

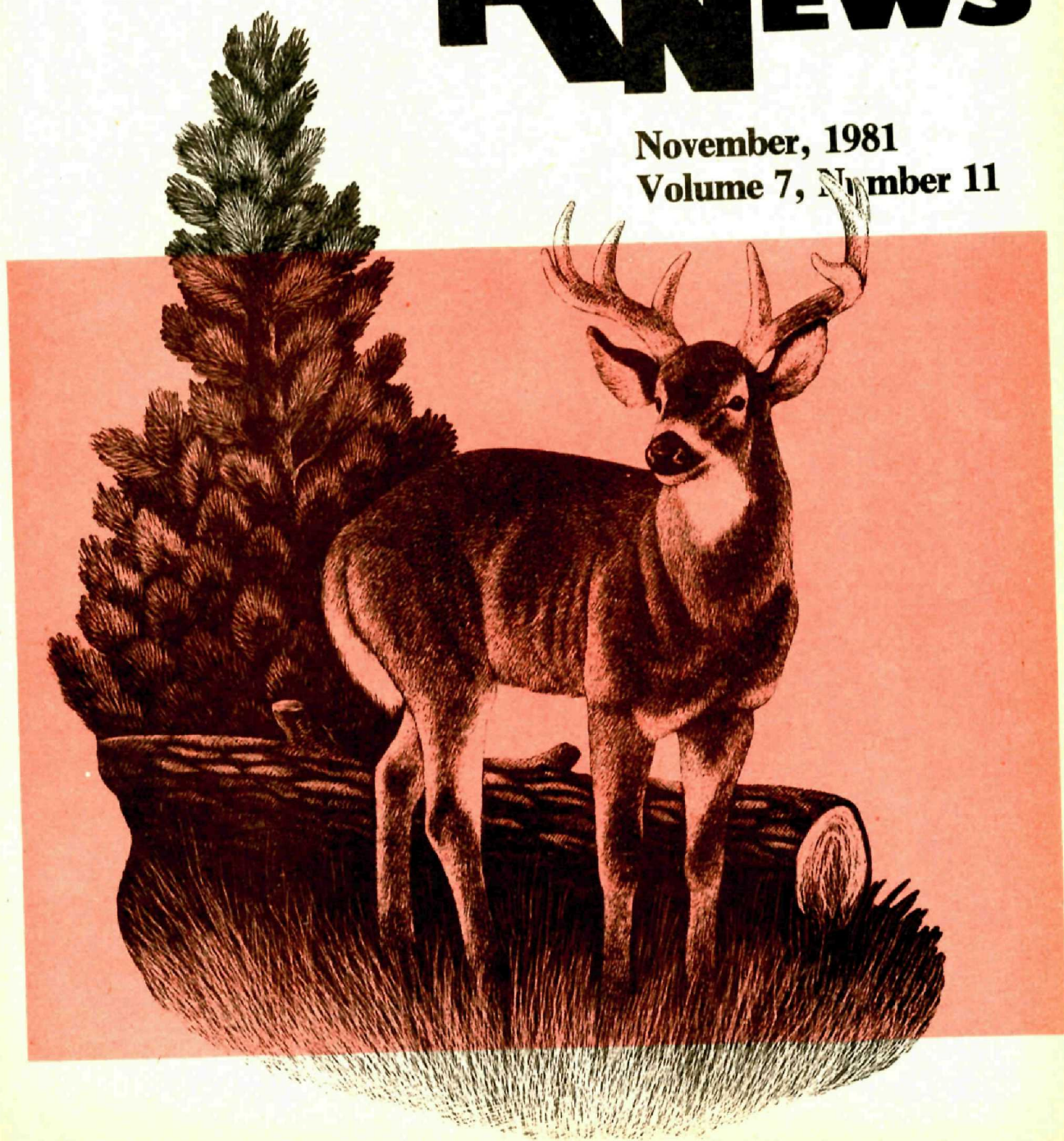
Animal Health Foundation  
Todays Animal News  
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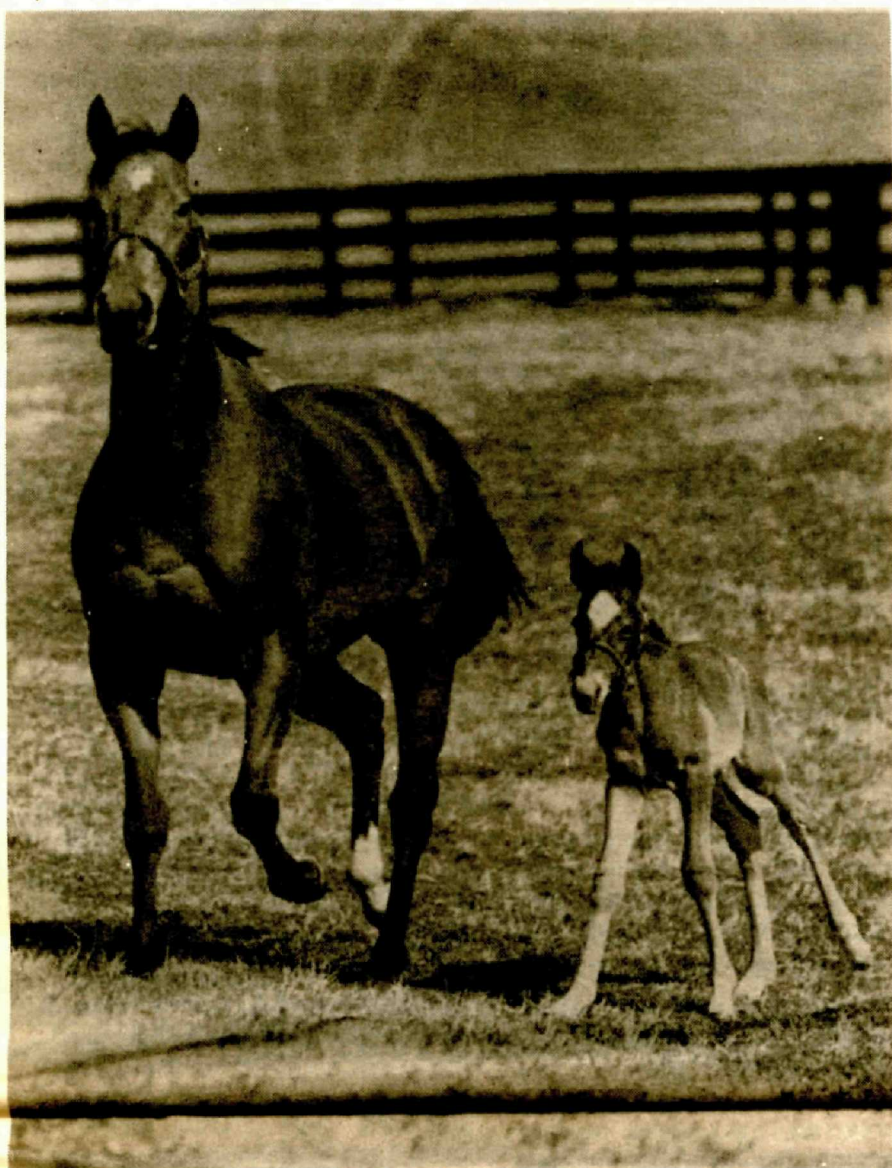
# **ANIMAL NEWS**

November, 1981  
Volume 7, Number 11





## Equine enigma



### Costly Horse False Pregnancy

Common reproductive disorders in horses, such as false pregnancy, can be a severe problem for horse breeders.

As many as 20 per cent of a herd of broodmares may undergo false pregnancy during the breeding season.

At one point of the mare's estrous, or heat cycle, special substances build up in the mare's uterus in preparation for pregnancy. If the mare's egg is fertilized, these substances are retained and act as nutrients for the soon-to-be developing foal. If the mare's egg is not fertilized, the substances are not needed, and are shed or lost by the mare. Certain signals come from the embryo, or fertilized egg developing into a foal, to inform the mare she is pregnant and to retain the substances. But just what these signals are and how they work is an unsolved puzzle.

