

# ANIMAL CAVALCADE

MAY/JUNE 1975

60¢

THE ANIMAL HEALTH MAGAZINE

BE ON THE ALERT:  
IT'S FLEA SEASON!  
ACUPUNCTURE  
GIVES NEW AID  
TO ANIMALS  
WHAT DO WE DO  
ABOUT THE SURPLUS  
ANIMAL POPULATION?







## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

### THE INVASION

As summer approaches, so do the bugs. Whether you have a choice plant or animal, you are almost sure to have it invaded by some sort of bugs before fall. Some of these enemies can be prevented, but most of them have to be dealt with after they appear.

This issue of Animal Cavalcade, which some like to call "The flea issue," has been devoted primarily to control of external parasites of animals.

Some external parasites are also the cause of severe internal parasite problems, i.e., the Bot Flies of horses, dog and cat fleas, and many others.

The control of parasites requires continuing research to find more effective, safe chemicals and methods of application. It is the aim of ANIMAL CAVALCADE to keep its readers informed on new developments. It is the aim of the Cavalcade's parent, the ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION, to help in the research for more and better products.

As the reader goes through this issue of Animal Cavalcade, I hope that some questions will be answered and that questions will be asked.

Don't forget that the advertisers like to have questions asked of them too. They are very helpful to their readers.

*C. M. Baxter, D.V.M.*  
Editorial Director

### URGENT!!!

Please notify Animal Cavalcade when you move! Failure to do this costs the Animal Health Foundation funds which should be spent on caring for sick animals or for veterinary medical research.

Send change of address information to Animal Cavalcade, 8338 Rosemead Blvd., Pico Rivera, Calif. 90660.

# ANIMAL CAVALCADE

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

MAY/JUNE 1975

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 3

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**COVER:** Eight-month old Sheep dog named Woodrow belonging to Barbara and Manny Vesa of Malibu, California.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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## 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.

### Q. Where do fleas come from?

A. Out of the woodwork, in a manner of speaking. They lay their eggs in cracks in the floor or recesses of furniture in the animal's surroundings. After hatching they jump on and off the nearest animal periodically to feed.

### Q. Are flea collars dangerous to cats?

A. No, not if used according to directions on the box. In a recent study they were 90 to 100% effective against cat fleas for 2 to 3 months. Make certain you use the proper size, and on a young cat check every few weeks to see that it hasn't gotten too tight.

### Q. How often should I bathe my dog? Will that control fleas?

A. As often as you wish — or only when it's necessary — once or twice a year is often enough for many dogs if they are brushed occasionally. Obviously, if he rolls in grease or garbage it's another matter. A medicated

shampoo will help control fleas, and your veterinarian might recommend such for some skin conditions.

### Q. Are dogs allergic to fleas?

A. Dogs and other animals as well as people may become allergic to secretions produced by fleas, in some cases to such an extent that medical treatment is necessary. For such animals in particular a regular program of flea control is necessary — and it will make you a hero to your pet.

### Q. Do all breeds of cats and dogs get fleas?

A. Yes, although some individuals of any breed might appear to be "immune" — perhaps because they tolerate a certain number of fleas better than others.

### Q. How long will fleas live in the house?

A. Under most conditions fleas will live from one to four months, but with moderate temperatures and high humidity they have lived as long as two years.

### Q. If I take my dog on a trip, will it get different kinds of fleas?

A. Possibly, and sometimes it needn't be far off places. Dogs can get cat, rat, chicken (stick-tight) and human fleas, although these "foreigners" won't stay on dogs if they can find a happier home.

### Q. Do horses get chicken mites and lice?

A. Yes, and sometimes they can be quite bothersome for a while — as when a horse is put into an old chicken house that is not properly cleaned and disinfected.

### Q. What do you recommend to control stable flies?

A. Most feed stores carry various sprays suitable for controlling

stable flies — but be sure to follow directions carefully. Keep the stable clean and if possible pile the manure some distance away. If the flies come from next door, put screens on your stable door and windows.

### Q. What do bot flies look like? How do they produce the bots that horses get?

A. The adult bot fly is brown and hairy and resembles a bee, but has only one pair of wings, each of which has a dark band across it. They lay eggs on the hair around the fetlocks or the mane and are licked off by the horse. The larvae, which hatch in the mouth, penetrate the tissues and eventually reach the stomach, where they attach to the lining and grow into full-sized bots. Later they drop off and are passed in the feces, where they form pupae and transform into adult flies.

### Q. What is ringworm?

A. Ringworm is caused by a fungus (mold) that grows in concentric circles, hence the name. The lesions have lines in them that to some people suggest a worm, but 'tain't so. The disease can be passed from animals to persons.

### Q. Is it bad to pull ticks off the skin?

A. Ticks should not be pulled off because this usually leaves some of their mouth parts in the animal's skin, and abscesses might form. Touch them with cotton soaked in alcohol and use tweezers to pick them off when they loosen hold. If they are very numerous, a medicated shampoo may be necessary.

Dear Dr. Smithcors,

In a recent issue of Animal Cavalcade, you stated in "Dr. Advice" that the oldest living dog on record was a Labrador Retriever who lived to be 27 years old. Fact is that a Lhasa Apso named Ch. Hamilton La Pung, owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Finn, of Cedar Grove, New Jersey, passed away on July 4, 1964, at the age of 29. Thought you might appreciate the information.

Sincerely,

John Weidl  
Manager, Puppy Palace  
Oak Lawn, Ill.

P.S. You can check this through T.F.H. Publications, Inc. 211 W. Sylvania Ave., Neptune City, N.J. They published *How to Raise and Train a Lhasa Apso*. Information on Mrs. Finn's dog is on page 21 of this book.



# CAVALCADE NEWS

## ALPO AIDS VETERINARY PROGRAM VIA GENEROUS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Seventeen freshmen students have been named to receive four-year scholarships valued at \$4,000 each under a veterinary scholarship program established in 1971 by ALPO Pet Foods in cooperation with the nation's nineteen veterinary colleges. Two other students will be named, Spring, 1975.

The new recipients join 54 sophomore, junior and senior veterinary students already receiving scholarship aid under the ALPO program.

According to James W. Murray, President ALPO Pet Foods, "Scholarship aid to deserving veterinary students has taken on special meaning as the cost of all professional education has increased over the past decade. The pet food industry should provide leadership in encouraging and supporting deserving students interested in veterinary medicine and prepared to complete the long four-year post-graduate study course."

The ALPO scholarship program was initiated in 1971 with eighteen student scholarships — one at each of the then nation's veterinary colleges. Last year, Louisiana State University opened the nineteenth veterinary school. Today, a total of 76 students are receiving the yearly stipend given under the program. Since its inception, ALPO has provided \$180,000 in support of this program.

Scholarship recipients are selected from among the entering freshmen class, at each of the nation's veterinary colleges. Selection is made by the Deans and the Scholarship committees from each based on the student's financial need and scholarship ability. ALPO Pet Foods reserves no

rights in the selection of students under this program. Once selected, a student receives \$1,000 a year throughout his, or her, four year course of study in veterinary medicine.

Mr. Murray said the other critical needs faced by veterinary colleges are expansion of existing college facilities, and an increase in the number of veterinary colleges so that more interested students can have the opportunity to become veterinarians.

## CALIFORNIANS ELECT MODESTO VETERINARIAN TO HEAD LARGEST STATE ORGANIZATION

MORAGA: The California Veterinary Medical Association, largest regional veterinary medical society in the United States, has elected Dr. William B. (Bill) Wetmore of Modesto as President of the Association and Chairman of the Board of Governors for the coming year.



Dr. William B. Wetmore, Modesto, Ca.

Dr. Wetmore, a pet companion (small animal) practitioner for the past nineteen years, is a graduate of the University of California at Davis where he received his D.V.M. degree in 1955.

Serving as president-elect is Dr. Dan Evans of Escondido, a veterinarian specializing in equine medicine.

The California Veterinary Medical Association, located in Moraga, was founded in 1888, and completed its own building and headquarters last year. It maintains a staff of eight to serve the profession as a liaison with the public and provide the members educational and supportive services. Heading the organization is Kenneth Humphreys, who has served as Executive Director for the past seventeen years. In addition to the State Association, there are 44 Units and Chapters in California.

## CALIFORNIA MORGAN HORSE CLUB

Reprinted courtesy  
California Veterinarian  
March, 1975

Clint M. Baxter, D.V.M., former president of the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association and instrumental in the founding of The Animal Health Foundation and its publication, "Animal Cavalcade," of which he is Editorial Director, has been elected president of the 150-member Morgan Horse Club of Southern California.

The organization meets in a different area each month. Monthly programs concern health, breeding, and showing of Morgan horses. The annual "A" rated show, sponsored by the Morgan Horse Club, is planned for May 30 through June 1 at the Los Angeles County Fair Grounds in Pomona, California.

Dr. Baxter, his wife Helen (former Southern California auxiliary president), and Vicki Smith have been breeding Morgan horses for six years in an attempt to develop a black strain that will breed true. At the present time black Morgans only occur in about one in eight births. Their attempts seem highly successful in that they have only one non-black foal. These horses have a reserved prefix of "Blackjack Morgans."

Dr. Baxter and his wife reside and raise their Morgan horses in Bradbury Estates.

## A METHOD OF CONTROL OF OVERPOPULATION OF BREEDING CATTLE IN U.S.

A resolution calling for a new approach to the handling of brucellosis in cattle was the highlight of the business meeting at the 47th annual meeting of the Intermountain Veterinary Medical Association held at Las Vegas, Nevada. The resolution reads as follows:

"Whereas the American National Cattlemen's Assn. has recognized the problem of over-population of adult breeding cattle, and, whereas the testing and retesting of brucellosis-affected herds is in many cases more expensive than the depopulation of exposed animals,

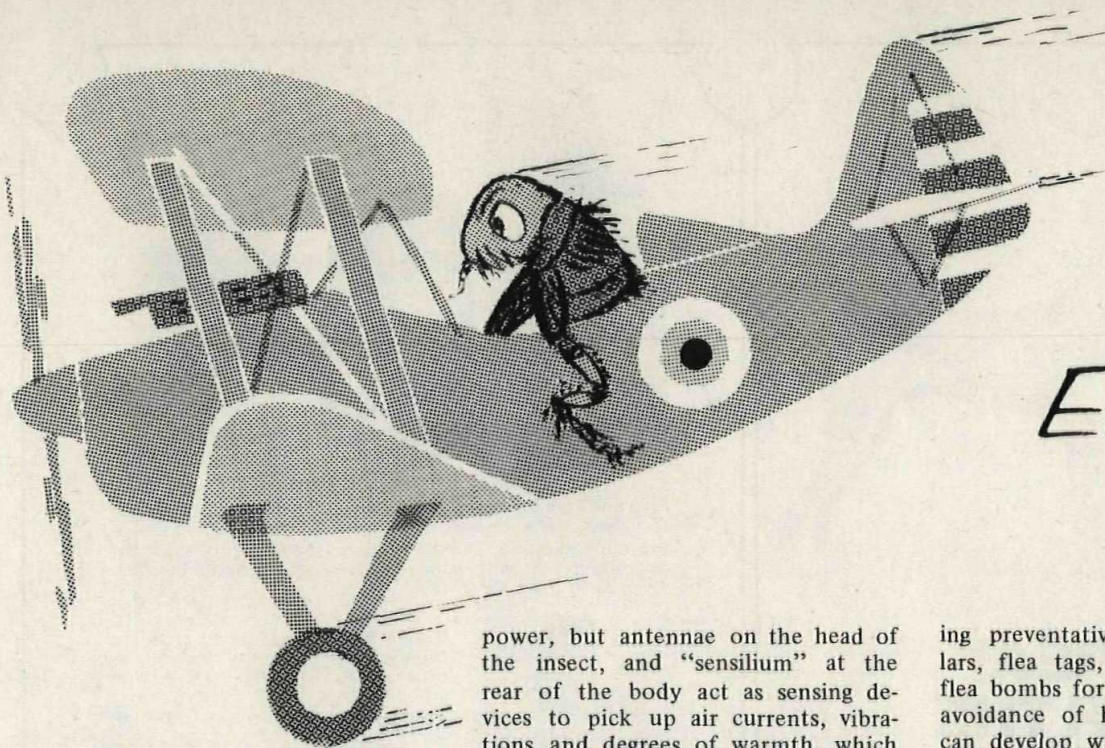
"Therefore, be it resolved that the IVMA encourage the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the state departments of agriculture to seek funding to pay for the depopulation of brucellosis-affected herds, these funds to be derived from funds that might be made available to bolster the economy. They should not be considered as  
*continued on page 28*



## DOGS! Prove Your LOVE for OWNER!

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# Know Your Enemy!

