

Coexistence Between Us and Wild Animals

1. Motivation behind Research Paper

Do you know what happens to wild animals after they are hunted and killed? Hunted wild animals are mostly incinerated or reclaimed. They have the same value as humans, so it is a bad incident. I lived in the countryside until junior high school. I often watched wild animals in the mountains around my village. I wanted to research animals, specifically animals in the Japanese countryside. Many people don't know about these problems. I thought about how to solve these problems. Also, many people need to know about them.

2. Introduction

Nowadays, humans kill animals for their own benefit. Coexistence between wildlife and humans is undermined. This problem started in the Meiji era. In the Meiji era, birds and beasts had been declining, so capture restrictions were put in place to protect them. Also, during that period, a large number of Japanese wolves were killed for the people's purpose of protecting livestock and getting fur. As a result, the only high order predator in Japan, Japanese wolves, became extinct. Therefore, birds and beasts, such as wild pigs and deer have been able to increase. Currently, the increased number of wild pigs and deer have been eating saplings and tree bark, as well as tree seedlings grown by humans.

Environmental problems such as deforestation have also increased, therefore wild animals have begun to descend on human settlements, causing more damage to agricultural crops. It is believed that if this situation continues, a vicious circle will continue and wild animals will cause damage and humans will kill them. Therefore, in this research, by experiencing activities related to wild animal damage control in Nara prefecture and learning advanced cases in other prefectures, we considered how to create a society where wild animals and humans can coexist.

3. Results and Analysis

Present condition

Nowadays, crop damage caused by wild animals has become a serious problem that leads people to quit farming. It cannot be said that wild animals and humans coexist. Moreover, the wild pig population has increased in the last 20 years, but the number of hunters is decreasing. Furthermore, the number of human injuries and collisions with vehicles caused by wild animals seem to be endless.

A①Activities in Uda city

We participated in a project called “Karitsunagi” in Uda city. In “Karitsunagi”, we observed how deer are caught. “Karitsunagi” aims to provide opportunities for those who are unfamiliar with hunting to experience it with professionals, and to connect people who want to start hunting with foresters and farmers who are suffering from animal damage in the future. In addition, the purpose is to reaffirm the importance of life. We observed how the deer caught and got to gibier. Gibier means hunting, eating, and processing. The hunter performed a process called “Tomesashi”

which involves the hunter stabbing the carotid artery of deer and the deer gradually died. After that, the deer was dismantled. In my first experience, I was often shocked by this process. I could not put my feelings into words. Even after it was over, I felt a sense of urgency and felt the need to be prepared to face life.(picture1~3)



Figure1 hearing solutions about humans and animals coexistence



Figure 2 taking a lecture about forest



Figure 3 taking a lecture about wild animal

A②About the current state of wildlife damage in Uda city

Currently in Japan, related ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of the Environment, are working together to implement wildlife control measures.

(picture1~4) As a countermeasure, the government is taking three actions. There are population management (capture), invasion control measures (installation fences,etc), and habitat management (elimination of feeding grounds and hiding places by felling, etc). As a result of population management efforts, 680,000 wild pigs and 670,000 deer were caught in 2020. In the midst of this, gibier, which utilises discarded deer and wild pig as food, is attracting attention. The merits of gibier are high protein, low calorie, and wild animal life is not wasted. However, of the 1.35 million deer and wild pigs captured, only 120,000 are processed at slaughterhouses. There are only 29 domestic gibier certification facilities available for sale. Uda city is actively promoting regional revitalization such as the “karitsunagi”. However, in Uda city, less than 10% of wild pigs caught are processed wild pigs. In addition, the number of captives is not clear because they are processed by hunters.

B Activities in Ikoma city

We asked the Ikoma City Hall to help with activities to prevent wildlife damage. Therefore, we can participate in a plan to install fences at allotment farms managed by Ikoma City. In mountain allotments, wild pigs appear frequently, and to prevent damage to crops, fences are set up at the foot of the mountain right next to the allotment. We thought that installing fences would reduce conflicts between humans and wild animals today, and would lead to coexistence in the future. We conducted a verification to see if installing fences would actually reduce the damage. Through experience, we have learned that installing fences takes a lot of time, effort, and money. We thought that long term observation was necessary to verify whether the installation of fences could reduce the damage to crops by wild animals.(Figure 4)



Figure 4 Activity in Ikoma city

C Leading cases in Japan

There is an organisation called Kumamoto farmer hunter, which protects local agriculture from wildlife damage and works to revitalise the area. This organisation has its own domestic gibier certification facility, and uses captured individuals as gibier. Specifically, animal skins become leather products. The part that humans can eat becomes food such as curry. The red meat areas become used as pet food. The bones are donated to rescue dogs. The leftover parts are used generously for compost and feed. This is the reason why they are recognized as one of the few domestic gibier certification facilities in Japan.

4. Conclusion and Future Problems

Currently, not killing means of coexistence between wild animals and humans, it is best to set a fence around the farm. However, considering economic power and workforce, it is difficult to continue in reality. Therefore, I thought it would be better to use the exterminated wild animals as gibier to reduce the population of wild animals, like the activities of Kumamoto farmer hunters. I propose that this activity should be carried out in Nara Prefecture. Specifically, the important points in this activity are the establishment of the installation of a composting machine that turns wild animal

carcasses into compost. These are expensive and difficult to obtain, but I think that crowdfunding will solve the problem. It is not yet clear whether the Ikoma allotment has reduced crop damage, so it is necessary to see the effects of the current fences.

5. Reflection

I sometimes hear gunshots in my hometown. Rather than killing it, it is a gun for intimidation to keep it out of human territory. From this, I felt that the field of my house was protected by the local hunters. Through this research, I have been helped by many people regarding the coexistence of wild animals and humans, which I have doubts about. I was able to experience the experience of Karitsunagi in Uda city, setting fences in Ikoma city, and hearing about previous cases at Kumamoto Farmer Hunter. We had a valuable experience to deepen our inquiry, and learned that everyone is trying to face wild animals in various ways. Also, I felt that everyone was really trying to face us, and they were all really kind people.

Thanks to the support of the local people, I was able to deepen my research, and I realised that it is fun to try to solve problems by interacting with people. I hope that many people who read this will know the results we have explored in our essay.

6. Work Cited

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