

# TODAYS *Animal* News

\$2.00

**MAY JUNE 1984**



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**  
**Poodle popularity slips**  
**What is the perfect pet?**

**Feline Diarrhea**

**Brucellosis update**

*The Official voice of the Animal Health Foundation*



# The Animal Health Foundation

## WHAT DOES THE ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION DO?

*By Harry Maiden*

This is currently the most frequently asked question submitted to the Animal Health Foundation . . . and a question we are happy to answer. The numerous requests for this information is a reminder to those of us who work with the foundation on a day-to-day basis that we have failed to share this information with the thousands of new subscribers to our magazine Today's Animal News. Please accept our apology as we now attempt to correct this communication gap.

The Animal Health Foundation was founded in 1967 as a "charitable non-profit corporation" for the specific and primary purpose of charitable, scientific, literary and educational activities in the field of animal health and care.

### **What does this mean to animals and their owners?**

As a reader of this magazine we hope you are aware of one of our educational efforts, and we appreciate your interest and support. You probably have not read the first issue of the magazine, published in 1970 (originally titled Animal Cavalcade) but you are now part of our growing family of animal loving friends living in every state, and 30 foreign countries who subscribe to the magazine. Last week three new African countries Somalia, Cameroon and Zambia, joined our family of readers.

We want the magazine to bring you interesting and helpful information to provide the kind of care you want to give your pets.

The Animal Health Foundation also actively participates in educational seminars on the importance of the human-animal bond which has recently created a dramatic surge of interest in both professional and public circles concerned with the practical applications of

human-animal relationships to fill a range of physical, psychological and social needs for a variety of people.

### **Special help for the elderly and disabled . . .**

This introduces another important part of our work, to provide care for the sick and elderly pets of elderly citizens who are living entirely on social security, and those on Aid to the Totally Disabled. In this regard we are very fortunate in having marvelous support from members of the veterinary profession, who were truly convinced that the principal of a charitable foundation, dedicated to improving animal health, was worthy of their time and effort.

A group of sincere veterinarians formed the Animal Health Foundation in 1967, contributing a considerable amount of money, time, medical skills, and serving as Trustees for the Foundation. Numerous veterinarians continue to serve as trustees, with the addition of equally dedicated lay people.

The continued sponsorship of the veterinary profession enables us to provide necessary medical care for sick and injured pets of those elderly citizens living entirely on social security, and those on Aid to the Totally Disabled. At one time we also assisted pet owners who were on welfare, but found the demand for help was more than we could afford or handle.

### **Veterinarian support makes it possible**

We rely on the excellent cooperation of veterinarians who accept referrals from the Foundation, and in many situations, either do not make any charge, or they greatly reduce fees on large bills, or ask a maximum fee of 30% off actual cost. This means that the veterinarian never charges for his or her services or profit.

All who are helped are asked to contribute as much as they can. For this project we rely on contributions (which are tax deductible) from animal lovers who wish to share in supporting this meaningful care in time of need. Some months we are able to assist more than others, but there are sad days when we can only help the most urgent cases.

The demand for a contributive dollar is a constant one, and creates great concern as to how much of that dollar is actually used for the purpose requested, and how much is used for overhead expenses. The Animal Health Foundation is fortunate in being able to maintain extremely low overhead costs, due to the kindness of the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association for providing our main office, and a veterinarian for the use of a day to day work office and large store room in his hospital, all without any cost to the Foundation.

Our good fortune continues with a dedicated staff of volunteers, one starting his 12th year, another completing her eighth year, and another volunteer on call as needed. Before deciding to send a helpful donation you may wonder if the Executive Director is perhaps a highly paid executive? You can be the judge. He is now starting his 17th year of enjoyable service in this position with a salary of \$4000 per year.

Look for more information about the Animal Health Foundation in the next issue of Today's Animal News.

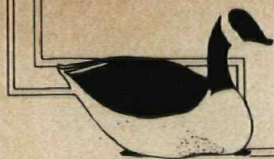
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**Volume 10 Number 3**

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### THE IMPACT OF COMPANION ANIMALS

How important are companion animals really? Let's forget the emotional aspect for the moment and take a look at the actual importance of pets in our society.

On your next trip to the supermarket take a stroll down the aisle of pet products. Now take a quick hike to the baby food section. It should only take a moment to note the greater importance given to pets. Remember that this is valuable shelf space, and is allotted only on the basis of interest by the buying public!

There have been lots of changes since the first man took his first wild dog into his cave, but one thing remains constant. And that is his need for the companionship, sharing, and understanding that only comes from a companion animal.

But what is the perfect pet for you? A dog, cat, bird, or even fish? Maybe a llama or a turtle or snake? The answer can be as varied as the individual differences in people. In the hope of helping you find the ideal companion *Todays Animal News* is continuing the theme of "Finding the perfect pet."

How to determine the perfect pet for you? Personality, size, the amount of care required . . . these are only a few of the factors that require consideration for each individual. Pet ownership can be highly gratifying, but is also a responsibility for the human.

We hope you continue to find the topic interesting and informative. And, of course, we would like to share your thoughts about the subject.

Best regards,

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

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## Todays Animal News

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*Today's Animal News...*

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## FINDING THE PERFECT PET . . .

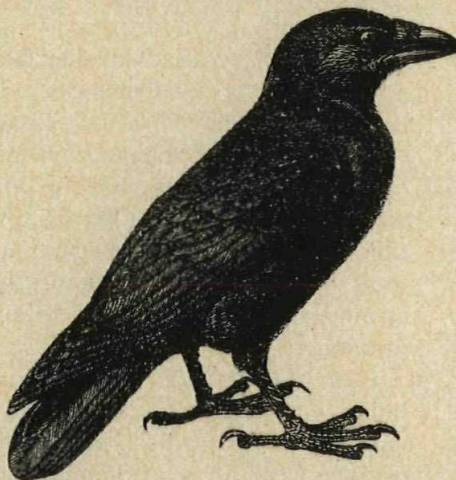
# CROWS

The not always perfect pets . . .

Page 5

### DESTRUCTIVE, PESTY, OUTRAGEOUS . . . BUT YOU'LL NEVER STOP LAUGHING

Crows are survivors! Mankind had a bounty of these birds for centuries and there are more than ever. I think they survive because they have an ever present sense of humor, always looking for something to do and choosing the one that causes the most commotion. An inveterate thief, nothing is so much fun as to fly off with a prized pen or better yet your own set of keys. Once your reaction has been found satisfactory you can never safely leave those keys within his sight. Clothes pins are great fun! Crows love to drop things and watch them all the way to the ground, especially clothes pins that fall with damp laundry. They can strip a washline in minutes, then bow, scrape, cluck, click and caw in appreciation of your reaction. An unwanted applause! There is nothing more fun than teasing a dog or cat. A sharp tweak and pull at a tail or ear can produce all kinds of excitement and friend crow is one jump ahead of the reaction.



Having once been indoors where food, bright coins and keys are it takes only a short time before he learns to fly over your shoulder when you open the door. When you learn how to avoid that tactic he is very capable of pecking a hole in a window screen large enough to gain entry. They can make holes faster than you can fix them. And all this is in fun!

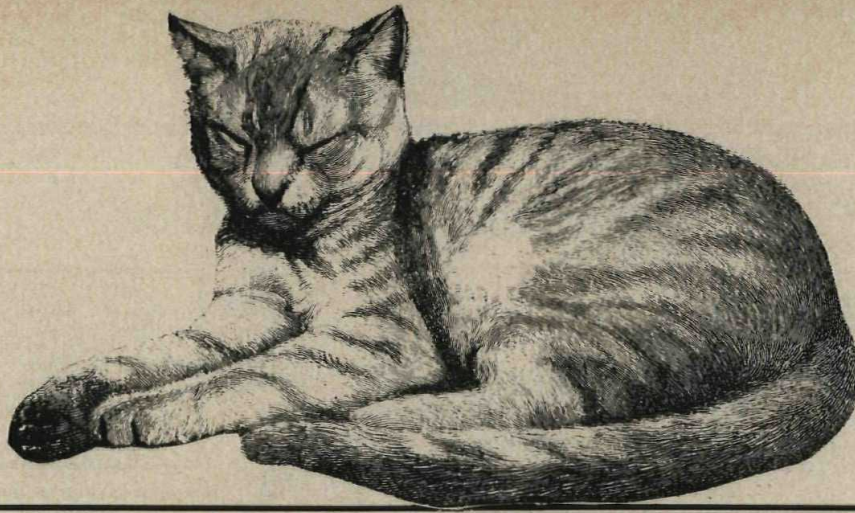
Crows will eat anything! They are raised beautifully on dog food (canned or dry) and will steal anything from the table or kitchen. They like to hide everything, including food. You may find these hiding places by following the trail of ants. Fortunately they are creatures of habit and will use the same hiding place over and over again . . . as long as you don't tell them that you know about their cache. Once found out, they will find a new spot someplace you never knew existed! Behind a door hinge is a good spot. A bit of cheese on a light bulb in a lamp will surprise you.

They love to ride on a shoulder all the while investigating the closest ear and playing with jewelry and hair.

Sharp eyed, raucous, destructive, quick, always good humored, you will miss him when he flies away to pursue more appropriate crow activities. You will wonder if that's your old friend cocking his head and calling a confident caw as you pass by just out of harm's way.

*Charles Robinson, D.V.M.*





## KITTY CAPERS

### CAT FEEDING STATIONS

If you're living in a small house or apartment with several cats and you're tired of kicking around bowls of dry cat food all over the kitchen floor or stepping in water bowls, try this plan for stacking the feeding quarters.

Get some wooden boxes from supermarket or shopping center dumpsters, cover them with washable wallpaper or Contac, and fasten them to a corner of the kitchen or wherever you choose as a feline feeding corner away from traffic. Nail a small slat across the front to keep the bowls in place, for you'll be fastening the bottoms of the boxes against the wall. The up-ended boxes are just about the right size for all cats, except for the very largest who might have to some back-arching in order to reach the dish.