... THE FLEA

A small, seemingly humble creature known as the "flea" is responsible for more deaths than the combined efforts of Hitler, Napoleon, Kubla Khan, Nero and assorted Popes, Pharaohs, and imperialist tyrants.

According to Dr. Donald Rankin, D.V.M., head of Research and Development for Lambert Kay, a firm specializing in flea-killing products for pets, historically fleas have done more damage to mankind than simply "bugging" his best friends.

Veterinarian Donald Rankin notes that fleas have often been the carriers of bubonic plague, transporting the disease from Asian rodents to European rats, and subsequently to Europeans, wiping out whole populations. Fortunately, plague is not nearly as common today as it used to be. Dr. Rankin places the last big epidemic in the late 19th-early 20th century when bubonic plague claimed 13 million lives in Asia, Africa, and America.

Of course, the flea is the source of other discomforts somewhat less earth-shattering than the plague, but annoying nonetheless. In short, they bite.

Tying a flea collar around a cat or dog's neck isn't entirely an altruistic gesture. Dr. Rankin points out that many humans suffer the pains of itchy, prickly fleabites just as their animals do. "That's why pet owners spend millions of dollars each year on flea protection products for pets."

Dr. Rankin notes that fleas are ambitious, hungry and literally blood-thirsty. They have remarkable sensing mechanisms, enabling them to locate a potential host with very little difficulty. They have little or no visual

power, but antennae on the head of the insect, and "sensillum" at the rear of the body act as sensing devices to pick up air currents, vibrations and degrees of warmth, which the flea interprets to give him the whereabouts of his new meal ticket.

Once the flea locates his destination, getting there is no problem. Fleas don't fly, but they are natural jumpers.

In the course of Dr. Rankin's research he found that the known record for flea leaping is eight inches straight up and 12½ inches across. When considered in the light of a flea's relative size, this is like a human being leaping the height of a 35-story building, and zipping through the air for a quarter of a mile before coming to rest. This unique talent enables a flea to thumb a ride on almost any tasty cat, dog, or human in nothing flat.

The most common species of flea to affect this country at present is the *Ctenocephalides canis* - the dog flea. Although this particular flea is fond of canines, he is no less happy when confined to a diet of feline or human blood. Cat fleas are also a problem, and are found all over the world, while the canine-loving variety are indigenous only to temperate climates. Either creature can be the source of many swollen, red, itchy, smarting momentos on the skin of man and his best friends.

It has been said that "a reasonable amount o' fleas is good for a dog - keeps him from broodin' over bein' a dog, mebbe." Perhaps this is a point, but it's doubtful any household Fidos would agree. Fleas burrow into a dog's coat and feast on his blood until the dog scratches miserably and his owner takes the cue, bathing him with one of any number of commercial flea-killing shampoos.

Of course, Dr. Rankin recommends avoiding the problem by tak-

ing preventative measures. Flea collars, flea tags, flea sprays, and even flea bombs for house and yard insure avoidance of health problems which can develop within flea-ridden pets." Ordinary insecticides (sprinkled on dogs and cats) may be harmful to children or to the cats, who often lick themselves clean.

On the brighter side, Dr. Rankin reminds pets and pet owners that they've never had it so good. During the Middle Ages amulets, flea traps, and assorted paraphernalia of dubious preventative value were utilized in eliminating the flea, who at the time was busy spreading bubonic plague.

The method of seizing fleas, one by one and extinguishing them between the thumb and forefinger was by far the most effective device available, and fleas were and are difficult to catch at best.

But there's a lot of misery in store for the contemporary individual who fails to wise-up and take action against the fleas. According to Dr. Rankin, fleas can live for five weeks without food. If a family locks up the house and goes on vacation, any "fallout" from the family pet goes right on propagating. The family returns home to a houseful of the hungry sons and daughters of the dog's or cat's fleas. Given the chance, fleas can all but ruin a home, burrowing into cushioned furniture, draperies, beds, carpets, and easily satisfying their appetites on human hosts.

A purge is achieved by washing down floors and walls with hot soap suds, spreading any wooden cracks with naphthalene, and finally closing up the house for a few hours. The alternative is calling the exterminator, evacuating the house for a full day, and returning to clean thoroughly for removal of all traces of the mass execution. These prospects are not at all cheerful, and the best advice is to avoid fleas "like the plague."



BE ON THE ALERT :

# IT'S FLEA SEASON!

**THE CAT AND DOG FLEA:** both species probably occur throughout the United States, although they are less common in the Rocky Mountain states. The cat flea seems to be more abundant and generally distributed than the dog flea. The head is about twice as long as high in the cat flea while it is only about as long as high in the dog flea. Moreover, the front margins of the heads of these two species have different shapes, as shown in the pictorial key. The angle is more acute in the cat flea than in the dog flea. In most cat fleas the first and second teeth on the genal comb are approximately equal, while in typical dog fleas the first tooth is shorter than the second. Both species are found commonly in homes, under houses, or in yards, preferring locations where dust and organic debris accumulate. These fleas attack cats, dogs, and a wide variety of mammals such as foxes, racoons, and rats. They are serious pests of man, particularly during the summer, causing severe bites. A generation of the cat flea requires about 2 to 4 days for the eggs, 8 to 24 days for the larvae, and 5 to 7 days for the pupal stage.

**THE HUMAN FLEA** is found throughout the warmer parts of the world. It is the most important species attacking man on the Pacific Coast and is often responsible for a dermatitis or allergy due to flea bites. It also causes severe annoyance in the Middle West and South, particularly in homes, barns, barnyards, hogpens, and surrounding premises. On farms, severe infestations of human fleas have often been traced to hogpens where these insects have persisted for weeks or months after the hogs have been carried off to market. The human flea attacks a wide variety of hosts including swine, dogs, coyotes, prairie dogs, ground squirrels, and burrowing owls. This flea has been collected on these last four hosts in areas remote from human habitations. The human flea has been experimentally infected with plague and shown to be capable of transmitting the bacteria in the laboratory.

CAT FLEA



DOG FLEA



HUMAN FLEA





## STICKTIGHT FLEA



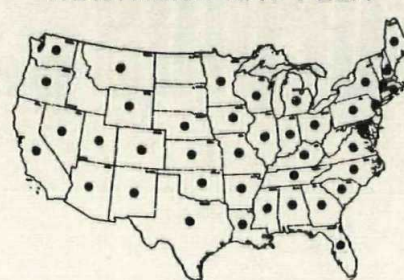
THE STICKTIGHT FLEA is a small species that attaches firmly to its host during the adult stage, often forming ulcers on the head and neck of domestic fowl. The eggs are deposited in these ulcers and, after hatching, the larvae crawl out and drop to the ground to feed upon organic matter. All stages may be found in poultry yards and adjacent buildings. This flea attacks rats, cats, dogs, rabbits, ground squirrels, horses, fowl, and many other animals, including man. The Sticktight Flea has been found infected with plague and can be infected with murine typhus. This flea plays a minor role in disease transmission because the females remain fastened to one host for most of their lives.

THE GROUND SQUIRREL FLEA is a dark brown, medium-sized flea with a very long labial palpi found on ground squirrels (*Citellus*) from Nebraska and Texas to the Pacific Coast. It is capable of transmitting plague among wild rodents. Laboratory tests have shown this flea to be about half as efficient as the Northern rat flea in serving as a vector for plague. Certain species have also been found capable of transmitting plague in laboratory tests.

## GROUND SQUIREL FLEA



## NORTHERN RAT FLEA

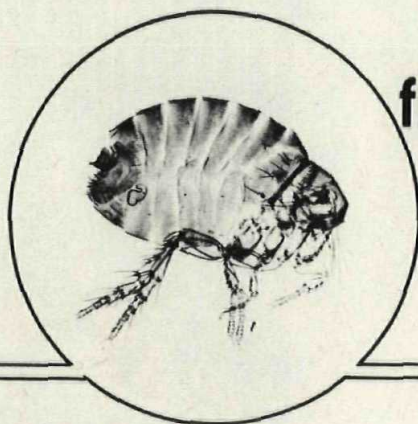


THE NORTHERN RAT FLEA is commonly found on domestic rats and house mice throughout North America and Europe. This flea is not abundant in areas having an extremely warm climate. It does not readily bite man and is most commonly found in temperate regions where plague is not a severe problem. It is the predominant rat flea in the northern United States and is well established in Canada. This species may be of importance in transmission of plague organisms from rat to rat. It has been taken from wild rodents on a few occasions.

*Reprinted courtesy of U. S. Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare*

\*Illustrations not relative in size or proportional to one another. Enlarged to show detail.

## fleas • fleas • fleas • fleas • fleas



egg	larva	pupa	adult
1-2 days	7-10 days	5-10 days	lives 35-40 days
200-300 laid by adult			
Time elapse: (egg-egg laying stage) 15-20 days			Total life cycle: 50-60 days



Chart courtesy of Vet-Kem

## FLEAS IN THE HOUSE

Occasionally a person says, "My dog (or my cat) never gets fleas." Most dogs and cats *do* get fleas. Some seem to have more than others. Some animals are resistant to the parasite. However, a good test to see if your dog or cat gets fleas, is to darken your house when you leave for a week or two. When you return, turn on the lights and get on the rug on your knees. You will be amazed at seeing the fleas jumping, sometimes so thick there is a veritable cloud of them. This is especially true in the summer. These fleas are hungry and looking for an animal (humans included) to jump on and from which to suck blood. Some people get rid of most of the house fleas by letting the dog loose in the infested rooms so the bugs can jump on him. Then immediately, the dog is given a flea bath. This is temporarily uncomfortable for the dog, but it seems to be effective in picking up the fleas. *Be sure to deflea the dog right away.*

A better way to control fleas in the house is to close all windows, remove foods, and "set off" a flea bomb in the middle of the room. Follow directions on the can. Leave the house closed up and do not enter until 12 hours, or more, later. Then, open the windows and ventilate the house well.



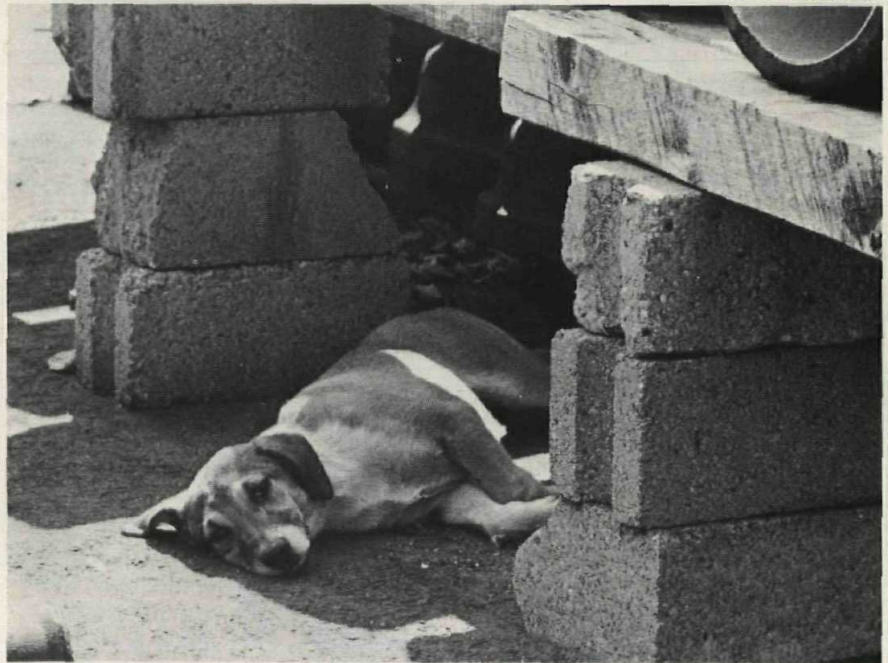
# surplus pet population conference

A First-Hand Report by  
Lois Stevenson

Photos: Lois Stevenson



*Rutherford T. Phillips, Executive Director of the American Humane Association and Dr. D. A. Price, Executive Vice President of the AVMA.*



*A city pipeyard is the only home this dog has ever known, and scraps from lunchpails are his food.*

It was a meeting unparalleled in its historical significance for the pet animal world. It concerned the nation's most crucial animal problem, and it brought together for the first time the country's most divergent viewpoints on how to solve it.

