



1 Article : [Hidden Wonders of Japan] Two Akita Dogs 'Working' in a Liquor Shop Go Viral

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

Akita dogs Umeko and Hakutake have been assisting their owner [run](#) a cozy liquor shop in one of the most beautiful towns in Japan.

Two Akita dogs have [gone viral](#) on social media.

The viral video shows two dogs seemingly working as cashiers in Liquor Shop Takahashi, located in the beautiful town of Kosaka in Akita Prefecture. They are two-year-old Umeko and one-year-old Hakutake, working as adorable "shop assistants" to the store owner Nobue Takahashi.

The two white furry dogs often lie down by the cash register in the cozy liquor store. Umeko and Hakutake live in the nature-rich town of Kosaka in northern Akita Prefecture, famous for its snowy weather and the Akita breed of dogs.

Takahashi welcomed Umeko in September 2020 and began bringing the dog to her liquor shop. Umeko soon started to move its paws around on the cash register, as if to [imitate](#) her owner. When Takahashi posted a video of Umeko in February 2021 to liven up the store's Twitter page, it instantly went viral.

The comments came flooding in: "What a cute shop attendant!" "[The dog] almost seems like a person!"

The video now has over 1.4 million views. The other dog, Hakutake, shows no interest in the cash register but warmly greets customers across the counter.

The shop's Twitter account was [initially](#) set up to promote products. But it is now filled with photos and videos of the two dogs. Fans from all over Japan have been visiting the store.

With high hopes for Umeko and Hakutake, Takahashi says, "I would like to do whatever I can to help revitalize the region."

Source : [Hidden Wonders of Japan] Two Akita Dogs 'Working' in a Liquor Shop Go Viral
[JAPAN Forward](#)

2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. **run** 運営する、経営する、走る、行く、立候補する

- After returning to my hometown, I would like to **run** a small business.

2. **imitate** 倣う、模範とする、まね事をする、（しばしばふざけて人の）真似をする、似せる、（アートなどでスタイルを）模倣する

- One of the best ways to improve your work is to **imitate** successful people.

3. **go viral** （インターネット上や口コミで）情報が急速に広まる・拡散する、バズる

- The research shows that fake news are more likely to **go viral** than real news.

4. **initially** 当初、最初に

- The event was **initially** scheduled for June 15th, but it was postponed due to the pandemic.

3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What kind of behavior of the dog caught many people's attention?
2. What does the shop owner hope from the popularity of the dogs?
3. Are you a dog person or cat person?
4. Do you know any videos that went viral in Japan recently?

4

日本語関連記事：秋田の酒屋の「看板犬」、レジ打ちしぐさ話題に

秋田県小坂町にある酒屋「リカーショップたかはし」で、レジ打ちをするような秋田犬のしぐさが交流サイト（SNS）で話題となっている。2歳の梅子は1歳の白岳と一緒に、店主、高橋延枝さん（58）の下で「店員」として活躍している。

高橋さんは令和2年9月、梅子を迎えた。店にも一緒に通うと、梅子はやがて高橋さんの姿をまねたのか、レジに手を当てて動かすしぐさを見せた。店のツイッターに3年2月、様子を動画で投稿すると、「かわいい店員さん」「人間が入っているみたい」と話題を呼んだ。これまでに140万回以上再生されている。白岳もレジには興味を示さないが、人懐っこい性格でカウンターに身を乗り出して客を迎える。

商品の宣伝のために開設したツイッターは今、2頭の写真や動画の投稿ばかりだ。店には全国各地からファンが駆けつけてくれている。高橋さんは「地域おこしにも、いくらでも協力したい」と話し、さらなる活躍を願う。