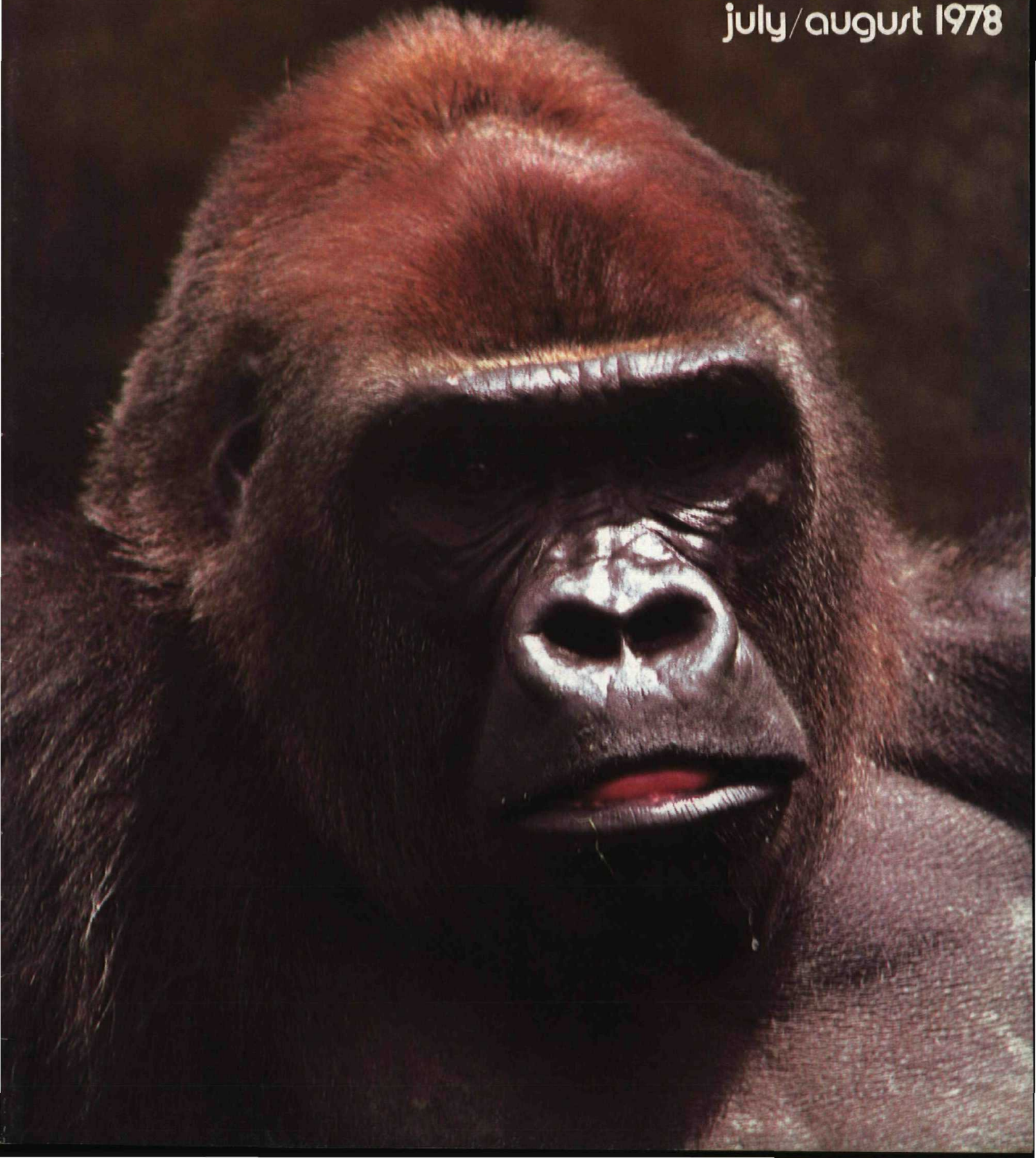


Today's
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Volume 9/Number 4

July/August 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.

FEATURES

HEARING AND EAR PROBLEMS
OF DOGS AND CATS/by W. A. Rose **8**

HEAT STROKE AND YOUR DOG/
by W. D. Royce **11**

DENTAL PROBLEMS IN ANIMALS, PART III/
by C. P. Ryan, D.V.M. **12**

CARDIOLOGY **15**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CAESAR **16**

ENJOY WILD ANIMALS FROM A DISTANCE/
by Nancy Churchill **18**

A SEVEN DOLLAR HORSE/
by Marti Kerr and Laurie McNary **20**

TAKING YOUR PET ALONG/by R. Bauman **23**

ZOO ANIMAL MEDICINE **24**

PICKING A VETERINARIAN **26**

BIRD BELIEVED EXTINCT FOR 100 YEARS
REDISCOVERED IN PERU **27**

URBAN PET OVERPOPULATION:
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNER/
by R. S. Plamondon, D.V.M. **29**

CHIMPANZEE HELPS VETERINARIAN **30**

DOGS AS THE EASY RIDERS/
by John C. Stevenson, D.V.M. **31**

DEPARTMENTS

DIALOGUE **4**

ASK DR. SMITHCORS **7**

dialogue

Every year many dogs fall victim to canine heartworm disease. If undetected, this disease can lead to heart and lung damage and even death.

The American Heartworm Society (AHS) reports that heartworm has now spread almost nationwide. Originally, the Eastern Seaboard and Gulf State regions were the primary reservoirs.

Long white worms, called *Dirofilaria immitis*, cause canine heartworm disease. Mosquitoes spread the infective larvae from dog to dog. Unfortunately, a great deal of damage can result before signs are apparent to the owner.

This disease can be detected by a blood test. Sometimes a veterinarian uses x-rays, repeated blood tests, and other laboratory procedures to confirm the presence of the worms.

Veterinarians can successfully treat most infected dogs. While there is some risk involved in treatment, fatal reactions are rare in otherwise healthy dogs. Prevention is the best medicine. The AHS recommends that dogs be regularly examined and started on a preventive program.

Dog owners can obtain a free brochure called "What You Should Know About Canine Heartworm Disease" by sending a stamped, self-addressed, business size envelope to the American Veterinary Medical Association, 930 North Meacham Road, Schaumburg, IL 60196.

G. F. Otto, Sc.D.
President
American Heartworm Society

W. L. Anderson, D.V.M.
President
American Veterinary Medical Association

I've noticed that your order envelope in each issue of Today's Animal Health says, "Your 13 cent stamp saves 25 cents for helping animals!" How can 13 cents save a quarter?

Leonard Mulnia
Memphis, Tennessee

When you use an envelope with a "Business Reply Permit" the receiver must pay 25 cents to the post office. By using your own stamp, you save the Animal Health Foundation 25 cents . . . not a bad deal when you think about it!

— Editor

I am employed as a Veterinary Technician by a veterinarian. He received a copy of your magazine and I read it and like it very much!

Thank you for such a wonderful magazine and for such an informative article on canine dental hygiene — more pet owners really need to be aware of how to take care of their pets' teeth!

Cathleen Fauver
Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

4 Today's Animal Health

Readers of Today's Animal Health should know that an informative new film entitled "The Well Turned-out Dog" has been produced by the Friskies Division of Carnation Company for dog owners who would like to master the basic techniques of home grooming.

Good grooming, as the film illustrates, contributes in a very important way to the family dog's good health as well as to its sense of well being. Regular and careful grooming not only reflects the owner's concern for his pet's appearance, it also is a major safeguard against diseases and parasites and most certainly enhances any dog's social acceptability.

The 13½-minute color film gives graphic instructions on all phases of home grooming; the proper tools to have on hand, coat care for both long and shorthaired breeds, techniques for the proper care of eyes, ears, teeth and nails and the best procedures for baths when they are needed.

"The Well Turned-out Dog" was filmed at Carnation Farm's Friskies Research Kennels under the supervision of Bob Bartos, nationally known dog handler and director of the Research Kennels.

Carnation is offering the 16-mm sound movie free on loan as a public service to animal lovers. To order the film for a period of two weeks without charge, write to Public Service Audience Planners, Inc. 6290 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 90028. Users pay only the return postage.

Jeanne Parry, Editorial Director
FRISKIES/CARNATION COMPANY
Los Angeles, CA. 90036

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the excellent article on animal dentistry in Today's Animal Health magazine.

After six years of advocating oral hygiene to the public, as well as to the veterinarians, I am thrilled to see the article published.

I believe that a preventive oral health program for our domestic animals might be one of the most rewarding contributions to veterinary medicine, as well as, to the human-pet relation. We cannot limit health consideration in the domestic area only to humans, but we have to consider and include the other members of our household — the pets. We all can benefit from it.

I would like, if it is possible, to buy reprints of your articles, and with your permission, refer to them in the line of education.

Dr. Ursula Dietrich, President
DEEPEN ENTERPRISES, INC.
San Mateo, California 94401

Deepen Enterprises is the leading manufacturer of pet oral hygiene products. We hope to bring readers more information about these products in future issues of TAH.

— Ed.

I am already a reader of Today's Animal Health through my animal courses I am taking from North American School of Animal Sciences. I want to say how very much I like your magazine. I am writing to tell you how much I love animals and care for them. In the April issue, I am deeply concerned about the baby seals and if there is anything that I can do, please let me know. Also, if I can help in any other way with anything, don't hesitate to let me know.

I hope someday soon to have or get a job working with animals. Thank you for your time!

Cindy Harrington

For more information about helping the seals write to the Animal Protection Institute, 5894 S. Land Park Drive, Sacramento, California 95822.

— Editor

Your magazine has been a resourceful addition to our collection. Our patrons have enjoyed it immensely. However, our periodicals budget as well as the over all budget, is now threatened by the Jarvis initiative as you may well be aware.

If, and when Proposition 13 does not pass, "Today's Animal Health" will be the first on the list of magazines to be considered for subscription.

Suad S. Ammar
Placentia Library District
Placentia, California 92670

Since Proposition 13 passed, the Editor will extend your subscription for another year.

Does your local library have a subscription to TAH? If not, how about giving a gift subscription?

In your March/April 1978 issue, there was an article on seeing eye dogs. Well, this has always been my life's ambition. When I was in high school I learned of four schools in the U.S. and wrote to them all. They were all four year schools, very expensive, all of them were out of New York State which is where I live. Also you could not even apply until the age of 21. Therefore, I gave up hope of ever getting into this field of work. Now that I am age 21 I would like to find out about different schools.

In your article you spoke of two year apprenticeships. I was wondering if you could send me a list of such schools, or where I could get this information. I would appreciate any information on any two or four year schools anywhere in the U.S. for training seeing eye dogs.

Your help will be most appreciated. A stamped addressed envelope in enclosed. Thank you very much.

Kim Wemesfelder
North Rose, NY 14516

For more information you can write to:
Ms. Karen Avery
The Seeing Eye, Inc.
One Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10020

or to:
Guide Dogs for the Blind
San Rafael, CA

— Editor

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Today's Animal Health

dialogue

I recently received your March/April issue of Today's Animal Health and was very taken with the interview with Tanya Tucker on the seals.

I am also an animal lover. I have taken in many strays also. In fact, I'm in the process of getting several acres of land where my husband-to-be and I will be living and where I plan to have my own small kennel. I completed an animal course with the North American School by mail.

It's just so nice to know that there are people like Tanya, who really care enough to get involved. It's also a shame there are not more concerned people willing to help.

I am also nineteen, I contribute to the HSUS regularly and only wish there was more I could do to help.

I recently subscribed for Today's Animal Health and hope to learn more than ever.

Debra R. Miller
Runxautawney, PA

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

I would like to write in response to Mr. Corday Fain's article in the January/February 1978 issue regarding the "sports hunter".

It's beyond my imagination that this "animal lover" can deliberately, and with obvious pleasure, kill an animal in the name of sport. Wildlife in this day and age have so many obstacles to overcome to survive, why do they also have to have MAN? If the love of firing a rifle is so great, there are many target ranges all over the country that can be utilized, instead of the warm living creature on the receiving end of his site.

He doesn't need this meat for sustenance as did his forefathers. True, the slaughterhouses are a disgrace; with the knowledge of today, there has to be a more humane way of killing livestock, but there is some difference between the animal bred for food, raised on a farm, given food, water and a place to rest, and the wild creature of high instinct and delicate environment, who has to find his own food, make his own shelter and raise its own young.

