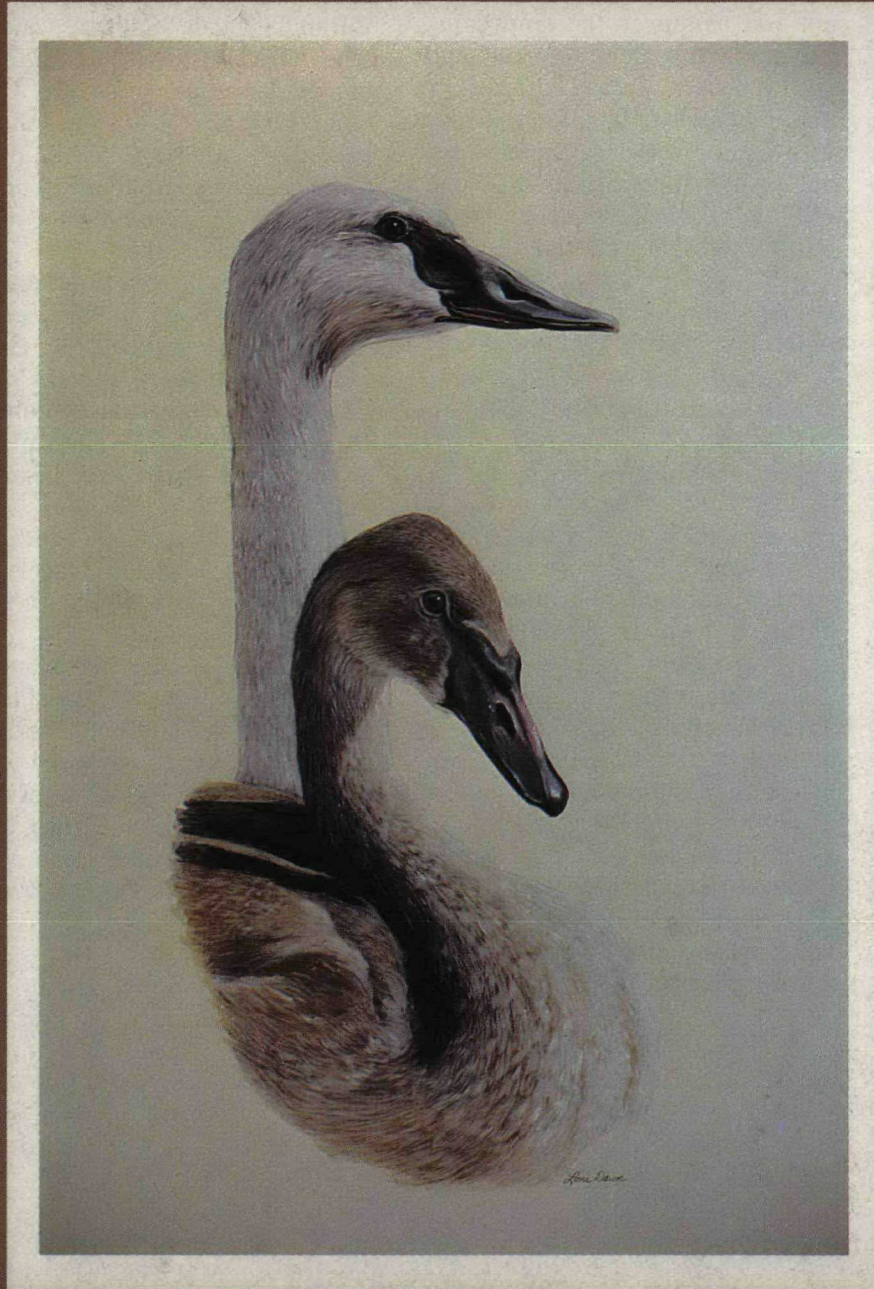


TODAYS *Animal* News

Mid - summer



\$1.50

The Official voice of the Animal Health Foundation

DISCOURAGING DEER GARDEN DINERS

Are deer holding a banquet in your yard, flattening your plants, your pocketbook and patience? To keep deer out you could build a high fence, but since such a fence is expensive and probably would not add beauty to the landscape, you may not wish to. Or you could keep a couple of dogs within your property lines to frighten the deer away. But if these suggestions don't seem practical, what can you do to discourage deer from burglarizing your plants?

Although it is not foolproof, planting shrubs and other plants that deer dislike can definitely help, says Maynard W. Cummings, wildlife management specialist, UC Cooperative Extension at Davis, Calif.

He explains that deer probably will not touch your yard if they have adequate natural browse material in their own habitat. If natural food is not available, however, they will seek food elsewhere and why not your yard? When an extreme shortage of food combines with a year of heavy deer population, few plants will be completely irresistible.

The following list contains the common names of some plants particularly unpalatable to deer, but keep in mind that no plant is totally irresistible to a hungry deer.

KEEPING BAMBI AT BAY

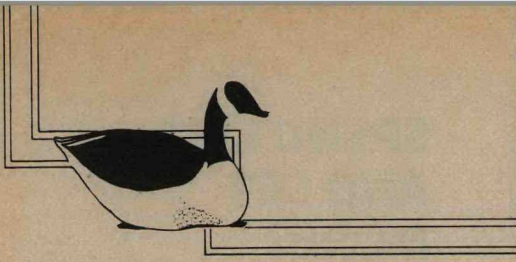
Aloe, Arizona ash, Australian bush-cherry, Australian fuschia, Basin sagebrush, Black locust, Blue lily-of-the-Nile, Boxwood, Butterfly bush, Cactus, Cajuput tree, California fuschia, California pepper tree, Calla lily, Cape honeysuckle, California cherry laurel, Carolina jessamine, Catalina ironwood, Century plant, Chile heath, China-berry tree, Clematis, Columbine.

Daphne, Date palm, Dracaena palm, European fan palm, English ivy, Foxglove, Fig, Giant reed, Germander, Hercules club, Himalayan dogwood, Hellebore, Holly, Honey bush, Hispaniolan palmetto, Iceplant, Iris, Jasmine, Japanese rose, Kudzu vine, Larkspur, Lupine, Mexican orange, Mirror shrub, Narcissus, New Zealand flax, Nolina, Nightshade.

Oleander, Oxalis, Persimmon, Pride of Madeira, Prickly Phlox, Red-hot poker, Rhododendron, Rosemary, Red elderberry, She oak, Smoke tree, Scotch broom, Tree pepper, Trillium, Tulip, Wax myrtle, Western spice bush, Wild cucumber, Wind ill palm, Washington palm.

Good luck!





TODAYS Animal News

Mid-summer

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This month's special feature:

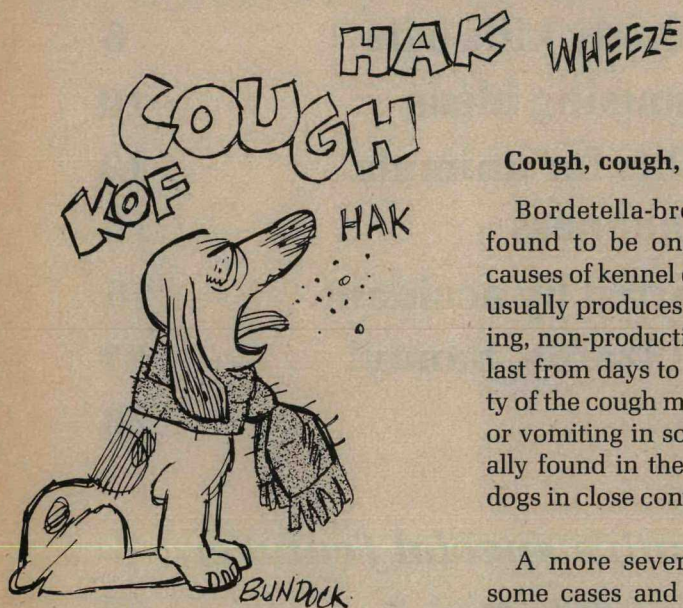
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So you think you have a housing problem!