False pregnancy results when the signal reports a fertilized egg and the substances are retained, when in

fact, there is no fertilized egg. The mare's mistaken reproductive system then continues in a pregnant-like state.

Thirty days or so are needed before false pregnancies can be diagnosed. Medicine may cure the false pregnancy problem, but the long time required for a sure diagnosis may delay breeding so long that the mare cannot be bred until the next year.

There's an opposite side to the false pregnancy problem. This occurs when the mare is pregnant, but the proper signal to tell her system to prepare for the pregnancy doesn't get through. If the mare's system fails to be informed an embryo is present, the nutritive substances and the fertilized egg are shed or lost from her system, resulting in a loss of the pregnancy.

But help may be on the way! To learn just what the signals are and how they may go astray, Morris Animal Foundation has sponsored a study at the University of Florida.

## Mighty mange mite

Mange is a dreaded affliction that has plagued dogs for centuries. So-called home remedies have run the gamut from herbal cures to covering the animal with axle grease. But the problem persists. Researchers, however, now think they may be starting to get a handle on the ailment.

Imagine something as microscopic as a mite tormenting dogs. With mange and puzzling scientists.

The culprit is the demodex mite that lives in the dog's hair follicles, tiny dents in the skin where hair emerges. The follicle provides all the mite needs and the mite can't live out of this environment. In the early stages of mange, the mites live in the upper part of the follicle, penetrating deeper as the disease progresses.

Mange is a serious condition affecting dogs when the mites become a large population. It can cause ugly bald spots, skin infections and sometimes death.

Veterinary scientists think dogs become infected with the mites from the skin of bitches during nursing. So, not breeding carrier bitches may help control mange. Treatment focuses on killing the mites, clearing up skin infections, and preventing stress on the dog. Some dogs develop mange, even though all dogs have the mite. And some dogs mysteriously get better regardless of treatment.

For years, the mite has stumped scientists. Some envision a vaccine against the mite and mange. This means a colony of experimental mites would be grown. Then, the mite's saliva or other body fluids might be used for an injection to make dogs immune.

Growing mites would also give

scientists a way to study the mite's life cycle and functions. And it would also be a way to test treatments to kill the mites.

But raising the mites is the problem. A variety of techniques have been used in search of the exact conditions needed by the mites to live and reproduce.

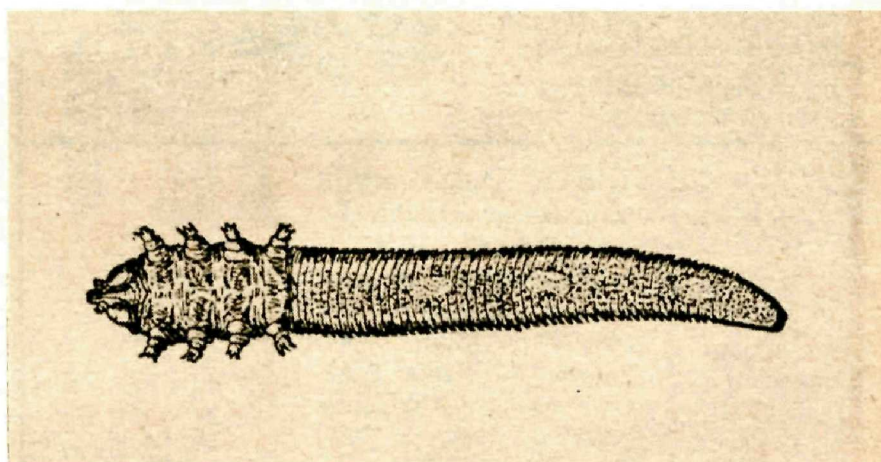
Unfortunately, no one has been successful. University of Pennsylvania investigators tried several methods but could only keep the mites alive for 15 days, and could not induce reproduction. The mites usually die within hours after taken from their environment of the hair follicles.

Part of the problem is that mites have a very exact, specific set of requirements for life and reproduction. Relative humidity, temperature and nutrients must be "just so."

And little is known so far about the mite's habitat, the follicle. The temperature, humidity and climatic conditions of the hair follicle remain a mystery. Aspects of the follicle also vary on different areas of the dog, between dogs, and between ages.

Some scientists, with assistance from the Morris Animal Foundation, have discovered a good method for collecting mites from dogs with mange and learned a little more about what is too hot, cold, dry and wet for the mite. The mites lived longest in a container with mineral oil, although they didn't reproduce.

But scientists are closer to knowing what is and isn't a requirement for the mite. And they are hopeful that they will soon be able to artificially duplicate the follicle habitat. And that's one step closer to solving the puzzle of the mighty mite!



*The demodex mite, technically known as the canine variety of Demodex folliculorum, cause the dreaded mange. ( Courtesy of Dog Fancy Magazine.)*

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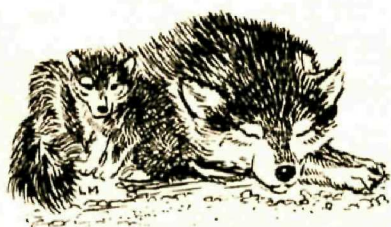
## Todays Animal News

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## Ride and tie . . . a different kind of contest



It hasn't reached the status of an Olympic event, but don't be surprised if something called Ride and Tie achieves Olympic recognition in the next decade.

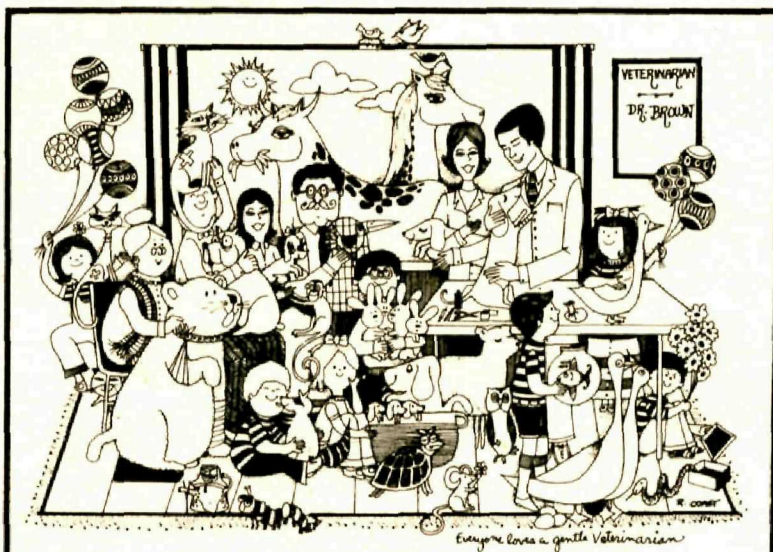
A ride and tie race involves two people and a horse. All three set out from the same starting point . . . one aboard the horse, the other running. At points along the course, the rider dismounts, ties his horse, and sets off running. The first runner comes up to the horse, climbs aboard and takes off down the course, passing the former rider now running, ties up the horse again, dismounts, and then starts running again. This procedure is followed all the way to the finish line.

Before it becomes full-grown, a baby blue whale gains up to 200 pounds each day, says the National Wildlife Federation.

Like many equestrian sports, this one has old time antecedents. Riders in the West often lost a horse through accidents, Indians or whatever. But if they had a fellow rider nearby, the two of them would team up in ride and tie to reach their destination. A lot easier on the horse than riding double. And in those days, horses were valuable and necessary items to have around.

Levi Strauss and Co., makers of the famed blue jeans and other articles of western wear, sponsor a ride and tie race every year.

Veterinarian Jim Steere of Novato, Calif., annually heads a 7-man team that keeps check on the horses. He was a participant in the first race held in 1971. Interestingly enough, at the last ride and tie meet, there were seven veterinarians entered in the race but only one medical doctor competing.



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Bill Cosby discusses his new role as chairman of the Pets Are Wonderful (PAW) program for this year.

Cosby, who shows his schnauzers at dog shows across the country, will be hosting segments of a variety of television programs with the theme "Pets Are Wonderful." A winner of six Grammy awards, Cosby holds a master's and a doctorate degree in education, and has written, directed and produced programs for educational television. A strong proponent for pets for families, Cosby says, "Pets are great for kids. I grew up with dogs and cats. My children are, too. I may not be a kid anymore, but I still say a dog can be your best friend!"

