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Pet Health News

ALLIES FOR ANIMALS

CAN'T BE WRONG

26 MILLION CAT OWNERS

ANIMAL CARE

60¢

NOV/DEC 1972

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

For many years leaders in the Veterinary Profession have advocated that there should be some practical method whereby a practicing veterinarian could attend, periodically, advanced courses in modern veterinary medicine. The object: to keep all practitioners current with modern developments in all phases of veterinary medical education. In the past this concept fell short of its intended goal due to the many facets of veterinary medicine, the lack of facilities in educational institutions, the lack of faculty and the time and expense involved in being away from one's busy practice to make it practical and economically feasible.

The American Veterinary Medical Association failed in its attempt due to the fact that it was so engrossed in political and administrative affairs, little attention could be given to the individual education of its members in continuing education.

The new format which seems to be gaining momentum and so far is moving very successfully has developed with the age of specialization. Specialty groups, such as the American Association of Equine Practitioners, has a very active association which meets annually, offering indepth seminars in all facets of equine practice. This year they meet in San Francisco in early December.

The American Animal Hospital Association also meets annually with indepth seminars in all facets of small animal practice. This organization has also extended its program to include regional meetings in all six of its regions during the year. At these the most popular seminars are repeated for those unable to attend the annual meetings. Other groups following the same pattern on a smaller basis are the Bovine Practitioners, Exotic and Zoo Animals Association, Laboratory Animal Association and many smaller specialty groups; they are all meeting in a similar manner.

Many of the Veterinary Boards of Examiners in various states have made it mandatory that practicing veterinarians attend and successfully complete various accredited seminars during the year; they are required to meet the individual state standards before they can be relicensed for the following year.

This trend, coupled with the many seminars offered in local areas, will make it possible for all veterinary practitioners to take advantage of modern developments and to offer the

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ANIMAL CAVALCADE

Official Journal of the Animal Health Foundation on animal care and health.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1972

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The entire staff of Animal Cavalcade wishes you a Meow-y Christmas and a Purr-fect New Year.

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animal FUN

TRUE STORY

A five-year-old youngster accompanied his Dad on a shopping trip to a large and very busy shopping center. The child was in a bigger hurry to get to a toy store than was his father.

Because of heavy traffic in the parking lot, the boy was asked to hold his father's hand as they walked toward the stores. He kept saying, "Let's hurry, Daddy!" and pulled his Dad in an effort to hurry him along. But his father, watchful of the traffic, moved cautiously.

Finally, the little boy saw his tugging was in vain. He paused very briefly, gave a jerk and a strong pull to his father's hand, and boomed out the command: "HEEL!"

Betty Huey Saunders
Oswega, New York

PUP APPEAL

He pleads with his eyes —
Such a wistful appeal
That soon he is eating
Most of my meal.

He looks at the bed,
With a wag of his tail,
And dog-training plans
Suddenly fail.

I give him a pat
And tell him, "Alright",
And he sleeps under blankets
The rest of the night.

He's wiser, I think,
Than a dog ought to be;
I haven't trained *him*
But how *he's* trained *me*!

Helen Inwood

WEDDING TAIL

Two women friends, with their respective poodles in tow, were discussing the bridal outfits for the forthcoming nuptials of their pooches.

It was silly enough, but to top it all the owner of the male shielded her pet's eyes and said soto voce to her friend, "He shouldn't see the gown she chose. It's bad luck!"

Robert Doherty
Jersey City, N.J.

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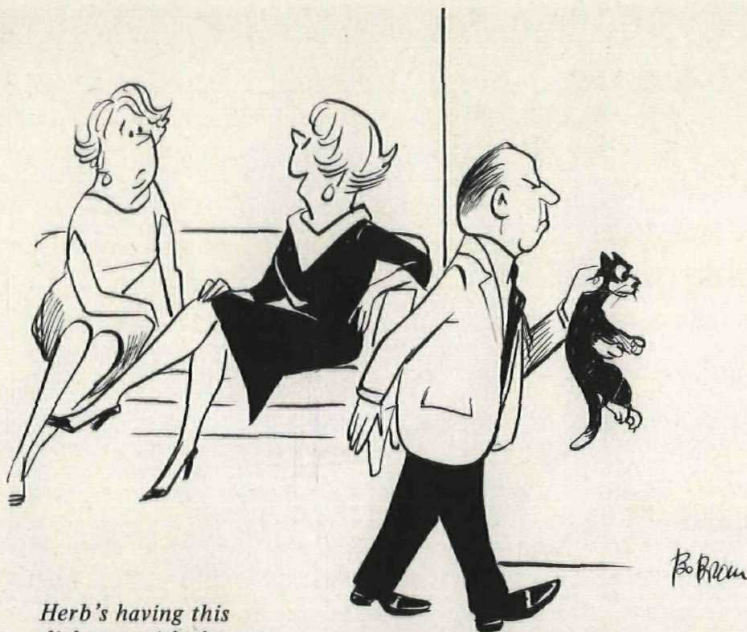
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"I just said, 'lucky guy' — what's wrong with that?"



*Herb's having this
dialogue with the cat.*

housebreaking tabby

by Felicia Ames
Author of *The Cat You Care For* and
Director, Friskies Cat Council

There are two prevailing myths about our feline friends that do not seem to go away, and both of them have to do with Tabby's habits in the home. According to one of them, all cats take to litter pans the way all ducks take to water. The other has it that cats are crazy about cleanliness, to the point that they will never embarrass the most fastidious family. Well, sorry to say, neither of these truisms is one hundred percent so.

So, what's with the litter pan? It's just a natural development from the great outdoors, a way of bringing the earth into the home and planting it in a convenient container where Tabby can imagine he's somewhere in the middle of a vast plain. Indeed, mother cats introduce their young to the litter pan before they are five weeks old. From then on, there is little or no trouble with housebreaking except for certain circumstances about which you had better know the worst.

If you have a kitten whose mother did not train it, don't despair. Most kittens will get the message when you lift them up first thing every morning and just after they have eaten and plop them down gently atop the fresh litter. When they jump right out, a common occurrence, put them right back. You may discover that the project will take on the aspects of a game. Play along,

the kitten is learning. Not all kittens, though. In some cases, the kitten will have accidents on the way to the pan, especially if it has been fed too much milk or liver - both laxatives to the cat. It's best to underline the pan with a skirt of newspapers to catch the misses. A few others have accidents far from the pan, on the living room rug, for example. As soon as you've cleaned the spot thoroughly, use a disinfectant or the cat will return. Sometimes you have to show a very young kitten what to do. Take her little paws and stroke the filler with them. It may remind her that her great grandmother did just that in the sands along the banks of the Nile so as to conceal her presence from menacing foes.

Now, how about those trouble cats who just won't get with the litter pan, no matter what you seem to do? First, look to the pan. What's it made of? What's in it? Maybe it's too small, or not deep enough, or too large. The best pans are made of metal, like aluminum. Next best: plastic. Wooden or cardboard pans will hold the dampness and the odor. This, Tabby will find offensive and reject. The aluminum or plastic pan can be scrubbed clean of odors regularly, assuring a fresh smell. With very young cats, the litter pan, or pans, should be cleaned

several times a day. Sometimes it's the kind of filler you're using. Some kittens won't go near the sandy kind, but will react kindly to the chipped cedar variety, and vice versa. But don't change the filler if all is going well. Cats hate change, and you're just inviting disaster. Large houses, incidentally, require more than one litter pan. There should be one near the front door and another near the back door. There should also be one upstairs as well as downstairs.

As for that other myth, that cats will never mess up, forget it. Try a male cat when he suddenly discovers his masculine prowess in spraying. He may spray your drapes, your couch, and anything in sight. Why? He's just telling the world, i.e., the female world, that he's in town. The same can happen, although not to the same terrifying degree, with a romantic female. She'll leave a lot of smells about the place to advertise her availability to a dashing tom. What to do? You guessed it. Spay and neuter, no mistake. But not after the cats have discovered their irresistibility. The time to do the job is before the fact, while they are young.

Sometimes cats will make mistakes because they are ill. One of the first signs of cystitis is frequent urinating, anywhere in the house. Observe the cat closely. Frequently there is blood in the urine and more often than not only a bit of urine is passed. Waste no time, call the veterinarian. Psychological problems can also cause cats to make mistakes, some of them quite deliberate. If the cat picks your bed for his mistake, you can be sure it's done to get even. Perhaps the cat resents being left alone. This usually happens with spoiled cats who are suddenly left alone. A change of address will cause many cats to make mistakes, and you can always expect trouble after you've introduced a new cat to the family. Time cures both of these conditions. What you can do in the other instance, where the cat is spoiled, is confine the culprit to a small area, like a cage or a kennel, and keep him there. He will be forced to keep himself clean or live with the odor; he'll choose cleanliness, and you should have no further bed stains.

But if you have your cat altered at the right age and are willing to spend a little time experimenting with litter pans, you should have no problems. Nor should you ever have to let your Tabby outside, where, let's face it, anything can happen, and does. One of the best things about a cat for a pet: they never *have* to go outside! Some of them - we've heard of quite a few - can even be trained to the family commode. We've yet to hear of one flushing the toilet, but we expect it won't be very long before we do.

DOCTOR'S ADVICE

Readers with health and other pet problems are invited to send in their questions to ANIMAL CAVALCADE. Those with the greatest reader interest will be handled on this page by Dr. J.F. Smithcors, D.V.M., Ph.D., who is technical editor of American Veterinary Publications, Inc.

PETS AND VITAMINS

Q. Special vitamins for pets are flooding the market. Can we use human vitamins for pets?

A. Cats and dogs need much the same vitamins as persons, but "people tablets and capsules" usually contain much too much for pets, except perhaps for very large dogs. Even the least expensive human products are likely to contain 5,000 units of vitamin A and 400 units of vitamin D, which is close to the estimated human daily requirement — but this is about five times as much as dogs and cats need, and a large excess may be harmful. *In no case should you give human therapeutic-formula vitamins to pets unless prescribed by your veterinarian.*



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TRAVELING WITH YOUR DOG

Q. We are having a difficult time training our dog to ride in the car. Can you give me some advice on controlling this condition or is it sometimes impossible?