The veterinary front

New kennel cough control



ALMOST PAINLESS VACCINES

A new production process is increasing the safety and effectiveness of vaccines . . . and taking away most of the "ouch!" The technique is called "extracted antigen". Instead of using the entire disease organism in manufacturing a vaccine, the extracted antigen process uses a very small, but potent, part of the organism.

Dellen Laboratories is the first company to produce a purified extracted antigen vaccine for use in dogs. The vaccine, Bronchicine, is for vaccination of dogs against Bordetella-bronchiseptica, an important cause of "kennel cough".

In safety tests with this product, many of the problems associated with whole cell vaccines were found not to be a problem. The old vaccines produced pain, swelling, occasional abscesses as well as lethargy and loss of appetite.

Cough, cough, cough, cough . . .

Bordetella-bronchiseptica has found to be one of the primary causes of kennel cough. The disease usually produces a dry, harsh, hacking, non-productive cough that may last from days to weeks. The severity of the cough may induce retching or vomiting in some dogs. It is usually found in the fall of the year in dogs in close contact.

A more severe form occurs in some cases and may develop into bronchial pneumonia and even death. In some cases, depression and temperature elevations may occur. There is often no seasonal incidence associated with this form and is frequently found in kennels, animal shelters and pet shops.

Recovered animals can shed Bordetella organisms for extended periods of time. This can result in having a continual source of disease present as new or previously unexposed dogs are brought into a facility. Management factors have to be considered when trying to control kennel cough. Vaccination is a definite benefit. Equally important are good standards of management. Some of the factors are proper ventilation, good sanitary conditions, reduced stress and not overcrowding.

Other extracted antigen vaccines will be developed for veterinary use in the next few years. They will provide greater protection, have fewer side effects and have less "ouch".

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Understanding antibiotics

Bacteriostatic, bactericidal, gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria, wide spectrum antibiotic, susceptible, resistant, cross-resistant, and so on and so on and so on.

If you find some of these terms confusing, don't feel alone. According to a recent survey, conducted on behalf of the Upjohn Company, many people don't understand how antibiotics can or should be used.

"Basically, antibiotics may be derived from a wide range of organisms, including mold, bacteria and fungi. They are substances capable of inhibiting the growth or destroying other micro-organisms such as bacteria. Ever since a mold (penicillin) was accidentally discovered to show anti-microbial properties, researchers have continued to develop new, effective antibiotics," explains Aziz H. Hamdy, D.V.M., P.H.D., of The Upjohn Company's Animal Therapeutics Department.

Dr. Hamdy points out that antibiotics used in human and animal health have been developed to treat or prevent the effects of various disease-causing organisms. If an antibiotic has bactericidal activity, the antibiotic kills the bacteria. If it is bacteriostatic, it interrupts or inhibits bacterial growth long enough for the animals' own defense system to finish off the infection.

"Unfortunately, some bacteria develop resistance to a particular antibiotic or antibiotics," Dr. Ham-

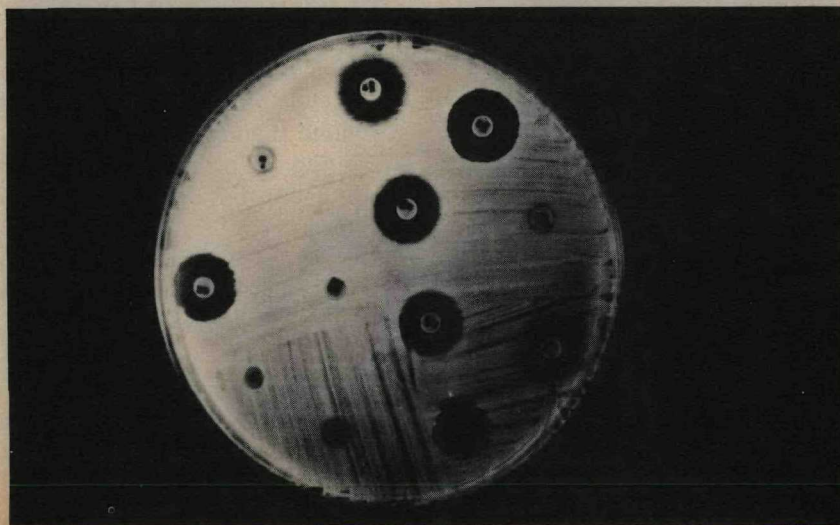
dy cautions. "Resistance generally develops because, among the large numbers of bacteria present in an animal, there are likely to be mutant strains that will be unaffected by antibiotics or other bacterial or bacteriostatic drugs. In the presence of the drug, mutants thrive while the susceptible organisms may die or are no longer able to grow. Resistant bacteria take this chance to multiply in large numbers."

An invaluable method used by veterinarians to treat infections is to test bacteria for their susceptibilities to various drugs. These tests use antibiotic discs on a special plate inoculated with the test organism. The inoculated plate is placed in an environment ideal for growth of the organism. Antibiotic discs effective against the organism will show a 'halo', or an open area, surrounding the disc where the organism was killed or unable to grow. The 'halo', called the zone of inhibition, is measured and the largest zone of inhibition generally indicates the drug most effective against that particular disease-causing organism.

It is possible that a bacteria resistant to one antibiotic will become resistant to a related antibiotic. This is called cross-resistance.

For further information about antibiotics and bacterial infections, talk with your veterinarian. Together you can determine management and treatment steps needed to help reduce infections.

By Joel Blumberg, D.V.M.



Breakthrough in mange control

One of the most heart-breaking diseases of dogs is a condition called Generalized Demodicosis. It is caused by the *Demodex canis* skin mite and occurs mostly in puppies and highly stressed adults.

Most dogs with *Demodex* get only a few small areas of nonirritating hair loss around the eyes, on the muzzle, or the forelegs. However, approximately five percent go on to the generalized form which covers the entire body and itches terribly.

Dogs with Generalized *Demodex* scratch and chew themselves unmercifully. Secondary infections and skin ulcers are common.

In the past, treatment consisted of scrubbing the dog frequently with potent special shampoos, large doses of antibiotics, and applications of strong insecticides. Many cases had to be shaved to the skin all over and insecticide mixed with alcohol applied to one-third of the body every day. This treatment was so strong that the person applying the insecticide was supposed to wear rubber gloves.

Despite such intense therapy, some dogs would continue to suffer from *Demodex*. In desperation huge amounts of cortisone would be given to relieve the dog's itching.

Now, it appears that the tragedy of Generalized *Demodex* is a thing of the past. Mitane, a new drug developed by the Upjohn Company, has just been released which effectively cures *Demodex* in four to eight applications. Mitane is applied to the dog as a dip. Over several years of testing, it has been shown to be far less toxic than the products it replaces.

One note of caution: Don't assume your dog has "mange" because it is itching, has red skin, and loss of hair. Fleas, moist exzema, allergies and other diseases can all resemble "mange". Mange itself can be caused by different species of mites. A positive diagnosis of mange can only be made by your veterinarian performing several deep skin scrapings and looking for the mites under a microscope.

