The animal owner must use a microchip or other means for individual identification of the animal, and he or she must engage in the proper management of the animal by installing facilities with a structure that will prevent its escape.

g. Taking custody of dogs or cats

Prefectures, etc. will take custody of dogs or cats from their owners when applicable. Prefectures, etc. will also house dogs and cats whose owners are unknown, as well as sick or injured dogs and cats that are found on roads, in parks or plazas, or in other public areas.

h. "Be Kind to Animals Week" and dissemination and awareness-raising activities

The national government and local governments promote awareness about the welfare and proper care of animals through educational and publicity activities that are directed at schools, communities, and homes. They also hold a variety of events during "Be Kind to Animals Week," which is held from September 20 to 26 of each year.

i. Approaches by the national government and local governments

The national government establishes basic guidelines, while the prefectures set up promotional programs that are matched to regional circumstances. Moreover, prefectural governors and mayors of designated cities can appoint Animal Welfare Promoters to give necessary advice to animal owners in order to promote animal welfare and proper care. Local governors, etc., can also organize councils to support the activities of the Animal Welfare Promoters.

j. Penal provisions

A person who, without reason, kills or injures a protected animal (see page 8) shall be punished by imprisonment with work for not more than one year or a fine of not more than 1 million yen. A person who neglects to give a protected animal food and/or water or who abandons a protected animal shall be punished by a fine of not more than 500,000 yen. A person who keeps a dangerous animal (specified animal) without permission or who operates an animal handling business without registration shall be subject to a fine, imprisonment with work, or other punishment.