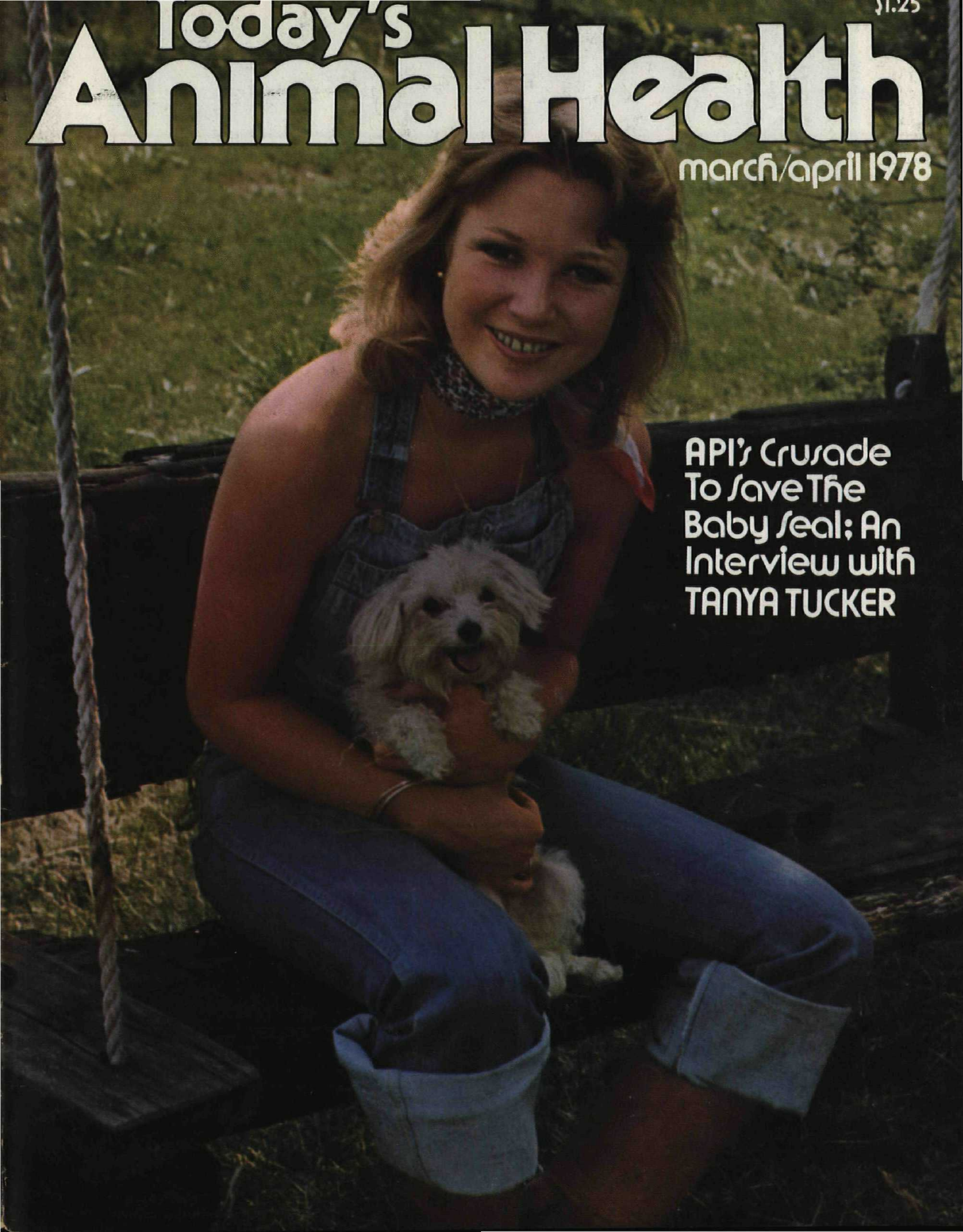


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Today's Animal Health

march/april 1978



API's Crusade
To Save The
Baby Seal; An
Interview with
TANYA TUCKER

Today's Animal Health

Volume 9/Number 2

March/April 1978

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TODAY'S ANIMAL HEALTH is published to inform animal owners about responsible animal ownership and animal health. There are subscribers in all 50 of the United States and in 17 foreign countries. The magazine is used as a tool for client education by veterinarians and for educational purposes in classrooms and school libraries.

The ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION supports research in animal health and pet population control. The Foundation also provides free veterinary care to pets belonging to elderly persons living entirely on social security benefits and those living on Aid to the Totally Disabled in the Southern California area. This program is made possible through the cooperation of local veterinarians. These activities are supported by donations from the public and can be maintained only through your continued financial support. Your contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible.

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dialogue

Letters to Dialogue should be addressed to Box 5181, Fullerton, CA 92635.

In your Jan/Feb 1978 issue you asked for comments from readers on G. B. Corday Fain's letter about sport hunters. Mr. Fain does, indeed, sound like an animal lover (as he says), except for the fact that his quarry is taken without a fair chance to fight back. As the little boy said as his father was leaving on a hunting trip, "Don't shoot at anything that can't shoot back."

The modern hunter is armed with the finest of precision weapons, high-powered rifles with telescopic scopes. The sport hunter, whether out for food or trophies, eliminates the strongest and finest of the herd, thus if allowed to do so indiscriminately (as he would like) the weak would survive and the species decline. Nature eliminates the young, the sick, and the weak, thus adhering to her own law of survival, and a strong herd is left to reproduce.

The term "sport" hunting should mean sport on both sides, not just the hunter's, and I suggest that the hunter is trying to prove himself a man by showing that he is brave enough to confront a dangerous wild animal. I suggest that he is only an immature, overgrown, insensitive, boy, and only when he realizes that animals were not put on earth for fun and sport, or to be exploited, will he really mature and be a man. And their old song about financing our nation's wildlife preserves, etc., — we all pay taxes; they just pay a little more for the privilege of being allowed to kill the animals which they have "saved".

The killing of wild animals for fun and profit has no place in today's world, and there are too many sport hunters who are not as careful as Mr. Fain may be. They may be in the minority, but with the millions who hunt there are bound to be those who make mistakes and who do not adhere to the rules — condors and eagles are killed or maimed, horses and cows are shot in farmers' fields....we all know it happens.

Mr. Fain says, "A true hunter has a greater affinity for his quarry than a

backpacker blundering through the woods, stepping on delicate flora and frightening non-game fauna." All right, then prove it, Mr. Fain; hunt your quarry with a good camera and learn to enjoy him alive and well.

Daphne Fahsing
Atascadero, California 93422

Where can I get more information about my pet tortoise. There don't seem to be any people around where I live who know alot about turtles and tortoises.

Amy Jackson
Paso Robles, California

We suggest you write to T.E.A.M. (Turtle and Tortoise Education Adoption Media), 3245 Military Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90034. They publish an outstanding monthly newsletter that should have the information you want.

My subscription to *Today's Animal Health* was a gift. I do not know whether or not my friend who gave me that subscription will renew it or not, so I cannot send in my new subscription with the two gift subscriptions I am enclosing.

Please be assured that if my friend does not renew my subscription, I will. I enjoy the magazine, and would not want to miss a single issue.

Thank you. Peace.

(Mrs.) Melinda P. Goemaat
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

HELLO TO YOU!!

How happy I was to receive your outstanding publication "*Today's Animal Health*" — a friend gave me three of the latest issues, and I can't wait to read more!! I'm enclosing a check for a 2-year subscription.

I'm employed at The San Diego Zoo as an educator assistant in the Education Department. I'm hoping to get a part-time position in our Zoo Hospital,

and things look promising for another part-time job at the San Diego Emergency Clinic as a veterinary assistant.

Your publication is exactly what I've been looking for; it is a great source of information and inspiration. I was happy to see the ad for the revised edition of *ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY*. I plan to order my copy right away.

One very important page caught my eye in the November/December 1977 issue. It is about your Animal Health Foundation. As I read the article, I actually jumped up and down for joy. Your work and goals are the subject of a free-lance research project that I've been working on for two years. I've been studying the practice of using animals in therapy with handicapped, autistic, and emotionally disturbed children, and for the elderly. I'm a firm believer that animals can help many people. This has been a rewarding and exciting project — the more I learn — the more I realize I want to dedicate myself to this work.

Please send me all available information about your organization. I'm enclosing a donation — it isn't very much, but I'd like to help with a small amount each month. I also want to do more — to be totally involved. Can you please advise me in the direction to follow.

Do you have a list of the veterinarians who are involved with this program? I'd like to learn of those in the San Diego area in hopes that I can contact them, talk with them, and perhaps be able to volunteer for one.

I'd also like to learn more of what I can do for your organization. I might mention that I'm an animal illustrator and would be delighted to do some artwork for you. We have a Zoo publication for children, "Koala Club News" — I've been doing some artwork for it, and will send you some copies.

I showed your publication to some of the staff in the Education Department. They were very impressed and said they enjoyed all the articles.

I'll be looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you for everything.

Cappy McLeod
San Diego, California

A Job for the Official Veterinarian of the C.H.R.B.

BY A. H. Edmondson, D.V.M.

PROTECTING THE RACEHORSE

Horse racing in California is ruled and controlled by a state agency "The California Horse Racing Board". (C.H.R.B.) This board is responsible to the state for all phases of Thoroughbred, Quarter horse, Harness Horse and Appaloosa Racing.

My position is "The Official Veterinarian representing the California Horse Racing Board". My duties are to supervise any and all medical activity concerning the race horse, the horsemen and the veterinarians. Any medication given to the race horses is reported to the CHRB Veterinarian. The veterinarians are required to turn in daily confidential veterinary reports on their medical activities which include:

1. the horse's name
2. the trainer's name
3. what was given, how much and at what time.

These reports are scanned by me and the stats are kept concerning the number of horses treated, number treated with cortisone, butazolidin and the number treated for "nose bleed", a rather common occurrence in the race horse. The horses may be treated with any permissive medication up until midnight the day before racing. Medication on raceday is prohibited except with written permission for emergencies etc. Prohibited medications are:



A. H. Edmondson, D.V.M. "Hard at Work".

1. all stimulants
2. all depressants
3. all tranquilizers
4. all anesthetics and
5. all narcotics.

These medications must not be given within 60 hours of raceday.

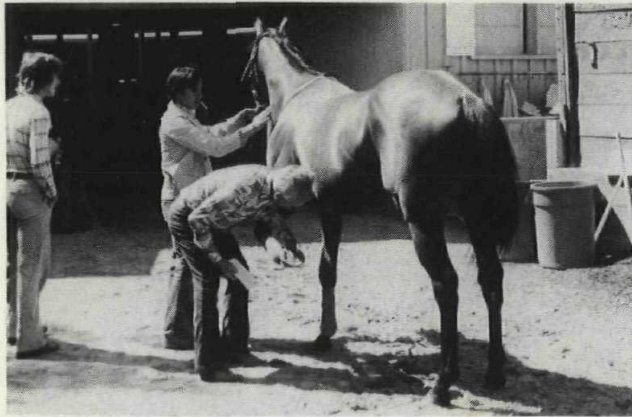
Each horse is examined by a veterinarian, on the day he races to be sure the animal is "sound and healthy". The horses in each race are called, by loud speaker in the stable area, about an hour and fifteen minutes before racetime. Their grooms put on the bridle, blanket etc. and bring the horse to the "Assembly or Receiving Barn". There their shoes are inspected by the C.H.R.B. Horseshoer, to be sure they are properly shod and next they are examined by the C.H.R.B. Identifier who has a set of photographs for each horse in the stable. He checks them for color, markings, etc. as well as a tattoo letter and number under the horse's upper lip. This tattoo is permanent and is placed there before his first race and will stay there throughout his life.

Grooms and horses are confined to this barn for about 20 minutes and about 23 minutes before the "post time" (racetime), the horses are sent to the paddock to be saddled then to the starting gate for the race.

After the race, the C.H.R.B. Veterinarian will have the winner and one or two other horses returned to the receiving barn for a urine test to detect presence of drugs. The horses are washed, "watered off" and walked for about twenty minutes to "cool out". At the end of this time a C.H.R.B. test man will lead the horse to a darkened stall, close the door and whistle. (From the time young horses first arrive at the track, their grooms whistle each time the horse urinates, eventually the horses "get the idea" and most will void within a few minutes after racing or working by the whistle). After the sample is collected it is sent to the laboratory and tested for illegal or prohibited drugs which were previously mentioned.

If an illegal drug is found, the owner loses the purse and the trainer's license is suspended. This is a very rare occurrence.

California is fortunate in that we have good tight racing rules and that they are rigidly enforced.