I, for one, am definitely opposed to "sport hunting" — this, to me, is one of the most obnoxious expressions in the English language, just as the deed is one of the most flagrant acts of a human being.

Joyce M. Weiss
Indianapolis, Indiana 46227

This is in response to a letter by Daphne Fahsing in your March/April '78 issue.

Miss Fahsing seems to know what she is talking about. I'm quite sure you consider yourself an animal lover, Miss Fahsing, when you say that hunting (or "Sport" hunting) is unfair to the animal, but you don't realize how wrong you are on both counts.

True, the modern hunter is armed with the finest of precision weapons. But the animal is armed with the finest of precision hearing, cunning, sight, smell and speed. So what is so unfair about it? Hunters don't necessarily go after the strongest and finest of the herd. The majority of hunters try for any animal (of which they're hunting) that they see, and seeing isn't all... you've got to be able to hit him. Not everybody is a born marksman. Now with all this on the animal's side, any animal that is shot is definitely not the **finest** or the **strongest**, now, is he?

Nature doesn't always eliminate the young, weak, and ill. In most areas, there aren't enough predators to kill these unsatisfactory animals (as far as good breeding is concerned) due to poachers — not sport hunters.

To put it bluntly — if hunting is not allowed, the herd would become too big, the bad would breed with the good and lower the health of the entire herd and what few predators that do hunt them. Then the ground that these animals, and the cows that we eat and the horses we ride, live on and eat would become over grazed and die. Now we have an immense herd of animals with nothing to eat. So they die... by starvation, one of the most painful deaths of all. And they will keep on dying and keep on starving until the herd, that poor, sick, starving, little herd is near extinction. And you call yourself an animal lover?

You're half right about the taxes too. Hunters don't just buy a gun (which ain't cheap) and go shoot something. They have to pass the Hunter's Safety Course and buy a license to shoot an animal and must have proof that it was the animal that they did shoot. The money we pay in taxes also goes to areas especially made for the preservation of endangered species and don't forget the Forestry Dept. who runs and takes care of all the natural parks you non-hunters go to. Hunting expenses are no little deal.

When was the last time you ate a piece of beef, lamb or pork? Did you know that the animal you ate was led from a pasture to a stall with two bars on either side of his head and was clubbed? Some chances!! Let me tell you I'd rather have someone come after me with a gun!! What kind of person does it take to go to the store and buy a package of meat already killed, cleaned and cut? Anybody, **anybody** could. BUT... how many people can 4-wheel back in the hills, sleep in a tent, get up at 4:00 in the morning at 20° below 0 and go trapping up and down mountainsides in 4 feet of snow with a day's provisions and a rifle on his back? Not many. Especially the immature, overgrown, insensitive boy.

Of course we all know that not all the hunters are as careful as they should be. But does that make it right to stop hunting altogether or even fair for that matter? Hunting areas are patrolled constantly by game wardens and strictly to prevent such unfortunate things as escaped wounded animals or maimed and killed domestic animals, but no one's perfect. Should the Forestry and Fish and Game Departments close down the natural parks because a few people have littered?

I certainly hope that people pay heed to my letter and not downgrade on things they know nothing about.

Tina Young
Simi Valley, California 93063

ask Dr. Smithcors

Q Can you help me with the following problems related to our two Siamese cats? Both are neutered females. Muffin is four years old and has a habit of spraying our furniture, draperies, walls and automobiles. We have attempted to cure this by giving her Ovaban (5 mg) but to no avail. Is there a surgical procedure that might help? Cleo is 10 months old. She was taken from her mother at the age of seven weeks and has a nasty habit of sucking on the tip of her tail when she is at rest. It is terrible looking and terrible sounding. We have unsuccessfully tried applications of Stopzit, Don't, and Tevocin (the last suggested by our veterinarian). Do you have any suggestions (short of removal of her tail, which I am seriously considering)?

A Many female cats spray to mark territory as do males, and while neutering usually reduces this activity to an acceptable level, it may not be effective in some individuals. Several veterinarians have reported a single dose of 50-100 mg medroxyprogesterone (Depo-Provera: Upjohn) for female cats, effective in permanently eliminating such behavior, though in some cases repeated treatment has been necessary, especially when stimuli eliciting the response recur. Cutting the olfactory nerves to eliminate the cat's sense of smell, or psychosurgery to create specific brain lesions, has been suggested, but I don't think you or your cat would be ready for such drastic approaches. I would suggest you ask your veterinarian about trying medroxyprogesterone, and he might want to test her for cystitis, which may be predisposing to spraying. You might try dangling a sheet of aluminum foil where she sprays. The crackling sound it makes may cause her to avoid it — but she may simply pick another no-no place. If you can manage it, a trick which is not so far out as it might sound is to hide where you can ambush her with a water pistol, thus making it appear that the object being sprayed is squirting back, as if to punish her. This is about the only form of punishment you should attempt.

The tail-chewing problem appears to be thoroughly ingrained by this time, and neither of two feline specialists I consulted were optimistic about effect-

ing a change for the better. One cat whose tail was amputated for this reason continued to chase and attempt to grab the tail that wasn't there. You might try distracting her by offering a toy whenever she begins chewing, but this would probably be a tedious and perhaps unsuccessful project. Tail-chewing may accompany various parasitic or other skin conditions, and tapeworm infection has been reported to cause it, but the chronic nature of the problem suggests some other cause. If nothing else worked on my own cat, and she would tolerate it, I would be tempted to try putting an Elizabethan collar on her for two or three weeks, with the idea of keeping her tail out of her mouth long enough for her to forget it. Your veterinarian can supply one, or you can make one from a semi-rigid plastic container with a hole cut in the bottom large enough to slip over her head. The sides should be long enough to project past her jaws but short enough so she can eat. It may be necessary to shorten her tail a bit and keep a stiff bandage on it for a while so she can't get it to her mouth. Your veterinarian may have some thoughts on the matter.

Q Why did the veterinarian give my dog a measles vaccination? Do dogs get measles?
A No, dogs don't get measles, but the measles virus is related to canine distemper virus and has some of the same characteristics when it is used in vaccine. If the puppy's dam has been immunized against distemper (as all dogs should be) she will have antibodies against distemper virus. These are transmitted to the puppy by way of colostrum (the first milk) and in some cases will protect the puppy until it is about 15 weeks old. About 80% of puppies lose this maternal antibody by the time they are 9 weeks old, however, and they would be susceptible to distemper. Unfortunately, there is no simple way to determine which 20% of puppies still have antibodies, which will interfere with vaccination against distemper in the same way that they protect against infection. Since distemper antibodies do not interfere with the antigen in measles vaccine, the latter can be given to "tide the puppy over" until the regular distemper vaccination will be successful.

SEASONAL ALERTS

POISONOUS SNAKE BITES: Poisonous snakes are out. If you are in a snake infested area, be sure that you know your first aid. (See T.A.H. May/June 1977, page 13.)

DROWNING: If you have a swimming pool, be sure your pet knows how to find the steps to get out. Every year hundreds of pets drown because they don't know how to get out of the pool.

HEARING AND EAR PROBLEMS OF DOGS AND CATS

EAR HYGIENE AND CLEANING

by W. R. Rose, D.V.M.

PART V

Ear hygiene is probably one of the most neglected areas in the total care of a dog or cat. Owners bathe, clip and groom their animals with little or no attention to the cleaning of the ears, unless the animal shows signs of something being wrong! The right kind of routine maintenance is needed for several reasons:

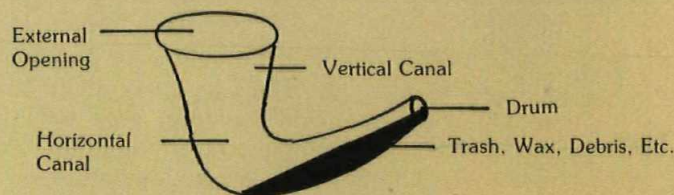
1. Wax can build up in the ear canal to the point where it totally blocks the canal.
2. The funnel shaped ear canal tends to collect debris (seeds, dirt, etc.).
3. Hair can grow around the opening of the ear canal to the point where it becomes a tangled mass blocking the ear canal.
4. Early signs of ear disease can often times be recognized by examinations and cleaning (Part III — March/April 1978 issue of *Today's Animal Health*).
5. Periodic cleaning may prevent the establishment of a disease by removing conditions that foster it.

Clean ears make your veterinarian's examination of the ears much easier and treatment of clean ears is much more effective.

To understand why the dog and cat need more special attention paid to ear cleaning, we must again

refer to the anatomy of the external ear (Part III).

The "L" shape of the ear prevents drainage of moisture and debris from the canal, so it must be removed. The canal gets progressively smaller until it reaches the ear drum. This fact fosters the impaction of this material at the joint of the "L" and the area near the drum.



If the ears are to be cleaned properly while keeping in mind your pet's safety, certain precautions should be observed:

1. Use cleaning agents designed specifically for dogs and cats. Do not use home cleaning agents such as alcohol or soap. These agents may be extremely irritating, burn or cause permanent damage to this lining of the canal or ear drum.
2. NEVER insert sharp objects into the ear to remove debris. This too can cause injury to the lining and ear drum.
3. Do not insert cotton tipped applicators deep into the ear canal. You may force the wax further down the ear canal closer to the ear drum. (Your veterinarian may use applicators because he knows how. Do not try it unless instructed to do so by the veterinarian.)
4. Do not clean ears without first examining them. If the following conditions exist, do not clean the ears.

The skin peels or breaks on touching.

There are signs of ulceration.

There is blood in the canal.

There are foreign objects down in the canal.

The ears are very red or inflamed.

The ear is very painful to the touch.

All the above conditions warrant a visit to your veterinarian. Cleaning is not treatment. Special cleaning agents and techniques available to your veterinarian may have to be used in some of the conditions listed above.

PROPER EAR CLEANING TECHNIQUES

Preparation:

Many dogs and cats do not like to have their ears cleaned. They will bite or scratch at the first opportunity, so that it may be necessary to restrain them. It is always best to have two people present for ear cleaning — one to clean and one to restrain the animal. You may find that some simple restraints will quiet the animal and make a traumatic experience at least tolerable for you and your pet.

For dogs, muzzles may be purchased at most pet stores. They come in several styles and sizes. Make sure that the muzzle you choose fits your animal. A muzzle of the proper size does not harm your animal in any way.

If you do not wish to purchase a muzzle, a home-made muzzle can be made from a roll of gauze. See Figures 1 and 2.

To restrain a cat may be more difficult. Various techniques can be used depending on the animal's temperament. One point to remember is to remain calm and be gentle. Reassure the animal, pet him, talk to him while you are working with him. This is especially true with cats. If the animal seems to be too excited, let him calm down, then start. (See Figure 4) If your pet is too fractious, get a professional to clean the ears for you. Consult your veterinarian, or other cat handlers on methods of restraining cats. Techniques vary from cat bags to taping the feet. A simple methods of restraint is shown in Figure 3. It is always a good idea to have two people present when cleaning a cat's ears. Another method is shown in Figure 4.

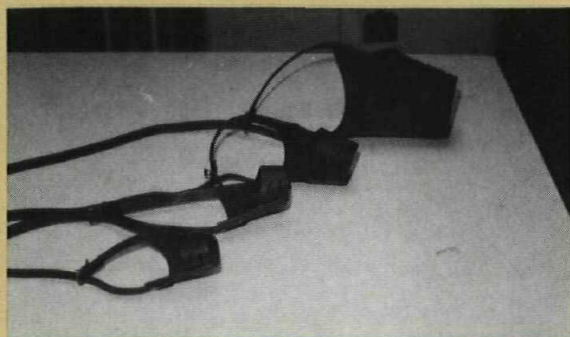


Figure 1.
One type of commercial muzzle available for restraint of dogs. Note there are several sizes depending on the size of the dog.

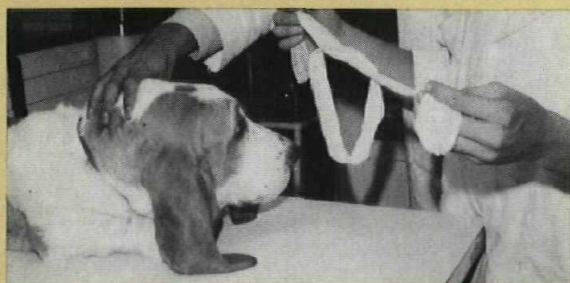


Figure 2.
Top — A cloth muzzle tied in a half loop.
Middle — The muzzle placed on the dog's nose and mouth.
Bottom — The muzzle tied behind the animal's head.