What you can do

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

If you don't have it, and don't know where you are going to get it, even a hundred dollars is an impossible dream.

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

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

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

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

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

The famous Canadian physician and teacher Sir William Osler said, "The desire to take medicine is perhaps the greatest feature which distinguishes man from animals."

Well-meaning people may tell you to "give your sick cat a 5-grain aspirin tablet every four hours for a couple of days. If it isn't better, see your veterinarian."

If you follow this advice your cat will probably be dead before the 48 hours is up. To be precise, such a dose of aspirin to an 11-pound cat is lethal within 32 hours.

Play It Safe When Giving Cats Drugs

That old favorite . . . aspirin

The most popular human drug for aches, pain, and fever is highly toxic to cats. Yes, aspirin, that good old standby we've taken by the fistful for years can do in the family feline in just one treatment.

What about all those commercials that say buffered aspirin is better and safer? Not so for cats.

Well, then the "nontoxic" aspirin substitutes like Tylenol or APC must be okay for cats, right? Wrong! These products are even **more** poisonous than aspirin.

In people (and dogs) aspirin, acetaminophen, and phenacetin are broken down in the liver and then eliminated from the body. However, cats lack the necessary enzymes in their livers to accomplish this process.

The result is often depression, swelling of the tissues, decreased oxygen supply to vital organs, liver damage, shock and eventually death.

If veterinary care is obtained soon enough most cats can be saved. There is a specific antidote which inactivates aspirin type poisoning. In order to keep cats alive long enough for the antidote to work, intravenous fluids, potent cortisone drugs, oxygen therapy, and chemicals to protect the liver must be administered.

So when those pain-reliever commercials come on your TV, ask your cat to leave the room.



The patter of tiny feet . . . And the hearty cry of "churr churr" . . .

Who was that masked bandit?

Well, if the garbage can is on its side, with the contents strewn all over the ground, that masked bandit may have been the neighborhood raccoon. The henhouse is a bedlam with hysterical chickens and one of your prize layers is missing? It sounds like the masked bandit robs again!

The raccoon is an increasingly frequent visitor to rural homes and vacation sites. Like the coyote, he has adjusted to a decreasing wild habitat by surviving in a closer proximity to man. And, like the coyote, the raccoon will eat just about anything, so garbage cans and backyard gardens are prime food sources. Vacationers, of course, offer a real bonanza to raccoons.

But, unlike the coyote, who is shy of man, the raccoon is bold in his forays into backyards and vacation campgrounds. He may be small (ranging from 10 to 40 pounds) but if he is caught in the act he may stand his ground. He may look sweet and charming, but can prove to be a surprisingly vicious adversary under these conditions. Many a dog has discovered unhappily that this cute and curious little creature can be a buzz-saw of slashing teeth and claws. When it comes to combat, the 'coon is at his best near water, dragging his victim into a stream and drowning it.

Like a bear in tactics, he wraps himself around his foe in an immobilizing embrace. With his sharp claws locked into place his teeth can take a terrible toll.

A natural curiosity has been helped by a talented set of "fingers" that a safe-cracker would envy. He is an agile climber and squirms through amazingly small openings. Closed doors, cabinets and drawers only offer a new challenge to the



masked bandit. If it is bright and shiny or edible the raccoon stops at nothing to get at it. And once a prize has been taken the best place to enjoy it is in water. For a 'coon, the best place to appreciate your new wristwatch may be the toilet bowl.

The raccoon is "neither fish nor fowl." He carries most of the diseases of both cats and dogs. He even gets parvo virus. And, of course, rabies. He ranks right up on top of the list as rabies carriers.

A warning to people who keep raccoons as pets was issued in a recent study by a Purdue University research team in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Association*. Human beings run the risk of a fatal illness from a parasite commonly found in raccoons. "Our findings indicate that *B. procyonis*, the common roundworm in raccoons, can cause fatal central nervous disease. . . ." states the report in warning to those people who keep raccoons.

Raccoons are found in almost all parts of the U.S. and are often sold as pets. They can be charming and entertaining and highly destructive. They are omnivorous, which means they eat just about anything and everything. Their natural diet spans everything from frogs, fish and insects to berries, grapes and persimmons. When living with or around man they may expand their menu to include everything from corn on the cob (a real favorite) to the buttons from your new leather jacket.

"Never leave it alone, loose, in the house," says raccoon authority Rosemary Collett, author of "Rescue and Home Care of Nature Wildlife". The author maintains "Nothing is sacred with a raccoon around. I've known families who gave theirs the run of their homes. When it finally left them, just about everything — paint draperies, wallpaper, slipcovers — had to be repaired or replaced."

Masked bandit

continued from page 7

As youngsters raccoons can be delightful and affectionate. Unfortunately, they grow up. The older they get the more difficult they become. One veterinarian cites an instance where a raccoon threw a temper tantrum after a visit to the animal hospital for booster shots. The owners put the angry 'coon in their car and started down the freeway for home when the 'coon let them know how he felt about this "indignity." There was no controlling his rage and the humans finally bailed out of the vehicle leaving the 'coon to his tantrum. The entire interior of the auto was demolished, seats, dash, headliners, everything inside the vehicle was destroyed and in shreds when the highway patrol finally arrived.

"They are very curious, cunning and charming, but they are also wild animals and can never be completely domesticated," says author Rosemary Collett. "They are temperamental and will bite easily if angered or crossed for a moment."

There is never a dull moment when a raccoon is around. But the masked bandit may be best enjoyed from a safe distance.

The cover of this month's Today's Animal News, and the illustration of the raccoons, are the paintings of Loni Dawn. This talented young artist is rapidly making a name for her authentic animal portraits. Her paintings can be enjoyed at galleries and in a limited series of prints.

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Surviving summer . . .

A fun time for humans, but summer can present a host of health threats to pets. But, with a little thought and planning, both you and your pet can have a happy and healthy summer. Here are some of the more common dangers to be avoided:

Parked cars can become ovens for pets in the summer sun. Never leave your pet in a closed car in the sun. Even a few minutes can raise the temperature enough to kill your pet.

Salt water is fun for swimming, but can make your pet seriously ill if he drinks too much. Pets swimming in salt water should also be rinsed off with clear water after a salt water dip.

Pool chemicals are necessary to keep your pool sanitary. Drinking them can be dangerous, and undiluted chlorine can cause severe acid burns.

Foxtails, grass and weed seeds, and stickers gather in the hair of your pets. Some can burrow right into the skin, or enter eyes or ears. Careful daily grooming provides a chance to check for these dangers. Be sure to also check feet thoroughly.

Porcupine quills aren't funny. Curious pets who investigate porcupines can become instant pin cushions, and, if not removed, quills can kill your pet.

"Hot spots" are actually a form of moist exzema. Daily grooming can help to detect a "hot spot" in the early stages. Left untreated the "hot spot" will spread rapidly.

Sunburn isn't just for humans. White cats and dogs with large pink areas around the nose can also burn. And if your pet has a fresh, short haircut you'll be wise to keep it out of the sun until some protective hair grows out again.

Snakebites can be deadly. If it happens to your pet try to identify the kind of snake. Bites should be treated promptly.

Garden chemicals make for a greener garden. They also poison quite a few pets every year. Before using any garden chemical or poison read the label carefully. If in doubt, call your veterinarian.

Toads, lizards and slugs can be fascinating to your pet. They can also make them very sick. If eaten some reactions may be severe.

