

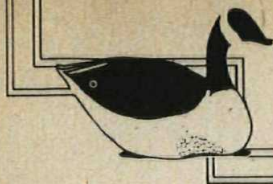
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CONTENTS

Castration a cure?	5
Dog bite quiz	5
Feeding facts and fallacy	7
Avoiding cat bites	8
Vaccine failures	11
New products	13
Open wide	16
Worth reading	17
From the veterinary front	19
A new Dawn in art	26



Simple surgery cures biting... (sometimes)

By Joel Blumberg, DVM

Aggressiveness is a natural trait in male dogs. A normal male will mark his territory by urinating on bushes, fence posts, tires, fire hydrants, etc. A normal male will often chase other mature males away from his territory. A normal male will try to wander off in search of females.

In some pets the male traits are exaggerated and the animal is overly aggressive. Instead of protecting the yard from an occasional canine intruder, he will go after humans who are innocently in the vicinity, such as mailmen, joggers, neighbors, or houseguests. And, of course, garbage men are always prime targets.

This excessive male behavior can often be corrected simply and safely by castration. The male hormone (testosterone) will gradually disappear from the dog's system within three weeks of the operation. There is usually a corresponding reduction in aggressive behavior to the point that the pet can be trusted again.

The normal instincts of protecting the family from unwanted intruders, tracking, retrieving, etc., are still intact. It's only the excessive characteristics that are curbed.

Castration is not a substitute for good training. It's not a magic cure.

But for most owners of problem males it can spell the difference between an enjoyable pet and owning a "time bomb." The surgery fee is certainly a whole lot less than a trip to the hospital with your child or a lawsuit from your neighbor.

(Neutering works just fine for aggressive tom cats also.)

How much do you really know about biting dogs?

What with all the news articles and graphic television features dealing with dog bites, how many real facts have you obtained?

The editors of Todays Animal News give you a chance to test your knowledge at a true-false quiz:

1. Purebred dogs are "high-strung" and are therefore more likely to bite. True ☐ False ☐

2. Dogs that are raised close to the family and kept free of emotional stress will not become biters.

True ☐ False ☐

3. Those military and police attack dogs are extremely vicious.

True ☐ False ☐

4. Spaying a dog makes it mean.

True ☐ False ☐

5. If you strike a dog when it is young it will grow up to be mean.

True ☐ False ☐



6. Distemper is an especially severe form of aggressiveness.

True ☐ False ☐

7. It's normal for a dog to snarl and growl when guarding his bone or food dish, so you should let him alone. True ☐ False ☐

8. Growling when people come near a litter is normal for a bitch and it not cause for alarm.

True ☐ False ☐

9. Not letting a male dog have sex will make him mean.

True ☐ False ☐

10. Eating raw meat gives dogs a "taste for blood."

True ☐ False ☐

11. If a non-aggressive dog starts playing with others it can become a biter. True ☐ False ☐

ANSWERS TO BITING DOG QUIZ

1. **False.** Planned, close breeding is just as likely to "lock in" good traits as bad. Serious breeders can develop lines of dogs with super personalities . . . if they intelligently plan for it.

2. **False.** Dogs reared in overly protective environments frequently bite out of fear when confronted by anything "new," such as your child's playmate. Dogs should be exposed to as many situations and people as possible as they grow up.

3. **False.** Those highly trained military and police dogs are trained to stop an attack as well as begin it. Such intense responsiveness to a trainee's commands requires an animal that is naturally keenly tuned in to people. These dogs' normal personalities are usually very outgoing and relaxed.

4. **False.** Spaying has little effect on aggressiveness, except to make a few dogs more gentle.

5. **False.** Appropriate firm discipline is absolutely necessary to raise a dependable, obedient dog. Remember, dogs are still psychologically "pack" animals. In the pack the leaders maintain order by promptly wrestling socially aggressive youngsters to the ground. Young dogs respond quickly to strong, fair discipline. When combined with praise the correct behavior you will have a socially adjusted, trustworthy pet.

HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY KNOW ABOUT BITING DOGS?

6. **False.** Distemper is the name of a viral disease which can affect the brain as well as other organs. A dog having a seizure from distemper may thrash around, but it doesn't get aggressive.

7. **True and false.** It may be normal for a dog to want to horde a bone or food, but it is not OK for you to put up with this behavior. Remember that a pup will respond to whatever his "pack leader" demands of him. Train a puppy right away that any human can take his food or toy (all humans should be above him in the "pack" order).

8. **True.** The strongest animal instinct is to protect the young at all costs. If your bitch growls when you come near the litter, give her some more room. The majority of bitches return to their normal personalities by the time their pups are weaned. (If she continues her aggressiveness then start some retraining.)

9. **False.** In fact, the more a dog is allowed to run loose and mate, the less responsive to people he tends to be.

10. **False.** It does give them a taste for more raw meat.

11. **True.** Dogs can take on entirely different personalities if they join ("pack") with other dogs. Dogs running in packs are generally more aggressive than solitary animals.

Senator presides over bird burial

U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond declined one prayer meeting to attend a more personal one — in his backyard. The Senator was scheduled to lead the prayer at a meeting of Southern Baptist Congressmen but sent his regrets when the pet bird his children had rescued died. Thurmond officiated at the family services for the wild bird instead.

In the news . . .

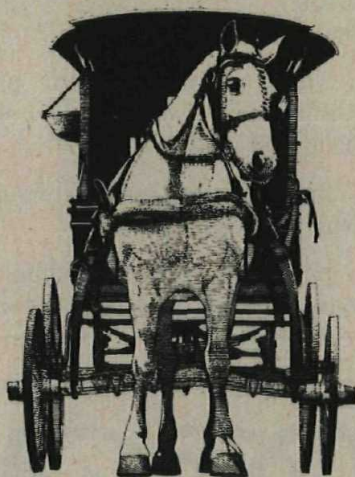
CANADA CLAIMS BEAR RECORD

Saskatchewan is claiming the record for the biggest bears in the world. Records were made to be broken and Calvin Parsons of Porcupine Plain broke all existing records when he killed a black bear whose head measured almost 23 inches. In the quest for records another Canadian, Henry Wesnoski of Moose Jaw, landed a sturgeon that weighed just short of 80 pounds.

LET THE PUNISHMENT FIT THE CRIME

A judge in Berlin, N.H. gave a man who abandoned four puppies a dose of his own medicine by way of punishment. The puppies were left at a local dump in 10 below zero weather. The owner of the puppies was sentenced to spend two nights at the same dump without shelter from the freezing weather. The puppies were adopted by local residents, including Berlin Mayor Leo Young.

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On point! Correct feeding practices pay off for pet owners, whether their dogs are used in a working sport (as this pointer) or whether they are house pets, explains Dr. Joel Drews, nutritionist for Wayne Pet Foods.

Feeding facts and fallacy . . .

TRICKS TO FEEDING YOUR DOG PROPERLY

There are some very new ideas in feeding dogs. Probably in no other area of dog care are there more old wives tales and misinformation. For example, it has been historically thought that dogs were really meat eaters, and many people mistakenly believe that they do best on an all-meat diet. However, this just isn't true.

Dogs are not pure carnivores and, indeed, they do best on a rather complicated formula that includes many necessary nutrients. Without one of these nutrients, the dog's overall well-being suffers.

According to Dr. Joel Drews, pet nutritionist at Wayne Pet Foods' Research and Development Center near Chicago, elaborate tests developed over a 50 year period at the center check for palatability, digestability, reproduction, growth rate, coat condition and utilization. Dry dog formulas can completely nourish and sustain the dog. Dry dog food and water are literally all that are necessary to provide the pet with complete nutrition for good health. The dog's digestive process and elimination are excellent indicators of its health and should be regularly observed.

All ages of dogs thrive on commercially prepared dog foods.

Researchers, like Wayne Pet Foods' Dr. Drews, have carefully tested dog food formulas to make sure they contain the proper nutritional balance of protein, energy, roughage, vitamins and minerals that a dog needs. Trying to feed your dog scraps from the table or attempting other homemade formulas will usually result in messy stools, improper nourishment, occasional vomiting, and a dog that soon forages for food. Another plus is that a commercial dog food diet is the most economical.