CHRB Horseshoe inspector, Wally Rohrer.



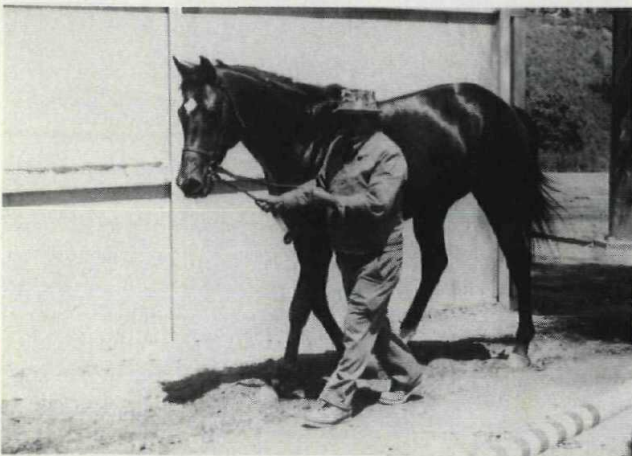
Horse lip tattoo for I.D. CHRB identifier, Mel Price.



Horse lip tattoo



Horse getting a bath and rub.



Horse returning from racing before bathing.



Horse "Cooling out" after race and rub.

THE SEEING EYE



The Means to an End



The future Seeing Eye dog.

Nearly fifty years ago Dorothy Harrison Eustis recognized that the dog is a "Niagara of energy and intelligence." She theorized that this energy and intelligence, if utilized properly, could benefit mankind. It was on the basis of this thesis that Mrs. Eustis founded The Seeing Eye, the first school of its kind in the United States.

The validity of Mrs. Eustis's belief has been reaffirmed by every year of the school's operations, as the number of students has steadily grown. Since its beginning in 1929, The Seeing Eye has harnessed the energy and intelligence of more than 6,900 dogs to serve as guides for blind people. During the 1975-76 fiscal year, 204 were added to the list.

It can truthfully be said that if it were not for the dog there would be no Seeing Eye. But the training of the dog is not an end in itself; rather it is the means to an end. And that end is to provide blind persons, through the use of dog guides, the mobility and independence that can lead to a full and purposeful life.

How well the dog guide concept works is evident in the constantly growing achievement record of Seeing Eye graduates. The overwhelming

majority of them are usefully employed — as homemakers, students preparing for careers, or paid workers in well over 100 fields. During the past year, for example, The Seeing Eye received press reports of a graduate who does social work in New York City, traveling about by subway and bus with her faithful dog; another who spent the year in France working on her doctoral thesis; a third who interned with the State Department in Washington as a step toward a possible career in the United States Foreign Service.

There are three basic essentials to making The Seeing Eye's dog guide concept work: capable blind people motivated to be in the mainstream of life, whatever that might take; skilled instructors to help them, and dogs with certain qualities that makes them suitable for guide work.

The third essential — the means to the end — received special attention in 1975-76 as The Seeing Eye took new steps to insure that it has a systematic flow of qualified dogs. As part of a continuing review and improvement of operations, the school expanded the programs for dog breeding and procurement. The objective is to shorten waiting periods for prospective

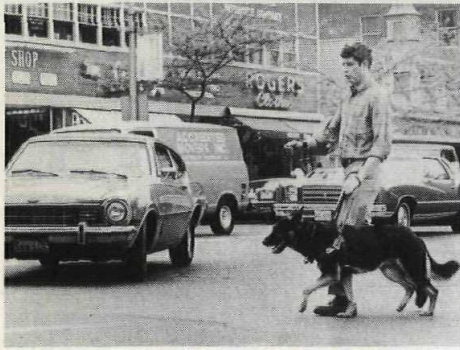
students and to have available a wide range of suitable dogs for the diverse population that The Seeing Eye hopes to accommodate.

It takes 15-16 months to transform a furry little pup into a quietly competent adult capable of being responsible for the safety of a human life. This metamorphosis is a continuing source of wonder to many people. A look at the process will tell something of what The Seeing Eye is all about.

GROWING UP

A dog starts his life at The Seeing Eye with the **Breeding and Procurement Division**. The dog is obtained either from the school's own scientific Breeding Station, or through purchase or donation. In recent years fewer than half of the animals assigned to blind persons have been bred at the station, but the completion of new facilities has provided the physical capability to enlarge the breeding program. It is expected that in coming years the level of dogs produced at the station will reach 70 percent.

Since its beginning in Switzerland, The Seeing Eye has depended most heavily on the German shepherd, but selected dogs of other breeds have also been used for many years. The



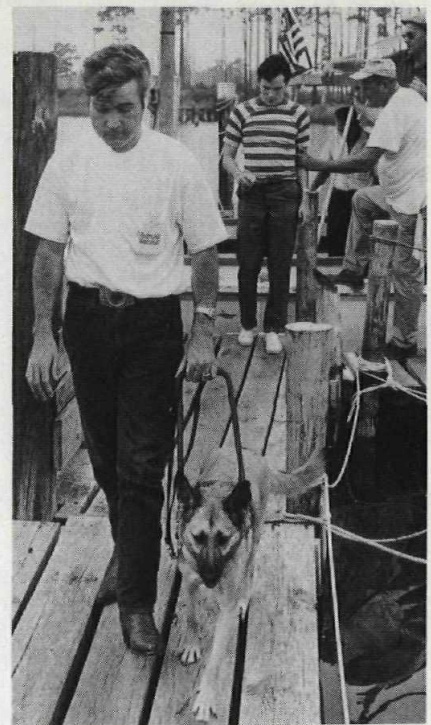
An instructor training a dog on the streets of Morristown, N.J.
Photo by Costello.



Two 4-H children with dogs they are raising for The Seeing Eye.
Courtesy Rutgers University.



A student receives instruction from her trainer on how to avoid sidewalk obstacles with the help of her Seeing Eye dog.
Photo by Olson.



The ability to go anywhere he pleases — even on a fishing boat — is possible for this graduate with his Seeing Eye dog.
Photo by Jim Livengood.

so-called working breeds have proved to be the best sources of dog guides. Whatever the breed, the desired qualities are sound temperament and physique, appropriate size and strength, high intelligence and, above all, a strong sense of responsibility.

Not all dogs have what it takes, of course. But from years of experience, The Seeing Eye staff can judge canine potential pretty accurately. Members of the Breeding and Procurement Division examine and observe a pup closely, and delve into the genetic records of the pup's forebears going back several generations.

At eight weeks, if his preliminary credentials are in order, the pup is ready for "socialization" in a home setting. The pup is placed with the family of a 4-H Club member to be raised under the supervision of the Division. The reason for this step is simple. Long ago The Seeing Eye recognized that dogs raised exclusively in kennels tend to grow up alien to the kind of conditions they are likely to encounter in guide work later on. To mature psychologically stable and fit for his job, the Seeing Eye dog needs a lot of human contact, a lot of love, a lot of experience with the activities of family life.

A 4-H family keeps a dog about a year before returning him to The Seeing Eye for his formal training in guide work. About 150 families have been participating in the "socialization" program. The school expects to increase the number considerably in coming years as the production of dogs expands.

LEARNING THE ROPES

Back at headquarters, dogs are assigned in groups of 10 to an instructor in the **Training and Instruction Division**. For the next three months, for hours every day with their instructors, the dogs learn guide skills in preparation for teaming up with their eventual masters.

The instructors are uniquely qualified to handle the dogs. They are carefully chosen and they learn their work through a two-year apprenticeship. Some were brought up in cities, others in more rural surroundings. All have a love of dogs and the outdoors. A high school education suffices for some, but others have attended college or worked with dogs in the military service.

The dogs first learn obedience training — come, sit, down, rest and fetch. Then they graduate to the familiar

Seeing Eye harness. With his own movements, transmitted through the U-shaped handle on the harness, a dog can later tell his master what he needs to know about conditions in his path — whether to slow down, speed up, stop, or change direction. In the same manner, the master can tell whether the dog's head is turned toward a stray dog or other distractions, in which case corrective action must be taken.

On the bustling streets of Morristown, N.J., with the instructor, the dog grows accustomed to the confusion and din of modern cities. He steadily develops a variety of skills that later will protect his master: to resist distractions; to stop at every corner so that the blind person can orient himself before moving on; to judge heights, so that he won't walk his master into an awning or low-hanging tree branches; and most difficult and important of all, to say "no" to a command that, if carried out, could lead the blind person into danger — such as an oncoming car.

In teaching a dog these skills, the instructor is guided by two basic techniques. When the dog does something wrong, he must be corrected im-

continued on next page

THE SEEING EYE



During the training period a student can now elect to work with a new dog guide on the New York subway. This is a new policy of the Division of Training and Instruction which it feels will benefit graduates who use such public transportation in their daily lives.

Photo by Valentin Ledovsky.

mediately and firmly. When the dog does things right, he should be praised and given affection ("Good Girl!" and "Good Boy!" fill the air around The Seeing Eye). These two techniques are continued, of course, after the dog is turned over to a student.

After being tested thoroughly in every aspect of his job, periodically with the instructor securely blindfolded, the dog is given his working papers and is ready to join the student for joint training.

FORMING THE TEAM

The dog meets his future master — an emotional moment — on the second day after the blind person arrives at The Seeing Eye. After that the dog is fed and cared for by the student, and they are together constantly throughout the four weeks of joint training.

To a large extent, the success of a partnership depends on the initial matching of the partners. The objective is to achieve a compatible relationship. Therefore, close attention is paid to matching personalities, physiques and temperaments.

Blind persons accepted for training

have certain things in common that are considered necessary for successful use of a dog guide. First of all they have a motivating desire for independent mobility. Not all blind persons have this desire; studies show that many are resigned to having sighted people take them by the hand. Others who do have the desire simply do not want a dog guide; they prefer to rely on systematic use of the long cane.

Seeing Eye students have demonstrated that they need a dog guide for some constructive purpose, such as a job, running a household or getting an education. They are physically fit, emotionally stable, and neither too young nor too old. Children under 16 generally are considered too immature to assume the responsibility for a dog guide; and persons over 55 may be unable to keep up physically with the rather demanding Seeing Eye program. There are exceptions, of course — usually at the upper age level.

All students, too, assume an obligation of \$150 for the first dog and \$50 for each subsequent dog. This requirement, it is felt, strengthens the student-dog relationship, and it is based on sound psychological and rehabilitation

reasons endorsed by the students themselves. Such payment, it is believed, promotes the feeling on the blind person's part that he is not receiving charity and that the dog is really his own.

So when the student and dog are matched at the school, they are geared to plunge into the hard, disciplined work of their joint training. At first the new partnership is tentative and a bit strained. The dog, because of his own training to this point, still recognizes another person as his master — the instructor. But as the joint training progresses, a trusting and loving relationship gradually develops with the student. The instructor, aware of his sensitive role, fades into the background and quietly acts as a catalytic agent in the building of a harmonious team.

Under supervision of the instructor, student and dog go into Morristown twice a day to learn guide work in tandem. After about two weeks a triumphant moment arrives, usually when the dog successfully guides the student "solo" over the most difficult training route; the transition of loyalty takes place. The student suddenly knows that the dog is his and the dog knows it, too.

Now more comfortable and confident, the team picks up its pace, tackling the more difficult situations they will face in their new life just two weeks hence. They learn to "free lance" in restaurants and shopping centers. They maneuver on buses and trains and along country lanes where there are no curbs or sidewalks. They experiment with conditions tailored to the student's particular needs at home.

At last the time comes when the instructor says, "You're ready to go anywhere you please." The only step remaining is the adjustment generally needed when the dog is placed in a new setting after the graduate returns home. But any problems are usually worked out with little difficulty, either by letter or phone call to the Training Division, or by a visit from a training supervisor if necessary.

Thus, in a relatively short time, the energy and intelligence of a dog has been harnessed for the benefit of mankind. The student has acquired a freedom of mobility that makes possible the carrying out of constructive purposes, the rebuilding of morale, the enhancement of dignity and self-respect, and greater fulfillment of his potential. And in the process the dog's potential has been fulfilled, too.



DEADLY HARVEST AND WILDLIFE

By John V. Dennis

Reprinted Courtesy of The Conservationist

After watching birds devouring poisonous berries that would probably kill any one of us, I have often asked myself what it is that gives them such special immunities. The same question comes to mind when I see cattle grazing upon poison ivy or a squirrel scampering off with a deadly mushroom held in its jaws. Reading the literature on poisonous plants gives one very little insight into this question. John M. Kingsbury in his fascinating book "Deadly Harvest" merely states that wild animals are rarely killed by poisonous plants. Unanswered is the question of whether wild animals recognize poisonous plants and hence can avoid them or if they escape through possessing special immunities. Perhaps a little of both is involved. Certainly there is the ability on the part of many wild animals to detect and avoid plants that are harmful to them.

