

Zoo put to death 123 diseased birds

SAPPORO — A municipal zoo here administered poison last year to 123 of its birds which were believed to have contracted avian tuberculosis, it was revealed earlier this week.

The officials of Maruyama Zoo in Sapporo City said they had no choice but to destroy the birds in order to prevent the disease from spreading to other birds.

While it is said that avian tuberculosis cannot be transmitted to human beings, the officials said that they could not deny the possibility that humans might catch the disease.

Avian tuberculosis was first discovered at the zoo last spring, when a bird which died was dissected and found to have the symptoms of tuberculosis in its internal organs.

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