

Exec mutilated in pet facility

Room searched where other killings are suspected

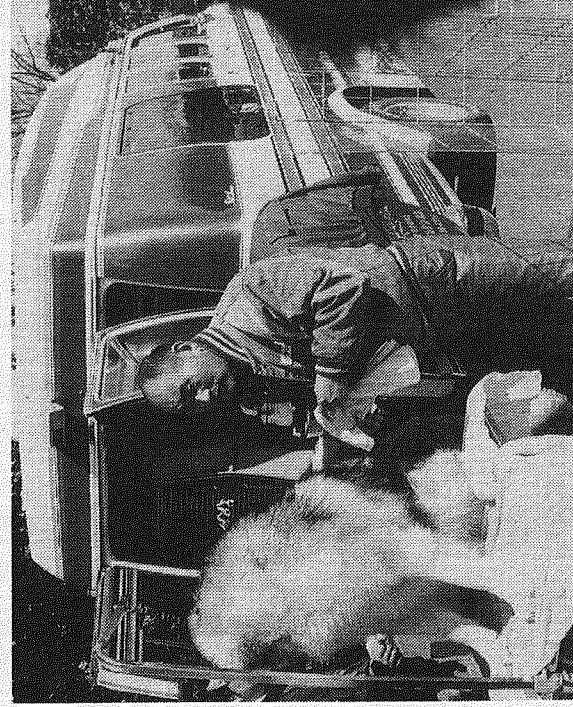
URAWA, Saitama Pref. (Kyodo) A laboratory analysis has confirmed that a 39-year-old company executive, one of four people whom a dog breeder under arrest has either admitted or hinted at having murdered, was mutilated inside a washing room for dogs at a facility in Katsushina, Gunma Prefecture, investigation sources said Monday.

Further analysis is being conducted by police on sand and other material confiscated from the washing room at the dog training facility, they said.

Investigators are concentrating on finding hair and any tiny pieces of bone that might be in the sand, they said.

It is possible that the 53-year-old dog breeder, Gen Sekine, used the same washing room to mutilate other victims, according to the sources. Sekine has hinted that he is involved in the disappearance of three more of his patrons who have been listed as missing.

Sekine has been in custody for allegedly abandoning the body of Akio Kawasaki, the



OMIYA, Saitama Pref. — Gen Sekine, a dog breeder suspected of murdering his customers, is shown with his van and a dog in a photo taken last February. KYODO PHOTO

Police said that if murder charges are substantiated they will ask the court to issue a second arrest warrant for Sekine.

On Sunday, police arrested Nagayuki Yamazaki, 38, a dog trainer and former board member of Sekine's company, on suspicion of helping Sekine dispose of Kawasaki's

peared, the sources said.

Yamazaki was also quoted as saying that he helped Sekine dispose of the bodies of three people as well as Kawasaki in 1993, the sources said.

According to police, Sekine mutilated the body of Kawasaki, put each piece in a plastic bag and burned them inside a drum near the site.

Police suspect that the three missing people were dog lovers who disappeared in Saitama Prefecture at about the same time as Kawasaki.

According to sources close to Sekine, Kawasaki purchased one male and one female Rhodesian Ridgeback from Sekine for about ¥11 million in early 1993.

Kawasaki received only one of the dogs and was demanding that Sekine return part of the fee around the time he went missing, the sources said.

Kawasaki disappeared after leaving work at a factory in Kumagaya, Saitama Prefecture, on April 21, 1993, the sources said.

Police suspect that Kawasaki was murdered in a dispute over money they said