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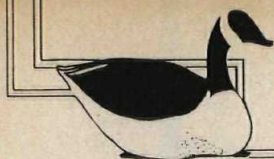


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# TODAYS Animal News

1983

Volume 9, Number 5

Dear Reader,

A new edition of the **Today's Animal News** magazine is being introduced! The regular issue will be amended with a special insert that is written for veterinarians and specially designed to offer your practitioner a reference for new products and practice procedures. It is our aim to help your veterinarian remain abreast to the important developments in medicine.

The development of this special edition requires that we reorganize our staff and operating procedures. To make certain that both issues are published to our standards of high quality we have decided it best to resume with the November/December 1983 issue. This will mean that you will not receive a September/October issue. We will, of course, make certain that your subscription is extended by one issue so you receive all of your issues.

We are also writing with hopes of hearing from you! We would really appreciate your suggestions and comments on the magazine. What topics would you like to see covered? Are there changes you would like to occur? Or, do you like it just the way it is? Please let us know. We are open to both negative and positive comments and will do our best to accommodate your input!

Best regards,

Charles T. Robinson, D.V.M.  
President & Publisher

**Animal Health Foundation**  
**Today's Animal News**  
2002 Fourth Street  
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95404

Cover photo by  
Doug Bundock

## Today's Animal News

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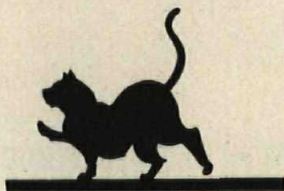
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**BREEDING CONURES**, by Robbie Harris. Hard cover, 112 pages, 141 full-color photos. \$9.95. T.F.H. Publications.

For those bird lovers who have bred other birds, perhaps budgies, cockatiels or lovebirds, this new volume offers proven, effective methods for breeding these increasingly popular conures. From her experience with both Aratinga and Pyrrhura conures, the author emphasizes the close relationship between good nutrition and breeding success. Detailing practical measures and discussing commonly encountered problems, Mrs. Harris tells how to proceed from selecting conures to hand-rearing chicks and she compliments her text with almost 150 photographs, all of which are in full-color. With her husband, Fred, Robbie Harris has received many awards for first-time U.S. breeding of certain conures.



**THIS IS THE MAINE COON CAT**, By Sharyn P. Bass. Hard cover, 160 pages, 32 full-color photos, 51 black and white photos, 1 line drawing. \$19.95. T.F.H. Publications.

Finally, here is a chance to read about the All-American breed whose popularity is sweeping the nation. Author Sharyn P. Bass, a cattery owner, breeder of Maine Coon cats and life-long champion of animal welfare, shares her first-hand knowledge of keeping, breeding, and showing Maine Coons, including tips on how to select and care for them as kittens and adults. Sections on feeding, grooming and health care, and chapters on showing and breeding the Maine Coon cat, are highlighted with 32 irresistible full-color photographs. This is a practical new book filled with sensible insights for both experienced and amateur feline fanciers

**HANDBOOK OF TROPICAL AQUARIUM FISHES**, by Dr. Herbert R. Axelrod and Dr. Leonard P. Schultz. Hard cover, 736 pages, 541 black and white photos, 50 full-color photos, 11 line drawings. \$8.95. T.F.H. Publications.

The Handbook of Tropical Aquarium Fishes is back in print and is still one of the best introductory guides for the beginning hobbyist available today. New plates, new color photographs, new nomenclatures . . . even new paper and binding . . . all combine to enhance the 1983 edition of this classic in its field. Co-authored by the world's foremost authority on tropical fish, Dr. Herbert R. Axelrod, and Dr. Leonard P. Schultz, retired Curator of Fishes of the Smithsonian Institution, this volume is a practical, scientifically accurate and profusely illustrated compendium of over 425 popular aquarium fish. Included are special sections on the aquarium and its management, aquarium plants, diseases of fishes, and brief survey of ichthyology . . . the science behind the tropical fish industry hobby.

**THE COMPLETE DOG BUYERS' GUIDE**, By Dr. William A. Bruette and Kerry V. Donnelly. Hard cover, 608 pages, 139 black and white photos, 6 line drawings. \$8.95. T.F.H. Publications.

The Complete Dog Buyers' Guide is an authoritative and informative new reference for both present and potential dog owners. It is the only publication of its kind with up-to-date standards, temperaments . . . including potential problems with each breed, and current pricing information for each of the 128 recognized dog breeds. Every standard is illustrated by a photograph of an outstanding representative of the breed being described; the history and development of each breed is also presented. The Complete Dog Buyers' Guide is fully indexed and highlighted with chapters on puppy selection, training, breeding, showing and health care.

### NEW BEE DIETS . . .

It seems "busy as a bee" is not quite all it's cracked up to be. For example, what do bees do when there are no flowers to seek out, such as in early spring months? Well, they won't be sitting around the hive swapping stories if U.S. Department of Agriculture apiarists have their way.

They've come up with the Beltsville Bee Diet, a concoction made of sugars, whey and yeast that looks like peanut butter, but to the bee it's the same thing as a field filled with clover. A lot of research went into this diet. USDA researchers found out bees need the same variety of B vitamins as do people. Ten amino acids are essential as are certain amounts of cholesterol and minerals. But the bee has no need for vitamins A, D, E and K.

Getting back to the Beltsville Bee Diet, it's being sold commercially and beekeepers are using it to get an early start on honey production before the blossoms have opened up. Bee diets are nothing new. But a lot of them have the disadvantage of using insect larval remains which can spread certain diseases.

Well, if they keep lights on in hen houses all night to boost egg production, why can't bees be doing their thing all year round?

### WE CARE . . .

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**Charles Robinson, DVM, Editor**





## Todays Animal News...

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### Improved vaccines

One of the most beneficial advancements in veterinary medicine is the development of vaccines to prevent contagious diseases. Canine distemper and feline panleucopenia (feline distemper) were once the most common killers of our pets. Today, in most of the nation, these diseases, although still important and still killers, are well under control. These vaccines combined with other immunizing substances offer broad protection against many contagious diseases that would otherwise affect a large portion of our nation's pets.

### Biggest canine funeral

The self-proclaimed Emperor Norton, famous San Francisco eccentric, was always accompanied by two mixed breed dogs, Bummer and Lazarus. When Lazarus was poisoned, after biting a child, a special funeral was held for the dog. San Franciscans turned out 10,000 strong for the event.





Today's Animal News...

## THE BREEDERS' SHOPPER GUIDE

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## SEASONS GREETINGS FROM TODAY'S ANIMAL NEWS

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## New Zealand discovers the ... DOMESTICATED DEER

### Domesticated deer ...

Ten thousand years or so ago man began domesticating wild animals for his own use. The list is a short one: cattle, horses, camels, pigs, sheep, fowl and a few smaller species like rabbits. After a gap of thousands of years, this domestication of wild animals has begun again with deer, and, in all places, New Zealand, long noted for its sheep ranches.

Deer are now a big business on New Zealand ranches. But instead of taking centuries to accomplish like herdsman did with cattle and sheep centuries ago, the process is accelerated. Now New Zealanders have stud farms, artificial insemination techniques, veterinary associations with deer specialists, auctions, and a professional deer farmers' association.

It began in 1970 and now there are more than 2,000 farms with 180,000 deer. Red deer are the most common, but species such as fallow, sambar, rusa, sika and the imported North American elk, or Wapiti, are also raised.

Helping the ranchers specially trained sheep dogs who must rely on gentle, calm techniques such as mere presence, and not biting and barking the way they control sheep.

"Deer have more sense than sheep or cattle," said rancher Richard Schuler in a recent article in International Wildlife. "They can outwit you more. I find if I talk all the time, open gates slowly and move in slowly, I can handle them just like sheep." But they can quickly change from quiet to near-hysteria, leaping suicidally in all directions and diving into fences.

Deer were first imported to New Zealand in 1851, to an isolated island (actually two islands) that had only flightless birds and small animals. With no predators, the deer population grew swiftly and a century later they were on the way to denuding the islands. Hills stripped bare of vegetation slid on into valleys and clogged waterways. Paid hunters were hired to destroy them and by 1968 more than a million were killed.

But the value of deer became obvious in time and the slaughter was cancelled. It was discovered that deer will produce more meat per acre than sheep or cattle, and that pasture that supports one dairy cow will support four deer. So far, they suffer from fewer diseases than sheep or cattle. Now, the country hopes for a venison industry that can rival wool and lamb as top exports.

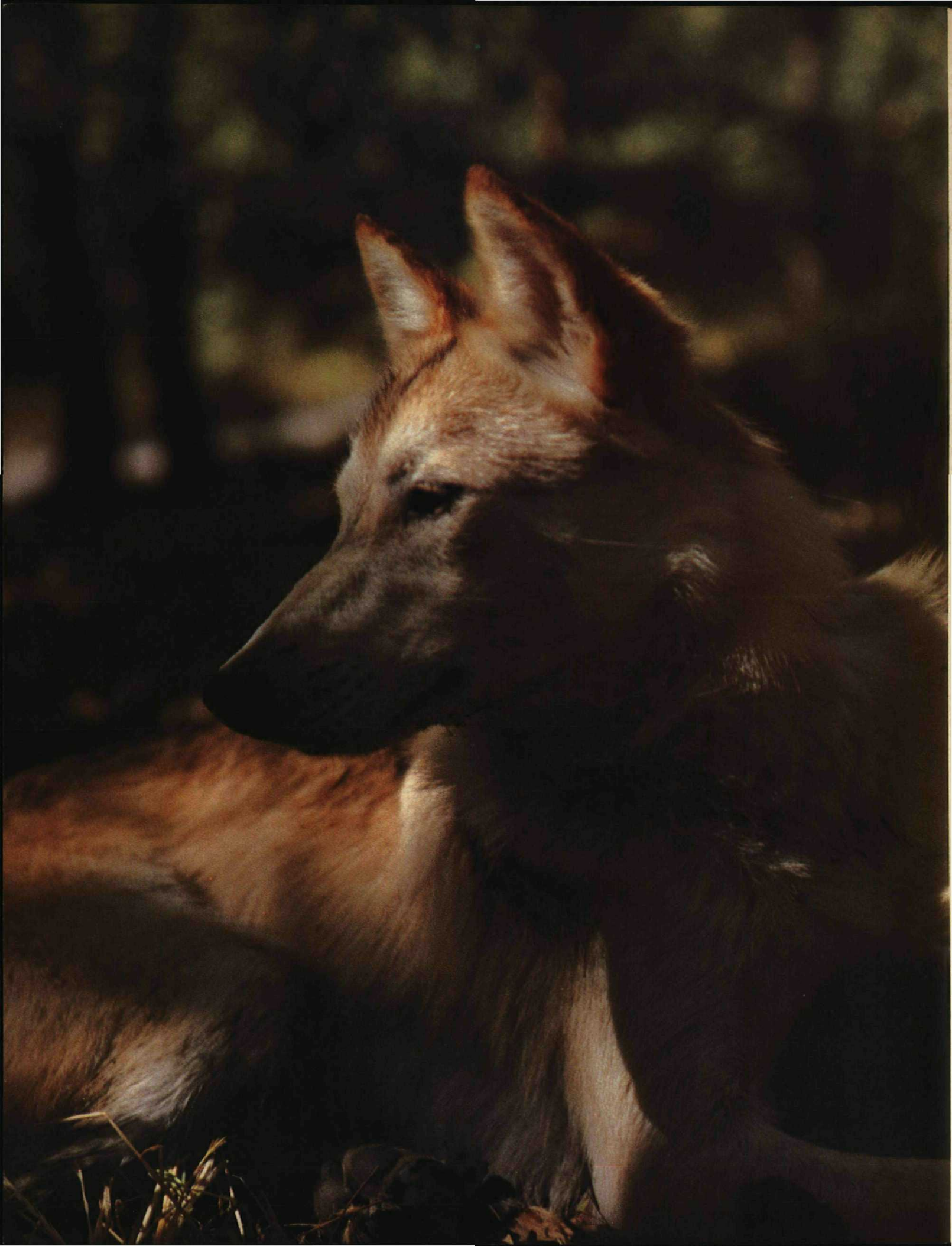
But venison takes second place to deer antlers as an international market item. Sprouting stag antlers covered with fine hairs called velvet, are grown anew every year. Using anesthesia and veterinary services, these antler buds are removed for sale to China, Korea and eastern Soviet Union. They're used in hospitals, in prescriptions and sold everywhere as a blood vessel dilator and stimulus to produce red blood cells to prevent anemia and related heart problems.