Insects flourish in the summer and many of them are pesty but harmless. But the sting of a bee, hornet or wasp or spider can be dangerous to your pet. Even the lowly fly can make life miserable for your pet. Fly bites usually occur on the tips of the ears. Once the pet has a few bites it attracts more flies. In some cases the pet can actually lose part of the ear.

Auto coolants are a frequent form of summer poisoning for pets. When spilled on the ground pets often lap it up for the sweet taste.

You can avoid most of these problems by being aware and careful. But accidents do happen. When in doubt your pet should see a veterinarian for professional treatment promptly. Have a happy summer!

BUILD YOUR DOG A QUONSET HUT

In these days of rising costs, a bargain is hard to come by. Yet, your dog deserves adequate shelter. An economical way to provide a durable and comfortable house for your outdoor pet is to build it a quonset hut. The materials are relatively inexpensive and the resulting product will last indefinitely. And this is one project that won't require a degree in engineering to accomplish!

Even if your canine companion is a sleep-in member of the household this will serve him well during the day and early evening hours as a place to escape climatic extremes.

Our dog house is made from a 55 gallon drum and is large enough to bed down a setter, shepherd or similar sized dog. At one time it was the shared domicile of an Australian shepherd and a beagle. Today a terrier lives there comfortably, but he could also get along quite well in a quonset made from a 33 gallon drum.

To make the larger house, you will need a 55 gallon (oil) metal drum. Check out the hardware stores, fuel supply, dairy supply, surplus stores, and refuse sites for the best bargain prices. Depending on condition, they can run anywhere from \$5.00 up in price.

For the framework you will need an 8 foot by 8 inch length of 1 x 4 inch lumber. The inside platform is a piece of 1/2 inch exterior plyboard measuring 33 by 18 inches.

Cut the 1 x 4 into two side pieces of 30 inches each, and two end pieces of 22 inches each. Use the end of the drum as a pattern to cut centered arcs from each of the end pieces. The arcs should be three inches deep at the center. Save the arcs for the inside platform braces.

Thoroughly clean and dry the drum, inside and out. It will last longer and be more attractive and efficient if you paint it, preferably with a rust inhibitor. "Rustoleum" offers 24 attractive colors, plus primers so that you may be able to match the color of your own house or other near-by buildings. Most paint manufacturers now make a line of rust inhibiting paints in black, white, and a small selection of bright colors and primers.

Assemble the outsized framework and paint it before installing the drum. This paint can be any outdoor variety, possibly left over from your home. Assemble the inside platform (two arcs supporting the 18 x 33 inch board), paint, and place inside the drum when dry. If you do not nail the wooden parts to the drum it will be less likely to rust and much easier to disassemble for cleaning. However, an extremely heavy and active dog might upset its stability so that you would need to bolt things more securely.

Place the dog's bedding inside and his food and water dishes outside, and you will have a happy and dry dog. The house is portable enough that it can be moved for a change of scenery or to turn the

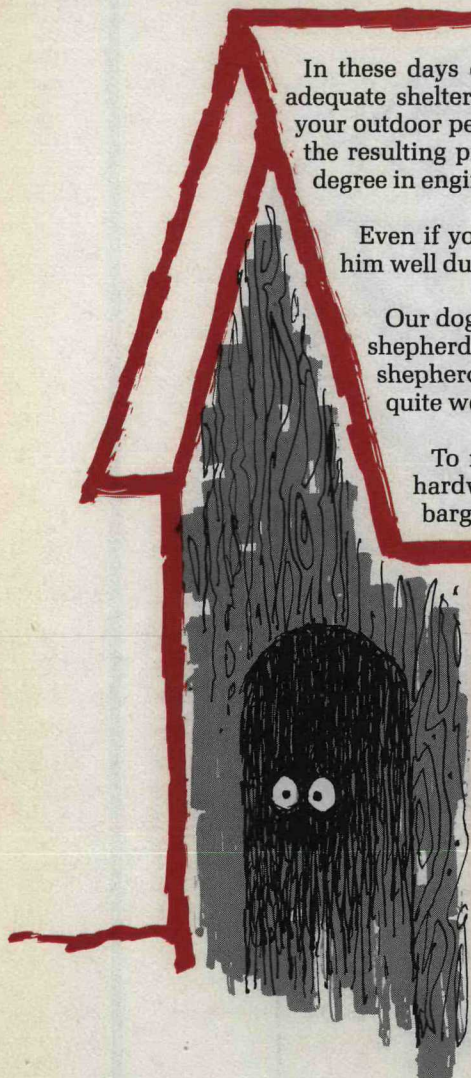
opening away from a storm or intense sunlight.

Our quonset has adequately protected its residents from temperatures as high as 113 F. and as low as 24 F. If high temperatures are a problem, painting the house a light color helps reflect the heat, although the dog will probably lie in the shade of the house rather than inside it in warm weather. A black house attracts warmth in cold climates. The air space between the bottom of the drum and the platform also acts as insulation from the cold. If more insulation is needed, stuff crumpled newspapers or straw into the area below the platform. A piece of canvas can be hung over the opening during severe cold weather.

A smaller house can be made from a 33 gallon drum. You will need 7 feet of 1 x 4 inch lumber to cut into 24-inch side pieces and 18 inch end pieces. The 1/2 thick platform will measure 26 by 15 inches.

We have really enjoyed our attractive dog house. Its only drawback was revealed during a severe thunderstorm when the sympathetic vibrations in the metal drum terrified our terrier. We couldn't get him back into his house for several weeks, until we moved it into a new location. That did the trick and he's a happy householder again.

By Darlene Stauffer



Simple canine housing



Inventive ideas for the non-handyman...

All you need is a hammer, saw, some nails, and a ruler to improvise these simple shelters in a week-end. If your dog is only using his outdoor shelter during the daytime you can erect a simple open air "A" frame from three pieces of plywood. It will provide shade or protection from showers. Two pieces make the sides and another makes the floor. If you want to provide more weather protection it's easy to cut a triangle to enclose the back of the house. Cut all pieces and check to see that they fit properly, and paint before you assemble.

This square house is only slightly more complicated. Since almost all plywood comes in standard 4' x 8' pieces you can reduce waste by using a multiple within those dimensions. For a very small extra charge the man at your lumber yard will cut your plywood pieces to size for you. It is well worth the cost and speeds up your building time, and makes the pieces easier to carry home.

The roof should extend in front of the house to provide shade in the summer and protection in the winter. The bottom, or floor, should also extend to make a "front porch." This gives an area for lounging, food and water dishes.

It is very important to make the roof of this house removeable for cleaning. Just nail a square frame of 2" x 2"s that will lock the roof into place. If the slope of the roof is gradual you will find that many dogs will use it as a "sun-deck" and observation platform. Once again, paint before final assembly.

Tile tunnels make super sun shelters and play places for small dogs and puppies. Sections of pipe, either clay or concrete, are available from most construction supply yards. They are made for large sewer or water lines and may be either square or round. You determine the length of the tunnel by the number of pieces you buy and join together.