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## SHARKS GET ULCERS

If you think of sharks as the fearless denizens of the deep, think again. Even sharks appear to have their worries. The recent autopsy of a Great White shark that died at Marineland, Calif., showed a month-old perforated ulcer that may have contributed to the death of the fearsome fish.

## TWO MORE STATES FREE OF BRUCELLOSIS

North Dakota and Rhode Island have been added to the growing list of states that have been declared free of brucellosis in swine, according to veterinary officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

According to Dr. Granville H. Frye, chief staff veterinarian, "North Dakota and Rhode Island qualified by testing all herds selling breeding stock and swine sent to slaughter."

The addition of these states raised the number of validated brucellosis-free states to 18, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Other validated states are California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Nevada, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

## BLISTER BEETLES KILL

The lowly blister beetle may be small, but it can kill a full-grown horse. Texas A and M toxicologists have recently identified two more species of blister beetles that can kill horses when the insects become trapped in hay fed to the animals.

As few as a handful of the beetles, crushed when the hay is baled, can prove fatal to horse. The chemical responsible, called cantharidin, can remain lethal for years, according to the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.



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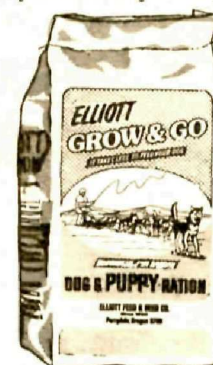
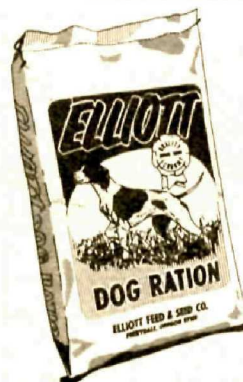
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## Jump, Fido, jump!

The U.S. Army will really "loose the dogs of war" if a pilot program by Sgt. Robert Meade is put into action.

Meade is a military police kennelmaster and dog trainer at Fort Bragg, N.C., and he wants to get the jump on the enemy with trained dogs. He trained a crack team of dogs to parachute into action right along with their soldier-handlers.

The human and dog would be attached together when they jump, and just before reaching the ground the dog would be lowered to the earth by a line managed by the paratrooper.

Months of training with dogs has gone into the program, and military officials are optimistic about the future for sky-diving canines.

## CANINE QUIZ

Who imported the first Briard into the United States?

Answer: George Washington. Our first president was really quite an avid dog fancier. He also had the first packs of American Foxhounds, and can take credit for the Walker Hound.

Bo-Tree Productions of Palo Alto, Calif., spotlights animals of all kinds in several wall calendars for 1982. In The Company Of Cats, the line's best seller, returns to head the list of animal theme calendars which includes Birds Of A Feather, Dog-gone!, Bless The Beasts, Horses, and Whales And Friends.

Appropriately, Bo-Tree donates a portion of the profits from the sale of the calendars to the Humane Society of the United States. In addition, organizations involved in the fight to save whales and other marine mammals and wild birds benefit from the sales.

Available in most bookstores, department and gift stores, the calendars open to a large 12" x 24" and have lots of room for writing down important dates and meetings.

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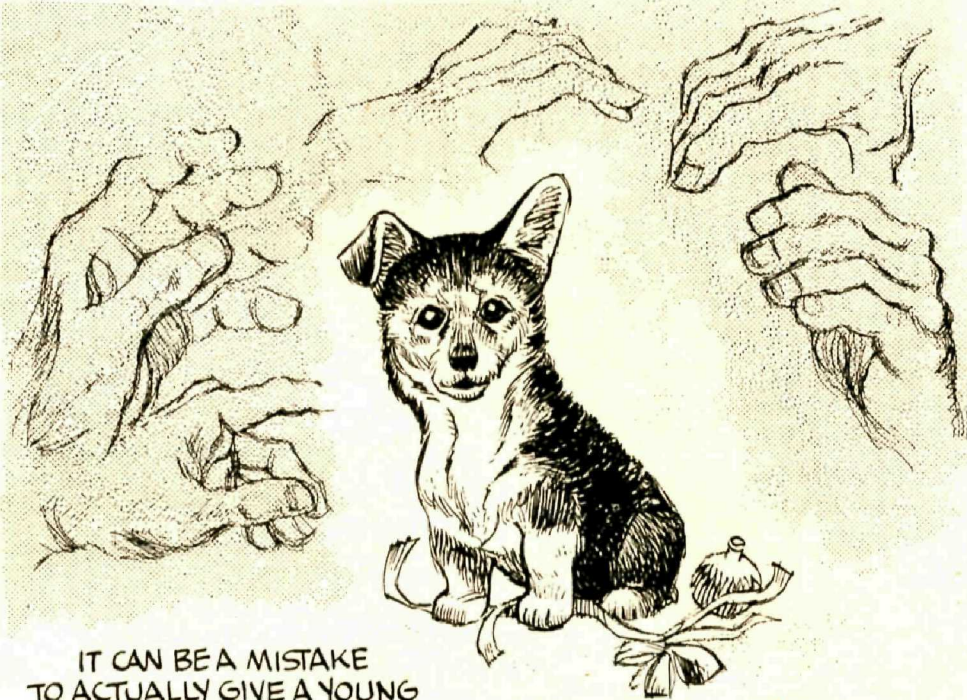
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# CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR

AND SOMETIMES THAT CAN BE ENOUGH!!

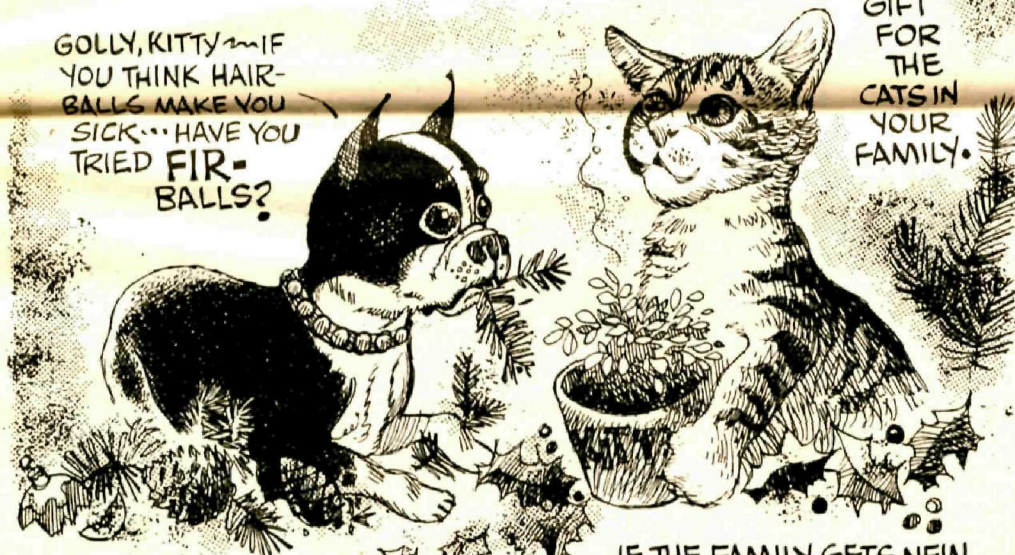


IT CAN BE A MISTAKE TO ACTUALLY GIVE A YOUNG PUPPY OR KITTEN ON CHRISTMAS. TOO MUCH HANDLING, STRESS, EXCITEMENT CAN BE TOO HARD ON THEM. HOW ABOUT A CARD WITH A PICTURE--ANNOUNCING THE GIFT INSTEAD? THEN ARRANGE FOR THE NEW ARRIVAL TO JOIN THE FAMILY AFTER THINGS HAVE QUIETED DOWN.

