

A dog's life for many

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Once hugely popular, Siberian huskies are finding that they are in the dog house. There is no better testimony than the number of dogs sent to their deaths by their owners.

Ten Siberian huskies were brought to the Chita branch of the Animal Protection Center of Aichi Prefecture in fiscal 1993 to be put to sleep.

The year before, Chita branch officials captured nine huskies that were roaming the streets and seven of them were taken back by their owners.

Six huskies have already been put down this fiscal year, which started in April. Ten others that have been captured will be put down unless they are claimed.

Owning a Siberian husky was once fashionable. Puppies cost ¥200,000 to ¥300,000 each, according to Takeshi Kato, 70, a pet dealer of Nagoya.

"But I haven't had any customers since last year," he said. Altogether 8,519 dogs of all species were captured or brought into the Aichi Animal Protection Center and its branches in fiscal 1993. Only 5% of them found new keepers.