Keep the water dish on the floor, since it has to be the biggest receptacle, but all the other dishes can be placed on the shelves. You'll have to train your felines until they accept the idea that this is the new, and only, place they'll get anything to eat. This means picking them up and putting them in place on each shelf before putting food in the bowls. But once they get the idea, they'll leap into place at the sound of a can opener or the rattle of a dry catfood bag.

Some will also pick a top shelf as a place to take a nap, even if there is a bowl of food there already. •

*Judson Snyder.*

### FELINE DIARRHEA...

Diarrhea of cats usually have different causes than those of dogs.

This condition is often difficult to detect in cats because of their behavior patterns. Most cats are very secretive when eliminating, are quite fastidious, covering both urine and feces whenever possible. Sometimes the only clue will be the exaggerated showing of the third eyelid (haws).

There are two kinds of diarrhea seen, the accute type that starts suddenly and usually makes the animal feel and look sick. The other type is chronic sometimes lasting for weeks. These cats usually are not obviously sick but eat poorly and may lose weight and generally appear scruffy from poor grooming.

Cats' food tastes and eating habits usually exclude the garbage caused type of diarrhea seen so frequently in dogs, but sudden changes of diet can cause watery bowel movements. It's pretty safe to say that these watery feces are caused by something wrong in the small intestine.

There are several infections that produce diarrhea in our domestic cats. Most of these occur suddenly and do not last more than a few days. Panleucopenia (feline distemper) is a good example. This severe virus infection can be prevented by vaccination. Some bacteria can cause diarrhea. Some bacterial infection that can come from contami-

nated food or other sick animals and will cause disease in humans. This can be a very severe problem for kittens. The diagnosis is made by finding the bacteria in the feces and growing it for identification in the laboratory.

Foreign objects, like buttons, marbles and needles are found in X-ray examination. The intestine may telescope within itself if it is irritated and will require corrective surgery.

Diarrhea that persists more than a few days is more difficult to diagnose than the accute ones. Frequent or serial stool examinations, urine and blood samples all may be necessary. Food allergies that affect the bowel will require rigid diet control to diagnose and correct.

### What can you do?

1. If you suspect diarrhea but cannot obtain a sample of the bowel movements confine the cat in a small room, cage or crate or crate with a large litter box until a sample is passed.
2. Have this sample examined by your veterinarian. The sample should not be more than eight to twelve hours old.
3. If there are any signs of blood in the feces, vomiting or loss of appetite, take the cat to be examined.
4. Mild conditions can often be treated by feeding only rice and chicken for three days. The feces should return to normal in 24 to 48 hours. •



# Home treatment

## More tricky for the problem cat . . .

### PILLING A CAT . . .

We've all been through the routine of giving pills to cats. The veterinarian makes it look so easy: just grasp the jaws, tilt the head back, and drop it down the chute. Of course it's easy in the animal clinic. The cat's in strange surroundings and being handled by a complete stranger. Pills can be dropped, rectal thermometers inserted, and all sorts of probings, pokings and manipulations done to a fearful cat in bizarre-smelling exam rooms.

But, in the comfy surroundings of the home with friendly owners, it's another story, as we all know.

The technique is easy, if you catch the cat by surprise. You're adept yourself at dropping a pill down the throat, and can do it quickly with a minimum of trauma. It's easier with most pills and capsules if you grease the outside with butter, margarine, or vegetable oil. And if the pills come in a noisy glass or plastic bottle, don't do a lot of rattling around in extracting the pill. It doesn't take long before the noise of the pills in a bottle acts as a hasty exit signal for the alert cat.

Another gimmick is to wrap cream cheese about the pill and simply drop it in the cat's normal feeding dish. Most cats will accept the cheese with "a pit in it" with little fuss. Cream cheese is not easily licked off (like butter) and is usually swallowed whole.

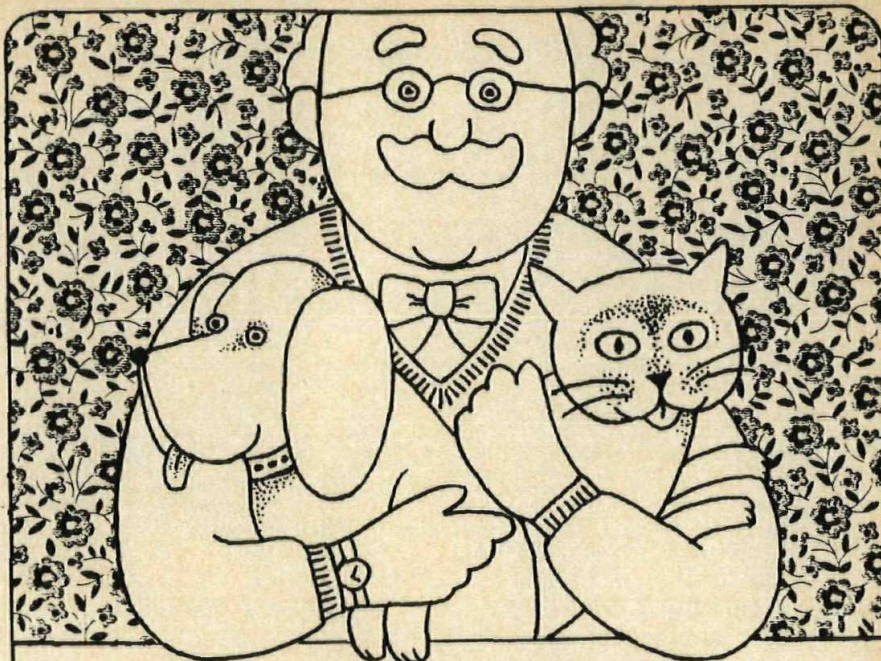
Good luck!

*By Judson Snyder*

### MOST POPULAR CATS

Ever wondered why you see so many cat food commercials on TV? Well, it seems that the U.S. has the largest cat population of any country in the world. Our cat population exceeds 23 million! And that does not include all our many feral cats.

**Today's Animal News Classifieds ads sell!**



## How Much Do You Love Your Pets?

If your love knows no bounds, care for them with the new Homeo-dietal line of health products from Nature's Symphony. Researchers studying the function of cells, discovered that animals have their own resources to fight against systemic aggression. These homeopathic products help your pet's system react in a natural way by making use of plants reinforced with the addition of amino acids and oligo elements. These products, which contain no artificial coloring or preservatives, are completely safe with no danger in the event of an overdose.

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4D	Dog-Bull	Warts	4C	Feli-Bull
5D	Dog-Laxif	Constipation	5C	Feli-Laxif
6D	Canidress	Falling Hair	6C	Feli-Dress
7D	Dog-Diar	Colic	7C	Feli-Diar
8D	Dog-Calc	Calcium	8C	Feli-Calc
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# The veterinary front

## Handling pet accidents

### FIRST AID FOR INJURED PETS

By Tanya Banak, University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine.

You watch helplessly as your dog or cat bolts into the street in front of an oncoming car. After a sickening thud the animal lies quietly in the street. If your pet is still alive, what can you do?

According to Dr. Simon Roe, a small animal veterinarian at the University of Illinois Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, movement can make the fractures of the spine, legs, or other body parts worse. He says "Handle the animal as little as possible and try not to cause any further stress because that could be all that it takes to put the animal into shock."

Most animals can be carefully lifted onto a sturdy, flat surface and transported as long as they don't get apprehensive. If the animal will walk on its own, however, let it.

If a wound is bleeding, try to stop the blood loss," Dr. Roe recommends. "Firmly wrap a lot of bandage layers around the area. The bandage should apply enough pressure to stop the bleeding. But don't leave a tight bandage on for more than 40 minutes."

Sometimes wounds will contain contamination. Dr. Roe says pet owners can use tap water to hose off the worst part of the dirt. But should leave the rest to their veterinarian. Apply a bandage over an open wound to protect it from further contamination, if possible.

"Bite wounds from fighting with other animals may not look bad on the surface, but deeper damage is usually more severe," Dr. Roe notes. "All bite wounds should probably be examined by a veterinarian."



He points out that animals will try to protect themselves when they feel pain . . . usually by biting. "Be extremely careful of the way you handle an injured animal," Dr. Roe cautions. "Remember that if your actions are hurting the animal, you may not be doing any good. If you have to handle the animal, it may help to wrap a cloth muzzle twice around the animal's mouth and then tie it behind its neck."

Although injuries and accidents can't always be prevented, Dr. Roe points out that they can be minimized by restricting your pet's activity, keeping dogs on a leash, and keeping poisons out of your pet's reach.

"It helps to be familiar with the way your pet looks and acts normally, so that you'll be able to tell when it acts abnormally," Dr. Roe concludes. •

### Handling a near-drowning

What do you do if you find your dog or cat floundering exhausted in the swimming pool? Don't give up, start CPR and get veterinary help at once.

Veterinarians are occasionally called upon to treat and try to save animals that have nearly drowned. Most of these accidents occur in swimming pools and streams but hunting and boating accidents contribute their share.

When an animal enters the water, voluntarily or not, its first reflexive action is to hold its breath and start swimming. Retrievers with their

large bodies and thick legs swim easily and for a long time if the water is not too cold. However, small or slender dogs swim poorly and often have difficulty just keeping their heads above water. These fellows tire rapidly. Cold water saps their body warmth and as body temperature drops exhaustion occurs and drowning is imminent. As they tire and sink, aspiration of water causes choking and struggling that becomes violent and ineffective thrashing. They inhale water and gagging causes vomiting inactivity and finally death. What do you do?

The most important problem in near-drowning is lack of oxygen. CPR is the thing to do. Human CPR techniques will work, they just have to be adjusted to the size and shape of the animal. Clear the throat by wiping any mucus or vomitus out with a handkerchief. Clean out all you can see. This is best done with animal's body elevated above its head. Do not expect much water to drain out. This rarely occurs. Close the mouth, grasp the muzzle and blow forcefully into the nose. This will inflate the lungs. Try to do this 70 or 80 times a minute. Every five or six breaths forcefully compress the chest just behind the front legs. This will cause the heart to act as a pump again. Push firmly enough to compress the chest, then allow the chest to completely recover before compressing again. The size of the dog or cat will determine how much force must be applied. A very small dog or cat can be effectively resuscitated with one hand while a large one, like a German shepherd, may require your whole body weight.