A. There are few conditions that are truly impossible — they just take a little longer — but it would help to know more precisely what this problem is. Is the dog fearful or does he simply appear to dislike getting into the car? In some cases the problem exists because the dog associates the car with some unfortunate incident (punishment, injury, etc.). In other cases the problem is related to a dislike of confinement rather than the motion of the car itself. It might help if you try to get the dog accustomed to the car while it is in the driveway with the doors open; this may take several sessions before he will come to you while you are in the car or get into it with you. If he still seems apprehensive, you might ask your veterinarian about the advisability of giving a mild tranquilizer. If the problem is actual motion sickness, he can also prescribe medication. In either event it would be advisable to start with short trips at slow speed — perhaps only back and forth in the driveway at first.

BOOSTER SHOTS FOR CATS

Q. We have had our cats vaccinated for Cat Distemper and Pneumonitis when they were young. Should we have booster shots at regular intervals and what should these be?

A. All cats should receive a booster dose of panleukopenia (cat distemper) vaccine annually, beginning about a year after they were immunized as kittens. The vaccines available today probably are effective for longer than this, but in conjunction with an annual physical examination, boosting is good insurance. Pneumonitis vaccination is generally considered ineffective in older cats, and many veterinarians recommend it only before shows or when a cat might be exposed to a large number of strange cats. At the time you have your cat boosted for panleukopenia, it would be a good idea to include vaccination against rabies, especially if your cat is allowed to roam alone, even briefly.

IS DECLAWING A GOOD IDEA?

Q. My cat is a house cat and we do not plan to show him. He does forget at times and scratches the furniture and people. Will it change his personality or damage his health if we have his front claws removed?

A. Clawing is an instinctive train which cats seem to enjoy exercising — some more than others — and some persons are adamant in believing that declawing is cruel. Others accept it as a necessity, and I would certainly recommend it if the only alternative was disposing of the cat. The operation itself is humane, though the cat will have sore feet for a while. Unfortunately, it is best done while the cat is young — usually before such undesirable behaviour may have developed — and it may be difficult to make such a decision before there is a problem. There have been some reports of "uncertain temperament" developing in cases where the operation was not completely successful, but in most cases there is no interference with normal activity. It might be worthwhile to try accustoming the cat to using a scratching post if you have not already done so. Pet stores have these, or you can make one by tacking a piece of carpet with the "grain" vertical to a 3" or 4" post about 2 feet long and fastening it to a base. If this doesn't work you might ask your veterinarian for the names of one of two clients who have had the operation done so you can ask them how it turned out.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

continued from page 3

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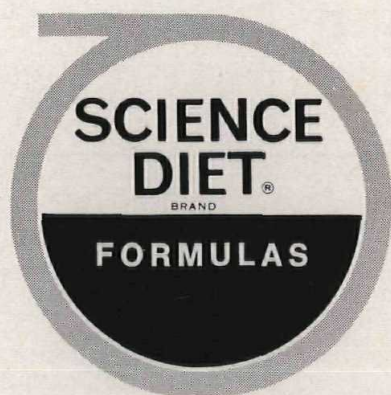
We as veterinarians are very much aware of our obligation to the public to care for their animals with the most modern techniques developed and to protect their interests in obtaining the best and most sanitary foods for their pets consumption.

Editor's Note: The concluding half of the interview on the many facets of the Animal Health Foundation will appear in the Jan/Feb issue.

—William K. Riddell, D.V.M.—

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A Cat Health Seminar audience learned about better health care for their feline friends from nationally-known experts in the field this past summer in Houston, Texas.

During the day-long seminar sponsored by the Morris Animal Foundation, Denver, approximately 150 cat fanciers heard about such topics as feline nutrition, urinary obstruction, toxoplasmosis, recent feline research and findings from a national survey of cat breeders.

One of the most popular discussions was on feline nutrition by Julius J. Fishler, D.V.M., Elkhart, Ind., a feline practitioner. Dr. Fishler pointed out that a cat is different from any other animal in that it requires more protein and eats only to satisfy its caloric needs. He added that although commercial cat foods have improved in the past few years, most of them must still be supplemented with such things as cooked hamburger for added protein.

"A cat's taste is influenced," he explained, "by smells and by texture, and it is not necessarily the same as ours. In other words, what appeals to you and me may not be what a cat likes. The cat is very much a habit former, and he gets used to certain textures." Dr. Fishler said that a balanced diet is of prime importance to a cat.

He also presented a talk on the clinical treatment of urolithiasis which was accompanied by movie pictures of surgical operations. The speech explained the problems caused by this disease and how veterinarians alleviated them.

"What the Breeder Thinks" was the topic of Judith Stoyke, Ph.D., Temple University, Philadelphia. She and a friend, Mrs. Diane Castor, conducted a survey of breeders for Cat Fanciers Association to gather information and opinions on what diseases are most frequently encountered, the percentage of breeders showing cats, general management practices and other subjects on the care of felines.

Those responding to the questionnaire indicated that the feline diseases they most commonly saw were those of the upper respiratory system. Of these breeders, 92% showed cats, 27% of which were sick after the shows. Also covered were such things as causes of death in kittens and cats,

diet, housing, parasites and many others.

Toxoplasmosis is a controversial disease which has been publicized recently because it may be passed from cats to humans. Richard A. Griesemer, D.V.M., Ph.D., University of California, Davis, allayed many fears and explained how to avoid the disease. He said that many cats and people in the world have been exposed to toxoplasmosis yet never show any symptoms.

"The essential ingredients," in preventing the disease are, according to Dr. Griesemer, "the establishment of health care program for cats as well as people and cleanliness where cats are kept."

Mrs. Catherine Fabricant, M.S., Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., who is studying urolithiasis, or urinary obstruction, a painful and sometimes fatal disease prevalent especially in male cats and her co-workers have a new approach, implicating a virus or viruses as causes. Through this work they hope to find a more effective and longer lasting cure for the disease.

Dr. Bell Reelected Vice President
*Reprinted Courtesy AVMA
Convention News - July, 1972*

Dr. Iverson C. Bell (MSU '49), Terre Haute, Ind., was unanimously re-elected to the office of vice president of the AVMA on Sunday, July 16, by the House of Delegates.

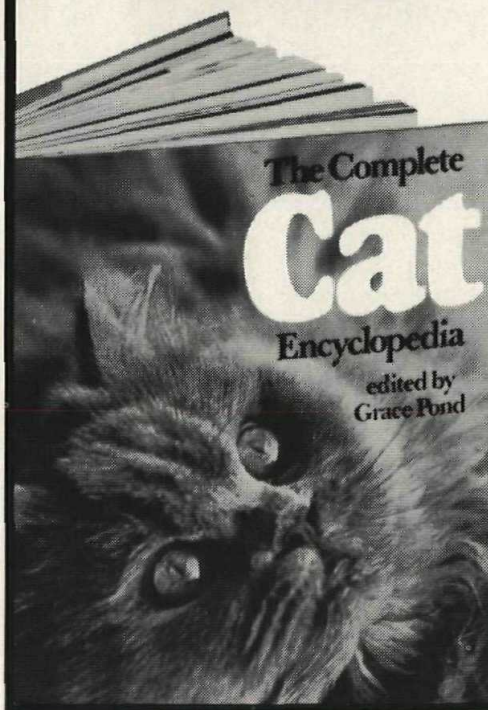
During the past year, he has represented the AVMA at state veterinary association meetings, served as Executive Board representative on the AVMA Judicial Council, and as a member of the Board's Ad Hoc Committee on Proposed Museum Exhibit and on its Committee on AVMA Constitution and Bylaws.

A small animal practitioner, Dr. Bell received his D.V.M. degree in 1949 from Michigan State University and joined the faculty at Tuskegee Institute School of Veterinary Medicine. In 1950, he moved to Terre Haute where he established a small animal practice which he still operates.

Dr. Bell is very active in the affairs of his profession and community. A member of the Indiana V.M.A. since 1951, he is chairman of its Education Committee, past president of the 7th District (Ind.) V.M.A., and affiliate member of the American Animal Hospital Association. An ardent supporter of veterinary medical education in Indiana, he was active in the establishment of the Purdue School of Veterinary Science and Medicine and serves as a visiting teacher at the school.

On appointment of Indiana Governor Edgar Whitcomb, Dr. Bell is cur-

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rently serving on the Advisory Board for Criminal Justice Planning for the state of Indiana. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the United Fund and on its Allocations Committee, a member of the Board of Directors of the Vigo County Chapter of the American Red Cross, a past president of the Indiana School Boards Association, and a leader in the local work of numerous national organizations, including the NAACP, Housing Authority, and Girl Scouts Council.

Dr. Bell was installed with other new officers of the AVMA at the Inaugural Luncheon, Sunday, July 16, in the International Ballroom of the Roosevelt Hotel.

DR. DONALD PATTERSON RECEIVES GAINES AWARD

Dr. Donald F. Patterson, Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, received the 1972 Gaines Award at the 109th annual meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

The award is made annually to the veterinarian selected by the AVMA for contributing significantly to the ad-

vancement of small animal medicine and surgery through work in clinical research or the basic sciences during the preceding five years.

Working in canine cardiology, Dr. Patterson has defined the general problems in this area and has studied the diagnosis, management and other aspects of specific cardiovascular problems. In his study of congenital heart disease in the dog, Dr. Patterson defined the magnitude of the problem and determined the clinical and pathological manifestations of the various congenital heart defects.

He is the first investigator to provide conclusive evidence, by mating dogs with congenital heart defects, that congenital heart disease in the dog is genetically determined. In the area of genetics, Dr. Patterson has identified lymphedema, a newly-recognized hereditary lymphatic disease in dogs, and chromosomal anomalies in dogs with congenital heart disease. He has written extensively on canine heart problems.

A graduate of Oklahoma State University's School of Veterinary Medicine, he also obtained a Doctor of Science degree in cardiology at the University of Pennsylvania, with which he has been associated since 1965.

Miss Zsa Zsa Gabor, Chairman of the Board and Co-Founder of LOVE UNLIMITED, the organization created for the purpose of improving the lot of companion animals (dogs and cats), presents a check for \$10,000 to (left to right) Dr. Thomas N. Snortum, President of the ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION and Mr. Harry Maiden, Executive Director of the ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION. These funds will make possible an expansion of the AHF program of needed veterinary care to sick and injured pets of senior citizens living entirely on Social Security. This program, in alliance with the Southern California Veterinary Medical Assoc., is the only local organization providing veterinary services to needy elderly pet owners.



