

Animal Health Foundation  
Todays Animal News  
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*Todays*

# ANIMAL NEWS

February 1982





# Helping your dog survive the perils of winter



## COLD WEATHER WARNING

Baby, it's cold outside! And the cold spell that has blanketed most of the U.S. can be perilous for pets as well as people. Dogs, in particular, need special care and help during this cold snap, warns Dr. Joel Ehrenzweig, a leading New York veterinarian. He recommends these tips for keeping our canines healthy and fit all winter long.

1. **DRESS WARMLY.** Don't laugh. Not all dogs are equipped for winter. Many small dogs, such as dachunds, Boston terriers, and chihuahuas, are particularly vulnerable to the cold. Their natural coats are thin, and their metabolic rate is higher than that of larger dogs. Unsweated, they can literally shiver to death. Before going out, check the dog's coat. If it feels thick enough for you, it's right for the dog. If not, bundle up. Boots, coats and sweaters are sold at most pet shops. Or, if sewing or knitting is your past-time, you might consider tailor making some cold weather gear for your canine friend.

2. **FEED WELL.** An active dog needs 20 per cent more fuel in the winter than it does in the warm summer months. An older dog requires fewer calories, higher quality protein, and extra vitamins and

minerals. To be sure your dog gets a proper diet, use a nutritionally balanced commercial dog food appropriate for the dog's stage of life.

3. **CHECK SKIN.** Dogs, like people, tend to get dry skin in the winter. A humidifier may help. But if the damage is done, and your dog's skin is like parchment, supplement his diet with a few drops of oil or fatty acid, available from your veterinarian.

4. **WATCH OUT FOR SALT.** The rock salt and other chemicals used to prevent icing on pavements can be particularly hard on bare paws. Salt causes painful skin irritations. To protect your pet, wash and dry paws carefully whenever returning from a walk. Check for ice balls between the toes of your pet. Better yet, put your dog in boots. (If commercial dog boots are not readily available, you can improvise with plastic food baggies from your grocery store!)

5. **SLOW DOWN ON SNOW.** Dogs love snow. They love to play in it -- and they like to eat it, too. Try to limit both activities. Small dogs, even if warmly dressed, can't take prolonged exposure to cold. And, no matter what their size, all dogs suffer upset stomachs from eating too much snow. Even if it's clean, it's just too cold for the system.

6. **BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT CARS.** A parked car can turn into an icebox, faster than you think. Never leave an animal alone in a car, even if you think you'll be gone only for a few minutes.

7. **RESIST RADIATORS.** When it's cold outside, there's no cozier place to curl up than on top of the radiator or hot-air vent. Most dogs (and cats) find it irresistible. It can be very dangerous, however. In addition to risking third degree burns, the dog's coat will thin out (a natural response to warmth) and the animal will be in serious trouble when taken outdoors.

8. **EXERCISE DAILY.** Exercise is particularly important in winter. It gets the circulation flowing and will keep the dog from getting apathetic and flabby. Ward off winter lethargy by taking the dog for long walks during the warmer hours of the day. (It's good for you, too.) If you and the dog are truly housebound, exercise him indoors.

The people at Cycle Dog Food have developed a total fitness program, including a series of exercises, that can be done indoors (even in a small apartment). For a free copy of a leaflet describing the program, send a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to: Cycle Canine Fitness Center, P.O. Box 9068, Kankakee, IL, 60902.

## TAPEWORMS IN PETS . . . FACTS AND FANCY

Tapeworms cause a pet to have a voracious appetite, get very ill, and waste away.

**FALSE.**

Tapeworms are unimportant parasites.

**FALSE**

Tapeworms can cause a diarrhea, poor coat and irritability.

**TRUE.** Tapeworms do irritate the lining of the intestines and rob the pet of some nutrients. Irritability is generally due to colic or itching around the anus when segments are passed.

Pets get tapeworms from bad meat or food left out too long.

**FALSE.** The vast majority of pets in the U.S. get tapeworms from fleas. A few rural pets can get infected by eating rodents, rabbits or sheep carcasses.

Pet tapeworms can infect people.

**TRUE.** Although uncommon, it can happen, especially to very young children.

You can spot the tapeworm segments on feces on the ground.

**TRUE AND FALSE.** You might mistake fly larvae (maggots) for tapeworm segments. To be sure, take a sample to a veterinarian for positive identification.

It really is impossible to completely get rid of tapeworms.

**FALSE.** Due to very recent advances in veterinary medicine, it is now possible to eliminate all tapeworms from a pet. (But, if you don't eliminate fleas, your pet can get a new batch of tapeworms in 4 to 7 weeks.)

My pet can have tapeworms and I wouldn't know it.

**TRUE.** The only way to know it is to see the white or cream-colored segments near the anus or on a fresh stool, and segments may only be passed once or twice a week.

## Catnip cards for cats

The newest idea in greeting cards is directed to cat fanciers and their furry friends. The cards contain, in addition to a feline greeting, a packet of real catnip seeds with instructions on how to plant and use the catnip.



## Today's Animal News

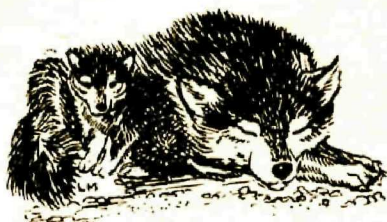
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NOW YOU GET BOTH A MAGAZINE AND A NEWSPAPER FOR THE SAME SUBSCRIPTION PRICE!

## Good Shepherd Shelter and 300 animals migrate

California may soon be the new home of world famous Canadian animal shelter, and the 320 animals residing in it. The Good Shepherd Animal Shelter has voted to make the move when British Columbia zoning regulations blocked needed expansion of the shelter facilities.

The shelter was the center of a public controversy from the start, when its founder Mother Cecilia Mary, a Benedictine nun, was disowned by the Roman Catholic Church for her publicly stated belief that animals have immortal souls. Despite the clash with the church the plucky nun proceeded to found the shelter and fund it with money she had inherited. Today the shelter property is valued at over a million dollars. It will be sold to finance the construction of a new shelter near Sacramento.

A group of California supporters are organizing the move and have donated 40 acres for a site for the 20-year-old shelter.

## PET TIPS

Cats get blackheads, too. A fairly common problem in shorthaired cats are blackheads around the mouth or chin. These are merely clogged pores, similar to human blackheads. But if not treated they can lead to open sores and a stubborn infection.

Before starting your spring planting check with your veterinarian. There are a host of plants that can be deadly to pets, from Amaryllis to yew plants.

Cats and dogs perspire through the pads of their feet instead of the skin as humans do.

Spring is fix-up and paint-up time. But it can be a problem when your dog or cat gets into the fresh paint. Don't use paint thinner, gasoline, or similar products to remove the paint. It can burn the skin of your pet. Instead, rub waterless hand cleaner into the paint and rub out with a paper towel. As a substitute you can use a heavy face cream or lotion.

Jogging has become a national pastime for humans. But for cows? Researchers found that a two-year-old cow in its first pregnancy could dramatically improve milk production by jogging. Two miles a day resulted in a milk production gain of about three quarts a day!

## Dogs lead dual lives

### COURTS RULE ON PET RIGHTS

Does your pet have legal rights in a court of law? More and more courts are taking up this issue as pets assume the role of family members.

A German shepherd called Bismark (sometimes) provided Canadian courts with a test case recently. It seems that Bismark was originally purchased from a kennel by the Hesketh family of Surrey, British Columbia. The family pet was registered with the Canadian Kennel Club and American Kennel Club. Then Bismark disappeared.

Then a dog named London was purchased from a kennel by the McMillan family. London had been purchased by the kennel from a man who said he was "leaving town." On checking further, it seems the seller had obtained the dog from the pound.

All was well until Louise Hesketh happened to pass a parked car in which Bismark, or London, was happily sitting waiting for his owner to return from shopping.

The Hesketh family is demanding the return of the dog with the dual identity, but refuses to pay the McMillan family the \$800 paid for London. In the meantime, the shepherd spends alternating weeks with each family.

An almost identical case of mixed dog ownership recently went through the California courts recently. The judge ruled that the dog in this case be given equal visitation rights, spending one month at a time with each family.

If you have a dog nursing a litter of puppies, but not producing as much milk as she might, try a tip from some human doctors. Substitute beer for her water supply. Not only can she produce more milk, but she may be a more contented mother.

Purdue University has bad news for cattle rustlers. Purdue has established a nose printing program for cows to identify them just like humans are identified by fingerprints.