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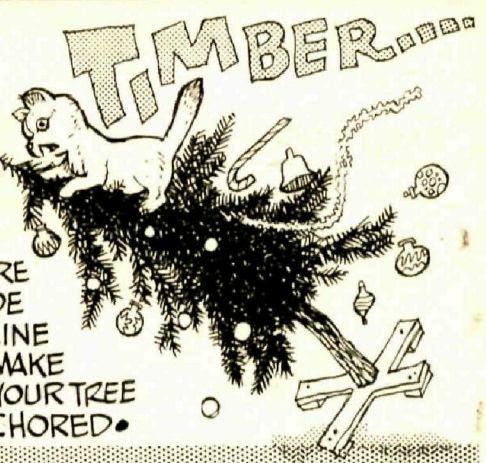
DON'T GET ANY PET UNLESS YOU HAVE PROPER FACILITIES FOR IT FIRST.

• PUT THAT LEFT-OVER CHRISTMAS DINNER IN THE 'FRIDGE--NOT YOUR PET--OR YULE BE SORRY!

FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT--GIVE A PREPAID ENTRY FOR A DOG OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLASS.



AND IF YOU REALLY GET IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT HOW ABOUT REMEMBERING THE HOMELESS PETS SPENDING THE HOLIDAYS IN ANIMAL SHELTERS?



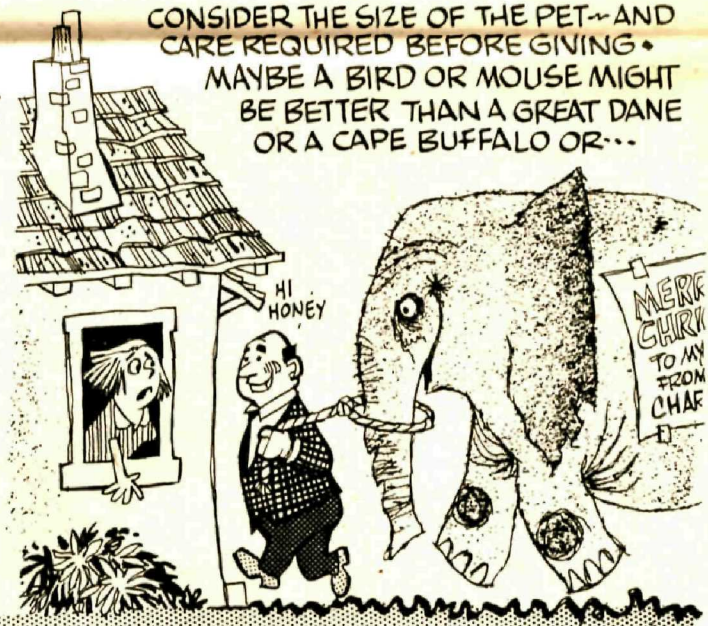
IF YOU SHARE YOUR ABODE WITH A FELINE--BETTER MAKE SURE THAT YOUR TREE IS WELL ANCHORED.



BEFORE GIVING ANYONE A PET, BE VERY SURE THEY WANT A PET--AND WHAT KIND.

IF YOU GIVE A PET FOR CHRISTMAS BE SURE IT HAS ALL NECESSARY SHOTS BEFORE GIVING.

CONSIDER THE SIZE OF THE PET--AND CARE REQUIRED BEFORE GIVING. MAYBE A BIRD OR MOUSE MIGHT BE BETTER THAN A GREAT DANE OR A CAPE BUFFALO OR...



WELL, DOG--IT LOOKS LIKE THE FOLKS GAVE YOU A BAG OF TREATS, A CAN OF LIVER, A BIG BOX OF COOKIES AND A CASE OF INDIGESTION--!





## NO NEED TO DESTROY BLIND PETS, SAY EXPERTS

"Euthanasia for a blind pet is not necessarily the answer," said Dr. Paul Blouin, lecturer at the American Animal Hospital Region One Meeting in Montreal.

"A pet owner, who has given a pet a thirty day trial period after the pet has become blind, will usually say the animal has adjusted beautifully," Dr. Blouin explained. "We tend to jump the gun when we find a pet has gone blind. We equate blindness in a pet from our viewpoint rather than from the animal's point of view."

"Animals do not rely on their eyes as we do," Dr. Blouin added. "I've never watched an animal read the paper or have I noticed that they watch very many TV programs."

"On the other hand, the hearing of both dogs and cats is legendary," she said. "They also have highly developed senses of smell and taste. Other senses seem to compensate for their sight loss."

Dr. Blouin, who is an assistant professor, University de Montreal, said that a blind pet will adapt extremely well. Only a few restrictions are needed for their safety. Keep the blind pet confined to familiar areas and keep it on a leash when outdoors.

"If a pet goes blind gradually the pet often adjusts so well that the owner is often unaware that the problem exists," Dr. Blouin stated. "The dogs that do not adjust to being blind are usually high strung or have gone blind suddenly."

Dr. Blouin warned owners to be on the alert for these signs of eye pain in their pets:

An eye kept partially or completely closed.

A running or a discharge from the eye.

Attempts by the animal to rub or paw at an eye.

"A painful eye is often caused by a trauma to the eye," Dr. Blouin explained. "Ulcers in the cornea can also be a source of pain and very elusive to detect. Some forms of Glaucoma can be very painful if not detected early."

"The good news is that there are very few painful eye conditions that cannot be corrected," Dr. Blouin pointed out. "Early detection usually is a key factor in successful treatment. Ask your veterinarian for medical advice... do not use home remedies."

According to Dr. Blouin, cats seem to have fewer problems than dogs by their very nature. Temperament and heredity play important roles in eye health. Some dogs have been inbred to such an extent that eye problems are prevalent.

Courtesy of AAHA.

## BIRD SEXING DIFFICULT

"The old axiom of 'blue for boys and pink for girls' is a good rule of thumb for determining the sexes of parakeets," said Dr. Robert B. Altman, avian lecturer for a recent meeting of the American Animal Hospital Association. "The cere which surrounds their nostril is a good clue. Boy parakeets have a distinct blue and girl's a brownish pink."

The sex determination of birds has become a very important topic because more breeders are attempting to raise birds in captivity," Dr. Altman explained. "Many macaws, parrots and some cocatoos require a surgical examination in order to identify their sex."

"Physical examinations for birds are becoming more and more sophisticated," he added. "Blood tests are one example. A little more than a drop of blood is all that's necessary to determine little more than a drop of blood is all that's necessary to determine liver and kidney function, blood sugar levels, red cell count and other health indicators."

## CANINE QUIZ

Quick question from Gaines Research Center: What is the national dog of Holland?

Answer: The Keeshond.

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## AAHA

Headquartered in South Bend, Indiana, The American Animal Hospital Association has over 9,500 veterinary members. The core of this membership is the nearly 1,500 member hospitals that have 3,500 veterinarians as directors and associates. The remaining 6,000 belong to any one of six affiliate member classifications.

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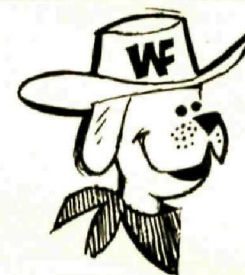
## FARM WORK RISKY

Life on the farm may be wholesome, but it is also high on the list of accidents. In fact, farm work leads all other industries in the number of job related industries. The latest statistics indicate 4,000 farm accident deaths with 300,000 disabled within a one-year period.

California has a better safety record than the national average, but tractor related deaths are on the increase.

A lot of farm accidents involve head injuries. Failure to wear appropriate safety equipment, such as hard hats, has been pointed out as a major cause for serious injury.

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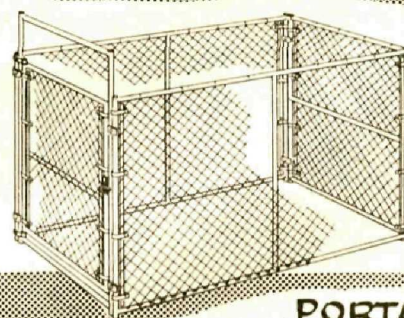
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# Worth Reading

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Your Dog: Companion And Helper

By Milo D. and Margaret Persall

The Pearsalls, longtime obedience trainers and authors of two obedience guides, have once again contributed new techniques to the art of dog training in this 200-page book.

First, the book is not just another obedience training manual. It is tailored to the average dog owner of either purebred or mutt who wants his dog to be an enjoyable companion able to contribute good manners and a helping hand to the relationship.