EXAMINATION

A good light is very useful. Remember that a very bright hot light may frighten an animal, so a small, rather inconspicuous light source may be a better choice. A pinlight or a high intensity lamp may be the best.

1. Feel the ear flap, is it hot?
2. Look at both surfaces of the flap (pinna) of both ears. Is there evidence of cuts or abrasions? Are there parasites (ticks or fleas) present? Is there exudate on the flap?
3. Shine the light down the vertical ear canal while holding the pinna up. Look for the signs described under number four (when **not** to clean the ears).

If you are satisfied, proceed with the cleaning. See Figure 5.

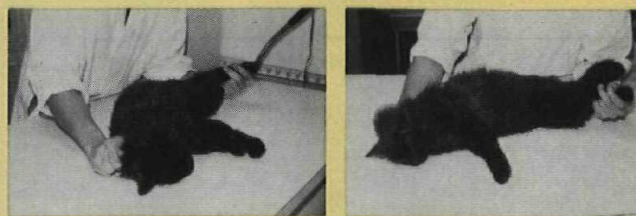


Figure 3.
Showing the restraint of a cat. The cat is held firmly by the loose skin of the neck and the hind feet. If the animal struggles it is simply stretched.



Figure 4.
Calming an animal that became excited.

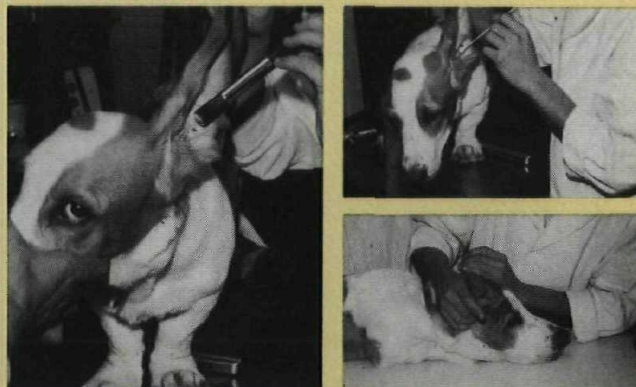


Figure 5.
Showing the equipment for ear cleaning by the pet owner. The ear cleaning solution, a pinlight, gauze, a muzzle, tweezers and forceps. Removal of debris from the inner surface of the ear flap. This can be done with a cotton tip applicator or gauze.

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HEARING AND EAR PROBLEMS OF DOGS AND CATS

EAR HYGIENE AND CLEANING

by W. R. Rose, D.V.M. PART V



Figure 6.
Top — Putting ear cleaning solution into the ear.
Bottom — Massaging the base of the ear
to work in the cleaning solution.

PROCEDURE

The ear cleaning liquid is introduced at the opening of the vertical canal according to directions. Then the ear is massaged at the base of the ear in a gentle circular manner for 3 to 5 minutes. The animal is then allowed to shake its head to bring out the fluid and dissolved wax. Wipe off the excess cleaning preparation and wax from the inner surface of the pinna. Repeat the procedure on the other ear.

Until most of the fluid is removed from the ear the animal will periodically shake its head. Therefore it is best to have the animal in an area that will not be harmed by the oily cleaning material. Allow the animal an hour or so to clean most of the fluid from the canal by shaking.

Sponge the excess from the ear with absorbent gauze. Reexamine the canal with a pinlight. If numerous deposits of wax and debris are still present, repeat the cleaning process.

Do not clean the ears too frequently, as this would add to the moisture content of the ear and foster bacterial and fungus growth. Once a month should be sufficient for most breeds of cats and dogs.

Another aspect of ear cleaning is the removal of excess hair from the entrance of the external ear canal. Tweezers (forceps) found in most grooming kits function well for this purpose. Remove a few hairs at a time to reduce the amount of skin damage. Continue plucking until the area is free of hair. This may take several sessions before the hairs are completely removed. Following hair removal sessions, soothing antiseptic ointments can be applied to the area to prevent secondary infection.

In the removal of ticks from the external ear, care should be exercised.

When bathing an animal, remember to plug the ears with cotton to prevent soapy water from running down the ear canal and irritating the lining and drum. Remove the cotton immediately after bathing.

Simple ear hygiene procedures such as those listed in this chapter can prevent serious disease and costly treatments. Just remember that the ear is as delicate as the eye. Treat it with the same respect.

HEAT STROKE & YOUR DOG

By W. D. Royce

Sitting quietly in the back seat of the sedan waiting for the return of his owner, the small terrier hopefully watched each passerby. The month was June and it was a pleasant day. The sun was shining pleasantly but unremittingly upon the sedan. The owner of the little terrier was devoted to her pet, overly so, perhaps, and this morning was no exception. But she had an appointment with the hair dresser and she couldn't leave the small dog at home. Concerned for his welfare, she rolled up the windows and locked the doors to keep him from jumping out or being stolen.

Within minutes of being parked in the sun, the temperature began to rise; within 15 minutes, it surpassed the 101 degree mark. As the temperature rose to 103 degrees, the terrier began to pant. At 109 degrees body heat, he lost consciousness. Death came soon after. The physical cause was a fluid build-up in the lungs called pulmonary edema and respiratory exhaustion.

The anguish of the mistress was extreme and although she rushed her still warm pet to the nearest Veterinary Hospital she found only consolation and sympathy. There was nothing that could be done.

Could this happen to your pet? Yes, unless you are aware of the dangers of over-heating. Dogs do not perspire as do humans; their only moisture loss is sweat from the pads of their feet and the nose, and into expired air in breathing. Consequently, they are much more susceptible to heat build-up and its co-threat humidity. Humidity alone, in the face of only moderate temperatures, is capable of initiating the anxiety, heat, humidity cycle. The main source of heat loss in the dog is the act of breathing. Air is inspired at less than 100% moisture and is expired at nearly 100% moisture. This moisture loss also contains the calories that were necessary to vaporize the water in the first place hence body control of heat is accomplished. Some heat is also lost as radiated heat through the skin, but loss can easily be jeopardized here by the physical condition of the coat such as length, mats etc. Also the insulating quality of

the longer coats slows down the process itself.

Be aware then that your pet may have trouble in hot, humid weather and take whatever steps are necessary to protect him. The situations where over-heating may occur are varied. Heat prostration in cars seems obvious but is often overlooked. Over-exertion in hot weather may precipitate heat stroke. Confinement in an enclosed area — or in specialized cases as at dog shows or traveling by air — may threaten an animal's temperature control.

Certain physical conditions may create problems that wouldn't affect normal animals. The commonest is heart disease. Because of the damaged heart's inefficiency, heat can build up more quickly and the dog's reaction to it occurs sooner because of his response physiologically. If the animal is on certain cardiac drugs, the nervous response of the heart has been eliminated or nearly so. This means that the heart is working at maximum efficiency, and any stress will reduce the efficiency. Whether heat becomes a problem in this animal depends upon how much stress occurs and what the cardiac function was at the beginning of the threat. **But beware doubly if your pet has a cardiac condition.**

If the worst should happen and heat stroke threatens your dog, what should you do? Cool him off immediately. Find a supply of cool running water. Get him into it. Once the symptoms have abated and you have him quieted down, search out the nearest veterinarian and have him examined. This should prevent problems which could later ensue, such as pneumonia.

Just remember, your dog does not have the same resources you do to cool his body and do not force him into a situation which will cause a great accumulation of heat in his body. Obviously the closed car is the most common situation, so either leave him home where he can find a cool spot or be sure to take precautions if you must take him out. And finally if you think your animal is close to heat stroke, cool his body temperature as rapidly as possible.

DENTAL PROBLEMS IN ANIMALS

ANIMAL DENTISTS

PART III

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

A veterinarian may have various patients needing dental care ranging from a child's small pet hamster to a large thousand pound pet horse. In cats and dogs the majority of dental care involves combating periodontal disease (see Part II). This entails encouraging home dental care by the pet owner, cleaning the animal's teeth and extraction of infected teeth. In the past ten years many advances have been made in the field of animal dentistry by cooperation and sharing of knowledge between dentists and veterinarians. Animals today may have root-canal therapy, dental prosthesis or crowns, and even have their improper bite corrected. Dentist-Veterinarian teams are involved in private practice, teaching at veterinary medical schools and doing dental research for man and animals. Zoos and wild animal parks may also use the services of such talent. Root-canal therapy is being used on some of the more valuable

wild cats, like tigers and leopards, and even baboons may see the dentist for root-canal therapy.

COMMON DENTAL PROBLEMS IN HORSES

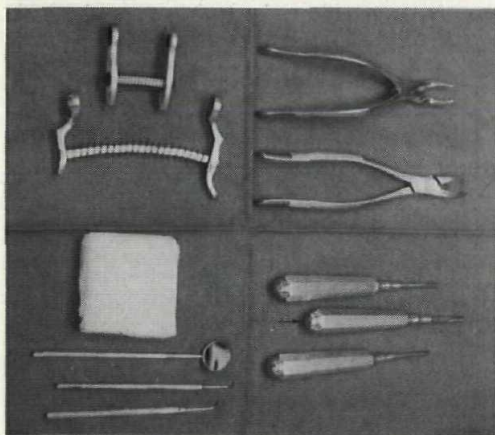
Like other animals horses have their dental problems and many veterinarians recommend routine dental examinations every 18 months.

Horses differ from us in that their teeth never stop growing which is an adaptation to their environment since sand and coarse material in their diet is constantly wearing their teeth away. At times due to uneven wear sharp edges build up on the horse's teeth which cause injury to the mouth by cutting and tearing the tongue and inside of the cheeks. Horses with this problem have difficulty chewing their food and eat less because of the lacerations and sores in the mouth. The horse may tend to drool and

salivate excessively. Many times the first thing the owner notices is a poor appetite and weight loss. To correct the problem, the veterinarian uses a dental instrument similar to a file or rasp to remove the sharp edges on the upper and lower premolar and molar (cheek) teeth — this is often referred to by horse people as "floating" the teeth.

The first permanent premolar teeth in horses are vestiges and may be small and rudimentary or absent and can be found either on the upper or lower jaw. They are often called wolf teeth. The wolf teeth when present may become a source of irritation and cause difficulty when a bit is used in the mouth. Generally wolf teeth are extracted when encountered by veterinarians.

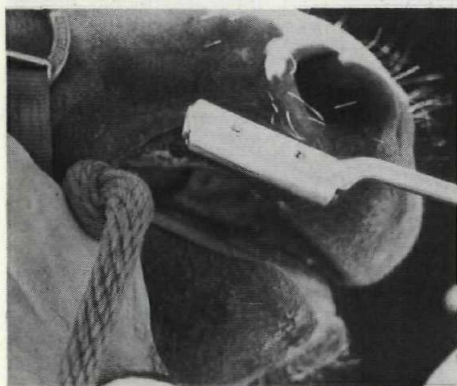
Another dental problem often encountered in horses occurs when the temporary baby teeth fail to shed and interfere with eruption of the permanent teeth at about 2½-3½ years of



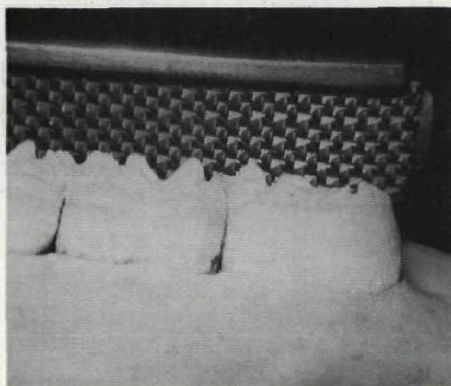
1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

1. Hand dental instruments. When extracting a tooth, a dental elevator (arrow) is inserted around the root to break apart the ligaments that hold the tooth in its bony socket. Trying to simply "pull" a tooth out can result in the crown breaking off.
2. A dog's teeth being cleaned with an ultrasonic dental unit. The most common dental care in dogs is routine cleaning. An ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure.
3. "Floating" a horse's teeth is accomplished by inserting a dental rasp into the mouth. Patient restraint may be a problem encountered by the veterinarian.
4. Lower jaw of horse showing the sharp edges on the premolar and molar teeth. These sharp

edges may cause tears and cuts on the tongue. A metal rasp used to file off the sharp points is seen in the background.

