

Cruelty to animals

Town, Kagoshima Prefecture, resigned after burying alive six rabbits kept by the students because, he said, the school was short of rabbit food.

● In July 1989, three teenagers were arrested for killing rabbits and bantams kept by pupils at a primary school in Atsugi City, Kanagawa Prefecture. The boys said they were inspired by horror videos they had seen, and felt "refreshed" after the slayings.

● In December 1989, a man in Tama City, Tokyo, was arrested on a charge of violating the Wildlife Preservation and Game Law by cutting off the legs of a number of domestic pigeons. The man said, "I did it to protect myself from their droppings."

● In May 1991, the owner of a stall unable to sell all his baby chicks at a festival in Yamato City, Kanagawa Prefecture, threw them out with the garbage. The chicks were eaten by alley cats and crows.

● In September 1991, nine high-school students chased three herbivores, including a markhor (a Himalayan wild goat), at the Yumemigaoka Animal Park in Kawasaki. The animals ran into a metal fence while trying to escape and died.

● In December 1991, a doctor in Sapporo, Hokkaido was apprehended on a charge of placing poisoned meat at a garbage dump and causing the death of a dog. The doctor said he had been bothered by crows and had placed the meat at the dump site to get rid of them.

● In March 1992, 95 bears were quietly put to death at a private bear farm in Noboribetsu City, Hokkaido, because of overpopulation. It was also discovered that the farm had been selling bear gallbladders as stomach and intestinal medicine.

● In October 1992, a student at the No. 2 Nishihara Elementary School in Tanashi City, Tokyo, found 15 rabbits in the school's animal cage dead. The rabbits had been stomped on and died from internal injuries.

● In October 1992, three live kittens in a plastic bag were thrown to the polar bears in Oji Zoo in Kobe in the presence of a group of kindergarteners. The polar bears ate the kittens.

● In January 1993, a chicken farmer in Akasaki Town, Tottori Prefecture, on the verge of bankruptcy, disappeared and about 17,000 of his cooped up chickens starved to death. The farmer was arrested in February on a charge of violating the animal protection law.

● In February 1993, two dogs died and one was injured after a baby carriage containing the animals was thrown off the seventh floor of a building in Sugunami-ku, Tokyo. Two cats were with the dogs at the time, but survived.

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