In some parts of the world a tea brewed from thin slices of antlers is as common as a morning cup of coffee is in the U.S. In recent years an attempt to emulate the New Zealand deer ranchers was quashed in America by humane groups. Protesters felt that the removal of the antlers was inhumane.

An average stag can produce \$360 worth of antler velvet each year. One New Zealand rancher says that 250 stags means more to his income each year than 6,000 of his sheep.

The deer are caught by helicopter and trucked to ranches to join other deer. With many of the deer removed from the wilderness areas, New Zealand's loss of vegetation and erosion problems are fast waning, and a new industry has started,







## SPECIAL WOLF ISSUE

# THE LEGENDARY LOBO



The lessons from the wolf have opened my mind to a new, but very ancient reality — kinship with all life.”

Michael Fox, from *The Soul of the Wolf*.

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### MAN AND WOLF . .

Man and the wolf have lived together almost since the beginning of time. Man's first dog, hunting partner, and defender of the hearth was the ancestor of today's wolf. But now it appears that man has left his former friend behind in a changing world. The wolf, except for zoos and sanctuaries, may become only a memory.

Many historians surmise that man might not have survived without his canine hunting companion. The hunting teamwork of early man and dog resulted in the ability to catch, kill and share game that would have been unattainable otherwise.

But the wolf has been trapped and killed for sport. His living space has been depleted. Old breeding grounds have been replaced by subdivisions and shopping centers. Man has driven his former friend to the brink of destruction.

### THE WOLF IN OUR CULTURE

Our culture and language reflects man's fascination and misinformation of the wolf. Terms like “wolf in sheep's clothing” and “wolfing down food” are typical. The wolf is invariably the “bad guy” in our children's stories.

This “bad press” has had much to do with the decimation of our wolf population.

The first dog collar was a band of sharp spikes created to protect the throat of dogs from wolves. .

And we have tagged a variety of other forms of life with wolf names: wolf spiders, wolf fish, sea wolf, wolf wasp, and wolf snake. The latin words for whore and she-wolf were the same “because both plunder man's goods.”

The name Adolph is a contraction of Edel-wolf, the noble wolf. Accordingly, Adolph Hitler's military retreat was called “the Wolf Lair “

“The human mind entertains itself with such symbols and metaphors, sorting out the universe in an internal monologue, and I think it delights in wolves,” theorized Barry Holstun Lopez in his book “Of Wolves and Men . . .” “The wolf is also a terrifying image, and the human mind likes to terrify itself.”



# The wolf — friend or foe

## THE DISAPPEARING WOLF...

Wolf packs once roamed most of North America. Their social structure could have been a model for humans. Each pack was governed by an Alpha male and the number of offspring was determined by the availability of food and space. They lived in harmony with other wildlife.

Although only two species of wolf are native to the U.S., there once were a couple of dozen subspecies, but most of these have disappeared. A few buffalo wolves remain in captivity in the state of Washington. Diminishing numbers of Eastern timber wolves are left in Canada, a small number on the Isle Royal, and an estimated 500 in Minnesota. The last wolf known in California was trapped in 1922.

The number of red wolves, once common throughout the entire southwest, has now been estimated at 100 or less. By 1961 the red wolf was seen only in a few parts of Texas and Louisiana.

Three basic factors have caused the decline and perhaps, the extinction of the red wolf. Although red wolves became officially "protected" in 1965, they continue to be a popular prey for hunters, who use packs of dogs to run them down. Canine heartworm disease has tak-

en a heavy toll on the red wolf also. And, when their numbers became so small that little breeding stock remained, the red wolf bred with coyotes and further reduced the gene pool.

Other wolves kill coyotes. When the gray wolves came to Isle Royal coyotes were a common sight. Eight years later there was not a single coyote left.

But the red wolf more closely resembles the coyote. They yelp and howl like coyotes, and they carry a short, coarse coat that is more similar to that of a coyote. As opposed to the gray wolf, the red wolf is racy, lean and close coated for life in a warmer climate. The red wolf may weigh 50 to 80 pounds and stand 24 to 30 inches at the shoulder. But the smallest red wolf is close to the size of a large coyote.

Two breeding colonies (the Tacoma Park Zoo in Washington, and the Sonora Desert Museum in Arizona) are attempting to preserve the red wolf. But the practice of red wolf and coyote interbreeding has created a serious problem in the preservation of a pure gene pool.

Some think our efforts to save the red wolf may have come too late.

---

Animal News staffer  
with a red wolf



## THE ORGANIZED KILL...

The first documented accounts of a planned attempt to eliminate the wolf appeared in the United States in 1630, when the first wolf bounties were offered. Government subsidized packs of wolf hunting dogs followed in 1648. Government employed wolf hunters followed in 1705.

In Montana more than eighty thousand wolves were bountied between the years of 1883 and 1910. The bounty hunters netted \$342,700 for their kills. By 1937 the only remaining wolves were in Alaska and 12 states. Eight years later only a few stragglers remained and there were no wolf packs of any size remaining. Man had done his job well.

By the seventies North Americans had decided to save the wolf, but the program had very limited success. In Michigan, in 1974, four wolves were fitted with radio collars in an attempt to reestablish the wolves in that state. Nine months later they had all been shot.

Alaska was a final stronghold for the wolf, but despite emotional "Save the Wolf" campaigns 110 were killed in 1976.

One small bright spot in the preservation program is the Isle Royal colony in northern Michigan. In 1949 one of the few remaining packs came down from Canada, crossed the winter ice packs, and took up residence on the isolated island.

The moose already there were multiplying so fast that they were destroying the island vegetation and dying of starvation. Within 30 years the balance of nature (without human intervention) stabilized the populations of both the moose and the wolf, and both are doing well.

But, despite the conservationists, the few wolf stragglers remaining in the rest of North America are still being systematically trapped and hunted into extinction. Packs of dogs are still employed to back up hunters. In some parts of the deep south wolf traps are sold off the counters of department stores.

Once considered for the national animal of the United States, the wolf may not be around long enough to accept the honor.





Wolf and malamute dog at play

Study of a wolf head, showing differences of domestic dogs and wolves.



## Exploiting canis lupus . . .

### "WOLVES FOR SALE"

This type of advertising appears regularly in periodicals across the U.S. The ads are not slanted for zoos or research centers. They are selling wolves, and wolf mixes, as household pets. And, even more surprising, people buy them with the misguided idea that a wolf will fit into a unit with about the same ease as a German shepherd.

It may take 100 years to successfully develop a new breed of dog. The genetic combinations are almost endless. And, even after 100 years of carefully planned pure breeding, surprises may occur.

Some gene, buried for generations, may surface again to boggle serious breeders.

But the breeders of wolf-crosses often choose any convenient combination of wolf and dog to sell to unsuspecting buyers. No one, especially the buyer, can make an accurate prediction as to what this happenstance first-generation mixture may produce.

### Photos by Beth Harris

All kinds of puppies are charming when they are young. It is only as the puppy matures that the true personality of the puppy emerges.

So why do they do it? Why do people pay big prices for a wolf-cross that may grow up to be a threat to themselves and others around them?

We all grow up being conditioned by tales of "The Big Bad Wolf", the "Wolf-man" and other fearsome yellow-eyed monsters of fiction. And some experts theorize that it is an attempt to prove a mastery over this wild animal that has been a symbol of fear for centuries.

But some of the so-called wolf-crosses may not even be wolves at all. Few lay people have the expertise to distinguish between a wolf and, say, a cross between an Alaskan malamute and a German shepherd. The unknowing buyer may be paying a handsome price for a mixture that could be available for adoption at the local animal shelter.

However, if the buyer does actually purchase a domestically bred wolf as a family companion, that buyer should be prepared to live with a canine with a different set of standards than those of the typical domestic dog. After hundreds of years of selective breeding the domestic dog has a dependence on man, and, accordingly, a strong desire to please. This desire to please is what makes the domestic dog an agreeable companion for humans. The wolf, however, has a slightly different set of values. It has an intelligence that may surpass that of dogs, but it is motivated by the laws of self-preservation and a strong pack order.

"Wolf cubs that have been hand-raised are difficult to train, in contrast to the average dog," says Michael Fox in "The Soul of the Wolf." The authority continues "Trainability is more related to dependence than to intelligence, per se, and one major trait of most breeds of domestic dogs is a high degree of dependence. Wolves do NOT make good pets. . ."



# The wolf — fact and fiction . . .



## WOLF CHILDREN . . .

Although wolf facts and fiction have become intertwined over the years, all accounts indicate that wolves are good and affectionate parents. Sometimes that affection has even extended to humans. The rearing of Romulus and Remus may be folklore, but there are well-documented accounts of human children adopted by wolves.

In 1920 a wolf lair containing two wolf cubs and two human female children was discovered in India by a reverend. The two humans were taken from the lair, despite heroic attempts by the wolf mother to protect her "litter." One of the girls died a year later. It was several years later before the second child learned to walk in an upright position and to wear clothing. She died in 1929. The episode was carefully documented by Charles McLean, including photographs of the wolf-children, in a book titled "The Wolf Children."

Over the years many accounts of wolf-children have been reported. In 1845 a female child, estimated to be about 10 years old, was discovered in Texas living as part of a wolf pack. She was captured by humans, temporarily, but her wolf pack came to her "rescue" and she was returned to the wild. She was last seen in the Rio Grande in 1852.

Recent Russian accounts tell of a young girl lost in the wilderness for a couple of nights, who told her parents that she had been befriended and cared for by a "large dog." Since a nursing she-wolf had been observed in the same area, it was assumed that the girl had been adopted and protected by the wolf. ■

## "WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

Even the names we have chosen for our wolves are misleading. The gray wolf isn't always gray, the red wolf isn't always red. Despite their names, wolves can be black, red, yellow, tan, buff, gray, silver, brown and white.