The Pearsalls teach you what to look for in selecting a dog, how to care for him and how to teach him simple commands. Then they go into such unique problems as training a dog to work on either side of a handler, not in just the customary trial position. And how to train a dog even though you might be confined to a wheelchair, use a walker, or crutches, or have other physical disabilities. You will even learn how your dog can assist those with hearing disabilities. . . Retrieving lost objects, tricks and games for fun, and advanced training are also discussed.

The book features many plans and ideas for inexpensive, helpful equipment for the dog owner, and special plans for items to aid the handicapped trainer. Each section is illustrated with clear, easy-to-follow photographs and drawings. Published by Alpine Publications.

## JOG-A-DOG

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## ABRACATABBY

By Catherine Hiller,  
illustrated by Victoria De Larrea,  
published by the Putnam  
Publishing Group (for ages 6 - 9)

A charming plot to stir the imagination of youngsters. Adam and his black cat, Abracatabby, share a special secret. Only they know that Abracatabby is a magical cat who can talk, ride mops, and even turn ordinary cat food into trout. The secrecy pleases Abracatabby, who likes his quiet life and has no interest in being analyzed by doctors or gawked at by thrill-seekers. But it frustrates Adam. He wishes all his friends and family could see how special Abracatabby really is. For his birthday Adam gets his wish, but he soon realizes it was better kept a secret. The bewitching illustrations of Victoria De Larrea capture the particular magic of Abracatabby.



## FAT CATS?

If you've got an overly plump or chunky cat around your house, you're not alone. According to Dr. Edward Padwee, almost half of all dogs and 10% of all cats in this country are obese.

Help is here and Rover and Fluffy will once again be able to walk with their tails held high. Dr. Padwee has written a book called The Live Longer Diet For Dogs And Cats (St. Martin's Press, \$8.95). The book stresses low caloric but high volume intake, so that your pet will feel full and lose weight. The best part is that in today's market, pet foods are expensive, and Dr. Padwee's menus include items that you'd buy for yourself. The diets include vegetables, meats, fish and cottage cheese, in appropriate servings to your pet's weight. The approximate ideal weight for most breeds of cats and dogs is included. Nice touch!

Finally, since people and not pets will be preparing the meals, Dr. Padwee has given his menus some pretty exotic name. How could you feel guilty serving your pal East Indian Lamb Curry, Ukrainian Vegetable Casserole or Chinese Stir-Fried Chicken?

Nancy Edwards.

## Fascinating Fish Facts

If you have, or ever plan to have tropical fish, this is a book that you should have. The Aquarium Encyclopedia of Tropical Freshwater Fish (HP Books) is a massive reference work that covers just about everything a fish fancier could imagine.

In addition to a complete guide to the care, maintenance and breeding of tropical fish this volume provides a step-by-step identification of each species of fish, complete with photos and drawings. And with each identification the reader is filled in on the care, habits and breeding of each species.

Even if you only have a mild interest in this rapidly growing hobby, you will find the Encyclopedia a worthwhile addition to your bookshelf. The drawings that appear on most of the 392 pages are well done and interesting. And the book sparkles with hundreds of beautiful color plates of the fish in their natural habitat. Some of the plates would be suitable subjects for framing.

No one seems to be sure how long we have been keeping fish in captivity. The ancient Romans recorded the keeping of fish as part of their culture. The Aztecs also were fanciers of domestic fish. And the Chinese cultivated ornamental goldfish more than a thousand years ago. But whatever the history of domestic fish, this new book promises to generate a new interest and knowledge of the keeping and breeding of aquarium fish.

## Canine Hip Dysplasia and Other Orthopedic Diseases

By Fred L. Lanting.

Canine Hip Dysplasia, a complex disease characterized by unstable hip joints often leading to lameness or severe crippling, has become a problem of real concern to pet dog owners and professional dog breeders.

This subject has now been carefully explained and the cause, prevention, treatment, and control of the disease thoroughly analyzed. Fred L. Lanting, a breeder and former professional handler, discusses the disease in terms a layperson can easily understand and utilize. He has worked closely with top orthopedic specialists and all the latest research on the problem is included. Topics include: causes, development of normal and dysplastic hips, control in the individual, control through genetics, practical aspects and solutions, treatment, other orthopedic disorders in the canine.

Published by Alpine Publications.

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by Fred L. Lanting  
with contributions by Dr. Sten-Erik Olsson  
and Dr. Wayne H. Riser

Clear in presentation and attention to detail, this landmark book is packed with over 100 drawings, photographs, and radiographs. Explores the causes, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of hip dysplasia and other orthopedic diseases from A to Z. A must for your reference shelf!

Foreword by Dr. Joseph F. Giardina, D.V.M.  
Hardbound, 228 pages, \$12.95

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Growing population - - Soemmering's Gazelle, while becoming scarce in the wild, are rapidly growing in numbers at the Dark Continent, Busch Gardens in Tampa, Fla. The zoological facility recently received an award for the propagation of this rare species.



Throughout the ages, the unicorn has been depicted in ancient writing and art as a single horned animal, usually resembling a bull, ram goat, rhinoceros, and even a horse. Lancelot may be the first unicorn in modern times. The creation of two Northern California naturalists, Lancelot is of angora goat stock, complete with a pure white coat, flowing main, and cloven hooves. Lancelot is on display at Marine World in Redwood City, Calif.

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*LEAPING LEO*, formally known as Grand Champion Nepenthes Leo, leaps in anticipation of "Feline Fantasy, Act Two", the San Francisco Revelers huge cat show at the Cow Palace November 28 and 29. The largest all-breed, six-ring show on the West Coast, the event benefits feline disease research projects.

Leo is an Abyssinian, but cats of all breeds will participate in the Kal-Kan sponsored event

Among the special attractions at the show will be "Cisco", the household cat judged the top cat in his class for 1980, and Epidermis, the unique hairless Sphinx cat that was recently seen as the centerfold in Life Magazine.

About 6,700 cases of poisonous snake bites are treated annually by physicians in the United States, reports the National Wildlife Federation. Of these, fewer than 20 are fatal. Rattlesnakes are responsible for most of the bites and for nearly 90 percent of the fatalities.

## WATCH-A-PET

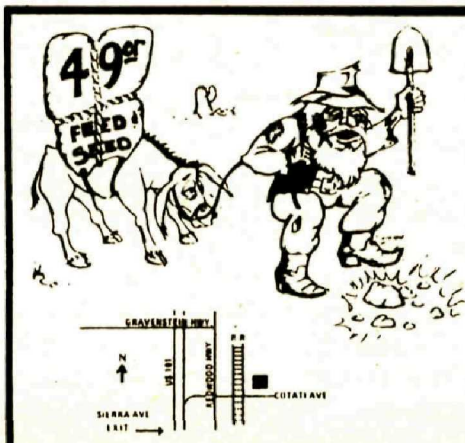
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The oldest known living thing on earth, according to the National Wildlife Federation, is a bristlecone pine tree in the White Mountains of east-central California. Scientists have determined that this tree is 4,800 years old.