The seeds of rattlebox (*Crotalaria spectabilis*), an introduced legume of southern United States, are poisonous to the chickens, quail, or doves that eat them but apparently not to wild turkeys. The late Herbert L. Stoddard, authority on the bobwhite quail, reported that wild quail recognize the seeds of this plant and avoid eating them; on the other hand, pen-raised quail, when released into the wild, do not make this distinction, and, as a result, are sometimes fatally poisoned.

Bees seem to be immune to the toxicity of some of the poisonous flowers they visit but not others. For example, honey from oleander is said to be harmless to bees although it is upsetting to human beings who happen to eat it. Oleander is so extremely toxic in all its parts that the ingestion of a single leaf is said to be fatal to humans. When stems of oleander are used as skewers, as has happened on rare occasions, severe upset or even death may follow. An authority on hummingbirds reported that the black-

chinned hummingbird in Arizona went out of its way to avoid the flowers of oleander. Apparently hummingbirds are not as immune to their toxic qualities as are bees.

Bees are reported to sustain loss from several other plants with poisonous flowers. In California beekeepers cannot keep hives in areas where the California buckeye, a small flowering tree, grows. The flowers contain toxic substances. In the Southeast, the early blooming flowers of yellow or Carolina jessamine are so poisonous that bees that visit them are killed and severe upset occurs in children who are inquisitive enough to suck nectar from the flowers. Honey from the last two plants and flowers of death camas, loco weed, mountain laurel, and rhododendron should be avoided by human beings. Luckily the honey from laurel and rhododendron is so bitter that few people would be encouraged to eat it.

Although many wild animals are able to recognize and avoid poisonous plants, others actually seem to show a preference for foods that are highly toxic. Doubtless it is not the poison that attracts the animals to these foods but taste or some other quality. In the bird world an amazing indifference to poisons is seen in the evening grosbeak that inhabits more northern parts of this continent and in its Old World counterpart, the hawfinch. With their powerful bills they crack open the hard pits of cherry and other fruits for the kernel that lies inside. The fleshy part of the fruit, so attractive to other birds, is normally discarded. This habit might not be regarded as so strange except for the fact that kernels of cherries and other fruits are often rich in prussic acid, a deadly poison. Even grosbeaks also show a fondness for another tidbit containing prussic acid — the well-known seed of the apple tree. In winter they descend to the ground to pick about among rotting

apples for this delicacy. On our part we should be careful about not getting too many apple seeds in our systems. Kingsbury tells of a man who liked apple seeds so well that they eventually brought about his untimely end.

The fact that evening grosbeaks also like the seeds of poison ivy and poison sumac should not be regarded as out-of-the-ordinary. At least 50 species of birds eat the seeds and deer and livestock browse on the leaves. Humans seem to be the chief victims of ivy poisoning. One out of every two persons is allergic to some degree. Occasionally dogs, that are in the habit of running through poison ivy, receive a mild skin rash from this plant.

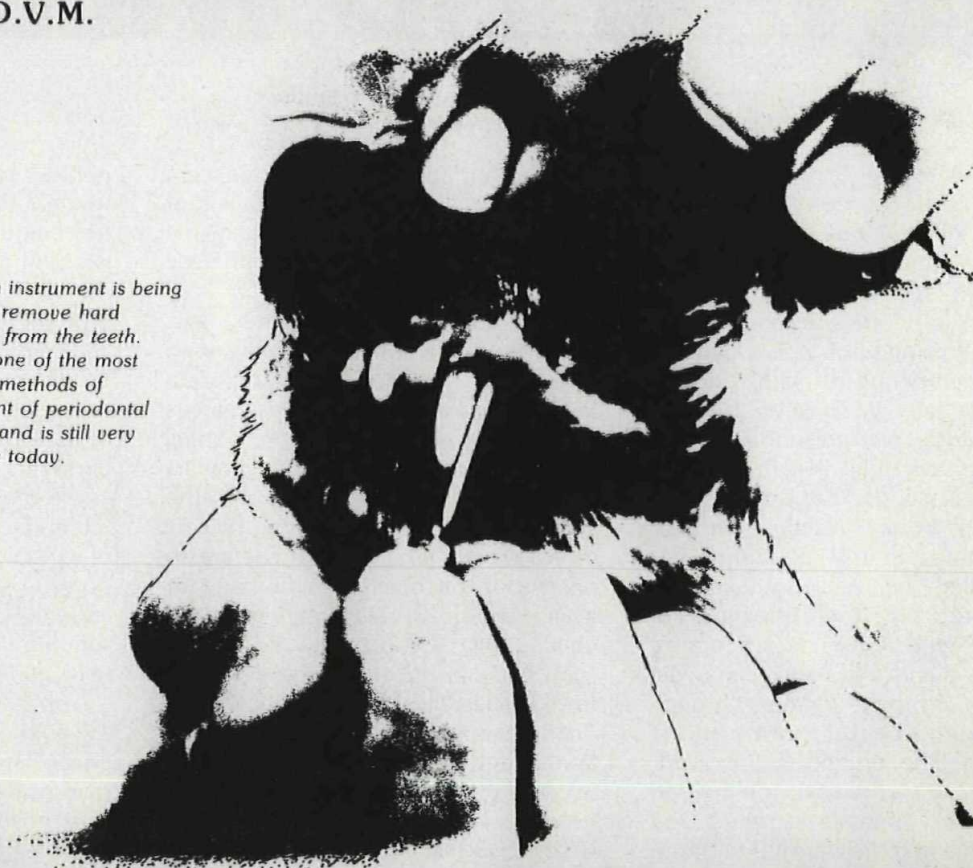
Top honor for an iron digestion in the animal world goes to squirrels, not goats. These busy-tailed rodents eat so many sticky, resinous, and downright poisonous substances that one wonders how they can survive. Nuts and acorns are the most normal part of their diets. They are equally at home stripping apart green pine cones in order to get at the seeds, digging up and eating garden bulbs, getting to the kernels of fruit pits, and eating mushrooms. One summer gray squirrels in my yard spent much of their time hauling off apricots and eating the kernels which happen to be another rich source of prussic acid. As for garden bulbs, squirrels and also chipmunks seem to delight in digging up and eating such poisonous ones as the daffodil. But when it comes to depraved behavior, nothing can quite equal the gray squirrel's addiction to lead cable. In the northeastern states alone gray squirrels are said to chew up cable to the tune of a million dollars a year and the habit extends to all parts of the range through the eastern half of the United States. The amount of lead they ingest in cable chewing seems to be considerable, yet gray squirrels seem immune to the lingering death

Continued on page 29

DENTAL PROBLEMS IN

C.P. Ryan, D.V.M.

Here an instrument is being used to remove hard calculus from the teeth. This is one of the most ancient methods of treatment of periodontal disease and is still very effective today.



Sadness is having an abscessed tooth that could have been prevented by your owner. An infection in the upper last premolar tooth has eaten through the jaw bone and is draining out the hole underneath the eye (arrow). These patients are usually seen by the veterinarian because of a swelling or non-healing sore below the eye.



Neglected dental care resulted in this severe tartar build up on the teeth. Only the very tip of the canine tooth is it's normal white — the rest of the teeth are covered with a heavy layer of tartar or calculus.

Periodontal disease results in the loss of more adult teeth in cats and dogs than any other disease. The tragic thing is that the causes of periodontal disease are largely known and are preventable.

The primary reason for loss of the permanent teeth in cats and dogs is dental tartar or calculus which results in gum infection. In time the infection works into the root of the tooth and results in a loose and infected tooth. Tartar accumulation is a major factor in the development of halitosis or bad breath in pets. The process by which tartar develops and causes such serious dental problems is, medically speaking, periodontal disease. Periodontal disease refers to the inflammation and infection occurring around the teeth. Anatomically the periodontium consists of the tissues investing and supporting the teeth, including the gums and bone. It is estimated periodontal disease is probably associated with 95 percent of all cases of bad breath in dogs. 75 percent of all dental problems serious enough to be seen are the result of periodontal disease.

FAR REACHING EFFECTS

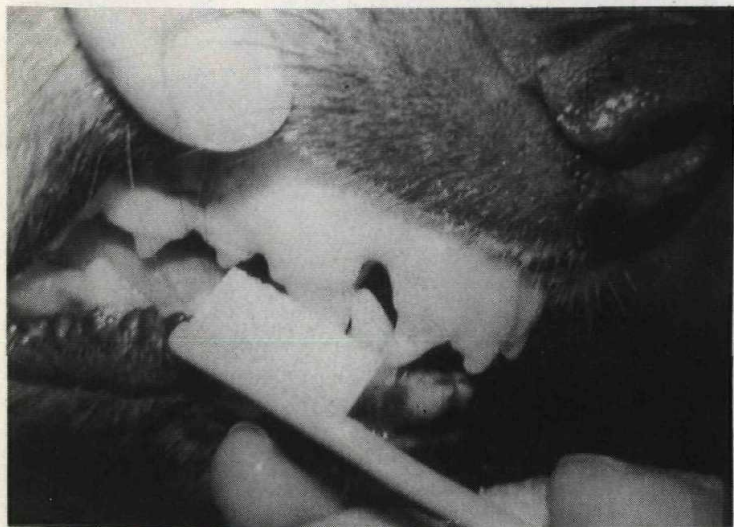
Periodontal disease can also have far reaching effects on an animal's over-all health. For example it is known that in cases of moderate periodontal disease, oral

bacteria can be cultured from the blood after eating, scaling of the teeth or extractions. In people and some laboratory animals, there is a marked correlation between periodontal disease and bacterial heart disease. Periodontal disease can also be a problem in horses. People often report an improvement in their pet's general health, appetite and vitality after the elimination of infected teeth and the control of periodontal disease.

PYORRHEA

Pyorrhea is a term frequently used when periodontal disease is severe and often a discharge of pus is present around the affected teeth. Pyorrhea is more common in middle-aged and older animals. It is also more common in animals fed soft and semi-moist diets and in the smaller breeds of dogs. In people pyorrhea accounts for the loss of nearly 80 percent of the teeth after age 45. Pets with pyorrhea have difficulty chewing hard foods because of the looseness of the teeth and may have a putrescent breath odor. People with pyorrhea often report a foul taste in their mouth.

Continued on next page



A soft child's toothbrush works well in removing dental plaque in the early stages. Actually plaque is composed primarily (90%) of bacteria embedded in an organic matrix and requires little effort to remove in the early stage of formation.



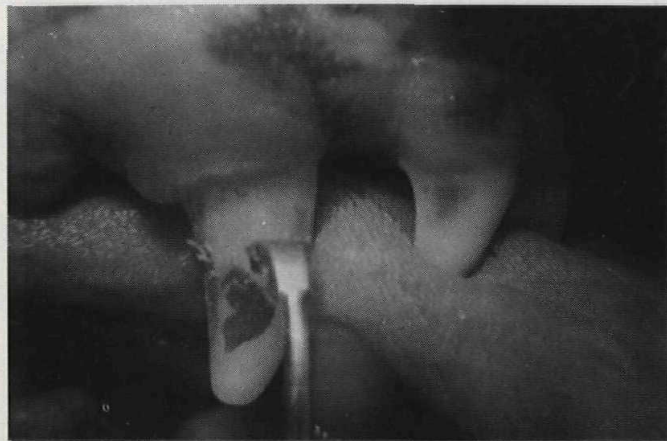
In pets who object to a toothbrush a gauze strip can be wrapped around the index finger and be used to remove dental plaque which is firmly adherent to the tooth surface.

DENTAL PROBLEMS IN ANIMALS



HOW DOES PERIODONTAL DISEASE START?

The problem begins when food material mixed with saliva and normal bacteria in the mouth accumulates between the gums and teeth. This soft material sticks to the surface of the tooth and is called plaque. Actually anything that contributes to unclean teeth is a potential cause of periodontal disease. When first formed, plaque adheres lightly to the teeth and can be removed easily by mechanical means such as brushing. The time required to reestablish plaque completely following removal is about two weeks. Even chewing hard food or biscuits will help in removing the soft plaque in the early stages. If the plaque is not removed, the bacteria multiply within the food material and invade the gums surrounding the tooth, setting up inflammation and swelling. In time the plaque becomes mineralized and hardens. This mineralized hard mass that builds up on the teeth is called dental tartar or dental calculus. The rate of tartar formation varies from individual to individual. In some individuals, plaque almost never calcifies while in others calcification starts within a few days after plaque has formed. What causes this variation in tartar formation among individuals is not known.



