

Relationship between wild animals and citizens in Kyoto City Higashiyama-ku

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Wildlife damage by wild birds and beasts has spread nationwide and has become a serious problem. Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto is no exception.

Higashiyama-ku does not have a rural area, so there is no possibility of aggravating agriculture and forestry damage. However, there are many commercial facilities and houses, historic sites and important cultural properties including Kiyomizu-dera Temple, a World Cultural Heritage. In the future, serious personal injuries and facility damages are anticipated in the tourist city. Many researches in rural areas has been conducted. However, no researches focusing on urban-type wildlife damage has been conducted.

In this study, to prevent bird and animal damages, we will present the mammal status in the Higashiyama area in Kyoto City. We also present urban citizens problems, and counter measures carried by local governments. From these, we consider more effective methods of the damage control.

We conducted trap camera surveys, using 4 automatic cameras. 12 mammalian species, including Japanese monkeys, Japanese deer, wild boars, araijuma raccoons, hakubishin raccoons, tanuki raccoons, were caught. Wild boars and tanuki raccoons were frequently appeared, Japanese monkeys and Japanese deer and others were rarely appeared. As for sika deer, no specific reports on the habitat and population have been found in Higashiyama Ward until now.

In the survey of urban citizens problems, Japanese monkey was 69% of the total, Monkeys only showed noticeable behavior in the daytime, while others appeared at night. Due to the high shooting frequency index and the small number of reports from wild boars, the number of wild boars that appear in urban areas at this stage is small, but it is clear that danger is approaching to the foothills near the city. It is important to understand the current situation at the foot of the mountain in order to understand possible wildlife damage.

In 2015, Japanese deer invaded Kiyomizu-dera Temple. In 2018, the local government started countermeasures by organized the Higashiyama Beast Control Committee for sharing information in the committee and make flyers for tourists. At this stage, only the report status of the “Wild and Beast Infestation Information Report” is being shared throughout the Higashiyama Ward. In the future, we will not only share the reporting situation but also share the mammal fauna in the Higashiyama area and the shooting frequency, time zone and seasonal change for each species, as revealed by the camera trap survey, and take concrete measures.