

23/10/80

Osaka Woman Held For Deserting Pet

A 22-year-old waitress, who abandoned her pet raccoon after neighbors complained about it, was booked Wednesday by the Osaka Abeno Police.

It is the first time in the Kinki region that a "pet deserter" was arrested for violation of the Animal Protection Law.

According to the police, the waitress of Takaishi City, Osaka bought the two-month-old North American raccoon at a pet shop in Tokyo for 55,000 yen in June.

She was keeping it in her apartment in Sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka. However, she received complaints from neighbors who feared the animal would bite someone. It also damaged her furniture.

About 1 a.m., July 30, she put the animal in a paper box and abandoned it at Nagai Park in Higashi Sumiyoshi-ku.

The raccoon was recaptured by a veterinarian on Oct. 7 when



The raccoon in police custody.

it was seen on the roof of a garage in Abeno-ku.

The police, looking for its owner, received a tip that a woman keeping a raccoon had recently moved to Takaishi City, and found her.

She told the police that she was sorry she abandoned the raccoon and was happy to learn that it was still alive. She also said that she would not keep a pet any more.

The police took the raccoon to the Tennoji Zoo.

The Animal Protection Law stipulates a fine of up to 30,000 yen for cruelty and desertion.