Removal of all hard deposit with a metal instrument called a tartar scraper or scaler is an objective of periodontal treatment unchanged for centuries.

Tartar on the teeth creates serious problems and can be very difficult to remove often requiring veterinary services. It is similar to cement — easy to remove when wet and soft but once hardened it can be difficult to dislodge. Interestingly tartar can also form on dentures and artificial teeth as people with these appliances can tell you. Unfortunately animal patients are not as cooperative as human patients when it comes to holding their mouths open for a thorough dental cleaning and scaling of the mouth. This makes general anesthetic by the animal doctor necessary in many cases.

WHAT CAN PET OWNERS DO?

The first step in keeping your pet's teeth healthy is *awareness*. Have you ever looked at your pet's teeth? Open your pet's mouth and see for yourself what the teeth look like. If anything looks abnormal, have your veterinarian examine your pet and plan a proper dental hygiene program. Don't wait and see if the teeth will improve on their own because they will not. The longer you wait the more damage is done. If the teeth are clean and healthy, keep them that way. The aim of a dental hygiene program is to remove dental plaque and to keep it from damaging the oral tissues. In the early stage of tartar build-up, usually a good cleaning by your veterinarian is required. In more advanced cases, intensive dental surgery, extraction of abscessed teeth, and cutting away of swollen gums may be required. How extensive the treatment will be depends on how long dental care has been neglected. If animal owners would become more aware of dental health and care and begin oral hygiene at home when their pets are young, most periodontal disease could be eliminated.



Tooth after removal of deposits.

HOME CARE MOST IMPORTANT

Perhaps the most important part of any dental care program is the ability of the owner to provide effective oral hygiene at home. If animal owners are not capable of helping at home, control of periodontal disease is almost impossible. The most successful method of cleaning your dog's teeth is brushing. A small, soft bristle, child's toothbrush works best for this. The owner should brush his animal's teeth as he brushes his own teeth. Human toothpastes have detergent-base formulations and can not be recommended for all pets. The foaming that results from brushing with these toothpastes is often upsetting to the pet. A beef-flavored doggy toothpaste that is completely digestible has been developed and is on the market. The most commonly used cleaning agents for pets are hydrogen peroxide and water or baking soda and water. Some owners also use a water pic to aid in removal of food particles between the teeth. If you don't have a water pic, use a child's water pistol. Water irrigation can be used to remove food particles, but it does not replace brushing. For pets that will not adjust to a toothbrush, the owner will usually be able to wrap a soft piece of gauze around a forefinger and wipe off the debris from the tooth surfaces. In the final analysis it is the owner's motivation that is of prime importance for the success of a dental hygiene program and not the gadgets used in carrying out such a program.

DIET IMPORTANT

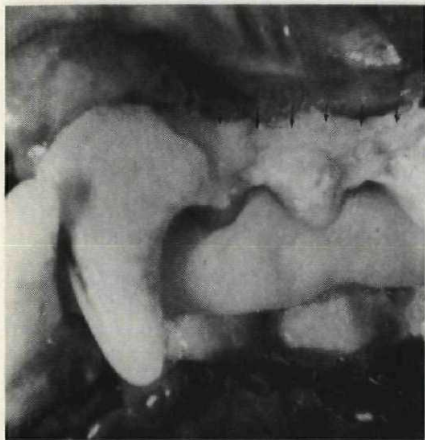
The diet also plays an important role in the control of dental tartar. Soft foods (canned and semi-moist)

produce more tartar, more rapidly, than do hard dry foods. The use of some dry food or dog biscuits provides valuable chewing exercise and reduces plaque formation. A study done recently at the Carnation Feline Research Center showed that cats in confinement fed exclusively dry food had much healthier gums and teeth than cats fed exclusively a soft moist diet. Do not feed your pet sweet foods as snacks, especially those that cling to the teeth as sugar, favor tooth decay and bacterial growth. A dry dog biscuit is the best type of snack to feed your dog. Cats like the dry biscuit treats also. Chewing bones will not control the formation and accumulation of plaque. Besides being ineffective in dental care, bones present various other hazards. Veterinarians are frequently being called upon to remove bones wedged in cat's and dog's mouths. Bones are not digestible, and fragments can become lodged anywhere in the digestive tract requiring surgical removal at times.

FREQUENCY OF CLEANING

How often should your pet's teeth be cleaned? This depends on how fast plaque and tartar build up on the teeth. Home care can vary from daily cleaning for those individual animals with severe periodontal disease to weekly cleaning for those with mild problems. The onset of tartar accumulation may begin at one or two years of age. There is a direct relationship between the amount of tartar build-up and the smallness of the dog. The smaller the dog the more periodontal disease. Whether your pet has some dry food also plays a role in the amount of tartar build-up.

Put this article down and go look at your pet's teeth. What do you see?



A severe case of pyorrhea. White matter can be seen loosely adherent about the gums and smaller teeth (arrows). This grayish white deposit consists of: body cells, bacteria, and food material and is one of the causes of bad breath.



Patient having the teeth scaled and cleaned with an ultrasonic dental unit. A water jet cools the tip of the instrument which vibrates at high frequencies and removes the dental plaque and tartar. These units are being used more and more by veterinarians because of the ease and speed with which the teeth can be cleaned which shortens the time the animal must be anesthetized.



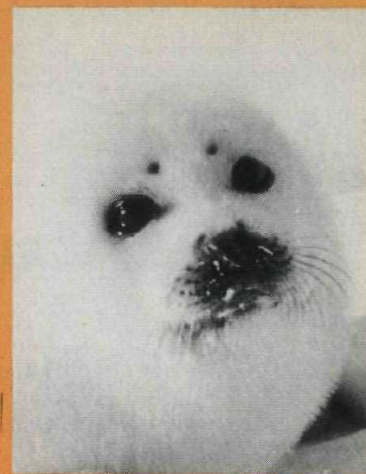
A.P.I.'S CRUSADE TO SAVE THE BABY SEAL

AN INTERVIEW WITH TANYA TUCKER (TAH — Today's Animal Health)

The call to arms to protect animals of the world from extinction and man's cruelty has enlisted some unusual recruits. In France, Brigitte Bardot has seemed less interested lately in her own career than in protesting the clubbing of baby seals. In America, a young singer named Tanya Tucker, who has had a whole string of hits as a country singer and is moving in on pop music in general, has also decided to move in against seal-clubbing. It's significant mainly because, at the tender age of nineteen, Tanya Tucker's voice speaks loudly to a whole generation which had nothing to do with mistakes of the past — when whales came so close to being wiped out, when the harp seals were reduced to under a million in numbers (by conservationist estimates) and polar bears had a narrow escape from aerial gunners (until it was finally legislated that they couldn't be shot from airplanes).

Tanya Tucker's career as a singer led to *Delta Dawn*, *Lizzie and the Rainmen* and other huge hits while most girls her age were still headed for the prom or running for sophomore queen. Her singing had deep roots, though — going to earliest childhood. Likewise, her sudden emergence as a spokesman for the opposition to the clubbing of baby seals. She was always concerned with the welfare of animals and as a young girl she nursed and cared for those in trouble. Wildlife people had learned that the family ranch, Tuckahoe, was a place where they could bring animals in need, getting them space and a place until they were ready for the wilds again. Speaking in much the same language which has become familiar to those who listen to the sound she makes on *Cowboy-Lovin' Night*, Tanya doesn't hesitate to tangle with Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian premier who condones the clubbing. Her day-to-day life is marvelously mixed up with animals. Arrangements have to be made so she can keep Babe, her Doberman, or Misty, her Maltese, right with her on the tours that take her everywhere. "You can't take a horse on a trip," she says — but when she gets home there's a high-strung, talented horse named Bob Van Flitbar waiting, and a string of quarter horses, Chinese pheasants, wild turkeys, dogs, cats, and whatever strays are the newest adoptees. "I'm one of those people," says Tanya, "who can't even go in a restaurant and order lobster. I can't pick him out and say, 'You're doomed.'"

The Animal Protection Institute of America, headquartered at 5894 South Land Park Drive in Sacramento, California 95822, has named Tanya chairman of a drive to bring the young and the musical into the fight to save the seals. Tanya invites all those who want some ideas on how to fight for the seals — and the kind of factual ammunition they need to make their opinions count — to write API for further information.



TAH

You're serving as a National Honorary Chairman to interest young people all over the world in bringing the clubbing of baby seals to an end. And you're only nineteen years old. How did you manage to get so involved, so young, in a project of such magnitude? How did the Animal Protection Institute know you were anxious to help?

TANYA

I was a member like other members. I was interested in what Brigitte Bardot had done. France has refused to allow the seal pelts to come into that country and that was something she helped to do. In our country, millions of people are already involved, and have been involved for years, but Canada has not stopped the killing. I just felt that the more universal the protest can be, the more chance to bring it to an end. Maybe it will take a new generation of Canadians to bring it to an end — and maybe the people of that age in this country better begin talking to them. But I'm not different now that I was before I became, I guess you'd call, an official protester. I was always for animals. I've been protesting my head off all my life. I remember this terrible thing that happened to an eight-point buck from our ranch.

TAH

What was that?

TANYA

We bought a ranch close to Nashville, 200 acres, and the wildlife services learned how we felt about animals so they would bring animals to me and my family when a deer had been injured or something of that kind. But at the time we moved in, there was this seven or eight-pointer, a beautiful buck, which the man who sold us the property had already befriended. Now that buck was just as tame — he was tame enough to stay around. We let him out of the pen

where the former owner kept him and we never did put him back in any kind of custody. He stayed right on. He ate with the cattle. Here were these cows and then this one buck deer eating with them and that was so surprising to people who came to the ranch. Then deer season came along and I said, "Maybe we'll have to put him back in the pen before he gets shot." But we didn't really expect anybody to molest him, there on our property. And I don't like animals penned. And time passes, time passes — we never did get it done. I kick myself for that. So then the buck swam across the river and someone shot him. Now he would come within twenty feet of you — he was that tame! But a bullet found him. I cried for three or four days, never did get over it.

TAH

Did a great many animals wind up with you for refuge?

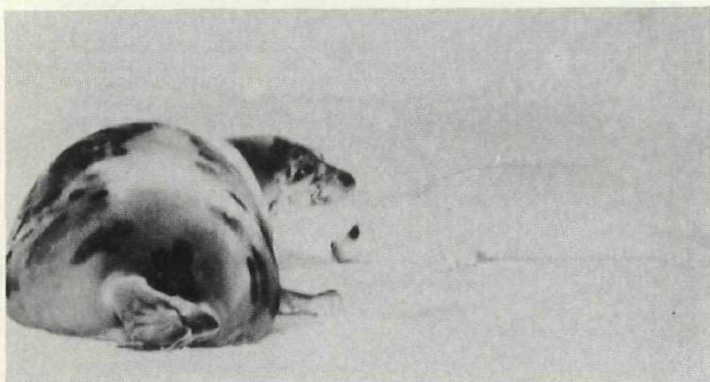
TANYA

Quite a few, I guess. Now, we have about 3,000 acres outside of Nashville. But the two hundred acres was a very perfect place for animals and I always wished I had the time to spend with them they deserve. We had a Canadian goose refuge. The wildlife service had banded them and they just stayed on our property. The geese are going down in numbers because of people and because of the possum and raccoon. According to API, the creation of medical shelters where wild animals can be aided by people who know what they're doing is very helter-skelter. In Michigan, for instance, they have an organized system of 30 veterinary wildlife clinics and seem to be very organized but in Oregon, which is a big state with a lot of game, the wildlife service could only name one group which was taking in the injured animals. There are probably more states

Continued on next page

A.P.I.'S CRUSADE TO SAVE THE BABY SEAL

like Oregon than there are like Michigan. I don't mean the help wouldn't be there — but it's kind of catch as catch can for people to know how to get help for wildlife that's in trouble. And there are laws about touching or disturbing the wildlife, even when they're injured. Definitely there is a danger of people trying to deal with injured animals when they don't know what they're doing. The whole subject needs public enlightenment. Everywhere, though, there are people who seem to learn how to help the animals out when the state doesn't have an organized system for it. In Florida, there are sixty different people who have been certified to have the right kind of knowledge for rehabilitating wildlife. So there are good spots and bad spots. I think there's organizing to do in this respect.



TAH Is it the goriness that disturbs you about what happens to baby seals?

TANYA Yes, and the fact they're so young. Two or three weeks old at the time they get clubbed to death.

TAH You did a song which had some goriness in it. But it wasn't about seals, it was about people. *Blood Red and Goin' Down*.