Even horses wear contact lenses now. But not for the sake of beauty. The specially constructed soft lens are used to keep medication in the eye during treatment of some infections.

What is America's leading pleasure horse? The American quarterhorse, of course.



# Worth Reading

## STEINLEN CATS

Drawings by Theophile-Alexander Steinlen

Dover Publications, Inc., New York, N.Y. 10014 (\$2.00)

Readers of *Today's Animal Health* know we have a particular affection for the work of this artist, having used it on our covers in the past. Steinlen is perhaps best known for his studies of cats, was one of the greatest illustrators of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The cat drawings in this volume are reproduced from two rare volumes; a 1933 collection of previously unpublished drawings (*Chats et autres betes*, published in an edition of only 545 copies) and a turn of the century album of pictures without words. Don't miss this bargain at \$2.00.

Richard Glassberg, D.V.M.

## DISEASES OF FISHES

T.F.H. Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 33, Jersey City, N.J., 07303 (Free catalog and price list available)

These in-depth books by various authors are an absolute must for every fish fancier and veterinarian with an interest in fish.

These books are packed with technical information and detailed line drawings with some color plates. A science background is helpful, but any serious fish hobbyist could glean much valuable information about the diseased fish from these books.

(Six volumes)

## CURE AND RECOGNIZE AQUARIUM FISH DISEASES

By Dr. Gottfried Schubert, T.F.H. Publications, P.O. Box 33, Jersey City, N.J., 07303.

This is an especially excellent book for the person interested in learning how to diagnose and treat sick fish. The book begins with a description of the instruments required and then gives the basics of examining a fish. There are chapters on diagnosis of fish, the diseases themselves, and drugs used to treat fish. The book contains many full color reproductions and black and white line drawings. A basic, yet excellent book.



## THE CAT COLORING BOOK

By Karen Baldauski, 1980 Dover Publications, Inc. 180 Varick St., New York, N.Y., 10014.

A delightful coloring book that captures the essence of the cat. The perfect gift for any cat owner, any age.

## FLUFFY

By Jurg Obrist, Atheneum Publishers, 597 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10017. Price \$11.95

This is a beautifully illustrated little book with color art work by the author. The story of six-year-old Lisa and her cat, Fluffy, who move from the freedom of the country to the confinement of the big city. Both Lisa and Fluffy learn the secret of being content wherever they are. A delightful book for readers ages six to nine.

Half of the animals seen by the typical small animal veterinary hospital are cats. A big jump from twenty years ago when only one in five patients were felines.

The New York A.S.P.C.A. destroys about 25,000 cats each year.

Morris II of TV fame (the original Morris passed away in 1978 and is buried in an unmarked grave) earns about \$10,000 a year for his famous cat food commercials.

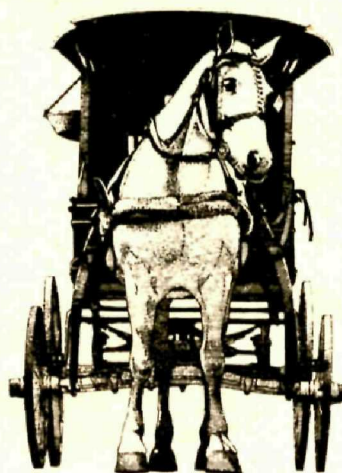
## WHALE MAKES COMEBACK

Not all the news about whales is bad. The gray whale, once decimated by hunters, has made a successful comeback and the population now appears to be stabilizing somewhere between 7,000 and 11,000 animals. They migrate 10,000 miles round trip each year along the North American Pacific coast at this time of year. A popular sport for West Coast animal enthusiasts watching these goliaths of the deep make their trek to their annual breeding grounds.



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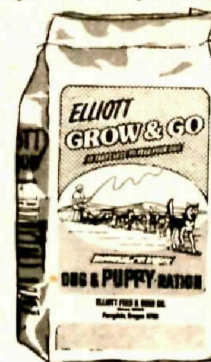
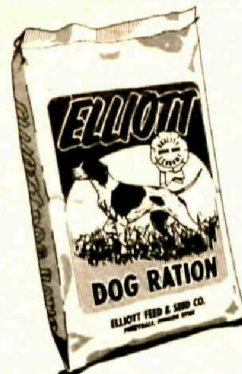
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## Animals test space dangers

That science fiction movie plot depicting an astronaut whose mind has become warped by some strange outside space force may not be as unbelievable as it seems. In fact, researchers at Texas A & M University will begin testing animals this year for behavioral changes caused by the kind of heavy ion cosmic radiation likely to be experienced by astronauts on long space voyages.

"The question . . . is whether a person exposed to this kind of radiation in outer space can function mentally and physically to bring the space ship back safely," said ve-

terinary scientist Dr. Bonnie Beaver, leading authority of animal behavior.

Test animals will take the place of astronauts in the one-year pilot study, and any physical or mental changes will be carefully examined.

Much of the irradiating will be carried out at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in California, the only place where the high-energy radiation of planetary travel can be duplicated for the type of medical information sought by the Texas A & M team.

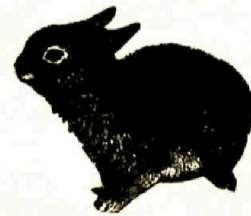
The animals' brain waves will be monitored by applying electro-

encephalograms. Studies will help pinpoint whether behavior changes occur before or after brain patterns are altered.

The researchers will study all kinds of behavior, including changes in walking, movement, and daily routines among test animals.

The study is being funded by a grant from the National Aeronautic and Space Administration. Some future Flash Gordon may someday owe his sanity to one of these test animals.

## Strange cat-rabbit puzzles experts



What do you get when you cross a rabbit with a cat? Well, one Canadian couple claims that they have done just that and they call it - - of course - - a "cabbit."

According to its owners, the cabbit is the result of a breeding between a wild jackrabbit and a domestic feline. The offspring had to be bottle-fed because its mother rejected it. At 10 weeks of age the cabbit was presented to Dr. Wilbert Walker, an Ingersoll, Ontario veterinarian, for routine vaccinations. Walker said, in his 34 years of practice, "I just can't believe this can happen, but I can't dispute what I see with my own eyes."

The strange animal resembles a cat with a short rabbit-like tail and extremely long and powerful legs. It hops instead of walking and eats lettuce.

However, officials of the Ontario Veterinary College are skeptical. Dr. Ken Fisher, a medical geneticist at the college claims a mating of the two species is physically impossible. Dr. Wayne Hollingshead, of the same college, says "There is only a one-per-cent chance that such a thing could happen."

The doubting veterinarians theorize that the cabbit is actually a Manx cat (which is normally short-tailed) with some abnormality of the rear quarters. However, neither have actually seen the purported cabbit.

## PET AIDS

Fleas might be living in your house right now, in the most unexpected places. Like your vacuum cleaner. And they are just waiting for the warm weather to start.

Even when the weather is cold and dreary your pet can have a bath at home without danger. Work dry corn starch into the coat and brush it out, along with the dirt and oil. It will get you by safely until the weather warms up.

Researchers have even discovered a method of testing race horses before they run to determine the chance of lameness that could occur.

Now, if they can only predict the winners . . .

### BASSET HOUNDS



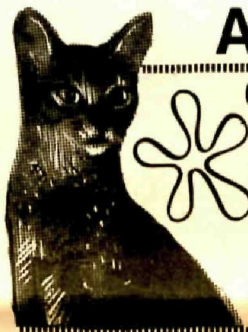
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## CARE AND SELECTION OF THE COCKATIEL

By Carol M. Bettencourt

### Starting young . . .

One sunny afternoon, when I was a little girl, I recall my parents returning from shopping with a pair of slender grey birds, which I was told, were called Australian cockatiels. Also known in their native Australia as "quarrion birds", they were still rather rare in the United States as pets during the early sixties, with the majority of birds available being sold to aviculturalists. Since that day I have always had a soft spot in my heart for these charming grey birds, which over the years has developed into an enchantment, not only with their beautifully subdued coloration, but also with their captivating behavior.

Although I have since owned other sorts of parrots as pets, I still get the most enjoyment from the cockatiel, who is a never-ending source of entertainment. It seems that I can never go into the aviary without getting distracted by the curious antics of these small cockatoo-like birds, and I'm certain that other bird-fanciers have had the same experience. A large part of this fascination is due to observing the well-formed social structures evident in a flock or group of cockatiels, particularly during the breeding season.