Take the animal to a veterinarian at once. Time is very important. The veterinarian will be able to establish a better airway for resuscitation and will use other measures to try to get the heart beating properly again.

Prompt action can save some of these pets. Don't rely on appearances. A near-drowned pet may appear dead but still can recover with immediate help. •

Charles Robinson, DVM.



## The Veterinary Front . .

# CORONAVIRUS THREAT

### CANINE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE NEW CONCERN FOR DOG OWNERS

Infectious Canine Coronavirus Gastroenteritis (CCV) is currently being diagnosed in dogs nationwide. Although of not the same magnitude, the Coronavirus outbreak in many ways resembles the Canine Parvovirus (CPV) epidemic of 1978.

The two diseases are caused by distinct and separate viruses but disease symptoms produced are quite similar and the two diseases are often confused. Both diseases attack the intestinal lining of the dog resulting in vomiting and diarrhea. Although both diseases produce diarrhea, the stool in CCV infection is usually mushy in consistency and yellow-orange in color with a pronounced foul odor. This is perhaps the most distinct difference between the two diseases.

Although CPV infection is generally more severe, CCV has been reported to cause death in puppies. The outcome of either disease is influenced by the age of the dog and its general condition, and the presence of other infections.

Canine Coronavirus was first observed in 1971 among military dogs in Germany and first observed in the U.S. in 1978. The disease then spread rapidly throughout the U.S.

The disease is best characterized as an acute infection causing listlessness, dehydration, loss of appetite and the presence of a loose stool with an offensive odor. Most affected animals recover from CCV infection in seven to 10 days. In some cases, however, a persistent diarrhea may develop and last for three to four weeks.

CCV infection is highly contagious and spreads rapidly in kennels and at dog shows. The disease is spread by contact with stool from infected dogs. However, the birds and flies that have contact with

infected stool can also transmit the disease. The time period from exposure to first symptoms is usually only three to five days.

The incidence of CCV in family-owned dogs has been reported to range from 14 percent to 26 percent. The incidence in kennel-raised dogs often ranges upward to 30 percent.

Coronavirus is now affecting the dog population nationwide," says Dr. R. C. Searl, Vice president of Professional Services at Fort Dodge Laboratories. "Repository serum samples indicate the disease has been around for several years. Because of the distinct similarity of symptoms produced by parvovirus and coronavirus, the disease are easily confused.

#### DISEASE SYMPTOMS . . .

##### CANINE PARVO:

- Sudden onset,
- Rapid spread,
- Severe,
- Vomiting,
- Light gray, yellow gray to bloody diarrhea (odor not pronounced)
- Poor appetite,
- Fever 104 to 106 F.
- High morbidity
- Mortality often high in puppies,
- Severe depression,
- Duration two to 10 days.

##### CANINE CORONA.

- Sudden onset,
- Rapid spread,
- Mild or severe,
- Vomiting,
- Yellow-orange, sometimes bloody diarrhea (odor foul and offensive)
- Poor appetite,
- Fever mild,
- High morbidity
- Occasional deaths in puppies,
- Mild to severe depression,
- Duration seven to 10 days

*In the case of either disease, prompt treatment is vital. If you suspect either virus your pet should be seen and tested by a veterinarian as soon as possible. •*

### BRUCELLOSIS TODAY

Brucellosis is a serious problem for dogs and especially serious for people who have been breeding dogs that are in great demand.

This disease is not one that the average pet owner has to be concerned about unless they are contemplating raising puppies.

The usual indication of infection in the female is infertility or abortion at about the fiftyth day of pregnancy. Male dogs may not show any signs at all. The brucella bacterium will usually cause infection of the genital tract with bacteria being present in the semen, vaginal discharges and urine. Since the bacteria circulate in the blood stream shortly after exposure, infections of the brain, eyes, bones and joints, lymphnodes, spleen and skin are not uncommon. Dogs get this disease either by exposure to the aborted material, by breeding or by direct contact with a dog that is shedding the organism.

Humans can become infected from infected dogs but it is unusual and people do not appear to be very susceptible. People, of course, do get brucellosis caused by the other three brucella organisms (*B. abortus* of cattle, *B. suis* of swine, and *B. melitensis* of goats.)

The disease is diagnosed by testing the suspected animal's blood or by growing the bacteria taken from blood or infected organs. Complete cure of the disease is unusual but the best results have followed successive treatments with several antibiotics. However the disease can be prevented by testing both animals (male and female) before breeding. This testing should be done well in advance of breeding time since retesting may be necessary.

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Don't breed to animals that have not been recently tested for brucellosis.
2. Don't allow your pet to associate with a non-tested actively breeding male dog or with a female who appears to be fertile, or has aborted or has had weak or still-born puppies.

*Charles Robinson, D.V.M.*



# HELP!

**Dear Reader:**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** The purpose of our publication is to inform and communicate. We want to do the best possible job in this area . . . but we need to share your thinking.

We have prepared a simple opinion poll that, with your help, will assist us to better produce the kind of magazine that you enjoy. Will you help?

**What would you enjoy seeing most in Today's Animal News?**

- ☐ More drawings and cartoons?
- ☐ More color? ☐ Less color?
- ☐ More black and white photographs instead?
- ☐ Lots of short stories and articles . . . or would you prefer
- ☐ More lengthy, in-depth articles instead?
- ☐ More editorials?
- ☐ Would you like to see more information relating to:
  - ☐ Dogs ☐ Exotic Animals
  - ☐ Cats ☐ Medicine
  - ☐ Birds ☐ Behavior
  - ☐ Fish ☐ Science
  - ☐ Large Animals ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**How many animals do you own?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What kinds?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What do you like least in Today's Animal News?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What do you like most in Today's Animal News?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How would you improve Today's Animal News?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thanks for taking the time to help. We greatly appreciate your opinions.**

**Your name** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please mail this form to: Today's Animal News,  
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## Cars and cats . . .

Cats enjoy basking in the warmth of the warm engine blocks of your car. But, obviously, firing up your engine with a cat on it can be a traumatic experience for the cat. Before starting the engine on cold mornings, hit the hood of your car to awaken and frighten away your feline engine squatters. •

## Our changing weather

Have you wondered about our strange weather patterns in the last few years? Well, according to National Wildlife, more than 40 percent of the world's rain forests have been cut down or burned down. Studies indicate this is reducing rainfall and increasing temperatures . . . and, perhaps, affecting global weather patterns. •

# Rescue agencies fail pet care

## ANIMALS IN DISASTERS

Calling it "unhappy times for Tucson and animal welfare," an editorial in Community Animal Control magazine pointed out the lack of animal welfare services for pets and livestock in times of natural disaster.

Sudden floods hit Tucson and Pima counties in Arizona late last year and people were evacuated by National Guard trucks, helicopters and car pools. Many brought their animals along but they were not allowed inside human shelters set up by the Red Cross and other agencies. The Humane Society offered to shelter pets, but accommodations were limited and not everyone was able to make the extra trip to emergency shelters.

"Sadly, I have to relate that animal agency care response to this disaster was minimal," said the magazine's editor and publisher, Katherine B. Morgan. Even lack of disaster planning should not have precluded immediate and compassionate response. It was immediately clear that the human service agencies were just that and that their priorities did not extend to animals, or to the sufferings of people separated from their animals."

Morgan ticked off some of the unmet needs stemming from the Arizona flood disaster: animal rescue, both during the evacuation and as the people were able to return to flooded areas; help at the Red Cross emergency centers; pickup of displaced animals; and animal food distribution.

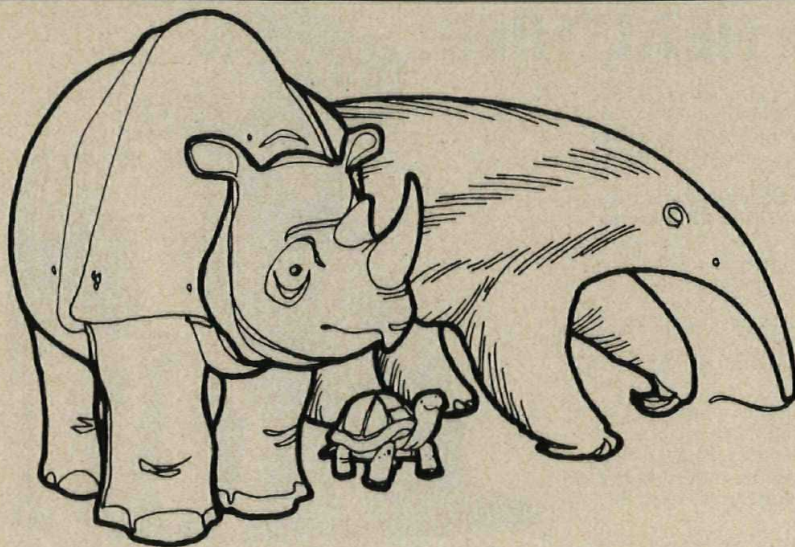
Hopefully, a lesson will have been learned to help rescue agencies provide both help and help peace of mind for animal owners and their charges in future disasters. •

## Vampires in the night

If a vampire bat picks you as a victim, you might not even know it at the time. Vampire bats sneak up on a sleeping victim and lap, not suck, the blood from a wound. And the bats only consume about one teaspoon at each meal.



# WORTH READING



**Show what these animals would tell us if they could talk.**

## WORTH READING

### ANIMAL PLACES AND FACES (A Drawing Book for Kids Who Care)

The boldly illustrated pages invite children to create their own pictures to answer animal-related questions. The appealing drawings by Beverly Armstrong make this book a winner. Miss Armstrong's sketches have the simplicity to appeal to children, while demonstrating a real knowledge of the forms of animal life.