FOUR FEEDING PROBLEMS

Drews warns of four problems related to feeding that you should never permit to develop in your home:

1. The table beggar. At first, a puppy begging at the table is 'cute.' But in a short time, giving your dog table treats will create a dog that is a nuisance to guests. The dog will soon become a forager.

2. The forager. Feeding your dog table scraps, not following a regular feeding schedule, or not providing a well-balanced diet of professionally formulated dog food are sure ways to create a forager. The forager begins to scout around for food at the neighbors and in local garbage cans, and may even start to run in dog packs. You no longer have a pet. You have a menace.

3. The fat dog. It waddles, probably gets extras at the table, and is fed too generously. A proper feeding schedule and professionally balanced dog food will help your dog shed those excess pounds and lengthen his life. Female dogs and older dogs tend to get heavier, so watch them for signs of obesity.

4. The skinny dog. If you can see a couple of ribs just outlined under a glossy coat of hair, your dog is not skinny but healthy. A very skinny dog, on whom you can see the outline of its entire rib cage, is a sick dog. Take it to a veterinarian immediately.

Do-it-yourself projects are commendable. But in regard to your dog's nutrition, it's better to go with the experts who have developed the major commercial dog foods.



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Coping With The Biting Cat....

By Pam Blumberg

Scratches and bites . . . do they have to happen?

This year more than 10,000 cat owners will be bitten by their pets. Although we don't usually

think of the cat as a biting animal, a cat may bite, as well as scratch, when severely frightened or when very angry. However, many of these incidents can be prevented by taking a few precautions.

Normal handling . . .

The most important and obvious rule is, unless it is absolutely necessary, don't handle a frightened or angry cat. Wait for him to calm down and come to you. In many of these situations time is the cure. Most problems can be prevented by getting cats used to being handled, but you must start the process slowly. When you bring that new kitten home you need to be very patient and realize that it might be a few days before you and the children can really play with your new pet. He may need time to feel secure in the new surroundings before he is ready to be handled. If the little fellow crawls into a cabinet, leave him there. Leave the door open, place food, water, and litter box close by, and leave him alone. He **will** come out. If you reach in you may be bitten or scratched, not because he's a mean little devil, but because he is frightened and you are acting as an aggressor.

A good preventative measure against bad cat scratches is to start clipping your kitten's nails weekly as soon as you get him. This keeps his claws shorter and cleaner so if you do get scratched it won't be so serious. (It is a great help to your furniture, also.)

Handling injured cats requires preparation . . .

Of course, sometimes it is necessary to handle a distressed or injured cat. Let's say the cat in question has been hurt and you must pick him up, put him in your car, and take him to your veterinarian.

Develop a plan for handling the cat carefully before you proceed. Get a large towel or blanket and your carrying case and be ready to move quickly. If the cat is injured, but quite relaxed, you may be able to carefully lift him and gently place him in his case. However, if he is upset, and as you approach him he gives you warning, you must use your contingency plan. Throw the towel or blanket over him, quickly scoop him up and place him in the

case. Immediately shut the door and secure it. He will not suffocate.

Never forget that when you are trying to pick up a distressed or injured cat with a covering you must move very quickly. Do not scoop up the cat and then start looking for your carrier.

Giving medication . . .

I must admit that most of the scratches and bites that I have received from my cats have occurred when I was trying to medicate, treat, or bathe them. These are situations that have to be handled with a minimum of stress for you and your feline. If there is more than one of you, the job is easier, but if like me, you find yourself alone with Tiger and it is time for his penicillin tablet, you may have to resort to speed, accuracy, and the towel again. If you have not given a cat medication before, be sure to have your veterinarian or his technician demonstrate at the time of prescription. Briefly, you will hold his jaw open with one hand and pop the pill right down the hatch with the index finger of your other hand. Here again, speed is vital. Don't worry about Tiger choking. If he's conscious the pill will go down the right tube.

When treating wounds (the cat's, not yours) with peroxide, or with the topical antibiotic your veterinarian prescribed, revert back to those slow patient movements. I usually hold my cat first and reassure him, then proceed to treat the area gently. Remember, cats don't like pain either. If Tiger will not cooperate, have another person firmly grip the front paws in one hand and the back legs in the other while you treat the area.

It is unusual for a healthy cat to become aggressive and attack a person who is not threatening him. Most cat bite victims are bitten by their own pets while handling them, not by a strange feline in attack.

Naturally, if you do get bitten or scratched by a cat, clean the



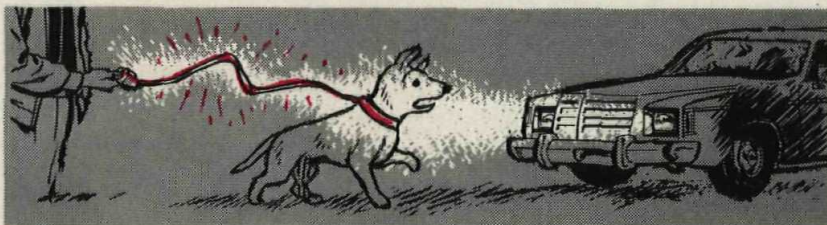
wound well and contact your physician if necessary, certainly if any swelling occurs.

A further protection to you and your loved ones is the rabies vaccine. Any cats that are not kept inside at all times should be vaccinated against this dreadful disease. The pain of a bite wound is unpleasant enough without adding the complications of possible rabies.

Part of cat's charm is his ability to surprise us at any given time. His unexpected reactions make him an interesting pet, and contrary to many old wives tales, most cats can be loving and loyal friends.

However, it is important to remember that in stressful situations the cat reverts to instinct. It is up to us to use common sense and act accordingly.

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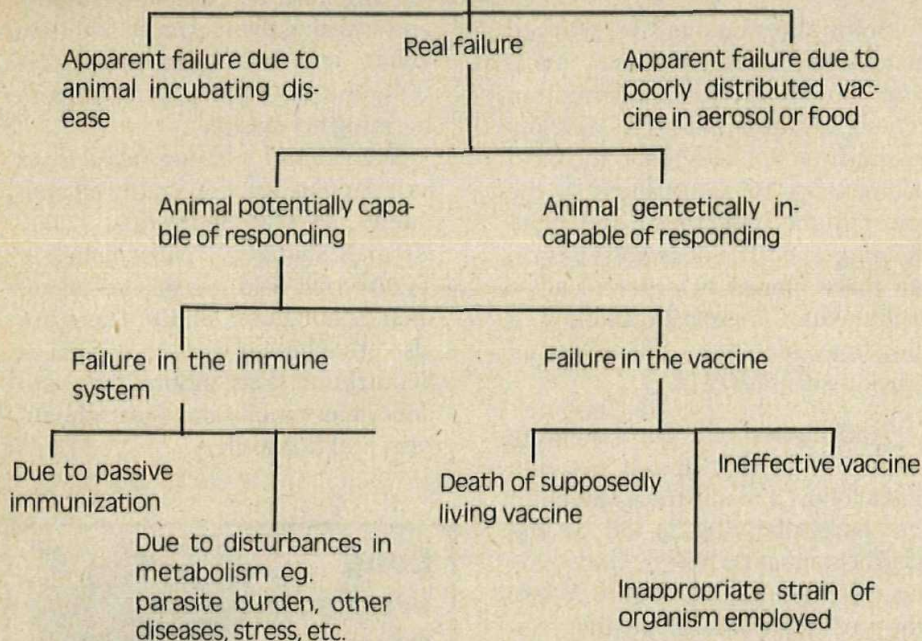
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Vaccination failures

A classification of possible reasons for the failure of a vaccine to protect an animal.



The old saying that "there is nothing absolute in medicine" is especially true when it comes to vaccinations. There is no such thing as a one hundred percent money-back iron clad guarantee that every single animal that gets a vaccine will never get the disease for which it was vaccinated.

