

Nara is protecting abandoned dogs and cats in remote area in Tenri City
 Sick dogs not receiving enough food
 71-year-old keeper is unable to care for them
 Many complaints from animal protection groups

An elderly man who lives in a remote area in Eastern Tenri City cares for dogs and cats no longer wanted by their owners. Owners bring their animals to him from all over the Kinki region. However, the man is now infirm and cannot sufficiently care for the animals. They do not have enough to eat and are living in their own waste. Some dogs have become sick. After receiving complaints from animal protection groups, the prefecture finally began collecting the animals and treating them. The plan is to find new owners for the animals after they are cured, however, the morals of pet owners are now being questioned by many as we approach Animal Protection Week, which starts on the 20th.

Man kept 250 animals
 New owners are needed

The animals are living in a prefabricated kennel in Chishawara-cho along Route 25. A 71-year-old pensioner has been caring for abandoned animals there for about 15 years. He became well-known throughout the area, and pet owners in Nara and Osaka Prefectures and as far as Tajimi City in Gifu Prefecture have brought their animals to him.

In 1982 the man accepted three monkeys that were abandoned in Yamato Koriyama City, and received a letter of thanks from the Koriyama Police Station for his "cooperation with the effort to process recovered items." At one time, the number of animals kept by the man grew to over 250.

In December of last year, the man began suffering from neuralgia and became unable to walk due to pain in his legs. Thus, he has not been able to care for the animals sufficiently.