Published by the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education. This drawing book contains 30 partial illustrations that children can complete any way they choose. Among the humane concerns imaginatively addressed are the problems of endangered species, the responsible care of one's own pet, and the need of all animals for appropriate habitat.

Order from NAAHE, Box 362, East Haddam, CT., 06423. The price is \$3.50 for NAAHE members. The publisher does not list the price for non-members

## THE ALASKAN MALAMUTE

This new book contains a wealth of knowledge about the "King of the Working Dogs." There is an especially informative chapter about the Alaskan Malamute's role in the past and "how-to" photographs illustrating the breeding, maintaining and showing the Alaskan Malamute.

From T.F.H. Publications, By Bill Le Kernec, Hard cover, 128 pages, with seven line drawings and 14 full-color photos. Price \$4.95.

## THE KEESHOND

This new book thoroughly details the care, handling, breeding and showing of this increasingly popular European breed, sometimes referred to as the Dutch barge dog. Anyone owning . . . or thinking of owning . . . a Keeshond will be aided by the book's photographs and precise account of the history of the origin and character of the breed.

From T.F.H. Publications, By Martin Weil, 128 pages, with 18 full-color photos and 58 black and white photos and line drawings. Price \$4.95. Hard cover.

## VETERINARIANS

### Veterinary Trauma and Critical Care

Ira M. Zaslow, DVM

Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia

A new book covering most aspects of clinical care. Is easily read, practical and well documented. Offers practising veterinarians a wealth of information on management, methods and special procedures used in critical situations. This is a book that should welcome in most veterinary libraries.

C. T. Robinson, DVM, Editor

## CANINE CLINIC

Published by MacMillan Publishing Company

Author: Anna P. Clarke, D.V.M.

Price: \$17.95 (cloth-bound) 336 pages

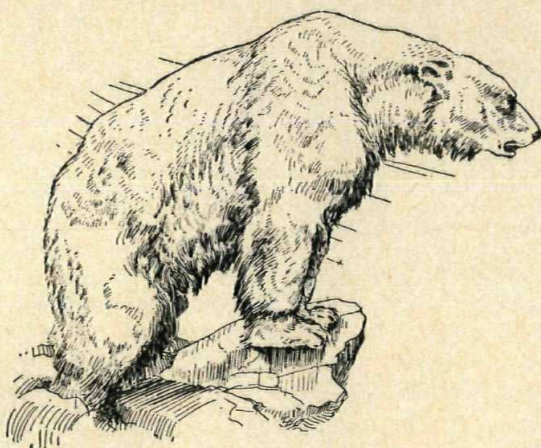
Anna P. Clarke, D.V.M. practices in Santa Barbara, California, and writes "Ask the Pet Doctor" for the Los Angeles Times.

What's the matter when Rover is restless, Fido won't eat, and Spot scratches his ears nonstop? The answers are in this complete sourcebook. Dr. Clarke describes the treatments for disorders of the eyes, ears, skin, nerves, muscles, and bones, and the digestive, urinary, respiratory, and reproductive systems of man's best friend and perfect pet.

If you are a concerned and informed dog owner you will find this book a useful reference for information for everything from warts to wounds. The subtitle is misleading ("The Veterinarian's Handbook . . .") since it really is not written for veterinarians, but for lay pet owners. Each possible health problem is detailed briefly, followed by a suggested treatment program. This is a concise reference work that pet owners will want to keep handy for answers to a host of questions. It will help to evaluate a problem before seeking the needed professional help. It can help the pet owner to accumulate helpful information to assist the veterinarian in the diagnosis and treatment of the problem. This is the kind of book that is destined to become a tattered, well-used reference for concerned dog owners. •



## Polar bear treks



### BEAR WATCHING ADVENTURES...

**I**f you've ever had the crazy whim to see polar bears in their natural habitat instead of a zoo, you don't have to travel all the way to the north pole to observe these unique bears. From Winnipeg, Manitoba, it's a 1,000 mile flight to Churchill on the rim of the frigid Hudson Bay . . . weather permitting. Or, you can take the two-day train ride of 1,055 miles on the Muskog Express to Churchill from Winnipeg.

The Churchill Wildlife Management Area is home to a healthy population of polar bears who have adapted to a partial life on land as opposed to their four-legged kin further north who are born, live and die on ice floes. Churchill is the Polar Bear Capital of the world as far as animal lovers are concerned. The bears have reached the status of dangerous pests certain times of the year when they roam Churchill's streets looking for available garbage cans and other food offerings.

But year-round human residents also realize their bears are a source of income when they take to the land to await the icing up of the Hudson Bay. Motels and restaurants have sprung up to handle the visitors, guides are available, and so is a special vehicle which takes a dozen or more camera-equipped

tour tourists out to the bear stomping grounds. This is the Tundra Buggy, a huge, fat-tired, motorized rig that sits high above the tundra. Its cabin is accessible via a ladder which is pulled up once everybody's seated. Bears are curious about the contents of this giant metal can, and they put their front feet on the tires and peer in the window.

Female bears dig snow caves, seal themselves in and give birth usually in December or January. Cubs weight only about two pounds at birth, are blind and helpless in their birthing cave. By March they're ready to be pushed out and learn a few lessons on obtaining fresh seal meat. The cubs, usually twins or triplets, spend about two years with mother bear, then they're turned out to fend for themselves while their mother seeks a new husband. From then on, they're on their own.

You might think all polar bears look alike, but many have distinctive marks or traits and have earned names from the guides. Some have predictable habits, but almost all are highly photogenic and they show little fear of the Tundra Buggy. And this keeps the dedicated animal watchers trekking to this remote spot in the north to experience the ultimate in animal watching.

By Judson Snyder

### IT'S ABOUT TIME...

*This editor is delighted with the resolution affecting pet ownership being considered in Washington. House Resolution HR1373 and S606 deserve serious consideration. These bills would prohibit "No Pet" clauses in leases of housing for the elderly and handicapped that receive federal assistance.*

*The passage of time and the accidents of living take away many of the pleasures of life. The attention given and received from pets is an activity that should not be arbitrarily prohibited. There is an appropriate pet for almost every situation and no person should have to do without.*

By Charles Robinson, D.V.M.

*There's no validity in the old saying that moss only grows on the north side of a tree, says Ranger Rick magazine. In a dark, moist forest, moss can be seen growing all around the trunk of a tree.*

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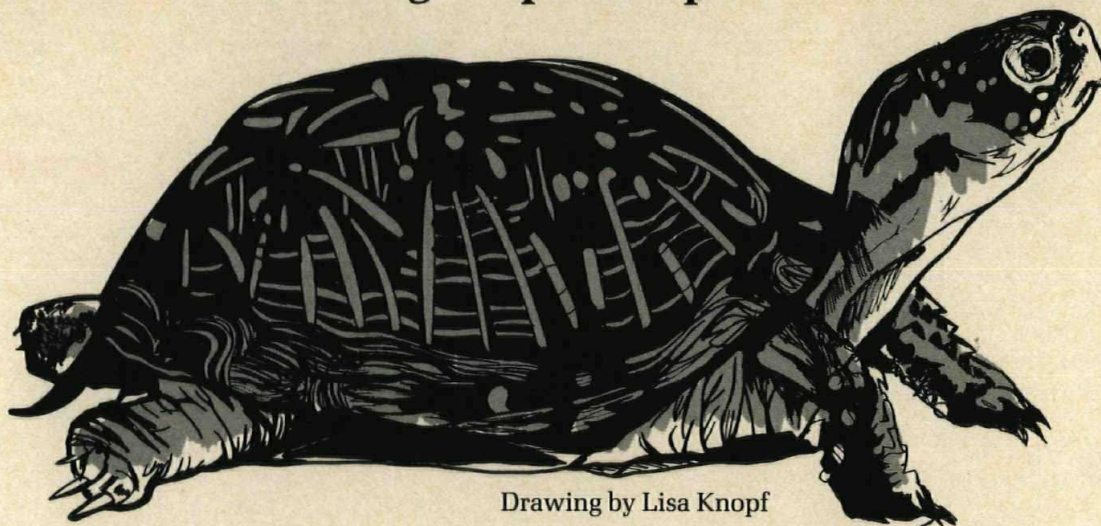
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## Finding the perfect pet . . .



Drawing by Lisa Knopf

## Turtles & Tortoise as Pets

**A**ccording to common terminology in the United States, a turtle lives in or near water, and a tortoise is strictly terrestrial; both are reptiles with bony shells, or chelonians. Turtles' adaptations to an aquatic environment include webbed feet and a flattened and streamlined carapace, or upper shell. Tortoises have stumpy elephant-like feet without webbing between the toes, and their carapaces are high and domed. The creatures' care in captivity varies according to their natural habitat, although certain factors are constant for both turtles and tortoises. Active turtles and tortoises require day-time temperatures ranging from 75-90° F.; the water in turtle tanks or ponds should be kept at about 72-80° F. during the day. Temperatures may fall to the 60's at night without harming the animals. Reptiles get their body heat from their environment, for they cannot regulate their own body temperatures. At temperatures below the optimum range, the animals become sluggish and do not eat well. Temperatures above the optimum range can result in the animals' death from overheating.

Both turtles and tortoises require several hours every day of natural, unfiltered sunlight or light from an artificial source like a Gro-Lux or Vita-Lite, which have spectra similar to natural sunlight. Some zoos use a vitamin D sunlamp as a sunshine substitute for their chelonians kept indoors; a vitamin D sunlamp may be used for periods not to exceed three hours per day. When exposing reptiles to sunshine or its substitute, it is essential that shade be provided so that the creatures may move out of the light at will. If sunshine or its substitute is lacking, the animals may suffer from symptoms of illness which include soft shells and swollen eyelids.

In order to provide the right kind of care for a turtle or tortoise, the owner should become familiar with the features of his pet's natural habitat. A desert tortoise requires a dry, warm climate, while a water turtle needs a large tank of water or an outdoor pond or pool with a basking ramp or floats so that the animal can climb out of the water. Box turtles need moist piles of leaves in their pens for hiding and sleeping in. European tortoises do well under garden conditions, with a mixture of dry and moist areas.

