

Jun 30, 2020

JMoF Executive Committee



JMoF 2021 Cancellation

Japan Meeting of Furies 2021 (JMoF 2021), that was scheduled to be held from January 7th (Thu.) to the 10th (Sun.), 2021 has been canceled due to the societal impact of the spreading of the Novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Even at this stage, there is no estimate for when the virus's spread will be contained, so we have made this decision with the health and safety of all of you who were planning or considering to participate in mind.

Japan Meeting of Furies 2022 (JMoF 2022) is planned to be held from January 6th (Thu.), 2022 to the 9th (Sun.) at the Loisir Hotel Toyohashi (Toyohashi city, Aichi prefecture). We will take over JMoF 2021's theme of "The Seven Samurai (七匹の侍)" for it.

Considering JMoF 2021 would be the first time the convention would be held for four days, all of the staff members were making preparations to provide the sort of opportunity that should be provided for the diverse furry culture and its boundary-defying new interactions and forms of self-expression. However, even with the observation that the COVID-19 infection spread in Japan is calming down, the predictions that it will be completely controlled at this rate are few, and as of now experts are all saying to prepare for the next outbreak. Even with daily life and events, it is being requested that a "new normal" be practiced to lower the risk of infection.

With JMoF's characteristics, accompanied with the fact that over 1,000 people from all over Japan and overseas are traveling to go to it, the "Three Cs" (closed spaces, crowded places, and close-contact settings) occur readily both in and out of the convention. As well, because this is an event where all three are sustained for long periods of time, we determined that trying to lower the infection rate by following the various current guidelines would be an arduous task. Also, if a cluster infection were to occur at JMoF 2021, the carefully built trust that we've established with all of the locals involved with the convention could very well be lost. Reflecting on all of this, we reached the conclusion that we should cancel JMoF 2021.

To all those who were getting ready for JMoF 2021 and looking forward to all of the interactions, we have to inform you of this hard decision, and it is heart-breaking for us. But at the same time, rather than swallowing their fear, continuing to prepare for the event anyways, and showing up to the first risk-filled day of the convention, we would much rather have everyone look back on this decision next year in January and be able to say things like "There was no need to cancel it" or "It was such a needless worry." Right now, focusing on the containment of COVID-19 and having everyone be continuously attentive in their everyday life is important.

Furthermore, we are considering to host a portion of the events that were scheduled for JMoF 2021 in other forms such as online events. Details will be announced on our official website and SNS at a later date, so please wait a bit longer for that.

Finally, with JMoF being canceled, it's easy to start thinking negatively, but JMoF believes it's precisely times like these where we have the opportunity to think about what these events are, what furies are, and what we all can do. We have knowledge, we have technology, and we have friendship. We believe striving towards creativity and ingenuity with a future-oriented mindset will directly lead to development in the furry fandom's culture. And from that, a world where we all can live together with furies will surely await us.

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In spite of this adversity, we will not give up or give in; on the contrary, we are going to fight back by giving it all we've got for management and preparations, and we ask for everyone's warm and continued support while we do it.

Sincerely,

JMoF Executive Committee
Chairperson

Satomi