Probably the only accurate statement in "Little Red Riding Hood" is "what big teeth you have." Wolf canines are slightly curved and can be more than one and a half inches long. Their crushing power can be 1,500 pounds per square inch (as compared to about 750 pounds per square inch for a German shepherd dog.)

The Alaskan malamute probably resembles the wolf more closely than any other domestic dog in appearance. But that's where the similarities stop.

In comparing a timber wolf and a malamute of about equal size (about 100 pounds) some interesting differences can be seen. The wolf has a longer, wider head and a longer neck. The wolf stands between two and three inches taller in the leg and is not as heavy in the chest, and is a full eight inches longer in body. The track of the wolf is about double that of his domestic cousin.

These differences helped to make the wolf one of nature's finest long-distance runners. When necessary, the wolf can achieve 30 mph in a burst of speed. But his best performance is in marathon running. Wolves have maintained a steady five miles-per-hour for 10 hours when needed to run down prey, or to escape from another predator.

But his speed and endurance is no match for the steel traps and guns of man. ■

## HOPE FOR MEXICAN WOLVES

Hope for the preservation of the Mexican wolf increased when a litter of four cubs was born in captivity in April of this year, at the Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson, Arizona.

This was the second litter for the mother, but the first litter was born in 1978, shortly after her capture. Since she had been bred in the wild the sire of the litter was unknown and there was no way to determine that this litter was pure, and not the result of a cross breeding.

This brings the total number of known purebred Mexican wolves in captivity to 23. Others are at the Rio Grande Zoo in Albuquerque, N.M., and the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center in St. Louis.

## RECOMMENDED READING . . .

"Arctic Wild" and "Captive Wild", both by Lois Crisler

"The Soul of the Wolf", by Michael Fox

"Wolves of Minong", by Durwald Allen

"The Last of the Loners", by Stanley Young

"Of Wolves and Men", by Barry Holstan Lopez

"The Wild Dogs in Life and Legend", by Maxwell Riddle

"The Custer Dog", by Roger Caras

"The Order of Wolves", by Richard Fiennes

"The Wolf", by David Mech

"The Kingdom of Wolves", by Scott Barry

"Wild Dogs of the World", by Lois Bueler

"The World of the Wolf", by Russell Rutter and Michael Fox

"Wolf and Man: Evolution in Parallel", by R. Hall and H. Sharp



# NEWS FROM THE PET WORLD

## POISON CONTROL CENTER REPORT

In the first three years of its existence, the Animal Poison Control Center at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine received 2,199 telephone queries about poisons and animals. As expected, queries about dogs and suspected poisoning topped the list: 36.4 percent of the the questions concerned canines. Second place went to, no, not cats, but cattle with 19.6 percent. Cats and poison questions came in third, followed by pigs, horses and humans.

The reason for heavy representation from livestock is because 54 percent of the calls for the first three years came from Illinois, home state of the service and where it has received the widest publicity. Wisconsin with 3.3 percent of the calls was a distant second, with California, Maryland and Michigan close behind. Calls came from 46 states, District of Columbia and Canada. Most of the calls came from veterinarians and health care professionals, although the service is open to anyone 24 hours a day.

As expected, questions about pesticides, rodent poisons, herbicides and fungicides formed the bulk of queries. Drugs and medications accounted for a little more than 10 percent; household pets eating household plants and greenery formed 11.6 of the queries.

### Pets are big business

Dollar sales of animal health products, measured at the manufacturers' price level, reached \$920 million in 1982, says "Business Trend Analysts. This was a 10 percent increase over the previous year. And projections point even bigger boosts in this area.

### Animal antibiotics sales soar

Sales of veterinary antibiotics have increased over the past decade at an average rate of 13.2 percent annually. The growth for the overall segment is only about 10 percent, according to Business Trend Analysts.

## BANNING ANTI-PET BANS

Legislation is slowly wending its way through the Congress that would prohibit owners or operators of federally-assisted rental housing for the elderly or handicapped to restrict the ownership of pets. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has gone on record in supporting the bills. California already has laws asserting the rights of pet owners in public agency housing and other states are following suit.

"The need for pet companionship is becoming more accute as the number of elderly persons living alone continues to rise," said Congressman Mario Biaggi (D-NY) in support of his HR 1373.

The growing number of elderly members of our society who are in need of inexpensive public housing have been hardest hit by no-pet clauses," said Senator Willima Proxmire (D-Wisc) who has introduced a similar bill in the Senate, S 606. He said seniors who have to surrender their pets before moving into federally assisted low cost housing "is more than an inconvenience; frequently it has a traumatic effect on the senior citizen's physical and mental health."

## FLEA BLANKET

The newest device in the everlasting battle against fleas is a blanket. It joins the ranks of collars, shampoos, pills, dips, sprays and powders.

Called the "Doctor Del Flea Blanket," it's the invention Illinois veterinarian Dr. Levy J. del Rosario. His blanket is terrycloth sprayed with Vapona (flea collar insecticide) on one side and backed with plastic on the other. The dog or cat is bundled in this with "blow holes" left for breathing purposes and held there for three to five minutes. Meantime fleas and ticks are transported to that great Vapona-less paradise in the sky. The inventor claims nearly 100 percent kill with fleas and 75 percent kill ratio for ticks.

The blanket can be used again and again, merely by spraying it with Vapona prior to each application. The blanket comes in two sizes and retails for about \$15 to \$20. So far, Dr. Del hasn't gone into mass production, he's still in the "start-up phase" with he and his family busily sewing blankets at home in their spare time.

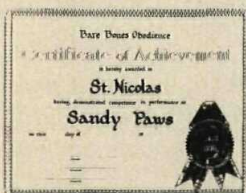
Large dogs can be treated by applying the blanket area by area until all of Fido is treated.

## A Christmas to Remember...

Celebrate a dog's friendship this holiday season with a Bare Bones Companionship Award, and your gift will become a treasured memento for years to come.

Your dog qualifies. We issue Awards from table manners to curb etiquette. Can he come, sit, fetch? Has he completed psychotherapy? Then he deserves an Award!

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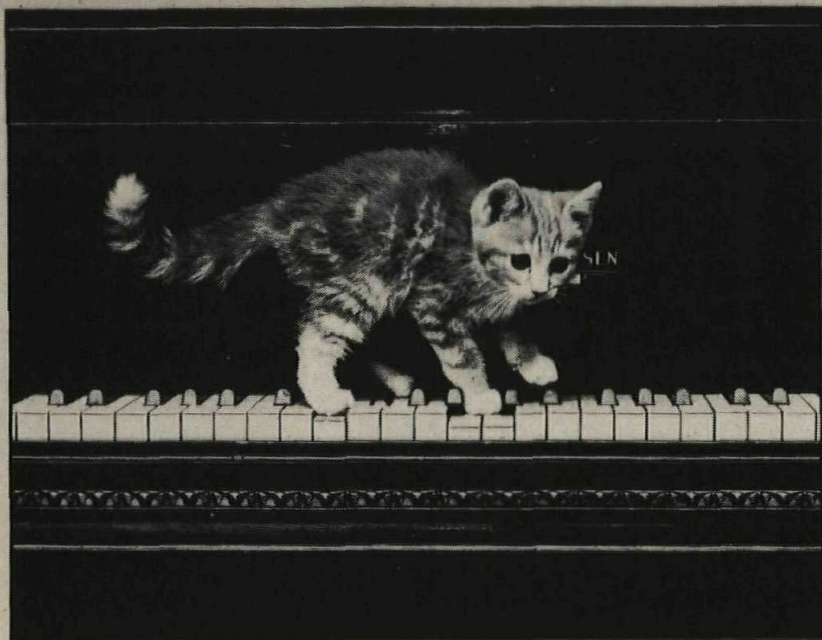
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# In The Company of Cats 1984

Today's Animal News

Page 14



a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this calendar will be donated to the Humane Society of the United States.

## New products from BO-Tree . . .

The holiday gift list is just about completed . . . except for Aunt Emma and Cousin George. So, what do you do? Well, there's always a calendar. They come and go as holiday gifts every year with about the same popularity and appeal of neckties.

Every year, it seems, the manufacturers of "doggy" and "kitty" calendars gather together a dozen "cutesy" photos of contrived situations that have all the substance of cotton candy. And, when all else fails, the last-minute shopper grabs up a couple of them for good old Aunt Em and Uncle George.

But there is one notable exception in this field of mediocrity.

Bo-Tree Productions has again this year released a line of calendars that stand head and shoulders above the usual.

Although the product is well printed on quality stock with sparkling color, it is the subject matter that makes this product special. The photos and drawings are imaginative and unusual. Many of the illustrations are suitable for framing.

*You may have a hard time choosing from a variety of cat calendars, winsome paintings of felines, collections of kittens, or their best seller "In The Company of Cats."*

*If you aren't a cat fancier, Bo-Tree offers delightful calendars devoted to horses, dogs, whales, "Birds of a Feather" or "Bless The Beasts", which is a thoughtful grouping of wild animal studies. If you prefer something in a lighter vein the enchanting drawings of cats and dogs in the "Cat and Dog Horoscope Calendar" will provide 12 months of chuckles.*

Bo-Tree Products are available in many retail outlets, but you may prefer to review the entire line by obtaining a complete catalog by writing: Bo-Tree Productions, 1137 San Antonio Road, Suite E, Palo Alto, Calif., 94303.

An additional bonus is that part of the proceeds of every sale is donated to The Humane Society of the United States.

There is one problem, however. You may find yourself tempted to keep the Bo-Tree calendars you bought for good old Em and Cousin George and send a jar of crab apple preserves instead.

## CANINE COLA TREAT

### COCA COLA FOR DOGS?

It had to happen. Two enterprising inventors in Virginia have come up with a K-9 Kola, vitamin-laden soft drink for dogs that contains no caffeine and is not carbonated. It has met with success in test markets in Phoenix, Amarillo and southern Virginia, already strong markets for Coca Cola and other human soft drinks.

K-9 Kola took 12 years to develop, claim its inventors. They say the vitamin content improves the canine coat, but the main selling point is that it's a "treat" for the family pooch.

Dogs seemingly love the Kola, but not all veterinarians are pleased with the product. "Dogs on a good diet do not need (food) supplements," said Dr. David Barley, president of the Tidewater Veterinary Medical Association of Virginia. "If an owner wants to give a dog added nutrients, many good vitamin supplements already are available." Like other veterinarians, he thinks K-9 Kola appeals more to the pet owners' hearts than the canine's taste buds.

K-9 Kola comes in six packs or individual cans, selling for about 49 cents per 12-ounce can. The manufacturers are already at work creating a feline version called Kitty Kat Kola.



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for further information**



# FROM THE VETERINARY FRONT...

Modern research methods and technology can produce vaccines in record time. The vaccine to help prevent parvovirus is a good example. Within months of isolation of the causative virus, vaccine was being used and the subsequent development of improved vaccines was underway. The vaccines worked and the disease is no longer running unchecked among our canine friends. (Newly acquired knowledge in the field of immunology has opened the door to a whole new approach to the design and manufacture of immunizing agents. These new "sub unit" vaccines promise to be safer, more effective and probably less expensive.)

An animal's immune system is designed to detect foreign substances, react to them and either destroy them or manufacture antibodies against them. It will react to viruses chemicals, pollens and other allergic substances, parasites or cancer cells.