So, why should pets (or people) bother to get their "shots"? The vast majority of animals do get protection. However, due to defects in some animals' immune system a small proportion will mount a very poor immune response. This latter group of animals may not be protected against infection in spite of the vaccination. Therefore, it is not probable that 100 percent of a random population of animals will be protected by vaccination. The size of this unreactive portion of the population will vary to the type of vaccine used.

When not to vaccinate...

Another group of apparent vaccine failures are due to factors which depress an otherwise normal immune system. This heavily parasitized or malnourished animal should not be vaccinated. Stress in general, including pregnancy, extremes of cold or heat, fatigue or

malnourishment will all inhibit the normal immune response.

The most important cause of vaccine failure of this type is due to the presence of passively derived maternal immunity in young animals. Antibodies are transferred from the mother to their young. These antibodies are called "passive" because they come from the mother and are not produced by any activity from the youngster's own immune system. These passive antibodies can

interfere with a vaccine. If these animals subsequently suffer from disease, this may be interpreted as a vaccine failure. Passive interference disappears between one and four months of age.

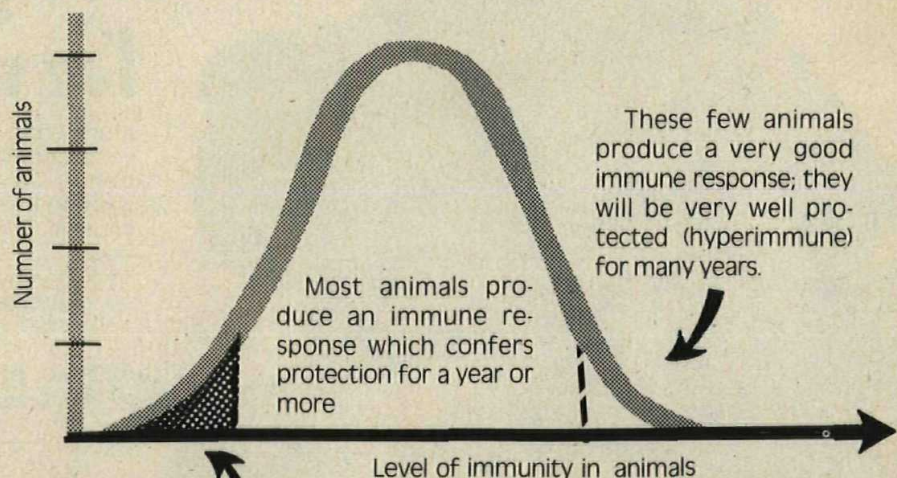
Less common causes...

Some less common causes or apparent vaccine failure may be ascribed to the possibility that the vaccinated animal was incubating the disease prior to inoculation; or to concurrent exposure at the time of vaccination; or to the death of supposedly live vaccine resulting from either poor storage, the use of antibiotics in conjunction with live bacterial vaccines, or the excessive use of alcohol while swabbing the skin, a procedure that may inactivate a virus vaccine.

It is apparent that there is a much greater likelihood that a failure is due to a variable in the vaccinated animal and not an ineffective vaccine.

So, is it worth having your animal vaccinated? YOU BET IT IS!

This article was prepared from information prepared by Fromm Laboratories, Inc.



These few animals produce a poor immune response and hence will be poorly protected.

Schutzhund

NOT A NEW BREED...

Schutzhund sounds like some new breed of dog, but is actually a form of dog training relatively new to the United States. It has enjoyed an enormous following in Europe for years. It's popularity here is growing tremendously. There are a variety of reasons for this: People feel a greater need for personal protection, and protection of their property and families. At the same time, they want a dog they know will provide a loving relationship, and still be a reliable family guardian.

A good Schutzhund dog answers these needs. He is a friendly and good natured member of the family, obedient and dependable companion, and reliable protector.

Schutzhund contests have been around since the 19th century in Europe. They were informal matches at first, then, in the early 1900's, Max von Stephanitz created a formal structure for evaluating the dogs in tracking, obedience and protection skills. He encouraged the use of these dogs by police departments and other authorities.

Schutzhund dogs are worked extensively in three phases: tracking, obedience, and protection. There are three phases of development, from Schutzhund 1, the most elementary, to Schutzhund 3, the most highly developed and challenging level. The dogs must pass in all three phases in order to get a Schutzhund degree. In addition, a dog may also earn an advanced tracking degree (F.H.).

Tracking tests the dog's scenting capacity. In this phase, the dog must follow a man's track and point out particular objects left on the trail. He must be able to find turns on the track and be able to follow the scent regardless of weather conditions, including rain, wind, or snow.

Obedience evaluates the dog's willingness to obey his master. He must follow his master's orders to heel, jump, retrieve, down, sit and other commands. The dog must not be intimidated by any distractions, including the sound of a gun or a group of strangers milling around.

The protection phase measures the dog's courage, self-assurance and dependability. In this segment the dog must be capable of finding and warning the master of a hidden villain, and then aggressively stopping the menacing person from harming his master.

Schutzhund training has spread as a popular sport on nearly all continents. In 1975, more than 37,000 German shepherds participated in 11,000 trials held for this testing of their Schutzhund ability. There are also other breeds that are trained as Schutzhund dogs, among these are doberman pinchers, giant schnauzers, and Rottweilers.

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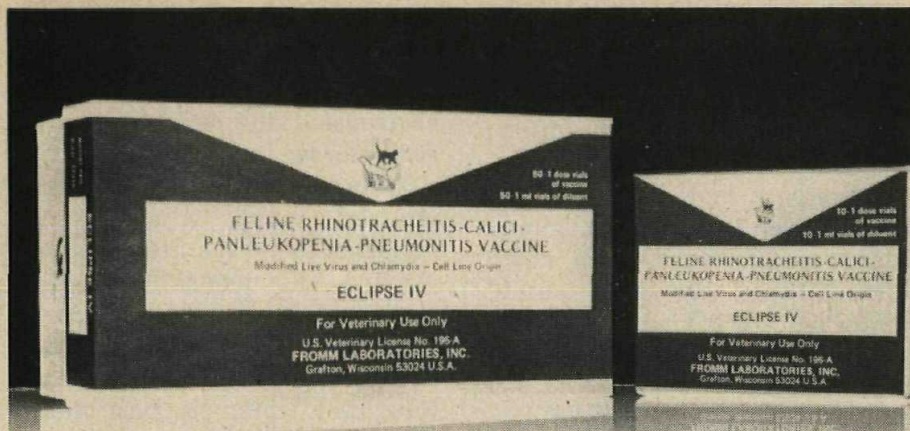
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New products



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Eclipse IV protects against the agents causing at least 95 percent of feline respiratory infections in addition to panleukopenia, while 3-way vaccines only provide 60 to 80 percent coverage.

Eclipse IV is the ideal vaccine to use to booster kittens and adult cats, according to the manufacturer, and no other feline vaccine offers more protection.



TAP A DROP AND GET RID OF PESKY PET ODORS

Ever wish you could completely wipe out odors from pets? Well, Tap-a-drop is a super-concentrated, easy-to-use odor neutralizer that completely removes pet odors for up to a full day with only one application and without cover—up scents or anesthetizing chemicals, according to the manufacturer, Nilodor, Inc. of Ohio.

Tap-a-drop is claimed to be completely organic and nontoxic and to remove pet odors completely—even those from urine, skunk and dead animals—for up to 24 hours.

For more information write or telephone Nilodor, Inc., 7740 Freedom Ave., N.W., North Canton, OH 44720; (216) 499-4321.



New feline h/d simplifies treatment of cats with common heart problem

Many veterinarians are reporting a sharp rise in cases of feline cardiomyopathy. The reasons for this significant increase are not yet clear, but the disease, which now affects an estimated two percent of the feline population, is fatal in about one-third of the cases.

The cats who survive the initial episode of feline cardiomyopathy require treatment for life. Part of this treatment until now has been the use of a diuretic to relieve congestion. However, commonly prescribed diuretics must be carefully regulated to prevent overdose and resulting toxicity.

In response to requests from clinicians, the makers of Prescription Diets have formulated a palatable low-sodium diet for cats called Feline h/d. It provides only about one-third the sodium of average commercial canned food.