ALLIES for ANIMALS

Love Unlimited and The Southern California Veterinary Medical Association have become allies dedicated to the betterment and quality of life for companion animals. To underscore its deep commitment to this cause, Love Unlimited has contributed \$10,000 to the Animal Health Foundation.

The check presentation, made by Miss Zsa Zsa Gabor, co-founder and chairman of the board of LOVE UNLIMITED, to Mr. Harry Maiden, Executive Director for AHF, and Dr. Thomas N. Snortum, President of AHF, makes possible an extension of animal health care to the sick and injured animals of people on low incomes. This bequest has the full

backing and approval of the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association, currently in an alliance with LOVE UNLIMITED in a special spaying and neutering program. These monies presented represent funds raised during last year's special LOVE UNLIMITED auction.

The ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION is a non-profit organization, formed for the specific purpose of charitable, scientific, literary and educational activities in the field of animal health. The AHF's major program is to provide medical care for the sick and injured animals of persons on low incomes; special emphasis is placed on those whose sole income is derived from Social Security. *Thanks to the*

cooperation of the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association, who has contributed its services and hospitals, this program has operated for all urgent and emergency cases for more than three years.

The AHF conducts special practical studies of basic animal illnesses and makes the information immediately available to the veterinary profession in order to permit earlier diagnosis and more successful treatment for all animals and their needy owners.

The Board of Trustees of THE ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION has expressed its gratitude to LOVE UNLIMITED and its Board members for the gift of \$10,000 presented to the AHF this past week.



by Lt. Col. Bob Chick

the veterinarian



is a captain



is a lady....

● She's blue-eyed, shapely and most definitely under 30. She smiles a lot, is 5 feet 10 inches tall and wears her blonde hair long.

She is Captain Jean Hooks, the Army's only lady veterinarian and the only commissioned female veterinarian on active duty with any military service.

Jean — of course — loves animals, all animals. What's your favorite animal, Jean? "Well, I love horses and dogs and cats and . . . I suppose the most unusual pet I ever had was a *shrew*, but he lived only one day."

From that discouraging beginning, Jean Hooks has changed a childhood hobby into a lifetime vocation.

"We always had a dog, usually one or two cats, a flock of chickens, pigeons, ducks, rabbits, a few frogs, lizards and some pigs. When I was a child anything that walked we claimed," she recalls. Later there were horses and cattle which Jean helped raise on her family's seven acre mini-farm in Lawrenceville, Illinois. But that was yesteryear.

Today, Veterinarian Jean Hooks is responsible for the health of Army dogs, mostly Beagles and German Shepherds which are used for scouting, tracking and sentry duty in the United States and overseas. Specifically, she is in charge of the veterinary clinical pathology laboratory at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) in Washington, D.C., where blood samples and other clinical laboratory specimens from military dogs and research animals are evaluated.

For Jean, the road from Lawrenceville to Washington included graduates from Lawrenceville Township High School, two years of pre-veterinary medicine and four years of study in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois where she graduated in 1970 with a DVM.

"Why did you join the Army, Jean?"

"Curiosity, I guess. I've always been

interested in military life because of my parents (Jean's father is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel). I just wanted to try it and see what it was like," she admits. She's been trying it and liking it since 1970.

Jean lives in Potomac, Maryland, with her twin sister, Jayne, who is also a DVM, class of 1970, University of Illinois. It's a small house but there's room for two cats and a dog. Their older brother is a Navy lieutenant stationed in Monterey, California, and a younger brother serves at Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois as an Army lieutenant.

A day-in-the-life of Jean Hooks includes examining and bleeding about thirty dogs, supervising four laboratory specialists, attending a seminar, reading professional journals, handling management and administrative duties of her laboratory, and working on any of three major research projects.

Chief among them is studying the disease Tropical Canine Pancytopenia (TCP), an acute and chronic infectious disease of dogs characterized by hemorrhage, pancytopenia and persistent infection. Large numbers of military dogs, primarily German Shepherds who have served in Vietnam or other tropical environments, have died from TCP. As a research team member, Jean has participated in studies which have established the etiology, pathogenesis, epidemiology and the control of this often fatal disease of military dogs.

This lady veterinarian is also working to establish the normal thyroid function (T3 and T4) in German Shepherds and Beagles, determining normal blood values in German Shepherds from pups to adults and during gestation, and she'll soon be studying feline infectious peritonitis. All of her projects are related to the health of military animals.

Although laboratory research takes much of her time, the most interesting part of her job is "working with the dogs and other animals."

Was the Army ready for a lady veterinarian when Jean Hooks signed up nearly two years ago? "I think so," she recalls. "I got the red carpet treatment almost everywhere I went." However, she remembers a few embarrassing moments during field training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, but "the Army made special arrangements for me."

Jean has struck at least one blow for servicewomen's liberation by recommending that she and future lady veterinarians be allowed to wear pant suits while working with animals. The thoroughly modern lady veterinarian decided she should wear slacks while working with her animals until pant suits were approved. Jean's recommendation was adopted about the time the male staff of the Veterinary Specialist School gave her a set of green coveralls as a compromise solution — men's size 46 — adorned with insignia, all the accouterments, including a packing slip stating "INSPECTED BY NO. 16 — YOUR FORM-FITTED WAC UNIFORM CO."

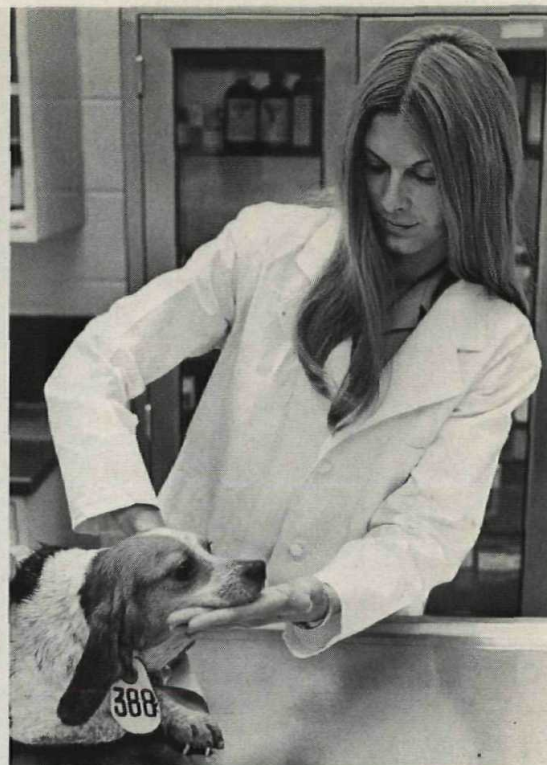
"Did you ever wear them, Jean?"

"Are you kidding?"

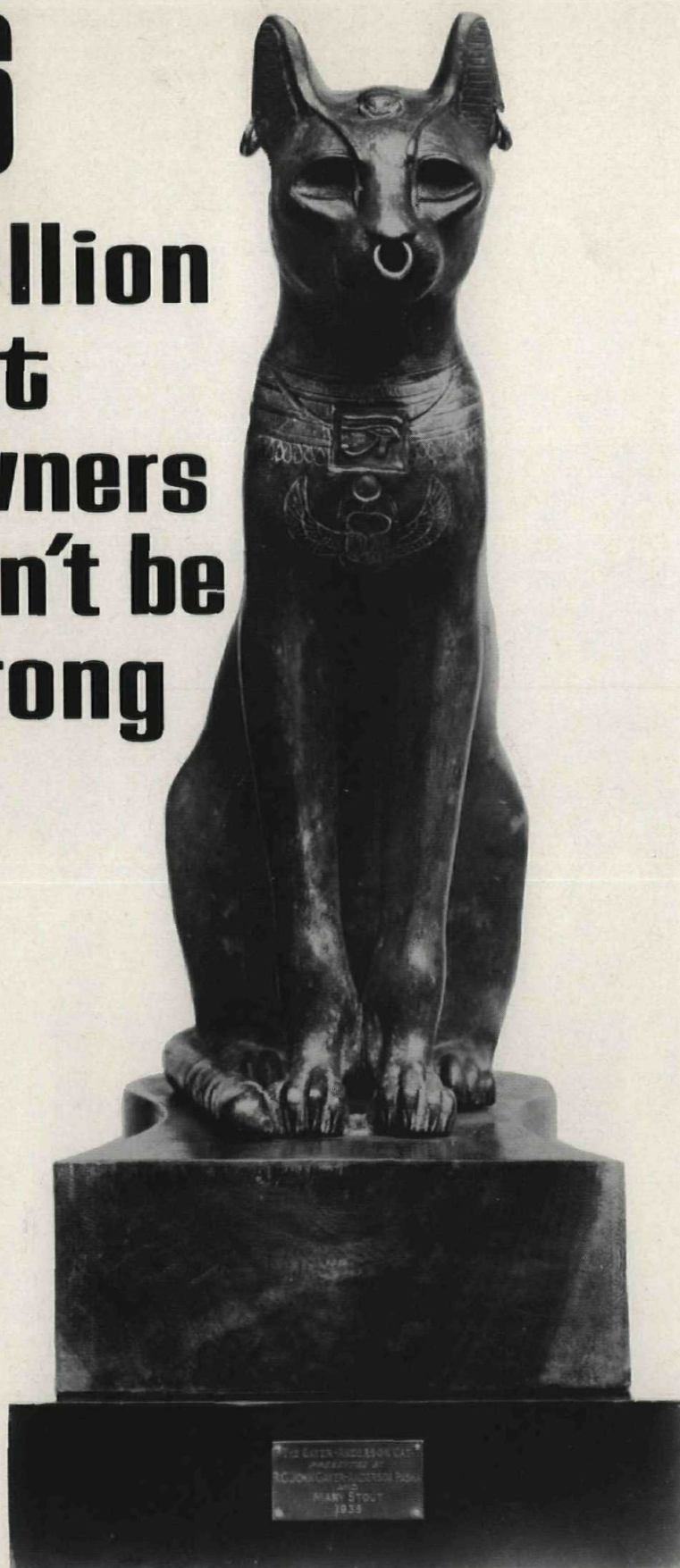
When Captain Jean Hooks doffs her white laboratory coat or Army gold pant suit you'll find her horseback riding, dating, hiking, sightseeing in Washington, listening to music, dating, carving driftwood, swimming, working in the Mormon church or dating.