"The National Conference on the Ecology of the Surplus Dog and Cat Problem" held in Chicago, was sponsored jointly by the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Humane Association, American Kennel Club, Humane Society of the United States and the Pet Food Institute.

Officials of these sponsoring groups met with representatives of animal shelters, governmental agencies, hobby breeders, commercial firms and ecological scientists. Together, they explored ways to halt the overwhelming surplus of dogs and cats — a surplus which threatens public health and safety and requires shelters and pounds to destroy 13 million animals every year.

The conference explored the problem from many different facets. According to the discussion, it began at least two decades ago, when animal welfare organizations first began to communicate to an unconcerned public and usually-disinterested local governments, the fact that an increas-



*There are never enough homes for all the surplus kittens, appealing as they are.*





*Three surplus kittens hopefully await a new owner.*

ing stream of dogs and cats was beginning to flood their shelters.

Since then, members of these humane groups have donated massive amounts of time, effort and money in an attempt to stem the growing tide. Yet they have been inundated with increasing millions of unwanted animals, at a recent annual handling cost of \$125 million. They have had no choice but to destroy nearly 80 per cent of them, even though the majority are, or would have been, healthy, affectionate pets.

Looking at the problem from an overall point of view, the conferees agreed:

1. That there are increasing numbers of litters of puppies and kittens taken directly from their mothers to shelters because no homes can be found for them.

2. That dogs and cats abandoned by their owners or taken to pounds and shelters because they are no longer wanted represents the "mass of the surplus." Dr. Alan M. Beck, chairman of the Urban Ecology Task Force, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. said: "This fickle behavior on the part of pet owners is the major factor placing a huge financial burden on taxpayers and local governments."

3. That another major area of concern are uncontrolled animals whose owners let them run loose because of indifference, or because



*"Can that be my owner coming to pick me up?" this stray dog seems to be asking.*

they believe an animal should not be confined. "These animals produce the overturned garbage cans, the dog bite statistics, the damaged gardens, the excrement pollution and the copious urination that kills trees and shrubbery. They also constitute a traffic hazard," Dr. Beck pointed out.

He believes that controlling these pets would help immensely to eliminate overpopulation. According to Dr. Beck, "The leash is the greatest

single birth control device presently available."

4. On the subject of feral (wild) strays, Dr. Robert Schneider, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the University of California Davis' School of Veterinary Medicine, says these constitute only 15 per cent of the surplus; *pets of irresponsible owners account for 85 per cent.* "Because of disease, starvation

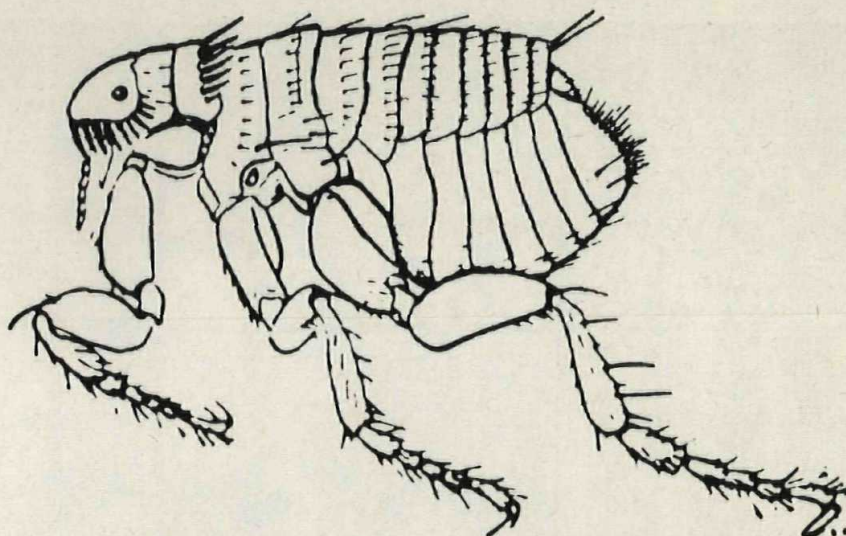
*Continued on page 30*



# FLEAS

## AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR CONTROL ON YOUR PET

by Grover D. Cloyd, D.V.M.



*Flea from the Yearbook of Agriculture, USDA.*

Fleas are parasites principally of dogs, cats, pigs, people, rodents, rabbits, and birds. They show little host specificity, and when hungry enough most species will attack any source of blood. There are over 1,500 species of fleas. Since these tend to be casual in their choice of host, they may in some cases need identification as to their source.

Four species are commonly found on dogs and cats — the dog flea, *Ctenocephalides canis*; the cat flea — *C. felis*; the human flea — *Pulex irritans*; and the sticktight flea — *Echidnophaga gallinacea*. The first three are quite active and run through the hair when disturbed. The sticktight flea attaches permanently on the less hairy parts such as the regions around the eyes and ears. Otherwise the habits of all four species are similar. Cat, dog and human fleas infest houses.

### Four Key Stages

All fleas pass through four stages — the egg, the larva, the pupa, and the adult. Copulation in fleas occurs over a blood meal. Eggs are laid off the host or fall off after being laid and develop to the adult stage before becoming parasitic. The eggs, which are oval, white and glistening, are laid on the premises in cracks of buildings or on damp ground. The female lays only three to eighteen eggs at one time, but with frequent blood meals and frequent copulations she may lay several hundred over her life span of one year. The larvae are not parasites, but live on organic matter in the dust or soil. The dust in habitual sleeping or resting places of heavily infested animals contains dried blood that was passed in the feces of adult fleas, which makes an especially favorable food for the larvae.

In about two weeks the larva

becomes full grown and spins a tiny cocoon in which it transforms into a pupa. The pupa changes to an adult flea after a week or more, but the adult may not emerge for some time unless disturbed. Adult fleas separated from the host live only one to two months. Fleas do not live at altitudes higher than 5,000 feet. They lay most eggs when the temperature reaches the range of 65°F to 80°F, and when the humidity is high (70%).

Fleas often breed in tremendous numbers in rooms of buildings where dogs and cats are kept. The larvae proceed with their development even when the host is taken away, and the resulting adults may continue to appear for several weeks. If no cats or dogs are present, the flea becomes particularly noticeable and annoying to people.

### Flea Bites

Fleas produce severe irritation because of their frequent bites. The irritation induced by flea bites may lead to self-mutilation by the host through scratching and biting. This mutilation may open lesions which can become infected with bacteria or other agents. Flea saliva which contaminates the flea bite is highly antigenic in some individuals and produces an allergic dermatitis. Fleas may be mechanical vectors of many diseases. The rat flea is an important vector of *Pasteurella* infection (plague). The cat and dog fleas also are the intermediate host for the dog tapeworm.

In the past it was thought that the dog and cat fleas were the ones most commonly found on pets. Recent data have shown that the human flea is also becoming a problem. The rat flea may also attack dogs, cats, and man.

Some dogs and cats seem more attractive to fleas than others, and some seem more susceptible to flea bites than others. Frequently a pet owner will complain that one particular dog in a multiple-pet family will have all of the flea problems while the other pets are seldom bothered. Some people are more susceptible to flea bites than others. The bites on man tend to be on the lower legs.

### Flea Control

Because fleas spend only short periods on the host, their control with periodic dips, shampoos, sprays and powders gives only momentary relief. Because some stages of the life cycle of fleas are spent off the host, treatment of the areas frequented by dogs and cats has been widely recommended, especially where the infestation is spreading. The use of dusts and sprays in and around home areas requires repeated application, and if the adult flea on the dog is not controlled, it needs to be a continuous process. Since every flea at the adult stage of its life cycle comes in contact with the host for a blood meal before reproduction can ensue, the most logical pressure point against an exploding flea population is on the host itself. Animals may be treated with dusts, sprays, shampoos and powders, but like the area treatment, these leave holes in the pressure applied against the flea population and require a frequent and thorough application. The most effective means of controlling fleas is through the use of an antiflea collar. This collar applies continued pressure against a flea population and if used continuously over a period of months, will gradually reduce the flea infestation in the area the dog and cat frequents. Flea collars have been successfully used on millions of pets.





*Dr. Grover D. Cloyd, Director of Veterinary Medicine and Consumer Products R&D, appears above when he was featured as one of the nation's foremost experts on fleas and as a developer of the Sargent's Sentry IV flea collar marketed by Miller-Morton.*

While flea control prevents the hazards brought about by the parasite, that is, self-mutilation, irritation, flea-bite allergy, mechanical transmission of bacterial and other diseases, and tapeworm infestation, it also presents a problem to a very few animals. Anti-flea-collar problems fall into the following categories:

1. Contact dermatitis may be produced by the plastic and/or the medication contained in the collar in those dogs which are basically allergic to these chemicals just as some people are allergic to various hair sprays, fingernail polish, and cosmetics.
2. If the collar is not applied properly and is too tight, a mechanical irritation and dermatitis may ensue.

Those pet owners that apply the collar loosely, i.e., so that three fingers may be inserted between the collar and the neck of the animal and observe their pet frequently during the first week or so the collar is worn, will find there is no problem that cannot be recognized early enough to be eliminated.

Since many millions of dogs and cats have worn flea collars for years without trouble, the use of these collars need not necessarily be discouraged because of the irritation it

causes in some individuals, the good done through flea eradication is greater than the harm done to a very few individuals by the collar that is improperly applied. It must be remembered that there are few medications used therapeutically or prophylactically that do not also cause some side effects. This does not prevent their use when there is an indication for them. Understanding the flea and the problem it causes and the excellent control afforded by the use of the antiflea collar gives greater confidence to the owner in eliminating this irritating and hazardous parasite from his dog or cat.

If he were to eliminate all chemical control of fleas from dogs and cats, then we would face the necessity of losing some five to ten million of the eighty million pets in our homes with the ravages of bacteria, allergies, and tapeworm infestation to which the flea makes a sizable contribution.

#### **Why the Flea?**

*The question has been asked — why the flea in the first place? This is a logical question and deserves a logical answer. The flea, as a parasite, joins other external and internal parasites in placing a burden upon booming canine and feline population and effecting their control through biological means. In the wild the dog, cat,*

*fox and other species seldom live in concentrated populations as they do in domestic situations. When man removes an animal from its natural environment and imposes upon it the artificial conditions of domestication, he also inadvertently imposes the opportunity for parasites, both external and internal, to attack this animal. Therefore, it is necessary to use artificial means to control the parasites that have been allowed to experience a population explosion under the conditions which surround the dog and cat under domestic situations. An authority on wild life has said that fleas eliminate the second litter of squirrels due to anemia in the babies and driving the mother away from the nest. The first generation, born early in the spring, does not have the flea burden, but during the nesting period the flea population explodes so that the next litter is put under tremendous pressure. There are many other examples in the ecology, for external and internal parasites are of benefit in preventing exploding populations.*

Year of the flea! Fleas experience cycles in population increase and decrease. Warm summers with high humidity lead to high flea numbers in the fall and if the following winter is mild with little "winter kill," the following spring sees fleas emerging in high numbers.



"I DON'T KNOW HOW  
IT WORKS, I JUST KNOW  
THAT IT WORKS."

— BOBBY KLEIN

# Acupuncture

ACUPUNCTURE — A 5,000 YEAR OLD SYSTEM OF MEDICINE ROOTED IN THE DISCIPLINES OF ANCIENT EGYPT AND CHINA — IS A WORD THAT CONJURES UP VISIONS OF LONG NEEDLES AND HOCUS-POCUS IN THE MINDS OF MOST WESTERNERS.

