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Striving for a better relationship between people and animals

Today, animals are an important part of a spiritually rich lifestyle in Japan. Unfortunately, however, all of us have heard stories of behavior that has become a social problem; namely, cruelty to and abandonment of animals, and animal sales by unscrupulous business dealers. Furthermore, the number of public nuisances such as noise and bad smells caused by bad-mannered animal owners or animal owners who own large numbers of animals and accidents caused by animals has increased. Given these circumstances, the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals was revised in June 2005 to promote the welfare and appropriate management of animals further.

History of the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals

- 1973 Enactment of the "Act on Protection and Management of Animals"
- 1999 The name of the Act changed in Japanese.
Major revisions included establishment of regulations on animal handling businesses, strict definition of the responsibilities of animal owners, expansion of category of animals covered by penal provisions related to cruelty and abandonment, reinforcement of penal provisions, etc.
- 2005 Partial revision (reinforcement of regulations on animal handling businesses, greater consideration for laboratory animals, establishment of uniformity of regulations on the care of specified animals, reinforcement of penal provisions, etc.)