

Cat sitter ordered to pay compensation for pet's death

Yomiuri Shinbun

A woman was ordered Tuesday by the Tokyo District Court to pay ¥320,000 in compensation for negligence resulting in the death of one of two cats she was looking after.

The owner of the cats, who is from Urayasu, Chiba Prefecture, said he pressed charges against the woman, who is from Higashi Kurume, western Tokyo, because he suffered mental anguish as a result of the death. Neither of the two people involved in the case have made their names public.

The plaintiff initially sought about ¥1.4 million in compensation, including the cost of burial in a pet cemetery.

Presiding Judge Tomonari Honda ruled that "the defendant should have taken better care of the cat when it became emaciated by either taking it to a veterinary clinic or by returning it to its owner."

According to the ruling, the owner used to look after the two felines by himself at home. He had to stop caring for them, however, after he moved into a public housing apartment. He asked the woman to care for the cats in September 1995.

Man let dog attack, police say

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A man who allegedly allowed his German shepherd to attack a woman and her dog last summer has been arrested because he ignored police requests to voluntarily appear for questioning, police said Thursday.

Police said Sotojiro Ino, 48, of Hachioji, Tokyo, was walking his dog on the evening of July 27 at a park near his Kitano-dai home.

The dog attacked a 49-year-old university employee, also from Hachioji, as she walked her dog through the park, police said.

The 40-kilogram dog injured the woman's knee and bit her dog as Ino simply watched, police said. The woman required two weeks of medical treatment for injuries related to the attack, they said.

Police said they arrested Ino, the self-described owner of a business consultancy firm, on suspicion of bodily injury through negligent conduct because he failed to muzzle his dog and did not try to stop it from attacking.

Ino has refuted the charges, according to police.

One of the victims said the man whose dog attacked her left without apologizing.

"I was afraid. Now, even a picture of a German shepherd brings back the fear," she said.

All of the victims were reportedly women walking their own dogs.

In addition, seven women ranging in age from 16 to 78 were attacked by the same type of dog between July and September as they walked their dogs, police said.

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