Captive chelonians need a wide variety of food and should not be limited to commercial turtle foods or to lettuce. Foods widely accepted by aquatic species include strips of lean meat, whole smelt, live gold fish or guppies, snails, tadpoles, pieces of heart and other organ meats, meal worms, banana, peaches, pears, canned dog food, berries, water plants and cheese. In many species, the food must be eaten under water or the turtle cannot swallow. A calcium block should be provided.

Continued on next page



## Turtles & Tortoise as Pets

Foods relished by terrestrial and semi-terrestrial species include fresh fruits and vegetables, dry cat or dog food that has been moistened in water, cottage cheese, flowers, edible weeds, dandelion greens, snails, grass and dry cereals. Drinking water should be provided.

Turtles and tortoises must not have access to poisonous plants, to snails that have been poisoned, or to snail bait. Insecticides should not be used in or around the reptiles' quarters.

Both turtles and tortoises may have powdered or liquid vitamins and powdered steamed bone meal for pets added to their food.

Painting a chelonian's shell may interfere with the animal's growth, and holes should not be drilled on the outer edges of the carapace.

A healthy chelonian which is sufficiently fat can be allowed to hibernate at outdoor winter temperatures in temperate climates. Land species may hibernate in a cold dry place like an unheated garage, with a pile of leaves or crumpled newspaper to burrow into. Water turtles kept outdoors can hibernate in the mud or among the rocks on the bottom of their pool or pond. Turtles kept indoors in a tank or aquarium are usually kept warm and active all winter.

Many illnesses can affect captive turtles and tortoises. Infections of the mouth, shell, skin and respiratory systems are common. Turtles and tortoises may suffer from swollen eyes and soft shells, skin lacerations, broken shells and a myriad of other ailments. Owners should become familiar with healthy chelonians' appearances and check their animals frequently for any change from the normal. A veterinarian should be consulted when sickness or injury is noted.

Salmonella infections in humans have been traced to some water turtles. Salmonellosis symptoms include abrupt abdominal pain, diarrhea, fever, nausea and vomiting. Deaths are uncommon but do occasionally occur. Turtle fanciers point out that salmonella can be transmitted to humans by other animals, as well as through many foods and other sources. People who keep turtles, or any animals, should wash their hands thoroughly after handling the animals or cleaning their quarters. Turtle tanks should not be emptied into the kitchen sink.

Many laws exist regarding turtles and tortoises. Anyone owning a turtle or tortoise or contemplating acquiring one may ascertain the legal status of the animal in question by contacting his state Department of Fish and Game and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C.

Federal law prohibits the sale of turtles measuring less than four inches in length, in an effort to eliminate turtle-caused salmonella. Federal law also prohibits the importing of certain turtles because the species are rare or in danger of extinction.

Some examples of state laws include the following: it is illegal to own snapping turtles in California, where it is also illegal to buy or sell desert tortoises. A permit must be obtained to keep a desert tortoise in California. State laws protect the Texas tortoise and the Gopher tortoise of the southeastern states. Sea turtles are protected in Florida. Diamondback Terrapins are protected in Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Texas.

Chelonians are appealing pets because they are not noisy, do not require training and do not shed hair. They can be housed in a relatively small area. Turtles and tortoises give their keepers a sense of being in touch with nature, for if kept outdoors, the animals' behavior is governed by the seasons. In winter, hibernation occurs. Spring means the awakening of the reptiles, hungry and thirsty. In late spring or early summer, eggs are laid. Summer heat causes the creatures to be ever more active and to have large appetites. In late summer, the eggs hatch, after being incubated by the sun warming the earth. In the fall, the animals slow down, eating and moving about less. If sufficient fat has built up during the summer eating, the turtle or tortoise is ready for another winter hibernation. Observation of this cyclical behavior is fascinating, and a person who is serious about his tortoises or turtles can learn a great deal. ●





# ANTIFREEZE



## *Coolant — A continuing Threat to Pets*

by Carl Nowicki

**I**t was not much of a puddle — just a small stream of liquid dripping from under the car. The small gray tabby went over and licked at it. It had a pleasant aroma and a sweet taste that the cat found palatable. It was water that had leaked from a cracked radiator hose in the homeowner's car, and it contained a high percentage of coolant/antifreeze.

Within a short time the cat began to act weak and nervous. The gait became more of a stagger than a walk. Soon vomiting began. By the time the owners noticed the problem the small cat was already slipping into a coma. The cat was rushed to a veterinarian and was saved by prompt treatment. If detected promptly most pets can survive antifreeze poisoning.

According to a survey by the American Animal Hospital Association, 76 percent of its nationwide network of spokesmen reported having treated one or more cases of antifreeze poisoning. And many rated antifreeze poisoning as a serious problem in their area.

"We all know that antifreeze/coolant solution is not to be drunk. The warning labels are right on the container. Unfortunately, we seem to forget that animals can't read. It's up to us to keep them from poisoning themselves," said Dr. Warren G. Walter, a former president of the American Animal Hospital Association.

What makes coolant/antifreeze so dangerous is its content of ethylene glycol, which prevents both engine boil-over in the summer and freezing in the winter. To get an idea of how toxic ethylene glycol is, here are some figures:

- One teaspoon of antifreeze can kill an average size cat.
- Two and one-half tablespoons will kill a 15-pound dog, and five tablespoons will kill a 30-pound dog.
- . . . since there are two tablespoons to an ounce, this means that a small beagle or cocker spaniel can die from the amount of antifreeze in a good size jigger or two!

Also of concern is the fact that even small quantities of antifreeze can cause kidney damage that might go undetected.

In this year of gasoline shortages and other automotive related problems, what can you do to help cut the annual toll from antifreeze poisoning? First, check your car's heater and radiator hoses. Inspect them for cracks, punctures and loose clamps that may leak. When the engine warms up . . . pressures increase and so does the chance for coolant leaks.

Check the radiator itself, making sure that there's no seepage through a split or crack. Look for any puddles under the car.

Make sure your car's thermostat is operating properly and, if it's a late model car, that there's no leak in the overflow container or its hoses. Your service station, garage or car dealer will be happy to help check the system.

But most important, be careful in changing or disposing of antifreeze. It should not be allowed to remain in a gutter or other area where an animal might get at it. Antifreeze evaporates very slowly.



## Horses and Potomac fever

Just like canine parvovirus came seemingly out of nowhere and swept through the dog population worldwide, veterinarians are now worrying about equine diarrhea syndrome, or Potomac fevers as it is commonly called. It first appeared in the Potomac Valley in 1979 and is now spreading to horse regions in other states.

More than 100 cases were diagnosed in Maryland, 32 in Virginia and 25 in Pennsylvania. More than 30 percent of the affected horses have died. First signs are a reluctance or refusal to eat, elevated temperatures, then a diarrhea that causes rapid dehydration.

All that's known about the disease so far is that it can be transferred from the blood of a sick horse to a healthy horse. The virus, bacteria or whatever organism that triggers Potomac fever has yet to be found. And, until it is isolated, there can be no preventative vaccine. *Colostridium* bacteria has been found horses with Potomac fever, but the same bacteria has also been found in healthy horses. The disease is seasonal with summer months rated as peak infectious seasons.

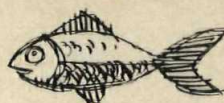
Veterinary researchers are busy working on the problem, assisted by a generous grant from the Morris Animal Foundation. Researchers found a vaccine for canine parvovirus and they're hopeful they can soon come up with something for Potomac fever soon.

### CHECK YOUR LABEL

Does your label have the name of a veterinarian hospital on it? If so . . . That hospital has chosen you to receive a complimentary subscription to *Todays Animal News*!

That's your veterinarian's way of providing vital information about the health and care of your pet . . . and at the same time expressing appreciation for your patronage.

If you enjoy the magazine why not call the hospital and tell them so.



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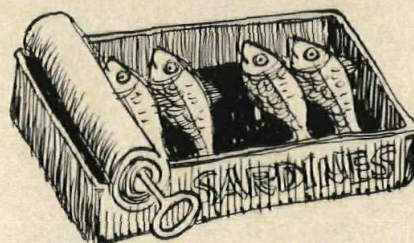
And, of course, our readers are special, too. They are better informed and more concerned with the care of their pets.