### Both aloof and gregarious

Although the cockatiel is very gregarious, it still remains much more aloof and in some ways discriminating than many of other sorts of more common parrots seen in aviaries, which in my opinion, makes the cockatiel a far more intelligent and in some ways "parrot-like" than the also common "budgie".

Peaceful by nature, the cockatiel is one of the most easily tamed parrots known. No other bird in my experience responds as readily to the affection and attention of its owner consistently as does the cockatiel. This is why I unhesitatingly recommend this bird as the best choice for the average pet-owner, and also the novice breeder, who needs first-hand experience before investing in some of the more expensive and rare parrots.

The selection of a cockatiel as a pet should not be taken lightly, as the price of a young, healthy bird is climbing along with the cost and feeding and maintaining a colony of these birds. Also, because of the nature of the cockatiel as a very affectionate and devoted pet, this particular bird, as with any sort of parrot should not be your choice as a pet if your time at home is extremely limited.

So, assuming you have the cash, and that you are willing to return at least some of the affection of a tame cockatiel will assuredly give you, let's talk a bit about the sort of bird that you want to look for.

# PARROT TALK



### Choose a healthy youngster

First of all, you want to get a young bird, rather than an adult. By young, I mean six months old or less, because as with other parrots, their trainability decreases with age. Cockatiels in this age bracket will not yet have their adult plumage, with the exception of a few precocious youngsters who may already have begun to moult. This factor is largely dependant on the season in which the young were hatched. All young cockatiels look like adult females until their first moult, when the males will gain the yellow head coloration, and at the same time lose the barred tail feathers of the juvenile. This is assuming of course that you will be looking at the more common grey ("normal") variety rather than the more expensive color mutations, which are a bit trickier to sex. However, as long as you are simply looking for a pet, and not a breeder, the sex of the bird will be irrelevant to you, as either sex makes just as sweet a pet, although I must admit

that the males do seem to learn to whistle and talk somewhat faster than the females. If you must have one sex or the other, an experienced breeder may be able to make a fairly accurate guess by examining the width between the pelvic bones, and by observing early coloration before the first moult, and by behavioral characteristics. (Males are slightly more aggressive than females.) Do not, however, expect one-hundred-per-cent accuracy.

Some dealers and breeders will also have available what are commonly called "hand-fed" babies. These are baby cockatiels who were taken from the nest at a very early age, and then fed and otherwise cared for by their human foster "parents" with the result that they are imprinted on humans. Although there is some disagreement as to the value of hand-feeding cockatiels as they are so easily tamed, if you want to be assured of a completely devoted and loving pet, then this is a good approach, although should ex-

pect to pay quite a bit more for these birds as it requires quite a large amount of time and expertise to raise healthy youngsters in this fashion.

As I mentioned before, cockatiels are also now readily available in color forms other than the wild grey coloration. The types that you will likely see are the "Lutino", which is actually a white bird with a wash of pale yellow over its entire body which varies in intensity from bird to bird. Another is the "Opaline" or "Pearly" which is a laced variety. A curious fact about this mutation is that the males lose the lacy effect after the first moult, reverting back to the normal grey coloring. Also available is the "Harlequin" or pied cockatiel, which is basically a grey bird with varying degrees of white patches about the head and body. There are also other color forms available, but as the writing of this article, they are pretty well priced out of the "pet" category. These mutations include the "Fallow" and the "Cinnamin". Prices on all color varieties will largely depend on the availability in your area.

After you have decided on color, the next item you should look for is good health. These signs should include "tight" shiny feathers, alertness, bright eyes, and normal droppings. Do not buy a bird no matter how healthy or beautiful he may look if he is housed with other birds who are not well. Also, an untamed bird should have a little "fight" in him, and I would be extremely suspicious of one who did not.

Hopefully, you have planned ahead and have your new pet's cage and accessories waiting at home for his arrival. The cage should be quite a bit larger than the standard "budgie" cage, and your cockatiel should at least be able to extend his wings fully without touching the cage in any direction. The largest cage you can afford is really the best investment for your cockatiels health and happiness, although it should not be so overly large that your bird feels insecure in it. Once your bird is at home, he should be left alone for a few hours at least, so that he can become acquainted with his new surroundings and feed and water dishes. Although some trainers recommend beginning the training process immediately after arriving home with your bird, (the belief here is that the bird will be too disoriented to fight much), I prefer to give the bird a day or so to get his bearings and begin eating.

A sound practise is to have the person from whom you purchased the bird clip his wings for you before you take it home. Never allow anyone to convince you that this is a cruel practice. It would be far more cruel for your pet to escape out of doors and become prey to the elements and predators. There are several excellent books available on the taming of parrots which go into far more detail than the space for



# PARROT TALK

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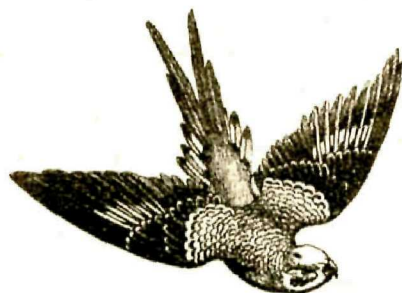
this article allows. Also, if you bought your bird from a breeder, undoubtedly he or she would be happy to give you some pointers in this respect.

## Well rounded diet

There seems to be some general misconception among pet owners that all that is required to feed your pet bird properly is water, seed, and grit. This is entirely untrue. Seed is merely the staple of what should be a well-rounded diet. This diet should include fresh non-poisonous greens of all types, an occasional piece of whole wheat bread, and a bit of apple or some similar fruit. Your bird should also have access to a calcium-mineral block, and fresh water. A vitamin supplement is also a good idea. Cockatiels also appreciate a shallow dish of water in which they can bathe on warm days.

Keep your bird's cage in a part of your house which neither gets direct sunlight or is in total shade. Never place the bird in a draft. Also, contrary to what most people feel is the most convenient room for bird and cage, do not put a cockatiel or any other bird in the kitchen, as toxic fumes and vapors from gas and cooking food are absorbed through the skin and are quite harmful. And last but certainly not least, your pet should be allowed out of his cage at least several times a week, as a bit of freedom is very good for him, and there is nothing your cockatiel loves more than to be allowed to ride about on your shoulder. This also strengthens the bond between bird and owner, making your pet much more enjoyable to own.

Although this may seem like a tremendous amount of trouble for such a small pet, the rewards are very gratifying, and I am aware of more than one person who began their hobby or business in aviculture with the purchase of one cockatiel as a pet. And I for one know that he definitely has a way of beguiling us and making a permanent spot in our hearts and aviaries.



## Kitten testing: handling helps

In a controlled experiment, newborn kittens were handled by humans for ten minutes a day every day from the day they were born until one month of age. A similar clutch of kittens were untouched for the same period of time.

The kittens handled developed more rapidly. Their eyes were opened a day earlier, and they left the nest and explored about three days before the untouched kittens, and generally were more active. They also developed the characteristic coloring (both sets of kittens were Siamese) earlier.

All the kittens were normal at the end of one month, but the ones handled were slightly more advanced in development than the the ones isolated from humans.

A similar study with hundreds of dogs was conducted several years ago. The results showed that puppies handled by humans during their very young and formative weeks grew up relating better to humans than the the isolated puppies.

## BITING!

*A man is walking down a quiet street when he is approached by another man with a "pit bull." The second man commands the dog, "kill him" and the dog leaps to the attack...*

*Two men are brawling on a public street when a third man walks by with a "pit bull". The dog attacks both brawlers, inflicting severe bites...*

*A small boy is attacked and bitten 70 times by an Arctic wolf. The owner of the wolf has a legal permit to keep the wolf. The boy sustains lasting injuries...*

*A policeman arrives on the scene as a doberman is attacking two small children. When the dog turns on the officer he draws his service revolver and kills the dog. The dead dog is survived by his partner, another doberman. Witnesses report that the two dogs have been running loose for some time together, terrorizing residents of the neighborhood...*

These dog bite items, along with many others, made television and newspaper news in only a few days. The bites inflicted were not playful nips. They were deep, ripping, tearing gashes and deep bone-crunching punctures. Victims were rushed to hospitals for emergency treatment.

And those victims will wear their scars, physically and mentally, for life.

What is happening? Man's best friend suddenly seems to be turning into a terror. Next month Today's Animal News will explore "The Big Bite"... Don't miss it!