PRESENTED HERE IS AN INTERVIEW WITH ACUPUNCTURIST BOBBY KLEIN\* BY NORENE HARRIS OF THE ANIMAL CAVALCADE STAFF. MR. KLEIN EXPLORES WHAT ACUPUNCTURE IS, WHY IT WORKS, AND, IN PARTICULAR, EXPLAINS SOME OF THE WONDERS IT HAS WORKED FOR ANIMALS.

IN PART II OF THIS ARTICLE, ANIMAL CAVALCADE WILL EXPLORE INNOVATIONS BEING MADE IN VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE AT A NEW CLINIC IN FULLERTON, CALIF. RUN BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE, NAVA.

*Editor's Note: NAVA was originally sponsored by the Animal Health Foundation with whom they now have a cooperative relationship.*

\*Bobby Klein is a practicing acupuncturist on the Board of Directors of both the National Association of Veterinary Acupuncture and the National Tai Chi Chuan Institute.

**NH** How did you get interested in acupuncture?

**BK** I've been interested in dealing with medicine for a long time. As a kid, I was always reading about it. As for acupuncture, I've been treated with it myself. I was having a terrible problem with my eyes. They were completely bloodshot, and felt like there was sandpaper under the lids. I could barely even sleep. I heard about an acupuncturist from a friend and decided to try it. I want to see him and he cured me in 15 minutes.

**NH** You're kidding.

**BK** It's a true story. He put needles in at certain points in each wrist and took a drop of blood from each ear and looked at me for a while. He twirled the needles around while I was saying to myself, "You are crazy to do this." Then he held up a mirror to my eyes and said, "Look." I looked into the mirror and I was cured. I couldn't believe it.

I said, "How did you do it?" He said, "Acupuncture good." I asked him to teach me and he said, "No, no, no. Secret knowledge learned in monastery — not teach anybody."

So I said, "OK, I'm not leaving till you teach me." I must have appealed to his sense of Chinese hospitality. This was all about 7 years ago.

**NH** What happened next?

**BK** I got to study with him at the

*Acupuncturist Bobby Klein with patient Fido. Acupuncture research is investigating new possibilities for treatment.*





same time some psychology students from UCLA had asked him to speak to their group. This group is now the UCLA Acupuncture Clinic. Another group was formed called the National Acupuncture Association. We all came together through this man. We continued to study together for four years. Part of the study included doing his dishes, cleaning his house, and getting his laundry. Sometimes he'd write a little note in Chinese and send us to the herb

store. It sometimes felt a great deal like being in grammar school. For a couple of years we just had to watch and listen. We memorized the names of the points in Chinese and English, what they were for, what type of application was used. Was it a needle or was it *moxa*, an herb that is heated to temperatures up to 600°. During the day he would quiz us on it. When I first showed up for class, I had a little notebook and started taking notes. Just like in school.

Before I knew what had happened, he took the book out of my hand, or rather, being an expert in Tai Chi, he knocked the book out of my hand, clear across the room. There was a patient in the room and it caused a great deal of commotion. I said, "What did I do? What did you do that for?" He said, "You lose book, you not able to fix people. You remember. I remember." So that's how they teach you. Very monastic.

**NH** Did you learn anything by watching him with a patient?

**BK** Yes. Along with the lectures and the quizzes, we each got our own set of needles. We had to practice a thousand times a day to get the right strength in our hands so that we could insert a needle properly. At the beginning, I couldn't put a needle in without bending it in half. But after the exercise, your strength and concentration come so that the needle goes in the right spot. *The acupuncture point is actually not very much bigger than the tip of your needle.*

**NH** What kept you going through that much discipline?

**BK** I knew I was learning something very important. There was no doubt about it. I would see people come in agony, bent over, twisted up with pain — and walk out of there dancing.

**NH** Are you still technically in training, or are you finished?

**BK** I am a practitioner. But I must practice under the supervision of an MD or a DVM.

#### ACUPUNCTURE POINTS

**NH** How many acupuncture points are there?

**BK** In humans, about 1,000.

**NH** Part of your training then was to learn the points and when to puncture them.

**BK** When to puncture them for what.

**NH** In unison?

**BK** In combination. Sometimes we use just one or two points to treat something. Sometimes twenty.

◁ Bobby Klein uses acupuncture to increase the number of eggs of a favorite chicken.





## ACUPUNCTURE AND ANIMALS

**NH** How did you get involved with the animal aspect of acupuncture?

**BK** The association I worked with under Dr. Ju started doing publicity about acupuncture. Then, in January 1973, the California Veterinary Medical Association appointed a committee to study acupuncture in veterinary medicine. A lot was based on the principles we used in human medicine. What we've done for a number of animals has been quite successful.

**NH** Can you give me some examples?

**BK** Mr. Fritz is an 11 year old Dachshund who went down some time ago. He had lost the use of his back legs. All he could do was drag them down the last third of his spine. He had big sores on his legs from dragging himself. The neurologist looked at him and thought there was nothing they could do and that perhaps surgery would help. But they weren't really sure. There had been some damage, but they couldn't see how to really treat it. He was one of our first cases. After a few treatments he came out and started to walk, and the last time I saw him he was running.\*

*\*Ed. Note: As of 2/26/75, Mr. Fritz is completely recovered and very healthy. He runs, jumps and climbs the same as he did before his injury.*

**NH** Any examples of acupuncture used with horses?

**BK** We had a few horses with laminitis, which is a foot disease. With laminitis an edema starts on the inside of the hoof between the outer part of the hoof — which we can see — and bone that runs close inside it. It's very painful and difficult to treat. Acupuncture has been able to treat the problem.

## SUCCESS AND RELAPSE

**BK** There was a mare we worked with who had terrible emphysema. She had a great deal of difficulty expelling air from her lungs. Her whole body would rumble and shift. Dr. Shin treated her the same way we would treat a human being, and in 5 minutes, the horse was breathing normally. This was the first time out at this particular ranch and there were a lot of veterinarians standing around. It really surprised them. Twenty minutes later, however, the mare relapsed. After another treatment she was OK for a couple of weeks and then she relapsed again.

**NH** It's hard to believe such dramatic results — even temporarily.

**BK** It is. But again, the cases we see as acupuncturists are pretty far gone. We are the last resort. We had a fascinating case a while back sent by the University of California, Davis. A little Yorkshire terrier that circled to the right. It couldn't walk straight. The problem was diagnosed as congenital hydrocephalitis which is fluid in the tissue of the brain. After several treatments he walked straight about 80% of the time. That dog hadn't walked straight in 2 years. Incredible. However, after treatments were stopped, he relapsed.

We had another case, an emergency, with an Irish Setter that had been hit by a car. It had a fractured skull and was in a coma. Classically, we learn in humans that if someone is in a coma that by acupuncturing the 10 emergency points and drawing a drop of blood from each that we can



*Acupuncture in veterinary medicine is best seen as an adjunct to Western medicine.*

bring them out of it. We tried this with this dog, and by the time we had finished, the dog was up and walking — looking like it had been hit by a car — but it was up and walking outside to eliminate. He drank some water and laid down and went back to sleep. Anyway, he needed to be brought up again. This time Dick (Dr. Dick Glassberg) did the procedure and brought him out of it.

**NH** Are there many more points for animals than there are for humans?

**BK** We're doing research now to find out just how many points there are for different animals, and where they are.

**NH** How have pet owners felt about their animals undergoing acupuncture?

**BK** For most of these people, acupuncture is very far out. These people love their pets a great deal to go this far. They are fascinated and bring their friends. They can hardly believe what happens. *They're right there with their animals the whole time, petting them, talking to them and keeping them calm. The acupuncture treatment of animals tends to have a tranquilizing effect on everyone involved.*

**NH** Have there been any regressions on the animals you've worked with thus far?

**BK** There have been regressions. We treat the animals, they get better, and they go back a little. Progress in acupuncture is usually rather hilly. You come up and go down, but never as far down as you were originally. You're always making forward progress. In addition, some animals have not responded.

## WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS

**NH** If I'm like most people, I never think of acupuncture in any other terms than as a last resort to end pain when all else fails.

**BK** Unfortunately, with animals and people, those are the only cases I ever get to see, despite the fact that in China acupuncture was originally conceived as preventative medicine.

**NH** That's different from anything I've heard.

**BK** It's also pretty much in opposition to prevailing concepts. That is, there's a big difference between treating people when they're sick and treating people to keep them from getting sick.

## ALTERNATIVES WITHIN THE ACUPUNCTURE TRADITION

**NH** You mentioned two kinds of acupuncture — one using needles and the other, using herbs. When would you use the herb, moxa?

**BK** The needle will disperse energy at a point when a point is very congested. But classically, there are acupuncture points in the body that are forbidden to needle. Sometimes you use the two methods separately, sometimes together.

**NH** Is there pain involved with either of these methods?

**BK** You feel a pin prick, or, in the case of moxa, which is heated to very high temperatures, you feel heat.



**NH** How do you use them in combination?

**BK** You will heat some of the herb on top of the needle. Often the needle is heated by a stick of moxa.

#### RELATING ACUPUNCTURE TO HUMAN CONCERNS

**BK** As part of my study, the master acupuncturist told us we would also have to do this form of exercise from Tai Chi which develops the body's total energy. It was developed around the same time as acupuncture. It keeps your channels clear, and makes the body very supple, very elastic like with Yoga. You end up having more strength than you've ever had with less muscle. Your body is toned. I've seen it do wonders for people. It did a lot for me. The man I studied with is Marshall Ho'o. An incredible man. He is a Tai Chi master in his late 60's and looks 30. He was the one responsible for bringing this acupuncture group together.

**NH** In acupuncture, is the idea for people to be able to keep their balance of energy almost through will?

**BK** Through will and through doing the proper exercise. Eating well. It's a circle. It's everything. Avoiding stress. *Often in our society it's very difficult to keep your balance.*

**NH** I know.

#### ACUPUNCTURE LAWS

**BK** The Board of Examiners says that veterinary acupuncture can be performed only under the direct, visual supervision of a licensed DVM working on a research project, or at a school of veterinary medicine. The National Association for Veterinary Acupuncture (N.A.V.A.) is supervised by the School of Veterinary Medicine at U.C. Davis.

*Editor's Note: Animal Cavalcade would like to thank Mr. Klein for the time and effort involved in participating in this interview, and for his positive approach toward acupuncture. We feel that although veterinary acupuncture has done some astounding things — it is not a panacea. There have been regressions, relapses, and even failures. Acupuncture has been able to help some injuries and diseases that have baffled*

*Western medicine. In the best of all possible worlds, acupuncture and Western medicine would work side by side, complimenting one another and facilitating the progress of medicine in general.*

*"Acupuncture in veterinary medicine is in its infancy. It's going to take a lot of work and a lot of study before it realizes its potential. However, I feel that it may play as important a part in medicine as antibiotics and steroids (cortisone)."*

Dr. Richard Glassberg

Be sure and read Part II of the acupuncture story with highlights from the new N.A.V.A. clinic in the July/August issue of Cavalcade.

For information regarding veterinary acupuncture please contact: National Association for Veterinary Acupuncture, P.O. Box 5181, Fullerton, California 92635; or N.A.V.A. Clinic, 2926 E. Miraloma Ave., Anaheim, California 92806, Phone (714) 630-6970 or (714) 879-2266.