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### THE LEAST POPULAR DOG

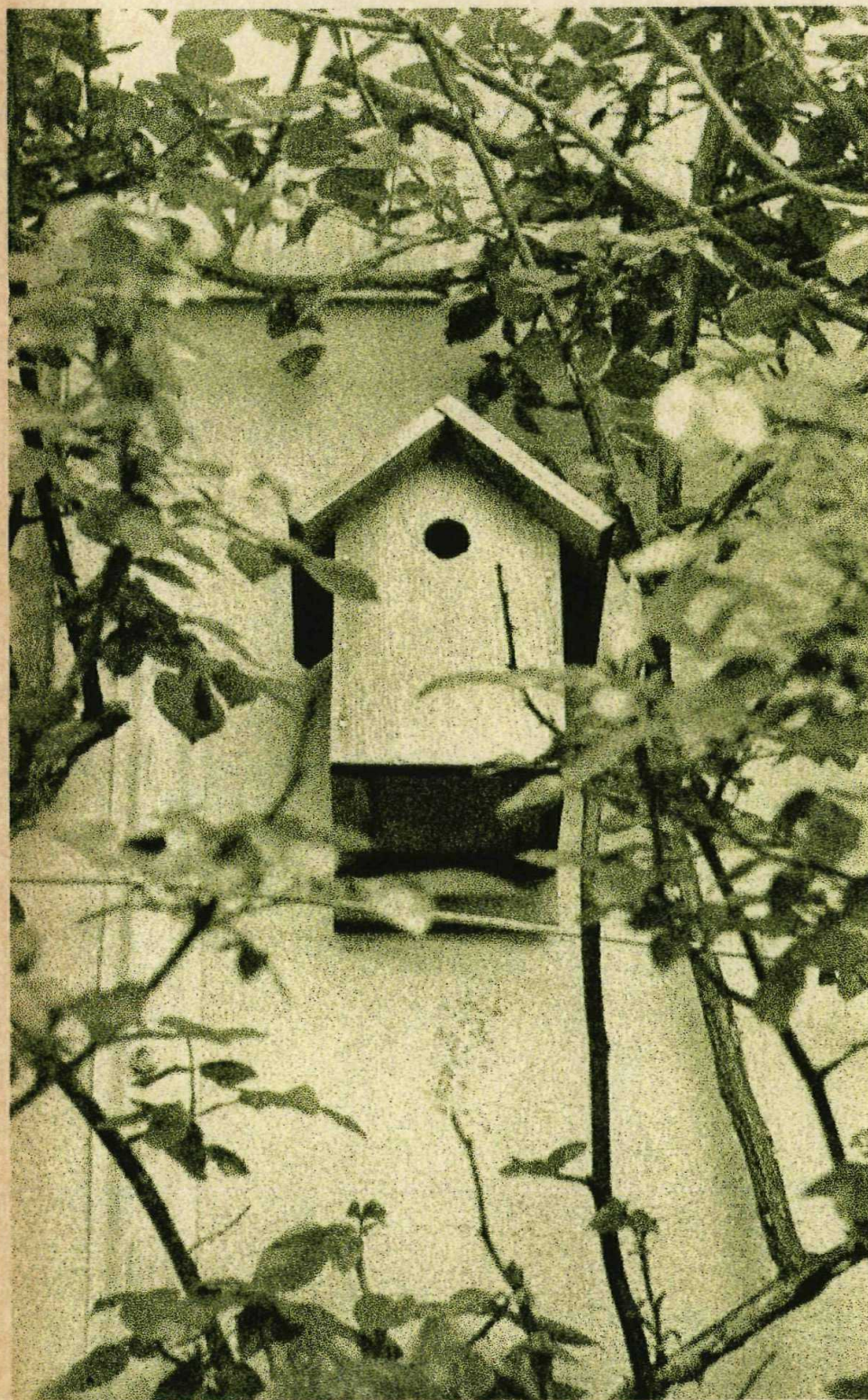
Want a less popular breed of dog instead of following the tide of popularity? How about an English foxhound? When the most recent American Kennel Club tally of the most popular dog breeds was completed the English foxhound wound up in last place with a total of only three litters registered for the entire year.

### Snakes are not all bad

Snake venom is not only being used to aid people bitten by snakes, it's becoming a valuable substance to make new drugs, reports *National Wildlife* magazine. Viper venom, for instance, is being used to make anti-coagulants that can dissolve blood clots. It's even proving effective in treating coronary heart failures where a clot is blocking the arteries that supply blood.



## Bye bye bluebird



*One way to help save some of our disappearing birds is to provide alternate shelter and nesting areas to replace the natural housing lost by land development for human purposes. A simple house like this one can easily be completed and erected in an afternoon, even if you lack carpentry skills. (It should, of course, be situated in a cat-proof spot.) It will take a small investment of your time, some old scrap lumber, and can provide many hours of bird watching pleasure.*

### ENDANGERED BIRDS . . .

Did you know the bluebird is on the Audobon Society Blue List? No, this doesn't mean the bird is on a list according to its chief color characteristic. The Blue List means the bird is a declining species in certain regions of the U.S., and is a prime candidate for an endangered species listing.

You'd probably be astonished at the number of seemingly commons birds that are seen less and less in certain areas. Included on the Blue List are such well-known feathered friends as the mockingbird, barn owl, scrub jay, orchard oriole, house wren, ruby-throated hummingbird, rufous-sided towhee, chipping sparrow, and hairy woodpecker. The bluebird is listed as "in trouble everywhere." And the mockingbird is in trouble in the midwest. The scrub jay is declining in population only in Florida, for some reason. Other birds are decreasing in numbers in the northeast, Rocky mountain areas or south Atlantic coast or several regions at the same time.

What can you do about it? Well, resident humans in these areas can do a lot to help preserve the status quo, at least, for these endangered birds. As humans continue to clear the natural wooded areas for shopping centers and subdivisions many of these birds are losing their areas for breeding, nesting and feeding.

Building boxes for nests, putting up bird feeders, cat-proof bird baths, vines and trees favored by certain species will increase the population of Blue List birds in your area.

The financial costs for these projects can be very little. basic requirements are a little time, a lot of imagination, a concern for the possible loss of a familiar part of our natural wildlife. But help and advice is readily available for anyone concerned with helping to preserve some our disappearing birds.

For more detailed information, get in touch with your local Audubon Society chapter, state agricultural extension office, or check in the local library. By customizing your yard to certain species, you're sure to attract those particular birds. •



# POODLES FALL FROM FAVOR . . .

## THE RISE AND FALL OF THE POODLE

### . . . and here comes the cocker spaniel

**W**ell, it has finally happened. After a reign of 23 year years of being America's most popular breed of dog, the poodle has been dethroned. The American cocker spaniel has been steadily creeping up on the poodle and now, according to American Kennel Club statistics, has become number one in number of registrations.

At the close of each year the record keepers at AKC sit down with the monumental task of sorting out about a million registrations of different breeds of dogs and emerge with a tally of which breeds have gained or lost in the annual popularity poll. 1983 results showed the cocker, after a long absence, back on top and the poodle falling back into the number two spot. It has been a long time coming for the cocker. It held the throne from 1936 until 1952 and has been working its way back ever since.

The comeback of the cocker was unusual since most breeds that have been on top once don't return. The beagle was number one from 1953 through 1959. The Boston terrier ruled from 1929 to 1935, and the German Shepherd was America's favorite 1926 to 1928. And these breeds have not been serious contenders since then.

### WHAT SETS TRENDS IN POPULARITY?

Although the AKC statistics show no reasons for the changes in canine popularity, some conclu-

sions can be drawn from their calculations. The large breeds are "in". Rottweilers displayed a dramatic leap of 43 percent in registrations. And the number of chow chows jumped 23 percent. For the eighth consecutive year there were no toy breeds in the top ten breeds.

Some authorities theorize that the increasing popularity of larger breeds is a reflection of the public concern of increasing violent crime rates. Large, formidable appearing dogs, like Rottweilers, offer pet buyers the hope that the family pet may also function as a defender of the hearth and home. But the role of guardian doesn't seem to apply to all large breeds. In contrast Great Danes, Doberman pinchers, Alaskan malamutes, Old English sheepdogs and Irish setters have all suffered a decline in popularity.

### CREATING AN IMAGE . . .

No one has really figured out the key to the popularity of certain breeds of dogs, but the media is an obvious factor in influencing the fads of dog buyers. Movies, television, and even books, play a major role in creating an image that sets buying trends.

In the past, the popularity of some breeds could be traced directly to "celebrity" dogs, such as the Irish setter star of "big Red". The scotty achieved new popularity when depicted as the constant companion of President Roosevelt. As the canine star of the "Thin Man" series of films and books "Asta" made the fox terrier popular in thousands of homes. "Cleo" the basset hound became a popular television personality and, accordingly, a popular pet for many dog owners. When Judy Garland shared her starring role in "The Wizard of Oz" with an endearing little dog named "Toto" the cairn terrier became a popular pet. In England, the Pembroke Welsh corgi has been the pet of the royal family for generations and maintained a steady

favorite with English subjects. When Walt Disney used a corgi to star in a tear-jerking tv film "Little Dog Lost" the corgi shot from obscurity to a fairly popular breed in the U.S.

### IMPULSE BUYING . . .

Most American pet purchasers choose the family dog on impulse. Much time may be invested in study and comparison before the purchase of a new tv or automobile but the family dog often is bought on the spur of the moment. Walt Disney's entertaining flick "The Shaggy Dog" appears on tv and pet buyers dash out in droves to buy an Old English sheepdog. These impulsive buyers usually have given no consideration to the amount of grooming and care required to keep their new pet looking like the film star that inspired their purchase.

This influence has been lacking in the last few years, since the only canine star of note has been the beguiling "Benji". Since Benji is an obvious mixed breed the only source for a look-alike has been animal shelters. There hasn't even been a president's dog with which to identify. Unlike Nixon and "Checkers" and Johnson and his beagles, Raegan is depicted by the press as a horseman.

Rin-tin-tin put the German shepherd into the top spot of popularity but the most recent movie success "Cujo" didn't do much to improve the popularity of the St. Bernard.

One thing is sure. The poodle may be down . . . but not out. The poodle has a "track record" that will be hard to beat. In 1969 it set an all-time record of registrations. In that year there were almost a quarter of a million new registrations entered into the books. And there are still millions of Americans who look upon the poodle as the "perfect pet." ●

By Doug Bundock



# Summer: Heat Alert

**Intense Sunlight Contributes to  
Eye Cancer in Dogs**

**SCHAUMBURG, ILL.**—The contribution of intense ultraviolet (UV) radiation to eye cancer in dogs has been confirmed in a 10-year study reported in the current issue of the **Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association**.

According to the authors, Drs. A.M. Hargis, A. D. Lee, and R. W. Thomassen, Colorado State University (CSU), Fort Collins, Co., similar cancers may develop in human beings and cattle.

In this study, 14 dogs in a research colony of 1,680 beagles developed 19 cancerous lesions. The animals were housed at the CSU Collaborative Radiological Health Laboratory (CRHL), a facility located in a high altitude, smog-free, sunny area of Colorado.

"Results (of this study) suggest that environmental factors that lead to increased solar exposure to the skin and conjunctiva of many dogs may be related to the chronic lesions observed," conclude the authors.

The degree of intensity of UV radiation reaching earth is the major consideration in the development of eye tumors.

"The indication of neoplasia (cancer) by naturally occurring UV radiation is influenced by factors regulating the quantity of UV radiation reaching the earth," say the scientists.