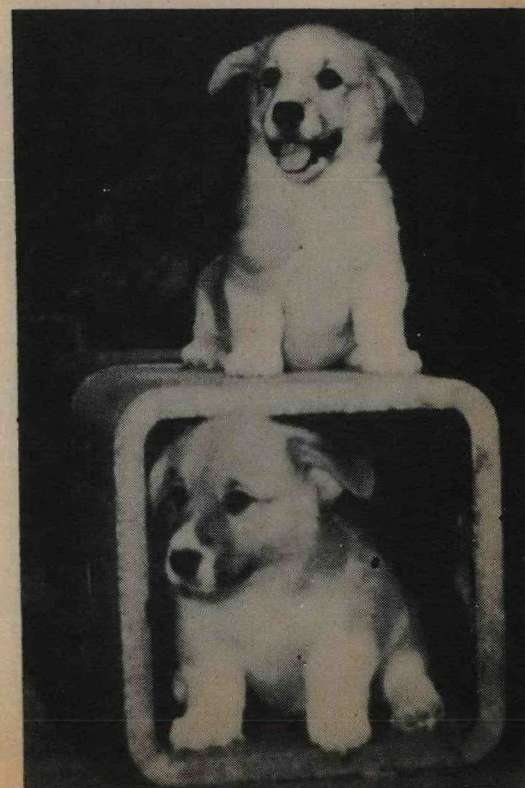
Clay tiles often are a natural orange color, but any of them can be painted a color of your choice. If you choose to make your tunnels permanent you can do so easily by setting them into a rectangular pad of concrete. They are easily washed and provide very cool shade from the summer sun.

Even the rank novice can make a small concrete pad for any of these projects with ready-mix concrete and some advice from your building material salesman.

Imagination is the key to success with all of these week-end building projects. Look around your building supply yard for ideas.

Painting is easier than ever with rollers, water wash-up, and fast-drying paints and stains. You might want to create a floral pattern to match your garden area or duplicate the color scheme of the human house. If you feel ambitious you could shingle your "A" frame house for a chalet look. Concrete can be made more interesting by setting a few larger, odd-shaped stones into the surface.

This really is one building project that can be inexpensive, easy and fun for everybody!



Legal rights for animals

Does an animal have a "person status" in legal affairs? Well, attorney Joyce Tischler thinks they should, and has filed a test suit in California in the first step to gain people's rights for pets.

The test case, filed in California recently, contends that her client (a dog named Sterling Berg) suffered a hearing loss from the use of a depilatory cream to remove ingrown hair. Tischler and Sterling Berg are suing the veterinarian accused of applying the cream, and is asking \$50,000 for alleged damages.

If Tischler wins the case she hopes that it will establish a precedent for other animals and give them the right to sue on their own behalf. In this case Tischler is asking the courts for \$50,000 for the standard poodle to compensate for the hearing loss. If he wins the case Sterling Berg will also have won the status of a person in the courts. And, hopefully, the rights of all animals to go to court with the legal rights of a person.

In anticipation of this recognition Tischler has founded the public interest law organization called Attorneys for Animal Rights.

In the past it has been the general policy of the courts to consider animals as property, basing awards on either the replacement value or potential earning of the animals for human owners. Tischler has already had one setback in light of this policy when a Superior Court Judge ruled that the poodle could not be a plaintiff because he was a property. But this was only the first step and the Attorneys for Animal Rights plan to continue the fight.



Tischler has argued that other "non-persons" have individual rights in courts. Corporations sue corporations. Even ships sue other ships, she pointed out. And now, she feels, it is time for animals to have the right to sue for pain and suffering and other damages.

If the attorney gets her way there will be no shortage of clients available. Every major animal shelter in the country reports hundreds of cases of animal abuse every month. Typical cases involve depriving animals of proper food, water and living facilities. And some cases concern animal beating and abuse.

The group is also studying the rights of other animals. Doped race horses, research rabbits, and chickens from commercial breeding facilities are all future candidates for Animal Rights suits. If the Animal Rights group succeeds any chicken, pig, cow, or horse will have his or her "day in court."

SHARKS SCARE TOURISTS

It's shark scare time in California again, and tourists are staying away from the beaches in droves, much to the chagrin of resort owners. At Stinson Beach, near San Francisco, signs have been posted and life guards are shooing away any brave bathers seeking to venture beyond the shallow wading depths.

Several "sightings" of 10 to 18 foot-long great white sharks around beach areas have dampened the spirits of would-be swimmers.

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Macaw madness

In biblical times, Hebrew sailors would bring macaws, the brightly colored parrots of the tropics, to the court of Solomon.

Were Solomon as wise as he is purported to be, he might have discouraged the practice, because today the very survival of these birds is threatened by their increasing popularity as pets in America.

They bring high prices — some sell for \$30,000 apiece — but the birds may be paying the highest price of all. Faced with continued raid on their population by fortune-hunters and increasing losses of habitat to development, many species are in trouble, according to the National Wildlife Federation.

Distinguished from other parrots by their bare facial skin, large beaks and long tail feathers, macaws are now found throughout parts of the tropics from Mexico to Argentina.

In the nineteenth century, flocks of more than 300 macaws, which tend to roost in groups, were commonplace. Today a flock of more than three dozen is a rare sight.

It's no coincidence that the decline in macaw populations parallels an upturn in their popularity as pets. Forty million Americans keep birds in their offices or homes; parrot sales alone account for \$300 million in sales a year. And as imports have increased, so has smuggling.

More than 90 percent of all birds seized by U.S. customs officials are parrots. Smugglers, who can avoid the red tape of legal importation are

tantalized by the high price-tags macaws carry. In pet stores, their brightly colored plumes bring prices that range from \$500 to \$30,000. "Pound for pound," said one custom agent, "a parrot is worth more to a smuggler than marijuana."

Current means of trapping macaws in the wild inflict their own damages on these birds. When nesting trees are cut down to retrieve baby parrots, valuable and increasingly scarce nesting sites for other birds are destroyed. Young birds are often killed when their nests crash to the ground.

For the birds who survive this kind of treatment, more abuse awaits them on their travels to the United States. To quiet these natural talkers, smugglers feed them tranquilizers, chloroform or corn meal mixed with tequila - - so that border officials won't be alerted by the bird's squawking.

The irony of this "macaw madness," as National Wildlife calls it, is that macaws don't make great pets. They have been known to use their powerful beaks, which help them to feed on nuts in the wild, to tear apart cages and even furniture in private homes. Many pet owners aren't prepared to deal with the macaw's constant banter - - in the form of loud screams that can rouse an owner from a deep sleep in the early hours.

All in all, macaws would be better left in the tropics, and the birds would be happier. And so would their potential owners. Even Solomon, had he known better, might have chosen a dog or cat instead of a macaw!

THE WORM TURNS INTO A SCAM

If you have dreamed of retiring to a life of leisure raising earthworms Outdoor Life magazine warns that some of the worm farm promoters may be the only ones to get rich from the scheme.

According to the article, you could lay out as much \$2500 for your earthworm starter kit of worms, peat moss, and worm food. But the actual value of the kit could only be about \$40. The multimillion dollar scam has fleeced investors most heavily in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North and South Dakota.

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"Mirror, mirror, on the wall . . ." What could be more pleasant than laying around on a summer day admiring oneself? Missy Hall, 16, of Bedford, Indiana, used a mirror in her photographic experiment "Reflections," the first place winner in the 1982 Girls Club of America Photography Contest sponsored by Eastman Kodak Company.

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Wolf peril

How many people know the most endangered mammal in the United States? You're right, it's the red wolf, a smallish wolf holding out in swamps and pine forests along the Texas-Louisiana border. They once ranged throughout the southeastern states and as far north as Illinois and Indiana. Now only less than one hundred remain in their wild state, plus about 40 animals in the Pt. Defiance Zoo, in Tacoma, Washington. The impact of civilization, external and internal parasites have cut down on the red wolf population. But the greatest danger is genetic: red wolves easily breed with coyotes and feral dogs. The result is a hybrid, and when the hybrid breeds with other hybrids, the pure red wolf is no longer there.

