

# Japan ... the way it was

## “How it all began”

This is the squalor and wretchedness which confronted the pioneer members of JAWS when they started their small group in Tokyo over thirty years ago. The Alsatian-type dog in the photograph was one of about one hundred unwanted dogs chained to posts in Tokyo University yard, with filthy bowls of slimy water near them (if at all). He had no voice (vocal chords cut) but waited like that, with his ears cocked, for help to come.

Mrs. Eleanor Close, Founder and President of JAWS London, and one of the original founders of JAWS Tokyo, tells us...

“Lorna Gascoigne and I called him “JAWS Mascot”. It was Elizabeth Dodge

Arvin who organised the roster to go down each evening to feed what we called “The University Dogs”. Elizabeth first heard of the laboratory animals from a German lady who taught at Todai (Tokyo University). As



Elizabeth worked for the U.S. Army she was able to collect food from all the army canteens and came down most evenings with quite a staggering supply.”

When Mrs. Close came home from Japan in 1956, she was asked to speak to the Council of the RSPCA at their Headquarters, then in Jermyn Street. The talk was on Japanese dogs, pounds (seven at that time had been visited by JAWS), laboratory animals, anaesthetics and strays. Lady Gascoigne’s clinic, recently handed over to the JSPCA, also came into this talk.

“Lady d’Erlanger, then on the JSPCA Council” recalls Mrs. Close, “had recently been in Japan and seen the dog-catchers at work when she flew in at dawn. Horrified by the wire nooses and dogs being hurled into the air, she put all her weight behind the talk. I know the RSPCA Overseas Committee gave a great deal financially to help all aspects of the work and Lady d’Erlanger persuaded May & Baker to give a 5-year free supply of PBS to Tokyo University.

In the meantime I was able to form a small committee which held its meetings at UFAW - then situated at Lamb’s Conduit Passage, Red Lion Square - in order to get a JAWS (London) started. Josephine Cozens was then Organising Secretary of UFAW and Dr. Vintner was Medical Adviser.

They allowed us a one page loose leaflet with our Mascot dog right in the middle, which went out with their Annual Report, telling the plight of Tokyo dogs, particularly University animals.”

Mrs. Close also recalls that Lady Gascoigne had reservations about this publicity effort, since she doubted that British people would give money to animals in Japan. But they did and donations flowed in.

“Miss Hosali, then President of SPANA”, writes Mrs. Close, “told me I must get a proper receipt book and advised me to have a card index box, to file the name and address of every subscriber and to send every subscriber a proper receipt, for which we had a rubber stamp made “JAWS London”. And every subscriber who asked for it got a picture of that dog to send to his or her friend.”

“So that is how JAWS London got started. And after Lady Gascoigne’s experience of handing JSPCA over to the Japanese committee, I am afraid I insisted that the new Society should be registered in London as a British JAWS. This is why JAWS London and JAWS Tokyo are two separate entities. But we always stated the first aim in our constitution was to help JAWS Tokyo in that part of their efforts to help animals in Japan and if branches were created we should be free to help them too.”

“The picture brings back so many memories. I remember our Mascot Dog so well and do you see the little head peeping over the stone behind him? He was too timid to lift his head higher! But after feeding Mascot we saw that he got a feed as well - as did all the others.”



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