The veterinarians go on to say, "Such factors include the quantity of ozone, gaseous molecules, fine suspended atmospheric particles, and smog, all of which may absorb or scatter the UV rays. These factors vary greatly with altitude, latitude, season, and time of day, and are partly responsible for regional variation in tumor incidence."

Wind, dust, and viruses have also been shown to enhance the development of cancer and were taken into consideration in this study.

# Cat with the Crooked Tail

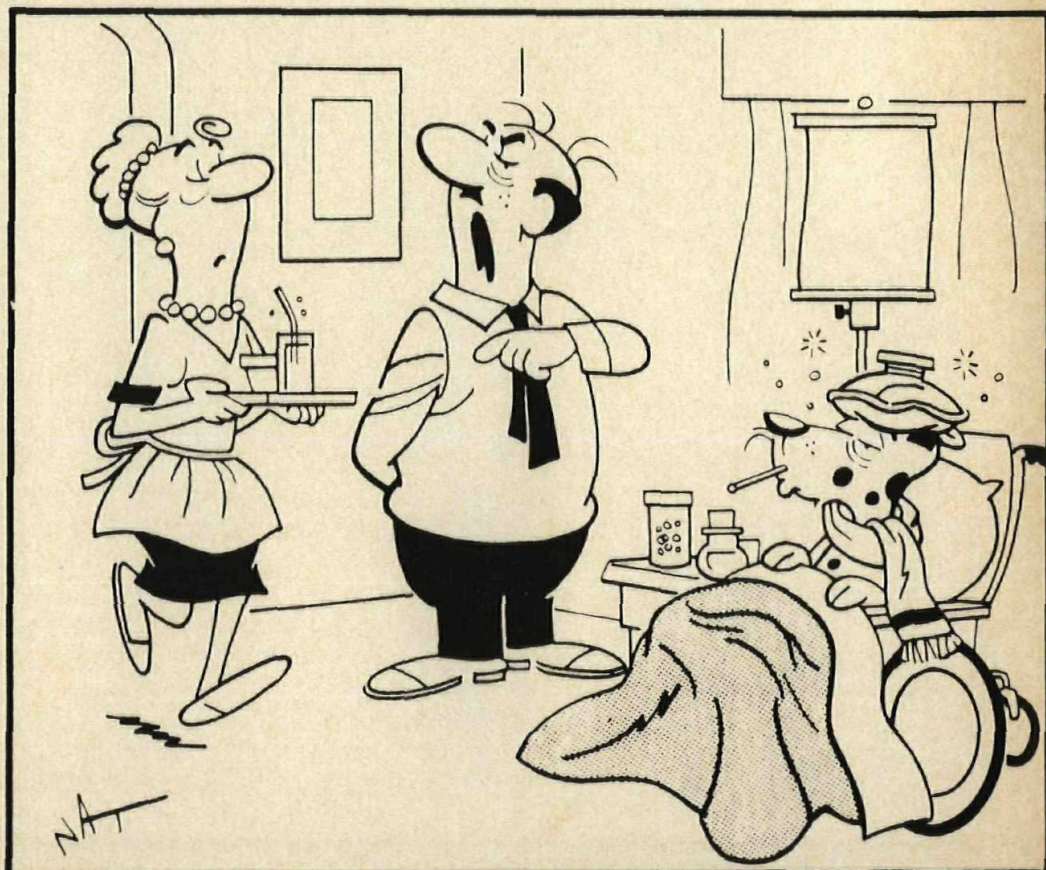
By Margaret H. Bryan

So, your cat has a kink in its tail. Yes, it does. This is usually the attitude of veterinarians when examining a cat with this genetic defect. This attitude is caused by the fact that "kink tails" are relatively common and are not a medical problem in the least. There is no need to be concerned because the "kink" is not painful and leads to nothing further — it is simply present.

The cause of this defect originates in one of two growth plates located in the vertebrae. One half of the growth plate is malformed which causes one side of the tail to continue to grow while the other side does not. For this reason, the tail curves. The particular section of the malformed growth plate will determine in which direction the tail will curve; it may curve upward, downward or sideways.

The defect usually occurs in the tip of the tail in the last two or three vertebrae.

Scott Dugas, DVM of Gainesville, Florida, states that corrective surgery is not necessary and, in fact, he has never performed such an operation. He has seen tails with a slight curve to approximately a  $\frac{3}{4}$  curve at most. Dr. Dugas adds that the "kink tail" is most seen in Siamese cats due to their genetic nature. He believes this must be a recessive characteristic in Siamese cats.



" WHY CAN'T HE JUST EAT GRASS WHEN HE'S SICK ? "





Photos by D.M. Diem

## For whom the bell tolls . . .

### CAT BELLS . . .

You'd probably be surprised at the ease most cats take to the idea of pawing at a bell hung by the front or back door. Or any door. The idea, of course, is to give them their own "I want out" or "I want in" signaling system.

Pick out a bell that has a pleasant tone (to you), and not too heavy for the typical cat to just paw lightly at, and hang it at cat level near the door . . . one indoors and one outdoors. It will take a few demonstrations of picking up the cat's paw and batting the bell with your help at the start. Or ring the bell yourself if the cat's merely standing by the door and assuming you know what it wants. Once it has picked up the trick, praise the performance and promptly open the door. In a multi-cat household, pick out the smartest cat to show the way and the others will learn by observation, or a few added reinforcement lessons.

They just have to learn this trick indoors for most cats will connect the bell with a door opened by humans no matter which side they're standing on.

Naturally, there will always be some cats who will just refuse to go through this bell-pawing routine, either out of stupidity (not likely), or just sheer feline stubbornness (more likely). This calls for a protracted series of lessons combined with tidbits of favorite foods if the lesson is learned. It's merely a case of drumming it in to the dimwitted one or outlasting the stubborn one. ●

### Aspirin dangers . . .

*The recent aspirin "scare" created a scare for humans as to the possibility of poisoning. But the dangers of aspirin has been around for pets. Tylenol and aspirin can be fatal to cats. The cat's body just can't utilize the chemicals in these medications. When a sympathetic owner thinks a dose of aspirin will help the pet, he may be destroying it. Never give a medicine to your animal without checking first with your veterinarian. ●*

Official publication of the Animal Health Foundation . . . . . Page 27

### FELINE BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT . . .

Veterinary researchers at Colorado State U have successfully performed a bone marrow transplant in a Siamese cat. The cat, named Miki-Moto, was a victim of a rare genetic bone disease called Mucopolysaccharidosid VI, also called Maroteux-Lamy syndrome, an incurable and always fatal disease.

Researchers first eliminated the cat's defective bone marrow with massive doses of radiation and then injected healthy bone marrow cells into the bloodstream. A drug was used to prevent rejection of the healthy cells.

Tests reveal that Miki-Moto's body has accepted the healthy bone marrow and there's a "steady improvement" in the cat's bone deformities.

"We hope we have seeded Miki-Moto for life through biologic engineering," said Dr. Peter Gasper, a CSU pathologist who performed the transplant. "Bone marrow transplantation is a powerful tool and this success documents its application in the treatment of certain inherited fatal diseases."

The success with Miki-Moto may "someday cure the rare genetic defects of human victims." ●



## NEW STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH AN ANCIENT ENEMY

By David B. Porter, D.V.M.

For Pitman-Moore, Inc.

Is the photo on the opposing page a new Hollywood monster to titillate the jaded fright cells of American youth? No, not a monster and not new either. All of us have seen this creature in our lifetimes, but have never had such a close-up view of his hungry face. It's the face of our old enemy, the flea, magnified 90 times through the wizardry of the scanning electron microscope.

Fleas were around long before dogs and cats and people. Their ancestors were chewing on hairy mammoths before the dawn of history, and they made prehistoric tigers gnash their sabre teeth in angry desperation. In more recent times, several privilege Egyptian fleas even managed to get themselves embalmed along with King Tut's favorite cat. These historical tidbits tell us that fleas are durable inhabitants of this planet, and the current state of our warfare against them suggests that total victory is still a long way off.

Who is this tiny little enemy, and why should we be so determined to destroy him and his kind? The flea, like other insects, has six legs and a hard shell-like armor, but unlike other insects, his body is flattened from side to side, into a shape ideally suited for scampering through dense forests of hair. And unlike his slow-moving fellow parasite, the louse, he jump as high as two feet. Although we're most aware of fleas when they are seen on our dogs and cats . . . or on us . . . these insects spend most of their lives on the ground, in carpets, in animal bedding, and in and on furniture. After a meal of animal or human blood, the female flea mates while on the host (cat, dog, human or other mammal and then lays her eggs, which soon fall to the ground or floor. Within a few days, the eggs hatch into tiny maggot-like larvae that crawl about in the grass or in our rugs and carpets, feeding on whatever edible material they can find.

## EFFECTIVE FLEA CONTROL . . .

### THE WAITING GAME . . .

Eventually, several days or weeks later, the larvae spin themselves into a cocoon, from which they emerge in due time as hungry, jumping adult fleas. The entire cycle . . . adult, egg, larva, cocoon, and next generation adult . . . can be completed in as short a time as three weeks; or if temperatures and humidity are low, the life-cycle may take as long as a year. The fact that adult fleas can survive two months without food explains why animals or people entering a house that has been vacant for weeks can be the victims of voracious attacks by fleas that were left behind by previous tenants. In the cocoon stage, fleas survive even longer . . . up to a year . . . in a vacant house or apartment. It takes only the vibration of a footfall on carpet or floor to trigger the hatching process, and any warm-blooded animal present attracts the newly-hatched adult fleas.

