ministry of the Environment

Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

**Host Organizations:** JAVA, PEACE, ARC

**Facilitator:** Keinin Horikoshi (Former Member of the House of Representatives / ARC Advisor)



During the Q&A session, representatives of the three host organizations (right table) asked questions, and the relevant ministries (left table) provided answers.

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You can watch the full meeting on YouTube (distributed by the citizen media group UPLAN):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyVvNQbWtHk>

(Please note: Due to company circumstances, the presentation by Mr. Dai Kato of J.P. Morgan Securities Japan Co., Ltd. is not included.)

## News from Other Countries

Here, we introduced some news articles selected from the newsletters and email news sent from overseas organizations. JAVA NEWS No.115 carries the following articles. These were translated into Japanese to share them with the readers.

You can read the original articles appeared in JAVA NEWS No.115 at the URL below:

[\*\*A Turning Point: FDA and NIH Commit to Reducing Animal Testing \(PCRM\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Colorado State University Shuttters Animal Study After Pressure From National Research Ethics Group \(PCRM\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Another Lifesaving Law! Is West Hollywood America's Most Animal-Friendly City? \(PETA\)\*\*](#)

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