

Pet cemetery outrage spreads

Fraud charges prompt customers' demands for punishment

By LIV OSBY

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More North Jersey residents whose pets may have been buried or burned en masse instead of being cremated individually came forward yesterday, calling for harsh treatment of the New York pet cemetery accused of defrauding them.

The cemetery had promised individual services.

"It's so upsetting," said Diane Kaczka of South Plainfield, whose 17-year-old cat was cremated by Long Island Pet Cemetery in Melville, N.Y., on the recommen-

dation of a animal hospital last year.

"You think you're doing the right thing and find out what you have in the container might not even be my cat," she said.

"They'll never erase the emotional pain and anger," she added. "It's like we were all taken. I want these people punished. I want justice. And I don't want to see them operating somewhere else five years from now."

Owners of the Long Island Pet Cemetery, where 250,000 pets were reportedly dumped in a mass grave, have been charged by the FBI with defrauding clients who believed their beloved pets had

been properly buried or cremated at costs beginning at \$100.

James Fox, assistant director of the FBI's New York office, said pet owners have been defrauded of tens of millions of dollars since 1984.

Kaczka, formerly of Dover, said cemetery services should be investigated before being recommended by veterinarians and animal hospitals. And Yvonne Ley of Wharton, whose dog was cremated at Long Island after she spent \$5,000 trying to save it, agreed.

"At least we wanted a nice cremation

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