

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

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Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D5
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1. Country/location of visit
Seminar house, North Campus, Kyoto University, Japan
2. Research project
Conserv'Session “A dog named Gucci”
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2017. 12. 17
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Zsofia Budai, Kyoto University
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.
<p>A dog named Gucci is a documentary about animal cruelty in the United States. Specifically, it shows the history of a puppy that was set on fire by a group of people in Alabama, but was rescued and survived. This incident encouraged his rescuer, Doug James, to fight for changes in laws concerning punishment for animal abuse. At that time, such crimes were considered a misdemeanor, but after six years, Doug James succeeded in his goal to turn animal cruelty as a felony. Other cases of animal abuse included a kennel that starved animals to death, and two other dogs set on fire.</p> <p>The movie was quite informative, but it focused too much on the severe cases of intentional animal abuse and did not mention cases caused by owner negligence, such as dogs that live constantly chained, in a dirty environment, which leads to diseases that are not treated due to absence of veterinary care. Those cases are harder to punish because it is only visible to the owner house and visitors, but people should be aware that those conditions are not acceptable for animals.</p> <p>The movie was followed by a discussion led by Zsofia Budai and special guests Elizabeth Oliver and Jeff Bryant, from ARK (Animal Rescue Kansai). They shared some histories of animal abuse from Japanese breeders, and advised us to never buy animals from breeders. In the UK, for instance, pet shops and breeders are less common, because people mostly opt to adopt rather than buy a new pet. However, in Japan and Brazil, it is still common the stigma of a new pet from a good breed to represent the owner's social status. This issue is also something I would like to see explored in the movie, to increase public awareness. On the other hand, the documentary succeeded in sending the message that a single person can make a difference, so we should all contribute and make a stand for animal rights.</p> <p>It was my first session as member of the Conserv'session team. I was quite moved by the previous sessions I attended, and every time I am always inspired by the documentaries and the efforts of the team for organizing the screenings, so I decided to help. I would like to acknowledge PWS for funding the screening and my trip to Kyoto, to the guests from ARK for the very interesting discussion, and to all the team members for the hard work in organizing the session.</p>