Jean isn't certain what she'll do when her Army tour is finished later this year, but she has several ideas in mind. If she doesn't remain in the Army, she hopes to enter clinical veterinary practice in the Washington, D.C. area or California. And there's a chance she might go into Government veterinary work.

She won't return to Lawrenceville, she says, because "I'm acclimated more to big cities now." That's another way of saying you can't keep Captain Jean Hooks down on the farm now that she's seen D.C.



26 million cat owners can't be wrong



THE REGAL CAT — In the days of the Egyptian Pharaohs, cats were revered as deities, sacred to the goddess Pasht . . . that's where they got the name "Puss." This is what they looked like then — tall and stately, much like today's Abyssinian.

By Raymond Schuessler

The feline family outdates man by thousands of years! Some extinct species of cats were *fourteen feet long!* As soon as we homo sapiens arrived on the scene, though, cat and man struck up an acquaintance that has lasted and grown throughout all time.

Cats were probably first domesticated by prehistoric man. Even then the cat's mousing talents were realized, and it was his job to protect food stored for the winter.

The early Egyptians worshipped the cat. In fact, the place of honor occupied by cats in Egyptian society has never been equalled. The cat was sacred to the Egyptian goddess, Pasht (whence the name "Puss"). Cats were worshipped in her temples, and paraded and garlanded on her feast days. They were elaborately buried with much pomp in her holy ground. The corpses of cats were frequently emblazoned and mummified. Less than a century ago, the remains of more than 300,000 mummified cats were discovered on the site of the Temple of Beni Hassan, built in honor of Pasht.

The Egyptians forbade the export of their feline deities, but gradually and by sundry routes, the curious cat made its way to the Orient and into Europe. He got some help from Egyptian monks, and Phoenician and Greek traders looking to get rich quickly in the smuggling business.

Since the cat appeared on man's hearthstone several thousand years ago, it has been a creature of controversy. Having been worshipped as a god, it fell into disrepute during the Middle Ages — and it took centuries for cats to regain their high esteem. Evidently they got in with the wrong crowd — witches and that sort — and became involved in witch-hunts, torture and burning. This wasn't exactly the wisest thing for a cat to do, but it's hard to quell that curiosity. At that time, merely to own a cat was to risk arrest for sorcery.

Eventually the panic subsided, and a semblance of sanity returned. The Pilgrims brought cats with them to the colonies as mousers and grain protectors. During the California Gold Rush, cats were imported from Europe at fantastic prices . . . but they were indispensable to the pioneers. Since then, the cat population of the United States has soared to some 26 million strong. And, according to cat expert H. Hack Middleton, with good reason! He says, "Cats always have had the qualities of beauty, intelligence and grace. Equally at home in city apartment or country home, the fastidious and well-mannered cat is a welcome and loved companion."

The personality of a cat is in itself a thing of beauty. From the tip of his whiskers to the last hair on his tail, he radiates unruffled assurance and unerring competence. It's fascinating to watch him stalk his prey — even though it's just a catnip mouse — as every move is calculated and beautifully executed.

A cat gets plenty of exercise, but he will never waste an ounce of energy unnecessarily. He will seldom attempt anything which is obviously beyond his grasp or in excess of his powers. He has the ability to relax completely. Yet, he's not lazy, he's just smart!

Because cats are intensely self-sufficient creatures, some people have labeled them arrogant, disobedient and unpredictable. But this is a misunderstanding of the true nature of cats. They really have a keen appreciation of comfort and companionship. The key to getting in their good graces is to treat them *as they are*, not as a dog or an unruly child. They know intuitively whether they are really loved and understood, and they have innumerable subtle ways of making known their desires and feelings. A twitching tail, for instance, may signify either satisfaction or annoyance. A contented cat carries his tail high in the air, but droops it when feeling low. An

continued on page 29



THREE LITTLE KITTENS — And each has a personality all his own, They'll make adorable and affectionate additions to any family, whether in a city apartment or country home. What's more, they promise always to be fastidious and well-mannered.

Photos Courtesy Purina Pet Care Center

AND THEY GREW IN NUMBERS — There were no cats in this country until the Pilgrims brought them here. They were invaluable as mousers and grain protectors, but soon wended their way into hearts and homes. They even had their own hospitals, as shown here. Today, cats are 26-million strong, and most of them are household pets.



NEW YORK CITY. — MR. GOODMAN'S HOSPITAL FOR CATS, 170 DIVISION STREET.



BETTY WHITES MAILBAG

Betty White with two of her own pampered poodles. Betty believes in the slogan "Kindness Is Spoken Here"!

by Norene Harris

A popular TV-Radio personality, a knowledgeable woman on the subject of pets and pet care, it's not surprising that Betty White's mailbox is filled daily with large stacks of mail reflecting public interest in animals and their welfare.

In an exclusive interview with Animal Cavalcade, Betty White shares some of her mail and her replies with us and our readers.

NH: Tell us about the kind of mail you receive.

BW: There is quite a variety of mail but I would say, offhand, that most of it falls in three major types or categories. First, there are the letters asking questions, seeking information. I

always try to answer to the best of my ability. If they cover subjects I don't happen to know or can't research, I call Felicia Ames and get my authority going. If the question is a real poser, and I really don't know what to say, then I call my veterinarian. He is very, very helpful. Then there are the generally nice letters telling us how they love the show or writing us to report on their pets. Sometimes they compare their pets to some of the animals they have seen on the show. These usually include snapshots. I have piles of snapshots and they are such fun — my gallery!

NH: Is there a particular kind of letter that bothers you? That sets you off?

BW: Mail involving exotic pets or wild animal foundlings! As far as exotic pets go at the moment of purchase it seems like a marvelous, exciting idea. Then, boom, the novelty wears off and they don't know what to do with them, where to find a home for them.

NH: Exotic pets seem to be the vogue.

BW: Oh, it's a vogue all right. Very current, very chi-chi and very tragic. If you follow each one of these exotic pet stories through it always has an unhappy ending. *It's heartbreaking.*

NH: Can you give us some specific cases?

BW: There was a picture in the paper a few days ago. It showed a beautiful lion cub who was a dear friend and pet of the family. Then one day the woman came by his enclosure and he bit off her finger. End of friendship. Now, of course, he's in real trouble. They just don't realize that he was completely out of his environment. That was absolutely the wrong place for him. He never should have been taken into this home. People with monkeys are another instance. Now monkeys fall kind of on — shall we say — a borderline. Nobody thinks of them as wild animals. They are considered pets. But anybody who buys a monkey is taking on more of a responsibility than adopting a child. They have all the neuroses people do, plus a passionate need for companionship and a *boy monkey is better than a wrecking crew any day!* It takes a certain kind of personality to handle these adorable characters. There is a very active Simian society — the National Simian Society and its members are all completely dedicated to their monkeys, dedicated like there

was nothing else in life. A monkey cuts down on your social life — friends stop coming to your house. We get lots of letters about these exotic pets and calls in the office, too. The call in the office that I love runs something like this: "I have a cougar and my landlord doesn't want me to keep him any more. I'm in an apartment, you see. I know I shouldn't have taken him; guess I got a little tight that night."

NH: You mentioned wild animal foundlings, what about them?

BW: Well, here's a letter for example. This lady rescued a baby raccoon, just a little kitten, he was. For two years he has been a happy member of the family — had the run of the garage at night and was allowed in the house at times. But now he's an adult and has grown up and announced he doesn't want that kind of family anymore. He has bitten members of the family a couple of times. What to do, she wants to know. She doesn't want to take him to a zoo near them because it would be too confining. He would go into an area much smaller than he has occupied in their home. And she goes on to say she can't turn him back into the wild because that's raccoon hunting country in the Ozarks. She can't bear the thought. The zoos as far away as St. Louis are overstocked on raccoons. I can't stand that story so I'm going to call Marlin Perkins who's a good friend of mine and see if they can make room for one more raccoon and introduce him into the St. Louis group. He's curator of the St. Louis Zoo. Or, if Carol Perkins (Mrs. Marlin Perkins) who works so hard with the Elsa Wild Animal Appeal organization that I'm involved with can find somebody who has space and could take in Slugger — that's his name. Poor little Slugger, heart-breaking, isn't it?

NH: What other kind of letter do you receive that adds to your frustrations or worries about animals?

BW: The well-meaning "do-gooders" who act without thinking. They pick up strays and then don't know what to do with them because they themselves don't want them and want us to take them. But I think the most frustrating ones are those letters from people who want to tell me sad, sad stories about abuses. They want to know what they can do to alleviate this situation — how can they start a humane society, they ask. Of course, so many people think humane societies, the pounds, the shelters are the "heavies" of the animal world. I agree some could be improved, could be more ideal in many instances but they do have a super human job to perform and the difficulties are almost insurmountable. That is why when I get letters about strays picked up by the viewers

who want to find homes for them I use all my sources. I've worn out all my friends: Doris Day and Amanda Blake are in the same boat and wind up asking *me* to take some when I call.

NH: Do you ever get any offers of help or suggestions from your fans...or viewers?

BW: This letter just came and the writer really put a lot of thought into it. She had this marvelous idea for me to do a filmed series on animals — an educational show — on spaying and neutering. She suggests that the show wouldn't cost very much because each star would pay for his or her film. Of course she doesn't realize the high costs of making films of any kind for TV or the movies. Pet Set cost thousands of dollars per show. But to go back to the theme she is suggesting: spaying and neutering. That kind of mail frustrates me because that's one of the main messages we keep trying to put across, but it's as though people don't hear it at all.

NH: Do you really feel people are not getting your message?

BW: On spaying and neutering, no. Some of them even ask what's the difference between spaying and neutering! Then I have to say, explain rather, spaying is for girl cats and dogs and neutering is for males. I am sure there are plenty of people who are aware of the importance of neutering pets, but they don't sit and write about it. There is a lot of resistance to this effort. Most of it comes from ignorance regarding the very serious over-population problem. I was at a party not too long ago and I couldn't believe what I heard. This very nice, bright young couple began talking about their beagle and how they wouldn't fence him in for the world. They were actually laughing and bragging about this pet running loose all over the neighborhood getting all the female dogs pregnant. I took out my little soap box from my evening bag and got on it! I asked them if they had ever given any thought to what happens to all of those puppies.

