

Over 80 pets killed in house fire

More than 80 animals were killed early Tuesday by a fire in a pet breeder's house in Miyakojimura, Fukushima Prefecture.

The fire started around 3:50 a.m. and destroyed the two-story, 250-square-meter wooden building where Satoshi Imaizumi, 42, lived and bred pets.

Fourteen dogs and about 70 cats were killed in the fire, and included such breeds as Great Pyrenees dogs, and American shorthair and Himalayan cats. All were in cages.

Imaizumi was helping a cat deliver kittens when the fire started, police said, and became aware of the fire after hearing the dogs barking unusually.

Police were investigating the cause of the blaze.