## Earthquake Watch

Animals have long been linked to early warnings of earthquakes, but researchers were really puzzled when a Livermore, Calif. man reported that just before an earthquake his cuckoo clock stopped unexpectedly.

ANIMAL KENNEL FOR SALE IN LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA. ONE THIRD ACRE ON CANYON ROAD, RURAL SETTING NEAR BEACH, HAS 42 DOG RUNS, CATTERY, HORSE STALLS, GROOMING AREA, OFFICE AND SEPARATE TWO BED-ROOM HOME. CALL: HARCUM AND HORN (714) 8551 or (714) 494-4646 Eves.

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## TWINKLE, TWINKLE...

While there are probably about 200 billion stars in our own galactic star system, only about 6,000 stars are visible from Earth with the naked eye, reports National Wildlife Federation.

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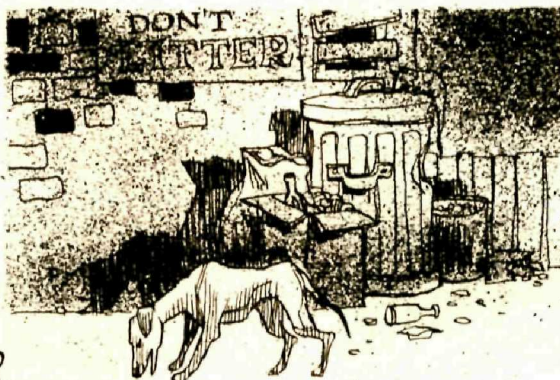
# TO SPAY OR NOT TO SPAY

**DON'T SPAY...**  
IF YOU HAVE VERY GOOD BREEDING STOCK... THE FINANCES AND TIME TO DEVOTE TO ABOUT THREE MONTHS OF PUPPY CARE... AND ARE COMPLETELY SURE OF GOOD HOMES FOR EVERY PUPPY...

**BUT-IF NOT, CONSIDER:**

MILLIONS OF UNWANTED CATS AND DOGS ARE DESTROYED EVERY YEAR-

... BUT WORSE YET... MORE MILLIONS OF HOMELESS STRAYS LEAD MISERABLE LIVES UNTIL THEY PERISH FROM DISEASE AND STARVATION.



CONSIDER THE PRICE YOUR PET PAYS. IF AN AVERAGE BITCH COMES IN HEAT EVERY SIX MONTHS AND IS CONFINED FOR THREE WEEKS EACH TIME SHE

WILL SPEND MORE THAN A YEAR OF HER LIFE "BEHIND BARS". NOT MUCH FUN!

AND, ON THE AVERAGE, SPAYED BITCHES LIVE LONGER.

SPAYING CAN REDUCE SOME SHEDDING FOR SOME BREEDS... REDUCE THOSE "ACCIDENTS" IN THE HOUSE... AND CAN HELP REDUCE STRAYING FROM HOME.



IF YOU PLAN TO KEEP YOUR UNSPAVED BITCH AT HOME DURING HER SEASONS ~ BETTER PLAN FOR LOTS OF COMPANY!



YOU CAN ELIMINATE ALMOST ALL CANCERS CONNECTED WITH THE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM BY SPAYING AT AN EARLY AGE.

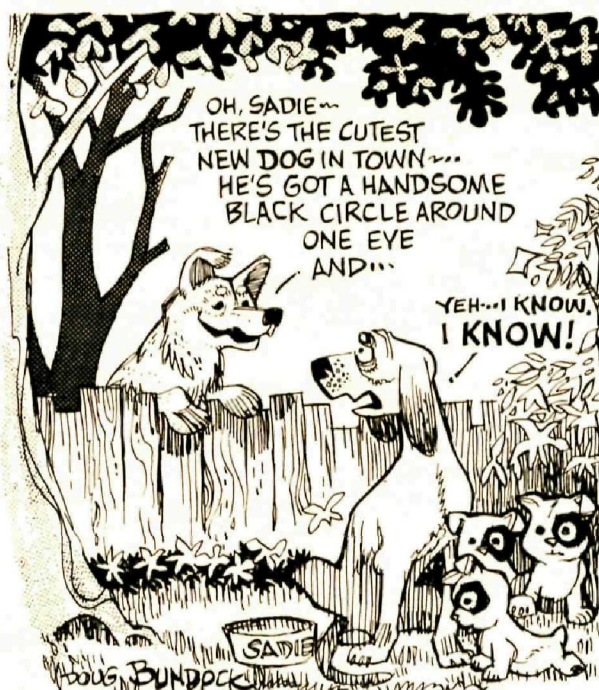


RIGHT ON, KITTY!



AFTER SPAYING YOUR PET CAN DO WELL ON ABOUT ONE THIRD LESS CALORIES ~ AND NEED NOT GET FAT.

IT IS NO MORE ESSENTIAL FOR A DOG OR CAT TO HAVE A LITTER THAN IT IS FOR A HUMAN TO HAVE CHILDREN!





## cancer study may help humans HEARTWORM

## Dogs lead dual lives

### COURTS RULE ON PET RIGHTS

Does your pet have legal rights in a court of law? More and more courts are taking up this issue as pets assume the role of family members.

A German shepherd called Bismark (sometimes) provided Canadian courts with a test case recently. It seems that Bismark was originally purchased from a kennel by the Hesketh family of Surrey, British Columbia. The family pet was registered with the Canadian Kennel Club and American Kennel Club. Then Bismark disappeared.

Then a dog named London was purchased from a kennel by the McMillan family. London had been purchased by the kennel from a man who said he was "leaving town." On checking further, it seems the seller had obtained the dog from the pound.

All was well until Louise Hesketh happened to pass a parked car in which Bismark, or London, was happily sitting waiting for his owner to return from shopping.

The Hesketh family is demanding the return of the dog with the dual identity, but refuses to pay the McMillan family the \$800 paid for London. In the meantime, the shepherd spends alternating weeks with each family.

An almost identical case of mixed dog ownership recently went through the California courts recently. The judge ruled that the dog in this case be given equal visitation rights, spending one month at a time with each family.

### PETICARE? PETICAID?

Cat Fancy and Dog Fancy magazines did a reader survey and one of the questions asked was, "Do you feel there should be federally funded pet medical assistance for pet owners below certain income levels?" Well, 78 percent of the readers said "yes," and 19 percent said "no," and only 3 percent were undecided.

### Deadly disease may be worse this year.

Heartworm is a canine killer. And veterinarians and dog owners across the country are being warned to prepare all dogs for intense exposure to heartworm disease in 1982. The unusually heavy rains and snows of this winter will produce ideal conditions for the spread of this dreaded disease this spring and summer.

Heartworms are small earthworm-like parasites that invade the heart and major arteries of the lungs, primarily in dogs and related species. Symptoms appear so gradually that it is often difficult to detect until the animal is so seriously affected that treatment may be difficult and extensive.