The purpose of vaccination is to prevent contagious disease from infecting an animal and thereby stop or slow its spread to other animals. The vaccines do this by stimulating the immune system. In order to achieve these goals a high percentage of the susceptible animals must be vaccinated and revaccinated at definite intervals.

Dogs are presently vaccinated yearly against as many as seven diseases (canine distemper, infectious canine hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza, parvovirus and bordetella) and every two or three years against rabies. The frequency of rabies revaccination depends of the type of vaccine used and the local animal control or public health laws. Cats are usually vaccinated against feline panleucopenia (feline distemper), rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, pneumonitis, and hopefully rabies. There are usually no laws requiring cats to be vaccinated against rabies, but cats are an important source of exposure of people to rabies and should be vaccinated yearly.

A whole host of immunizing agents are available to control dis-

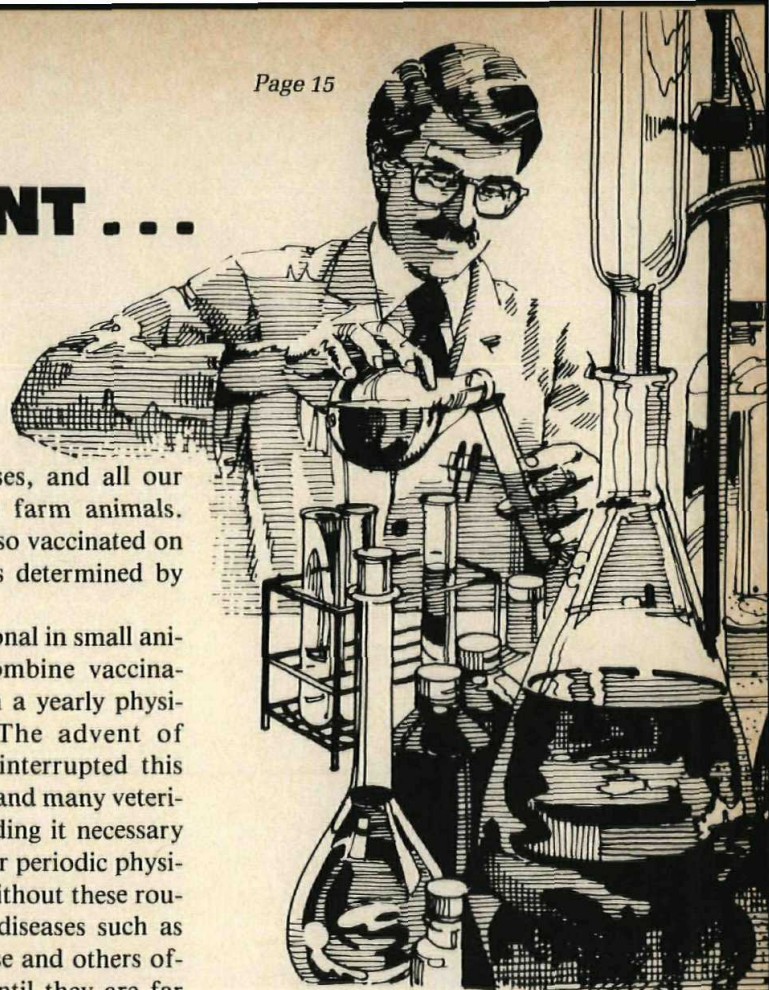
eases in cattle, horses, and all our other domestic and farm animals. These animals are also vaccinated on definite schedules as determined by local veterinarians.

It has been traditional in small animal medicine to combine vaccinations (boosters) with a yearly physical examination. The advent of vaccine clinics has interrupted this traditional program and many veterinarians are now finding it necessary to send reminders for periodic physical examinations. Without these routine visits insidious diseases such as cancer, kidney disease and others often go undetected until they are far advanced.

The things veterinarians must consider at vaccination time include the animal's physical condition, its age, the diseases present in the local area, the previous vaccination history, the type of vaccine to be used and how the vaccine is best administered. When dealing with a young animal, the vaccination history of the mother must be considered. Stress, either mental or physical and medications given the animal may affect the vaccination procedure.

In summary an animal requiring vaccination or revaccination must be in good health, will usually receive at least two full doses of vaccine given several weeks apart and have a revaccination schedule set up to meet local needs.

A special note about parvovirus — This new disease that has spread throughout the world so rapidly still evokes many questions from fearful owners. The vaccines against it are doing a good job. There are still problems to be sure, but close cooperation with your veterinarian as to a vaccination schedule will minimize the risk. Almost all dogs that have completed a full vaccination schedule will be protected. ■■■



## ALLERGIC VETERINARIANS

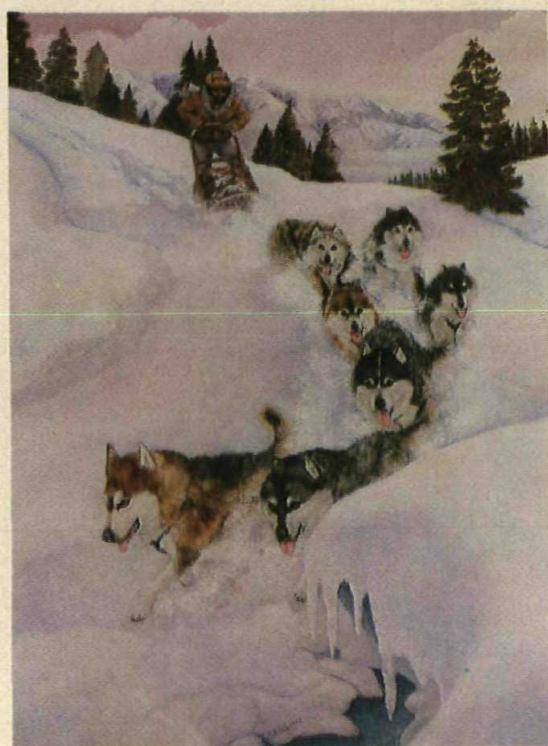
People who're allergic to household pets simply cannot own them or may even be forced to stay out of other homes where a pet may reside. But what if you are a veterinarian allergic cats or dogs? That may sound like a character description in a TV sitcom, but there are about ten percent of the nation's 40,000 veterinarians who are allergic to animals.

Dr. Loren A. Will, an assistant professor of veterinary health at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, formed the Association of Animal Allergic Veterinarians two years ago. Membership in the group is "fluid" he says, as veterinarians learn how to cope with their allergies and then drop out.

Many veterinarians didn't have childhood allergies to animals, but they're exposed to animals in veterinary school and in practice, and they develop them, according to Dr. Will.

AAAV is a support group that makes coping easier. Barriers such as face masks and gloves, medications like antihistamines and even corticosteroids, are some methods used in coping. ■■■





## Lee Mitchelson, animal artist . . .

Her canvases are represented by:  
Files Gallery, Big Bear, Calif.,  
Options Gallery, Shell Beach, Calif.  
Alaska Four Seasons Gallery, Fairban  
And brochures of prints are availa  
Limited Edition Prints, 10850 Art Street



## A special love for wolves. . .



**Lee Mitchelson and friend . . .**

*Lee Mitchelson doesn't label herself as a wolf artist. Her canvases depict a variety of animals and people and their interaction. And she has created hundreds of companion animal portraits over the past decade.*

*But it becomes obvious to anyone viewing a collection of her paintings that there exists a very special relationship between this young artist and wolves. The paintings speak for themselves.*

*Lee Mitchelson has loved wolves since the beginning of her memories. There seems to have never been a time when she has not been concerned for their welfare. And now, as a professional and published artist she has found a way to help them.*

*A percentage of any prints sold is donated to the Guardians of the Wolf, the Wolf Sanctuary, and Canadian Wolf Defenders.*

*It's a far cry from the Sunland, California studio to the wilds of the far north, but that doesn't stop this young artist from her constant study of the wolf in its natural surroundings. Everything that this artist loves to paint can best be reached by dog sled on the other side of a frozen lake.*

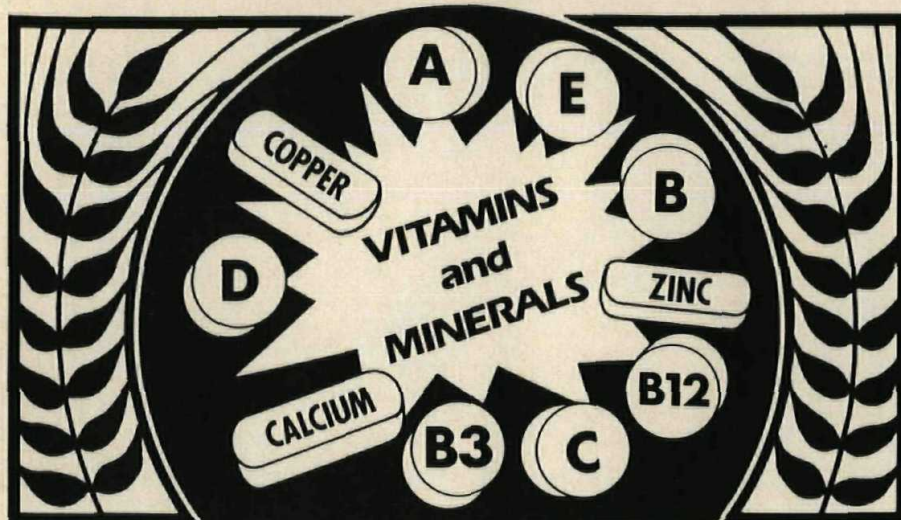
*In February she heads north again to cover the classic Iditarod dog sled race and to do further research at the Unalakleet Eskimo village, and to photograph Musk oxen herds.*

*At a time when it would seem that the wolf has been deserted by almost all former human friends Lee Mitchelson remains a staunch defender and historian.*

ks,  
ble from: Lee Mitchelson  
, Sunland, Ca. 91040.



## Too much of a good thing



### FOOD SUPPLEMENTS FOR PETS...

Twenty or thirty years ago only a small coterie of people were armed with rudimentary knowledge of vitamin and mineral supplements for pets. Today, there's a bewildering assortment of liquids, powders, tablets and special foods all bearing labels 'chock-a-block with nutritional information and claims. They're available in supermarkets and feed stores, and the coterie of original experts has probably swollen to the dimensions of an army by now.

Veterinarians are seeing danger signals. The widespread use of "just a little" vitamin and mineral supplements to a feline or canine diet is causing a growing set of clinical problems that were non-existent a few years ago. The most common problem is an out-of-balance nutritional program that causes a set of symptoms that often call for medical detective work before they can be pin-pointed.

If "just a little" vitamin or protein supplement can seemingly bring about improvements, ill-advised human logic then says "the more the better." It doesn't work that way. Dogs and cats need only a little too much of a "good thing" to throw their whole nutritional absorption out of whack. Like humans, each pet has its own set of nutritional requirements. There are no blanket supplements for all cocker spaniels or Siamese cats whole business of nutritional requirements in household pets still has unanswered

questions. By liberally drenching or powdering your pet's daily diet with a food supplement because the label touts all sorts of great things, you're literally gambling with your pet's health. Factors such as breed, age, sex reproductive status, health conditions, physical activity, weather, and home environment all play a role.

