

Fatal Dog Disease Once Again Problem

KOBE — A disease fatal to dogs, called parvo virus infection, has become rampant across the country and nearly 200,000 pet dogs died last year alone.

As a result the Hyogo Prefectural Veterinarians' Association has taken steps to stop it from spreading further by appealing to the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry for the sale of a preventive vaccine on a commercial basis.

Among the most common dog diseases are rabies, distemper and infections liver ailments. Parvo virus infection disease is considered to be a new disease and is fatal. Once having contracted the disease, dogs show symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea and dehydration and faint rapidly, leading to death in many cases.

This infectious disease was first reported in the U.S., Canada and Australia four years ago. In Japan, the disease was first reported in 1979 and reached its peak in the latter half of the next year and then abated.

However, the infection has reappeared over a wide area including Aichi, Shizuoka and the Kinki districts since the end of last year.

The disease has also surfaced in Shikoku where no such report had been made previously.

According to the Chemistry

and Serum Therapy Institute in Kumamoto City, there are about 2,500,000 pet dogs across the country of which 70 percent contracted the infectious virus last year and 200,000 died.

The Japan Veterinarians Association and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries are seriously studying the situation as the disease may spread over a wide area this year.