When this properly balanced low-sodium diet is fed, the hazardous diuretic may be reduced or omitted. This spares the cat owner the troublesome chore of dosing the cat, and reduces risks from overdose.

Feline h/d is a product of Hill's Pet Products, Inc., and is available from most veterinarians.

HERO CATS

Do you own a courageous cat? Friskies Cat Council is looking for Hero Cats to be honored with special awards.

Probably the best known award winner was Rhubarb, a part siamese cat owned by Mrs. Elsie Schneider of San Diego. Rhubarb was posthumously awarded the Hero Cat of the Decade Award.

Rhubarb entered Mrs. Schneider's life in 1962 and immediately took on a special role. After a training period at the end of a 10-foot line, Rhubarb would lead her mistress through the household chores, to the clothesline, the trash can and even to the supermarket. At night, if she heard a strange noise outdoors she would press her cold nose against Mrs. Schneider and wake her.

In 1971, Rhubarb was given a Special Merit Award by the Friskies Cat Council. Last year, she received an even greater award even though she is no longer Mrs. Schneider's seeing-eye cat.

Friskies is looking for Hero Cats to receive awards. "In their quiet way, cats can show great courage when the situation calls for it. Past recipients range all the way from watchcats who managed to foil robbery attempts, to fire alarm cats who detected fires in time to alert owners, to brave little kittens who turned into big game hunters at the sight of a threatening rattlesnake," said a Friskies spokesman.

Nominations can be sent to Friskies Cat Council, 5045 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Ca. 90036

NEW USE FOR KITTY LITTER

It was an unusually bitter winter throughout the United States but it was good news for the manufacturers of kitty litter products. In the mid-western states, where snow and ice were the order of the day, the feline litter product found some new uses. Icy sidewalks and driveways were made passable with a light coating of the clay pellets.

Motorists stashed a bag of the litter stuff in the trunks of their cars to provide traction for icy

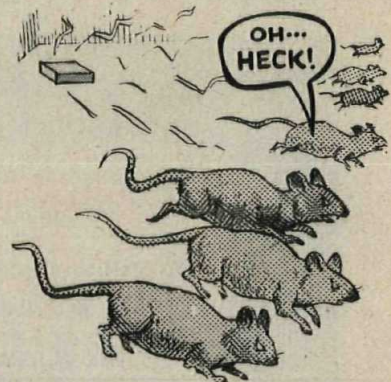
streets. In fact, the litter material became so popular to combat ice and snow that pet owners found shortages of the litter product in some stores.

"Don't litter" signs were ignored when winter-bound residents found the litter easy to use and safer than salt and other chemicals. Major manufacturers, like Lowe's, found the bad winter one of the best for their business. Now that winter is past there should be ample supplies of kitty litter for kitties.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE BUGS AND RODENTS SEND FOR THIS PEST CONTROLLER!

The manufacturer, in business since 1910, has developed an ULTRASONIC PEST CONTROLLER that rids home, store or barn of the pests listed below, through the use of high frequency sound waves. Just plug into household outlet. Keeps indoor area up to 1500 sq. ft. pest-free. No longer any need for sprays, powders, traps. The sound waves do not affect humans, dogs, cats or most other pets. The cost is approximately 1 cent a day to operate. Compact size 6-3/4 x 5-1/4 x 2-1/4". Full one year warranty.

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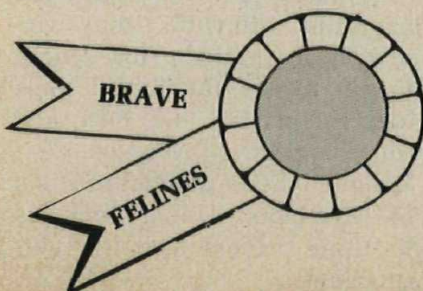
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NEW BABY CAN POSE THREAT

THE NEW BABY... THREAT TO FAMILY DOG?

A lot of dog-owning families seem to forget that the dog considers himself a member of the family, and when a newborn baby is brought home, it's not so much a matter of jealousy but more the case of a stranger intruding in the household.

There are several canine-new baby introductory steps to follow which will quickly impress on the dog that here's a new member of the family, not an intruder. For one, do not shoo away or discipline the dog when it becomes curious about the baby and wants to investigate. Do not shut the dog into another room whenever the baby enters, or keep it outside at all times just because the baby's inside. The dog will never get a chance to become acquainted and the baby will always be an alien object.

Petting, praising, brushing, and playing and talking to the dog while the baby is in the same room is a good idea, since this reinforces the association of pleasurable experiences in the company of the new baby. If you play with the child, be sure to include the same or more amount of time playing with the dog, either alone, or with both at the same time. Let the dog get acquainted with the child during these happy play and relaxation periods.

According to veterinarian Victoria Voith of University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, "the wise parent will spend 5 - 10 minutes a day with the dog that are especially the dog's own time... active interaction without the child being present."



If these simple steps are not followed, many dogs will resent the baby and turn to other attention-getting behavioral problems such as deliberately chewing forbidden objects such as slippers, or even defecating inside the house. Out of the ordinary acts such as these indicate a resentment: the dog is taking second place on the popularity chart in the home.

If the dog is an aggressive animal with a history of hostile behavior and biting, it should not be in a home with a new baby. In fact, any dog, no matter the size or behavior pattern, should not be left alone with a baby. There have been rare cases where a "friendly" dog has bitten or killed a small baby. The pets are not vicious or not even maltreated, but they have decided the baby is an alien object in the home and should be disposed of as a "favor" to the owners.

Sometimes it helps to give the family dog some new interests in his family life. Teach him to bring in the daily paper or fetch your slippers in the evening, or enter him in an obedience training school. The idea is to give him a more active role in the family to take his mind off the possible threat of the new baby becoming a replacement for him.

By establishing proper time periods for individual attention to the dog, letting the dog associate pleasurable experiences with the baby's presence, and letting the dog and the baby get acquainted (with parental supervision) on their own terms, the introduction of a new baby into a home where the family pet has occupied the top spot in popularity should pose no problem.

OPEN WIDE . . .

(But please don't bite!)

Dr. David Fagan is a dentist who has chosen to concentrate his practice on animals — especially exotic animals. His research has brought new evidence that dental problems lead to systemic illness and disease in these animals.

His most recent case involved one of the trained elephants of Circus Vargas, which winters at Lion Country Safari, in Orange County, Calif. The elephant's name is Hattie.

Rex Williams, one of the world's most renown elephant trainers, was baffled by this elephant's dramatic loss of weight. Hattie had lost almost 1800 pounds, and they could not determine the reason.

Dr. Fagan was called in as a consultant, and he found the elephant was suffering from dental problems. This was similar to two recent cases he had. One was Lucky, an elephant at the San Diego Zoo; the other was Ginny, at Marine World in the San Francisco Bay Area. In both cases, dental problems led to loss of weight, and Dr. Fagan extracted the offending tooth — which, in the case of elephants, weigh in at anywhere from four to eight pounds each!

In both cases, and in the most recent case, he found that a bad tooth was making it impossible for the elephants to properly grind their food. So they were ingesting as much food as usual but were unable to digest it properly, leading to the huge weight loss and the threat of death. In effect she was actually starving to death while getting all the food she could eat.

So the decision was made to extract the tooth, just before Christmas, with the hope that she would be able to join the other elephants in the Circus Vargas group in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses parade on New Year's Day. It was the first time

elephants had ever been allowed in the parade because horses, for some reason, do not like to be around elephants. An agreement had been reached that the elephants would pull the last float in the parade, and it worked.

But first came the difficult procedure involved in extracting the king-size (queen size?) tooth.

A combination of skills made it all come out right. Dr. Fagan points out that the biggest asset was the training skill of Rex Williams. Williams was able to bring the elephant into just the right position, and get her to sit doWn calmly during the induction phase of anesthesia. A second trained elephant was harnessed to the "patient" and gently rolled her over into position for the operation after the anesthetic took effect.

"With wild animals, this always is an extremely difficult part of the procedure," Dr. Fagan said. "But Rex has his elephants so well trained, it made it easy this time."

