

Cat sitter ordered to pay compensation for pet's death

Yomiuri Shimbun

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.