Yangju Shelter houses over 200 dogs and cats. They are always over capacity and the adoption rate is very low. New dogs/cats are constantly being surrendered to them or found/rescued by the staff. They are deeply in debt, despite being under KAPCA (Korean Alliance for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), the oldest organization in Korea fighting for animal rights.

Until recently, they had very little interaction with the foreign community; there are only 2 staff members who are overwhelmed already with the basic care of the animals, they have no time for advertising and advocating. During the week and Saturdays, the 2 of them work long and tiring hours to make sure each animal is fed and cleaned up after. This is an incredibly well-run shelter but there is simply not enough manpower to help with the socialization of the animals and their wellbeing when it comes to mental and physical stimulation.

This is where volunteers come in; only in the last few months have we started getting more foreign volunteers in and your help is MUCH needed and MUCH appreciated. But the shelter is quite stringent, and it is all based out of their concern for the safety of the animals there. In the last few months, many wonderful changes have been made and I know that it’s going to only get better. There is much more attention now on getting these dogs OUT of the shelter, rather than just maintaining a basic level of living for them in the shelter.

Please read the following section on how to volunteer and what the rules are before you make a trip there:

VOLUNTEER:

In the winter, the shelter is open from 10am – 5pm.

From approximately 10am – 1pm, the staff and volunteers are feeding and cleaning up after all the dogs and cats. If you would like to participate in this, you are welcome to do so – please be aware you WILL get dirty ^^ (this time period is designated ONLY for these tasks).

From 1pm and on, there are no specific tasks however there is usually always something to do. But if you wish to just come and spend time with the dogs; it is suggested you come at 1pm. By about 3:30 – 4pm, the staff need to start closing up.

Right now, dog walking times are only on Saturdays between 1 – 3pm (and not the last Saturday of each month). This is a new thing for the shelter and rules/guidelines are still being established. I will update soon; for people who want to go during the week, we are working on this. NO DOG WALKS ON SUNDAYS.

\*\*IMPORTANT: For all foreign volunteers; the staff do not speak English. The foreign volunteers (Ula and Gemma) go on the weekends only, so if you are uncomfortable with going yourself on your first visit, you can contact them (ula.h.yang@gmail.com)

ADOPTION:

The fee is 100,000won per animal (this covers neutralization costs). The process requires an in-person visit to the shelter to spend time with the pet you are interested in. This is followed by an initial application, which then must be supported by a landlord agreement form, photocopies/scans of your passport, and detailed photos of your housing. Once these are submitted and approved; it will take approximately one month for a prospective adopter to pick up a female dog because they must be spayed before adoption. Male dogs are all neutered already so they can be picked up sooner. The shelter prefers to adopt/foster out their animals to people who live in the area because they require house visits; however in some circumstances, exceptions can be made. When you are picking up your new pet, you are required to bring a collar with an ID tag (with the pet’s name and your contact information on it), a harness, and a leash, and crate for transportation (if needed).

FOSTER:

Relatively similar to the adoption process, minus the adoption fee. You cannot apply to foster more than one animal at a time. And you are required to come in person to meet the dog/cat of your choice before application.

DONATIONS:

All donations; monetary or goods are welcomed ☺ As I mentioned, the shelter is seriously in debt and can use all the help they can get. They are constantly making improvements to the shelter (e.g. building a roof, creating more insulation, etc.). If you wish to donate money, please send it to:

Kookmin Bank

51260101127574

You can also drop off donations in person (like food, medication, etc.) or mail it in.