Administering the anesthesia to such a large animal also is a tricky function, and Dr. Fagan says they called in "one of the best" for this task. "One of the best" is Dr. Marty Dinnes, a private practitioner of veterinary medicine for exotic animals, in the United States and abroad. He served as the veterinarian consultant to the successful "Amazing Animals" television series.

"Marty has the unerring skill to determine just the right amount of anesthetic to safely accomplish the procedure," Dr. Fagan said.

A second vet — Dr. Ron Gutter — who practices at the Dinnes Memorial Veterinary Hospital (dedicated to Marty Dinnes's father), in Encino, Calif., was also on hand to keep close tabs on the elephant's vital signs. She was rigged up to an EKG, and was given oxygen (through her trunk,



This peaceful looking tiger USA is only one of many big cared for by Dr. Fagan.

of course) throughout the procedure, which lasted two hours.

At one point in the procedure, when a question arose about the patient's problem tooth, another of the trained elephants obligingly opened her mouth wide for Rex Williams, enabling Dr. Fagan to make an on-the-spot comparison in making his final judgment.

Throughout the process, the other 12 elephants, who were just a few feet away, watched in absolute silence, but with great interest.

Once the tooth was removed, with the aid of tools more often associated with a workshop than a dental clinic, the elephant was revived. But the real trick to quick recovery by Hattie from the effects of the extraction and the anesthetic was a startling blend of great strength and warm affection from the other elephants.

Two were brought into position alongside Hattie as she began to struggle to her feet. As she rose, they literally helped lift her to her feet with their great strength, but also lavished obvious affection on her, caressing her with their trunks.

Worth Reading

By Richard Glassberg, DVM

The Book of the Cat

Edited by: Michael Wright and Sally Walters

New York: Summit Books \$9.95

This is one of the most complete books about cats available to the pet owner. Our furry friends are examined in great detail from prehistoric ancestors to possible breeds of the future. Topics range from caring for your first cat to professional showing and include information health needs, general cat biology and feline genetics. Makes a fine gift.

The Right Dog For You

By Daniel F. Tortora, Ph.D.

New York: Simon and Schuster \$12.95

Can't decide on a puppy? Let Dr. Tortora help. Daniel Tortora presents a highly refined yet simple process for determining which breed is best suited to your personality and your family. This very informative book enables even the beginner to easily match canine and human personalities. Breed descriptions are brief but detailed and personality traits are presented in clear, easy-to-read tables. A very interesting and useful book.

Editor's note: More often than not, the selection of a family dog is a spur of the moment decision. Little or no time is spent considering what breed is most suited for that particular home. The problems that follow can usually be traced to one simple cause: the wrong breed for the wrong family. Since the average owner will have a dog longer than an automobile or TV set, a book such as *The Right Dog For You* could be an extremely worthwhile investment.



The Care and Feeding of Infant Orphaned Birds

By Sister Mary L. Gross, Palmetto Publishing Co., 4747 28th St. North, St. Petersburg, Fla., 33714.

I am sure that everyone reading this review has been faced with the dilemma of what to do with one of the ugliest and most pitiful creations of Nature, a squawking baby bird . . . "a fragile bit of life held together by a scrap of skin and a few quills."

Our choices have been to let the cat have it, allow it to starve, or care for it until it can be safely returned to freedom. Fortunately most readers of *Today's Animal News* choose the latter course. But what do we do with this "thing" that we've rescued?

"The Care and Feeding of Infant Orphaned Wild Birds" is absolutely the best guide I have encountered for all of us well-meaning, but ignorant, Good Samaritans. The author takes us by the hand and step by step clearly explains how to handle each situation you will encounter at each stage of the bird's life. — from the moment you find it until it can be released.

The text is concise and simple. The advice is practical. The illustrations are humorous. The photographs are helpful. The book is a winner!

Joel Blumberg.



from Marine World - Africa
cats and other exotic patients

Even more moving was the sight and sound of all the other elephants trumpeting their chorus of joyous alleluias that Hattie was up and well. After the long period of silence, their sounds were a gigantic exclamation point of happiness and approval, and perhaps of relief.

"It's moments like that when you are all the more certain that the effort is so worthwhile," said Dr. Fagan, with a big smile on his face.

Handling a 500-pound tiger with a tooth-ache is a feat that even dedicated animal trainers might not undertake. But for Dr. Fagan, it's all just part of his job.

Dr. Fagan's waiting room is the zoo and the animal park. His patients range from Marine World tigers to circus elephants!

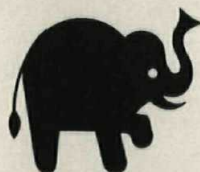


Photo by Callea



The Care and Feeding of Infant Orphaned WILD BIRDS

Provides much-needed, hard-to-find advice for the care of sick, injured, or orphaned wild birds. Very readable, packed with information. Leads the reader step by step into getting birds successfully back into the wild. By Sr. Mary Laurana Grose. 5½x8½ paperback, illustrated, 35 pages. \$1.95. Add \$1 postage per order.

PALMETTO PUBLISHING COMPANY

4747-28th St. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33542



SMUGGLERS ARE CLEVER . . . BUT GET CAUGHT ANYWAY

INVENTIVE SMUGGLERS

Every smuggler thinks he has devised the perfect gimmick for defeating customs officials. Occasionally the smuggler succeeds, but, more often than not, failure and criminal prosecution are his rewards.

"It is obvious that there are people on both sides of the border (Mexican-American) willing to threaten our healthy poultry and exotic bird industries by smuggling birds into the United States," according to Bill Buisch of the United States Department of Agriculture. And that's where the elaborate smuggling plots come into play.

Two such recent incidents are typical.

The first case involved a 'sniffer' dog called into action when a nervous-appearing driver was stopped for inspection while crossing the border at San Ysidro, Calif. The dog called attention to the car's trunk. When opened it showed a normal appearing spare tire.

But when the tire was turned over, inspectors found the bottom side had been cut away and ten yellow-headed Amazon parrots were hidden inside. USDA veterinarians found these birds were infected with exotic Newcastle disease.

The second case also happened on the Mexico-California border.

U.S. agents spotted and chased several men trying to enter the country illegally. The fleeing men dropped burlap bags that contained 30 yellow-headed Amazon parrots. These birds were placed in quarantine at San Ysidro and several died before positive diagnosis came back from the test lab.

In addition, there was a third case that involved a Michigan couple who bought a pair of yellow-head Amazon parrots while they were on vacation in Monterey, Mexico. They also got instructions on how to smuggle the birds into the United States.

They succeeded, but the birds got sick soon after the couple returned home. A local veterinarian submitted specimens to the USDA and the specimens are presently being tested for exotic Newcastle disease.

"I doubt if people are going to stop trying to smuggle parrots into the country," said USDA spokesman Dr. Bill Buisch. "Therefore, we urge all bird owners to avoid so-called 'bargains' and help eliminate the chance of bringing the disease into their own flocks or aviaries."

Exotic Newcastle disease does not pose a health hazard to people who eat eggs or poultry products. However, some people who have handled infected birds have developed infections as a result of the exposure.

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This mosquito is drawing blood from between two knuckles on a human hand. Swollen with blood, it will soon fly off leaving only an itchy welt. On your dog, however, it might leave heartworm larvae that, if untreated, could result in painful death for your pet.

HEARTWORMS AND YOUR DOG

Where an ounce of prevention really counts . . .

Wherever you find outdoor sportsmen — just about anywhere there's a little space and some fresh air — the odds are that you'll also find a dog somewhere in the area. Whether it be a howling hound chasing a rabbit through the undergrowth or a pampered poodle scampering through the woods on a Sunday picnic, a dog is something that most outdoor people have in common.

Another thing they have in common is the growing possibility that their outdoor dog will fall prey to an almost epidemic killer . . . the heartworm.

Heartworms are a serious problem in all active dogs, but especially in outdoor dogs. Once mainly a problem in the South, particularly the Gulf Coast area, the heartworm has now become a nationwide problem. One source estimates that as many as half the outdoor dogs in the midwest may be infected. The worm, known by the scientific name *Dirofilaria immitis*, is transmitted by mosquitoes and is therefore especially dangerous in those areas where mosquito control poses special problems.