And the indiscriminant killing of all wolves has taken its toll. In some of the last strongholds of the red wolf, hunters run down and kill all wolves. The packs of dogs employed make no distinction between common coyotes and endangered red wolves.

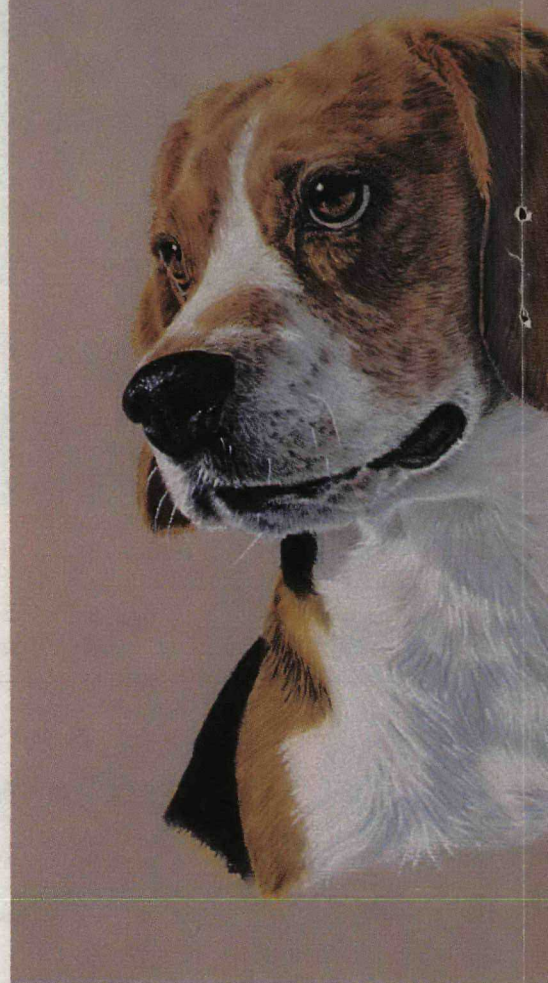
As the civilization cut down the red wolf's territory, the highly adaptable coyote expanded its range into wolf habitats. When the wolf population dwindled, they turned to coyotes and feral dogs for mates.

The red wolf colony in the Pt. Defiance Zoo is expected to keep the species from the brink of extinction. They were captured and taken here because the area is free from heartworm and hookworm parasites that plagued the last remaining animals in the southeast area of Texas. The first pure red wolf pups were born in the zoo in May, 1977.

The goal of the zoo breeding program is to release the wolves in a native habitat to see if they can increase their own numbers in the wild instead of in a zoo. Possible locations include islands off the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia. There may still be hope for the preservation of the red wolf.

Kathleen Tague . . .

"Birdie" . . . a Chesapeake Bay retriever by Kathleen Tague



In addition to commissioned portraits this 31-year-old artist is now branching out into limited edition prints. She has released a numbered edition print (each is hand-colored by the artist) of a winsome rabbit. And she hopes to do more. All she lacks is the time. This "out-of-work" artist is busier than ever before, thanks to animals.

animal artist by accident

Adversity often brings out the best in people, and Kathleen Tague is a perfect example. After years of working as a technical illustrator (creating graphs and charts) at the University of California she decided to "try her feather" as a freelancer. But she couldn't have chosen a much worse time. The economy was in a deep slump and she soon found that she had more free time than clients.

To help fill her spare time she began sketching her friends with their animals. People portraits are no novelty, but her special feeling for capturing the character and personality of her animal subjects soon attracted attention to her work. Before long she was receiving requests to do just the animals.

Sensing that she had stumbled onto a winner, Kathleen started refining her techniques for animal art, and realized that she had found her niche in the world of animal art. She found that accuracy in coloring was important. Owners knew the colors of their pets and wanted the pictures to portray just that color. She then developed a system for matching the colors of the real animal to the finished painting.

Whatever it is that she is doing, she must be doing it right. She has now been earning her living as an animal portrait artist for the past year and a half.

"I have never worked harder at anything, nor been happier."



animal artist by accident . . .

She prefers working with soft pastel chalks and conte pencil. It's a tricky medium to master but she prefers it because of the true, bright pigments. The medium, however, is not what sells her portraits. Her special ability to capture the spirit and personality of her subjects is what keeps customers knocking on the door of her Davis, California studio. When she completed a portrait of 20-year-old poodle that had recently died the owner was so touched that he broke down and cried.

Many animal portrait artists specialize in animals from the show ring. Not so with Miss Tague. Many of her subjects are animals of dubious breeding and inheritance. But she has no limitations on her subject matter. "I'd do a portrait of an insect or even a snake," says Tague.



"I realized I had found my niche in the art world."



Air shipment kills reindeer

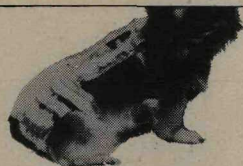
Wien Air Alaska, Inc., of Anchorage, Alaska, has agreed to pay a \$500 civil penalty to settle a charge of violating transportation standards of the Animal Welfare Act.

Dr. John K. Atwell, deputy administrator for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said that the charge was brought against the airline for accepting a shipment of 27 reindeer sent from Nome, Alaska to Denver Colorado on July 2, 1980, in substandard crates. According to Atwell, 11 of the reindeer died before reaching their destination.

Atwell said Wien Air Alaska accepted the fine without admitting or denying the charge. The airline further agreed to make a vigorous effort to educate its employees about the Act so that in the future they will comply fully with the standards and regulations for handling live animal shipments.

The Animal Welfare Act requires commercial carriers such as Wien Air Alaska to meet federal standards for care if they accept live animals for transit. The standards cover size, air ventilation, markings, and construction of the crates in which animals are shipped.

Editor's note: That's only about \$45 per animal to cover the suffering and death of each animal.



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Narc dogs are legal ... and illegal

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The courts, it would appear, are in a quandry. The federal courts have ruled to protect the sanctity of luggage and the smells that emanate from it. California state courts have ruled in an opposite view, "to the contrary, one who secretes illegal narcotics in his suitcase has no protectible privacy."

So as it stands now you can smuggle dope into the country in your luggage without fear of detec-

tion of "narc" dogs that are in the employ of federal agents. However, if that same luggage is checked out by a state owned sniffing canine you could be in big trouble.

The divided decision upheld the work of a talented sniffer named Corky who has a record of more than 475 arrests in the San Diego area. Corky (state-owned) pointed out a cache of marijuana in the suitcase of a traveler in 1979 and the resulting arrest had been contested in the courts ever since. Now the courts have finally decided that Corky's "pinch" was legal. And Corky can now continue his search for lawbreakers legally as long as he never goes to work for the feds. ●

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"Leapin' Lizards, Sandy you're a real star!"

By now just about everybody knows about ERA. Hate it or love it, it's going to be kicking around for a while. But ERA may now have gone one step more with equal rights of dogs (EROD?), at least in the world of the theatre.

Annie, the great movie, based on the great Broadway musical, based on the great cartoon strip by Harold Gray, is packing in the crowds. But they haven't haven't just come to see Annie, but Sandy, the doggy star. In fact, producers recognized the "draw" of the shaggy canine enough to write in a couple of special songs just for Sandy . . . "Dumb Dog" and "Sandy". Sandy

wasn't required to bleat out the lyrics of a heart-stopper like "Tomorrow." Just having songs about him satisfied fans.