5. A guard dog on duty. Without his fangs this dog would be of little value. In the military, sentry dogs have the best dental care available in order to prolong their working life. No early retirement for highly-trained sentry dogs.
6. This dog has worn her teeth down to stubs by chewing on bones, rocks and sticks. The flat surface on the canine tooth reveals the dentine (outer arrows) which composes the bulk of the tooth and the pulp chamber (inner arrow) which contains blackened dead tissue. A thick outer layer of pearly white enamel can be seen surrounding the tooth stub. Enamel is the hardest substance in the body.

age. The remnants of the baby teeth are often called "caps" and occasionally must be removed by veterinarians.

Horses can develop infected teeth which have to be extracted and at times require dental surgery. Dental instruments for smaller teeth of large animals are the same as used for dog and man but the large teeth like the molars require heavier bulkier instruments. To extract a molar (cheek) tooth in a horse may require drilling or trephining a hole in the skull to the root of the affected tooth. Then a probe and mallet are used to dislodge the tooth from its socket.

ROOT-CANAL THERAPY FOR DOGS

Root-canal therapy is performed to save a functional tooth and offers a useful alternative to extracting fractured or worn canine teeth in dogs. Technically speaking endodontics is that branch of dentistry that deals with diseases of the pulp. The pulp is the fleshy inside portion of the tooth. Root-canal therapy consists of removing the material from the pulp chamber, filling the pulp chamber, and then sealing the tooth. It is used extensively for the canine teeth of military working dogs when their teeth have been damaged from wear and fractures of the tips. These highly trained animals use their teeth as very formidable physical and psychological weapons. Salvage of worn and broken teeth is essential to extend the working life of these dogs.

Another area where root-canal therapy is used by veterinarians is when a vicious animal's canine teeth have to be amputated so the animal will not injure his handler or owner. Dr. Ross, a veterinarian-dentist, reports that this often converts a very aggressive animal into one that is easily managed and suitable as a pet. By removing the pointed portion of the tooth the base can be preserved for its function in holding and grasping objects. At the same time the offensive weapon portion of the tooth is eliminated. This often has to be done with zoo animals, such as baboons, who live in groups since one mean obnoxious baboon can be a danger to the whole group.

DENTAL PROBLEMS IN ANIMALS

ANIMAL DENTISTS

The animal's tooth color may give the veterinarian a clue as to what is going on inside the tooth. Trauma to the tooth can cause hemorrhage inside the tooth and frequently the ends of the tooth will turn a light pink or purple color. If the tooth loses its blood supply, it slowly turns ashen grey over a period of time. If nothing is done to save the damaged tooth, it becomes infected and over a period of months to years, the infection spreads into the jaw bone resulting in an abscessed tooth. Frequently teeth are extracted because of the cost of root-canal therapy.

PHOTOS courtesy of Barry Thielke, D.D.S.

TAKING FIDO TO THE ORTHODONTIST?

Orthodontics is that branch of dentistry which deals with the prevention and correction of malocclusion. It is based on the biomechanics of pressure on the periodontal ligament that holds the tooth in its socket. Pressure on this ligament causes the tooth to move. Improving the bite of animals is a very controversial area in animal dentistry. The masking of genetic defects for cosmetic purposes is forbidden in show animals. Animals with malocclusions should not be used for breeding as the problem is just perpetuated for future owners to deal with. Orthodontic appliances used in pets are similar to those used in people and include wires, bands, springs and elastics.

CAT WITH GOLD TOOTH

Shiramir a 2-year-old Persian cat broke a piece off his left upper canine tooth and was lucky enough to have an owner who was a dentist, Dr. Barry

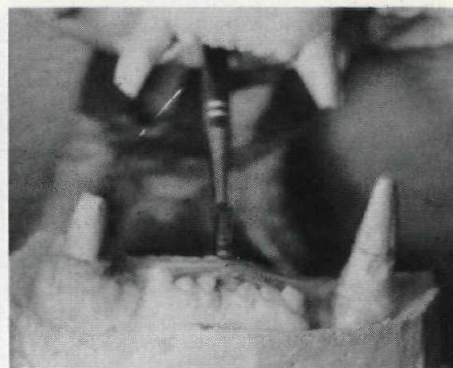
Thielke. Realizing that many of the dental techniques used routinely with people might be useful for animals whose dental anatomy is similar, Dr. Thielke and Shiramir's veterinarian teamed up to try to save Shiramir's tooth. First the tooth was cleaned and preparation was made for making an impression of the cat's mouth (fig. 7). After a master impression was taken (fig. 8), it was used as a mold and a plaster casting was made (fig. 9). Using the plaster casting as a base, a dental technician can then model a wax prosthesis (fig. 10). The wax model is put into a device which replaces the wax with molten gold (fig. 11). Upon completion of the metal prosthesis, Shiramir was anesthetized, and the crown was successfully positioned and cemented on his broken tooth (fig. 12), making the family cat one of the first to have an 18-karat gold tooth. The entire procedure was accomplished in a three day period. The press after seeing Shiramir's glorious new fang has re-named him GOLDFANGER.



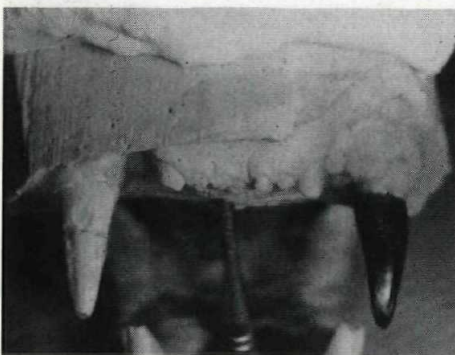
7. The broken upper left canine tooth is prepared.



8. Master impression of the upper jaw prior to plaster pour.



9. Plaster casting prepared for initial waxing and forming of wax pattern.



10. Wax pattern of GOLDFANGER'S broken tooth.



11. Finished gold crown. Crown is a dental term and refers to the upper portion of the tooth that you see.



12. GOLDFANGER'S completed prosthesis cemented in place. Note how well it fits around the gums.

CARDIOLOGY

(The Study of Heart Disease)

Dogs and cats seldom suffer heart attacks as we know them in humans, but animals are subject to heart failure. Heart failure usually occurs in older animals, and there are symptoms which can be recognized by the average pet owner. If the heart is diseased, it may cause the lungs to fill with fluid, and this may cause coughing and difficulty in breathing. Other signs of heart failure may include abdominal swelling, excessive tiring or fainting spells.

Excess weight in animals, as in humans, complicates the disease. Therapy using a combination of diet and drugs is often effective in relieving signs of heart disease and making the animal comfortable.

Do Cats Hold The Key?

In recent years, more attention has been given to a particular type of heart disease which affects cats and has many similarities to a human heart muscle disease. In the past three years idiopathic cardiomyopathy (heart muscle disease of unknown cause) has been recognized, studied and reported in medical and veterinary journals. Research is now being accelerated in this area. "In fact, we now find that cats are more prone to heart disease

than we had previously thought. More types of heart disease are now being recognized in cats," said Dr. McCarthy, a New York veterinarian.

Please don't throw your used pacemaker away; some needy dog could use it. Veterinary cardiologists and surgeons are now implanting both new and used pacemakers in dogs.

"In five years we expect this to be a more commonly used procedure." A spokesman for the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) explained, "A new pacemaker has a cost of about \$1500, and they are sometimes taken out of human service for any one of a wide variety of reasons. Many of these instruments are still fit for use in animals."

Pacemakers are generally used in humans who have had heart attacks or who have abnormal heart rhythms. Animals, however, may require pacemakers for a variety of reasons including tumors, infection or scar tissue in the heart, which result in excessively slow heart rates.

Once a pacemaker is removed from a human, it cannot be reinserted. Many of the pacemakers now in use in dogs have been donated by human medical schools and human donors. donors.



GEORGIA SCIENTIST STUDIES CANINE SWALLOWING PROBLEMS

Athens, Ga. — A veterinary scientist at the University of Georgia is seeking an improved method of diagnosing swallowing problems in dogs, with funding from the Northwest Canine Research Foundation through Morris Animal Foundation.

Eberhard Rosin, D.V.M., Ph.D., hopes to find a way to distinguish between disorders caused by inflammation and those caused by abnormalities in the muscular control of the esophagus. Since some swallowing problems can be corrected by proper treatment while others are considered incurable, it is important for the veterinarian to make a correct diagnosis.

Swallowing malfunctions occur in humans and all breeds of dogs, Dr. Rosin said. These problems may be present at birth or may not appear until later in life, and may be so severe as to prevent the victim from passing food to the stomach.

In man, swallowing problems can readily be identified through the use of certain drugs that stimulate the muscles of the esophagus. These drugs cause a much more pronounced response in people with muscle control defects than in those with simple inflammation of the esophagus, caused perhaps by an infection or foreign body irritation.

Unfortunately, the same drugs cannot be used for diagnosis in the dog, which differs from man in the muscular structure of the esophagus. Dr. Rosin is testing other drugs to find one that will cause a similarly distinctive response in the dog.

Dr. Rosin said such a diagnostic test could enable veterinarians not only to identify the cause of a swallowing disorder, but also to determine what methods of treatment are effective.



Ellie, being prepared for the surgery.

June 1st is Caesar's first birthday. Caesar is a member of an endangered species, the lowland gorilla. Named after Julius Caesar, reportedly the first human delivered by caesarian section, Caesar is the first lowland gorilla delivered by caesarian section. Caesar's mother, 13 year old Ellie, had destroyed her three previous babies, so Dr. Warren Thomas, a veterinarian, and director of the Los Angeles Zoo, decided that Ellie would be monitored closely by examining periodically the amniotic fluid which surrounded her baby. When it was time for her to deliver, it would be done surgically so that she could not injure the infant. When Caesar was born a year ago, he weighed 5 lb. 2 oz. He is now a year old.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Drs. Esra Davidson, Patrick O'Grady and Warren Thomas delivering the infant Caesar.



Caesar, fifteen minutes after delivery.

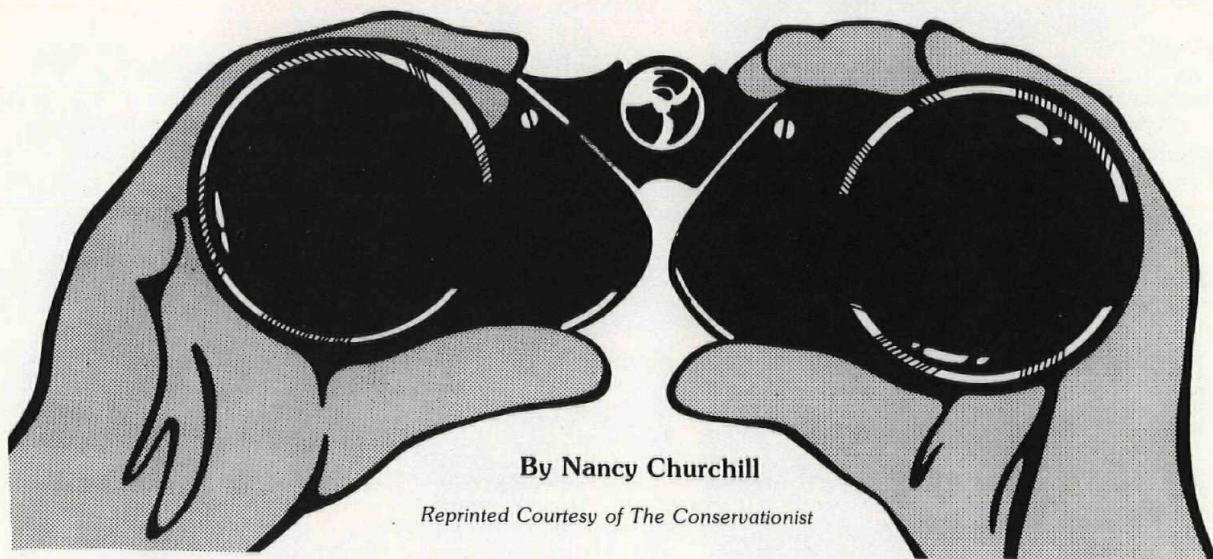


Mrs. Frederic E. Giersch, Jr., President of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association, holding Caesar at 6 months.