Two bright-eyed attractions await visitors at the Los Angeles Zoo. Female marbled kittens were born to the Zoo's present breeding pair, and this is the only zoo in the world to successfully breed these rare Asian cats seldom found in zoological collections

*Wild marbled cats inhabit the forests of eastern Himalayas across Thailand, Burma, and Malaysia to Sumatra and Borneo. Due to habitat destruction and disturbances the population of marbled cats has been greatly reduced. They are presently classified as an endangered species.*

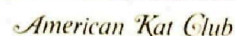
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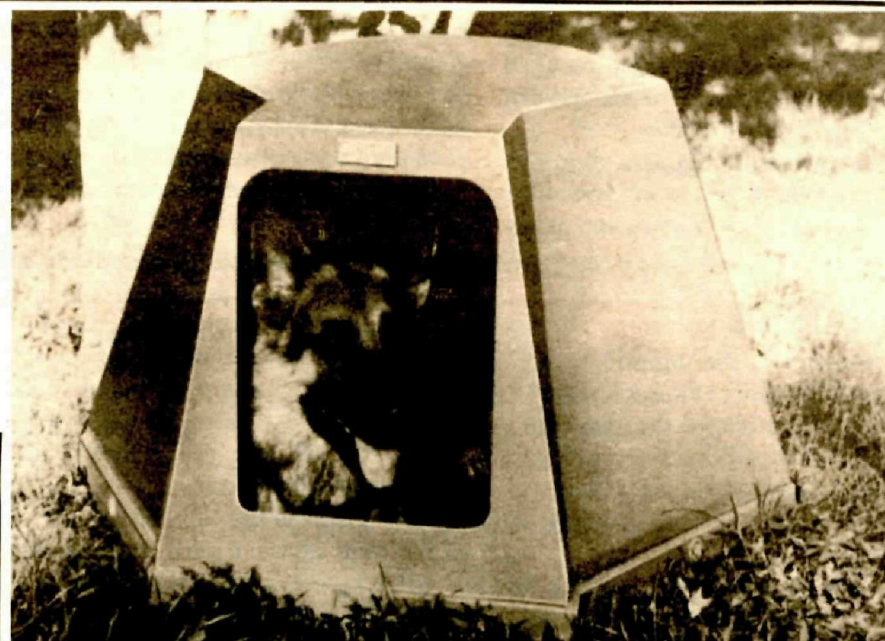
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The Canine Castle is constructed of one-piece durable polyethylene so there are no cracks or crevices to let in water or drafts. The one-piece molded construction and unpleasant taste of polyethylene is also a deterrent to chewing.

The manufacturer promises that the Canine Castle will never rust or dent and will always retain its bright color. It even fits into a station wagon for traveling, and an automatic closing magnetic door is offered as an option. It comes in sizes for both large and small dogs and cats and may be used in or out of doors. For more information call Toll Free: 1-800-351-1363

## New ban on Danish horses

## VENEREAL DISEASE FOUND

Import of horses from Denmark is being restricted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture following reports that contagious equine metritis has been diagnosed in a Standardbred mare in that country.

This makes Denmark the tenth country since 1977 affected by this highly transmissible venereal disease of horses.

John K. Atwell, USDA administrator, said because of the disease Denmark will be prohibited from exporting mares to the United States.

Stallions over two years of age can be imported only if both importers and exporters carry out a lengthy and elaborate program of medications and testing. Atwell said geldings and horses under two years of age may continue to be imported from Denmark.

Atwell said 56 breeding horse imported from Denmark since Jan. 1, 1977, will be listed as "risk arrivals" and owners contacted to have their horses tested for the disease.

Birdwing butterflies are the largest butterflies in the world, says Ranger Rick's Nature Magazine. Some adult female birdwings have wingspans of more than 11 inches.

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### KING IS THE HERO DOG OF THE YEAR

Fern Carlson gives a hug of gratitude to "King", the family pet, who alerted the sleeping Carlson family to a fire in their Granite Falls, Washington, home. Mrs. Carlson, her husband Howard and daughter Pearl were asleep in the morning of December 26 when a fire broke out in the utility room of their home. King, who was sleeping in the adjoining family room, clawed and chewed his way through the door, charged through the burning utility room and awoke the family. For his bravery, King was named the Ken-L-Bikit Ration Dog Hero of 1981.

False pregnancy, a costly problem for owners and breeders, didn't affect this mare, proudly with foal. But what about next breeding season? A study is now underway to learn more about pregnancy signals and reproductive disorders in horses.

### NEW PRODUCTS

One of the most objectionable, but essential, aspects of cat ownership is the old-fashioned kitty box. Even with constant care, it is difficult to keep it completely odor-free. And if the cat owner becomes lax in his maintenance, his cat may be the first to tell him . . . by choosing another spot to use for his or her essential functions.

But, finally, an inventive manufacturer has devised a better way of coping with this universal problem. This could be good news for cat owners in more than one way. The new, improved system not only makes it easier to perform this dreary task, but will save the cat owner money in the long run.

"Litter Pod" is the trademarked name of this revolutionary idea. It is a cat litter box which features specially designed odor preventing, disposable litter pads. The pads are placed within the custom designed box and are super absorbent, ac-

cording to the manufacturer. A small amount of litter is applied. The cat's urine passes through into the pad while solid wastes remain on top so they can be easily disposed of with a custom scoop provided with the kit.

The pads absorb . . . not the litter, and use half the amount or less of the litter normally used, and that litter lasts seven times longer without odor!

Additional savings are possible since the cat owner can buy the cheapest brand of litter, less of it, and not change it as frequently.

Probably the best news about the Litter Pod is the price. The product was originally sold at \$29.95, but has now been reduced for a limited time to only \$19.95, with the complete kit postage paid and full guaranteed. It is available from Commercial Products Research, 1518 Little Hill Road, Dept. NR, Point Pleasant, N.J. 08742.

### SEXUALLY CONFUSED

A crazy, mixed-up sex life may have contributed to the believed extinction of the yellow-breasted bowerbird, or so scientists theorize. In an attempt to attract a member of the opposite sex the male bowerbird collects and builds colorful objects into a boudoir of fruits and flowers. Unfortunately, the female of the species is rarely impressed by this effort. Only about one in 200 females fall for the offerings.

Biologists had figured the bowerbird had finally fallen into extinction with its confused approach to sex life. But recently a bowerbird was discovered in the rain forests of New Guinea. This was the first sighting of one in a hundred years. But scientists have their doubts about the species ability to continue with this strange courting procedure.

### PETS ADD YEARS TO YOUR LIFE

Want to have more friends, have a safer home, and live longer? According to one expert, you can accomplish all these things by just getting and keeping a pet. Dr. Michael Miltz claims that pet owners have 50 per cent chance of extending their lives when they own a pet.

Lower blood pressure results from expressing affection towards your pet, says Dr. Willima McCulloch, of Texas A and M.

British studies have shown that the elderly have more visitors and make more friends when they own a pet. And a report from the New York State Attorney-General's Office showed that fewer pet owners were mugged or had their homes burglarized when they owned pets.

Since most pets require regular exercise, their owners also stayed in better physical condition by being forced to leave their television sets to take brisk walks with their pets.

### POLICE DOGS GET COP-OUT

Until recently the police dogs of Port Orford, Wash., wound up in the "slammer" every time they bit a suspect. But the board of health has finally agreed to exempt De Valera and Reload from the local 10-day-quarantine for rabies.

Without the special exemption the police dogs could wind up spending more time in confinement than the possible criminals that they caught.

how to cope with your  
PETS DEATH

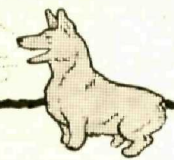


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IS YOUR PET TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING?

### NOW YOU CAN BE PART OF AN EXCITING NEW EXPERIMENT! PROJECT EARTHQUAKE WATCH Needs volunteers.

Volunteers who live or work along earthquake fault lines in Western California are being sought to report instances of unusual behavior in their animals over a toll-free hot line that is in operation 24 hours per day at SRI.\*

We are asking farmers, ranchers breeders and other people who are around animals on a day-to-day basis and live in the general area of active faults to become apart of the network of voluntary observers in California.

This funded research project now has 1700 volunteers . . . and needs many more.

Interested? Write today to: Leon S. Otis, Ph. D., Project Earthquake Watch, P.O. Box 2995, Stanford, CA 94305, and get all the information on this fascinating program!

Each observer will receive further information and the hot line telephone number from scientists at SRI.

\*SRI is doing this research project for the U.S. Geological Survey (Dept. of the Interior).



### Coyote child killer

Glendale, Calif. authorities placed the blame for the killing of a three-year-old girl on a coyote. The youngster was attacked and mauled by a canine in her front yard in Chevy Chase Canyon. Her father rushed out and frightened the animal away as it was dragging the child away. She died three hours later from a broken neck vertebrae.

### Airlines charged in dog handling

U.S. Department of Agriculture officials have charged Frontier Airlines with violating provisions of the Animal Welfare Act that require safe and humane transportation of animals.

Dr. P. R. Henery, of USDA's Colorado Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said Denver-headquartered airlines allegedly stacked three dog cages on their sides while loading a baggage cart at the Denver airport. As a result, the dogs had to stand on the walls of their cages and most of their ventilation was cut off.

