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Article :

Helping Akita Dogs - The Legendary Faithful Breed of 'Hachiko'

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

Akita dogs are well known for their appearances in movies, comics, and on TV. Now a group in Akita City is on a mission to care for the aging animals.

This is the story of three of many elderly Akita dogs in need of protection in their final days. With an eye toward achieving that, a group has been conducting a fundraising drive. They are using a government-backed crowdfunding formula, through furusato nozei, Japan's hometown tax donation program.

Called "ONE FOR AKITA," the group is a general incorporated association based in Akita City, Akita Prefecture. It has been working for the protection and transfer of [abandoned](#) Akita dogs [in tandem with](#) the Akita prefectural government.

Faithful Companions

Dogs of the Akita breed are well known for their appearances in movies, TV dramas, and comics on the theme of "Hachiko." In this case, the suffix-"ko" is a term of endearment. The name "Hachiko" means "faithful dog." It is well known in English from the 2009 Hollywood film, "Hachi: A Dog's Tale."

Variouly called Akita dogs, Akita inu, or simply Akita, they have also been popular pets overseas in recent years.

Ringo, Gon and Karin

There are three Akitas in our story. Ringo, an 11-year-old female is the first. Her friends are Gon, a nine-year-old male, and Karin, a female, also nine years old. Each one is different in character. Ringo is gentle. Meanwhile, Karin definitely likes being pampered, [making a point of](#) posing for the camera winsomely whenever she spots someone.

Akita dogs have a typical lifespan of around 10 years. Unfortunately, it is difficult for elderly homeless Akita dogs to find new owners because of the short period of time left to spend together and the [burden](#) of medical expenses. Another factor of [concern](#) is that the aging dogs may become stressed by a change in environment, according to ONE FOR AKITA.

Donations are currently being accepted online at Furusato Choice, the hometown tax donation program's intermediary website.

Source : [Helping Akita Dogs - The Legendary Faithful Breed of 'Hachiko'](#)
[JAPAN Forward](#)

2 Key phrases and vocabulary

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

1. abandon 見捨てる、置き去りにする、放棄する、(計画・希望・職業などを) あきらめる・断念する

The old factory was **abandoned** many years ago and now stands in ruins.

2. in tandem with ～ ～と連携して・協力して・歩調を合わせて、～と並行して、～につれて

The marketing team worked **in tandem with** the sales team to launch the new product.

3. make a point of

決まって～する、必ず～するのを忘れない、わざわざ・あえて～する、常に～するように心がける、～を強調する

She **makes a point of** showcasing her stylish outfits on her Instagram.

4. burden (精神的な) 重荷・負担、義務・重責、積み荷

Sharing your problems with friends can help lighten the **burden**.

5. concern 懸念、不安、懸案事項、関心ごと、(～にとって) 興味がある・重要である、(人)を心配させる

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any **concerns** about the project.

3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What is the mission of the group “ONE FOR AKITA”?
2. How are the personalities of Ringo, Gon, and Karin described?
3. What challenges do elderly homeless Akita dogs face in finding new homes?
4. Have you been involved in or supported any similar animal welfare initiatives?
5. If you were to adopt a pet, what factors would you consider when choosing an animal, especially an elderly one?

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**日本語関連記事：
高齢の「忠犬ハチ公」秋田犬に幸せな余生を クラファンで寄付募る**

飼育放棄された秋田犬の保護・譲渡活動に取り組む一般社団法人「ONE FOR AKITA」（秋田市）と秋田県は、保護された高齢の秋田犬3頭を最期まで飼い続けるために必要な資金を、ふるさと納税制度を使った「ガバメントクラウドファンディング」で募っている。秋田犬は「忠犬ハチ公」の物語などで知名度が高く、海外でも人気だ。

11歳で雌の「りんご」、9歳雄の「ごん」と雌の「かりん」の3頭。りんごは穏やかでかりんは甘えん坊など性格も異なり、人を見つけるとカメラ目線でポーズを決めるなど愛嬌いっぱいだ。

秋田犬の寿命は10年前後とされ、高齢犬と一緒に過ごせる期間の短さや医療費負担から新しい飼い主を見つけるのが難しく、環境が変わることでストレスがかかる懸念もある。寄付は、ふるさと納税仲介サイト「ふるさとチョイス」で受け付け中。URLは<https://www.furusato-tax.jp/gcf/2349>

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