An animal's food utilization system is extremely complicated. Minerals, proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and essential amino acids all form an intricate spider web with each thread dependent on the other, and all working together in harmony. Introduction of one or two elements in large quantities can tear apart this web.

Veterinary research is galloping at top speed to keep pace with new discoveries in household pet nutrition. General consensus now is that food supplements will not help or harm a normal dog or cat. But this broad umbrella-like statement has a lot of holes in it. A "normal" cat or dog may have a deficiency in some non-visible nutritional area that will only lead to trouble if dosed with an improper nutritional supplement.

Food supplements are widely used in veterinary medicine today, but it takes a lot more than reading a label off a supermarket or feed store shelf to know if you're doing the right thing. Better check with your veterinarian first before spending the money.

By Judson Snyder

### Loss of vision should be checked

Pets are remarkably adaptable to partial loss of vision. The stereotyped caricature of an old, battling tom cat with one eye and ragged ears is a standard comic strip item. The problem is this: the dog or cat is adjusting to one-sided loss of vision as best it knows how, but the owner is often unaware of this loss.

Binocular loss is fairly easy to detect. The dog, for example, will affect a high-stepping gait, or it will depend more on its nose for getting around by keeping it close to the ground. It will bump into things or misjudge the flight of a ball.

Loss of vision in one eye generally indicates a disease that will eventually affect the other. Close examination of the eyes can sometimes provide early detection. Cloudiness, opaque spots in the eyeball, inflammation of the lids, a discharge from the inside corner are common signs. With cats, a noticeable difference in the light-reflecting cells between one eye and the other is a valuable clue.

Veterinary ophthalmology is a complicated field, but recent strides in research have provided a lot of answers. Both dogs and cats do a lot of communicating with humans with their eyes. It pays to return the stare with an "eye out" for abnormalities.

### AIRPORTS HIRE FALCONS

Big airports like International in Toronto, Canada, have been plagued with flocks of birds like pigeons and gulls getting in the way of big jet aircraft. The potential for birds sucked into engines and causing a crash have always been a danger.

But now the airport has a professional raptor on duty seven days a week. Falcons are natural enemies of birds hanging about airports and as soon as one is spotted, the birds head for safer areas. In the hands of a trained falconer, airport runways are kept clear of pesky bird flocks.

This technique is nothing new. Military airports in England have been using falcons since 1965.



# AIDS IN ANIMALS . . .

## AIDS in Arabian foals . . .

With all the publicity about Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in humans, it's not generally known that Arabian horses are carriers of a similar disease. It's called Combined Immuno-deficiency or CID, and affects about two to three percent of all Arabian foals. So far, it has not been discovered in other horse breeds.

What happens is that some Arabian foals are born without the presence of both T and B lymphocytes. They appear normal at birth but as soon as the maternal infection-fighting antibodies from the mare's colostrum are absorbed by the foal (maternal immunoglobulins), the foal is wide open to infections, often of a pneumobronchial or extreme diarrhea type, and usually dies within five months. CID is universally fatal and there is no cure.

The disease also affects children, and an example of CID in children is the boy in Texas who has to live in a germ-free plastic bubble because his infection-fighting mechanism is missing.

Dr. Lance Perryman, associate professor of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology at Washington State U in Pullman, is heading a team of researchers studying CID. So far, the only cure is bone marrow transplant, but this procedure calls for a strict matching of blood type and other physiological groupings, a near-impossible task. So they're attacking CID from the other end, through prevention. This means testing all Arabian foals blood for CID. If found, the owners of the foal are notified of the certain end of the foal. It also means the foal's mare and stallion, either or both, are carriers of CID and should not be used for breeding purposes. There are only three laboratories in the U.S. that have the equipment to test for CID: Pullman, Davis, Calif.; and Ft. Collins, Colorado. Tests so far have indicated that about 26 percent of Arabian horses are carriers of CID, both in the U.S. and Australia. This indicates that not all Arabian foals from carrier parents are affected. If both mare and stallion

are carriers, one foal will be normal, two will be CID carriers and one foal will be totally lacking in T and B lymphocytes and will die within five months. If only one parent is a carrier, two foals will be normal and two will be carriers. Therefore to completely eradicate CID, carrier mares and stallions should not be bred.

Veterinarians in the field can single out a possible CID foal or adult carrier with a blood count on lymphocytes. If the total is less than 1,000 per cubic mm of blood, CID is

suspected, but only conclusive results have to come from one of the three labs.

According to Dr. Perryman, the burden of stamping out CID belongs to groups involved with breeding, such as Arabian Horse Registry of America and the International Arabian Horse Association. His research is aimed at discovering the cause of CID, and the main thrust here is finding a biochemical basis of the disease, possibly a missing enzyme. But this enzyme has yet to be discovered.

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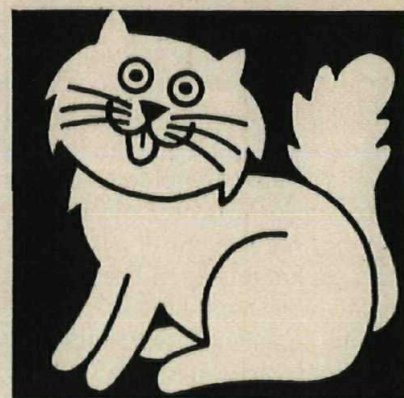
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Tests done 40 years ago showed cocoa husks have high toxic levels when fed to pigs and chickens, but aside from that, research has been skimpy. But Wisconsin incidents should serve as a warning to horse owners.

Todays Animal News  
now has a Breeders  
Guide and Shopper  
Section to help you  
with all your pet  
shopping. Don't  
miss it!

## Dramatic feline increase



Added Dr. Pedersen, "(also) in the past, there were relatively few men who owned cats. Now . . . that figure is approaching 35 percent. There's no longer any stigma about being a male and owning a cat."

A greyhound named Low Pressure set an all-time track record of a different sort when he sired 2,414 puppies in his lifetime.

# KITTIGREE

G & H./Gloria Horowitz, 63-18 76th St. Middle Village, New York, 11379. k, 11379.





# Today's Animal News

## FROM THE VETERINARY FRONT . . .

### FELINE MILIARY DERMATITIS

If your veterinarian mentions feline miliary dermatitis when he or she is examining your cat with a skin problem, there's no need to panic . . . it's not as bad as it sounds. And "miliary" is not a misprint of "military," this feline skin trouble has nothing to do with the armed forces.

Actually miliary dermatitis is not a disease, it's a clinical condition that takes a lot of investigation to find the cause. It can occur in any breed, any sex, and at any age. It can be acute or chronic, localized or generalized, can cause a lot of discomfort or symptoms can be almost undetectable unless the owners pet the cat's fur. Most obvious signs are, of course, irritated skin, loss of hair, sores and scabs.

The tricky part of this feline skin problem is finding out the cause and then figuring out a way to treat it. It can be caused by an allergy, parasites or infectious disease. To make it all the more complicated, in some cases there doesn't seem to be any cause for it all. But this is rare.

Fingered as the number one cause of miliary dermatitis is flea allergy, but before treatment can be started other causes have to be ruled out. Many cats are hypersensitive to flea saliva. Even one flea bite can cause a skin eruption. So it doesn't do much good to treat it with a flea collar or flea powder applied at sporadic intervals. The flea must be completely eradicated from the living quarters of the cat. If it's a cat allowed outdoors, a practically impossible problem is presented.

Severe cases of fleabite sensitivity have been treated with corticosteroid injections. Research is being done on building natural flea antigens in the laboratory and injecting these, but concrete results have not yet been achieved. This process is called hyposensitization, which is just the opposite of hypersensitive.

Cats can also become allergic to pollen, dust, food and a myriad of other substances. In these cases, the allergic substance must be isolated through the process of elimination until a villain is found. This isn't easy. In the case of food allergies, cats are such finicky eaters that the business of removing suspected (and probably favorite) foods from the diet and feeding something else is almost as traumatic as the allergy.

Allergy to pollen can be ferreted out by the skin patch method. Also, if miliary dermatitis only occurs in certain seasons, a big clue is brought out into the open.

Fleas are included in the parasite category of miliary dermatitis causes. But there are other pests, such as varieties of mites like cheyletiella, notoedres and otodectes. Then there's a mite called demodex, and even varieties of lice. But these latter two are rarely found.

Bacterial infections of the skin can also cause miliary dermatitis, but are currently rated as uncommon. Some veterinarians think nutrition plays a role, and it probably does through weakening of the feline's antibody (and flea antigen) production. Cats deficient in fatty acids can break out with skin problems.

So you can see, the veterinarian is presented with a multitude of problems when a cat with miliary dermatitis looks up at him from the examining table. If the first choice of fleabite allergy doesn't pan out, it's back to the entire list of other causes. But out there, somewhere, is a cure.

Does your address label have the name of a veterinary hospital on it? If so, that hospital has selected you to receive a complimentary subscription to Today's Animal News!

## Ring-a-ding dogs

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# Changes in eating or drinking habits may point to . . . **CUSHING'S DISEASE**

## **TESTING IS NEEDED TO DIAGNOSE THIS DISEASE**

Urinating frequently and drinking excessive amounts of water are the symptoms that first bring these patients to the veterinarian.

Too much cortisone in the body causes a disease that is diagnosed commonly in dogs. This condition, called hyperadrenocorticism or Cushing's Disease, is brought about because of too much hormone from either the pituitary gland (ACTH) or from the adrenal glands (cortisone).

Screening tests of blood and urine are needed to separate this disease from kidney problems, diabetes, behavioral changes and other conditions that increase thirst. The administration of large amounts of cortisone as required by some diseases may produce all the signs and symptoms of Cushing's Disease. It is this type that usually affects cats, the naturally occurring disease being uncommon in felines. *Untreated animals will lose hair, becoming almost hairless on their sides and abdomen. Crinkled skin and blackheads appear on the abdomen and inner thighs and often a non-itchy rash will follow. Later in the course of the disease muscle weakness will cause posture changes so these dogs tend to look "dumpy" and potbellied.*

The diagnosis is made by special testing procedures. The initial screening tests will usually confirm the diagnosis of Cushing's Disease but they tell nothing as to whether the pituitary gland or the adrenal gland is at fault. The amount of ACTH in the blood is often determined first. This test is usually followed by a dexamethasone suppression test and an ACTH stimulation test. ACTH stands for adrenocorticotrophic hormone and is the substance secreted by the pituitary gland. ACTH stimulates the adrenal gland to secrete cortisone and it is this excess cortisone that is responsible for the symptoms of the disease.

There are two other tests that are used to determine more precisely where the problem lies. The cortisone-like drug Dexamethasone will lower blood cortisone levels by suppressing the production of ACTH in the pituitary gland. A blood sample is taken before Dexamethasone is administered and a second sample about eight hours later. The differences in the amount of cortisone found in the two samples is the important information. A positive suppression test suggests that the pituitary gland is the site of the problem. The second test is the ACTH stimulation test. The procedure is about the same. A pre-injection blood "sample is obtained, ACTH is administered by injection and another blood sample is drawn two hours later. An excessive increase in blood cortisone points toward the adrenal glands as the source of the disease.

It is important to know where the disease is originating. Tumors of the adrenal gland should be removed surgically whenever possible. The diagnosis of an adrenal gland tumor is confirmed by examination during exploratory surgery. Removal of these tumors is difficult but is essential if a cure is to be expected. There is no way to determine whether a tumor is benign or malignant without surgery.

