

Kobe stops selling pets for research

KOBE (Kyodo) Mounting criticism of experiments using animals prompted the Kobe Municipal Government to stop selling captured stray pets and other animals to research institutes this fiscal year, it was learned Thursday.

Most prefectures and big cities sell stray or abandoned animals to research institutes for use in experiments.

Kobe is believed to be the first local government to stop selling animals for experiments, according to the Prime Minister's Office.

Four years ago, the city began gradually reducing the number of dogs it sold, at ¥500 per head, to Kobe University's Medical Department in response to strong opposition from animal rights groups.

The annual number of dogs sold had reached 300.

Because the sales have ended, of the approximately 3,000 dogs captured each year by the city, 2,900 will be put to sleep. Usually about 100 are adopted by individuals, according to municipal officials.

The municipal government said Kobe University will not be greatly affected by the decision because the Hyogo Prefectural Government provides enough dogs to the school.

As for other local authorities, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government also started a program this year to stop selling animals to research institutes in three years.

The Osaka Prefectural Government asked research organizations in April to reduce the number of dogs they use for experiments.