Story and photo by Gary Brown

SUBTLE SYMPTOMS

Cleanliness and sanitation are not factors in controlling heartworms and there is not as yet a vaccine available to immunize your pet. Symptoms you should watch for include exhaustion, coughing, loss of weight and breathing difficulties. Unfortunately, these signs usually mark the advanced stage and treatment is rarely successful.

It is best, then, to start preventative measures as soon as possible. Your veterinarian can run a microscopic blood test to detect their presence. This check should be done yearly, or, if you

continued



These two Gulf Coast area dogs are enjoying an active summer despite the threat of heartworm. The fact that they are healthy looking and energetic is testimony to the benefits of the liquid heartworm preventative medicine they are receiving daily in their food.

live in a region with a heavy mosquito population, six month check-ups would be a good investment in the health of your pet.

If your dog is free of the parasite, preventative medicine (but not immunization) is available. If your dog is found to be in the early stages, it can be successfully treated. The treatments, however, can be just as dangerous and deadly as the disease unless supervised closely by your veterinarian. If there is a cardinal rule in dealing with heartworms, it is to always consult your veterinarian first.

DEADLY GUEST

What exactly is this *Dirofilaria immitis*? Basically, it is an infectious larva that, once injected into the dog by the mosquito, will work its way into the bloodstream and quickly move to the right side of the heart and in the pulmonary vessels of the lung. Within five or six months, it will become fully grown — about six inches long. At this stage, they interfere with the heart's ability to pump blood to the lungs. As the heart grows weak, the insufficient flow of blood then affects the dog's other vital organs. At this point, the symptoms begin to appear. The dog becomes weak and anemic and, despite a healthy appetite,

begins to lose weight. During exercise, the cough gets worse and eventually the heart will fail completely.

In this advanced stage the dying dog is a great danger to other healthy pets because it is literally sending thousands of larvae into its own bloodstream for a mosquito to transfer to other dogs.

MOSQUITO IS THE CULPRIT

These small microfilariae will not grow in the bloodstream but will remain dormant for up to three years should the host dog live that long. They cannot develop into larvae unless they are drawn inside a mosquito sucking blood from the dog. This is a critical step and explains why the mosquito is the basic culprit.

Once the microfilariae are drawn inside the mosquito, they begin a two to three week development into infective larvae. When this is accomplished, they are ready for transferral to the mosquitoes' next victim — possibly your dog.

If your dog is affected, the cycle will begin all over again. The microfilariae will burrow under the skin into the bloodstream and to the heart and lungs. This is why a dog owner must immediately take his puppy to the veterinarian for a blood test and the beginning

of preventative treatment. The key to controlling heartworm disease is to break the lifecycle of the heartworm.

If your dog has adult heartworms but has not developed to the symptoms stage, the veterinarian may be able to prescribe treatment. The drug that kills the adult heartworm must be used carefully because the dead heartworms are pumped from the heart into the bloodstream where they can cause blockage and death to your pet.

PREVENTATIVE PROGRAM

There are also drugs available that prevent the microfilariae from developing into adult heartworms. These drugs are usually placed in the dog's food each day during the mosquito season and are usually administered in proportion to body weight. If you have an outdoor dog, it is impossible to keep mosquitoes away from it, but these preventative drugs, available only from your veterinarian, will prevent the larvae from developing into the adult stages. However, there is an additional note of caution: Never administer preventative medicine to a dog with established heartworms. Again, the result may be fatal.

If a dog owner anticipates a temporary visit to an area of high mosquito infestation, he or she should consider preventative treatment beginning before the trip and continuing after the return home. Again, consulting your veterinarian is the safest measure.

Heartworms are a major hazard to all outdoor dogs. Because of the complexity of their life cycles and the method of transmittal, prevention and cure are not do-it-yourself projects. Always consult your veterinarian and follow his instructions carefully. In doing so, you'll insure that your canine companion will remain healthy and free of this growing disease.

HERE COME THE FLIES!

Possible parvo connection...

"Waiter, there's a fly in my soup!" Everybody knows this opener for dozens of old jokes about flies. Insects have carved a place in our culture, jokes, cartoons, and songs. But, although we make light of them, they pose a very serious health hazard. This year that hazard may even be greater than before.

Flies are a mechanical vector in canine parvovirus, corona virus, and just about every major outbreak of bacterial enteritis in kennels. Fecal matter from sick dogs contains thousands of disease organisms waiting for some method of introduction to a new host. Flies are attracted to fecal matter and can be an excellent vehicle to transport bacteria viruses to another animal.

This could partially account for the seasonal increase in parvovirus infections, relating directly to the increased activity of these insects in the warm months.

KNOW YOUR ENEMY!

Flies are incredible insects. They are everywhere, at every altitude. They even migrate across the seas.

There are more than 8,500 species, but they all have one thing in common: they all seek fluids in order to eat. Here are just a few that you might encounter:

Midges . . . bite around the mouth, eyes and nose of the animal and create and transmit infections. An adult only lives a few hours, but can do a lot of harm in that short lifespan.

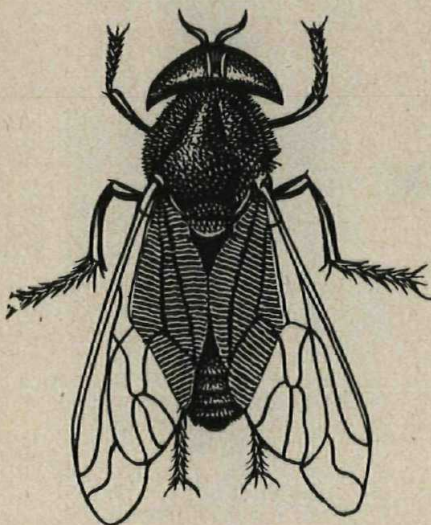
Houseflies . . . aren't fussy. They will feed on just about anything. And they are also a major cause of the spread of typhoid, dysentery, cholera.

Black flies, sand flies, and horse flies . . . are more particular. They all need blood. Only the females "bite", but you probably won't be able to distinguish between the sexes, anyway.

Nature has endowed many flies with a clever chemical kit that enables the fly to inject victims with an anticoagulant when they bite, so the wound will not clog or plug up during the fly feeding.

They may not live very long, but they are extremely prolific. One single blow fly can lay up to 2,000 eggs. They carry a host of diseases. The tsetse fly transmits sleeping sickness, which takes a toll on both man and his animals. But, all flies aren't all bad. The vast majority of "anonymous" flies are a very important source of food for other species. And "window" flies feed on the larvae of clothes moths and fleas. The larvae of "balloon" flies get spiders. And "coffin" flies attack the nests of bees, wasps, ants and termites.

But, good or bad, you probably don't want flies around your property. So, how do you handle this pesty pest?



The incredible fly!

There are a great variety of products sold to combat the fly. But, be sure that they are safe around your pets.

Flies....

Fly bait is a popular seller. Sprinkle it where flies are likely to gather. They eat the bait and die. But it can also be deadly to the pets that ingest it. It should always be put out of the reach of all animals (including children).

Electric fly killers attract flies with a light and electrocute them. The dead flies fall to the ground with a sharp crackling sound. Pets, especially birds, often eat the dead flies but the "fried" insects are probably sterile by then.

Insect strips are plastic strips that can be hung inside a building and give off deadly fumes that kill flies and many other flying insects. Handle with care, wash thoroughly after handling, and keep away from pets and children.

The fly gun is a plastic "pistol" that fires a spring-loaded disc that flattens the fly, if your aim is good. It may not make a huge dent in the fly population, but it is a lot more fun than the old-fashioned fly swatter . . . It is really more of a conversation-piece than a solution to the fly problem.

The fly trap is a safe device that lures flies away from pets and people and kills the pests by the thousand. It is a jar containing a highly attractive substance that attracts the flies inside and traps them. You will actually kill flies by the thousands with this trap, and when it is full you can just bury the whole contents and start again. This method is safe around both pets and children.

