

The 50 dogs and cats which are in a kennel and on chains live in appalling conditions, and do not receive enough food. Their waste is piled high on the floor. Some dogs have become emaciated, some are suffering from skin diseases, and some have lost all their hair.

In 1990, after deciding that "there are too many animals and they are not being properly cared for," Nara prefecture ordered the man to improve their living conditions, but he refused.

In June of this year, the pathetic scene of these animals living in their own waste was shown on television. Animal protection groups such as the Japan Animal Welfare Society (Tokyo) began sending letters of protest to the prefecture and the owner demanding protection of the dogs. In September, the prefecture finally got permission from the man, and moved 30 dogs to a vinyl kennel set up on a nearby field and began medical treatment. Five dogs and one cat suffering from severe skin diseases were taken to an animal hospital.

Now the man is able to walk with the aid of a cane, but the prefecture plans to take all the animals away from him for medical treatment and find them new owners. The man still refuses to hand over the animals: "I'm going to find a good place in another prefecture and take them with me to live there."

Dr. Yukihiko Izumi, a veterinarian from the Nara Public Health Center who is treating the animals, said: "A single person can only care for so many cats and dogs. We want to continue negotiations with the man until he gives up all his animals. I hope we can find responsible owners for them so they can live happy lives."

Prefecture is protecting 40 dogs
Elderly keeper is infirm and unable to care for them

On the 18th, over 40 dogs owned by Mr. Kinshichi Fukushima (71), an unemployed man living at Chishawara-cho 753, Tenri City, were moved to a kennel erected on a nearby field, after the Nara Public Health and Environment Department determined that his care of the