The damage that fleas do varies from mildly annoying to intolerable, depending on circumstances. Although each species of flea (and there are many) has its preference as the species of animal that it will parasitize, these insects are not at all difficult to please. Thus it is that the cat fleas is the one most commonly found in this country on dogs and humans, as well as on cats. Likewise, the human flea will happily feed on animal pets. The amount of blood consumed by a flea at each sitting is hardly worth worrying about except in rare cases of overwhelming infestations, but flea saliva, which enters the puncture wound produced by the insect's mouth parts, causes itching that can be intense. When cats or dogs chew at the site of the itching, they are likely to pick up and swallow one or more of their tiny tormentors, which may be carrying an intermediate form of a common tapeworm of cats and dogs. Some animals become so sensitized to flea saliva that they develop an extensive, itching dermatitis that

can drive them to chew themselves nude and raw over large areas of their bodies. The flea problem, to one degree or another, is familiar to almost everyone who owns a dog or cat. In the warmer parts of the United States, the pests remain active and multiply year around, while in the northern states and Canada, winter temperatures and low humidity slow down the flea's life cycle and bring some relief to pets and their owners.

### FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE FLEA

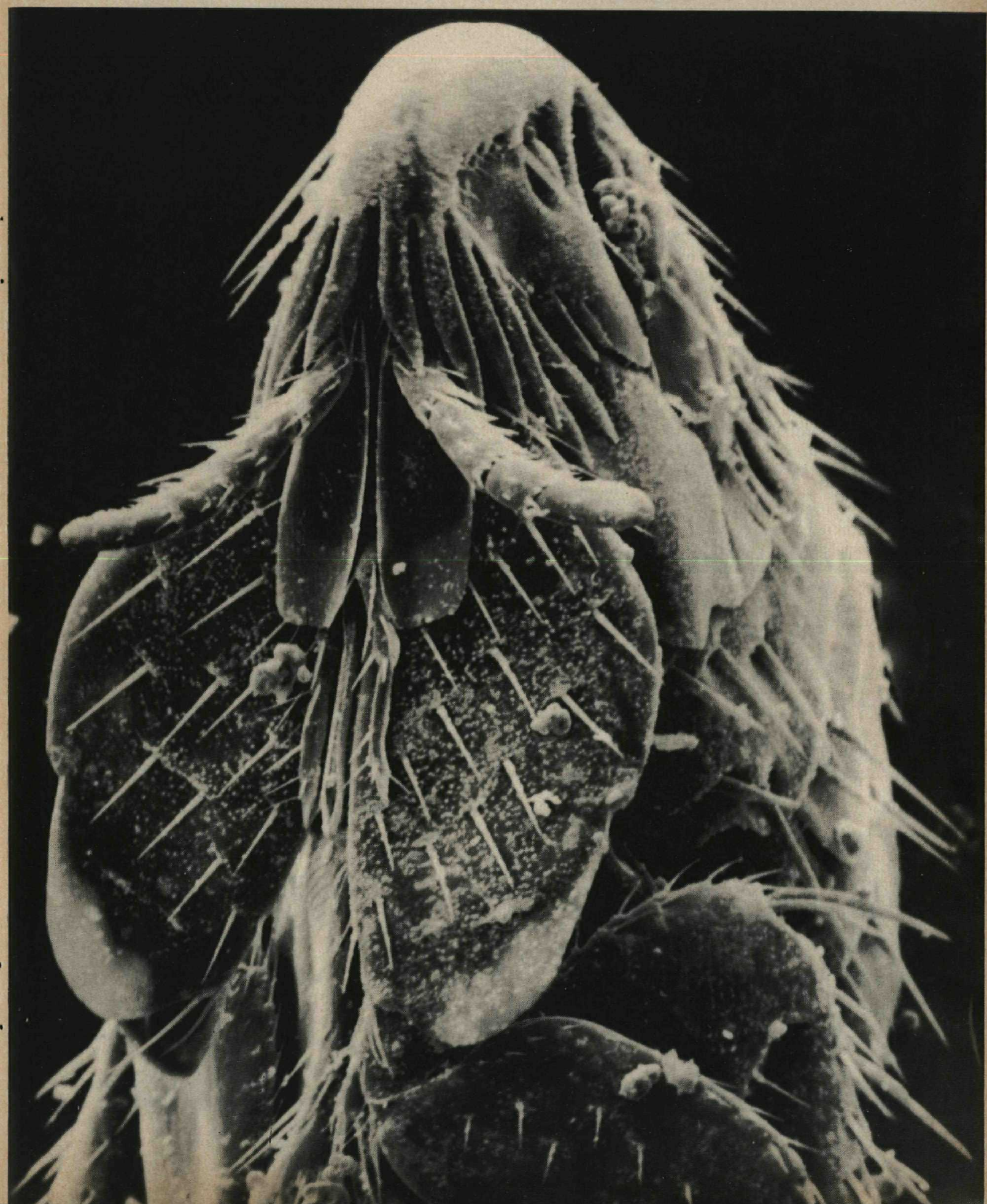
It is not known whether the ancient Egyptians took any measures to protect themselves and their sacred cats from fleas, but it may be that those people, so knowledgeable about medicinal plants, were the first to extract from chrysanthemums what we know today as pyrethrum, which is still a very useful weapon against many insect pests. Derris, another plant native to the Eastern Hemisphere, is the source of rotenone, and old, still reliable insecticide. Pyrethrum, rotenone and their derivatives and synthetic imitations have an important place in modern flea control products because of their ability to kill insects rapidly. They are also the safest for use around people and pets. Unfortunately, their insect-killing power is rather short-lived; there is little or no residual effect.

Around the time of World War II, a new type of insecticide entered the scene. DDT and other compounds of the class of chemicals called chlorinated hydrocarbons are not only lethal to insects, with a lingering residual effect, but they were long believed to be completely safe for use on and around animals and people. They fell into disfavor as concern increased over their long-term effects on wildlife and their tendency to accumulate in the body fat of human beings. One by one, the chlorinated hydrocarbons have been taken off the market, and nowadays none of them are recommended or available for flea control.

*Continued on Page 30*



# AN AMAZING MONSTER.





## Know your enemy, the flea!

Continued from previous page

As DDT and similar Compounds disappeared from the scene, two other potent classes of insecticides were coming into widespread use: the organophosphates and carbamates. Both of these types of compounds destroy insects in the same way, by attacking their nervous systems. While these compounds tend to be effective primarily against adult fleas, at least one of the newer organophosphates is lethal to flea larvae as well. The flea-killing power of the organophosphates and carbamates is not as rapid as the quick "knock-down" of pyrethrum and rotenone, but their activity continues over a longer period of time after application. This is why some insecticidal products combine pyrethrins or rotenone with an organophosphate or a carbamate. Although the organophosphates and carbamates are safe when applied according to directions, they are not without hazard to humans and other animals if misused. For instance, cats which are sensitive to many substances that are harmless to other species, do not tolerate some organophosphate insecticides.

### POISON THE FLEA, NOT YOUR PET.

There are also two completely inert (and therefore safe) substances that have been found to be helpful in the war against fleas. Diatomaceous earth and silica gel are included in some flea powders for their abrasive action; they literally grind holes in a flea's outer shell, causing the pest to leak and die from loss of fluids.

The newest weapon in the anti-flea war is methoprene, a chemical compound that interrupts the development of flea larvae, preventing them from turning into biting adults.

Recently, vitamin B-1 (as in brewer's yeast) has achieved some measure of popular fame as a flea repellent. If, as believed by some, the presence of thiamine or its byproducts in the perspiration of those who dose themselves with that vita-

min does in fact repel fleas, there is no reason to expect a similar result in dogs and cats; unlike humans, they have few scent glands and perspire very little. However, at least one of the organophosphates is available in tablet form to be given dogs by mouth for flea control. Unfortunately, a flea has to bite the dog to come in contact with the insecticide, so this approach is not truly preventative.

Now that you know all about fleas, their intimate habits, and the modern insecticides designed to do them in, how will you proceed to wage a successful battle against them? Organophosphate or carbamate flea collars are the least complicated and messy approach to flea control, but be not deceived. Flea collars by themselves are usually but a partial answer to the problem. The good ones do kill fleas that invade the front end of your dog or cat, but the flea's favorite haunts on the hind quarters and around the base of the tail seem to be beyond the reach of a collar's maximum lethal effects.

### SEEKING OUT THE ENEMY

Remember that most of a flea's life is spent off the dog or cat; so you are going to have to pay some special attention to the animal's bedding, the carpets, the yard, and other places where fleas lurk. You must come up with a battle plan tailored to fit your particular situation, taking into consideration the kind of pets that you keep, the type of premises where you and your pets live, and the severity of the flea problem. Your veterinarian can help you select from the bewildering array of powders, sprays, dips, shampoos, collars and foggers that are available today, to enable you to deal effectively and safely with the fleas in your life. There will even be special situations in which your veterinarian may recommend that you obtain the services of a professional exterminator, but keep in mind that even complete elimination of fleas from the premises by an exterminator must be accompanied by a well

thought out, continuing program.

If you elect to go it alone and design your own battle plan, take time to read the product labels carefully. Some of the promised benefits may be on the optimistic side, but more importantly, those labels give safety precautions essential for your protection and for the well-being of your pets. •

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## LETTERS...

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### Dear Dr. Robinson:

*I enjoy reading each issue of Today's Animal News. I especially enjoyed the recent issue on wolves.*

*I would very much like to see more information on the care and maintenance of pet birds.*

*Catherine Heater, Santa Rosa, California*

### Dear Cathy:

*Check our March-April issue for a major article on this subject. We will attempt to bring you, and our other readers, more information on this subject in future issues.*

*Charles Robinson, DVM, Editor.*

### Dear Dr. Robinson:

*I am very interested in your magazine. We have German Shepherds and would like some good articles about the care of older dogs. Modern medicine has permitted our dogs to lead long lives. So much is written of puppy life, but not enough of the other end of life. Thank you so much for what you do*

*Sister Maria Valla, Alhambra, California.*

### Dear Sister:

*We have recently devoted an entire issue to the care of the aging pet. But, perhaps, it is a subject that is of significant importance to do again.*

*Charles Robinson, DVM, Editor.*

### Dear Dr. Robinson:

*Love your magazine! Keep up the good work! Cover pictures are always great!*

*B.K. Rector, Spring, Tex.*



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