CAESAR

Photo Credits: Los Angeles Zoo Photo

ENJOY WILD ANIMALS FROM A DISTANCE



By Nancy Churchill

Reprinted Courtesy of The Conservationist

Captivity is sometimes tolerable, but it is seldom more desirable than freedom. This is true for man — it is also true for wild animals. Wild creatures become captives in a variety of ways; however, the environments provided are usually inferior to their natural habitats. Moreover, the harboring of wild animals results in unforeseen problems and may even represent potential dangers. Finally, when the novelty wears thin, it is frequently difficult to find an acceptable way of disposing of unwanted wildlife.

Each spring, thousands of apparently abandoned or injured infant wild animals are “rescued” by well-meaning people. Wildlife juveniles, however, are considerably more self-sufficient than are human babies at comparable ages.

Infant cottontails, for example, are weaned and have a full complement of teeth when they are thirty days old. Yet, these young rabbits, who need no further assistance to survive, are frequently captured and bottle-fed. Gray squirrels, whose development is somewhat slower than that of cottontails, are often found on the ground after a spring wind storm. However, they have powerful voices and, if placed out of the reach of dogs and cats, will attract their mothers.

Young foxes and raccoons depend upon their mothers’ care for a much longer period than either cottontails or squirrels, but this care is intermittent rather than constant. Their mothers, who must also defend their territories and hunt for food, visit the dens to tend the cubs frequently, if irregularly. However, the very act of a person approaching such an infant will deter the mother from appearing at the den.

Many people believe that a baby wild animal, once touched by man, will be abandoned by its mother. This is an old wives’ tale and completely erroneous. Of course, there is a chance that those infants who are least wary will, when left alone, become victims of accidents or predators. This however, is natural selection — or evolution at work.

There are occasional cases where human care is genuinely required. For this reason, the Conservation Law provides for the rescue of “distressed” wildlife, but

the good Samaritan is obliged to pay for the veterinarian’s examination and treatment, after notifying an environmental conservation officer of his intention.

One should be aware, though, that without human intervention, death of an injured juvenile wild animal is not inevitable. The maternal instinct is strong. Injured or congenitally abnormal young, if left to the care of their mothers, often recuperate completely or adjust to the atypical condition. Blind fawns, for example, have been raised to adulthood in the wild. It is probably more humane, in most cases, to leave an injured animal where it is. In captivity, it is often impossible to provide adequate food and shelter without constantly subjecting the animal to stress and/or destroying its protective fear of man.

There are some very good public health reasons for hesitating to give aid to “distressed” wildlife. The chance always exists that the animal has a disease transmissible to humans and/or domestic animals. For example, raccoons, skunks, foxes and wild canids (coyotes) can be infected with rabies, distemper or mange with no obviously recognizable symptoms. Following exposure to rabies, immediate immunization is necessary, a procedure which does not guarantee that the exposed individual will not develop rabies. Mange of a fox, which is transmissible to dogs, involves extensive treatment to control, and, if untreated, sometimes causes a lingering and horrible death. The history of injured or “abandoned” wildlife is usually unknown, and this should be reason for extreme caution.

Although few people admit it, often the motive for “rescuing” wildlife is to obtain novel pets. However, wild animals seldom make safe and suitable pets. Raccoons and skunks become fat, vicious and destructive. Many is the couch that has been ruined by a skunk’s digging in it or by a raccoon’s tearing it apart. Rabbits, squirrels, opossums and woodchucks can become simply vegetative consumers of food, sitting and staring or pacing endlessly. Foxes may become unpredictable escape artists; deer, hazardous beggars.

The perils of keeping deer as pets is almost legendary. A most tragic incident occurred during the War of 1812

in the Ohio Territory.

A Major McKee of the British Army, who had survived numerous skirmishes with Indian raiders and with the Kentucky militia, was given a white-tailed deer by admiring Shawnee Indians. He became very attached to the animal and was exceptionally pleased when his pet grew a fine set of antlers the next summer. One morning, as Major McKee was struggling into his buckskin trousers, the deer gored him in the buttocks. His troops broke into uproarious laughter; however, an antler tine had severed his femoral artery, and, before the laughter subsided, he had bled to death. Traditionally, only bucks were considered dangerous; however, recently a woman who tried to intercept an apparently tame doe that was threatening a child, was kicked in the head by the deer and required treatment at a hospital.

The antics of "tamed" wild animals often result in tragedy for humans, but, in many instances, the antics of humans result in tragedy for our native fauna.

Examination of an adult wild canid, after it had been shot by a conservation officer because of its strange behavior, revealed a 10-inch metal choke chain buried in the tissues of its neck. It had either been released or escaped to the wild wearing the collar, which must have been put on when the animal was a pup. As the wild canid grew the chain cut into the skin of the neck and throat, causing pressure on the spinal column and trachea, which was undoubtedly responsible for the animal's curious conduct.

A small, severely emaciated fawn, moving feebly about a field, was picked up by a conservation officer and died the following day. It appeared that this fawn had recently been released after having been held in captivity, as evidenced by its greatly elongated hooves and the oatstraw "bedding" found in crevices of the hooves. Apparently, its diet had been inadequate, as is often the case with pet fawns. Obviously, this animal was in no condition to fend for itself.

These are only a few of the situations that can result when one decides to "domesticate" one of our native wild animals.

Exotic animals, those indigenous to foreign lands, are often viewed as status symbols. Some people delight in the stares they receive while walking an ocelot or jaguar in public. However, according to figures released by the Los Angeles SPCA, for every ten exotics that survive beyond the first year in captivity, ninety have died — sixty per cent within thirty days and even some in the shipping crates! Is the leash-bound ego trip worth these countless sacrifices?

Exotic wildlife often escape or are released to the wild, thus posing potential threats to native wildlife.

The monk parakeet, thought to have escaped from importers and pet owners, was successfully eradicated from the New York metropolitan area. In its native South America, the parakeet has been responsible for extensive agricultural damage. Establishment in New York could result in other problems as well, such as introduction of exotic disease to and competition with native bird species.

A herd of wild boars either escaped or were released from captivity in Essex County, N.Y. Department of Environmental Conservation personnel captured them, a necessity because free-roaming boars could conceivably influence the epidemiology of a number of domestic and

wild animal diseases. Furthermore, in New Hampshire, where they are established, the boars are causing considerable damage to agricultural crops.

The African clawed frog, an important pet item, has become established in California. It reproduces prolifically and undoubtedly will compete for food with native fishes and amphibians. Several years ago, the imported giant marine toad escaped into southern Florida and expanded its range rapidly. It appears now that the toad cannot be absorbed by the state's ecosystem, as its diet apparently includes burrowing owl fledglings, a threatened species.

In addition to the problems exotics can cause native wildlife, their presence is often potentially threatening to human life.

Neither state nor federal agencies have laws or regulations, at the present time, that insure imported animals as disease-free. For example, quarantine and testing are not required for imported monkeys and other non-human primates. Hepatitis, rabies, and tuberculosis — all transmissible to man — are but a few of the diseases which these animals may be carrying.

The dangers involved in harboring an exotic wild animal are not limited to disease. These animals are unpredictable and may maim or even kill people, including their owners.

A pregnant, four-year-old lioness escaped from her cage in Rensselaer County, N.Y. While on the loose, she reportedly mauled a horse and was only kept from attacking a young girl by the distraction of a dog. If attempts to capture the lioness had failed, it would have been necessary to destroy this valuable animal.

Articles with ingredients similar to the following are commonly seen in newspapers: King Cobra Bites Owner — Philadelphia Boy Narrowly Escapes Death; Florida Woman Severely Mauled by Pet Leopard; Escaped Spider Monkey Terrifies Maryland Town with Threat of Rabies. These horror stories result from man's attempts to tame that which is essentially untamable. Wild instincts may be partially subdued but never completely suppressed.

There are many incidents on record regarding brutal treatment of captive exotic pets. For example, a Houston policeman was requested to remove the body of a pet chimp, beaten to death by its owner for not eating its dinner. However, most maltreatment of exotics is unintentional, caused by people who have not thoroughly investigated the needs of a particular species, as in the following case. Less than a year after importation, a pet anteater in New York City had to be destroyed by a humane officer. Inadequate diet had resulted in equilibrium malfunction and locomotor impairment.

Another cause of the high mortality rate of captive exotics is what is known as the maladaptation syndrome. Reptiles are particularly susceptible to this condition. Some die rapidly of starvation, others deteriorate slowly from malnutrition, but the final stage of this syndrome is undeviating — the animal is wasted, fat deposits are expended and the skin tears easily.

As is evident, in most cases neither the exotic pet nor his owner truly benefits from the association.

Currently standards for keeping wildlife in captivity are being enforced in New York under Article 26 of the Agricultural and Markets Law and under Section

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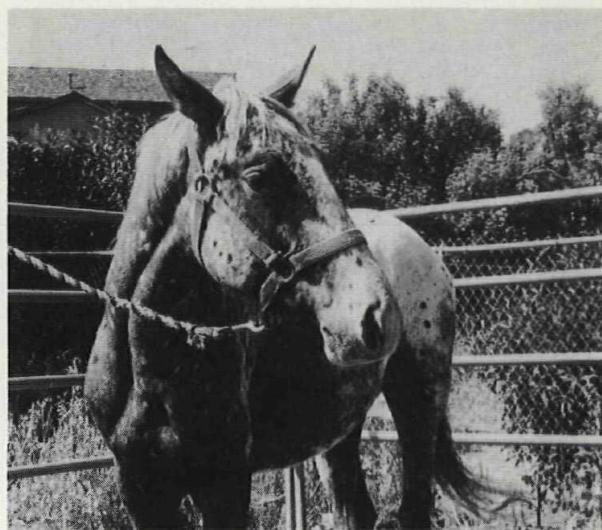
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

A SEVEN DOLLAR HORSE

BY MARTI KERR & LAURIE McNARY



MARCH 13, 1977



March 8, 1977, 7 p.m. — Marti and I arrived in Chino to attend a tack auction.

11:30 p.m. — WE OWN A HORSE!

For no real reason, we had decided to stay through the saddle auction and watch part of the horse auction.. (Actually, we shouldn't have stayed, because we both had early classes the next day.)

Anyway, after ten or twelve horses had been sold, an Appaloosa colt was led in. He was nicely marked, but beyond that, he was pitiful! It is bad enough that most horses in this weekly auction are sad cases, but this colt was the worst case we had ever seen. He was starving. Every rib showed, his hips and backbone stood out, and he was having trouble keeping his feet.

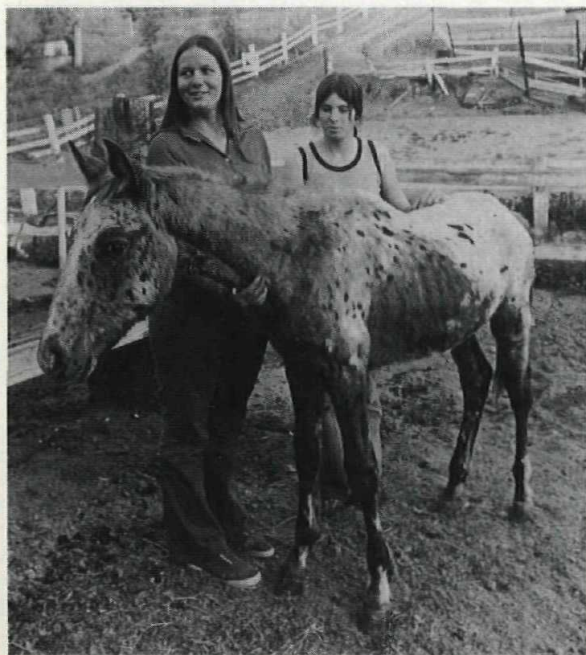
That colt sold for a grand sum of \$7.00. We almost entered in the bidding, but what would our parents say about another horse? We were always bringing in stray dogs, cats and birds, but how would we explain a stray horse?

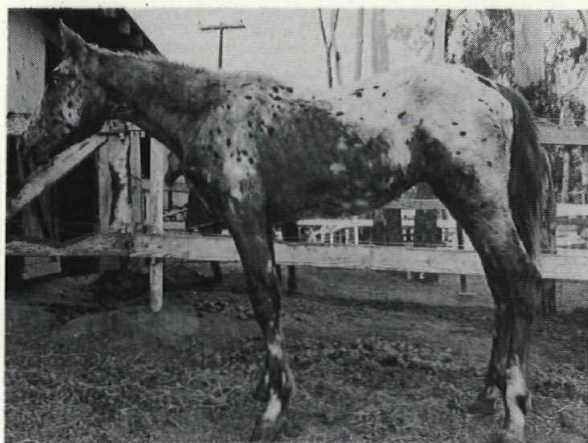
The auction went on. Later, we were leaving, and tied there in the first row was that Appy colt. Naturally, we walked over and began discussing what **we** would do with him if **we** owned him.