"Frontier employees allowed the dogs to remain in this position for a considerable period of time despite objections by the dogs' owners," Henery said. The dogs were being shipped from Tulsa, Okla., to Salt Lake City.



# Winterizing your dog...

## CANINE CARE IN THE WINTER

By Robert L. Stear, D.V.M.  
Manager of Veterinary Services,  
Norden Laboratories

This is the season when we start wearing sweaters and wool slacks, and replacing screens with storm windows. It's also a good time to see that your dog is prepared to meet the approaching winter weather.

Although your dog may have been quite content to sleep under the stars all summer, it needs winter-time shelter if it's to live outdoors. The shelter can be a simple box that you build at home, or you can buy a more elegant model. The important thing to remember is that the dog's house should be snug and waterproof, to give protection against the cold winds and rain.

The size of the shelter is important. It should be just big enough for the pet to turn around inside. A dog uses its body heat to warm the doghouse in winter, and too much empty space creates a heat loss. Place the entrance to the house away from the prevailing winds or hang a piece of material in the doorway to cut the draft.

If you already have a shelter, check to see that your dog still fits comfortably inside. Clean out the dust and debris from the past season, and reline it with clean newspapers, straw or old rags. These materials will help hold the heat and insulate the dog from the cold ground.

Much of the dog's warmth comes from the quality of its coat. Thick, clean fur has the best insulating

quality. You can help your pet keep warm by grooming him regularly so that oils and dirt do not mat the hairs down. Choose a warm fall day or wash him indoors. Make sure that the coat is completely dry before the chill of the evening.

If it's too cold for a real bath, you can use a dry dog shampoo or massage ordinary cornstarch into the coat to absorb most of the oil and dirt. The powder is then brushed out, removing most of the dirt with it. Some pet owners feel their dogs need more food in the wintertime. For most dogs this is not the case. The exceptions are dogs that live in the extreme northern states, and those dogs that are used for winter-time hunting. You can ask your veterinarian for more details about a good cold weather diet for your particular type of dog.

## THOUSANDS OF EXOTIC BIRDS PERISH

Of the 700,849 cage birds that entered the United States during 1980 through quarantine stations, 6,810 were refused entry because of exotic Newcastle disease, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported.

Another 27,753 birds were dead on arrival at the quarantine stations and 74,911 died during the mandatory 30-day quarantine period from a multitude of causes.

Another 2,673 exotic birds were abandoned at the border or seized by U.S. Customs Service agents. Of these, 1,345 were held in quarantine for at least 45 days and sold at auction or donated to zoos. The rest died during quarantine or were destroyed because they were infected with exotic Newcastle disease.

Cold and related stresses can make your dog more vulnerable to certain canine infections, especially respiratory diseases. It's important for all dogs, whether they live indoors or outside, to be vaccinated against the major canine diseases. Besides being protected themselves, vaccinations reduce the pool of susceptible animals that can spread canine infections.

If your dog lives indoors all year, your "weatherizing" program is somewhat different. Your pet will be exposed to the dry air of central heating and may develop scaly, itchy skin because of the lower humidity and higher temperatures. Again, check with your veterinarian for suggestions. He or she can probably recommend a food supplement to put additional oils in your pet's coat.

If winter is here, can spring be far behind?

## RACCOON SALES BANNED

It is now illegal to buy, sell, or keep raccoons in California. The Fish and Game Department approved a recent regulation forbidding the "importation, transportation and possession" of raccoons in this state.

Raccoons rate high on the list of rabies carriers every year. Zoos and scientific study facilities would be exempted from the new ruling.

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### Death can be beautiful

For the last sixteen years my life has been enriched by the joy of having my beloved cocker spaniel "Begonia" at my side day and night for approximately 85% of the time.

During her last four years we made weekly visits to our San Francisco veterinarian, Dr. Francis W. Gross, who was continuing a program of immunotherapy for treatment of Melanoma cancer that was initiated by Dr. E. Gregory MacEwen, who is the head of the Oncology department of the Animal Medical Center in New York we were living at the time an oral tumor was discovered and biopsied. The tumor was excised and did not recur. However, the Melanoma, which is one of the fastest moving forms of cancer, had already migrated to her lung. The battle, therefore, was to stimulate her body's own immune system so as to contain the lung involvement and to inhibit any further metastasis. She won that four year battle but finally lost the war to degenerative forces of old age.

She had the dignity of a great lady and tried, for several weeks, to conceal from me the progressiveness of her failing strength and buoyant spirit. When it became apparent that she was reaching the end of her happy days I was persuaded by her doctor and my son to let her go.

I had heard many horror stories about euthanasia but I was determined to be with her until the end.

Dr. Gross approved of my decision so my son and I took Begonia to the pet hospital at the pre-arranged time and we were met at the side entrance by Dr. Gross. Since they were old friends, her wagging tail acknowledged his greeting. She marched into the treatment room where she had so often been examined. She was placed in a prone position on the stainless steel table. A young lady who is one of Dr. Gross's surgical assistants and who also knew Begonia very well, held her head up so that Dr. Gross could have clear access to her left jugular vein. Begonia made no attempt to re-

sist any of this handling. I wrapped my left arm around her body so she could feel my love to the last second of her life. The drug was injected, and, without a sound or a tremor, she slowly lowered her head until she came to rest with left cheek on the table and with a peaceful look on her face that seemed to say, "Now, if you will excuse me, I would like to go to sleep." I bent down and kissed that beautiful head and said "Good-bye, Baby." She had died like a lady! Sydney D. Blue, California

We are pleased to print this thoughtful letter in the hope that it May help others who may have to face this most difficult experience. Editor.

Flies think they are coming to an ORGY ... BUT they are coming to their funeral.



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## Dialogue

Animal News  
Joel Blumberg DVM

In *Animal News* Vol. 7, #7 there is a very good article regarding spinal problems with dogs, "Oh, My Aching Back." I was forced to put to sleep a 12-year-old beagle a few years ago. He was hit all at once with complete paralysis of the rear legs. He had no pain but was unable to move. His hind feet were shoved up under his body (so in effect he was trying to sit on his back) clear to his neck. After several days at a vet, who didn't seem to know what was wrong, I took him to Davis. Dr. Indera said I was too late as it was a severe "blow-out". An operation was not feasible so he was put to sleep.

I have one of his pups — 9-year-old male, very active and in good health, I feel. My question is this: Would it be a good idea to have x-rays of the lumbar or entire spine? To alert me if there is a problem developing. I would not want to have him (Sam) go the same way because of my lack of care at the proper time.

I now have a very fine veterinarian, Dr. Sutton in Sonoma. He has cared for Sam for the last four or five years and says he is doing fine. Just a little too heavy by a few pounds.

I hope you can find time in your busy schedule to answer the question. Sorry this was so lengthy, but it seemed a little history was in order.

Sincerely,  
Vernon W. Hall  
Sonoma, California

Dear Mr. Hall

To answer your first question, I do recommend that your dog be x-rayed now even though he has shown no outward signs of disc disease. Changes in the spine would show up on x-rays. If, at a later date, your dog has a problem, it will be very helpful to have a set of x-rays to compare.

The best way to minimize the possibility of Old Sam suffering from a ruptured disc is to get that extra weight off of him! Also be sure he gets plenty of exercise on a regular basis. Good luck.  
Joel Blumberg, DVM.

Editor:

I would be grateful to you for putting me in touch with some article or resource who might provide a definitive answer as to how long to wait in adopting a new cat, after a household cat has been put away due to infectious feline peritonitis.

I am getting varying answers from the Humane Society and the ASPCA ... from 30 to 60 to 90 days and one suggested fumigation.

It would be helpful to hear what has been written on this subject by the experts. Naturally, I am anxious to get a replacement for my beloved pet of 13 years. The waiting period is difficult.

A grieving pet owner,  
Midge Kovacs, New York

Dear Mrs. Kovacs:

I am very sorry to learn of the recent loss of beloved cat. In response to your question, I will quote from current Veterinary Theory, the "bible" of veterinarians in pet practice.

