

corrective measures.

The Nara Prefecture Public Health and Environment Department recognized the severity of the situation and tried to persuade Mr. Fukushima to improve the kennel's sanitary conditions and give first aid treatment to the animals. On the 10th and 11th, the department erected a temporary kennel on a nearby field. They moved 39 dogs to this shelter and took three dogs with severe illness to an animal hospital. The prefecture plans to give the dogs food and medical treatment, and after they have recovered they will be given to new owners with the consent of Mr. Fukushima.

Mr. Fukushima expressed his opposition to Nara's plan to find new owners by saying: "I'm sorry to have caused everyone so much trouble. There are many young people who want to take my place if I become sick. Many former owners have come back to get their animals claiming that they are now able to care for them."

Mr. Yoshitomi Minami, assistant director of the Nara Public Health and Environment Department, says, "It is the responsibility of the owners that caused this. The government had to get involved to protect the animals, but we think that owners should take better care of their animals. I hope that this case will force people think more about protection of animals."