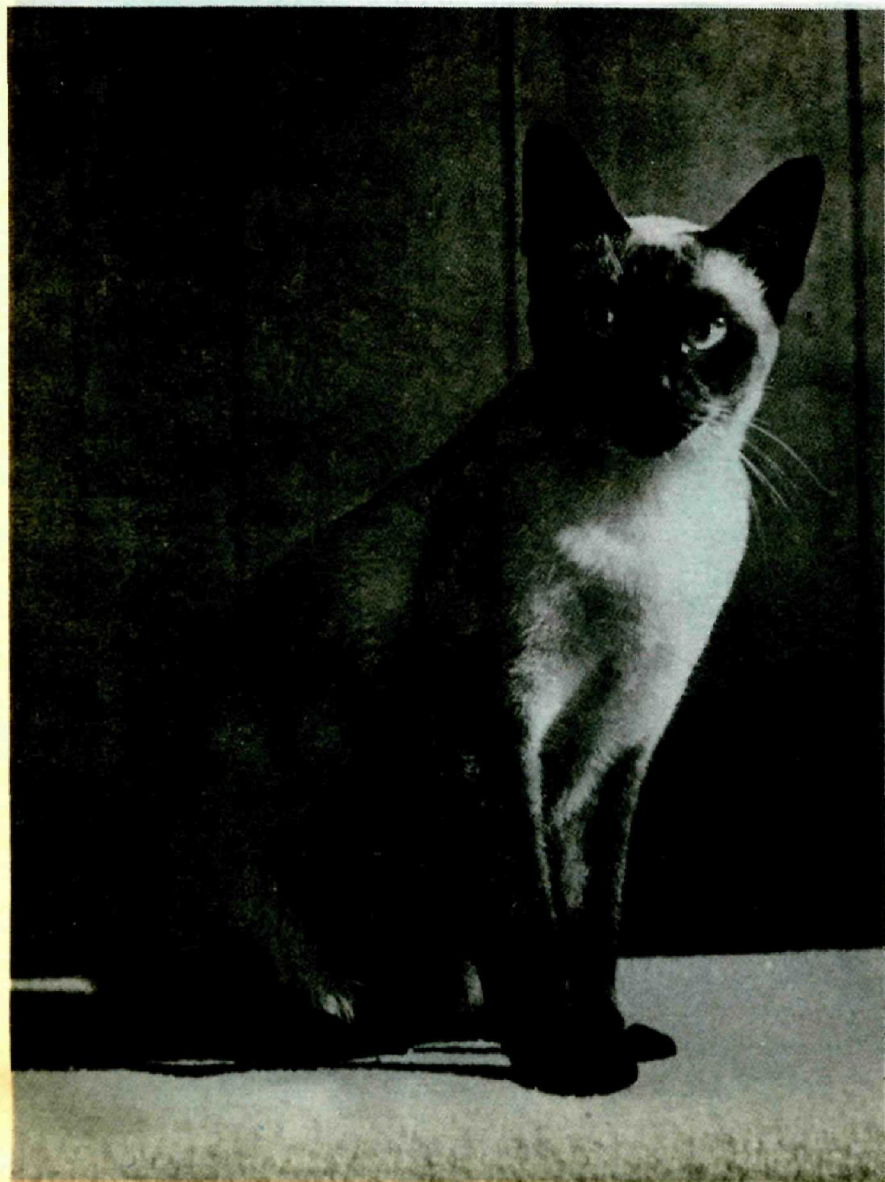
The disease begins when microscopic heartworm larvae are injected into a dog through the bite of a mosquito. The mosquito is the carrier, taking it from a diseased animal and injecting other healthy dogs.

The severe winter the country has just experienced has created much more wetlands and marshy ground than in normal for the coming spring. As a result, the mosquito population will be greatly increased. With more hungry mosquitoes available to transmit heartworm larvae, veterinarians are being urged to lay in a good store of drugs to combat the disease.

There is a testing procedure to detect the presence of larvae in a dog before the large adult worms develop and start producing heart failure. When discovered early, heartworm can be eliminated in dogs quite safely.

In areas where mosquitoes are present for many months, an inexpensive drug can be given to dogs to prevent larvae from invading even if the dog is bitten by a heartworm-carrying mosquito.

The American bison was one of the first endangered species to be rescued from near extinction. Its population has risen from 551 in 1889 to about 10,000 today.



*Studies of this cat and others may someday lead to the use of a potent anti-cancer substance for humans. The substance has already been isolated in the blood of cats, and scientists are working to find a similar virus-cancer association in humans.*

Researchers at the Animal Medical Center in New York City have isolated a potent anti-cancer substance from the blood of cats. Called fibronectin, the product produced a significant regression of lymphatic cancer and leukemia in a preliminary test in cats and dogs.

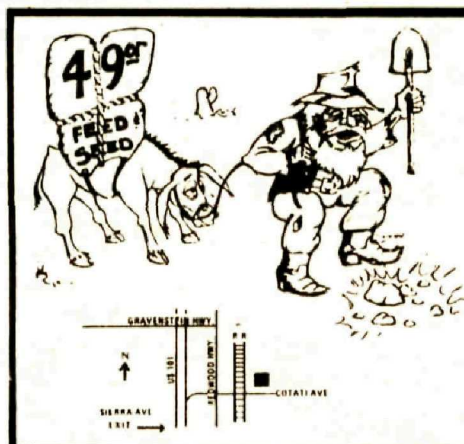
There is also strong evidence that fibronectin is present in human blood, also. Further clinical testing of fibronectin in cats may lead to its eventual application to people.

A similar major breakthrough came several years ago when veterinary researchers discovered a virus which causes leukemia, lymphosarcoma, anemia, and other diseases in cats. Since that time, intensive study has been underway to similar virus-cancer association in man.

The feline leukemia can readily be detected by a laboratory test in the veterinary office. The test is sensitive enough to detect the virus before there are any signs of dis-

ease. When found early enough, chemotherapy can be used to gain remissions. Pet cats have had their lives extended significantly by early detection and treatment for lymphosarcoma and leukemia. The accumulation of knowledge being gained by increasingly routine treatment of animal cancers by veterinarians will greatly aid human cancer researchers. Very often, effective cancer treatments are available for pets before they are approved for widespread use in humans.

Knowledge gained by veterinarians who treat cancer in their general practices will eventually prove invaluable to their human medical counterparts.



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# Make your back yard a bird haven . . .

Spring may be just around the corner, but Ol' Man Winter is still in control for a while and this is the time when he makes it the toughest of all for wild birds. By now they have just about exhausted the last of the meager winter food supplies. And this is when many humans take pity on the hungry little foragers and start stocking bird feeders.

Bird feeders can be fun for you and a real bonanza for birds. But a little planning can make it a better experience for both you and the birds.

You don't have to limit yourself to formal feeders to attract birds. There are dozens of trees, bushes, shrubs, and vines that you can plant that will attract and feed your feathered friends. For instance, a few sunflowers planted in a corner of your yard will add color, attract birds, and provide a great source for food. Check with your nurseryman for the varieties that are appropriate for your area.

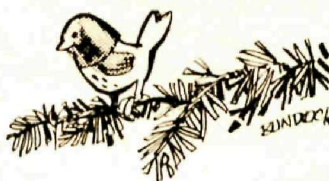
Remember that water should also be provided. And you can help out by providing an assortment of nest building materials. Bits of old string, yarn and cloth hung from a tree limb will be welcomed as a part of their nest-building projects.

Plan to erect your feeders in an area that will not be close to mowing, spraying, burning, or trimming areas that will frighten away your bird callers. and, of course, plan your feeders so that they will not be accessible to cats and other predators. Mounting your feeder on a greased metal pole may be the safest.

Whatever feeder you choose, remember that it must shelter the food from rain and moisture, or the food will mildew and rot.

Attracting wild birds can be rewarding, but not without a few problems. If you have large picture windows you will find birds crashing into them with some deadly results. You can avoid this by taping a silhouette of predator bird such as a falcon or owl on the glass. They can be easily made out of simple construction paper.

Once you start feeding wild birds you have accepted a responsibility. Your new guests may become dependent on you and alter their normal life style because of the ready availability of food. If you start a feeding program, you should be determined to continue it. If you plan to be away for any



length of time, make arrangements for someone else to take over while you are gone. More than one feeder will attract more birds and help to keep the larger more aggressive birds, such as jays, from "hogging" the feeder from the smaller birds. An easy way to spread the feeding and distract marauding squirrels and rodents is an ear of corn impaled on a nail protruding from the trunk of a tree.

Now to the actual food itself. You can actually determine the kinds of birds you may attract by the type of food you offer. There are, however, a couple of all-time favorites that will have a wide appeal to just about all birds. Suet, which can just be hung from a net bag (like a potatoe or onion bag) is always a winner. And sunflower seeds are quite universal in appeal. You will find these seeds much less expensive when purchased in the bulk, 50 or a 100 pounds at a time at your feed store. A word of caution, though. They are also very appealing to a variety of rodents and should be stored in something like a metal garbage can.

## RECIPE:

Millet and wheat attracts: goldfinch, purple finch, bobwhite, dove, and sparrows.

Cracked corn: pheasant, titmouse, bluejay, chickadee, bobwhite, cardinal.

Sunflower seed: bluejay, woodpecker, bobwhite, cardinal, chickadee, titmouse.

Oats: bobwhite, chickadee, ruffed grouse, mourning dove.

Beef suet: mockingbird, woodpecker, starling, chickadee, titmouse

Shelled corn: wild turkey, blue jay, grackle, cardinal, grouse, pheasant.

Other favorites are peanut butter, sliced apples or oranges, raisins and bread crumbs. They will attract a wide variety of feathered gourmets to your feeders. Now that you have the most popular feeding spot around you can further enhance your pleasure by obtaining a bird guide book and start logging all the different species that come to visit.

## Know your enemy The flea

### UNWELCOME GUESTS

"But, Doctor, my dog can't have fleas. I never see any on him." That familiar complaint is heard hundreds of times by veterinarians all over the country. Meanwhile, the poor dog is biting and scratching and chewing at itself.