MORE ON ACUPUNCTURE — SEE PG 27

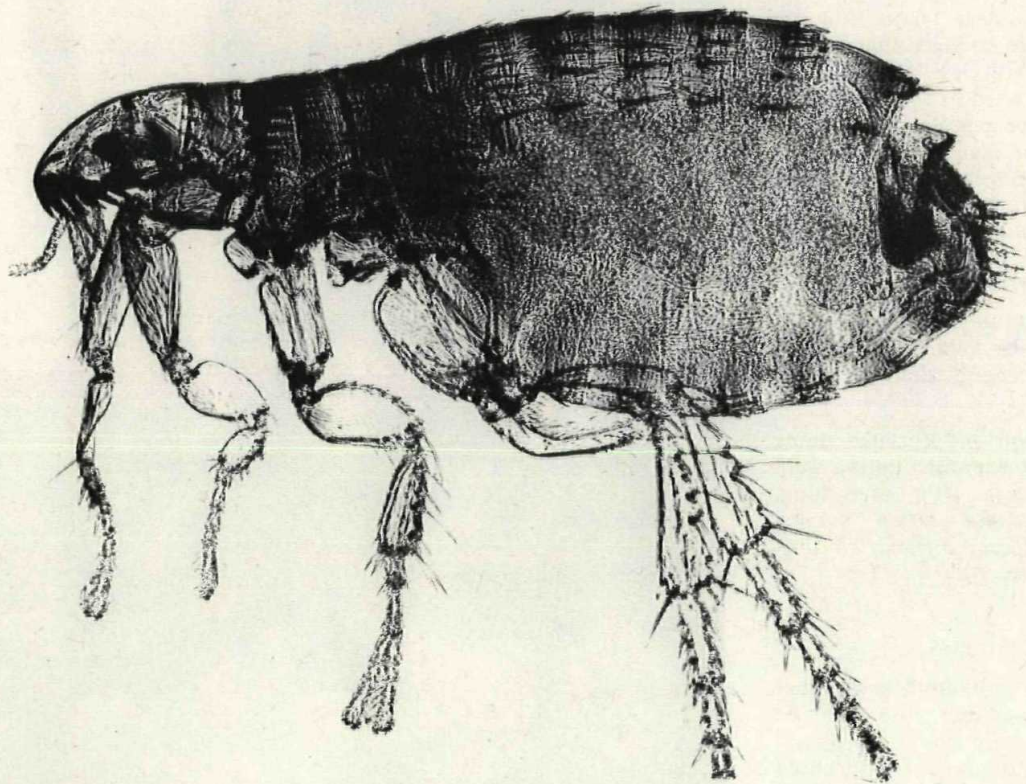


Acupuncture — A 5,000 year old practice, is making new headway in veterinary medicine. ▷



# *tiny miracle jumper*

... IS A MENACE !



CAT FLEA

Photo: USDA, Office of Information

## **BEWARE!...FLEA ALLERGY DERMATITIS**

The most common allergic skin disease in the dog develops when certain dogs become hypersensitive to flea bites. The allergic agent is contained in the saliva or mouth parts of the flea and is injected into the dog when the flea feeds. The disease usually occurs during the warm months and is commonly called summer eczema.

The disease begins near the tail head on the rump of the dog. The patient will scratch or rub this area intensely, causing the hair to fall out and often ulcerating the skin. In severe cases the hair loss can become more generalized and involve large areas of the body. Although the disease occurs more commonly in the summer months, many dogs will show signs constantly through the year. The flea can complete its life cycle in the home environment and thus can cause constant irritation to hypersensitive dogs.



by Duane Valentry

What lives only a brief period and yet has killed more humans than anything else? The honor goes to the flea, which throughout history has been right beside man if not *on* him wherever he has gone.

This mighty mite gets around — over the whole earth and has even been found in a sealed space capsule.

"Tormenting beyond all other discomforts," wrote explorers Lewis and Clark, putting the flea at the top of their list of hardships.

Scientists agree the flea is a marvel. Though tiny, it has played a remarkably bad part in man's history. Fleas cause illness in animals and disease in man. They are responsible for spreading deadly plague through entire countries by traveling on rats that enter houses and food storage and causing the death of millions in past eras.

To catch a flea is almost impossible. It is fast and tough, with a body covered with smooth backward pointing hairs or spines. It has been called the "escape artist" of the world! Too, it grows and lives almost everywhere and in any climate.

The flea is an amazing piece of machinery. Called a "miracle in action," it can jump *84 times as high* and *132 times as far* as its own length and *210 times as high* and *330 times as far* as its own height, says a scientist.

"At the same time, it can go 18 months without food or water! It gets this tremendous energy from food it has eaten in the larval stage."

Animal fleas are not like those that jump on humans. They are made with a *comb* to more easily travel over dog, cat, fox, possum or rabbit.

It lives on the animal's blood; the sharp point on the flea's nose, called a "stylus," acts as a tiny saw making many small cuts — for example, some 600 cuts by 25 fleas in 24 hours, it is figured, are what drives the pet crazy.

Fleas can be kept off pets by careful spraying with flea killer — the spray should be one harmless to pets. Flea powder helps, but keeping your

pet's bedding clean is most important.

"When the flea bites, the pet scratches and becomes sore," says a veterinarian. "Your pet may be clean of fleas and yet pick them up when walking, so be sure to put flea powder on underparts and brush often to remove flea eggs. Put salt in sofas or chairs to destroy flea eggs."

Both fox and raccoon cleverly get rid of fleas. Carrying a stick with leaves, or even a tuft of hair, in its mouth, the animal backs slowly into a lake or pond. As the water rises the fleas scurry higher, then jump for the stick, and the fox or coon floats away!

Can a flea be trained? In a flea circus, they wear tiny costumes and pull tiny carriages. A fine silk thread is tied around the flea's neck and training is done through a magnifying glass. First, it is trained to walk without jumping, which takes much patience. But fleas learn to jump through hoops and pull objects several hundred times their weight. One dollar for ten fleas is offered by a flea circus in Montreal.

"Apparently once a flea has painstakingly been made to perform a certain act repeatedly," it is explained, "the act becomes such a firmly established conditioned reflex that the flea is not able to break away from it."

Countless fleas tormented man and beast in the Middle Ages, when even the civilized world was far less clean than today, and people wore "flea glasses" to keep them from hopping in their eyes. "Flea furs" around the shoulders were supposed to attract and trap the fleas.

Under the microscope, the flea is astonishing. A parasite living on a host, animal or bird or human, some require special hosts, while others are not so choosy, jumping on anything alive. Flat and wingless to move through hair and impossible to crush, the flea grows fat on blood. A different order than lice, they are often confused with them.

Legs of the flea are powerful,

made for great leaps. The head has short antenna, sometimes a pair of eyes, strong black spines or combs, unless these are elsewhere on the body (human fleas don't have comb-parts), the mouth made to pierce and suck blood. Ugly, but a marvel.

"Fleas have gone a long way and deserve their position near the top of all insects," says a naturalist.

The flea lays eggs in the coat of the host, which fall to its bed or nest where the larvae remain to feed on bits of debris. The flea only likes a host that can provide it with a warm nest, den, or sleeping place.

Especially made for rapid motion through fur, a single flea will bite many times, so that it often seems as if a house or animal is overrun when only a few are doing the biting.

"Nothing should be done in a hurry except catch fleas," is one of the many sayings that have come down in literature, including the Bible. The flea is also found in superstition... "A flea on your hand, a letter from the country!"

Some sayings make sense, considering the nature of this pest.

"The fatter the flea, the leaner the dog!" "That's a valiant flea that dares eat his breakfast on the hip of a lion;" "He put the bite on you."

The flea may once have had wings which it lost. Though sprays help, there seems no way at present to rid the world of them. For one of the world's strangest hobbies, Robert George, a London teacher, has made a flea map of England.

"The map will show what kind of flea is to be found in any part of England. So far we have catalogued and bottled over 60,000 fleas. The fact that they aren't popular gives me a chance to find out lots about them."

Helping him make his flea map are 70 assistants in different areas. Recently one was sitting under a tree in Surrey when a flea hopped into his lap. He caught it and mailed it to the teacher.

"That became the first cat flea ever found in Surrey," said George.



# BUSHRANGER'S CURIOUS ALLERGY

by Grover Brinkman

The rimrock was still warm from the sun's heat. Stretched out at the brink of the canyon, Binge Colby tapped the shoulder of the boy at his side.

"Listen, Joey! There it is again!"

Joey Lance, the Navajo boy, shrugged his shoulders. "Sounded like a wolf to me, Binge."

"Not a wolf!" Binge insisted. "It's our dog — Bushranger!"

"It can't be!" Joey argued. "Bushranger is dead. You know he is dead!"

"We never found his body, Joey. Just because Slim Bonney said he shot all six of the wild dogs, doesn't mean he's dead—"

"He's dead," Joey persisted. "Bushranger was always at our side. If he didn't get killed, why didn't he come back to you—or me? Not a Navajo has seen him."

"I haven't seen him, either," Binge argued. "But just now I heard him!"

Far down the canyon came a plaintive, long-drawn sound that was either wolf or dog. It came again, the sound wafted upward by the air currents always present in the canyon.

Joey shrugged. "Binge, you're imagining things. That's a wolf!"

"Even if it is a dog, or a pack of dogs," Joey argued, "it means nothing but trouble."

Binge was silent. Joey was right, of course. Dogs that ganged up and ran wild were a menace to all ranchers. In a single night, a dog pack could ravage a flock of sheep.

Binge's uncle, James Colby, was a sheepman. His ranch was one of the largest in the valley, bordering the Navajo reservation ranges on High Mesa. Binge and Joey had been neighbors for a long time.

Bushranger had come to them

early in the Spring. He had just walked up to the ranchhouse one morning, one of the prettiest Shepherds that Binge had ever seen. There was no collar on him, no identification. No one was with him.

They had advertised in the valley weekly newspaper in Pine Valley. "Just keep him until someone lays claim," the sheriff advised. "If no one does, after ninety days, turn in a bill for his care, and we'll see if we can make him yours legally."

No one answered the ad. Months passed, and Bushranger turned into one of the finest sheep dogs on the range. He worked well with other dogs, soon learned their routine, and established new herding tactics all of his own.

"Best dog we ever had!" Uncle James said, stroking the shaggy head.

And then one dark, stormy night, Bushranger disappeared just as suddenly as he had come.

"Can't understand it!" James Colby said. "Disappearing in a storm—"

Now, with the moon shining down, painting the desert with silver, Binge and Joey lay listening to the noise of a dog pack in the canyon below.

"Those are sheep-killers down here," Joey said, pointing. "If Bushranger is leading that pack, he won't have long to live."

Binge pulled back from the rim, sat up. "Why would he leave in a storm?" he asked. "Something happened to him that night. Maybe he was ill."

"Regardless of what happened, he wouldn't be a friend any more, not if he's running with those sheep-killers."

The next afternoon, however, Binge rode fast toward the

CHILDRENS PAGE...



Navajo village. When he saw Joey, busy in the sheep-shearing shed with his father, he pulled up.

"A dozen ranchers are at our place," he explained. "I overheard some of the things they said. Twenty sheep were killed in the valley last night. The ranchers are going after the dogs tonight."

Joey's face sobered. "What can we do about it?" he asked finally. "The pack must be wiped out, if they're killers."

"I know," Binge said. "But what if Bushranger is leading them?"

"There is no Bushranger, Binge!"

"Binge didn't try to argue. Even his best pal didn't believe the Shepherd was alive. Possibly Joey was right. Still, he had heard Bushranger's squeaky bark! He was positive the dog was alive!

"Will you go along with me tonight, merely to check?" he asked Joey. "We will watch from the rimrock, near that box canyon. If the ranchers trap the pack, this will be the spot."

"Okay," Joey said. "I'll go with you, but we won't find Bushranger."

The moon hung yellow over the valley as the two boys crawled out on the rimrock. They lay motionless, listening. Hundreds of sheep were down in the canyon, herded for the night. There were ranchers down there as well. Men with guns.

The minutes ticked by. Binge felt his hands gripping the rock face, ears attuned to the slightest sound. But all was quiet. The sheep were at rest; no dogs. Above them, a whippoorwill cut capers in the sky, powerdiving over the crags. Far off came the cry of a coyote, but no dogs.

"It's past midnight," Joey said at last.

"The dog pack is wise. They're not in the canyon tonight."

"You could be right," Binge agreed. "They've smelled trouble—"

He stopped, with a quick intake of breath. Moving down from the far rim suddenly were tawney shapes. They came down the shale, silent as the night itself, toward the sleeping flock.

"Look!" Binge said. "There they come! Dogs, Joey, eleven, twelve—"

"That big fellow leading them!" Joey exclaimed. "It's a Shepherd."

"Yes!" Binge admitted. "There he goes! Yes, it's a Shepherd without doubt."