"Thorough disinfection of contaminated premises with quaternary ammonium compounds or 1:32 dilution of house hold bleach is necessary for proper control. Since the virus probably does not exist for more than several days outside the host, new animals should not be introduced into such disinfected premises for at least one week following the removal of all infected and dead cats.

It is highly recommended that catteries and multiple-cat households routinely test all cats.

FIPV-negative catteries should not introduce any new animals, including studs for breeding, unless a negative FIP antibody is demonstrated in the cat within 10 to 14 days of entry. FIPV-negative cats newly introduced into the cattery should be isolated for two weeks and retested. Catteries with both FIPV-positive and FIPV-negative cats should house the two groups in separate facilities."

By the time you read this response, enough time will have elapsed for you to get another cat. I hope you will get as much happiness and pleasure from your newcomer as you did from the friend you lost.  
Joel Blumberg D.V.M.

Dear Sirs:

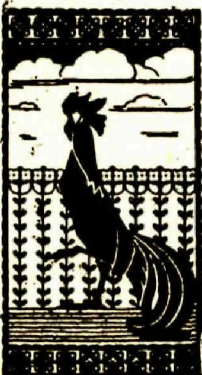
The article "Want to Live Longer? Preserve Your Sanity?" by Kenneth L. Marcella was excellent and it really made its point as well as touching my heart. Thank you for such a wonderful story.  
Suzanne Rowe  
Richmond Hill, N.Y.

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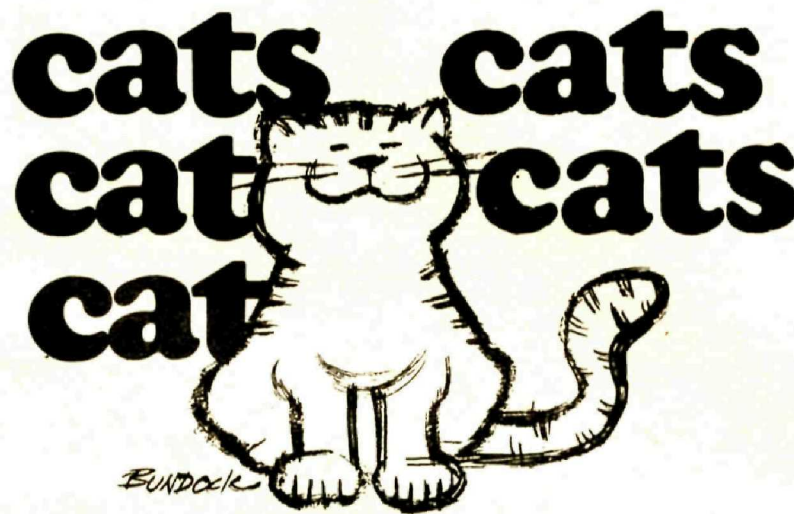
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### WHY CATS HUNT

By Robert L. Stear, D.V.M.,  
Manager of Veterinary Services,  
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If you've had an outdoor cat, you've probably seen the pet stalking insects, birds, or small animals. And you may have wondered why the cat bothered with the chase. It already had plenty of food, and lots of toys.

The reasons why modern domestic cats continue to hunt have intrigued behavioral scientists for several decades. Several technical papers at at least one reference book, "Cat Behavior: The Predatory and Social Behavior of Domestic and Wild Cats", have analyzed this and other aspects of feline behavior.

The book's author, Paul Leyhausen, points out that the cat's hunting instinct probably was developed before its association with man began. Creeping along the ground, and keeping a low profile is an effective way of reaching a small ground animal. The cat tracks the animal until it strays a reasonable distance from a hole, and then pounces on it.

If a cat corners a rat or mouse, it generally waits for the prey to turn and run before attacking. This gives the cat the opportunity to grab the back of the rodent's neck for a quick kill. On the other hand, an aggressive mouse or rat is often successful in escaping by forcing the cat to jump back in self-defense.

### ENGLAND TO AMERICA — THE HARD WAY.

An English cat aptly named Lucky made the long journey from England to Texas the hard way. When a Houston antique buyer opened a crate of antiques from England he found that he had received more than he had bargained for. A domestic cat staggered from the crate after apparently spending eight weeks in the packing crate. Although the travelling tabby was close to death on arrival she has now been nursed back to health and is a mascot at the buyer's office.

Although some cats are exceptionally successful in downing birds, the average cat stalks many more birds than it actually catches. The bird's erratic movements and unpredictable short flights make difficult for a cat to plan a method of attack. Cats are most likely to chase and catch birds in areas where the rodent population is low. And even then, the cats will spend time chasing insects as well. Studies run by the state and fish and game departments indicate that cats use birds for only a small portion of their diet.

You may wonder why the cat spends time chasing a small animal, and then leaves it uneaten by your doorstep or on the kitchen floor. Research hasn't provided a firm answer. One theory is that the cat wants to store the food for later, when it may be hungry. Another idea is that the cat's predatory instinct is aroused by the sight of a rodent, and the full sequence of its catching and killing cycle has to take place, even if the cat isn't hungry.

Many of an outdoor cat's injuries are related to hunting. Deep, festering abscesses start when a mouse or rat bites heal at the surface, trapping bacteria inside. Shallow, ragged cuts are often the results of trips through landfills or construction sites littered with metal scrap. Cats also develop infected sores when they fight each other for hunting territories or for females in heat.

If you see your cat constantly licking one spot or favoring one side, you might check for a small lump or hot spot that would signal a hidden abscess. Your veterinarian will have to open the abscess to help it heal from the inside out.

You will do yourself as well as your outdoor cat a favor by remembering to keep your pet's rabies vaccination up to date. Any pet that has frequent contact with wild animals . . . particularly raccoons and skunks . . . should be protected against this fatal disease. Remember, protecting your pet from rabies protects your family as well.

Dr. Stear regrets that he is unable to personally answer letters from pet owners. He suggests that readers consult their own veterinarians when their pets have problems.

## Did you notice?

Notice something different? Animal News has changed its name! We are now **TODAY'S ANIMAL NEWS**. This may seem to be a very small change, but it indicates a very big step forward for us.

We have merged with an outstanding publication you may already know, called **Today's Animal Health**. Like us, the staff is comprised entirely of professionals, dedicated to the creation of a better world for animals. It is the official publication for the **ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION**.

By combining forces we can do an even better job for you and your . . . and the world of animals. We will reach a larger audience than ever before. More contributing authors will bring you more up-to-date information.

We want to educate more people in humane animal care. To do this, we hope to have Animal News used in more schools (it is now used very successfully as a teaching tool in a limited amount of schools and colleges). We hope to reach an even larger audience through more public libraries.

It's a big job, but it is a job that needs to be done. Would you like to help? You can help reach and educate hundreds more interested people by just donating a subscription to a school or library. With your help we can work together to make a better world for animals!

YES! I would like to help Animal News in the special educational project. I am enclosing \$7.50 for a year's subscription to a school or public library of your selection (or to the school or library I have indicated below:).

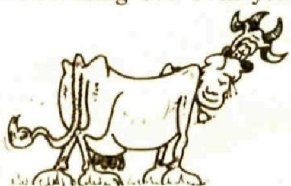
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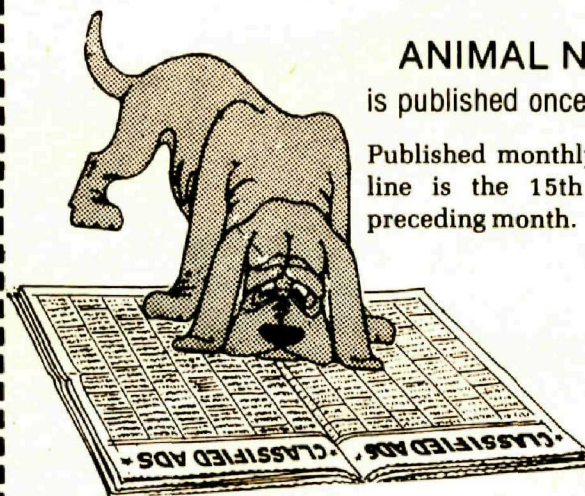
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