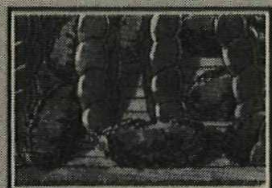
And, of course, the very best way to protect your dog from the worst of the fly-borne diseases, parvovirus, is to have a vaccine booster. Your veterinarian can tell you how frequently your dog needs his "parvo shot."

STEP D. For continuous control in between applications of topical flea products flea collars are very useful. They definitely reduce the number of fleas on the animal, but cannot eliminate them all. An oral insecticide tablet called Proban has proved to be beneficial to dogs.

STEP A. Control fleas on the pet: Shampoos and dips are the most effective because the hair coat and skin are thoroughly covered. Sprays are next in effectiveness. Powders work fairly well, but can dull the coat on some animals.



6. The cocoon finally opens and an adult flea emerges. Hungry, it immediately looks for a meal on a warm-blooded animal. This is the only stage that spends time on the pet.



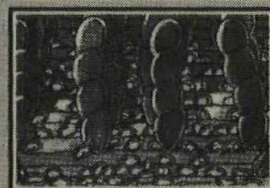
5. The third stage larva spins a cocoon and becomes a pupa. These are very resistant to methods of control.
—7 days to 1 year



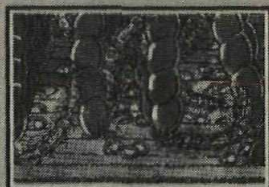
1. Adults jump aboard pet. (Can survive off the pet for up to one year.)



2. Adult female lays hundreds of eggs in her lifetime. Eggs fall to the ground wherever pet spends its time.



3. Eggs are found in carpet or cracks. They are very hard to kill, very resistant to drying, temperature extremes and most chemicals.
—Incubation 2-12 days.



4. Flea eggs hatch to the larval stage which feeds on available organic materials. Larvae go through three molts. Being tiny and hidden in cracks, these are often out of the way of normal vacuuming.
—9-200 days



STEP B. Indoors, the immature fleas can be killed by very few chemicals. Special foggers are available from your veterinarian which penetrate deep into shag rugs, baseboards, and furniture to kill the eggs and larvae.

STEP C. Outside, fleas and their offspring can be killed by special yard and kennel sprays which are toxic to fleas, yet safe around your pet.

In the last issue of Today's Animal News we published a flea life cycle chart prepared by the Haver-Lockhart Company, a major manufacturer of veterinary products. This month we want to discuss how that cycle can be broken. With many warm months ahead of us it is necessary to act now, if your pets are to be comfortable this summer.

Don't ignore any of the flea control steps outlined in our chart. Overlooking just one step can make all the rest of your efforts ineffective.

THIS SUMMER YOU CAN...

BREAK THE FLEA CYCLE

TODAYS ANIMAL NEWS

And now a word for your biting neutered cats...

Once in a while a neutered cat will be extremely aggressive. It seems that the behavior change often accompanies some disruption in the cat's routine. Sometimes it is a change of homes, or a new pet, or the loss of a family member. Quite often the arrival of a new baby will trigger a psychological break in a cat and it will begin to bite a scratch its owners (and others) for no apparent reason. An especially critical time seems to be when the infant begins to crawl.

Fortunately, there is a drug, called ovaban, which controls the aggressiveness of many of these cats. Ovaban was developed as a birth control drug for dogs. For reasons not understood by scientists the drug will pacify about 50 percent of the ferocious felines.

The tablet is usually given just once a week. After a few months some cats can be taken off the

ovaban and their behavior remains placid. Others have to stay on the drug permanently.

Although the reason why ovaban works in some cats is a mystery, it at least gives veterinarians an alternative to offer to owners of "man-eating" cats.

AN OWLING SUCCESS

Morristown and Bloomfield in New Jersey gave up on the idea of using poison to control the mice and rat population. Instead, they've installed a collection of barn owls to harass the rodents. The owls once were native to the area, but loss of roosts and nesting places drove them out to the woodlands and rural areas. Both cities are doing their best to keep the owls happy with roosts and nesting boxes. And even the preservation of old barns to make them feel right at home.



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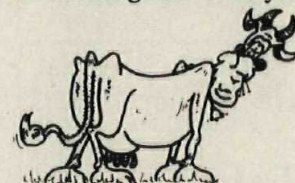
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Pat. Pend.

TODAYS ANIMAL NEWS

Arbovirus alert

The unusually abundant rain and snowfall of this past winter and spring are expected to result in extensive mosquito breeding this summer and a potential for increased arbovirus transmission. Human cases of western equine encephalomyelitis and St. Louis encephalitis have been rare in recent years, but since the virus persists in mosquitoes and wild birds, large outbreaks of these diseases could occur again if mosquito control should falter.

During the arbovirus season (May — October) cases of aseptic meningitis and encephalitis (which may even masquerade as a stroke or other central nervous system disturbance) should be carefully investigated for the causative agent. Physicians and veterinarians should promptly notify local health departments about patients with illness of suspected arbovirus origin. Early recognition of cases and ongoing surveillance and control activity will help to prevent a major arbovirus epidemic.

Wilderness Pack Trips



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RABBITS THREAT TO EAGLES

The long-standing feud between Idaho's farmers and the resident jack rabbit has drawn fire again from conservation groups.

The farmers used to stage an annual rabbit round-up and club thousands of the jacks to death. But humane groups protested so strongly that the farmers sought other control methods.

Alfalfa laced with strychnine was tried on a farm near Blackfoot and the first dose killed 1000 rabbits. But now the conservation groups are protesting, claiming that dying rabbits could wander away from the bait and poison bald eagles.

But despite the protests, more rabbit poisonings are planned by the ranchers who claim that, without controls, their crops could be completely destroyed by the pesky rabbits.

GUARD DOG-NAPPING

Guard dogs in Southern California may be napping on the job, and getting dog-napped in the process. A recent report from Pet Business notes that dog thefts are on the rise, and that many of them are guard dogs — disappearing from the homes they are protecting while their owners are away. The thefts, according to one authority, appear to be professional.

Recession hits English dogs

The failing English economy has taken a bite out of dog ownership. The English Kennel Club reports that registrations slipped more than 13 percent. But, despite financial problems, England still leads the world in the size of dog shows. The Ladies Kennel Club show registered almost 12,000 entries — almost four times that of the largest dog show in America.

Hearing dogs in England

England is again following the lead of American dog trainers with the introduction of a Hearing Dogs For The Deaf program. A Guide Dogs program was established a number of years ago in England with the help of American Guide Dog experts.

Avocados for dogs...

With a bumper crop of avocados on their hands produce marketing specialists are looking for a new way of disposing of the oily fruit. They have already spent more than a million dollars on a TV campaign to urge humans to eat more avocados and are now turning their attention to the pet food market. Currently, avocados are cheaper than conventional dog foods. And most dogs enjoy the rich, buttery flavor.

DOG OVERWEIGHT?

Our university-tested kit accurately predicts normal weights of medium and large mixed breed dogs.