Too much ACTH from the pituitary gland causes an increase in the cortisone secreting cells in the adrenal glands. These cells can be damaged by administering a drug called O,P'DDD and the amount of cortisone secreted can be brought back to normal. Pituitary tumors can be removed surgically or can be treated by radiation therapy. O,P'DDD can control the symptoms caused by these tumors but the drug has no effect on the growth or spread of the tumor itself.

Early recognition by the owners of increased water drinking and perhaps increased appetite will greatly improve the chances of a cure or effective control of the disease.

Any major change in drinking or eating behavior by our pets should be promptly investigated by the pet's doctor.

*By Charles Robinson, DVM.*

## **Shelters suffer from recession**

With the American economy oozing along in a long-standing recession, depression, "stagflation" or whatever word you choose, many areas are finding it more difficult to take another notch in the belt. Or cut a few more dollars here, chop a few services here, or just stay afloat.

Humane Societies, ASPCA's, animal shelters and municipal "dog pounds" are in the same boat. Budget restraints from cities and counties have combine with shrinking donations from the public to really put the financial squeeze on animal shelters.

But they've weathered storms before. It's been an uphill struggle since Henry Bergh of New York, Caroline White of Pennsylvania, George Angell of Massachusetts started animal humane societies in the 1860's and 70's.

Mortality rates are climbing. We're not talking about dogs and cats, but animal shelters. Budget cuts and lack of funds have forced many city-run and shoestring-operated private ASPCA's and shelters to close their doors. This is the face of a continuing pet surplus problem that never seems to get any smaller.

(Speaking of mortality rates, it's about 70 to 80 percent for dogs and cats brought to shelters as unwanted pets.)

Municipal budget-cutters apparently have little trouble in slashing funds for animal shelters, mainly because their (the shelter's) work touches relatively few people.

"We hide the plight of animals by collecting them off the streets so the public doesn't have to deal with them, and by said Richard Avanzino, president of the San Francisco SPCA in an article .

### **WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

Find out now with the NO NAME PET NAME GUIDE. A special assortment of over 1500 new and unusual names and their meanings. Send \$5 to Potpourri Ventures PO Box 303 Dept. A N. Chelmsford, Ma 01863.



## UNDERSTANDING YOUR PET

### TOUCHING AND CATS

More so than any other household pet, cats are tactile-oriented. They depend a lot on the touch system of communication, and touching between owner and cat is important to its well-being. It's also important to the human involved, but there's another subject altogether.

From the moment they are born, kittens are constantly touched by their mother, mostly through vigorous washing. Research has shown that kittens deprived of huge doses of attention from older cats (or humans), have a very low survival rate. Adult cats often spend a lot of time washing other adult cats in a continuation of experiences they received during kittenhood.

Cats lacking in attention from their mothers as kittens, or living in an environment where humans do not touch them, sink back into a syndrome of excessive self-grooming. This can result in loss of hair and skin mutilation.

Most cats will let their owners know when they think it's time for some tactile affection. They might not be always convenient times for humans, but kind responses when demanded will go a long way in insuring emotional and mental well-balance.

How much petting can a cat take at one sitting? Sometimes, it seems it can purr away under stroking until human nerves and muscles cry out for a rest. Usually, the contented purring and closed eyes satisfaction reaches a threshold of excitation. Then the cat will gently (or sometimes not so gently) bite the hand that caresses it and bring claws into play. This is a signal to gently disengage the feline and turn to other projects. It's had enough tactile communication for one sitting.

### Biggest dog litter

The largest litter of puppies ever recorded, according to "Amazing Facts About Animals", was mothered by an American foxhound named Lena. The amazing mother produced 23 puppies.

## New pet shelter idea

### VETS FORM OWN HUMANE SOCIETY...

With an increasing number of humane societies offering full spectrum veterinary services, it should come as no surprise that veterinarians have formed their own humane society.

It happened in Michigan with the formation of the Humane Society of Southeastern Michigan. A total of 22 veterinary clinics are participating in it and more are being taken in each month, according to group president Dr. Lee A. Morgan. Four veterinarians and five private citizens are on its board of directors.

Each of the participating clinics takes in kittens and puppies, gives

them complete physical examinations, vaccinations and enrollment on a computer list of pets ready for adoption. Adult dogs and cats are referred to an area welfare league, a group of volunteers who care for pets in their homes until a permanent home is found.

Young pets are held for an unlimited time period in animal clinics while potential owners check the computer list for choices. Pets adopted are given a free physical examination within seven days, and the new owners must sign an agreement to have it spayed or neutered at the proper time. The program's goal is 100 percent adoption rate.

Said Dr. Morgan, "Our motto is 'if you want a pet, see your vet.'"

## Message from the Editor...

### TODAYS ANIMAL NEWS IS IN TRANSITION

**Holiday issue? Spring? Fall? How about Volume 9, Number 6?**

Many of our readers who keep our magazine for future reference have found the seasonal label confusing and have asked us to use a more convenient system. This is especially true for our Australian readers. The issues have always been numbered on the inside and now the numbers will be on the cover. The content will remain seasonally oriented. After all, many of our pets problems are associated with the changing seasons. We appreciate our readers suggestions and criticism. It is your thoughts that help make us better.

In keeping with the principals of growth and improvement *Todays Animal News* will begin publishing a veterinary edition. This new edition, starting in November, will be directed exclusively toward the practicing veterinarian and will contain information not readily available in other publications.

**Charles Robinson,**  
*Publisher and Editor-in-chief*

## MUTTIGREE

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## Pet rebates prove popular

### Spay-neuter rebates . . .

It apparently did a good job selling cars, and now the cash rebate idea is spreading into the area of controlling dog and cat populations.

Hillsborough County, Florida, awards pet owners a \$20 check from the county when they bring in a spay or neuter certificate from their veterinarian. The county pays for this rebate plan by boosting rabies licensing fees from \$4 to \$5. These fees are twice as high for unspayed animals.

So far, in 1982, a whopping \$69,700 was paid out in \$20 checks to pet owners, and veterinarians there are seeing a mini-boom in spay and neuter surgeries, since much of the cost is rebated by the county. Not only that, unwanted pet numbers are dwindling.

There have been some grumblings: pet owners who choose not to have their animals spayed or neutered are subsidizing those who do with higher licensing fees. But the overall benefits far outweigh the objections, according to Florida animal control officers. ■

### TEFLON DANGERS FOR PETS.

Cage birds are highly susceptible to toxic fumes and can become ill, sometimes fatally, if they're confined in a room overlaid with aerosol sprays, tobacco smoke, cooking gas or fumes from burning foods or cooking oils.

Now you can add another danger to that list: *overheated cookware* coated with Teflon. Pots and pans, particularly frying pans, sold with Teflon or Silverstone labels, are lined with polytetrafluoroethylene. The non-stick pans are perfectly safe at temperatures under 260 degrees centigrade, but become hazardous with higher temperatures.

Cases of cagebirds suddenly dying were quickly explained when owners discovered unattended non-stick pans accidentally left on stove burners. When heated far beyond normal temperatures, Teflon gives off carbonyl fluoride and hydrogen fluoride fumes. ■



## CARING FOR THE NEW CHRISTMAS PET . . .

### YULETIDE NIGHTMARE . . .

"Oh, yes, that's a jolly idea . . . let's buy little Junior a puppy or kitten for Christmas. Won't he be surprised when he opens his presents and finds a cute, cuddly little pet?"

A lot of households might be ringing with those words this time of the year. Sounds real Christmasy, doesn't it? But to the kitten or puppy consigned to little Junior on Christmas Eve or Day, it's shaping up to be a genuine nightmare. If the kitten or puppy had an inkling of what was coming up, it would probably take the nearest exit.

Under such a proposed set of holiday circumstances, everyone's getting off to a bad start. Introducing an immature pet to its new owners is always an occasion fraught with complications. To introduce it on Christmas is downright cruel to all concerned. Most especially the pet

A far better idea is to tell Junior he's getting a puppy or kitten for Christmas, but not right now. Tell him Santa's got a special one waiting for

him at the breeder's kennels, the cattery, or the humane society shelter. Once the holiday excitement has settled down, there's plenty of time to pick up the new pet. A new puppy or kitten coming into a home filled with guests, holiday coming and going, extra meals and busy times for everyone will be either frightened, ignored, mishandled . . . or a combination of all three.

It's fine to say that the new pet will be the responsibility of Junior, but if you are really honest about it you know that Junior probably won't be up to this adult task. He may have the best of intentions, but you know what the road to Hades is paved with.

Instead, make a special greeting card from the new pet to Junior, perhaps with some snapshots of the pet of your choice, and say something like "see you in a few days . . ." Then, once the holiday excitement has abated, you'll have plenty of time to get the house, Junior, and everyone else prepared to care for the new arrival properly. ■



## The controversial Safari

## FIRST AID FOR TURTLE SHELLS

### A NEW BREED OF CAT . . .

Man has been tinkering around with breeding wild cats with domestic species for probably centuries or more. But until the recent emergence of a cross-breed named Safari, nothing of a serious nature has ever emerged from off-hand, non-scientific experiments.

The Safari cat is a product of the wild Geoffroy's cat and domestic shorthairs, both British and American varieties. Geoffroy's cats are found in the lower half of South America from Bolivia to southern Patagonia. They're about the same size and weight of domestic shorthairs, but are slimmer and "ranger" looking as befits their wild environment.

Only male Geoffroy's are used in breeding, and there's only a handful of these stud animals in the country. They've been raised as "domestic" cats since birth and have the human to cat relationship "imprinted" on their relationships and behavior. Wild adult male Geoffroy's have a tendency to kill domestic shorthairs they are supposed to mate with.

Resulting litters of Safaris have fertile females but infertile males, due to a genetic quirk: domestic cats have 38 chromosomes, Geoffroy's have only 36, and the kittens have 37. Geneticists say in time the male Safaris will be fertile, but it will take a while for Mother Nature to sort out the chromosome imbalance. Geoffroy's have silver-grey fur with black spots, and depending on the female, they're paired with, a wide variety of configurations can be expected.

Another unusual result of this crossbreeding, is that first litters are almost twice as big as the parents. First generation Safaris weigh up to 35 pounds and they average a husky 25 pounds, both male and female. But the second generation of Safaris are smaller, and succeeding generations of these crossbreeds gradually revert to normal size and weight.

Safari cats do well on standard catfood varieties, but they do need a boost in calcium and supplements are recommended to fill this need. They have the same traits and instincts as domestic cats. Safari kittens are noticeably highly resistant to disease and this vigor has researchers wondering if the Safari's immunosuppression mechanism has certain cells which in the future can be implanted in domestic kittens.

The booming popularity of Safaris combined with the mere handful of studs available, has put the price of a healthy Safari kitten in the \$300 to \$500 price range, with a waiting list of three to four years. Since they are part wild, some states, particularly California, require that ownership must be cleared with the State Department of Fish and Game and a special license to own one may be required.

Safaris are not for everyone. They've not been accepted by the two big cat show and breeder organizations, CFA and ACA. But when exhibited as non-competitive felines at shows, they attract a large crowd.