The pack raced toward the sheep now. Startled ewes, realizing their danger, started running blindly. Lambs bleated in terror; old bucks stood still, stomping. Then the dogs reached the flock, tearing, jumping atop the startled animals. And the big Shepherd was in the midst!

"It can't be Bushranger!" Binge said. "It just can't!"

"What are we going to do?"

"We're going down there, right now!" Binge said. "Grab a club!"

Joey grasped his arm. "We might get shot. Ranchers are down there, too, with guns!"

"We can't let those sheep get killed!" Binge said. "Come on!"

They started skidding down a shale slide, working to the canyon floor. They were running toward the terrified flock now, shouting, swinging their clubs.

But they were no match for the dog pack, Binge realized. They were in a dangerous spot as well, among terrified, milling sheep and maddened wild dogs, savage as wolves.

Suddenly from the shale slope came a charging shadow, right into the midst of the fight. Binge stepped back, brought up his club, ready to swing at this new dog that had joined the pack.

Then his club halted in midair.

The new dog was fighting the wild dog pack!

"It's Bushranger, Joey!" he said gladly. "Did you see? He came off the mesa to fight the wild dogs, not the sheep!"

James Colby and other ranch-

ers were ringing them now. The shooting was over. Sheep-herders were regrouping the scattered flock.

"We got most of them," Colby said. "I saw this fight, too, Binge. It's Bushranger, all right, and he came down from the rim, fighting the pack as you said. But where did he come from?"

Binge shrugged. "All I know is — he's come home."

Suddenly Joey touched his arm, pointed. "There's a car up there on the mesa trail. I can see headlights. Someone's coming down."

Finally, a tall, tanned, white-haired man strode up to the group. "My name is Jed Harris," he said. "I've been following my dog."

The time was very late, but they were still reluctant to call it a day. Bushranger was curled on a rug near the fireplace. Joey was staying all night with Binge. They were still discussing the so-called miracle.

"Just think!" Binge repeated, "Mr. Harris wants us to keep Bushranger — always. But who ever heard of a dog allergic to storms? Sounds silly, doesn't it?"

"Oh, I don't know. Some people are frightened of storms, not to mention snakes, things like that. Maybe Bushranger was terrified by some bad storm when he was a small pup—"

"Anyway, this Mr. Harris had gotten Bushranger only a few weeks before. He was camped on the desert when this storm came up. Bushranger mysteriously disappeared. That's when he showed up at the ranch. Evidently he liked the sheep so much that he remained."

"Until it stormed," Joey reminded.

"He'll never leave again," Binge promised. "I'll even buy a barometer and watch it every day. If it looks like storm, I'll take Bushranger up to my room, lock him in."

"You could even sleep with him," Joey said, smiling, "just to make sure!"



Families who plan to include their dog in summer traveling may find the following suggestions helpful. I've found they worked with my Airedales with whom I travel frequently.

First, check with the AAA for motels that accommodate dogs in the area of your trip. Second, a jug of water and bowl in your car that you can easily reach, a box of dog biscuits and don't forget their leashes. Third, their blanket or cushion is important to eliminate concern of

strange surroundings. With this familiar scent, they curl up peacefully on the motel floor and go to sleep.

#### On Tour in Canada

To enter Canada, your dog's rabies certificate is of major importance. The inoculation date must be "within the preceding 12 months." In addition, you must have a description of your dog. This will be initialed at the border. I include a current color snapshot of my dogs and ask the Border Inspection Official to please

initial this and include the date of entry. This precaution eliminates all doubt that this IS the same dog you brought into Canada, when you cross back into the States. As dog-napping has become a major problem at border crossings, you can see why your dog's initialed, dated snapshot provides a smooth, speedy re-entry here.

#### South of the Border

For Mexico, the color shot of your dog with initialed date is also

# TRAVELING WITH FIDO!

by Bea Boynton

*Bea Boynton & Airedale Twins Mele & Aloha*





necessary, as is your rabies certificate. Mexico also requires a statement from your veterinarian that your dog is "free of all and any contagious diseases." This statement must be clearly signed by him, also dated. Both rabies certificate and this disease statement will be legalized by the Mexican Consulate when you get your visa.

Arriving at the Mexican Border, your dog will be inspected and a local inspection certificate will be issued. Keep this with you at all times.

### HAWAII??

Going to Hawaii? Have fun — but don't take your dog. Our 50th State requires four months quarantine upon your pet's arrival.

### Cross-Country Junket

Driving cross-country there usually are no inspection requirements of course. Check with your veterinarian for the latest requirements. One must be alert for problems that can develop. Your dog, who has never bitten anyone, suddenly does just that. Confused by strange surroundings and strange people patting him, a tired dog has an automatic reaction — he bites. Your problem now is the one bitten and his personal concern as to whether or not he may get rabies. Your rabies certificate eliminates that fear and could also save you possible legal action. Despite proof, however, that your dog has his current rabies certificate, Santa Clara County, California, still quarantines your dog for five days.

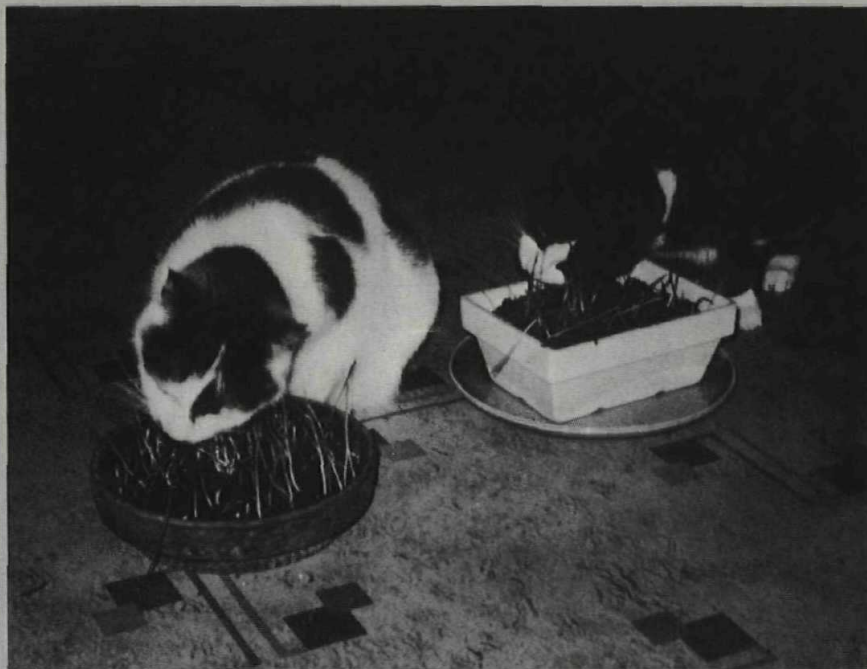
### California Here We Come

The State of California law requires visitors with their dogs to show the rabies certificate of inoculation, at the gate of all California State Parks, before admittance. No exceptions.

Everywhere, rapport exists among people who have dogs. Concern for their health, safety and comfort is universal. But this can backfire. An example of that is always taking your dog along while grocery shopping. But on a hot summer day, in a locked car with limited ventilation, parked in the sun, plus reflected heat from the cement parking lot — your car is turned into a hot oven. Police and Humane Societies across the country have appalling statistics of the needless death of pets from heat prostration, who have been left in parked cars in the sun. Change this habit for the summer. Leave your dog home in the shade, with plenty of water to drink.

Exercise can be a hazard for your

*Continued on page 26*



*Voila! Candy and Cindy enjoy antipasto for two.*

## TIME TO SOW YOUR OATS — FOR YOUR CAT

by June McLean

If you've just discovered your favorite feline chomping away on your favorite house plant, it is time to start thinking about sowing some oats. Most cats enjoy greens as a part of their normal diet. Many, though, will turn up an indignant whisker at beans, spinach, and the like, in their food bowl.

If you have an outdoor cat, he can easily supplement his desire for greens on grass and leaves. However, if winter, in your section of the country, brings on an abundance of ice and snow, this could limit your cat somewhat during those months. If you have a house cat, he or she is bound to explore other means of obtaining a bit of greenery to nibble on occasionally.

I have two house cats who started out as plant nibblers, until I solved the whole problem with oats. It saved my plants and offered my two tabbies an interesting treat.

### JUST ADD WATER

I went to my neighborhood pet shop and purchased three pounds of oat seed for \$1.00. Then I gathered up a variety of six planters, bowls and pans. I filled them with a little soil and planted a heavy sprinkling of oats. I set the containers in the bedroom, in a sunny spot in front of a window, watered them, and watched them grow. In just a few days, green shoots were sprouting thickly.

The first time I offered the bowl of the tender sprouting oats to my cats, each approached it cautiously. However, after a few sniffs, they sampled the delicacy eagerly. Many times they finish off the entire contents of the

container in one sitting. I give my cats this treat about twice a week.

By rotating the containers and adding more seeds, when regrowth has stopped, I keep a steady supply going for six to eight months. It takes very little work on my part any my cats love it. They come running, meowing expectantly, when they see me bringing out the containers.

### THEY'RE GOOD FOR HIM

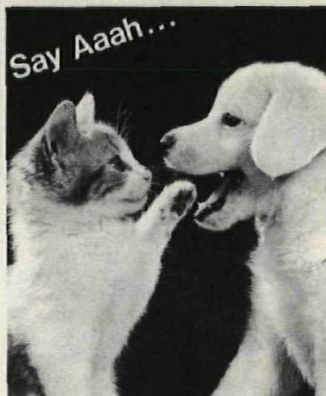
If you have an altered male, raw greens are extremely vital to his well being. Oats, which belong to the grass family, are rich in starch and protein. They are tissue builders and their body fuel value is high.

When you sow oats for your pet, you are not only accomodating him and balancing his diet, but you are also protecting him. Many house plants, that cats nibble on, are poisonous to them. Philodendron and rhododendron, which are fairly common house plants, are known to be poisonous to cats. The fatality rate is about ninety per cent. Other known plants are laurel and oleander. There is enough toxin in a single oleander leaf to kill a cat. Even mistletoe, that fun-provoking plant for humans, can be deadly to your cat.

Many outdoor plants, such as larkspur, wisteria and amaryllis, to name a few, are potential kitty killers. Also, the numerous weed killers spread on grass can cause serious mouth burns, if not death.

So, if your cat starts treating your house plants as a salad bowl, sow your oats. It will keep your cat healthy and both you and your cat happy.





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Continued from page 25

dog. Exercise — an established daily custom? That's right. Remember those news headlines that read "it was hot enough today to fry an egg" with pictures of newsmen actually frying eggs on both sidewalks and street pavements as proof? Before walking your dog, or running him leashed to your bicycle, why not test the cement with your bare feet? If it is too hot for your feet — it is too hot for his paws. The painful blistered and burned pads on dog paws are a major hot summer casualty, veterinarians tell me.

Dogs, family and the beach are a summer threesome, everywhere you look. With the picnic basket, include water for your dog. Sun and fun in the hot sand creates a thirst your six-pack cannot quench! Nor will salt water, which he will drink if there is nothing else. Salt water is an irritant to his stomach causing nausea. It is equally irritating to his eyes. When your dog joins you in the ocean, bathe his eyes with fresh water from that large water-jug very soon after he is through swimming.

#### Special Items of Concern

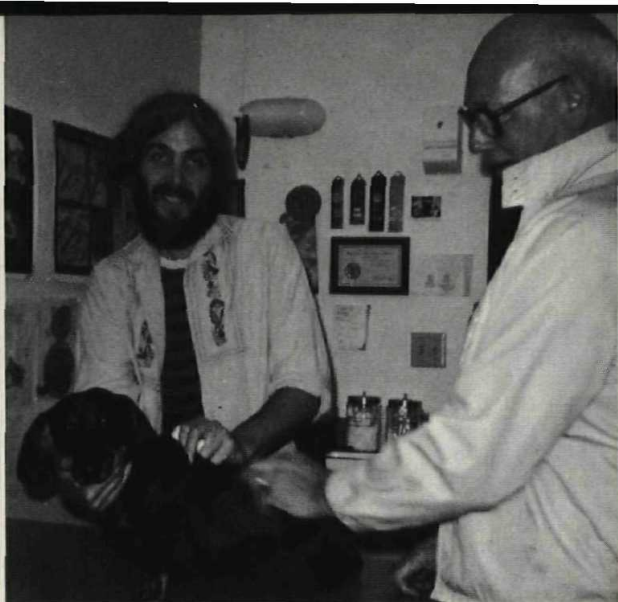
Wherever you travel, events such as Fiestas, Centennials, Rodeos will be in full swing. Consider your dog. The noise for him is ear-shattering. Even if your dog is Field Trained, the sudden bursts of guns, blasting horns, shrill fireworks — can turn a young dog into a cowering wreck at any sudden noise, anywhere, for the rest of his life. A dog's hearing is far more sensitive than the human ear on the deep and very high sounds. Consequently, the damage not only could be permanent, but could alter the entire future of what might have been a great dog.