TANYA Yes. It was about a girl and her daddy when the mother left them for someone else. The daddy catches up with his wife and her boyfriend in Augusta and — well, it's kind of gory, all right, if you

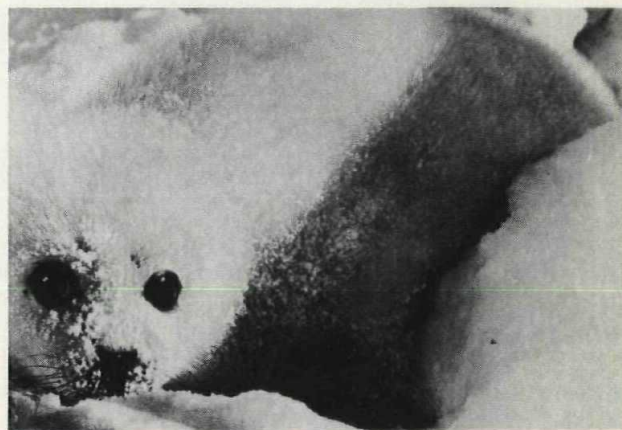
really think about it in its details. The dad kills 'em and he leaves 'em soaking' up sawdust from the floor. See, a song can tell you something very completely. It can give you the picture and make you feel it in a way you might not feel it otherwise. My friend, Jerry Goldstein, who's a wonderful composer and record producer, is writing a song with me about the seals. Our idea is to help people to really get the picture.

TAH

Do you feel the animals of the wilds must be kept to the wilds?

TANYA

In most cases, you're interfering with their lives — making less of a life for them, really — unless you leave them out there where they belong. Wild animals are very tempting, especially to someone like me. I have two dogs with me when I tour, Misty and Babe. I've sneaked a rabbit or a goose across country lines when maybe you're not



supposed to. When I saw a baby Bengal tiger and realized the people were selling them — which is not a good idea — I was very excited because I've always been a lover of big cats. They're graceful and beautiful animals. I was in Vancouver in Canada at a game farm and I played with this four-month-old — he was so sweet, not declawed or anything, and already rough, even at that age, just playing. So I got very serious about having my own baby Bengal and checked with Interior about taking him to Tennessee. They said you had to have a 12-foot high fence and a certain amount of acreage — well, I had that and I was gung ho to do it. I talked to a lawyer and he said, "We can get him across Canada but it's going to take time." I realized that by the time we did all these legal things, the tiger would be several months old and he'd be big. Where exotic animals really do belong is in their native places. I didn't get the Bengal. I gave that up. API is always collecting terrible information about the things that do happen to

animals because people — even when they're trying to be nice to them — will not really understand what to do. We get to thinking about ourselves, what we want, instead of what's good for the animal. API is looking into a case where there was a cross-eyed Bengal tiger and the animal park which owned him took him in for an operation to correct the cross-eyes. And during the operation, the tiger died. That makes me really angry! It makes me angry if there was no reason to do the operation except for somebody thinking that he didn't want an animal attraction with its eyes crossed. An advisor to API, a veterinarian who works with wild animals, said there could have been some further circumstance but if they were correcting crossed-eyes just for the sake of looks, they were taking a ridiculous big chance and should have known it. Tigers — the big cats — are apparently extremely susceptible to drugs, very unpredictable, so that you shouldn't be administering unless you're very knowledgeable about what you're doing. I can't be certain of the particular case but I do know that people often take chances with animals that were unnecessary — that shouldn't have been taken. And other people give up on animals when there's an injury before they should give up.

TAH

Have you had examples of that in your own life?

TANYA

I've had examples of everything involving animals. If there's one thing that stops me in my tracks, it's finding an animal in trouble. And they are in trouble a lot of the time. About the most terrible thing I ever saw was once on a freeway. A

beagle had been hit but the person who first hit him didn't stop. So he got hit again. And over and over. Each time he was run over, he would try again to sit up. Six cars ran over him and he was still coming up. Again they would smash him at the top of the head. We were on the opposite side and I made my brother get the car turned around and I was just praying, "Let him live, let him live!" He died — it had to be. And it amazed me — all those people hitting him and not one would stop. I can't believe that people haven't learned yet to take a responsibility. How can people be like that? And yes, I think there are cases where if you will hold on and not put an animal to sleep because people are telling you to, it might turn out better than it seems. Animals make remarkable recoveries just as people do — not when they've been hit six times but in other circumstances. All of my ideas about taking care of animals — that goes way, way back. In junior high school, I bought a snake from some boys who were throwin' it around, treatin' it rough. They called it a king coral. It wasn't poisonous. I took it home and I turned it loose in the trailer-house we were living in. My daddy, who has something like a paranoia of snakes, was very excited when I told him there was a snake in the trailer-house so my mother and me took it to a pond and let it loose. Got it back where it belonged. I wasn't really a big snake fan but I didn't see why those boys should have it in a jar or be throwin' it around.

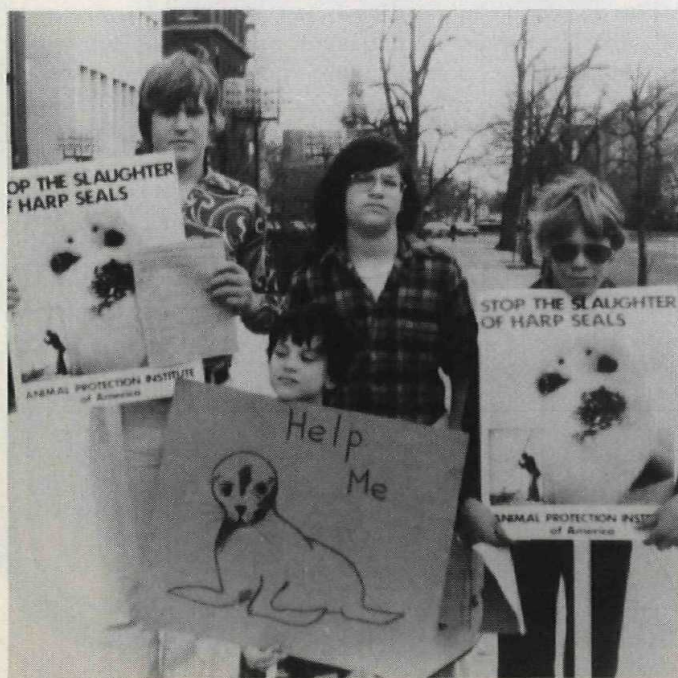
TAH

The Premier of Newfoundland, Frank Duff Moores, and Pierre Trudeau himself have made quite strenuous efforts to convince Americans that they should forget the seal issue and let Canada do what it chooses. You don't agree that Canada would have sovereignty in that respect? Moores has taken the trouble to tour the United States, with a whole party of people, emphasizing what the official viewpoint is in Canada.

TANYA

The official viewpoint in Canada is the main thing that's been destroying the harp seals all through this century. API says 17 and a half million have been killed since 1897. One of the most revolting aspects is the manipulation of figures. The Canadian government doesn't like to hear API people and Greenpeace and the others say that the number of harp seals is now less than a million and possibly less than 800,000 and the whole species could be knocked out or close to that. The officials give

Continued on page 31



By Arthur Case, D.V.M.

HOW NOT TO POISON YOUR PET

Pets are closely associated with the family and because of this, are often exposed to dangerous substances found around the home. Pet owners may not know that a certain plant or chemical can poison a pet or a child so no precautions are taken.

Some of the commonly reported instances of poisoning of a pet or child are the result of ingestion of highly poisonous ornamental plants, a prescription drug, pesticides, radiator coolant or a caustic chemical.

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

Cats as well as young children are highly susceptible to the aspirin group of medicines. Dogs and children will both eat mothballs (naphthalene). Both children and dogs are easily poisoned by lead compounds because of their chewing habits. Putty, lead paint, linoleum base and caulking compounds are common sources of lead in the older houses built more than 25 years ago.

Pets as well as children have often been poisoned by some toxic substance placed in a milk bottle, soft drink bottle, or perhaps a drinking glass or other than the original container. Such poisons as nicotine sulfate (melon spray), the modern pesticides, cleaning agents, paint thinners, and such things as fertilizer or herbicides should never be placed in any container other than the original. Even adults have been poisoned by mistakes caused by putting a poisonous substance in a container ordinarily used for food or drink. Pets and small children are even less able to tell that a soft drink bottle contains a

poison rather than something good to drink! One stricture housekeepers should obey is to lock the dog (or cat) out of the bathroom when the toilet bowl is being cleansed by saniflush, copper sulfate or even pine oil. Many pets find the bathroom toilet bowl the ideal place to obtain a drink of cool, fresh water. Larger dogs soon learn how to flip the lid up to get a drink, so *lock the dog out* while using a strong chemical in the toilet bowl.

It would be impossible, in a short discussion, to mention all of the possible toxic hazards extant around the average home, but some examples taken from our teaching files as well as those reported in the literature will show how accidental poisonings come about.

TOXIC SHRUBS

Several instances where dogs have been poisoned by a plant or shrub resulted from tying the animal to the shrub. Yew bushes (*Taxus* spp.), oleanders (*Nerium* spp.), the goldenrain tree (*Laburnum* spp.), the soapberries and chinaberries, black locust (*Robinia* spp) and the beautiful flowering vine wisteria will all poison any dog that chews on or eats even a small amount of them. Cats occasionally eat plant material but they also scratch the plant and then lick their feet. Some of these toxic plants can poison such cats. *Difffenbachia* (dumbcane) is another very common ornamental that has very unpleasant effects on the pet that chews on it. Swellings develop in the throat that may restrict breathing and cause the animal to choke.

Many dogs and cats show no interest in the plants (shrubs, trees, flowering herbs) but others have to be continually chewing or scratching on something. Even sweet william (a member of the Pink family) has recently been the cause of a dog being presented as a patient — eating the flowers made him sick!

TOXIC MUSHROOMS & OTHER FUNGI

Many species of mushrooms are not toxic although not very edible, either. Such fungi, if ingested, may cause digestive disturbances but do not induce serious poisoning. One very deadly mushroom is the *Amanita*. Both cats and dogs may ingest such fungi with serious poisoning resulting. The pet may show no signs for several hours, then become violently ill with much vomiting, obvious pain in the digestive tract and diarrhea. This type of mushroom poisoning may resemble poisoning by phosphorus (old style rat poisons) and is very difficult for veterinarians to treat. The outlook is poor if these substances are swallowed.

Owners who notice mushrooms (toadstools) growing about the place should not allow pets (or children) to have access to such fungi. Identifying harmless ones is a difficult and chancy task.

Moldy bread, and sometimes moldy cereal or other moldy foods may produce serious upsets in health. Such moldy food products should not be fed, or discarded where pets can have access to such.

can you depend on it?

J. F. Smithcors, DVM
Photo by D. M. Diem

BLACK CATS BRING BAD LUCK

Do black cats bring bad luck? Many think they do, especially if one happens to cross their path. In ancient Greece a black cat was considered an omen of death, and ever since there have been countless stories of black phantom cats envisioned by dying persons or their relatives. In Germany a well established belief — superstition if you will — was that if a black cat jumped onto the bed of an ill person, it foretold his approaching death. And if you were French, a black cat crossing your path in the moonlight was a certain indication that you would die within the year. To the Chinese, black cats have been an omen of sickness and poverty.

In our culture black for years was associated with all things bad and abominable. Thus the blacker the night the blacker the deed, which is understandable, since darkness can hide any number of perils that might easily be avoided in daylight. Those who believe in witches "know" they travel by night, and by dressing in black, how better to avoid detection until the propitious moment? By blending into the night, the black cats they kept as "familiar" were perfect companions whose stealthy ways added to the sinister connotation of witchcraft.

So firm was the association of witches with cats that substantial citizens reported seeing witches transform themselves into cats. One such legend concerns a woman who disappeared from home every night. Upon following her one evening, her husband was astonished to see her transform herself into a black cat. Then invoking the name of the Devil, she cast off to sea in a sieve along with seven other black cats. The horrified husband promptly invoked the name of the Trinity, thus upsetting the sieve and drowning its unholy crew.

Witches were believed to assemble at gatherings called Sabbats, some of which were held in places so well known as to be identified on maps as late as the mid-18th century. The Devil himself was said to preside at

these conclaves, usually in the form of a he-goat but sometimes as a black cat. When the Sabbat was over, the witches reputedly flew home on a broomstick or a black cat. As related by one authority on witchcraft and magic: "Cats held an important place in sorcery, principally black cats, which were and still are regarded as demons incarnate or transformed witches. It is on this latter count that in recent centuries peasants all over Europe make hecatombs (sacrifices) of black cats, thinking thus to destroy the witches they accused of having bewitched them. It follows quite naturally that every graphic representation of an episode in sorcery should include a cat."