Then, shock! We learned that he was destined for the "Killer's." That did it. We may not be able to save him, but we **had** to give him a chance to live. A frantic search located the new owner. Sure, he'd sell, for a profitable price. The transaction was made.

Marti stayed with the colt. I made the 40 minute, (one-way), drive home to get the trailer in what had to be world record time. I stopped to get gas, and in my excitement, I let the pump run over the amount of cash I still had. The attendant said he'd cover the excess when I explained the problem. (I paid him later.)

Meanwhile, Marti was 'kicked' out. The auction grounds were closing early, and although the colt could barely stand, Marti managed to move him the long walk to the road, where the gates were locked behind her,





and the flood lights turned off. It was eerie as my headlights picked out a girl and a horse on a dark road at one o'clock in the morning. By 1:15 a.m. he was on his way to a new home.

We bedded him in the barn, gave him water, some hay, and a bran mash.

4:00 a.m. — Sleep at last!

Later that day, our veterinarian was out to give the colt Tetanus Toxoid and massive vitamin injections. The verdict was that he would live, but he **would** have been dead within a week in this condition. We were fortunate that he had not quit eating. His lungs were slightly congested, so Doc put him on bcc Mycillin-V twice daily IM. I had given injections before, and it wasn't long before Marti learned how!

On 3-11-77, we gave him Equizole "A" in water to control worms. He had been spending a lot of time lying down, but today he was up, looking very alert.

On Saturday, 3-11-77, the colt made several attempts to rise, but was unable to do so, even to urinate. Doc was contacted, and he informed us not to worry about the weakness in his hind legs as long as he was still eating. Late in the afternoon, he began sweating and his breathing was labored. Doc came out, and with four people, we got him to his feet. By then, he had stopped sweating.

From that point on, he improved almost daily, getting stronger and gaining weight. Word had gotten around,

and everyone was offering to help in any way they could.

That colt thought he had died and gone to heaven! He had feed available 24 hours a day, and two dedicated "nurses" to attend to his every need. He loved the attention from his constant stream of well-wishers.

We estimated his age at approximately 9 months at the time we bought him. Through his sale number at the auction, we were able to track down his consigner, who, as it turned out, had only owned him about 3 days at the time of the auction. We were then directed to a woman in Arlington who had owned him before. Evidently, her kids had begun riding the colt when he was only about 6 months old, which accounts for his sway back. This woman had purchased him the previous November, (or thereabouts), in the same auction. We are now waiting for the consignment from that auction from her so that we may be able to find his breeders and find his background.

Meanwhile, a year later, we have placed the colt, whom we dubbed "Seven", in a loving home. His new owner is delighted with him, and he is doing very well.

We are indebted to Doc for his guidance and concern for "Seven", and for donating his time and drugs to help the colt. We would also like to thank all of "Seven's" friends who pulled for him.



JUNE 26, 1977

TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN LAST ISSUE OF TAH

The answer to question number 8 in the Pet Health Quiz should have read "False" — Dogs and cats DO get allergies.

TAKING YOUR PET ALONG

by RICHARD BAUMAN

If you have a dog or cat as a pet, you have probably toyed with the idea of taking him along on a vacation trip or weekend outing. You may have decided against it. You didn't know what was involved and you wondered if it were really worth the trouble.

The primary consideration other than the traveling itself, is whether your animal will have the proper care if left. Will he be confined in a cage in a kennel and ignored? It is traumatic for a family pet to be denied the love and companionship he has been accustomed to.

As for what is involved in having a dog or cat as a traveling companion, it is little more trouble than taking another person along — a person who needs some special care, attention and pre-planning to make everything go smoothly.

It is best to introduce your pet to the car early, preferably several months before the big trip. A trip in a car can be a terrifying and bewildering event for an animal. Many animals adjust quickly to the motion, noise and confinement. Others take a while longer, and a few never master the idea of traveling. Take him for a few short day trips, and be sure to take everyone else involved in the planned "big trip" along on these short adventures.

At least a month before vacation take your pet to the veterinarian for a checkup. While there, tell the veterinarian you will be traveling and ask him for any recommendations he may have concerning the area you will be visiting. Be sure to find out how climactic and altitude changes could affect your animal. There will be some areas of the country which have infestation of parasites which you may not be aware of, e.g. heart-worms and whip-worms. Some areas are heavily infested with ticks. These latter parasites can be picked up by your pet running through tall grass. So be sure to ask your veterinarian about regional problems before you leave. He will advise you how to avoid these pests — and if your pet does come in contact with these problems, how to solve them.

During that visit it is a good idea to bring rabies and other inoculations up to date. Make sure you have copies of the rabies inoculation certificate, and plan to carry it with you on your trip. This is necessary should your pet bite someone, or you may need to prove vaccination if you enter an area of high rabies infestation.

There are a variety of things you should consider taking along on the trip for your pet's comfort. Animals are happiest in familiar surroundings and lacking that, at least familiar things offer some security. The pet's own water and food dish should be part of his travel supplies. By all means include such things as his favorite toys, bones, old shoes, catnip mouse, blanket or anything else that will make him feel more at home.

Favorite foods should be taken in adequate supply for your pet. Dry or canned foods travel equally well. Animal experts warn that cats and dogs can easily be made ill by drinking strange water. It is recommended that you take an adequate supply of water, from home, for your pet.

Regardless of where you will be staying on your trip, be sure to check in advance if pets are permitted. Many motels and campgrounds welcome a family with an

animal. Some don't. Those that do appreciate knowing ahead of time that you will have an animal with you. Some provide kennel quarters while others will permit well-mannered animals to stay with you. Of course you will be responsible for any damage your pet may cause. Automobile associations and other travel agencies can provide you with a list of accommodations taking pets. They will also have information about state regulations concerning pets. Be sure to check rules of national parks or monuments concerning pets before you plan your itinerary.

If the home of a friend is in your plans, my advice is don't take your pet unless your friend specifically mentions that he is invited. Some people don't care for pets, or they have no place for them, or they already have pets and never the twain shall meet — or if they do meet, the end of a friend.

You should plan to take a little longer getting to your destination when you take a pet along. He will need "rest stops" too, probably more frequently than you. Also, for an animal that is used to moving freely, the constant confinement in a car can be harsh treatment. Out of the car breaks are vital.

Being out of the car should not mean absolute freedom for a pet. Leashes are essential for both cats and dogs. Letting them run free in a strange area can mean a lost or injured pet. There is no reason to risk tragedy and ruin your trip. On a leash a pet can scamper about and still be controlled.

It is a good idea to provide your pet with an identification tag that lists your name, address and phone number. Should your pet somehow disappear in a strange city and be picked up, there is a far better chance of getting him back. You will also have positive identification that the animal is yours should you have to bail him out of a city pound.

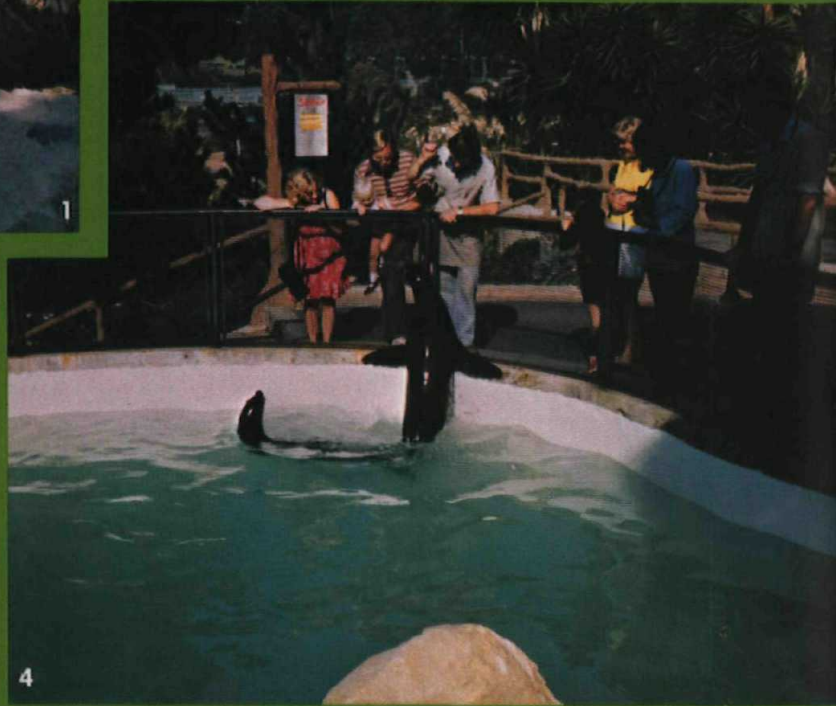
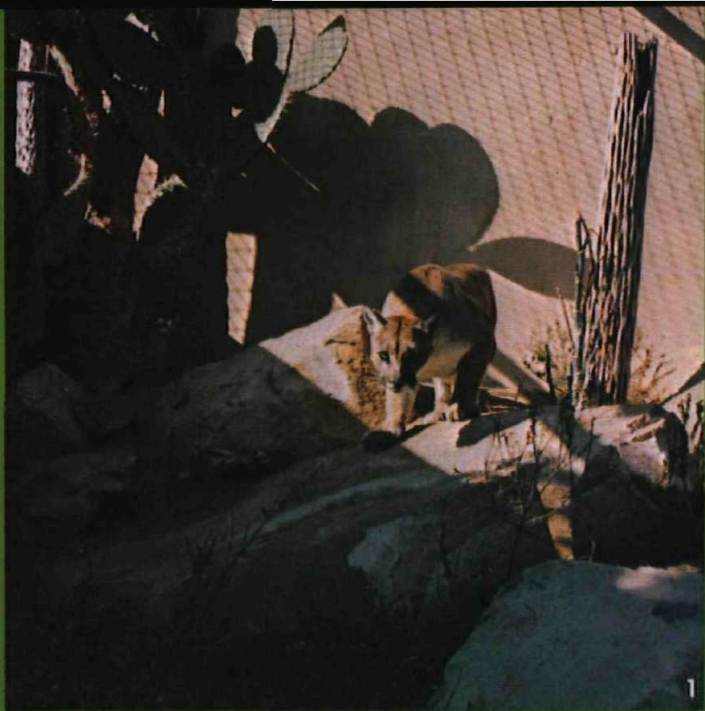
There are other factors to consider in taking your pet along. For instance most sight-seeing attractions are not interested in having your pet as a guest. Some are thoughtful enough to provide kennel facilities, but don't count on this courtesy.

Instead you may have to leave your pet alone in the car while you enjoy the attraction. If you have to do this, be sure to leave the car windows slightly open so your pet can have fresh air and keep a little cooler. Temperatures inside a closed car can easily exceed 100 degrees on a moderately sunny day. If possible park in a shaded area, and from time to time someone in your party should return to the car and check on the pet, give him water and some exercise and relief.

While on the road someone other than the driver should be designated keeper of the pet. The animal should be kept out of the driver's line of vision, and he should never have to control the pet. After all he has enough to do without trying to be a pet-sitter too.

Should your pet become sick during the trip, don't assume the illness will go away. Seek veterinary help.

Taking your pet along on a vacation trip can be a pleasure for you, your family and even the animal. However it should not be a spur of the moment decision. Planning and preparation are vital if you are to have a pleasant and safe journey.



1. A pair of cougars in a well-designed and maintained enclosure. 2. Dr. Crawshaw has a friendly discussion with an African lioness during his routine rounds. 3. Dr. Crawshaw examines an iguana with an ulcer on its lower jaw. 4. The sea lions are fed a snack during routine rounds.

ZOO ANIMAL MEDICINE

Reprinted courtesy of
Modern Veterinary Practice

How does a veterinarian obtain special training or expertise in zoo animal medicine? Many veterinarians currently working in zoos learned by experience. However, positions with zoos are hard to come by, and it is often a matter of being in the right place at the right time.

