

CrossTalk

March **CROSSROADS** Language Studio's Newsletter 2005

My pet and me

More and more, we see people walking on the streets with their pets. Many humans find comfort and **affection** with our furry friends. Over the past few years, researchers have discovered that owning a pet can reduce blood pressure, heart rate and cholesterol and, less stress equals fewer visits to the doctor. But not only that! In a one-year study, it was discovered that dogs helped their owner lose an average of 11 pounds. When doggy wants to go for a walk, mummy has to go out for a walk too!

For most of us, animals remind us of our **nurturing** and protective nature and make us feel more responsible. It's true that these days, people are becoming less and less connected with nature. The emotions that we have when we see a deer running across our path are simply **overwhelming**. But, now-a-days where can you have such an experience? Of course we can see wild animals at the zoo but they have become **domesticated**. Their wild instincts are almost gone.



Still, having these incredible animals close by can give us a feeling of true connection with nature.

The friendship between humans and animals comes from an ancient mutual dependence. Some believe that animals can help people live longer and healthier lives. In the Celtic tradition, horses are

called *as aman cara* – soul friends. Animal therapy is often used to help **disabled** children. Horses and dolphins, especially, are able to reach people in a **profound** way. The dolphin can **modify** its actions in order to work with a human. If it is with a child, it will reduce speed and power. As for horses,

well, they might **respond** negatively to people who are too hyper, but if you are true in your intentions, horses will respond to you positively.

But if you can't have a pet, or be in the company of animals, you can always donate your time at a rescue organization, or just go for a walk somewhere in nature. You never know who might **cross your path**.



Story by Natacha

Glossary

(These words are in **color** in the story)

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|------------------|------|------------------------|-------|
| affection | 情愛の気持ち | nurturing | 育むこと | overwhelming | 圧倒される |
| domesticated | 家畜化している | disabled | 身体障害 | profound | 深遠なる |
| modify | 修正する | respond | 反応する | cross your path | 出会う |

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: My apologies!! In last month's Newsletter we stated that the EBC program about our new Petite Cosmopolitan courses was going to be on the 3rd of this month. Unfortunately, it was rescheduled after we went to print and was aired on the 25th of last month instead. If you missed it, we have a copy available that you can watch. Just ask Junko in the office! It's really worth seeing.

Junko Says: I've just read another very interesting article about studying English. The theme is, 'understand your purpose for studying English to help you improve'. In other words, maintain a clear idea of why you are studying. The article also talks about some techniques to help with study such as "reading with your ears" and "studying grammar rhythmically, not logically". I couldn't agree more as we give this very same advice and use these techniques, at Crossroads! It proves that great ideas do become universal, eventually.



Adam Says: Well, for the most part I'm happy to say that the winter season is almost behind us. Looking ahead to spring is the most gratifying time of the season for me. It's a time when Mother Nature performs her magic. Also, I'm looking forward to viewing my first ever cherry blossoms. I hope everyone enjoys this magnificent season.

Greg Says: It's good the coldest month of the year in Matsuyama has finished. February is typically the month I get "as sick as a dog", but this year luck was on my side. Along with most others, I am looking forward to welcoming in the warmer months and enjoying the good times at the beer gardens. I am sure Crossroads will have plenty planned for the rooftop this year, so get ready for some fun!



Natacha Says: On Tuesday the 8th, I went to Monk Jazz Bar. What a surprise! The MDQ (Monk Dream Quartet) played and it was absolutely fantastic music. A duet, including the funky guitar of the bar's master, created a lively ambience. As usual, Ms. Kurita made us dance on our chairs with rhythmic variations on the piano. So, if you are free on the second Tuesday of every month from 9:30, drop by at Monk Jazz Bar for mind-blowing music!

Steven Says: It is almost 6 months since I began teaching at Crossroads and it's true that; "time flies when you're having fun". The months have absolutely flown-by while getting to know my students and starting new Cosmopolitan classes. The warm weather is just around the corner and we have some great plans for Summer activities up on the rooftop garden at crossroads. I am really looking forward to a fantastic Summer!



Magnolia Says: Life's lessons come in all shapes and sizes and often at times when we are least expecting them... recently I received some "Yogi Herbal Tea" from America and couldn't wait to try it. When I opened the teabag, I was surprised to find a small quotation: "Socialize with compassion and kindness". So, as I slowly sipped my Yogi Tea, I contemplated these simple words and wondered what life would be like without friends, family and chance meetings.

Yuka Says: The other day I went to see the film "The Phantom of the Opera" which I had long wanted to see. It was just fantastic, especially the music, which was great! I may have to wait a long time, but I hope to see the stage version of this musical someday. For the time being, I'm having a good time reading the original novel written by Gaston Leroux.



A Word From You

Shinobu Says: I traveled to Cheju Island and Seoul last week. It was a very interesting trip because I had a chance to see a lot of architecture and traditional houses that have many exotic features. I was especially impressed by a traditional village in Cheju which has preserved many features in contrast with modern houses in Seoul.



Notice Board

WANTED

Your contributions for our Newsletter!

Many thanks to those who have already contributed! But, we want more of you to help make our Newsletter even more exciting!! If you have a story, photos, etc., that you would like to see "published", just hand them to your teacher, or to Junko in the office, and we will put you in the "A Word From You" column here on this page.

Crossroads would like to invite more students to join our NET-lessons. For those who are too busy, too far away from us here in Matsuyama, or if you just like to study in the comfort and safety of your own home, then this is the course for you! Just give us a call to hear the details.

Net News

NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet!*

It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

How can animals help humans? Have a look at this article about animal therapy. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/4171505.stm>

Don't forget to take a look at the **NET NOTEBOOK** in our Open-house lounge. You'll find games, news and English study sites.

Easy English Lesson

ANIMAL IDIOMS!

Here are some animal idioms to go with our feature article...

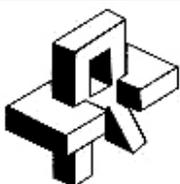
A little fishy – something doesn't seem quite right. The police officer thought her story sounded **a little fishy**, so he arrested her on the spot. 

Barking up the wrong tree – to come to the wrong conclusion.



You're **barking up the wrong tree**, it's not the software that's causing the problem, it's the server.

Let the cat out of the bag - to divulge a secret. We want to get Ron to the party without him suspecting anything, so **don't let the cat out of the bag!** 



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