Perhaps you don't see any fleas on your pet. They are tiny and very quick in their movements . . . and don't spend all their time on the dog. But your house may very well be literally crawling with these bothersome pests without you knowing it.

Fleas don't like extreme cold and, especially in the winter months, seek the warmth and comfort of your home. Thick carpets are a wonderful place to spend the winter. Overstuffed furniture is another good spot. Baseboards and moldings make good homes for fleas. And, of course, the bedding of your dog.

Another good winter resort is inside your vacuum cleaner! Fleas get sucked up into the vacuum when you clean the rugs and, once there amidst the lint and dog hair, settle down to raise their families in cozy comfort.

It does little good to spray or powder Bowser when hundreds of fleas are happily reproducing throughout your house. They may avoid the dog for a while, that's not a big problem for a flea. It can survive for as long as four months without eating, and by that time the powder or spray is long gone. And one female flea can produce hundreds of eggs in your carpet. The eggs hatch in only a couple of days and the complete life cycle takes only about three weeks. If you spot one flea on your dog you can be sure that there are hundreds more elsewhere, with more on the way.

If your dog scratches and itches, the chances are fair that it is a host for fleas. Roll it over on its back and examine the crotch and belly areas. Those tiny little red splotches are left over from flea bites. Sometimes you can even spot the tiny flea "dirt" left by these pesky insects.

This is the perfect time to get a "handle" on the flea problem before the warm weather arrives and the fleas really begin to multiply rapidly. You can rid the dog bedding of these pests by just putting them through the laundry. Sprays and powders can be used on carpeting and furniture and other nesting areas. Help lay your battle plans with the assistance of your veterinarian. He can suggest a program that may get rid of those unwelcome guests by springtime.



## Choosing a kennel. . . Planning now saves problems later



All basset hounds look sad. But his one may be even sadder than usual. His owners are busily laying vacation plans . . . that include a stint at the local kennel for their canine family member. But, with a little help from the experts, going to a kennel needn't be such a grim experience.

### BORED BY BOARD

As the first small signs of spring appear people start to plan and dream of vacations, long weekends and holidays. Happy days for humans, but not always for their pets.

Vacation plans should also include plans for your pets during that time away from home. And now isn't too early to start. Choosing the best boarding kennel will take some time and just before you leave isn't the time to do it.

Here are a few hints from the experts on making your pet's stay away from home worry-free.

Ask around about boarding facilities. Ask your friends, the local humane society, and your veterinarian. (Many veterinarians prefer not to board healthy animals for vacations.)

After making up a list of recommended kennels call and make reservations to tour them. Most respectable kennel owners will be happy to show you around, by appointment. Do their guests seem happy and clean? Is the kennel staffed all the time? Are any heated facilities provided for dogs who might require them? Are the kennel runs large enough to provide some play and exercise area? Ask questions.

Many of the better kennels offer

some special exercise or walking privileges at a reasonable extra cost. This can help break up the boredom of confinement while you are away. Consider some training while the dog is there. For a small extra fee your dog may learn a few manners that will make him more enjoyable when you return. This extra activity will also help the time pass more quickly while you are gone.

But, good kennels are often booked up during all the peak times of the year. When you find the kennel that you feel is right for your canine family member make your reservation well in advance, to avoid disappointment later. Secure your reservation with a deposit.

Don't quibble with price. Usually, you get what you pay for. And the boarding rate for most good kennels is a bargain, if you compare it with the cost of a motel or hotel for yourself.

Make sure that your pet is current on all vaccinations. Many kennels require proof of current vaccinations before accepting a dog. And, of course, be sure that your dog's parvo virus shot is up-to-date. With a little planning you can enjoy your vacation, knowing that Bowser is safe, healthy, and happy while you are away.

## HELP

It's hard to relate to millions or trillions of dollars. We can understand a bill for \$50 for utilities or \$30 at the supermarket. Or a \$100 bill at the veterinarian. But billions for some remote government project is beyond the scope of most of us.

Unfortunately, many older folks on fixed incomes even find it hard to relate to the \$100 veterinarian bill for the care of a pet.

If you don't have it, and don't know where you are going to get it, even a hundred dollars is an impossible dream. The only reality is that it may be necessary for the continued health and existence of your pet.

But where do you get it? Do you stop paying for light and heat? Do you stop buying groceries?

It's hard to appreciate spending millions of dollars for space exploration or to develop a new agricultural program for some country that you have never heard of. It's really hard when you can't scrape up the few dollars needed to help your pet that may be your only friend and companion in this world.

That's where the Animal Health Foundation would like to help. For only a few dollars they can provide essential veterinarian care for the pets of the elderly who have no other sources of income. These dollars sometimes make the difference between losing or keeping the only companionship of some of our needy, older citizens.

Living alone is tough. Living on a fixed low income is tough. But, the love, affection and companionship of a pet can make each day rich and rewarding.

Would you like to help? Donations to the Animal Health Foundation go a long way, because concerned veterinarians also help with donations of their time and service. We're concerned with helping make life worthwhile for these pet-owning senior citizens. Millions of tax dollars have already gone to lavish space programs. We are only asking for a few down-to-earth dollars to life here. Your contribution, small or large, can make the difference between a lonely solitary existence or a life warmed by the loving companionship of a pet.

Contributions of any amount will help. Send to: The Animal Health Foundation, care of Today's Animal News, 2002 Fourth St., Santa Rosa, Calif., 95404. Your gift could make the difference!

## Car cougar claws child

Everything went wrong at a Pittsburgh auto show featuring a live cougar to promote Lincoln-Mercury products.

"Tom-Tom", a trained 130-pound cougar was being led into a convention hall when it spotted two boys running. The big cat broke away from trainer Dawn Stader and jumped on one of the boys, 9-year-old James Seals.

The child was severely bitten and mauled before an off-duty police officer shot and killed the animal. It took doctors about three hours to stitch up and repair the boy's wounds, which were mostly around the throat.

Stader was arrested when she attacked the policeman, kicking him in the groin after he had killed the cat.

Michael Steel, son of the owner of Tom-Tom, was also arrested for disorderly conduct. He maintained that he could have stopped the cat from injuring the boy, but was blocked in his efforts by a crowd of screaming, kicking people who excited the cougar.

Steele claimed that this was the first accident in 10 years of handling the big cats.

Don't bring a load of blankets, toys, dishes and equipment with your dog to the kennel. They have their own, and would rather not have to look after yours. If your pet has a favorite ball or bone, bring it along as long as you don't care if you don't get it back.

Remember, there are kennels and kennels. They aren't all the same. A big ad in the newspaper or telephone book doesn't mean a kennel is better.

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*Even the dead of winter doesn't stop this water-loving golden retriever from taking a plunge in the icy water. However, any dog should be thoroughly dried after a swim or bath in cold weather.*

*Both you and your pet are more prone to a variety of ills during extremely cold weather. Keep him warm and dry, provide a cold weather diet and plenty of exercise, advise the pet-care experts.*

#### HEIMLICH MANEUVER

The lifesaving Heimlich Maneuver, which is used to dislodge a foreign object from the throat of a choking human, can also be used on dogs and cats. Place your fist against the abdomen slightly below the rib cage, grasp it with the hand, and press tightly with a sharp upward thrust. The burst of sudden air from the compressed lungs will pop out the object clogging the airways. Naturally, injuries might result if you thrust too hard with a small animal, but a cracked rib is preferable to a dead animal.

#### BIGGER IS BETTER

Have you noticed the great increase in 13-ounce size catfood cans on your supermarket shelves? Well, Carnation Co., makers of Bright Eyes brand, started the trend and other companies were quick to follow suit.

Carnation did a mini-study and discovered that 75 percent of all pet cats live in homes with more than one cat in residence. Carnation took a fling at marketing the larger can instead of the traditional 6-ounce can... and it's paying off.

#### THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Dogs in France may smell a lot nicer than dogs in America because dog owners in France have access to Monsieur Chien (Mister Dog), a perfume formulated especially for the French canine world. It's made by Laboratories Alfamed and has been selling "quite successfully" in France for several years, according to an article in DVM magazine.

It was about ready to be introduced in the United States, selling fancy pet shops in Beverly Hills, Miami Beach, Palm Springs and Manhattan. But the French company got entangled in bureaucratic red tape on this side of the Atlantic and plans were called off. It seems the canine perfume ran afoul of custom regulations (Is it a cosmetic or veterinary product?) and rigid rules concerning product labels and standards were too much for the French company.

