

'Cat woman' braves eviction for pets

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SAGA (Kyodo) The Saga Prefectural Government filed a lawsuit Friday to evict a 50-year-old woman from her prefectural housing apartment because she is keeping more than 10 cats in violation of regulations.

"Cats are like air to me," the woman, who was unidentified, said. "They are indispensable. Only cat-lovers can understand this feeling. It was my fault for keeping them, but I have nowhere to go if I am evicted."

According to the prefectural government, the woman moved in to the apartment in July 1983.

She began to keep cats around 1985.

Neighbors complained to the government several times about the smell and noise from the felines.

Authorities cautioned the woman several times, both verbally and in writing, but to no avail.

They said that regulations in a flyer given to residents when they first move into prefectural housing states that pets are forbidden.

They had no choice but to take legal action since the woman did not heed their warnings, they said.