During long periods, black cats were equally unlucky in other respects. In a sense, they brought bad luck to themselves merely by being black. Thus an old Scottish remedy for blindness requires one to: "Take the head of a black cat, which hath not a spot of another color in it, and burn it to powder in an earthen pot; then take this powder, and, through a quill, blow it thrice a day into thy eye." Cats have long been associated with healing and, as indicated by the foregoing, this has not always been to their benefit.

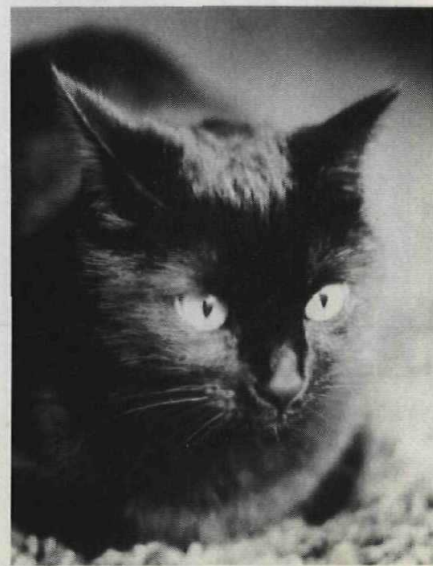
In parts of England the tail of a black cat figured in a number of remedies. For any kind of an itch a left-handed man should whirl the cat three times around his head, then prepare an ointment containing nine drops of blood from a black cat's tail. For a sty, a person in Northamptonshire could pluck a hair from the tip of a black cat's tail on the first night of a new moon and draw it nine times across the swollen eyelid. This may have been more insult than injury to the cat, but "it is possible to avoid sickness in the family altogether if you can bring yourself to cut off a black cat's tail and bury it under your doorstep."

In other places the cat was dealt with more gently in the application of its reputed healing power. Thus in Japan it was believed that a black cat placed on the stomach of a person could cure spasms, melancholia and epilepsy. In ancient Egypt, black cats

were considered as omens of good luck and as such were worshipped. But their sacred status apparently did not prevent some from being killed and embalmed to be buried with notable persons. Others were luckier in being allowed to live out their lives, and upon their death they were embalmed and consecrated to the cat-goddess. Later generations were less reverent. During the late 19th century literally tons of cat mummies were disinterred and sold as fertilizer.

This brings us back to the original question: Do black cats bring bad luck? What constitutes luck — good or bad — is often in the mind of the believer, and for centuries the beliefs of various peoples boded ill for cats, especially if they were black. Better treatment in some times and places notwithstanding, for the most part cats have been maligned, largely because their silent and stealthy ways have been misunderstood and therefore suspect. And in this regard the black cat was the most sinister of all.

People today — including many who are otherwise rational — will change their course to avoid having a black cat cross their paths. Such persons may congratulate themselves upon having circumvented the bad luck that might otherwise have befallen them. But whose fault is it if, in a futile attempt to avoid such a catastrophe, the true believer is injured?



The sight of a child stopping to play with a puppy can melt even the coldest of hearts. What is more heart-warming to behold than youth meeting youth with unabashed love and wonder. Yet horror may be lurking in the shadows, for the mildest of pups can become a ferocious beast if infected with rabies.

For this reason, nearly all jurisdictions in America have enacted special laws aimed at preventing the spread of this disease. And as a result, rabies — once a threat to life and safety throughout the United States — has today been brought under relative control. For this we have the law to thank.

Although the dog has long been known as man's best friend, early Common Law recognized his tendency to revert to the "savage ways of the past." A Michigan judge once wrote the "While some dogs are justly regarded for admirable qualities, others are dangerous, mischievous, little better than a public nuisance, and all are subject to attacks of hydrophobic madness." With this in mind, the law has always reserved a special classification for dogs — holding that they are not quite "wild" animals, but not exactly "domestic" either.

In most states, laws were enacted more than a century ago to control the "running at large" or unattended wandering of canines in general. Some such laws required that every dog be licensed and tagged so that his owner could be identified and punished in the event that the statute was violated. Others went further, permitting — even directing — the summary destruction of any dog allowed on the loose without human control. An early Massachusetts statute, for example, provided that, "Any person may, and every police officer shall, kill or cause to be killed all such dogs whenever and wherever found."

Until the nineteen-forties, not many states had laws aimed specifically at the control of rabies. This was generally recognized as one of the purposes of the general animal regulation provisions. As early as 1848, a North Carolina court wrote that, "We doubt not that a dog may be a nuisance so as to authorize any person to kill him if he be mad and at large." For the most part, the law of "nuisance" was thought to provide all the protection required.

Then, around the time of the second world war, the

City of New York found itself with a rabies problem of major proportion — one which needed special legislation to bring it under control. Over thirty thousand dogbites were being reported annually to the five health departments of that city. Many of these involved either the fear or the actual presence of rabies. New York City officials sought desperately for a solution to the problem.

The one which they found was harsh. Indeed, many people considered it to be *unjustly* harsh. The result, however, has been a rabies-free city, in which there have been almost no reported cases of canine hydrophobia in the last three decades.

In 1944, New York adopted a health resolution authorizing the seizure of any unleashed dogs found on the city streets. Dogs seized under this law were to be held for a period of forty-eight hours, and then destroyed. If the owner could be located prior to the animal's destruction, his only alternative was a rigorous and lengthy quarantine. The quarantined animal was to be kept in an approved veterinary hospital for six months at the owner's expense. The dog could only be returned to his owner if at the end of that period a licensed veterinarian certified him to be free of rabies.

As can be expected, the legislation and its enforcement were the subjects of much litigation concerning their validity. In one such case — *Preudhomme v. Stebbins* — a dog owner contended that the law violated his constitutional rights. Seizure of his dog, Preudhomme argued, was a taking of his property without due process of law. He demanded that the New York courts strike down the statute and restore his pet to him at once.

But the court stood firm in its support of the rabies-control law. It agreed that the capture of his dog was a taking of property, but ruled that it was justified by the existing rabies "epidemic". An unleashed dog, it said, could become exposed to the disease within moments. And once exposed, there was no way of detecting the actual existence of infection for a period of six months. It sympathized with the plight of the unhappy Preudhomme, but held that the law was a valid exercise of the state's police powers.

Shortly thereafter, a dog owner named Chaflin tried attacking the law from a different angle. Like

CONTROLLING RABIES MENACE

Preudhomme's, his dog has also been taken into custody pursuant to its provisions. He too had wanted to get him back without paying for six months confinement in a veterinary hospital. But he based his argument on the fact that the law in question authorized the ASPCA to seize and destroy the offending dogs. This, he contended, was an unlawful delegation of authority since the ASPCA was not a governmental agency.

Instead of agreeing with him however, the court praised the city for appointing the SPCA as its agent. This, the judge explained, assured the humane destruction of captured dogs when unfortunate circumstances made that necessary. Since the ASPCA was without discretion in choosing which animals were to live and which were to die, the delegation was referred to as one of enforcement duties only. And this made it legitimate. In conclusion, the court wrote that safeguarding the public health and safety was one of the highest functions of government. Even considerations of private property, it said, must give way before it. Chaflin lost his case, and his dog.

Since that time, the New York statute has become a model for cities with rabies problems. Similar provisions can be found in municipalities all over the United States. Others — which have not found it necessary to take action which is quite as drastic — have settled for license requirements that make rabies inoculation a prerequisite for issuance of a tag. Failure to obtain one is usually treated as a criminal act, and punished with fine or even imprisonment.

But in addition, most jurisdictions apply one more sanction which — in many instances — is the most telling of all. For in our lawsuit-conscious society, a judgment for damages can far exceed the amount of any fine which the law might impose. And generally an injured plaintiff has a much easier time winning a case against the owner of a rabid dog.

Ordinarily, a person who is bitten or otherwise hurt by a dog must prove that his owner did something "negligent" or "unreasonable" which caused the injury to occur. Frequently, a plaintiff's lawyer attempts to do this by showing that the dog in question had a history of bites or attacks, and that his owner should therefore have kept him chained or confined. But in the case of a

rabid animal, the rule is somewhat different. Because a dog which is infected with rabies is likely to become vicious and attack without warning, even if he never did it before, the law holds his owner to a special responsibility.

This can be illustrated by the Alabama case of *Hopper v. Crocker*. The defendant in that matter was the owner of a small and usually friendly mixed-breed dog. When another animal — one suspected of being rabid — attacked his little lap-pet and bit him, he locked the dog up for a week or two. Then late one evening, he allowed him to roam unattended.

During his wanderings, the little dog bit the plaintiff. Subsequently, the animal was found to have rabies. As a result, the plaintiff had to undergo a painful series of injections. When he sued the dog's owner, the court awarded him a substantial judgment for damages.

The defendant appealed this decision to a higher tribunal, but his arguments were flatly rejected. The appellate judges found the fact that he had locked the dog up for a little while to be proof that he knew — or at least suspected — that the dog might be diseased. Under the circumstances, they ruled, turning him out unattended "was a menace to the public." The trial court's findings were upheld.

With both the criminal and the civil law working to bring the disease under control, one would expect all dog owners to cooperate. But unfortunately, many do not. Some people tell themselves that as long as everyone else's dog gets a rabies shot, they have nothing to worry about. Others think that because they live in the country or on a farm their dogs are safe from infection. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Dogs are not the only animals which contract rabies and become vicious. History is replete with accounts of injuries done by rabid foxes, squirrels, bats, rats, even skunks. And any one of these creatures can infect a dog by biting or merely scratching him. When that happens, the rabid dog becomes a menace to the life and safety of every other animal and human being in the vicinity.

Yes, the law has helped to keep the rabies horror under control. But the law is only effective if it is obeyed. And that depends on each and every one of us!

THE
CE

By Steven R. Finz, Attorney-at-Law

DISEASES OF THE EA

By W. R. Rose D.V.M.

SYMPTOMS OF EAR DISEASE

Symptoms are warning signs that something is wrong. Keeping up with the duration and types of symptoms can be very helpful to your veterinarian in diagnosing and treating ear disease.

Ear diseases may be very rapid in spreading, causing intense irritation. Such infections are called *acute*. Diseases of long duration that spread slowly are called *chronic*. Acute infections can become chronic if left untreated and may result in permanent damage such as hearing loss or deafness.

Some common symptoms of ear disease are:

1. Shaking of the head.
2. Scratching of the ears.
3. Rubbing the side of the ear on the ground.
4. Whining or reluctance to have the ears touched.
5. Tilting of the head to one side; the side tilted downward is usually the infected side. Infections of the ear may be in one ear (unilateral) or both side (bilateral).
6. A foul odor coming from the ear.
7. Discharge from the ears.

- A. The type of discharge (exudate) is important in the evaluation of the type of ear infection. Is the discharge a thin liquid, of a creamy consistency or crusty.
 - B. The color of the discharge is also of value.
 - C. The amount of discharge should be noted. When the animal shakes his head, does fluid come out of it?
8. Temperature of the ear — when infection is present in the external ear there is usually a rise in temperature of the pinna. (A localized increase in temperature involving the ear flap and canal usually indicates infection of the ear alone.)

The symptoms noted above are commonly seen with external ear infections and at times middle ear infections. With middle and inner ear infections, there are additional signs:

9. Vomiting and/or loss of appetite.
10. Reluctance to move the head, keeping the head in a fixed posture. This is usually due to severe pain.
11. Hearing loss, the animal does not respond to commands.



Figure 1.

One of the common symptoms seen in dogs and cats is scratching of the ears. This is usually due to infection down in the ear.

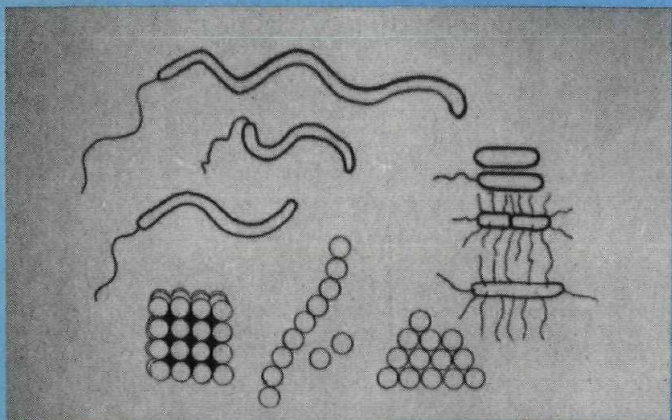


Figure 2.

Various types of bacteria that can cause ear infections.