Pointers to remember wherever you live or might tour:

- Check with your AAA for accommodations permitting pets.
- Carry your dog's rabies certificate with you at all times.
- Leave your dog home on hot days when shopping.
- Keep water in your car — emergencies do arise.
- If the sidewalk is too hot for your bare feet, it is too hot for dog's paws.
- Don't endanger your dog's hearing at noisy celebrations.
- Be sure his "dog tag" is firmly fixed on his collar. Include your name, address, phone number and his name.
- Have a good veterinarian. He is as important for your dog, as is your doctor for you.

Yes, traveling with your dog can be fun for you — why not make it fun for him as well?





## MR. FRITZ: AN OPEN LETTER ON ACUPUNCTURE

After requesting information from a former patient of Bobby Klein, we received this letter — reprinted with permission from Don Harrington.

Dear Friends,

Mr. Fritz is 11 years old as of January 23, 1975. He is a thoroughbred doxie - black with tan markings turning gray. He is a very sensitive and "human" dog. We understand each other. Prior to his injury he was very strong and agile. After he became immobile he was depressed and self-conscious. He couldn't go up and down stairs. We had to carry him out for his normal body functions (which were not paralyzed). He would sulk especially when we had to clean him up.

Mr. Fritz was injured in a pool accident while playing with the neighborhood children. I took him to our veterinarian, and, after an examination and X-rays, he said the dog had damaged ligaments in his right hind leg. He told us to take him home, keep him quiet and not let him run. But Mr. Fritz did slip out on us to play with the kids and somehow slipped a disc in his back. We took him back to the veterinarians', and after ten days in the hospital he could barely stand and could not walk. *We were led to believe that only by a miracle would he ever walk again.* Part of our miracle was Mr. Bobby Klein.

Our first exposure to acupuncture was a television show on a local channel. The show had a large poodle walking on its hind legs, which they said had been completely paralyzed in the hind quarters. I thought that if it worked for that poodle, that it might work for Mr. Fritz as well. After many phone calls I was referred to Dr. Richard Glassberg of Fullerton. It was in Dr. Glassberg's clinic\* that we met Bobby Klein.

Mr. Fritz and Bobby Klein became friends immediately. The dog seemed to understand that no harm would come to him. He responded to the very first treatments which were with the herb, moxa. He had five of these treatments and we watched him carefully for results. He seemed to us to regress and then progress between treatments, which we recorded for Mr. Klein. His regression was never more than his previous progression. Mr. Klein started the needle therapy and Fritz responded more rapidly. The muscles in his legs started to develop, he could wag his tail and walk a little. He still couldn't go up and down stairs, so we carried him. But his progress was fast and steady and soon he was climbing the stairs, standing on one leg and behaving like a normal, healthy dog. From that time on he has gained strength and confidence.

I was given no guarantee of any help for Mr. Fritz from the clinic and I was not charged for the treatments. I did give a small donation to the Acupuncture Association after each treatment. We received so much from the clinic and from Bobby Klein for so little that I have nothing but praise for all of the people involved.

I hope some of the information here will help other dog owners with similar problems. Much luck to you, and thank you for listening.

Respectfully,  
Don Harrington  
Lawndale, CA

\*Now N.A.V.A.

1 Mr. Fritz poses before acupuncture treatment with his owner, Don Harrington, and acupuncturist Bobby Klein.

2 Mr. Fritz, whose hind quarters had been paralyzed in an accident, is now able to walk, thanks to acupuncture treatments.

## WHAT IS N.A.V.A.?

The National Association for Veterinary Acupuncture was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation on August 30, 1974 to further research and teaching in veterinary acupuncture. Veterinarians on the Board of Directors include Dr. Alice DeGroot (UCD 58), Dr. Michael L. Gerry (UCD 62), Dr. Richard Glassberg (MO 68), Dr. Robert Hart, Dr. Wolfgang Joechle (Mun 52), Dr. Horace E. Warner (UCD 57).

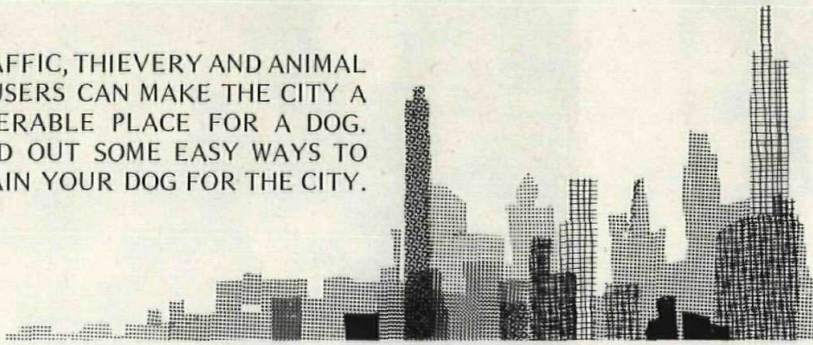
The association has leased facilities to be utilized as a teaching and research clinic for veterinary acupuncture. Cases are accepted by referral only.

*The veterinarians staffing the clinic and supervising the acupuncture trials are all volunteering their time.* The clinical research is being conducted under the direction of a faculty committee from the University of California at Davis.

Membership is open to interested veterinarians who are members in good standing of their local AVMA affiliate chapter. Further information may be obtained by writing NAVA, P.O. Box 5181, Fullerton, California 92635.



TRAFFIC, THIEVERY AND ANIMAL ABUSERS CAN MAKE THE CITY A MISERABLE PLACE FOR A DOG. FIND OUT SOME EASY WAYS TO TRAIN YOUR DOG FOR THE CITY.



SURVIVAL TRAINING FOR

# CITY DOGS

by Paul Stevick

Dogs can be a problem in the city. The man-made environment of the urban area presents threats to both man and beast with which instincts often cannot deal. While most city dwellers are aware of the many dangers to themselves, they are often ignorant or inadequately informed of the perils of their four-legged companions. Savor the immeasurable joy and satisfaction of owning a dog without worrying that every walk will be his last. Dogs that live in cities, as well as their masters, should have an extra bit of education -- survival training.

Outlined below are three crucial steps for training your dog to live safely in the city.

## 1. It starts with the picking of a name.

Pick a name that is linguistically unique. The name should not be a common word or sound. Two syllable words are best since dogs respond best to tone changes as well as sound. In addition to making the dog more responsive to his name, it makes it harder for thieves to steal him since he won't answer to another name.

2. The second, and most important part of survival training is an extension of "heel" training. Assuming that one has a puppy, as soon as he is leash broken, (if he will walk on a leash without fighting it) his "heel" training should begin. Basically, this is the same as training him to heel, but with the added stipulation that he is required to "sit" at least thirty seconds (longer for older dogs) at every street corner. *Never*, should the dog be walked across a street without first sitting. When crossing the street he should heel closely and not be allowed to dawdle over curiosities in the street. When the street is crossed "positive reinforcement" should be used. Tell him he's a good dog for crossing that street so well. The critical point here is to never let him cross a street without stopping and sitting, even if the lights indicate you can go. It's better to wait through a whole series of lights than to cross a street without stopping. If this training is properly done your dog will always stay out of the street. The strength of this training can be illustrated by my dogs who chase squirrels fervently. If the squirrels cross the street the dogs screech to a halt at the curb and stare longingly at the escapee.

3. The last part of survival training concerns "city breaking" a dog. "Housebreaking" a dog is not enough in a city. No one likes messy sidewalks and a *good way to make enemies for dogs* is to let them go where they will on sidewalks or lawns. So "city break" your dog to relieve himself in the gutter or in a bush. This is also done with "positive reinforcement" and a bit of old newspaper to pick up the "accidents" when they occur.

"Survival Training" really pays off. When the dog gets lost chances are that if you circle the block you'll find him sitting at a corner waiting to cross. He won't respond to strangers calling him common dog names and he'll live a long, happy life with you in the city.

## NEWS *Continued from Page 6*

funds appropriated for animal health to avoid any imbalance in the fund-splitting requirement of the various agricultural appreciation acts."

The other resolution that is important to the general public deals with meaningful funding of research efforts to understanding, alleviating, and eliminating animal disease in the U.S. There is now such a far-reaching bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, and it is the hope of the veterinarians that this bill does pass to speed up the basic research funds available to eliminate livestock disease.

## ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION RECEIVES GRANT FOR EQUINE RESEARCH

Recently a Texas Corporation granted funds to the ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION (parent of ANIMAL CAVALCADE) for a specified research project.

Dr. Pierre Lieux of Riverside, California has been designated recipient of the grant for research into the problems of ovarian malfunction in mares. Dr. Lieux will use donated mares which will be harmlessly examined by new remote controlled "cold" light called endoscopy whereby he will study their ovaries and oviducts during their function.

Dr. Lieux states that very little is positively known about the abnormal (pathological) function and condition of the ovaries of mares. He will make detailed studies and report his findings to the Animal Health Foundation. Results of these studies should have a profound effect on the care and treatment of breeding mares. There are large numbers of very valuable animals which remain barren (non-pregnant) year after year. It is hoped that with newer knowledge learned from this study that many of these can be returned to the normal brood mare band.

Further information about this study and others for the benefit of animal health may be obtained from the ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION by writing or contacting the ANIMAL CAVALCADE, 8338 Rosemead Blvd., Pico Rivera, California 90660.

## FIREWORKS NO FUN FOR FAMILY PET

Fireworks are a traditional part of Fourth of July celebrations in many parts of the United States, but our *Continued on page 30*



canine friends would be happier without them, states the Gaines Dog Research Center.

Dogs have very sensitive hearing, and are likely to become terror-stricken when firecrackers explode. In areas where fireworks are permitted on the Fourth of July, dog owners should put their pets in a closed room or in the basement where they're less likely to hear the noise.

Under no circumstances should a dog be deliberately exposed to a noisy celebration on the theory that he'll get used to it. Such exposure is more likely to make him a nervous wreck. If done to a puppy, it could make him fearful of any loud noise for the rest of his life!

## EIGHTH YEAR FOR EQUINE SPRING CHECK-UP PROGRAM

For the eighth year in a row, Fort Dodge Laboratories has announced it will again sponsor the Spring Horse Health Check-up Program. Initiated in 1967, when the horse population explosion was just beginning, the program was designed to inform and aid new horse-owners in scientific care of their mounts. At the same time, it was designed to carry word to horse-men about the professional help available from veterinarians.

Eight years later, the "Spring Check-up" is still making a valuable contribution to the health of America's horses, says D. A. Peterson, president of Fort Dodge. There are

more horses on the move today, over a wider area, than ever before. Urban owners and weekend riders are still increasing. More animals are concentrated in smaller lots and pastures, or in larger stables — all contributing to greater health problems.

Spring is the ideal time for an annual check-up, said Mr. Peterson. The peak riding, showing and working season is just ahead. After a long winter layover, there's generally a build-up of internal parasites, and problems may have developed with the teeth, feet, legs, internal organs or condition. Importantly, it's the time to make sure the horse is protected against any diseases it may encounter during the summer's activities, by a complete vaccination program.

## SURPLUS PET POPULATION CONFERENCE *Continued from Page 13*

tion, capture or injury, a feral dog probably doesn't last longer than five to six months," Dr. Schneider observed.

