

Student Story

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I joined animal welfare work, RSPCA, in Bath on a regular basis and in London very occasionally from May 2002. I also joined the Animal Assisted Activities taking place in a handicapped ward for infants at Royal United Hospital in Bath.

I used to do voluntary dog walking at the Bath dog and cat home, for the dogs, cats, and other animals waiting for their new homes and owners. The home is managed by volunteers and a few full time staff and is run on donations from local residents in Bath. The location is near the University of Bath and there is lots of open space around the home. Volunteers can register each time to accompany the dogs and enjoy walking for one hour from 11:30 to 12:30. I went there every Sunday to walk with particular dogs which needed exercise.

Generally, the dogs, cats, and other animals are waiting for their new homes and family. People who want to have new dogs and cats receive information on their names and conditions and undergo counselling regarding the animals needs or how they can mingle with the dogs and cats they want. The new owners have to get proper authorization for a couple of weeks. The dogs, cats and other animals are very pretty and suffer from isolation, unrest, uneasiness, anxiety, and uncertainty.

In comparison with dog and cat homes in Japan, dog and cat homes in Bath and London take care of the animals until the end of their lives. The number of dogs, cats, and other animals which are kept in each home may change constantly. At the strategic level, the issue is how to reduce the number of animals which need new homes. The manager at the Battersea dog home in London tries to use press and TV programmes to inform people of the facts and problems and to avoid misunderstanding amongst residents.

After working in Bath and London, now I hope to do something in Tokyo for animals!