But if you ever get to France you can buy it over there. It comes in a fancy leather case, is packaged in a spray bottle, and retails for about \$13. But, you'll have to dicker with U.S. customs officials as to its category... they haven't decided what it is yet.

Meanwhile stick the fragrant shampoos available here.

The first decoration for bravery was a cat. It was the award Mohammed bestowed on courageous soldiers 900 years ago.

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MESSAGE \_\_\_\_\_



Dear Editor:

I am writing you in defense of the North American School of Sciences. As a student and graduate of Animal Sciences, I assume I am qualified to inform your readers of the fine qualities of the North American School of Sciences.

1. Their courses are updated in all areas and are an "accredited" school commended by the National Home Study Council and the National Wildlife Federation.

2. The school, in the past, has helped support the **Todays Animal Health**, which has merged with **Animal News** because of financial difficulties, has recommended both publications for updated reading on animals. I assume they also help support your "new look". (I know I do!) along with many other publications.

3. By taking the North American School of Science courses on animals I, personally, have been able to upgrade my job status. I now work as a Laboratory Technician in research and development, from a \$10,000 annual to a \$14,000 job.

The school does not promise you a high paying job, but they do promise you the knowledge to help you acquire one. I am 45 years young and am living proof that with the assistance of a fine accredited school as the North American School of Sciences and a desire to care, work hard, and tend to the needs of animals one can accomplish one's desire through a home study course, regardless of age, sex, etc. I highly recommend the North American School of Sciences and I know I'm backed by the National Wildlife Federation.

Sincerely, Geraldine Morgan

Dear Editor:

It's time the subject of "uncared for dogs" in Sonoma County is mentioned.

Owning a dog is a BIG responsibility! Giving them love, training, feeding and keeping them safe at home or when out in public on a leash - - these are basic responsibilities of a pet owner.

If you really care for your pet, teach him to obey on command and he will be much more of a pleasure to have around you. When you and your dog are away from home, keep him leashed at all times. It's no fun to spread your picnic lunch out on the sand and find fecal matter laying about or a dog running through your picnic lunch. Or to read in the newspaper where sheep or lambs have been killed by a "pet dog" that was allowed to roam. Harm can come to a dog that has been let out to run at night. Seems such a shame to see a beautiful dog that was hit by a car during the night while you're driving to work.



It all goes back to being a responsible pet owner, and having respect for other people's property. Give your dog the same care you would give to your child. You wouldn't put your child out the door to run through the neighborhood at night.

Betty Mann

Dear Betty,

We have to agree completely, except that your message need not be directed at any one county or state. The problem, unfortunately, exists throughout our country.

Editor.

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on the peppy cartoons showing the best way to install a pet in a boarding kennel when leaving town. The suggestions were intelligent and reasonable.

But why go to all that trouble when the simplest solution to the problem is a housesitter who comes to the home and cares for the pets exactly as you do?

It's shocking enough for the pet to have his master disappear without having to change his entire environment!

And communicable diseases are often undetected in even the best boarding kennels until too late.

Housesitting enables pets to stay at home where they are most content. In addition, the housesitters water the plants, take in the mail and deter burglars!

For more information on the possibilities of housesitting: How to get a good housesitter, or how to set up and run a housesitting business, write to Housesitter Security Service., 1708 E. 9th St., Tucson, Az., 85719.

Jane Poston.

An interesting alternative that will, I'm sure, get a response from the boarding kennel operators.

Editor.

Dear Mr. Bundock:

I enjoyed your article, "Bring 'em Back Alive!", in **Todays Animal News**, and I was wondering if it is possible to obtain prints of Jack Dumas's paintings, particularly the migrating geese shown on page 6.

Your assistance would be much appreciated (Canadian geese are my favorite birds).

Sincerely, Edwin E. Rosenblum-

Dear Ed:

We have had considerable response to the beautiful paintings of Mr. Dumas. Several of his paintings are available in print form. For more information you may contact the artist directly: John L. Dumas, Dog Run Road, Occidental, Calif.

Editor:

In your issue of **Todays Animal News**, I was reading through the article "Dog Talk", which was on dog dental care. I'm a technician for a local doctor and it kind of surprised me as I read the article. In a sense bones were being recommended to help keep dogs' teeth clean of tartar and scale build-up. This seems a little odd to me because most abdominal surgery I've seen is due to a bone or a piece of bone that has been swallowed and lodged somewhere inside the dog. I have seen many problems because owners give their dogs bones from just being just hung up inside the mouth, to actually being swallowed and presenting a very serious surgical problem. I'm sure there are many other ideas and things that could have been recommended. I know my own pet doesn't get any bones and he's got a perfect smile!

T. Schalles, Modesto, Calif.

Dear Animal News:

In your Nov. 1981 issue there was a photo of Bill Cosby with a short article beneath. Please be advised that a portion of the first sentence, second paragraph is incorrect in that he currently shows Lakeland terriers, not miniature schnauzers, at dog shows across the country. He has one retired champion miniature schnauzer. Correction of this statement at the earliest would be appreciated. Thanks much.

Captain J. L. Heath, USN (ret)

Dear Captain (ret.) We stand corrected regarding the miniature schnauzer of Mr. Cosby (ret.).

Editor.

Richard Glassberg, D.V.M., **Todays Animal News**

Dogs can be as irrational as humans, and their actions are dictated by emotion. Beatrice Lydecker, a California-based animal psychologist, understands this

bestly behavior. And, for a fee, she can psychoanalyze anyone's canine.

Oh, so you think this is another Southern California quake? Well, Lydecker has appeared on several national television talk shows. She has written numerous books, and is scheduled to host her own show soon. Still unconvinced?

A reporter, who wrote an article for the Salt Lake City Desert News, was skeptical herself. But when Lydecker told the reporter that Max, the dog she brought in, missed its playmate and hated some obnoxious dogs in its neighborhood, the journalist was astonished. Lydecker had never met Max before, but the analysis was correct.

Lydecker has been in this business for quite a while. The first time she learned of her ability, she was petting a German Shepherd and sensed a feeling of "rejection and depression."

Later she discovered that the dog's owner had just started to go back to work following an injury that had kept him home several months, and, that same day, his son began nursery school. This left the dog home alone for the first time in its life.

Over a decade has passed and she still will receive an "indulgent smile or a quizzical look" when she reveals her occupation. That doesn't bother her, however, because she seems to think such pessimists can just go to the dogs.

Richard Ausberry, W. Lafayette, Indiana

### Millions are spent for veterinary care

There is no doubt that with the cost of veterinary hospitals at nearly \$100 per square foot and an average equipment investment of \$25,000 to \$50,000, plus the skyrocketing costs of personnel, drugs, supplies and of course such items as insurance the profession is concerned with the rising costs of veterinary care and is searching for all possible solutions.

Many veterinarians hope the answer may be an effective pet health insurance plan. CVSC plans to offer such a program by this summer.

Most pet owners are covered by some form of health and accident insurance. But what about their pets? A serious illness or accident to a family pet can present a major financial crisis for most pet owners. California Veterinary Services Corporation is a new group that hopes to be able to offer the average pet owner reasonably priced protection against such emergencies.

We at Animal News would appreciate any comments you might have in regard to such a program.



Are you a pet poisoner? Hundreds of dogs and cats are poisoned every year by gardening enthusiasts who get carried away with spring planting fever. American veterinarians warn that consideration must be given to both the type of plant and chemicals used if your new spring garden is going to be safe for pets. Gardeners are cautioned to read the labels of any garden product before using. If you have doubts, check with your veterinarian first. And be sure the plants will not be poisonous. A beautiful garden is a thing of joy, but not if you also produce a health threat to your birds and animals.

## YOU & YOUR PET

### Dental Care: A Pet Concern.

From our earliest childhood we're taught the importance of good oral hygiene. Well, proper dental care is just as important for pets as it is for their owners.

Dogs and cats are both susceptible to dental problems. Without proper attention, plaque, tartar and, eventually, bacteria can accumulate and begin to cause damage to the teeth and gums.

Although cats may be less vulnerable to tooth decay than their canine counterparts, they can and do develop cavities. Food will accumulate in their small cheek pouches and cause tartar to build up more rapidly than normal. It's not unusual for a two-year-old cat to have excessive tartar or periodontal disease—even though his front teeth may look perfectly healthy.