NH: Did that make them stop and think, I hope?

BW: No. "We just can't keep him in, he refuses to be fenced in," they kept repeating. When I suggested that they have him neutered, that lovely girl was a blank — never had given it a thought. In fact, do you know what she said? That she didn't know one could do that. I just couldn't believe my ears. And as for the man, he acted almost outraged. "Have him neutered? Never! I wouldn't dream of having him neutered and spoil his fun!" Where do you start with people like that?

NH: Do you think it has to do with

identity...in this case male identity?

BW: Yes, it does. It really does. People laugh at this theory, but I'm afraid it's quite true. The thing is, though, that spaying and neutering will not solve the entire problem at this point. Every veterinarian in the country working 24 hours a day could not do enough operations to bring the problem to an end — stop the pet population explosion, that is. *At this point, neutering is the only answer. But an animal birth control method is needed and fortunately, veterinary medical research is close to a breakthrough.*

NH: Would this be similar to the pill for humans?

BW: Yes, I understand these researchers are working on an oral medication as well as an injection type that will cause a cat or dog to become sterile. They want to perfect it so that it will be a "turn off" and "turn on" situation. This will be ideal for people who ultimately want to breed their pets to the right mate at the right time.

NH: There are other things people can do to prevent unnecessary and untimely mating, aren't there?

BW: Of course there are. One of them is as simple as obeying the leash laws. Don't let your pet go for his walk alone. Don't walk him without a leash. Keep pets fenced in — males and females both. Keep cats in the house. A cat can have a perfectly happy, and certainly safer life in the house, especially in an urban community with its traffic hazards, cat and dog-nappers and what have you. If you have big dogs and you feel they need more exercise than they get in the yard, walk them on a good, strong leash. It's good for *you* too! Another simple rule: *please* don't acquire more pets than you can really take care of. It isn't fair to the pet; it isn't fair to your neighbors.

NH: Now, can we talk about some of those snapshots and drawings you get in the mail?

BW: My gallery. Yes, I love to talk about that. Some of the drawings the children send in are really wonderful. Who knows, maybe we have a Picasso among them. Let me find one I received just the other day. I think it's a classic. Well, here is a classic snapshot of a St. Bernard sitting in front of the TV set with his nose smack up against the screen. "Pet Set" is on and I'm holding a puppy on the screen. That St. Bernard's nose is right on the puppy's nose on the screen. I get lots of letters about pets that watch the show and how they are right on when there is an animal noise or sound. These snapshots are really fun. Now here's a letter from a class in the

Sylvan Grammar School in Portland, Oregon. Mrs. Adams is the teacher. You can always tell when a teacher engenders interest in animals among her pupils. It is so marvelous for those children who don't get any information or knowledge about animals at home to have such a teacher.

NH: Do you get many letters from schools or class rooms?

BW: Oh yes, indeed. Here's another one. The teacher's name is Mrs. Pyner and she must be quite an animal lover because we hear from her class often. Many of the letters include drawings and these are usually accompanied by one of those little school photos of the child who did the drawing. And I would venture to say that out of every dozen letters about 8 of the photos enclosed show two front teeth missing! That gives us a clue to their age, doesn't it? Here are some lines or excerpts from these wonderful children's letters: "I have two dogs. One is a police and one is half Maltese and half poodle. My mom brought the half-poodle to school to visit the kids." "I had a cat, it got babies, they are playful, they are strong." Here's another: "Your pets are real good. I watch you on TV. I would like a rattler." You might guess that One's a boy, right?" Another: "My best one in my family is my goat. I like her. She has a weird color." And this one I love for it shows a little girl's imagination: "I went out in the woods and saw a tree with real live little teddy bears in it. Do you have a teddy bear on TV. I watch you." I wouldn't mind a teddy bear tree — a Koala bear tree in my back yard, would you? Listen to this one: "Miss Betty White is holding my cat and my dog and they are starting to hug each other when they went off to sleep." That's about the size of it, the letters, and the kinds of letters we get. "I have a dog and I have some fishes." or "I like you on TV. My cat ran away. I got worried. Once I started crying. He was up in a tree and couldn't get down. We got a tall boy and he got him down. So if your kitty gets lost, get a tall boy."

NH: How did you become interested in animals?

BW: I always loved them, from infancy, I think. But I had a teacher once — in the fourth grade I was — when I had a mastoid operation, an inner ear problem, and I was out of school a whole semester. When it came time to return to school my teacher came to visit me. She asked what subject I would like — what special interest study I would like for my class to take up as a welcome back present for me. I must have been about 8 or 9. Of course I said *Animals*. She took me

up on it, and I know that a lot of my interest in wild animals resulted from this "Welcome Back, Betty" special study class.

NH: What is an aoudad?

BW: An aoudad is like a mountain goat or mountain sheep — a mountain sheep, I think it is. But it was that kind of a study. We learned a lot about animals, especially wild life. I have never forgotten it.

NH: Can animals, pets, serve a therapeutic need?

BW: Dr. Boris Levinson of New York, he's head of the Psychology Department at Yeshiva University, has found that mentally retarded children respond beautifully to his dog Jingles. Dr. Levinson has written a book, *Pet-Oriented Child Psychotherapy* and he has another book coming out soon. I had him on Pet Set twice and he told about an autistic child who just would not communicate with anybody. One day the doctor gave a little tea party for the child and had his dog Jingles there. At first the little patient ignored everything. Then Dr. Levinson started talking to and explaining things to Jingles and soon the child began explaining things to Jingles too. That was the means he used. His cat is always there too and helps with the therapy. Dr. Levinson has written article after article on the importance and the need for elderly people to have pets. In many cases, a pet is the oldster's one link with the world. It keeps them busy, keeps their minds away from themselves. But over and above all it answers that ever-human need: to feel that somebody needs them, and is dependent upon *them* for well-being. This doctor has been instrumental in getting many rest homes and senior citizens homes to allow pets. Some of these people are completely forgotten by their families, so for them to have a pet to love and attend to makes all the difference in the world.

NH: What animals make the best pets for the elderly?

BW: Birds are good — a canary or parakeet. They are fun to watch and require a minimum of care. Goldfish, too. Cats are great company for the older person. They are clean and self-reliant. If dogs are allowed. I would recommend a small dog that doesn't shed. But cat or dog, it must be of neuter gender! Spayed females make excellent pets. If it is a male dog or cat neuter him! But bird or fish, cat or dog — a pet for the senior citizen is a gift of love to love.

NH: Animals and love are synonymous, aren't they?

BW: I certainly think so. I have a fan

club called Bets Pets, and it's predicated on the philosophy that if you're busy enough taking care of animals, being kind to them, spreading the kindness word, without realizing it, you begin to be nicer to other people — it has to rub off. You can't be kind and give consideration to something weaker than you without automatically learning to be kind and considerate of others. It's being aware of the feelings and sensitivities of others — thinking of someone besides yourself. What is love but consideration of others — kindness to others? The American Humane Association has a slogan I love: "Kindness Spoken Here." Great! They also use another — "Kindness is Contagious."

NH: Lack of kindness comes from not knowing other people are around.

BW: Or hating other people. Hate is a bad four-letter word!

NH: Is there such a thing as too much kindness to animals?

BW: Kindness, no. I don't think we can be too kind. Over-indulgence, fanaticism about pets — or anything for that matter — yes. There certainly can be too much of that! Some people, unfortunately, go to extremes, carried beyond the point of no return. Taking animals out of their natural environment or making an unnatural environment for them. Take people who dress their pets up in all kinds of cute outfits. Or feed them at the table. These are the kinds of things that make animal haters even worse. But this hate is actually aimed at the human beings who over-indulge their pets. People who don't like animals are resenting the people who over-indulge animals, they resent the fuss-fuss and it strengthens, in their own mind, their right to dislike animals. Common sense is all it takes. When we make animals a co-existing feature in our lives, they can give us *so much* in return.

NH: In other words, it's the over-indulgent pet owner who turns off the animal hater, not the animals themselves. It's the way some people treat them.

BW: That's the point. Take people who rant and rave at landlords and hotel or motel owners who do not allow pets. It wasn't the pets who turned these managers off, it was the pet owners — the abuses some pet owners perpetrate on them. These people ruin it for everybody else. Pet owners who never curb their dogs or don't bother to clean up after them. In New York City the dog litter! You're up to here with dog litter there. Those people just don't care. Is that the pet's fault? Of course not, it's the owner who is delinquent. But naturally, if you're not all gung-ho about animals,

this type of bad behavior makes the dog haters even worse.

NH: It's all a matter of using the good neighbor policy, isn't it?

BW: Yes, a good neighbor trains a pet to be a good neighbor. My mother lives in a beautiful hi-rise apartment which has allowed pets, but the owners are having to curtail the number of pets more and more. People allow the dogs in elevators and the lobby to do as they wish. A well-behaved animal is usually welcomed anywhere. All pet owners have to do is to train their dogs to be good citizens. Of course, the same goes for children. Some apartment buildings do not allow children and there again, the managers have been turned off by badly behaved, destructive children. If a child has been taught to respect other people's property, other people's belongings and other people's privacy, that child will make a good apartment dweller. It's up to papa and mamma to train their children that way. Same goes for pet owners... if you haven't trained your pet, don't expect the world to love it as you do.

NH: Betty, have you received, or do you get letters that trouble you, angry letters?

BW: Oddly enough, I don't get angry letters. And it amazes me because I expect to. People get angry about outside things. It's anger or protest about other things, not anything we have any control over. They may write deeply angry letters about the way the professional handlers handle the pure bred dogs on the show. Cats are handled differently so I haven't had that kind of reaction over cats. But objection from viewers will come over how the dog's head was held. They don't realize that it doesn't hurt the dog. But it is difficult to explain this to the public. It looks from the way they are handled that the pure breeds are being put upon a lot, but they really aren't. And that reminds me, some people resent pure breeds a bit. They keep writing how mongrels are the smartest. Mongrels can be completely smart and completely stupid. Pure bred dogs can be completely smart and completely stupid.