Feral and owned stray cats are a secondary but substantial cost to society, the conferees decided. They kill birds and wildlife, spread toxoplasmosis, worms, fleas and ticks and increase the surplus population which must be destroyed in shelters and pounds. *Also, cats are now equal to dogs in the incidence of rabies.*

The Conference concluded with the following recommendations:

- Utilize all possible media to inform the public of the seriousness of the problem, and of their responsibility to care for and control their pets properly. (Excellent films, TV spots and brochures are available from the AHA, AKC, AVMA, HSUS, Pet Food Institute and many local humane organizations.)
- Encourage legislatures and local governing bodies to revise and update their animal control laws and ordinances to meet the needs of the public's health and safety.
- Enlist the help of law enforcement agencies, and supply guidelines to the legal profession and courts.
- Recognize the physical and ecological values of surgical sterilization, but conduct it in existing facilities.
- Urge that all dogs and cats released by pounds and shelters be sterilized, and that it be done by a licensed veterinarian.
- Encourage animal welfare groups and veterinarians to arrange cooperative spay and neuter programs through local veterinary associations.

Ask the pet merchandising industry to advocate, at the time of sale, the neutering of pet quality animals; encourage ownership of smaller pets, which have fewer animals per litter; and inform buyers of the responsibilities entailed in pet ownership.

- Encourage animal registries and organized dog and cat clubs to support responsible pet ownership and the breeding and merchandising of animals only where there is a ready and responsible market. (Roy Carlberg, Vice President of the AKC, said: "We came to the meeting committed to do this.")
- Demand, and rigidly enforce, the collection of higher license fees for unneutered animals.
- Investigate and pursue all sources of funding to support scientific pursuit of the ideal contraceptive. (Veterinarians and animal welfare representatives agreed federal funds which would be provided by legislation pending in Congress for construction of sterilizing clinics should be directed instead toward support of better animal control programs and research into alternatives to surgical sterilization.)
- Encourage federal, state and local regulatory agencies to set professional standards for animal control personnel, train them adequately and pay them appropriately.
- Ask community colleges and vocational institutions to offer educational programs for shelter management and animal control personnel.
- Permit adoption of animals only by responsible owners.
- Fine the irresponsible pet owner

on an increasing scale for each succeeding offense rather than impounding the animal.

## THE DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM

There are approximately 90 million dogs and cats in the U.S., not counting feral animals. While humans are being born at the rate of 415 per hour, dogs and cats are generating 3,500.

In five years, one unspayed female cat and her progeny can produce 36,864 cats; a single female dog and her offspring can produce 12,498 puppies.

If dogs and cats continue to proliferate at their present rate, there will be 200 million by 1985; by the turn of the century, they will outnumber the human population.

Nationally, 18 million animals passed through shelters last year, at a cost of \$125 million. Of these, 13.3 million were destroyed.

Rabies control, dog bite care, sanitation, human infections acquired from animals, livestock losses and wild dog control cost society nearly \$200 million annually.

Every day in the United States, dogs deposit 3,500 tons of feces and 9.5 million gallons of urine.

A recent survey by The National League of Cities revealed that pet control problems are the number one citizen complaint made to mayors, and are third only to traffic control and rezoning problems in complaints to councilmen.



# LETTERS •

Dear Sirs:

Your January/February 1975 issue provides interesting reading, and I do enjoy it.

However, I find *no* mention in "Gerbils are to Enjoy" nor in the accompanying article any mention of the fact that Gerbils are illegal as pets in California.

I believe you should note this rather prominently even though the author omitted the information.

Thank you for your publication.

W. E. Mottram, D.V.M.  
Interim Zoo Director  
Recreation and Park Dept.  
McLaren Lodge  
Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco, CA

Dear Sirs:

I have an eleven year old Scottish Terrier who is showing signs of old age. How long should he live, and is there any truth to the idea that 1 year of a dog's life is equal to 7 years of human life? My dog doesn't look 77.

John Boehmer  
c/o Ocean Springs High School  
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Dear John:

*Dogs are like people in that some begin to look (and act) old sooner than others, but the great variation in size of various dog breeds also makes a difference. The giant breeds rarely live beyond about 10 years, while medium-sized and smaller breeds often make it to 15 - and 20 or older. This longer life is attained by a fair number, especially if they are well cared for. The record is 27 years. The 7 to 1 ratio often quoted is far from being accurate; the rate of aging (relative to man) being much more rapid up to 5 years (when the 7:1 ratio is applicable) and much slower later. For medium sized and smaller dogs, 6 months = 10 years; 1*

*year = 15; 5 years = 36; 10 years = 56; 15 years = 75; 21 years = 100. So your 11-year-old Scotty would equate to about 60 years - and he should be able to keep going a good while yet.*

Sincerely,

J. F. Smithcors, D.V.M.

Dear Ms. Harris:

In response to your kind invitation to submit material for Animal Cavalcade, I am enclosing a short dissertation by Robert I. Rush, general manager of the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation.

Mr. Rush would like to call public attention to the role of the veterinarian in the public low-cost anti-rabies clinic program.

We hope this meets with your approval.

Very truly yours,

James McNamara  
Public Relations  
City of Los Angeles  
Dept. of Animal Regulation

## Anti-Rabies Clinics

According to the National Humane Review, May, 1974, laboratory confirmed cases of animal rabies in the United States during the past year showed a 14% increase above the preceding five year average. Statistics reveal 4,427 cases last year, with every state except Hawaii reporting the disease. (Hawaii has a stringent four-month quarantine for all dogs and cats entering the islands.)

Skunks accounted for 47% of all confirmed cases last year. Other species with a high incidence rate were foxes, 15%; bats, 11%; and raccoons, 4%. There were 232 confirmed cases of rabies in dogs and 184 cases of rabies in cats during the year.

The 14% increase in animal rabies across the nation is a statistic which leads one to contemplate the local state of affairs pertaining to rabies control. Sharp focus on the local scene is recommended because Los Angeles is a rabies endemic area.

In examining the local picture within the framework of national scope, an observer is struck with a

dramatic statistical contrast apparent on the two fronts. While the incidence of rabies continues to climb nationally, Los Angeles comes up with a relatively clean bill of health. National Humane Review reports 232 confirmed cases of rabies in dogs in the country last year. The City of Los Angeles hasn't reported a rabid dog since 1962.

This remarkable achievement of local rabies control in a rabies endemic area must be attributed primarily to the active public low cost rabies program pursued in the city.

The program was originated in Los Angeles in 1955. Last year, the one millionth dog was vaccinated against rabies in the city. From very modest beginnings 19 years ago, the anti-rabies clinic program now involves 45 clinic sessions per year conducted at recreation centers in February, May, August and November.

This comprehensive program is successful because responsible pet owners in the city recognize the need for protection, and equally important, because private veterinarians contribute their time, support and expertise to making the program work. The term "low cost" is attributed to the program because veterinarians contribute their services to the community free of charge.

So often when a community endeavor is launched and maintains a high performance level year after year, it is accepted as being self-sustaining, needing no new energies. The project is assumed to be self-winding.

The Los Angeles anti-rabies clinics are conducted with clockwork regularity and precision, but they're not self-winding. The people providing the motivation for the clinics are the Southern California veterinarians. To these men, who give unstintingly of their time and professional ability to the service of these clinics, the citizens of Los Angeles, pet owners and non-pet owners alike, owe a sincere vote of gratitude.

Robert I. Rush  
General Manager of the  
Los Angeles City Dept. of  
Animal Regulation

# Animal Health Foundation

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Harry Maiden, Executive Director

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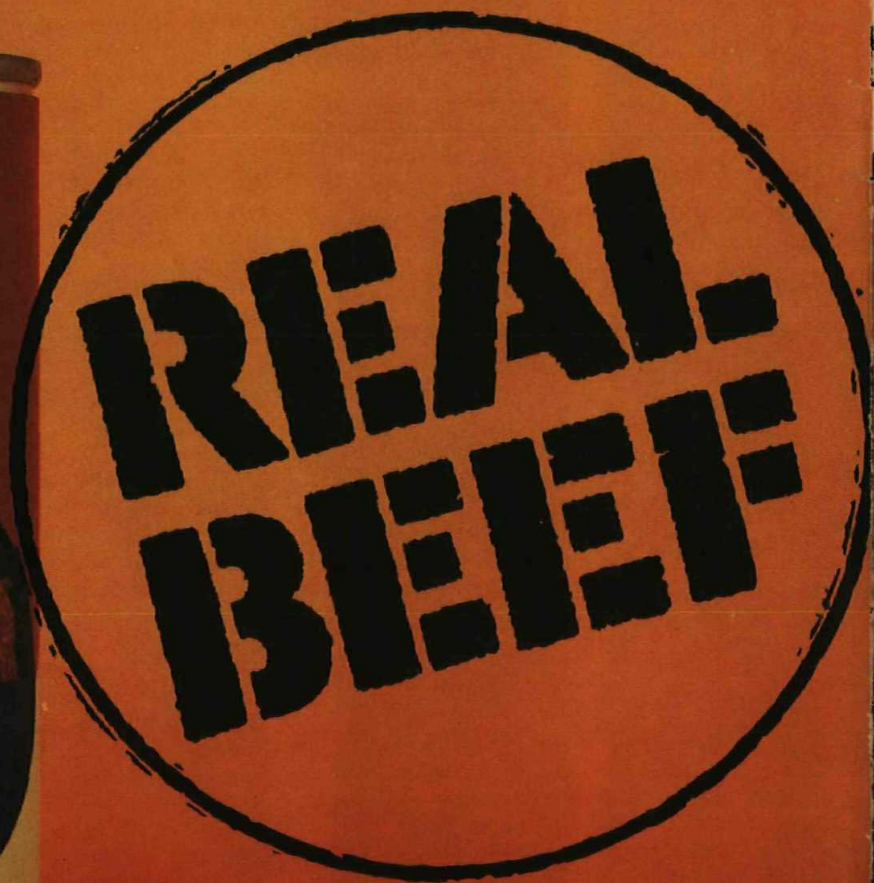
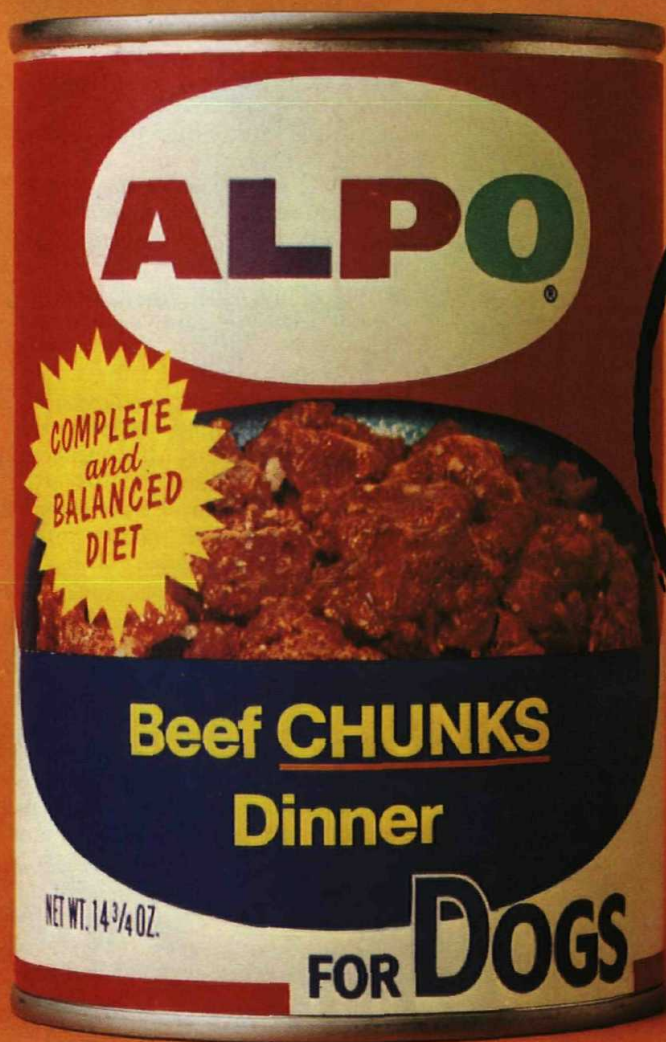
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