

dogs in separate cases around the prefecture.

One of the incidents prompted the victim's parents to sue the prefectural government, which ended up paying some 2 million yen in compensation, officials said.

But, unlike neighboring prefectures, Chiba has not taken strong measures to protect animals, critics say.

The governments in Tokyo and Kanagawa and Saitama prefectures have taken animal protection measures, including prohibition of abandoned animals being used for experiments, abolition of collecting unwanted animals from owners free of charge, and promotion of finding new owners for adult dogs and cats as well as puppies and kittens.

ALIVE has urged Chiba to set up a new ordinance on animal protection and tighten regulations on animal traders, owners of dangerous animals and those engaged in experiments on animals, as well as their facilities.

The group also wants the prefectural government to keep a closer eye on pet owners and shops.

Meanwhile, Abe of the UC Animal Protection Society said the group will intensify its activities in collaboration with private citizens and local authorities.

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