Graham Crawshaw, BVetMed, MRCVS, a 1974 graduate of the Royal Veterinary College in London, has taken another approach. After graduation, Dr. Crawshaw spent 18

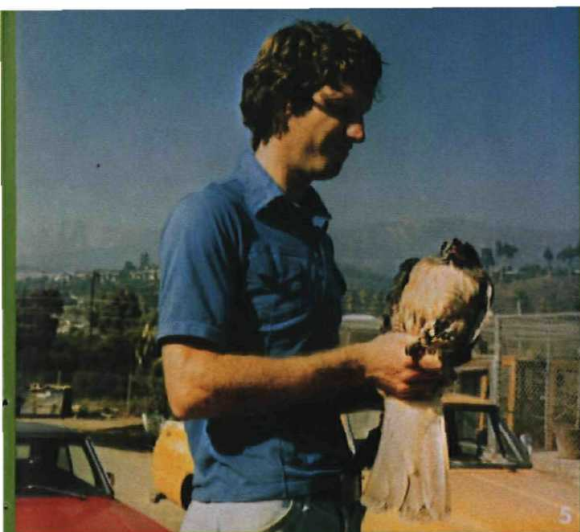
months working in small animal and mixed practices in England. He was interested in zoo animal medicine, and began looking for a place to receive specialized training.

Included among the institutions he contacted regarding advanced training were the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell, Guelph, and the University of California at Davis. The School of Veterinary Medicine at Davis was the only one of the 4 that offered a program suited to his needs. Although they agreed to accept him in their program, they could offer no support. After attempts to find support in England failed, Dr. Crawshaw decided

that he would try to make it on his own savings. He came to Davis in the fall of 1976.

The zoo animal medicine program at Davis is offered as an elective for senior veterinary students. The program also offers post-graduate training for veterinarians leading to the MS or PhD degree in Comparative Pathology. The program is administered by the Department of Medicine, under the direction of Dr. Murray Fowler.

Most of the graduate students in the program concentrate on some aspect of research involving captive wild animals, but Dr. Crawshaw was primarily interested in clinical



5. A red-tailed hawk with an injured leg is examined by Dr. Crawshaw. 6. Dr. Crawshaw bottle-feeding a baby llama. 7. A Bengal tiger, housed in a temporary enclosure, is given an panleukopenia vaccination with a pole syringe. 8. A badger receiving a panleukopenia vaccination.

medicine, so the program was tailored to meet his requirements. When he completes his training he will receive an MS in Comparative Pathology.

Dr. Crawshaw's training has involved course work and clinical experience. The courses are those offered as electives to senior students and includes such topics as Captive Wildlife Medicine, Free-living Wildlife Medicine, Laboratory Animal Medicine, Primate Medicine, Avian Medicine (caged birds), and Fish Diseases. Clinical experience has been obtained by working in the exotic animal ward of the veterinary school clinics, in the Laboratory Animal Resource Center,

at the California Primate Research Center, and at the Sacramento Zoo. The Avian Science Department at Davis also maintains a Raptor Center for the treatment of injured eagles and hawks, and Dr. Crawshaw has gained additional experience there.

We learned of Dr. Crawshaw's unique training when he spent some time at the Santa Barbara Zoo. The zoo in Santa Barbara is approximately 12 years old. Veterinary services have been provided by local practitioners over the years. Recently, Dr. Don Hur contacted Dr. Charles Sedgwick at Davis to see if one of the residents in zoo animal medicine could spend

some time in Santa Barbara advising the staff at the zoo. Dr. Crawshaw volunteered. He has gained additional experience, and the zoo staff has received valuable advice for improvement of their animal care program. Dr. Crawshaw has not received any compensation for his work at the zoo, but the staff did manage to provide living quarters for him during his stay in Santa Barbara.

Dr. Crawshaw's plans for the future are not firm at the present time. When he finishes his program at Davis, he will probably return home to England, but he will be looking for a position in zoo animal medicine.



SAVE A PET...

... AND BRING A FURRY BUNDLE OF JOY INTO YOUR LIFE!

Go to your local non-profit animal shelter, and choose a homeless dog or cat for **your family**. Many cute puppies and kittens are available for adoption—and you will often find valuable pure breeds that would set you back a pretty penny if you bought them in a store.

Wherever you live, there is probably an animal shelter not far from your home—and here is just a small sample selection:

San Francisco SPCA
2500 16th St.

San Francisco, California 94103

Humane Society of Greater Miami, Inc.

2101 NW 95 St.
Miami, Florida 33147

Atlanta Humane Society
981 Howell Mill Rd. NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30318

The Anti-Cruelty Society
157 W. Grand Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Massachusetts SPCA
350 S. Huntington
Boston, Massachusetts 02130

Michigan Humane Society
7401 Chrysler Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48211

American SPCA
441 East 92 St.
New York, New York 10028

Animal Rescue League of
Western Pennsylvania
6620 Hamilton Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206

If you don't live in any of those areas, simply look in the Yellow Pages of your telephone book under Animal Shelters. You will probably find what you are looking for—and it may change your whole life.

**A Public Service Message From
THE NORTH SHORE ANIMAL LEAGUE**
22 South St., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050

PICKING A VETERINARIAN

SOUTH BEND, INDIANA — Picking a doctor for your pet may be as difficult as finding a doctor for yourself or a member of your family.

Fortunately, many of the same criteria can be used in selecting either one, with one notable exception in choosing a veterinarian.

Prevention and early detection are the best policies for human and animal health. When treatment for your pet is required, the same criteria of professionalism and care that you would expect for your own health should be applied.

The first step is to select a veterinarian who can care for your particular pet. There are about 30,000 veterinarians in the United States and less than 10,000, or one-third, specialize in small animal care. There are an additional 10,000 veterinarians who engage in both small and large animal or mixed practices.

Does the veterinarian show a genuine interest in your pet? Do you understand his recommendations and advice? What is the scope of services which he can provide? Who cares for the pets of your friends? These are all important questions which you can evaluate. There are a lot of other important questions which you might not be able to answer.

But there is help. For example, there is the American Animal Hospital Association, a professional organization of over 8,500 small animal practitioners, which has established standards for membership. To be accepted as a Hospital Member by the association, a veterinarian's clinic or hospital must meet and maintain specific standards such as: acceptable record-keeping; adequate facilities and equipment; provision for diagnostic services and tests; x-ray department; separate surgery area; provision for dental services and nursing care; and provision for emergency services.

All AAHA Hospital Members are also subject to periodic inspections to insure that the association's standards are maintained. Indications that the veterinarian belongs to professional

organizations are touchstones of the quality of care that can be expected.

When you take your pet to the veterinarian, one of the first things that should be done is the compilation of a health history of the animal. This will probably be followed by a "physical" or general examination.

Because veterinarians are handicapped by a communications gap between doctor and patient, the primary examination may be far more elaborate than one which a physician may perform on a human's visit.

The veterinarian will examine your pet's eyes, ears, skin and hair, teeth, mouth, bone structure, chest and abdomen. If warranted, x-rays or laboratory tests to detect parasites and abnormalities may also be performed as part of the examination. In some cases, neurological examinations and other specialized testing may also be required.

The veterinarian will probably recommend distemper and hepatitis injections for young animals and boosters for older ones. He may also recommend a rabies injection for your pet as a safeguard for him and his human community.

With heart worm disease becoming more of a problem in dogs in many parts of the United States, the veterinarian may suggest a heart worm test.

Veterinarians emphasize preventive medicine in addition to curative measures to keep animals in good health. You must also be alert to symptoms. Perhaps the best advice is to contact your veterinarian whenever you notice a major change in your pet's behavior or habits. Remember, today your pet can have the same high level of health care that you enjoy.

Editor's Note: For a free list of AAHA Hospital Members in a local area, readers can write to:

American Animal Hospital Association
Membership Referral Service
P.O. Box 6429
South Bend, Indiana 46660

BIRD BELIEVED EXTINCT FOR 100 YEARS REDISCOVERED IN PERU

WASHINGTON D.C. — World Wildlife Fund-U.S. today reported that the White-winged Guan (*penelope albipennis*), a bird believed to be extinct for a century, has been rediscovered in Northwestern Peru.

The bird, slightly larger than a ring-neck pheasant, was rediscovered by Dr. John O'Neill, Louisiana State University ornithologist, and Gustavo del Solar, a resident of Chiclayo. O'Neill has been conducting ornithological research in Peru for the past 16 years, sponsored by L.S.U., the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture and WWF-U.S.

The bird was last sighted and taken by Stolzmann and Jelskin on a Polish expedition in 1877. Since that time it has been considered extinct.

Del Solar had been questioning area residents about the guan since 1969, prompted by the late Peruvian ornithologist Maria Koepcke. In early September, a local man reported to del Solar that he had seen "the guans with the white wings" near his garden. O'Neill and del Solar accompanied him to that site on September 13, and found 4 guans. Six days later, O'Neill and a field companion, Ted Parker, counted 8 guans at the site and made tape recordings of their calls.

According to O'Neill, guans were formerly looked for only in mangroves, although their present habitat appears to be "tall trees in green canyons within dry forests." The guan's coloration appears to be darker than previously recorded in illustrations. O'Neill observed the birds eating fruit, leaf buds, and flowers.

Based on conversations with residents of Piura and Lambayeque, O'Neill estimates the White-winged Guan population to be in the several hundreds. If this estimate is correct, the White-winged Guan population

may outnumber that of the Horned Guan of Mexico and Red-billed Curassow of Brazil, two other exceedingly rare members of the family Cracidae.

According to O'Neill, the Peruvian government is extremely excited by the find and has placed the guan under protection.

"The rediscovery of this species," said Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy, Program Director of WWF-U.S., "is another measure of the imprecision of our knowledge of the natural world on which we are basically so dependent."

O'Neill is also co-authoring "The Birds of Paracas" with Peruvian ornithologist Manuel A. Plenge. World Wildlife Fund has supported their research on the book and has worked closely with Peruvian authorities toward protecting that country's many rare and endangered species and ecosystems. Paracas, located 100 miles south of Lima, is the first national marine reserve in South America.

World Wildlife Fund is a nonprofit, publicly supported international conservation organization. It is the only private organization acting globally to raise the substantial financing essential to conserving ecosystems, habitats and species. In less than two decades, the Fund has allocated over \$30 million to more than 1,700 projects in 131 countries; it has provided support for the establishment, protection, and management of more than 200 national parks in 74 countries, conserving acreage totalling approximately 1% of the world's land areas. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) serves as scientific advisor to WWF. World Wildlife Fund is represented by 26 independent national affiliates around the world.

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ANTIFREEZE DANGEROUS TO YOUR PET

Automobile antifreeze/coolant can be a great hazard to animals any time of the year. The American Animal Hospital Association states that although the more serious cases of coolant poisoning occur in the fall, the potential hazard during the summer months should not be ignored.

The antifreeze/coolant solution has a sweet taste, pleasant aroma and color which attracts animals and children. It is also highly toxic. Compounding the problem is the fact the spilled antifreeze evaporates slowly even in hot weather.

Animals may lap up or ingest small quantities of the coolant spills. They might take just enough of the solution to cause kidney damage, which may go undetected for a considerable length of time. In other words, it could

"seriously affect the animal's health without leaving visible signs", said Dr. Warren G. Walker, President of the American Animal Hospital Assoc.

"We are particularly concerned about the small amounts of coolant which remain in gutters after a 'boil-over or overflow,' said Dr. Walker.

The American Animal Hospital Association said that some of its members were particularly concerned about cats, which have a tendency to lick their paws and thereby ingest small quantities of the toxic glycols. Cats generally are more susceptible to the effects of the toxic material than dogs of the same weight.

Most of the severe cases of antifreeze poisoning occur in the late summer and early fall months when car owners and others are changing an-

tifreeze or summer coolant solutions. Most manufacturers recommend annual or bi-annual flushing and change of solutions.

According to a study made last year, the American Animal Hospital Association noted that 87% of its nationwide network of spokesmen reported having treated one or more cases of antifreeze poisoning. About 70% also said antifreeze poisoning was a problem in their area.

The Association urges caution in the handling and disposal of antifreeze, windshield washing solutions and other potentially toxic additives. "Many of the warnings are written for people or children, and we seem to forget that they also apply to pets, wild animals and birds," concluded Dr. Walker.

BONE GLUE . . . FOR THE HIP BONE

Don't worry, we'll glue his broken hip together! You might be aware of the use of bone plates and pins in helping broken limbs to mend, but we'll bet that you haven't heard about "bone glue."