Complete information on Safaris can be had by sending \$1.25 to Walk of The Wild Side Cat Fanciers, 9221 Southwest 192nd Drive, Miami, Florida. ■

By Judson Snyder

### RAVENS AND WOLVES

*A long standing relationship has existed between wolves and ravens. It is possible that ravens assist in alerting the wolves to prey, and wolves have been observed following ravens to the prey. Ravens often share in the spoils of the kill. Wolves and ravens have been observed playing together. The relationship may be based on teamwork, both sharing the capabilities of the other.*

*January was once the "wolf month" in Britain.*

### The old shell game . . .

It's not surprising that the slow-moving turtle, living in an age where it seems that everything moves fast, is prone to injuries. Mother Nature has provided the turtle with protective armorplate, but not the ability to get out of the way of speeding cars, motorbikes, and power mowers.

Ever wonder how veterinarians repair a broken tortoise shell? You might be surprised at the number of animal clinics that see turtles brought in after coming out second best in encounters with cars, or even more common, encounters with power mowers.

If there's no internal damage and the prognosis looks good except for the fractured shell, turtles can be patched up by suturing the shell together. Tools used are power drills and wire suturing apparatus. Usually, the stoical tortoise can take this patching up without anesthesia. The veterinarian must determine whether or not anesthesia is required.

Once sewed together, the shell is covered with elastic bandages and made as airtight as possible with Saran wrap. Soon, nature closes the gap held tightly together with the wire sutures, and the Saran wrap can be removed, but the wound cover is left in place. A regimen of antibiotics is put to use to forestall infection, and quite often the turtle has to be force-fed with special nutrients. It should be kept warm and discouraged from hibernating as this slows down the healing process.

Minor shell repairs can be handled with acrylic resins, but these have been known to lead to complications as the resins can come into close, and long-enduring, contact with the flesh.

The wire sutures are left in place for as long as three months to insure perfect closure. And then the slow-moving turtle is ready to face the fast-moving world again.



## Pet owners like rebates

### SPAY-NEUTER REBATES . . .

In a program endorsed by the New Jersey Veterinar Medical Association, low income people receiving some form of public assistance can have their dogs or cats spayed or neutered for only \$10, and the operations are performed in private animal hospitals throughout the state. Participating veterinarians are reimbursed 80 percent of their usual costs by the state. The program is funded by a surcharge of \$3 on every dog license given to an unneutered or unspayed canine. The \$10 fee also goes into the program to re-imburse veterinarians.

Titled the Animal Population Control Fund, veterinarians are also reimbursed for necessary vaccinations when the sterilization procedures are carried out. The New Jersey State Department of Health administers the program. New Jersey's program is believed to be the first in the nation where state government is taking an active part in curbing pet overpopulation.

## Walnut hazards for pets

Dog owners living in areas where walnut trees are grown should be aware that moldy walnuts on the ground can poison canines. Not every dog will voluntarily eat a moldy walnut, but enough cases are seen by veterinarians every year to convince them that the curious canine, especially puppies, will eat a moldy walnut that has fallen to the ground.

The neurotoxin in the mold is not of itself fatal, but it does cause convulsions and this could seriously affect a vital organ. Signs of convulsions begin in less than a half hour after eating the walnut.

Prompt veterinary care is needed, for the affected dog must be placed under anesthesia to curb the convulsions and allow the dog's systems to detoxify the poisons and quickly eliminate them. Recovery is usually uneventful unless a vital organ has been damaged.

*The Greeks rubbed the tooth of a wolf on the gums of a baby during teething to relieve pain.*

## ALLERGIC TO CATS?

### CAT ALLERGY HELP

For those thousands of people allergic to cats, there's hope on the way. No, it's not a new breed of allergy-proof cat, actually, it's cat saliva.

Researchers at New England Medical Center have worked up a purified allergen derived from cat saliva, and early tests show it's much more effective than standard allergy injections made with debris from cat hair and skin. These allergens, called crude dander, were not always very effective.

But this new "cat allergen one" provides more protection, because it's made from a substance that's always present on the feline pelt: its own saliva. Researchers are convinced people allergic to cats are probably allergic to cat saliva.

Protection is the same: injections weekly over a several week period until the patient is desensitized. Market for such a potent allergy treatment is large. It has been estimated at least 20 to 30 percent of asthma sufferers are also allergic to cats. And for veterinarians heretofore shrinking away from feline patients because of an allergy, it can be a real blessing. It will take a few years before the new allergen is approved for broad scale marketing, but it's good to know that help is finally on the way.

## Tips for TRANSPORTING YOUR SICK BIRD

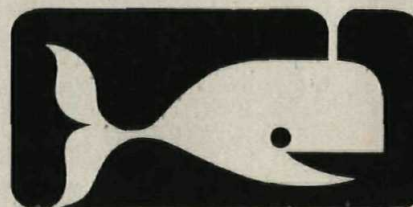
A lot of bird owners are still leery about taking their sick or injured feathered pets to the veterinary clinic. Here are a few tips to make the job easier:

If it's one bird in a cage, it's easy. Simply drape the cage to prevent drafts and take cage, bird, and all. Do not clean the cage first, the veterinarian will want to examine the droppings to aid in making a diagnosis. But it is a good idea to empty the water container to prevent splashing en route. Single, small birds like parakeets, canaries and finches can be lightly and delicately grasped with a soft cloth or towel and popped into a paper bag or small box with air holes punched through. It's easier to make this transfer in a dark room . . . the birds will struggle less and any avoidance of stress is important in the case of a sick or injured bird.

Larger birds like parrots are best left in their cages. They can tear through paper bags or flimsy cardboard boxes. And no bird, no matter its size, should ever be put in a plastic bag.

While in the car keep the windows closed to avoid drafts, but don't leave the bag, box or cage in direct sun for it will soon turn into an oven.

## A whale of a deal . . .



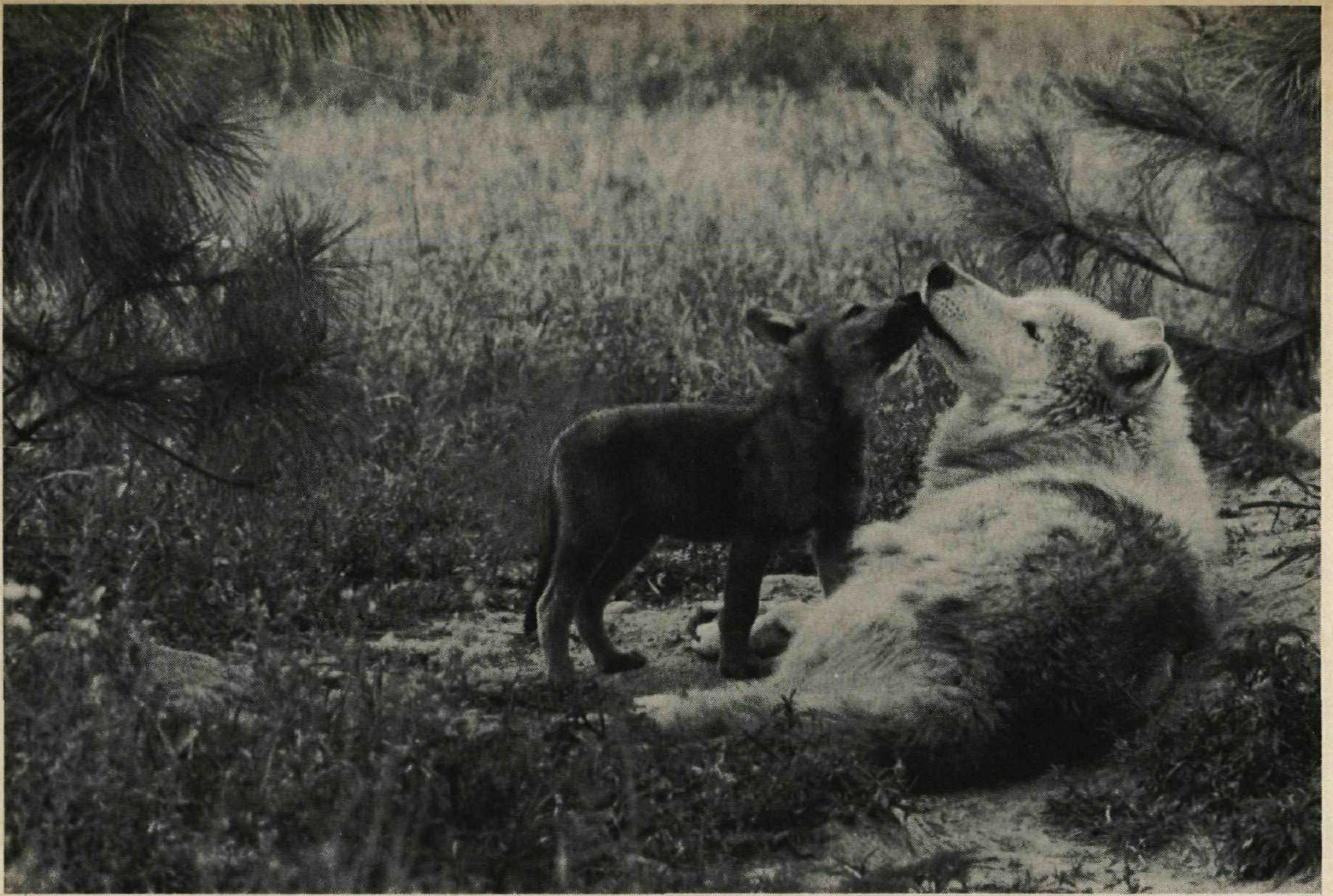
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*Ten-year-old grey wolf, with his son, resting near a den. Wolves generally make excellent parents.*



*Koko, former alpha male, in a pasture with a bison during an historic encounter. "It takes a lot of wolves and vulnerable bison to result in a meal for wolves," says Klinghammer.*



# The legendary Lobo . . .

Page 29

courtesy of North American Wildlife Park Foundation.

## WOLF PARK: SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

By June Kohler

The wolf. What image comes to mind when you hear the word? Do you conjure up visions of a cowardly but brutal killer slinking furtively through the cover of darkness to reap yet another harvest of wanton blood and destruction? The wolf many of us have come to know is the wolf of legend and fable, the villain in "Little Red Riding Hood" and "The Three Little Pigs" But is that image really true? Just who — or what — is this animal man has hated and feared for centuries?

The North American Wildlife Park Foundation (Wolf Park) of Battle Ground, Indiana, offers an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with *canis Lupis*. Under the direction of Dr. Erich Klinghammer, this non-profit organization serves as a unique research and learning center into ethology (animal behavior) with special emphasis on the grey wolf.

At the time of its inception in 1972, Wolf Park had just two puppies. There are now more than 20 wolves, most of which are part of the main pack

Open to the public, weekend afternoons, from May 1 through November 30 (and times by special arrangement) thousands of people have come in an effort to satisfy their curiosities about this controversial predator. Visitors are provided a glimpse into the intricacies of wolf behavior as the animals interact with their human pack members as well as their own kind. Although in captivity, essentially they act much like their brethren in the wild.