Be on the lookout for warning signals from your dog or cat. If you notice bad breath, swollen gums or loose teeth, contact your veterinarian. Better yet, make sure your dog or cat gets regular dental check-ups starting at about two to three months of age.

Maintenance of complete dental services (including routine gum work, extractions and general teeth cleaning) is just one of the standards that Member Hospitals of the American Animal Hospital Association must fulfill. For more information about proper dental care for your pet, contact your nearest AAHA Member Hospital. Or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to AAHA for a copy of our special brochure entitled "Dental Care."



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Dedicated to improving  
the quality of life for your pet.

## CAT BOX

Cats have always been a second choice to dogs in American households, but the tide appears to be turning as cats gain in popularity and dogs appear to have reached a somewhat stabilized population. One household in four now is ruled by a cat. This is an increase of over fifty percent in the last twenty years.

There are thirty-four million cats in American households. There are forty-eight million dogs, but cats appear to be increasing while dogs just about hold the line.

Want to balance the national budget? Maybe our cats could help. Thirty-four million cats eat a million tons of cat food each year. Now, if each cat only contributed five dollars...

If it seems as though all you do is empty the kitty litter box, don't feel bad. You are not alone. Americans spend one hundred and eighty-nine million dollars every year on cat box filler.

If the cost of cat food seems high to you, consider this: Americans spend \$1.4 billion dollars on cat food each year.

Only 20 percent of the cats in our households are from the show-type breeds. The remaining cats are the common mixed breeds and "domestic shorthairs." But the twenty percent are active, with almost 450 cat show each year.

The average cat weighs about 10 pounds. The average dog weighs three times that amount. But who rules the household? You guessed it.

The owners of a cat named Pooh moved from their home in Georgia to a new home in South Carolina. When the move took place, Pooh had wandered off, and they left without him. But the determined Pooh showed up at the new home a year later.

The ancient Egyptians thought so much of their cats that they had them mummified at death and interred with mummified mice for a quick snack on their way to their cat heaven.

## Winter rains make summer problems

This year's heavy storms have dumped some record amounts of moisture across the U.S. And the aftermath of the storms will pose some new problems for dog owners this spring, warn veterinarians. The drenching rains and snow are leaving expanded swamp and marshland areas that will provide additional spawning ground for mosquitoes that transmit the deadly heartworm disease to dogs.

The disease, carried from one canine to another by mosquitoes, can be fatal if not treated. Veterinarians point out that dog owners can have their dogs tested for heartworm, and that early diagnosis is important.

Dogs who may be exposed to mosquitoes may be given an effective preventative medicine, but should be tested beforehand.

While heartworm was originally pretty well isolated to a few southern states it has slowly spread across the nation and can now be a threat to almost all dogs.

## Parvo good news and bad news

There is good news and bad news for dog owners. The bad news is that canine parvovirus will be back again this spring. As the weather warms up and travel increases, so will outbreaks of this often fatal virus.

The good news is that veterinarians expect to see fewer epidemic outbreaks of the virus, because of greatly improved vaccines now available. When the virus was first isolated in 1978 both treatment and protective vaccines were pretty much experimental. Now drug manufacturers are starting to get an effective "handle" on the protective vaccines.

The other bad news is that many pet owners started vaccination programs and, when fewer outbreaks were reported, failed to continue vaccinations. Preventative shots must be continued, if the dog is to remain protected. Very young puppies and canine senior citizens are the prime target for the virus.

## SHEDDING, SHEDDING, SHEDDING...

Many dog owners bemoan the fact that their homes are littered with hair. Better they should be grateful, for a shedding dog is often a healthy dog.

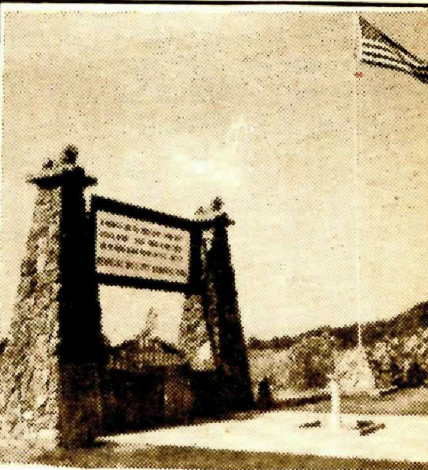
A healthy dog produces a new hair for each follicle about every six months. In an unhealthy dog, hair growth is slowed, or finer hairs using less materials are produced as the body devotes its materials and energies to fight off disease or try to correct some internal unbalance.

Naturally, hair loss creating bald spots or just an overall thin coat, indicate something else, usually a flea infestation or inadequate nourishment. Lack of essential foods will cause hair loss beyond normal shedding and produce an unsightly appearance if not corrected. Hypothyroidism, a lack of thyroid hormones, will produce excessive shedding.

Dogs with skin problems: scratching, biting and pulling out of hair, can usually be traced to a flea bite allergy. Fleas do not have to be on the dog to cause an allergy, remember. It's the flea saliva injected by the pest and circulated in the bloodstream that causes the itching all over the poor dog, not just the bite site itself.

If your dog is shedding, scratching, and chewing itself, a trip to the veterinarian is probably in order.

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## AHF needs YOU!

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Your contribution will support the following activities:

1. Provide needed veterinary help to animals belonging to low income owners.
2. Distribution of educational material to schools, libraries, and humane organizations.
3. Rescue programs for endangered wildlife.
4. Support research into the causes and treatment of crippling lameness in horses.
5. Study methods of more effectively detecting and treating cancer in animals.
6. Directors Fund. Special scholarships and grants will be awarded to especially important animal programs that are brought to the attention of the AHF Board Of Directors.

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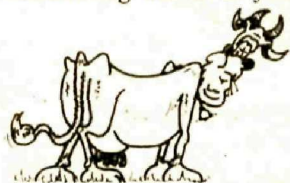
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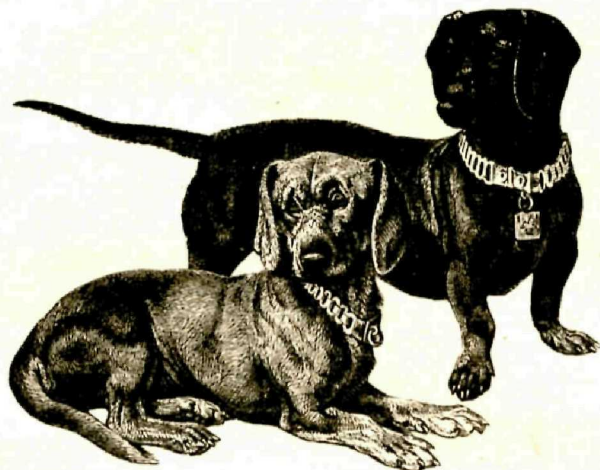


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## Poor Little Rich Dogs

Guards and barbed wire keep out the public at this highly protected kennel in Florida. Inside are housed the eight wealthiest dogs in America. They are the heirs to an oil fortune worth about \$12 million. Just the interest of the estate accumulates at around \$3,000 per day. They should be able to afford just about anything, except happiness.

When Eleanor Ritchey died, the wealthy spinster, and Quaker State Oil heiress, left a will directing that her millions be used to build a utopia for homeless canines. She had already adopted about 150 stray dogs, picked up from the streets of Fort Lauderdale, and planned to care for about 1,000 others. Her plans included a full staff of canine experts to care for the waifs.

When Ritchey died, about 13 years ago, her burial was attended only by her banker and Mark Strong, an employee who worked with her in collecting homeless dogs. Strong has operated her home for dogs on a slim budget since her death. He receives a \$10 per week annuity from her will.

In contrast, the bank appointed as executor has claimed almost a million and a half dollars from the estate. Relatives have taken another couple of millions, and the will has had some stormy and expensive sessions in court in an attempt to break it.

In the meantime, the poor, rich dogs wait out their declining years in cages. Outside visitors are a rarity. It is a lonely life of isolation. When the last dog dies the estate will go to a research foundation and a dream will end.

## 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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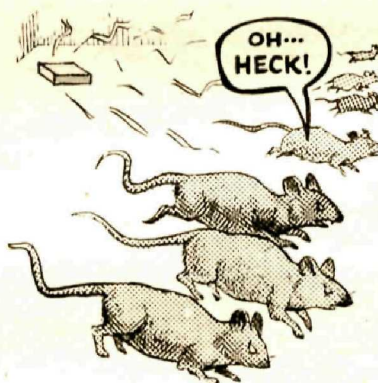
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