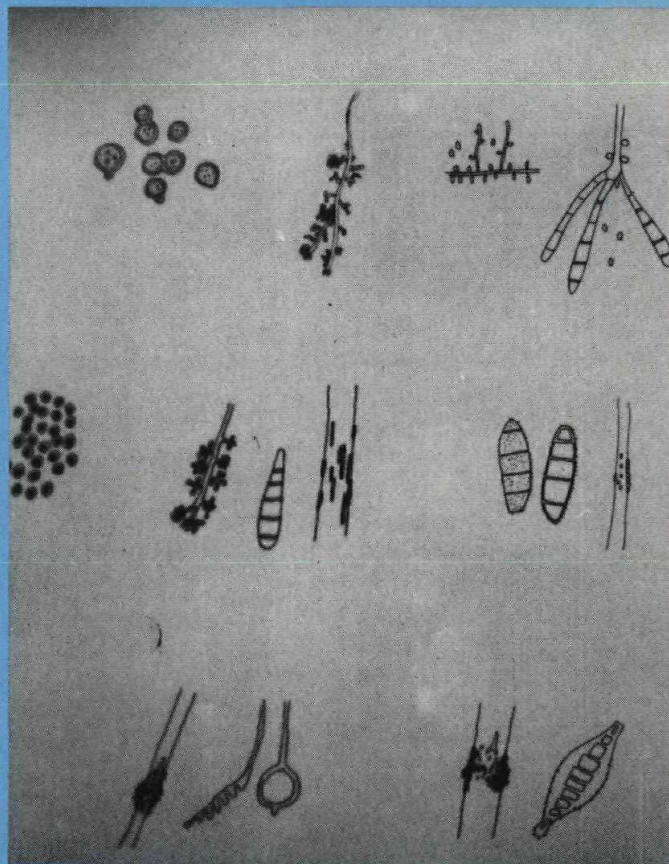


Figure 3.

Some types of fungus that can cause ear disease.

DISEASES OF THE EAR IN DOGS & CATS

CATEGORIES OF EAR DISEASES

Ear diseases can be grouped in the following categories:

1. Injuries (trauma).
2. Bacterial Infections.
3. Fungus Infections.
4. Parasitic Infestations.
5. Tumors.
6. Allergic Disorders.
7. Inherited (Genetic) Disorders.
8. Age Changes (Geriatric)

Bacterial Infections

Bacteria are germs that are too small to be seen with the naked eye. When seen under a microscope, these germs vary in size, shape and arrangement. Some types that commonly cause ear infections are shown in Figure 2.

To identify the type of bacteria that is responsible for your animal's ear infection, your veterinarian may have to take a sample of the discharge and culture the organisms. Then he will stain them and examine them under a powerful microscope. Why is this necessary? There is no single drug (antibiotic) that will kill all the types of disease-causing bacteria living in the ear of the dog and cat. If a bacterial ear infection exists, then it usually is caused by a specific single type of bacteria that must be treated with a specific drug. The type of discharge (color, consistency, etc.) can often indicate to the veterinarian the probable cause of the ear infection, enabling him to start treatment immediately. Certain species of bacteria produce characteristic discharges. A rod-shaped bacteria (*Pseudomonas*) produces a greenish pus, while a ball-shaped bacteria (*Staphylococcus*) produces a yellow pus.

Over a period of time some species of bacteria become resistant to certain drugs. When this occurs a new drug must be sought and used. A culture test (drug sensibility) will tell whether a drug is effective against a given species of bacteria. Culture results take time, generally one to three weeks.

Fungus Infections (Otomycosis)

We are all familiar with common types of fungus (mildew, athlete's foot, bread mold, ringworm). There are quite a few species of fungus that cause ear infections in the dog and cat. Antibiotics are completely useless against these fungi so special drugs have been developed just to fight fungus infections. Some species of fungus may be transmissible to man, for example ringworm. So for health reasons it is wise to know what genus of fungus the animal harbors. Once again, a culture may be required. Skin scrapings, hair samples or exudates are taken from the animal and planted on specialized media designed for fungus growth. Fungus grows more slowly than bacteria, so identification may

take a month. Microscopic identification of the fungus on these cultures is made by the identification of spores. Spores are the reproductive structures of the fungus plant and they spread readily infecting other animals and at times man.

Some common types of fungus spores that infect the ears of dogs and cats are shown in Figure 3.

In the animals fungus invades the hairs and surface layers of the skin of the ear which causes erosion, inflammation and destruction of these tissues. Because of the fungus "root system", these infections are difficult to eliminate. There is a tendency for reoccurrence especially with temperature and moisture built up in the external ear canal. This is why your veterinarian may continue to treat a fungus infection long after the symptoms have disappeared. He needs to make sure that all the infected cells and hairs containing hyphae and spores are gone.

Even with careful veterinary care an animal can be reinfected from his living quarters, blanket and other animals. Since fungus spores may lie dormant for long periods of time, it usually takes the right set of circumstances to cause them to sprout and grow again. This is why routine ear hygiene is so important. Factors such as excess hair growth around ear canals and swimming both tend to foster fungus growth. Fungus infections may also follow bacterial infections as secondary invaders.

Parasitic Infestation (Otocariasis)

The term "ear canker" found in books on animals usually refers to the appearance of the wax in the mite-infested ears of dogs and cats. This wax is dark in color and crumbles into small chunks. The material may contain microscopic mites and their eggs. These mites once established in the ear can become very numerous. They can cause a variety of symptoms from mild irritation to vomiting and convulsions. Mites usually take 3 to 4 weeks to develop from egg to an adult.

To identify the presence of mites in the external ear canal part of the dark wax is taken from the ears and examined under the microscope. Finding eggs or nymphs or adults in the ear warrants treatment.

The mites cause irritation of the delicate lining of the ear canal. The wax glands of the ear become larger and secrete more wax which becomes crusty and dark. Because of this inflammation, there is or can be a secondary invasion by bacteria fungus. The animal may mutilate or scar the ear flap in an attempt to scratch the irritation. This can produce blood blisters (hematomas) or infection of the ear flap (pinna) which can spread down the ear.

Mites are generally transmitted from animal to animal. If you have more than one animal, it would be advisable to treat them all at the same time to prevent reinfection with mites.

The next part in this series will deal with first aid treatment for ear injuries.

for young people

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR PET

By Kevin Westfall

I am 16 years old and I live in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I am interested in photography and I find it very worthwhile to take pictures of animals.

Whether you have an expensive camera or an instamatic, you can take desirable shots of dogs, cats, and other animals by following some simple tips.

- (1) Have your camera loaded and ready to shoot at all times.
- (2) Take natural shots with a good, clear background.
- (3) Always be ready for an unexpected shot.
- (4) Take both outdoor and indoor shots.
- (5) Go to the zoo and take pictures of their animals. Zoo animals make interesting shots. Many times the zoo will have an animal show where the animals can perform tricks.
- (6) You can capture a pet's attention by putting some beads or buttons in a jar and shaking it.
- (7) Be patient. It will take many snaps to get a good pose.

Taking pictures of animals is a fun hobby that anyone can enjoy. And good pictures bring back happy memories.

What state is round at both ends and hi in the middle?

























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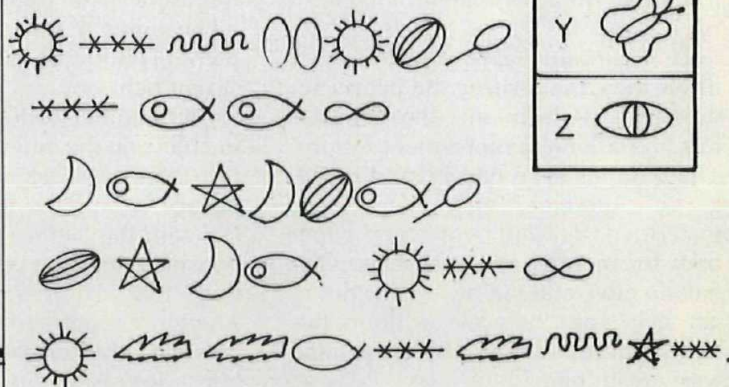
1. Hampsters store or carry food in their _____.
2. Rabbits like to twitch their _____.
3. Birds build their nests in the _____ of trees.
4. Cats have soft _____.
5. When a dog is angry he will _____.
6. Horses wear _____ on their feet.

ANSWERS:

cheeks, whiskers, branches, fur, growl, shoes.

BY DYANA PAUL

A 	G 	M 	S 
B 	H 	N 	T 
C 	I 	O 	U 
D 	J 	P 	V 
E 	K 	Q 	W 
F 	L 	R 	X 



Use the key at top of page. Find out what each letter is by the symbol and you will come out with something that all animals need.

ANSWER....

Animals need peoples love and attention.





AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION...



By Peter J. Vollmer

Peter J. Vollmer is the president of Group IV Ltd., Animal Behavior Consultant.

Of all the problem behaviors with pets that I deal with in private practice, those that fall into the aggressive category are the most difficult to modify on a permanent, long term basis.

There are several reasons I feel that this is the case. Usually the pet owner doesn't seek help until the behavior has had a long reinforcement history. The dog has been barking and growling at "intruders" such as mailmen, metermen, delivery people and paper boys for months, or even years. One day he nips, and the owner decides to get help, as "he's never done this before so there must be something wrong with him."

Usually aggressive responses have been occurring all along and have been reinforced each time. Territorial growling and barking constitute what are called precursor or antecedent responses which are preliminary to a more assertive act such as nipping or biting.

Reinforcement is achieved by the withdrawal of the stimulus which elicited the aggressive response. When the dog barks and growls at "intruders," the mailman, delivery people or whoever has come shortly leave the dog's presence. The act of leaving reinforces the response. It is as if the dog thought that his barking, growling, etc. led to the "intruder's" withdrawal. This is referred to as negative reinforcement — negative meaning subtraction or withdrawal, and reinforcement, because the response is more

likely to occur in greater frequency and intensity the next time around.

Another factor contributing to the difficulty of the change process is the fact that these events have taken place on a regular basis over time. Metermen, paper boys, etc. usually visit the home regularly during the month, week or day, and this regularity becomes a schedule of reinforcement. This in turn leads to highly persistent behavior.

Still another factor that contributes to changing the older dog's ways is the fact that an aggressive complaint usually is only the tip of the iceberg. Beneath the surface lies a social relationship which the owner has with this dog that is less than desirable. Therefore, not only must an aggressive behavior pattern be modified, but also restructuring of the entire social relationship between the owner and the dog is called for. The owner is asked to learn an entirely new way of viewing and relating to the animal. This has proven difficult for many people to do.

Unfortunately, there are no "cook-book" solutions to these types of behavioral complaints. Each situation must be evaluated on its own merits. All this takes time, money and a lot of motivation on the owner's part.

Fortunately, many, many aggressive complaints can be prevented from occurring through proper early handling. The young dog is relatively easy to work with, provided he's a normal, healthy animal. All it takes is a good, realistic understanding on the owner's part of how the puppy develops behaviorally into a mature dog and how the species com-

municates with others.

In the space allotted to me, I could not adequately explain to you the communication and developmental aspects of canine behavior, but I can recommend four references sources that do an excellent job. *Understanding Your Dog*, by Michael W. Fox (C.M. & G, 1972); *Paul Loeb's Complete Book of Dog Training*, by Paul Loeb (Prentice Hall, 1974); *Help! This Animal is Driving Me Crazy*, by Daniel Tortora (Playboy Press, 1977); *The Wolf*, by David Mech (Natural History Press, 1970).

To those readers who have young pups, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of proper rearing. Much new information is now available — information that has been derived from years of research on animal learning and behavior.

Dr. R. L. Collenson, in a recent issue of *Today's Animal Health*, suggests that over 17 million dogs and cats are destroyed by humane shelters each year. Other studies have shown that typically some behavior problem is behind these euthanasias, and aggressiveness is towards the top of the list. Based on the estimated number of pets in this country, 17 million represents an enormous "failure" rate. So do yourself and your dog a favor and get educated. I'm sure you wouldn't take on the responsibility of raising mink unless you first did a lot of research on the best way to go about it. Dogs require a specific type of handling that is based on their species history and learning mechanisms. All too few people have this understanding of *canis familiaris*. Are you one of them?

worth reading

A Natural History of Zebras

By: Dorcas MacClintock
Pictures by Ugo Mochi
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1976; \$7.95

A comprehensive, concise, almost terse, account of the history, physiologic structure, types, behavior and future of the fascinating zebra. The pictures are enchanting black and white works of art. (If the earlier book on giraffes by the same author is anywhere near as well done, it is worthwhile.) Some of the terminology may be too professional for a lay reader, but there is a good glossary and the fund of information is well worth the effort. Excellent for research or for the natural history buff — or just for the casual reader who is curious about zebras.