ARF is the only thing Sandy has to say, and that is enough to win him fame and fans. Annies come and go. There has been a parade of kinky-haired kids in patent leather shoes as the various Annies keep growing out of the role, but a good Sandy is hard to find.

SANDY as portrayed by cartoonist Harold Gray was impossible to duplicate so they didn't try. Producers and dog trainers cast around for a shaggy star of undetermined background who could portray the personality of Annie's faithful sidekick and protector in the original musical.

RAGS to riches in the true Hollywood tradition! That was the start of "Bingo", a could-be otter hound purchased from a Southern California animal shelter for a lowly \$15. Tutored by trainer Moe Di Sesso (the rat trainer of Willard and Ben) Bingo has gone on to the starring role of Sandy and some fat dog food commercials.

Even Daddy Warbucks would have approved of Bingo's financial success. And in the true spirit of equal rights, Bingo enjoys as many (or more) benefits as the human star, Aileen Quinn. Dressing rooms, make-up crews, stand-ins. And when it comes down to the real bottom line, Miss Quinn and Bingo received equal paychecks of about \$100,000 for their starring roles.

Now . . . about equal rights for cats . . .

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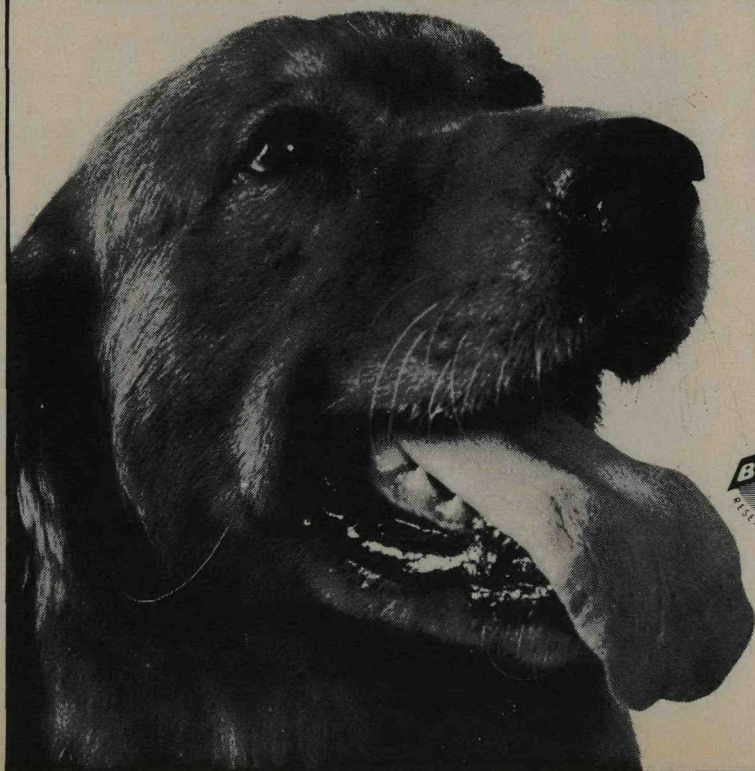


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Mother Cecilia visiting some of her charges at the Mill Bay site, the present location of the Good Shepherd Animal Shelter.

Twenty miles north of Victoria, British Columbia, on 60 heavily-forested acres at Mill Bay, lies the Good Shepherd Animal Shelter. It is a monument to the devotion of an 89-year old London-born nun, Mother Cecilia Mary, and home for more than 400 abandoned, helpless and, often, direly-ill creatures of nature.

The shelter's motto is "To Seek and To Save." Here Mother Cecilia lives the life of an outcast, a maverick who defied the Vatican to save the animals she loves.

Ethel Cecilia Dodd's story began in Victorian England. The eldest of seven brothers and sisters, she grew up near the tough, grimy northern industrial city of Birmingham.

Of her childhood, she recalls:

"They told me a lot about what I did as a baby and how, one morning at breakfast, I began to cry. 'Whatever is the matter?' my parents asked. I said 'the poor birds have no toast.' From

that moment on, I refused to have my breakfast until the birds were fed.

"From the beginning, I never seemed to be a child. I don't know why. When I was quite small I began to take hold of things in the house. I began to manage things for my mother and, when I was nine years old, she said to the family 'I don't believe that child is nine years old — that child is 99 today.' I've always stood apart. Mother and I were very, very good friends. As long as I was with Mother, everything was all right with me.

"As a little girl I used to think how great and wonderful God was. How absolutely pure and holy, and I thought I must be very bad in His sight and I was sure to go to Hell.

"But then I comforted myself with the thought that when I go to Hell there will be someone there that loves God and if I love God in Hell that might change Hell a little bit."

At the age of 19, Ethel Dodd entered the Anglican convent of the

Society of the Precious Blood in Birmingham, and later ran a mission house in the city's slum area.

"Life in those days wasn't like it is today. I remember a young boy lying dead in a house for over a week before I could get him buried. I can't describe what the poverty was like. A great many people earned their only living by chopping little sticks of wood and selling them three-a-penny. But, oh the poverty! And the drunkenness. And the awfulness. It was beyond words."

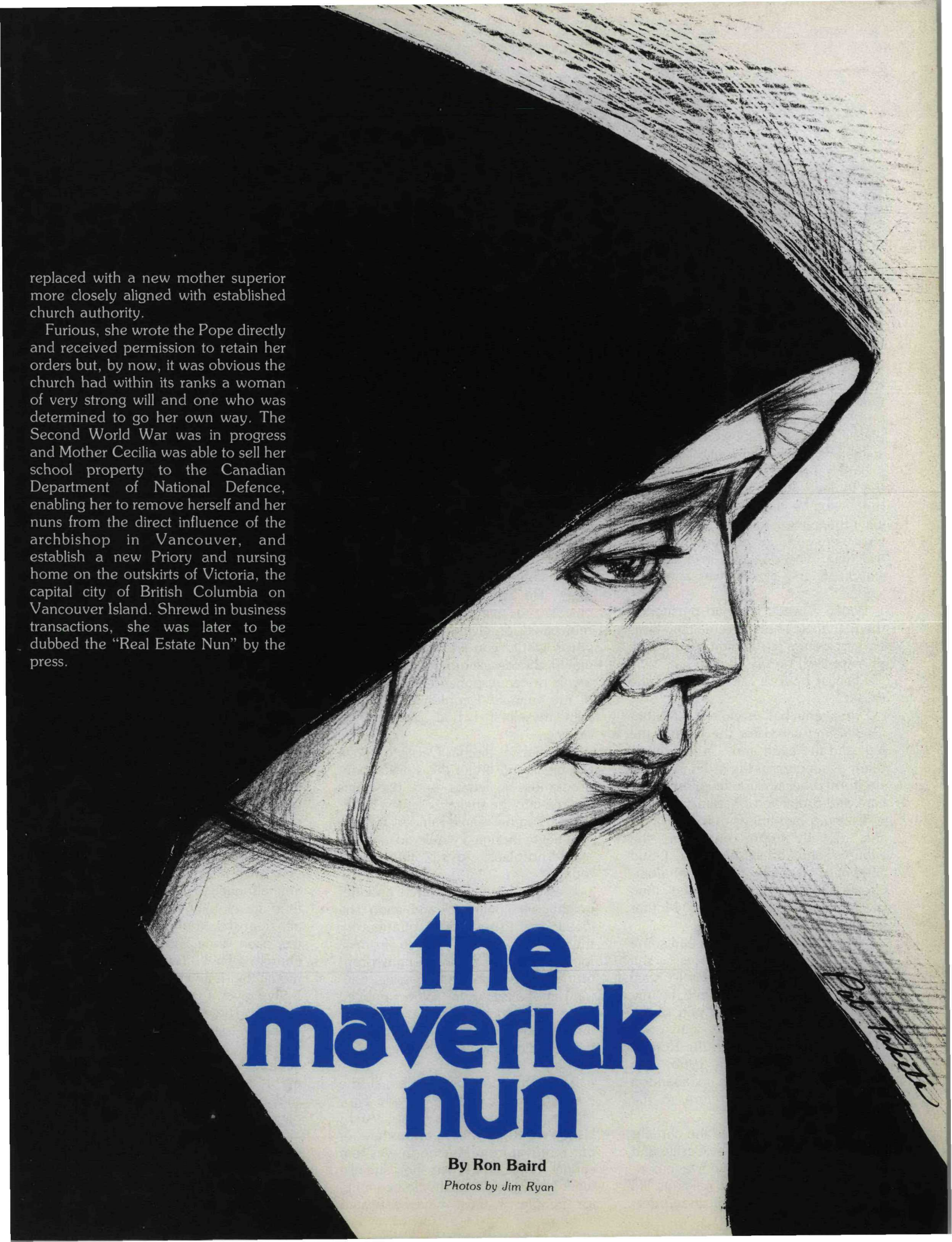
Poverty was still her constant companion in 1921 when Mother Cecilia arrived in Vancouver, B.C., to become the first Anglican nun to serve the western province and to found the order of the Sisters of the Love of Jesus.