NH: Do you get much mail about old dogs? Or cats? What about the senior citizens of the animal world?

BW: Those are the heart-breakers. There are lots of letters about pets that have reached their 15 or 16th birthday... even 18th! Most people who write about this want to get a new pet but some don't know whether to get one before or after the death of the oldster. Each case is different but all have the same heart-breaking fear of learning to live without a faithful,

loving companion. Sometimes introducing a new baby to the older animal will tack a couple of years to the older dog's life. It gives him a new interest, someone to play with, and then it's a miracle. In other cases, jealousy enters in. The owner has to make the decision.

NH: Do you get letters asking you to recommend the best breed of dog?

BW: Oh indeed we do. But I don't like to recommend any particular breed. People's pets should match their owner's disposition. Just as some people take to a particular type of person, so animals take to a particular type and vice versa. There are 116 different breeds of dogs recognized in this country and another 50 breeds becoming known, but still rare. And it's kind of fun to study their histories, find out where they've been, where they came from so that people can be helped to choose the right pet for their family. A family's surroundings and a

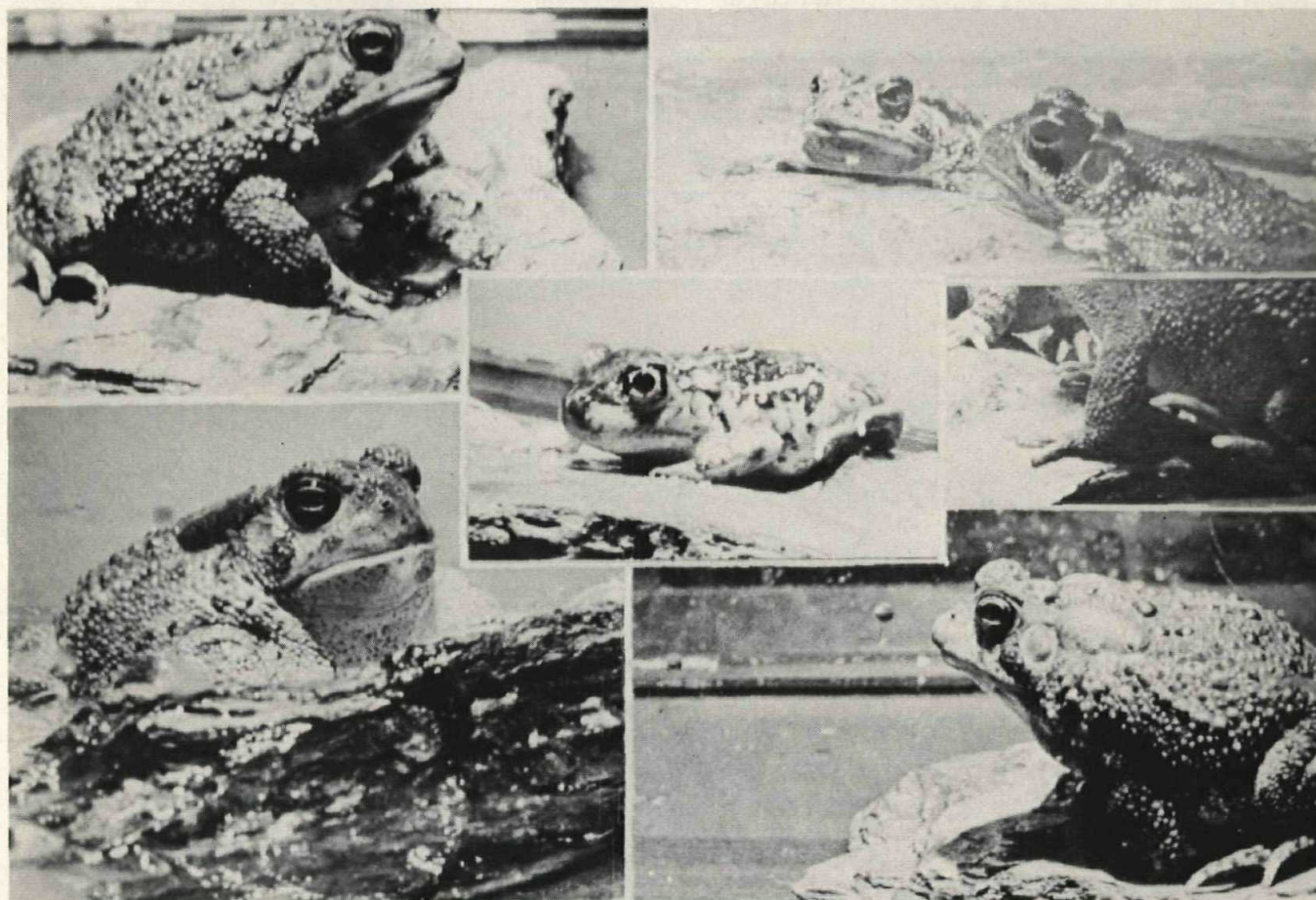
family's way of life should be considered when choosing a pet, particularly a dog. If you have lots of little kids you don't want a Yorkie puppy. Someone with a nervous, high strung disposition is more apt to go for a terrier than for the phlegmatic, quiet spaniel. If you study and see all breeds, you are better equipped to choose the breed you want — even if you are going to the shelter to find a pet. There you may find a dog that resembles the breed you want. Take him. He doesn't have to be a pure bred. But I suggest that a good piece of advice to follow is this: Think ahead before you take an animal into your life and your home because he is going to be an *important member of your family*. (He may even clamor for first place!)

Look for Betty White's Pet Set Show starting January 1973. Participating sponsors will include Alpo and the Pet Food Institute.



Much as she enjoys a bit of play with this cuddly creature, Betty discourages the average pet owner from taking on the responsibility of an exotic pet.

a TOAD for all seasons



The Eastern Spadefoot toad (center) can burrow underground and remain there for months until the next good rain. They are shy, elusive and may live in a region for years, unnoticed. The beautiful pink color is characteristic of *Bufo compactilis* (upper left and lower right). It is frequently seen feeding under street lights of desert towns. Fowler's toad (upper right) is common in the Eastern United States and resembles the American toad (lower left).

by

M. Samuel Cannon, Ph.D.
Photographs by Gabriel A. Palkuti
Ohio State University
College of Medicine
Department of Anatomy

For the past several years we have maintained most of the common frogs and toads (anurans) found in the United States. In addition, many exotic amphibians have also been sustained. We have received numerous requests from researchers, tropical fish aquarists, and potential amphibian fanciers regarding the requirements to maintain these fascinating creatures for long periods in terrariums. Information on this subject is sparse, many times inaccurate or impossible for the layman to wheedle from volumes of scientific literature. *This short article*

is directed primarily to the hobbyist who having discovered the beautiful, yet squat, clumsy world of the amphibian desires to explore further this exquisite little world.

We have found the following techniques to be reliable, easy to follow and comparatively inexpensive. A brief bibliography will introduce the beginner to basic literature in the practical aspect of raising amphibians.

We have obtained the animals through personal collection and from commercial sources which include The Lemberger Company, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901; Hermosa Reptile Gardens, Hermosa Beach, California 90254; and Glenn Gentry, Donelson, Tennessee 37214. Newly acquired animals are bathed in a weak solution of salt water for 10 to 30 minutes. They

are kept in separate quarters for at least one month and determined to be "healthy" before they are introduced into the established terrarium.

Initially, an aquarium is modified as an aquatic terrarium, which is easily maintained and satisfactory for virtually all anurans. The bigger the terrarium the better. *Crowding of animals is taboo.* Keep no more than four medium size frogs or toads in a 20 gallon terrarium. It is desirable to have only animals of comparable size together; larger anurans eat smaller anurans. They are territorial animals, stake a claim to an area, and dislike becoming a tasty morsel; give them abundant space.

An undergravel filter in conjunction with a power filter which can draw water from a relatively shallow terrari-

um, and which can circulate 80 to 200 gallons of water per hour are used (Eheim power filter; Miracle Plastics Corp., Box 33, Jersey City, New Jersey, 03202, or a Diatom Filter; Vortex Innerspace Products, Fling, Michigan 48507). By using plastic tubing, the undergravel filter is attached to an ozone generator which tends to purify and cleanse the water (Biozonics Model 3 Ozone Generator; Biozonics Corp., Natick, Massachusetts 91760). The ozonator is used according to an eight hour on-off schedule. Although ozonation has been used by aquarists for some time, its application to the terrarium is relatively recent. We believe the use of ozone to be extremely valuable as an aid in maintaining anurans, some of which have lived far beyond previous records.

Tap water is satisfactory for maintaining most adult anurans. Fine aquarium gravel, one pound per gallon of aquarium should be washed thoroughly prior to use. Rocks should be soaked in salt water for a minimum of one hour and rinsed; avoid calcium-bearing rocks and those with sharp edges. The terrarium should be soaked in a strong solution of potassium permanganate (1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water) for several hours followed by thorough cleaning in running water. This chemical is readily available at any pet supplies outlet or chemical company. The rocks can be attractively arranged on the gravel; let your imagination be your guide. The water should be sufficient to allow animals to bathe or swim, or to contemplate and meditate on the rocks. Toads, in particular, do much pondering. *Recall that adult anurans are air breathers possessing lungs and spend much time out of water. An aquatic terrarium as described requires a complete change of water and gravel only every six months and water is added periodically to maintain its level. Rooted plants are avoided since anurans, notably the spadefoot toads, love to "burrow" with no horticultural desires. However, water lilies are decorative and appreciated as spots of respite by most frogs.*

Some anurans, e.g., pickerel frog and the poison arrow frogs of tropical America cannot be kept with other animals because of their venomous skin secretions. Natives have been known to "peel" the poison arrow frogs, steam the skin and collect the rapidly-acting poison on arrows.

About seventy degrees Fahrenheit is the optimum temperature for most North American anurans. A subdued light is recommended. Tropical animals require temperatures approximately five to ten degrees warmer which can be achieved by attaching a 60 to 75 watt bulb or a thermostatically controlled aquarium water heater

which is mounted in a jar of water, covered by a screen and placed in a rear corner of the terrarium.

The terrarium cover is made of wire which affords good ventilation and a secure fit. They can be made or they can be purchased under the name of "no jump tops." A thermometer secured to the cover, well above the water and to one side of the terrarium is a necessity.