Sea Life of the Pacific Northwest

By: K. Gilbey and Stefani Hewlett
Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson
Limited
1976; \$14.95

With over 200 photographs, many in color, this marvelous book describes the marine plant and animal life along the coast. Well organized, entertainingly written, the beach aficionado will find this book a delight. The authors are curators at the Vancouver Public Aquarium and their own enthusiasm for their subject is transmitted in their book. You won't put it down once you start reading.

The Order of Wolves

By: Richard Fiennes
Indianapolis/New York: Bobbs-Merrill
1976; \$13.95

This one is a *must* — a beautiful book in format, and packed with information which will amaze and fascinate the reader. This not only describes the habits and types of wolves, but gives an insight into the terror which men have had of wolves, eg. the story of Little Red Riding Hood, the were-wolves etc. The author predicated that the tragedy of the wolf dates back to his competition with man during the Ice Age — the two great predators who lasted through the ages — man and the wolf. The final chapter will give any of us food for thought, since we are now in a state of crisis, ecologically speaking. The wolf has maintained his social unit and his territorial instinct and has survived. The author calls the wolf, "nature's gentleman." Read the book to find out why.

Animal Babies of East Africa

By: Monique and Hans Dossenbach
New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons
1976; \$5.95

A charming photographic essay on the habits of thirteen animals in the care of their young. The pictures are appealing and the comments are most interesting. This would be a fine book for the young natural history enthusiast. (Isn't bad for the older ones either.)

Deadly Harvest and Wildlife

Continued from page 11

that comes from lead poisoning.

It is something of a relief to know that squirrels take precautions with at least a few of the most virulent poisons. Leonard Rue in his book "*Pictorial Guide to the Mammals of North America*" tells us that red squirrels gather the deadly *Amanita muscaria* mushrooms and store them high up in branches of trees where sun and rain will leach out the poison. Presumably the animals know when it is safe to return and feast upon these stores.

If we knew how squirrels get by with so much poison in their diets, we might be better able to combat the many impurities and dangerous substances that appear in our foods. An observer states that gray squirrels overcome ill effects from poison bait through vomiting. Perhaps they also get rid of overdoses of other poisonous substances in the same way. We are reminded of the ancient Romans who used this device to rid their systems of excessive amounts of food and drink.

It seems likely poisons are risky to most organisms. However some animals are better adapted than others in throwing off ill effects. In view of our frequent upsets and allergies, it would appear that we rank rather low in our ability to overcome these risks. In addition, in the name of slenderizing, texture, color, and other unnecessary frills, we have allowed our foods to become less safe for consumption. There seems to be no easy way to recognize unsafe products before they are eaten. Actually the most dangerous foods of all are those that give no immediate warning of the harm they are capable of doing to us; rather they keep us waiting for perhaps years. Would that we had sharper instincts like our wilder brethren that almost automatically seem to know what is good for them and what is not.

JOHN V. DENNIS is a biologist and a free-lance writer who lives in Nantucket, Massachusetts. He is the author of *A Complete Guide to Bird Feeding* (Alfred Knopf) and recently co-authored with Dr. C. R. Gunn *A World Guide to Tropical Drift Seeds and Fruits* (Quadrangle/New York Times Book Co.).

dialogue

Continued from page 4

During the CVMA Annual Scientific Seminar in San Francisco (1977), one of my colleagues suggested giving my clients a one year free subscription (I would pay for it, not they) to *Today's Animal Health* magazine. I tried it out, and the response was fantastic! They seem really interested in it.

Gloria Dodd D.V.M.

We are attempting to create Animal Responsibility Centers in the local High Schools.

If you have such available, I would greatly appreciate receiving as many past issues (2-3 copies of each) as you may have. Many thanks.

W. Wayne Kaufman, D.V.M.

BRING FIDO HOME WITH A DOG TAG

Allentown, Pennsylvania.... "The cruelest thing a pet owner can do is not to provide the household pet with a proper collar and dog tag," according to Phyllis Wright of the Humane Society of the United States. "Untagged pets make up more than seventy-five percent of the nearly 12 million pets which stray and become lost each year. Untagged dogs and cats are strays, period, animals with no known home, and in most cases end up in the local animal shelter."

The result? Animal shelters are drastically overcrowded. Often, insufficient funding, a lack of personnel to staff the shelters, make it impossible for stray pets to receive food, care and protection over long periods of time.



telephone number do the talking. The owner can be contacted as soon as the pet is found, and in ninety percent of the cases, the pet is quickly returned."

Even the most responsible pet owner can make a mistake, and in spite of all precautions, the family pet can be lost or stray. In this regard, Mr. Frank points out the importance of keeping a collar and tag on the pet even after it is inside the house. By doing so, the pet owner guarantees identification if the dog or cat should slip out of the house without the owner's knowledge.

It is important to note that animal protection agencies throughout the United States strongly urge pet owners not to put their pet's name on the identification tag. Most pets are quick to respond when called by name. Publicizing the family pet's name on a dog tag only serves as an added incentive to petnappers.

Allen Products Company, makers of ALPO Pet Foods and other pet food products, is offering a pet identification tag as part of the company's continuing program to encourage pet owner responsibility.

Stamped in stainless steel with a sturdy stainless steel S-hook, the tag provides room for the owner's name, address and telephone number. Interested pet owners should send \$1.00 along with complete address and telephone information to: ALPO DOG TAG OFFER, P.O. Box 4416, Madison, Wisconsin 53711.

Worse still, if the pets are not claimed by their owners, or adopted by other families within the shelter's grace period, shelters have no other recourse but to put the animals to sleep in order to care for newly arrived stray pets.

Ms. Wright points out that, "If more pet owners would provide proper identification for their pets, more stray pets would be returned to their owners, and animal shelters would serve their intended purpose as a temporary haven for the lost family pet."

The solution ultimately lies with the individual pet owner. A pet identification tag and collar, coupled with proper licensing of the family pet in accordance with community regulations, provides an added guarantee that the lost pet will be returned home safely.

Robert Frank, Director of the Society of St. Francis, a non-profit animal protection agency in the Chicago area, has this to say about the importance of identification tags:

"Stray pets can't talk, and if a pet has no identification, there is no way of knowing where the pet owner can be contacted. Pet identification tags with the owner's address and

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A.P.I.'S CRUSADE TO SAVE THE BABY SEAL

Continued from page 19

very upbeat, very optimistic statements about the number of seals. They don't want to be reminded that the Canadian government appointed some experts to study this — a Committee on Seals and Sealing — and in 1974, that committee said that a six-year moratorium on the killing of the seals was very necessary. Even though it appointed the committee, the government ignored the finding — it wasn't what it wanted to hear. The aerial survey from year before last indicated the real number of seals might be about half of the million and a half the sealers had been claiming. Last year's survey was described by the people who made it for the government as incomplete — which could mean the government were distressed by the results and didn't want to publish them totally. At least they never have. And the figures from the previous year only got out because API released them after the man in charge of the census had told, at one of their meetings, what they really were. And you heard these fears that there could be retaliation on the census-taker, or he could fall into disfavor, just because he told figures the government wasn't comfortable with.

TAH

How bad do you think the figures are — as far as indicating a decline in how many seals still exist?

TANYA

The figure that really tells you what happened is in the quotas for 1977. While the animal rights people were raving and storming that a quota of 170,000 was far too high and a terrible crime, the Canadian government said no, no, no — you're just victims of illusions. And then the sealers went out on the ice to find those 170,000 seals. And they couldn't find that many. They probably clubbed to death one hundred thousand baby seals. And what adults they could catch. But they fell something like ten thousand short of the quotas that had been set, even though they must have been trying like crazy to get all the seals they could. So that left the people who set the quota in a terrible position. It was like proving how correct the animal rights people had been all along. The government had a hard time thinking of an explanation. They told no more about the figures than they had to — haven't told it all yet. And finally the explanation

they came up with was: "Bad ice." Oh, there must be lots of seals out there, they suggested, but bad ice kept the hunters from getting to them. So it's a very perverse business. But it's not the first time that things like this have happened. It shouldn't be a surprise to us that governments get into an active conspiracy with commercial people to justify animal killing to a point where there's nothing left at all. In the case of the great blue whale, API says on a wildlife poster that in 1930, there were 150,000 of them in the oceans of the world, and they came to a low of possibly 600 before the recovery began. All that time, people who were only concerned with killing wanted it said that there was an abundance of whales, that they were doing nothing wrong — *lay off them.*

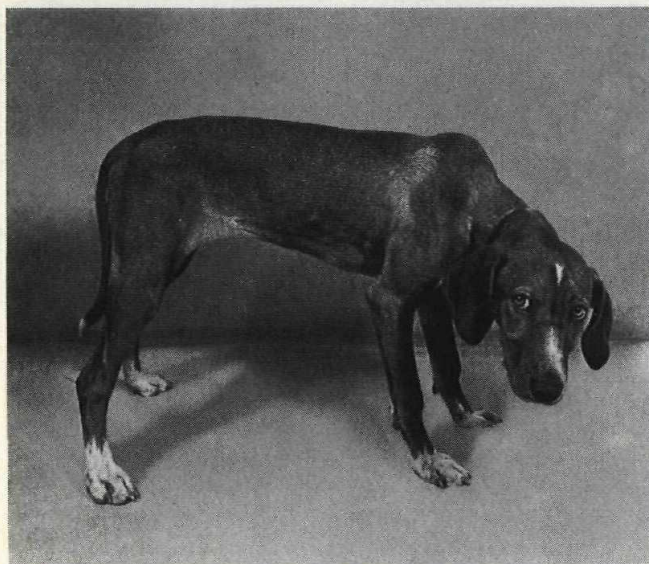
TAH

Do you think Pierre Trudeau will bend before these millions of people who say, "You must not club the baby seal?"

TANYA

I think there's a point at which Canada, or any country, listens. And that point could be too late. It could be when the seals are whittled down to almost nothin'. Meantime, you have all these baby animals crushed by a method of killing the Canadian officials and the Norwegians say is humane. It's a huge crack on the head; and many times several cracks; and there are known incidents where the animals were still alive when skinned. The idea of recruiting scientists to go around saying how humane this is just plain peculiar behavior. People can see that it's not humane. And killing animals at the age of two weeks would not be humane even if they died in a quiet little dream. Should we kill off fawns before they get going? Or colts? Or infants? The word humane can't be mentioned in connection with it. It's people warping words. I don't know about Pierre Trudeau. Maybe he's so blinded now he can't see the truth. But there are people growing up in Canada who are going to detest the seal-clubbing like Americans learned to detest how we killed the whales. Our country is not at all perfect — lots of animal crimes going on here. So I think we have to work mightily to correct all these things about our own country. But I don't think that means that we — and the whole world, really — shouldn't be talking to Canada. As far as animals are concerned, I don't think its national policy that's needed — it's world policy, really. That policy should be compassion. And the whole world needs to get together on that.

"With lots of love and ALPO, Spirit now lives up to her name."



BEFORE ALPO:

Spirit on July 7, 1976. Suffering from insufficient protein, malnutrition and neglect.



AFTER ALPO:

Spirit on December 1, 1976. Enjoying good health after a steady diet of ALPO's meat protein and loving care.

"We found her on the 4th of July, so we just had to name her 'Spirit,' not that she had any. When we first saw her at the pound, we knew we had to adopt her. Why, we could count that poor pathetic dog's ribs. No pep, half starved and craving affection as much as food. We have plenty of both to give her."

Plenty of love and plenty of ALPO Beef Chunks Dinner. That's what the John Holbens of Allentown, Pa., had to offer Spirit, the sorrowful looking dog that won their hearts. The Holbens' local veterinarian informed them that Spirit had no diseases, but was badly in need of a proper diet and lots of attention.

"We figured that she needed the kind of food that would stick to her ribs—and build her up. And what's better than good rich chunks of beef? That's



why we decided on ALPO."

The Holbens made a wise decision. Meat-based foods are more digestible than cereal-based foods. Which meant Spirit's system was able to absorb and use more of the food she ate. Since meat is a dog's natural food, she loved ALPO and her appetite im-

proved. Her health improved too, because ALPO, with meat by-products, beef, soy, vitamins and minerals has everything a dog needs every day.

"We'd always heard that ALPO had every vitamin and mineral a dog needs every day—now we know it's true. Because after just a few months of love and ALPO, that dog has so much energy and spunk that we can hardly keep her down. Now Spirit sure lives up to her name."

ALPO and love—they make a difference.