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Dear delegates who will visit Japan with an assistance dog,

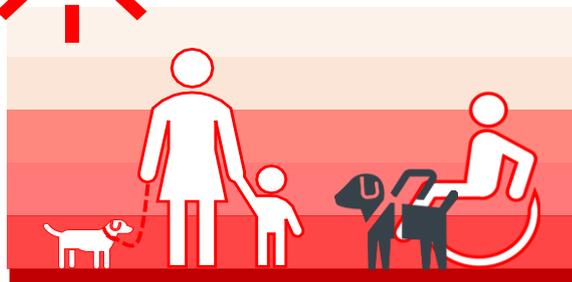
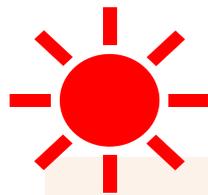
We would highly recommend that you consider very carefully whether if you are accompanied by an assistance dog when you come to Japan in 2020 for the following reasons.

In August 19, 2019, the highest temperature in Tokyo reached 35.6°C so the perceived temperature in the city center might have exceeded 36 °C.

In addition to this, temperature of the asphalt road surface go up to 55°C when the temperature is 30°C.

Such high temperature may cause health problems assistance dogs who are placed lower than humans in height, such as heatstroke due to reflected heat from the road surface and burns on the pads if they are not wearing shoes. Moreover, high humidity also negatively affects dermatitis and otitis externa.

Furthermore, normally panting helps dogs cool off, but in condition of high humidity saliva does not evaporate and it has no effect to lower body temperature. It will be fatal if a dog's body temperature exceeds 41°C. Particularly if you come from a country where the temperature and humidity are lower than Japan, it is highly likely to affect to the health. Especially Black-haired dogs have more risk of heat stroke as they easily absorb sunlight.



Height 150cm ... over 30°C

Height 70cm ... over 35°C

Height 30cm ... over 40°C

Asphalt road ... over 55°C

Therefore, **PLEASE DO NOT** go out without any heat countermeasures in the daytime.

Make sure that you prepare cold drinks, a cooling dog vest and shoes for protecting the pads when you have to go out with an assistance dog.

Although we have the guideline of a medical care system during Olympic and Paralympic Games2020 for helping you, **PLEASE CONSIDER AGAIN** whether if you are accompanied by an assistance dog when you come to Japan in 2020.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Shiro Muranaka DVM.PhD  
President of Tokyo Veterinary Medical Association