A recent issue of the Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association details a technique using "bone cement" or methyl methacrylate which is based on a study of six dogs who had hip socket (acetabular) fractures repaired following automobile accidents. The head of the thighbone fits into the acetabulum or cup-shaped cavity of the hipbone and together make up the hip joint.

One of the dogs was walking on the day following surgery and the other five were ambulatory within a few days. "Faster recovery was one of the benefits we found by using 'bone cement'," Dr. Robert C. Griffiths, Director of Surgery at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital and one of the co-authors of the article, explained, "It is sometimes difficult to conform or

match a metal plate to the acetabulum or cup-shaped cavity. The 'bone cement' or methyl methacrylate, however, is easily molded to exact conformity."

The methyl methacrylate bone cement is used in conjunction with orthopedic screws and wires. The screws and wires are not used for final fixation but to form a lattice onto which the cement is bonded, similar to steel rods and wire when used to reinforce concrete.

The size of animals can sometimes limit the use of more conventional metal plates on animal hip injuries. The article cautions that use of methyl methacrylate bone cement is still new in veterinary orthopedics. "Indications are that the advantages of this technique will warrant further clinical and experimental uses in animal surgery and orthopedics," said Dr. Wayne R. Renegar.

The bone cement is already being used in total hip replacement, spinal stabilization and stabilization of multi-

ple fractures in animals.

Good news! Methyl methacrylate has been accepted for both hip and knee joint replacement in humans.

If the results from methyl methacrylate continue to be as effective as they have been to date, perhaps the old nursery rhyme might be revised to: "Jack fell down and broke his pate. Quick! Get the methyl methacrylate!"

Editor's Note: In humans, total hip replacement was introduced in 1962 with the materials currently available and began the modern era of major joint reconstruction. Approximately 75,000 such operations are now performed in this country annually.

Dr. Renegar also advised us that "Based on the results of these clinical cases, more clinical studies in different orthopedic situations seem indicated, as the use of methyl methacrylate is still in its early stages in veterinary orthopedics."

URBAN PET OVERPOPULATION: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNER

By R. S. Plamondon, D.V.M.

A bit of graffiti from a local newspaper said this: "If my dog (or cat) could talk, would I still be his best friend?" This would seem like a good way to start talking about responsible pet ownership. Too many pet owners have lost sight of just what being a pet owner entails. What are, in fact, the responsibilities the owner must be prepared to assume? For how long? At what expense? Will this animal be compatible with myself, my family, my property and my neighbor? Do I know how to properly care for this pet in health matters, training, disease prevention? Do I know about animal control laws and am I willing to obey them? Am I willing and able to provide the proper medical treatment in case of illness or accidental injuries? These questions never really enter the minds of many pet owners. Unfortunately, people find that emotions and impulse are the basis for acquiring a pet — with the animal destined to suffer the consequences.

The surplus of dogs and cats in our country has led to national conferences to seek reasons, and to find solutions to this alarming problem. The simple conclusion was to make the public aware of such a problem and to encourage responsibility of pet ownership in all of its facets. However, further study and considerations revealed that the expediting of such a solution presented a much more complex picture. We need animal control laws that have to be updated for better enforcement and continuity. There must be more regulation of breeding farms and commercial sale of animals. Adoption policies from shelters and humane societies need to be implemented. We have to initiate educational programs for all age groups and discourage backyard breeders.

The shortness of this article makes it imperative to cover just one aspect and probably the most important — responsible pet ownership. The average pet owner finds it difficult to relate to the fact that thirteen and one-half million animals were killed last year because they were unwanted, uncontrolled or were abandoned. They may not relate to the hundreds and even thousands of animals who

were killed in their own community for the same reasons. They can relate, however, to owning a pet that they will allow to have one litter (for the kids, or to make a better pet (?)) and then have it neutered. They can relate to having a pet or a litter they no longer want and so they are taken to the shelter because, in that way, maybe they will find a good home. They do not realize that nine out of ten animals have to be destroyed because there are not enough homes to absorb them all, let alone responsible homes. The average pet owner can relate to his pet being injured by a car, poisoned from eating garbage or injured by another animal, but he usually feels that the fault lies with the automobile driver, the thoughtless neighbor leaving poisons accessible, or the bigger dog running loose and chewing up other people's pets even though their pet is also running at large. So all of us, humane and SPCA personnel, professional people, animal control administrators and officers, public officials, animal oriented organizations and concerned citizens groups, have to work together to make these pet owners aware of what they are doing to our environment. Animal pollution is just as real as air and water pollution.

How do we reach these pet owners? Regardless of the approach, we have to be patient. It takes time to change concepts and attitudes that are all mixed up with emotions and compassions on the one side, indifference, very low priorities for pet care, and irresponsibility on the other side. However, education through all forms of media, speaking engagements, and one-to-one talks with pet owners will do much to foster the realization of responsibility toward their pets.

What do we have to tell these irresponsible pet owners? They will need to be made aware that a problem exists and only they can solve it. They must be made to realize they are responsible for the vast waste of animal life through unnecessary killings at shelters and at animal control centers. Animals running at large causing property damage and physical injury to people and pets, fouling our

parking strips, lawns and public parks, raiding garbage cans, killing wild life and harassing livestock are not the fault of the animal control officers for not being able to capture and kill these animals. It is the owners who create the problem. The pet owners have to be made to understand that even one litter can produce thousands of additional animals in a few short years.

You've heard it said, "I can find good homes for this litter, no problem." People do not realize what happens when this "litter's" reproductivity capacity is allowed to function unabated. Are all of these "good homes" going to be responsible owners who will not breed any more unwanted animals? Usually not. This is where our problem begins and has been compounded over the years to the alarming surplus we are living with today. Neutering alone will not solve this surplus because the people are allowing their animals to reproduce faster than they can be neutered or controlled by any birth control device or chemical. For example, in Portland, Oregon, a recent survey conducted by the Portland Veterinary Medical Association revealed that over 52,500 neuterings take place yearly (dogs and cats, male and female) and that an excess of 40,000 animals are destroyed at the shelter and at the animal control center yearly. This community still has a problem of surplus animals and it continues to get greater. So a strong appeal must be made to pet owners, not to breed their animals unless the reason is very valid in comparison to the consequences.

Counseling services to prospective pet owners will be very helpful. Impulsive purchase of pups and kittens must be discouraged. Guard dogs must be avoided unless the new owner is trained just as much as the dog. Thought should also be given to proper methods of confinement, a leash or a fenced yard. Feeding and health care need to be understood and substantiated with higher priorities in the family budget. Animal control laws need to be known and obeyed for the communities' protection, as well as the pets'.

ENJOY WILD ANIMALS FROM A DISTANCE

Continued from page 19

11-0515 of the Conservation Law. However, because the need exists for more detailed and stringent standards, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Captive Wildlife Inspections Project has drawn up a set of proposed standards for mammals and is currently preparing standards for birds, reptiles and amphibians. These standards detail minimum captive conditions for both exotic and native species in the following areas: provision of food and water, health conditions and care of diseased and injured animals, living conditions suitable to the species, sanitation, ventilation, animal and human safety precautions, and emergency measures to be employed should enclosures be damaged, humans attacked or animals escape. Maintaining a captive wild animal in a manner commensurate with its biological needs is neither simple nor inexpensive.

When one domesticates a wild animal, a vow of "till death do us part" has been taken, because death for the pet is nearly always inevitable when it becomes more of a nuisance than a novelty.

"Just drop it off in the nearby woods," you say. Granted, this would be a simple solution for the pet's owner, but the animal probably wouldn't have long to live should this be done. Not only has it lost its instinctive fear of man, but also it has become generally less wary, hence, likely game for predators. In addition, the "nearby woods" may not provide the animal with

habitat suitable to its needs. If it is one of many imported species, the danger exists that it may introduce exotic diseases to native wildlife or replace native species through competition for food.

"Give the pet to a zoo," you suggest. Zoos not only have commercial sources for their wild animals but also provide for breeding within the zoo and are usually filled to capacity. In any event, they are extremely unreceptive to furnishing homes for discarded pets, which are sometimes in poor health, usually unresponsive to mating and invariably neurotic.

"Animal shelters, what about animal shelters?" you ask, with a sly grin, feeling certain this is a trap out of which no one can wriggle. You're right! In most instances, it is a trap — a trap for the unwanted wild pet for whom the animal shelter ultimately becomes the death house. Thousands of unplaced wild animals must be killed every year. They are a glut on the market and suitable homes are nearly impossible to find.

"So," you conclude, "you might as well take Bandit, the raccoon, out in the backyard and shoot him the same day that you bring him home! If you don't, you are merely postponing the inevitable."

That would be one possible conclusion; however, a more realistic one would be to enjoy wild animals from a distance — a distance which allows them to live out their lives on their own terms where they were meant to be — in the wild.

CHIMPANZEE HELPS VETERINARIAN

—Ray Falk, Globe Photos, Inc.

FUKUOKA, JAPAN — A chimpanzee is one of the most able veterinary assistants in a local vet hospital here. The pet of Dr. Junki Uyama, Chosuke the chimp has really proved he has a way with animals. Whenever a sick or hurt animal is frightened or in pain, Chosuke senses it immediately and calms the patient down.

His bedside manner is unusual. He has sat all day with a very sick dog, petting him and talking to him, and offering him bits of food. Dr. Uyama is convinced that Chosuke's comforting was the only thing that gave that sick dog the will to live and thus saved his life.

Once a Doberman Pinscher was brought to the hospital with a crushed paw. He was in a lot of pain. When the vet tried to examine the paw, the dog snapped at him. Chosuke immediately went over and talked to the dog, calming him down enough for the doctor to examine and treat his paw.

30 Today's Animal Health

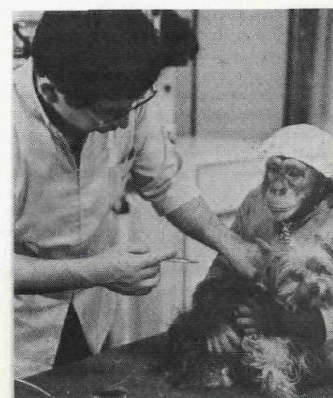
Chosuke has learned the meaning of many words. He understands when the doctor asks for his stethoscope, scissors or doctor's bag, and brings them to him. When Dr. Uyama makes house calls, Chosuke goes along. He carries the doctor's bag. He imitates everything the doctor does. He even scrubs up.

Chosuke won't be able to continue his job for very long. Chimps soon grow up to be big, powerful animals that can't be trusted. They are not the kind of animal to have as a pet. When that happens, Dr. Uyama will have a problem finding Chosuke a proper place to live.

For now, Chosuke is doing an outstanding job as a veterinary assistant. Dr. Uyama feels that Chosuke's concern and compassion for animals that are suffering is the secret of the chimp's success. We think that compassion is the key to success for anyone who wants to become a veterinary assistant. Don't you agree?



Chosuke removes empty dishes from cages.



Chosuke holds patient for treatment.

DOGS AS THE EASY RIDERS

by John C. Stevenson, D.V.M.

Dogs riding in automobiles present difficulties. Unfortunately there are no statistics as to the number of traffic accidents caused by such dogs.

We are all conscious of the slogan, "Fasten your seat belts", every time we get into a car. But what of our pets? Shouldn't they be held by a passenger or told to lie on the floor for their safety in the case of sudden stops?

I see two interrelated problems here. First is the concern for the dog. Second is the hazard of having the dog in a position to throw the driver off balance.

As to the first, the dog's skull is structurally built to withstand sudden impact; and, as an added protection, it is heavily muscled.

The holding of a small dog is an excellent solution for the short haul. The larger dog should be trained to rest on the floor of the car. But for those longer trips, during which most dogs will get restless, I advise a carrying case for the small dog and a crate for the larger ones. Both of these, as a result of their use in air travel, come in extremely light weights.

If these precautions were followed, there would be no reason to worry about the second half of the problem. But people do drive with untrained dogs running loose in their cars. I am sure you have all witnessed the dog that jumps back and forth from the back to the front seat — with an occasional pause to search the heavens out of a side window.

This not only endangers the driver's life but also everyone else's on the highway. I have never forgotten the sight of one witless driver peeking around a large dog sitting on his lap. A sudden move by the dog would be enough to send an alert driver out of control. What it would do to this relaxed nut is anybody's guess.

So again it all boils down to proper training of the dog, a moderate amount of common sense on the part of the driver, and strict discipline — both for the driver and his dog.

Pet lovers! BE INFORMED! BE READY!



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