

Mon. May 27 1996

in animal rights cases

The foundation is also considering providing support to a case that is to be fought in Kyushu over a rare mudskipper found near the Ariake Sea.

The foundation was established in April, and its seven-man board of directors is composed of researchers in the fields of forestry and zoology.

Those who wish to join the foundation are asked to pay a 3,000 yen membership fee. The foundation has already raised more than 300,000 yen through membership fees and donations.

The group's goal is to enroll 1,000

members and raise 3 million yen by the end of the fiscal year 1996.

Okimasa Murakami, an ecology expert at Kyoto University, said, "We hope people will understand the rights that animals have via court actions involving animal plaintiffs. We also hope it will establish the idea of the rights of the environment; that is, that nature is something that belongs to everyone, man or beast."

For further information, contact the Kyoto Horitsu Jimusho in Japanese at (075) 256-1881.