Our animals are fed exclusively Australian grey cricket, not to be confused with the common wild black variety. Grey crickets are easy to buy, come in sundry sizes, are inexpensive and, compared with the black cricket, are larger, meatier and relatively free of the hard shell. Frogs and toads love them, as do larger fish and numerous reptiles. Although grey crickets can be raised, it's more economical to obtain them commercially (Selph's Cricket Ranch, Box 2123, Desota Station, Memphis, Tennessee 38102). Their appetite requires that their diet of chick laying mash and fresh water always be available. Crickets can be kept in a 10 gallon aquarium fitted with a wire top, or if space permits, in a special cricket incubator (plans available from Selph's). They are housed at room temperature and cannot stand freezing. They are best handled in small quantities and when they are happy they are noisy. We feed our animals twice a week; the average size anuran gourmet may devour 25 crickets each time. Force feeding of animals is avoided. It appears to be nutritionally inadequate, leads to excessive handling and to the inability to judge appropriate quantities of food. Our animals readily learn to take crickets from our fingers or a forceps.

The mealworm which is commonly recommended as an amphibian food, is considerably overrated. *A steady diet of hard mealworms is harmful to the digestive track and if prolonged may be nutritionally fatal.* Although other excellent live foods are available, e.g., fruit flies, the bird mosquito and various flies, such as the greenbottle fly and meat fly; the maintenance of these insects has obvious disadvantages to the amateur.

Anurans kept in captivity may encounter some vitamin deficiencies and it's therefore advisable to supplement the living insect diet with vitamins. We use Pervinal (U.S. Vitamin and Pharmaceutical Corp., New York, New York), a powder containing 10 vitamins as an additive to the chick laying mash diet of the crickets. In addition, just prior to feeding, the crickets are lightly dusted with the powdered vitamin. The procedure has proven effective in correcting vitamin deficiencies and hopefully will improve the survival of difficult species. Occasionally, frogs

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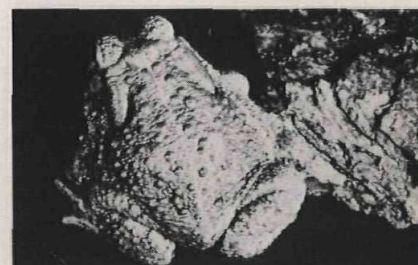
The giant South American toad has been imported into every country where sugar cane is raised because of its insatiable appetite for insects. It does extremely well in captivity, grows to nearly seven inches in length and similarly polices the home terrarium as it does the rows of sugar cane.



The "Belly Bumper" or common spring frog is a peaceful animal in captivity, feeds well and is often mistaken for the North American bullfrog.



One of the commoner forerunners of spring is the American toad which breeds from April through July. They are an excellent animal with which to begin the home terrarium; the males sing in long sustained musical notes and in spring can double as an "alarm clock."



The prominent warts, broad body and "sausaged-shaped" vocal sac are characteristic of the Great Plains toad. He is found in the vicinity of watering troughs; its call is reminiscent of a Klaxon auto horn.

Don Dooley

A common topic of conversation in veterinary hospital waiting rooms, are memories of dogs from one's childhood. It seems almost everyone has had an uncle Bill, whose farm they visited as a child. On this farm uncle Bill had a dog named Buster, who loved every member of the family, and was loved in return by the whole family.

Buster more often than not was a big old shaggy dog of somewhat questionable parentage. Not too much is remembered about his youth, but it is remembered that he lived to a ripe old age. He was all that a good farm dog should be: he worked hard at herding the cattle and tending the gates so the hogs didn't get out. His loyalty and devotion to the family went far beyond the call of duty. He protected the homestead from all intruders: the fact that most of the "intruders" were friendly salesmen, deliverymen or friends of the family meant little to him. He had his duty to perform and he performed it to his own satisfaction.

As the years have passed, the memory of any bad habits that Buster may

have had dims, and what is remembered is that he was intelligent and loyal far beyond the loyalty and intelligence of any of his peers. Even more interesting was his good health: he never had a vaccination for anything: he was never wormed: in fact he never visited the local veterinarian for any reason.

This makes one wonder what is the matter with today's dogs. Don't they make dogs like they used to, or are veterinarians vaccinating and treating unnecessarily?

Well, they are still making dogs the same way they used to, but people aren't owning them for the same reasons. Uncle Bill had Buster around for companionship, help with the chores and to keep an eye on the place. These activities required only that Buster should be reasonably intelligent and big enough to take care of himself. Today people still own dogs for companionship, and as watchdogs but there really aren't many chores for dogs to do, except for the truly working dogs (such as seeing eye dogs).

Unfortunately the selection of the size and breed of dog is usually based on the ego needs of the individual

selecting the dog. Too often the apartment dweller who feels he needs a watch dog chooses a German Shepherd or a Great Dane when a Poodle or a Dachshund would be more adequate. Unfortunately the large dog is chosen not because of the need, but to satisfy the desire of the owner to have a big dog such as he remembers from childhood.

Sometimes we create health problems for our dogs when we forget that they also have needs. Large dogs have need for room to exercise and roam. Buster, Uncle Bill's dog had lots of exercise. Besides his chores, he would, during each day, check the boundaries of his domain to make sure it was secure from all invaders.

Another problem we create for our dogs, especially big dogs, is boredom. It is not unusual to have a dog lick a spot on its body until it causes a sore to develop. The difficulty originates in boredom. Buster was never bored because he had rabbits, squirrels, birds and cars that had to be chased. He rested from fatigue, not because he had nothing to do.

We also see a lot of the hunting breeds confined to small lots or apartments. This is fine if the owners realize

the good ol' dogs

- Photo by John Bright



the need to provide activity for these dogs on a year around basis and not just during the hunting season. Often Cocker Spaniels and Standard Poodles are kept as house pets, which is fine if they are properly exercised. However if they aren't properly exercised, they can have health problems as well as psychological ones. If the Cocker Spaniel or Standard Poodle aren't going to be used for hunting, then perhaps a Terrier might be a better choice.

What this all boils down to is that when choosing a dog for a pet, one should give as much or more thought to the needs of the dog as he gives to his own personal needs. If one does not consider the dog's needs, then one runs the risk of environmentally induced health problems.

There are many parallels that can be drawn, when we think of Buster and Uncle Bill. Uncle Bill was a farmer, and farmers have a very low incidence of heart trouble and nervous disorders — such as ulcers. No one is sure of course just why this is, but many things indicate that Uncle Bill receives considerably less pressure from his environment than does his city counterpart.

Buster's city cousin also has his share of pressure from his environment. Lack of privacy is a pressure. Even when a city dog is in his own back yard, he can hear and smell other dogs near by. Because of the closeness of neighboring dogs in the surrounding back yards, the city dog must always be on guard against invasion of his territory. The city dog has no way of knowing that he is safe in his own yard, so he is always somewhat tense. The country dog may not see, hear or smell another dog for a week at a time.

Not only does the city dog face the constant threat of strange intruders, but many strange and frightening noises of the city. Buster seldom heard a strange noise. Not that there weren't plenty of noises on the farm — machinery, cattle, hogs, chickens. The difference was that Buster was free to investigate the noises, and he also had plenty of places to get away from it if he didn't like it.

The tension from lack of privacy can cause metabolic upsets in a dog the same as it can in his owner. (A dog house or a private door into the garage will give a city dog a place to relax.) Tranquilizers prescribed by your veterinarian will help your dog get through the noise of the Fourth of July or any other period of extra stress.

Another big advantage that Buster had was related to climate. In the winter if he happened to be a long haired dog, he would, often as not, be found sleeping out in a snow bank rather than inside. While this may not seem ideal to us, it evidently was

comfortable or he would have slept elsewhere because he had a number of choices. In the heat of summer his long coat may have looked uncomfortable, but he could go either to the creek or the stock tank and soak his coat (which cooled him as it evaporated).

Unfortunately Buster's city cousin doesn't have it so good. He doesn't have the opportunity to find his own cool spot unless he has a thoughtful owner who will let him have a little place of his own to dig a moist cool hole or provide him a shady spot through summer.

Harder on his skin than the heat of the summer is that generated by the furnace during winter. Furnace heat dries out a house and a dog's skin. Fatty acids or oils and vitamins and minerals given along with your dog's regular food during cold weather will help overcome this problem.

Speaking of dog food, Buster really had some variety. He usually had some kind of commercial dog food, but he also had a choice of hog, cattle and chicken feeds, plus an occasional rabbit that he provided for himself. He also had his choice of the table scraps and some vegetables from the garden, and he fared like a king when a hog or a beef was butchered.

While the city dog of today doesn't have this selection, he does have one big advantage. The commercial dog foods on the market have improved considerably since Buster's day. There are two things that can cause nutritional problems. One is table scraps. If a dog is fed table scraps, he will often refuse his dog food. The second problem is that his owner may not be careful in his selection of a commercial dog food. Nutritional content should be the criteria for selecting a dog food and not price. Improper nutrition can cause skin problems, bone disorders, kidney or heart diseases and also weaken the dog so that he is more susceptible to disease.

One interesting side-light of Buster's diet was that he probably got wormed every time the hogs or the cattle did, so he never had to be wormed. Also he may have lived where they didn't have fleas, so he missed out on tape worms and flea-induced skin problems.

Buster got by without being vaccinated because he never was exposed to Distemper, Hepatitis or Leptospirosis. He never met that many *strange dogs*; he just came in contact with a very few neighboring dogs. Even though the city dog is confined to his own back yard, he can still be exposed to distemper. (Distemper is a virus that can be transmitted by two dogs sniffing each other thru a crack in the fence.)

Leptospirosis has always been thought of as a country disease be-

cause of its association with cattle, but actually the variety of leptospirosis that cattle have is different from the varieties that dogs have. Leptospirosis is transmitted through the urine, and in the cities where dog owners are requested to curb their dogs, the puddles of water in the gutter become reservoirs of the disease.

It is obvious that the high density of the population in a city, that multiplies the exposure to disease for people also multiplies the exposure to disease for man's best friend. Fortunately for the city dog, today's vaccines, if properly used, can protect him very successfully against these dangers.

