

Japan's Most Famous Dog

In front of the central train station in Tokyo, there is a life-size bronze statue of a dog. The name of the dog was Hachiko.

What is in front of the train station?

How big is the statue?

What is the statue made of?

What was the name of the dog?

Even though the statue is very small when compared to the huge neon signs flashing there, it isn't difficult to find. It has become a popular spot for tourists and commuters alike.

Is the statue big or small?

Is the statue easy or difficult to find?

Who thinks it is a popular spot to go to?

It has been used as a meeting point since 1934 and today you will find hundreds of people waiting there for their friends to arrive. If you ever go there, just look for the crowds.

What has it been used for since 1934?

If you go there, what will you see?

Hachiko, an Akita dog, was born in 1923 and brought to Tokyo in 1924. His owner, Professor Ueno and he were inseparable friends right from the start.

What breed of dog was Hachiko?

When was he born?

When did he come to Tokyo?

Who owned the dog?

Every day, Hachiko would go with his owner, a professor at the Imperial University, to the train station when he went to work. When he came back, the professor would always find the dog patiently waiting for him.

What did Hachiko do in the morning?

Where did the professor work?

When the professor returned in the evening, what was the dog doing?

Sadly, the professor died suddenly at work in 1925 before he could return home.

What happened to the professor?

When did he die?

The bond between Hachiko and the professor was very strong and he continued to wait at the station every day. Sometimes, he would stay there for days at a time.

Although the professor had died what did the dog do?

How long would he stay there?

Some people believed that the dog kept returning because of the food he was given by street vendors. Hachiko was also very popular with commuters who passed through the station every day. Therefore in 1934, a statue of him was put outside the station.

What did some people believe was the reason that Hachiko kept returning to the station?

Who was he popular with?

What happened in 1934?

In 1935, Hachiko died at the place he last saw his friend alive.

When did Hachiko die?

Where did he die?