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and his ashes," Ley said. "I spent two hours at the vet's crying my heart out. He took care of everything. The vets should have some way of checking these places out."

But Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Luger, who is prosecuting the case, said, "Veterinarians and animal hospitals were defrauded as well."

Morris Plains veterinarian Paul L. Sedlacek considers himself another victim of Long Island Pet Cemetery. He said he used its service because it was used by the Animal Clinic of Morris Plains before he took over and seemed professional.

"But what I don't understand is that they were under investigation for six months and no one told the vets," Sedlacek said. "They allowed us to continue to recommend them to clients when they were aware there were problems. I feel terrible about it."

Roxbury veterinarian Stanley Golub said seven area veterinari-

ans called him yesterday to arrange for cremation services at his animal hospital.

Generally, pet cemeteries contract with veterinarians or animal hospital. One of the most widely used in this area is the Pleasant Plains Pet Crematory in Warren, Somerset County, and its affiliate the Abbey Glen Pet Memorial Park in Lafayette Township in Sussex.

Licensed vehicle

"We pick up the pets in a licensed vehicle and transport them to our facility where either cremation or burial is provided," said general manager Derek Cooke, noting Pleasant Plains contracts with 300 veterinarians and hospitals as well as a number of municipal animal shelters.

Owners must sign release forms designating their preference for disposition of their pet, and may attend its cremation, he said.

"We've been getting more calls in the last couple of days from vets who had been taking advantage of the Long Island service and now want to come here," Cooke said.

Individual cremations, which include the animal's ashes in an urn, start at \$85, he said. A simple — or group — burial with a single monument also is \$85.

Formal burials with caskets, individual plots and headstones start at \$500 and burials in marble mausoleums start at \$1,500, he said. Religious services are not included.

Five years per count

Meanwhile, the FBI yesterday arrested Samuel Strauss, 70, one of the original four defendants charged Tuesday with mail fraud in connection with the case, FBI spokesman Joseph Valiquette said.

Strauss, who was arrested at his home in Boca Raton, Fla., was released on \$100,000 bail, Valiquette said, while federal authorities seek his extradition.

Strauss was the fourth person arrested in the case. His son, Alan, 35, of Dix Hills, N.Y., who owns the business with his father, and two cemetery employees were charged with mail fraud on Tuesday.

Principals in the pet cemetery, which opened in 1983, are not operating elsewhere, Valiquette said,

but also may be charged with environmental crimes depending on what the investigation turns up.

Luger said that, if convicted, the owners of the cemetery face maximum five-year sentences for each count and that it is likely there will be many counts although only one has been filed so far.

"I've taken more than 500 calls since Wednesday," he said. "We're taking names and phone numbers of people who sent their pets for cremation, especially those whose certificates were mailed to them, as prospective witnesses at the trial."

Class action suit

Glen LaPoint of East Hanover, whose dog was cremated at Long Island in 1989, also wants justice.

"My dog was sick, taken to the animal hospital and put to sleep there. They secured the arrangement," he said. "I want to see people in this area get together and file suit."

Brooklyn, N.Y., attorney Errol Williams said he plans to file a class action suit against Long Island Pet Cemetery based on a request from a client using his firm on another matter. The client had

two dogs buried there.

Pet owners may join the suit by calling Williams at (718) 522-1377. They may also call Luger at (718) 330-7050.

"It's not going to bring back our pets or put anybody at ease," said Helen McManus of Parsippany, whose dog, Smokey, died last month and supposedly was given a "dignified cremation" at Long Island Pet Cemetery.

"But they've got to be punished," she added.

In Albany yesterday, a state legislator from Long Island said he was going to introduce legislation to regulate the pet cemetery industry.

"The gruesome revelation that over 200,000 pets may have been improperly disposed . . . requires an immediate response," said state Sen. Owen H. Johnson, R-Suffolk.

Johnson said California, New Jersey and Ohio already regulate pet cemeteries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS contributed to this report.

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