The city dog also has the advantage of all the advances that veterinary medicine has made in the last two or three decades. *Buster seemed to live to a ripe old age, but it wasn't near as long as today's dog.* Not only do new medical techniques and discoveries lengthen the life of a dog, but they make those additional years more enjoyable for both the pet and his owner.

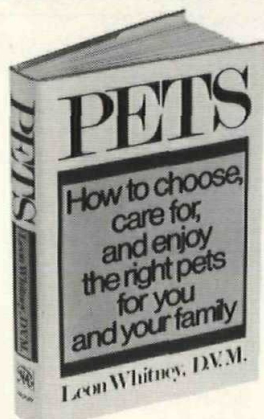
Our memories being what they are, we remember Ol' Buster, but we seem to forget all of the dogs that Uncle Bill had that weren't as lucky as Ol' Buster. Remember the dog that got hit by the car he was chasing? Uncle Bill said his leg was broken so he had to destroy him. Wouldn't have had to do that today, because setting broken legs has become almost routine in veterinary hospitals today. In fact, if we give it some thought, we remember that Uncle Bill went through quite a bunch of dogs before and after Buster.

In closing, though, we'll have to say this for old Buster, he sure knew how to live. He was really a free soul. He did a little work in the morning and the evening and the rest of the day was his. Sure he had a regular routine, but it was his own routine. He simply did his own thing however and whenever he very well pleased. Unfortunately, the city dog is so closely associated with his people that their routine or lack of a routine, really interferes with any attempt he may make to establish a routine of his own. Is it any wonder the city dog seems confused and bewildered a lot of the time, and he takes his frustrations out on the mailman or the meter man?

If at all possible, let your dog establish a routine of his own. Of course he can't be allowed to run all over the neighborhood, but his own private entrance would allow him to go to and from the house to the back yard whenever he felt like it. Actually your four-footed friend already has a pretty good life, and if you'll just take a little time to put yourself in his paws, you may see ways to make it even better.

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trimming your dogs nails..



Talk to your veterinarian if you're unsure about cutting your dog's nails.

by

Vickie Souza

A dog who lives in the country, or who has ample opportunity to exercise, will naturally wear down his nails. However, a dog who lives in a city apartment will need to have his nails checked regularly to prevent them from growing long. Long nails are not only a potential hazard for people and furniture, they can also become sore and painful for your pet.

If you decide to trim your dog's nails yourself, here are a few tips you will find useful:

1) First, never use regular scissors on a dog's nails. These scissors will mash the nails and make your pet's paws sore. Use only trimmers that are specifically designed for trimming a dog's nails. These trimmers can be purchased for \$2.00 to \$5.00 anywhere pet supplies are sold.

2) Before you begin trimming your pet's nails, it's important to place him in a comfortable position on a table top or platform, making certain that all his paws can be easily reached. Try placing your dog on his side for a nail trimming session.

If your dog is nervous or known to be a snapper, it's sometimes a good idea to use a muzzle on him. A simple method of muzzling is to wrap a strip of gauze or cloth twice around the dog's nose. Be sure that the muzzle is *not too tight*, but just snug enough to prevent biting.

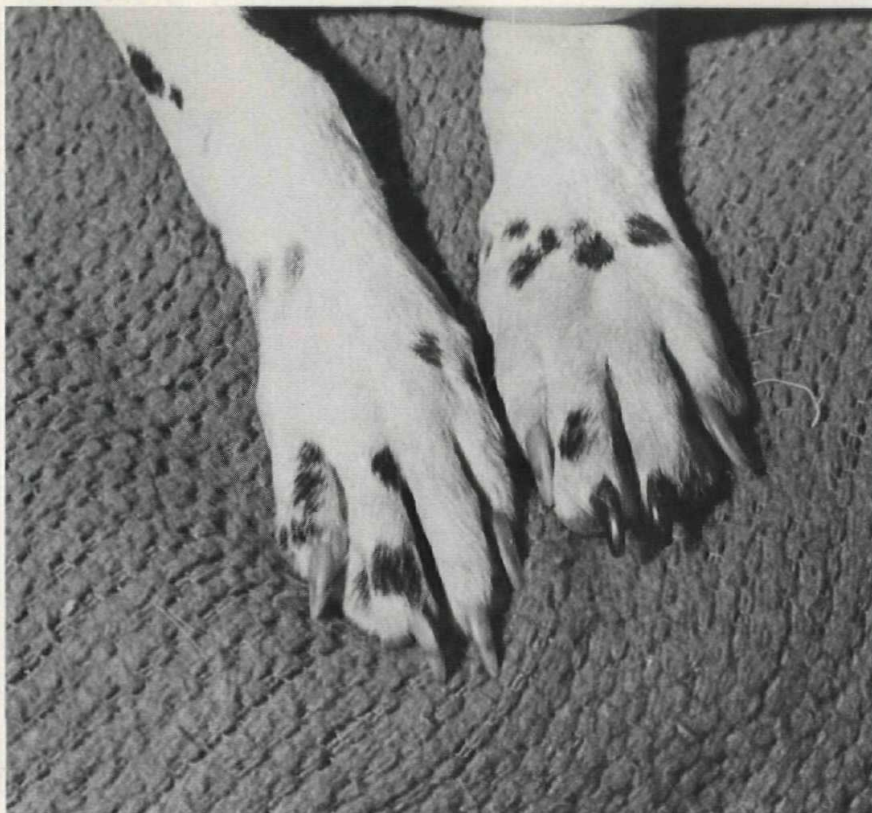
3) When trimming your pet's nails, do not try to cut off the entire nail; instead, flatten the end of the nail so that it cannot scratch.

4) For best results, slip the end of the nail into the opening of the trimmer, being careful not to go too far up into the "quick." Then close the handles slowly until the end of the nail comes off.

5) When the nail is a clear or white color, the "quick" can be identified as a dark pink line. However, when the nail is black, it is difficult to determine where the "quick" begins. In this case, trim only the *very end* of the nail.

6) Your dog's nails may have rough edges after being trimmed. To remedy this, you may want to smooth them with an emery board or finger-nail file.

If you have never trimmed your pet's nails before, check with your veterinarian for any other tips he may want to give you based on your dog's particular case.



Don't trim away too much.

If you love both animals and people, this is the book for you.

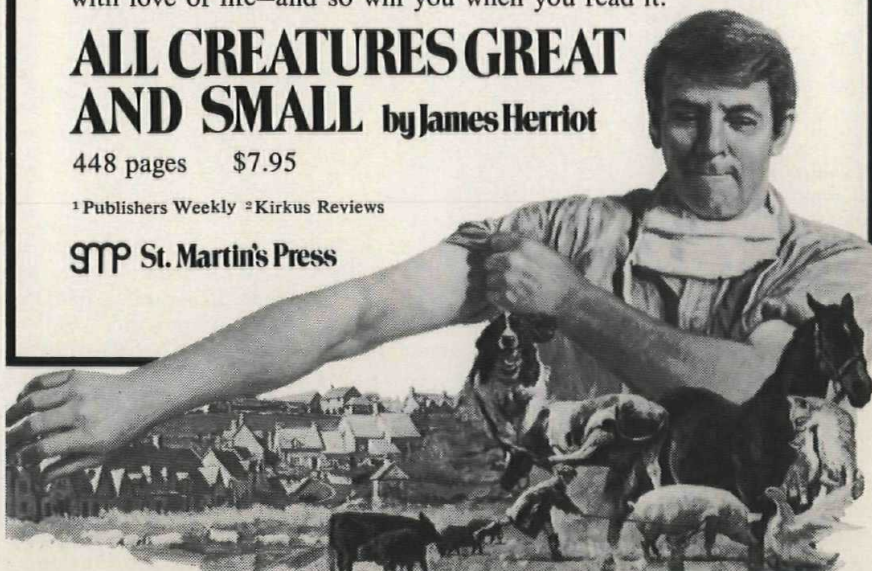
James Herriot is a countryside animal doctor who writes about kittens and ponies, lap dogs and race horses, old cows and new calves. And about people—farmers, farmers' daughters, dowagers, and fellow veterinarians. His book is "warm...gripping...touching...hilarious...a treat"¹, "an enjoyable memoir by a dream vet who enjoys both people and animals."² Not since *THE EGG AND I* has a book so glowed with love of life—and so will you when you read it.

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A TOAD FOR ALL SEASONS

continued from page 23

maintained at room temperature will develop tetany (a state resembling tetanus); it may be fatal and generally can be prevented by vitamin supplement and the addition of a small amount of salt to the water.

Diseases of anurans are exceedingly difficult to cure. *The best policy is to prevent them by maintaining the amphibians in an optimal nutritional state.* In cases of infection, if the animal is a native to your area and the season appropriate, release him. Otherwise, isolate the animal placing him in water containing a high percentage of salt. Thorough disinfection of the terrarium, rocks, etc., is required to avoid infecting the other anurans.

Anurans are among the most intriguing of herptiles. Their colors are polychromatic, their personalities multitudinous and like their predecessors, the fish, much is unknown regarding their life cycles and biological eccentricities. Thorough knowledge of anurans will explain most of the ecological principles that apply throughout the animal kingdom. They have, after all, survived as the first land vertebrates for over two hundred and fifty million years.

26 MILLION CATS

continued from page 17

angry cat flattens its ears against its head, and pricks them forward when alert and expectant. Rubbing his whiskers against your leg denotes affection.

When an owner treats his cat as a cat, the ensuing friendship is extremely gratifying to both parties. Aside from the charming and subtle personality of a cat, there are many practical reasons for owning one. 1) They are exceptionally easy to care for — 2) they are easy to housebreak (a lesson usually taught by mamma cat), 3) they do not require walking or exercising; 4) they keep themselves spotlessly clean and neat.

If you already own a cat, this story will confirm your opinions. In fact, it may prompt you to even want another cat — and if so, go ahead and get one. The experts say that the first few days when your cats are getting to know one another may take patience on your part, but the two should soon (hopefully) be getting along happily together. The new pair will observe each other and be influenced by each other's personality. As a result, each becomes a more interesting pet.

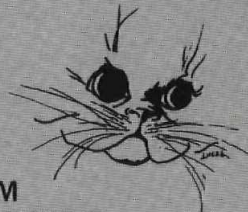
Twenty-six million cat owners can't be wrong! As a matter of fact many kittens will start their family life peeking out of a "stocking hung by the chimney with care" this Christmas.

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