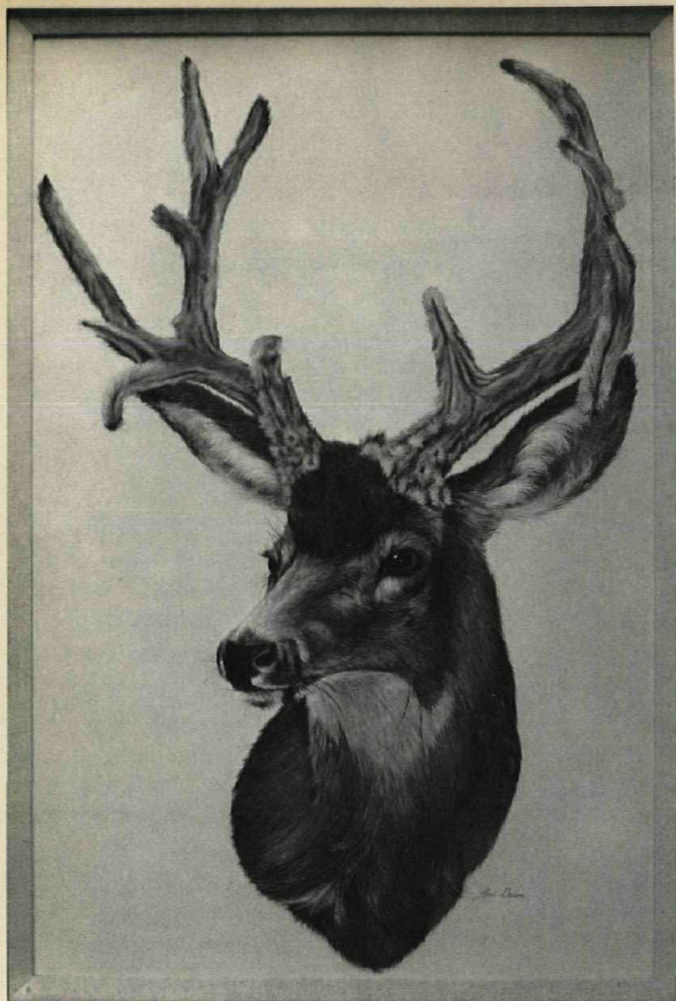
Send \$4.35 ppd. to P. Pendergrass, Canine Associates, 6230 Troy-Frederick Rd., Tipp City, Ohio 45371.

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A New Dawn.



If you live in the West you may be interested in the special one-woman show of Loni Dawn at the Cygnet Gallery of Fine Arts in Santa Rosa, California from June 18 to July 1. There will be an artist's reception on June 18 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. For those of you in other parts of the country there is available a special series of prints and cards by Loni Dawn.

When the parents of Loni Dawn told her to "go draw a picture," they had little idea how seriously their young daughter would take the suggestion.

Loni, like a lot of youngsters, had a fascination for animals. She couldn't understand why her parents wouldn't allow her to keep one or two of every form of animal life she discovered. When she couldn't have the real thing she started a "paper zoo" of animals she fancied. She drew her first picture at age three. . . and hasn't stopped since! When she was only seventeen she sold her first painting and her career as a professional animal artist was launched.

She tried a stint in the world of commercial art next, advancing to the position of art director. But the animals were still in the back of her mind and she abandoned her commercial career to return to

her first love, devoting hours to the study of her beloved animals.

Loni competed in art shows and had her works hung in galleries, and started selling a few paintings. And she continued to study. Book jackets, story illustrations, greeting cards, and a print series followed as Loni Dawn began to gain recognition as a "name" in the field of animal art.

Her acrylic paintings have received wide acceptance from both art and nature lovers because of her meticulous attention to accuracy. Her career took another step forward with her marriage to animal photographer Tim Bonnici. Most artists are poor business managers, but Tim has filled that void for Loni. And her new husband provides photographic research to enhance her studies for new paintings. Loni and Tim have become a team.

And we think you'll be seeing a lot more of the work of this promising young team.



Classified

Hopefully, if this experiment is successful in Marin County, the system can be used in any part of the country where deer and autos come in conflict.



THE CAT'S MEOW—A MELODY WORTH \$25,000

Pandora, a purrfect Persian with a penchant for performing, waits patiently to learn whether she's a finalist in the 5th Annual Meow Mix Meow Off Sweepstakes. The cat with the most distinctive and appealing meow will win \$25,000 and a starring role in a TV commercial. To enter your cat, pick up a Meow Off entry form in the specially marked packages of cat food.

YOU & YOUR PET

Physical Exams: Annuals for Animals.

How do you know if your dog or cat is in good health?

Since pets can't tell you how they feel, you have to depend on certain signs. Some problem signs, like skin irritations or lack of appetite, are fairly obvious. Others are not. That's why a regular physical examination is so important for your pet. Your veterinarian knows where to look for these signs and what they mean. If a potential problem can be diagnosed early, it may be properly treated before it becomes serious.

Dogs tend to have different health problems than cats. But both can benefit from periodic examinations. Most physicals include examinations of the eyes, ears, nose, throat, skin, teeth and gums plus the vital organs—the heart and lungs. Chances are your pet's temperature and pulse will be taken. Weight, appearance and behavior are also important health indicators.

Regular physical exams are a good idea. They are an important part of a sound preventive medicine program that can help your dog or cat lead a longer and fuller life.

Veterinarians who are Hospital Members of the American Animal Hospital Association believe that detailed and accurate records are also a crucial part of a good program of preventive medicine. As AAHA Hospital Members, they observe strict standards for the maintenance of these records.

For more information about physical exams 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 "Health Exams."



American Animal Hospital Association

AAHA Dept. TAN2
P.O. Box 6429
South Bend, IN 46660
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Dialogue

HAZARDOUS TO YOUR PET?

Dear Editor:

I think it is important for dog owners to be aware of the fact that dogs can become addicted to nicotine and have been known to retrieve cigarette butts from ashtrays in order to satisfy their "habit." Pet owners who smoke should be extremely careful, since nicotine is poisonous to dogs and can cause convulsions and respiratory paralysis.

Sincerely,
Joseph Shimshak,
Bayonne, New Jersey.

HELP!

Animal News:

My name is Jackie Phillips and I am presenting a report to my American government class concerning the tremendous problem involving pit bull fighting.

I am searching for as much information and data pertaining to this delicate subject, so as to expose to my classmates and teacher the seriousness of pit bull fighting in our society.

I would greatly appreciate any material you might have, as well as other groups or organizations that you can refer me to. I would like information about the laws connected with it. Could you refer me to any specific law offices concerning these laws? It would be appreciated.

I care a great deal about dogs and the people affected. I wish to inform others, as well as myself, about what pit bull fighting entails and what is being done in this matter.

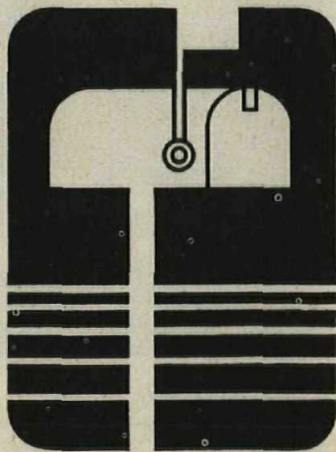
My deepest gratitude is extended to your organization for aiding me in making this report something I will be happy to put hours of hard work into.

Sincerely,
Jackie Phillips
30 Woodacre Drive
San Francisco, Ca. 94132

Dear Editor:

You published a letter from a woman warning your readers about the North American Correspondence School not being an adequate employment background. Whereas this may be true, I wish to come to their aid on the fact that they are an excellent stepping stone to start someone off on the road to Animal Sciences. I am a student of theirs and I am extremely pleased with their course. I enrolled because of my love for animals and since have taken other animal related classes which have led me into my own business as a professional dog and exotic bird trainer. I feel that the knowledge I have gained from their course is invaluable. Please pass on my salute.

Sincerely,
Leona L. Holmgren
Reward Animal Trainers
San Francisco, CA.



DUCK DILEMMA

Dear Sirs:

We have a lake behind our house where we have ducks and geese, and over a period of several years wild ducks and geese have taken up here, too.

Recently we discovered one of the male mallards had the plastic from a six-pack caught around its neck and between its beak in a way that prevented it from eating. For four days we tried to catch it, but whenever we got too close, it would fly away. Finally my husband, Don, came up with the idea of using a fishing pole with a triple hook attached to the line.

We planned to cast the line and catch hold of the plastic loops, so we smashed the barbs on the hook just in case the the duck was hooked by mistake.

With just three people in our aluminum jon boat, two rowing and one casting, we set out to go duck fishing.

Don is an avid fisherman and while casting he reeled in a crappie on the bare hook. Well, right then he wanted to stop and fish, but I gave him a dirty look and we continued on.

When one team would get tired rowing, another would hop in and take over. Once the duck started getting tired, Don was able to get a better cast at it. Twice the plastic loops were caught but the duck wriggled free; but the third time we were able to get a net over him. He was brought to shore where we all rejoiced in cutting off the plastic, gave him a loving hug and set him free again.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Georgetta Schroyer
Fayetteville, N.C.

(Sketch by Mrs. Schroyer)

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