

Foundation to pay fees in animal rights cases

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Environmental activists
a foundation to raise
fees in court cases
name of endangered
animals, creating the
in the country.

create the Fund for
came from Kyoto
Kagohashi, 39, who is
a case in Kagoshima
name of the Amami
designated species.
bitat is in a special
is being targeted for

golf course development.

"The view that people have of plants
and animals might change if the number
of cases in which an animal has been
named as the plaintiff increase," said
Kagohashi. "Donations to the founda-
tion will provide support to lawyers and
these plaintiffs in their court fights, so
we hope people will help."

The money that is generated will be
used to help cover legal fees in court
cases, including the case in which
Kagohashi is involved and another that
is being argued in Ibaraki Prefecture.

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

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

Those who wish to join the founda-
tion are asked to pay a 3,000 yen mem-
bership 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
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