In 1980, the Wolf Park was the setting of an historic event in the research on predator-prey relationships. Two bison, a bull and a cow, were acquired on permanent loan from the Columbian Park Zoo in nearby Lafayette. Then on August 12, for the first time in a captive seg, a wolf was released in enclosure with its natural prey, the bison. KoKo, former alpha male of the large



Klinghammer with Tornado, alpha male wolf.

pack, spent about 10 minutes assessing his chances for a sumptuous feast. His efforts were greeted, however, with lowered heads and threatening horns. Realizing the futility of the "hunt", The wolf explored other matters of interest in the 17-acre pasture before responding to Dr. Klinghammer's howl and being removed. (In the wild, the howl is a means of assembling the pack. KoKo was thus acting as a free-ranging wolf would under similar circumstances.)

A single wolf and healthy bison seem able to assess each other with very little overt testing," observed Klinghammer. "Although both (of these animals) were raised in captivity, they do essentially what wild wolves and bison do. There is no question in my mind — and people who observe bison and wolves to gether in the wild confirm this — that it takes a lot of wolves and vulnerable bison to result in a meal for the wolves."

Each Sunday afternoon that the park is open, from one to four wolves are released with the bison herd, now numbering around 10

animals (including calves). Anyone anticipating a savage display of stereotyped wolf behavior is soon disappointed.

"by not releasing more wolves we stack the odds in favor of the buffalo," explained Pat Goodmann, a research assistant. "(But) both species look to us for help. As (human) members of the pack, the wolves expect us to help them get one of the buffalo, and the buffalo seem to expect us to help protect them from the wolves!"

But the shaggy bovines have no difficulty taking care of themselves. Some appear to take special delight in charging their "enemies," and if he is not careful, a wolf could be seriously injured. These displays serve to confirm the fact that while wolves are equipped to hunt and kill, their prey is equally well equipped to protect themselves through fight or flight as long as they remain healthy.

With the exception of being turned in with the bison, the park wolves are not given the opportunity to kill their own prey, but are given road-killed deer and other carcasses from local farmers. It is during the late afternoon feedings that the visitor can observe the most obvious displays of dominance within the pack.

Other research carried on at Wolf Park includes the use of sheep guarding dogs. These animals are trained to protect their charges from predators, rather than act as traditional herding dogs. Their use may provide a significant breakthrough to the solution of the age old problem of predators versus livestock.

Some come to Wolf Park not knowing what to expect; others come with the preconceived notions about *canis Lupis*; but most leave with a greater respect for the role of this magnificent predator of the wild.

For more information on the work of the Foundation, contact:

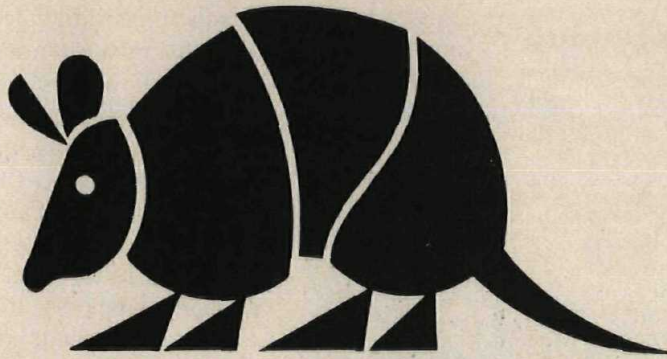
Dr. Erich Klinghammer

Wolf Park

Battle Ground, Indiana 47920



# IN THE NEWS . . .



## Armadillo leprosy . . .

Armadillos are fascinating but not exactly cuddly creatures. However, if you ever have the urge to get affectionate with one, be advised that according to the University of Texas researchers, about five percent of armadillos have leprosy. As far as is known, the scaly dezizen of southwest deserts is the only creature besides man to harbor leprosy germs.

Folks in the "deep south" have dined on armadillo meat for years and during the depression years it was called Hoover hog. Dr. Jerome Smith, of UT's Medical Branch, says there's no harm in eating armadillo meat (purported to be a secret ingredient in prize chili recipes), but he advises not cleaning the animals with bare hands prior to cooking.

Texas reports 30 to 50 cases of human leprosy each year. Antibiotics have practically wiped out the disease and no victim needs to be hospitalized. This once feared disease is slowly fading into the realm occupied by smallpox, diphtheria and others conquered by modern drugs.

Still, no one in Texas bears a bumper sticker questioning "Have you hugged your armadillo today?"

### LARGEST WOLF

The largest recorded was found in Alaska and weighed in at 175 pounds. It stood 42 inches at the shoulder and measured more than eight feet long from tip of nose to tip of tail.

## WOMEN'S LIB IN VETERINARY PRACTICE . . .

The current percentage of 85 percent male veterinarians and 15 percent female is not going to last very long, according to the ratio of men and women entering veterinary school these days.

For example, at the University of California School of Veterinary Medicine in Davis in 1972 - 1973, the enrollment was 72 males and 22 females. In 1982 - 1983, exactly ten years later, there were 62 female entrants and only 60 male. Other veterinary schools show similar statistics: Cornell University in New York, 54 and 11 in 1972 - 73, 36 males and 44 females in 1982-1983; Ohio State University, 112 and 18 ten years ago, 59 males and 73 females today.

In line with increasing feminine enrollment in veterinary schools the Association of Women Veterinarians (AWV) has gained strength by establishing new chapters on veterinary school campuses. Formed in 1947, AWV struggled for years with limited membership but is now reaching out to establish women veterinarians in veterinary medicine political structures such as the male-dominated American Veterinary Medical Association.

Said Dr. Marilyn Brown, current president of AWV, "I see a slow but steady advancement of women into every aspect of the profession . . . more women will be in positions of higher authority in academia, industry, practice and organized veterinary medicine. Women need to learn how to take advantage of the 'old girl' network as men have been doing for years with the 'old boy' network."

## Yeast . . . does it really work?

The current theory pushed in several areas of canine care is that brewer's yeast will repel fleas. According to recent research at the University of California School of Veterinary Medicine in Davis, brewer's yeast does nothing to repel fleas.

Sixty mature dogs were used in the project. Twenty were fed a diet with no yeast, 20 had active yeast mixed in their canned rations, 20 had inactive yeast. Periodically, the dogs were sprayed with a flea-killing aerosol. The dogs were thoroughly combed and the dead fleas counted.

Dogs receiving inactive yeast showed a slightly lower flea count in the first two weeks, but from then on and through the seven-week experiment, the flea counts remained about the same for all 60 dogs. Yeast dosage was 14 grams daily in six ounces of food.

Brewer's yeast may be great for brewers, but it doesn't seem to do much for the problem of dogs and fleas.

## HEARING AND DOGS . . .

It's a known fact (to canine authorities) that animals with small heads and close-set ears can hear high frequency sounds better than animals with big heads and ears set far apart. For example, the bat can hear a high-pitched sound up to 115 kHz, while the elephant is limited to a 10 kHz range. Man is generally capable of hearing sounds up to 19 kHz.

Okay. Take breeds of dogs that vary widely in size. Does this mean that the Chihuahua can hear high frequency sounds better than say, a St. Bernard? After all, the Chihuahua ears are perched up on a smaller head and set closer together than those of a St. Bernard.

It sounds logical, but this is not the case. Audiograms were taken of many dogs ranging in all sizes from giant to tiny. Researchers found out there's no difference: it doesn't matter how big or small the head, the distance between the ears or the size of the tympanic membrane . . . all the dogs heard the frequency sounds at the same limits. animal



# Make sure your cat gets the proper ash level diet.

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A low ash diet is important to a cat, since an excessive amount of minerals (especially magnesium) has been found to contribute significantly to urinary disorders.

But, a diet whose ash level is low can also be harmful if it deprives your cat of important minerals such as calcium.

Science Diet Domestic Feline is scientifically formulated to give your cat a nutritionally superior diet with a low ash level that is also correctly balanced to assure the very optimum in health and appearance.

Just compare the average amounts of ash and magnesium in the leading commercial cat foods with the average amounts in Domestic Feline:

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	Commercial Cat Food	Science Diet
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Ash	8.6	6.4
Magnesium	0.16	0.10
<b>CANNED</b>		
Ash	9.4	6.3
Magnesium	0.15	0.10

\*The percent of nutrient in the product after moisture is removed (the only accurate way to compare products of differing moisture content).

Science Diet Domestic Feline contains reduced amounts of these minerals for the best health of your cat.

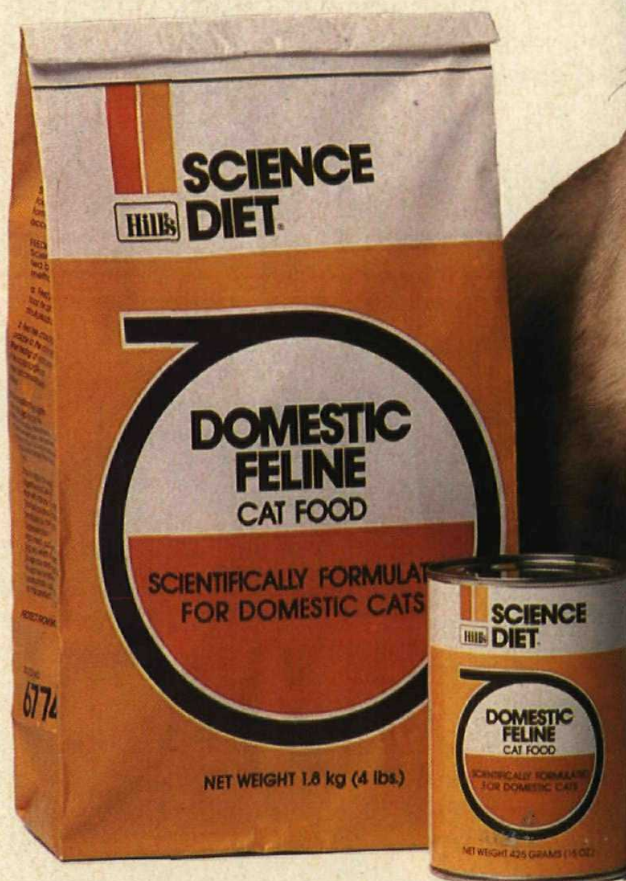
The ingredients for Domestic Feline are determined by scientific formula and the high quality is consistently maintained—bag to bag, can to can—unlike many commercial cat foods using variable least-cost formulas to keep their prices low. With Domestic Feline, you can be sure your cat is receiving high quality nutrition with every bowl.

Domestic Feline is nutritionally complete, so no supplementation is necessary. And it's highly digestible. That means your cat eats a reduced

amount of food and has a lower stool volume.

You won't find Domestic Feline at your local grocery store or supermarket. This nutritionally superior diet is available only from leading pet shops and catteries or from your veterinarian.

For more information, ask your veterinarian about Science Diet. Or write to T.D. Phillips, D.V.M., at Hill's Pet Products, Inc.



**SCIENCE DIET**  
Hill's  
PET PRODUCTS, INC.  
P.O. BOX 148 • TOPEKA, KANSAS 66601 • 1-913-354-8523  
THE PET NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS

## FREE NUTRITION INFORMATION

To: Hill's Pet Products, Inc., P.O. Box 148, Topeka, Kansas 66601

Yes, I'm interested in improving the health and appearance of my cat through proper nutrition. Please send me your free booklet.

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ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TAN \_\_\_\_\_