For days at a time her diet consisted solely of oil and dandelions mixed in sparse salads, and the occasional meals of macaroni left on her doorstep by her equally-poor neighbours.

Soon, she founded a hostel for the children of working mothers; then an orphanage school for homeless youngsters and, in 1925, a private girls' school, St. Anthony's College, through which more than 1,000 young women would pass in the following years. By 1939, the Community had built a Priory and guest house for the elderly. But then came a spiritual crisis.

Secretly, Mother Cecilia had always wanted to be a Roman Catholic, a desire she had kept within herself since childhood. In 1937, she asked Archbishop William Duke of Vancouver to accept her Community into the Catholic church, thus incurring the wrath of her Anglican archbishop, Adam de Pencier, who insisted she hand over the assets of the college. But she refused.

She was quickly becoming a maverick in the view of both churches. Her new Catholic superiors ridiculed Mother Cecilia's pursuit of Benedictine Orders and warned that she might be



replaced with a new mother superior more closely aligned with established church authority.

Furious, she wrote the Pope directly and received permission to retain her orders but, by now, it was obvious the church had within its ranks a woman of very strong will and one who was determined to go her own way. The Second World War was in progress and Mother Cecilia was able to sell her school property to the Canadian Department of National Defence, enabling her to remove herself and her nuns from the direct influence of the archbishop in Vancouver, and establish a new Priory and nursing home on the outskirts of Victoria, the capital city of British Columbia on Vancouver Island. Shrewd in business transactions, she was later to be dubbed the "Real Estate Nun" by the press.

the maverick nun

By Ron Baird

Photos by Jim Ryan

the maverick nun

Early in 1960, Mother Cecilia recalls, "one of our nurses at the Priory told me about some kennels nearby where the animals were treated very cruelly. She kept saying 'Mother, please do go.' At last I went and saw a sight which filled me with horror. I picked out the first dog I saw and told the kennel owner 'will you give it to me?' 'No, he replied. I would rather kill it than give it to you.' You're making a very good job of that now, I told the man. The dog was in a state of starvation and filth. It was a terrible sight."

Within a week she had persuaded the man to sell her the remaining dogs and took them to a retreat used by the nuns of the Priory.

"That's how it all started," she recalls.

For nearly half a century, Mother Cecilia had cared for the young, the sick and the aged and, on her retirement as superior of the order in 1961, she turned her tireless devotion to the care and protection of animals.

Taking a handful of nuns with her, she moved further out from the suburbs and established the Good Shepherd Animal Shelter at Metchoshin. But now it was the beginning of a difficult struggle for Mother Cecilia.

"All went well, except we had some very troublesome neighbors," she says. They took up petitions to have the shelter operation banned by the authorities. This was only part of the problem. The doughty nun was already in difficulties with the Roman Catholic church and, in 1965, was ordered by The Vatican to abandon her animal work and return to the Priory.

The issue, according to the church, was a simple one: Mother Cecilia and her nuns must continue to live in conformity with the type of religious life demanded by the Benedictine Order.

The care of animals was not acceptable to the church, or the Catholic archbishop of Victoria, Remi de Roo.

"They said it was the wrong kind of work for sisters to do," recalls Mother Cecilia. She was shortly and abruptly given five days notice to vacate the shelter and disperse the animals, now numbering more than 100 dogs, cats and goats.

Her response was typical: "I wouldn't trust the animals to the archbishop. They sent a Benedictine priest to persuade me to give up the shelter work. He asked me 'if you had to choose between being excommunicated or giving up the shelter, which would you choose?' I replied I would choose excommunication for I would not be responsible for the death of my animals. I couldn't have lived with myself if I had obeyed that order."

In defiance, Mother Cecilia called in the press and broke the story. Soon, thousands of letters and telegrams poured into the shelter, all but a handful praising her single-minded stand.

"I never thought I would do it. I really had no plans," says Mother Cecilia today.

Pressure from the church and her neighbours continued and soon she was forced to seek other quarters for the animals. Using money from a family inheritance, she bought property at Mill Bay and in a massive, day-long move early in 1966, dubbed Operation Ark by the newspapers, transferred not only the animals but the buildings in which they were housed.

Although she now laughs at the events of more than a decade ago, Mother Cecilia recalls that "Archbishop de Roo's theme at the time of our removal from Metchoshin was that caring for animals was not suitable work for sisters; they should be caring for people. I must have educated

more than a thousand girls in my time and taken care of hundreds of old people. Now, I'm taking care of animals and that is just as important in my eyes as all the other things."

"We realize that animals are truly a part of Creation. We and they share the same life, and killing life kills a part of God. To manifest itself, life must be embodied. The body is not the life but the house of the life. In animals, as with humans, where there is life there is feeling and, perhaps in that sense, it is correct to say that animals and men are souls together; souls embodied."

"Pope John — John the 23rd — was a lover of animals and he had ordered that a book be written on their care and circulated throughout the world, but he died so suddenly that it was never completed. I wrote to the present Pope once and scolded him that if he would allow animals to come into this world and suffer all the traumas put on them by humans and not give them a happy afterlife I couldn't believe in the justice of God."

Recalling her troubles with the church in the early 1960s, Mother Cecilia remembers: "The pressure from Rome about closing the shelter was funny. One of our sisters, Mary Agnes, begged to be allowed to go there. I knew it would be hopeless but she insisted and I knew Sister Agnes would be happier if she could go. We found a companion for her and she went with a letter to the Holy Father from myself."

"Sister Agnes tried every angle she could to see the Pope. Eventually, they gave her an audience with a great many other people, but nothing came of her visit. Do I pray for the Pope or the Archbishop? I'm afraid I don't pray very often for either of them now. My animals need my prayers more than they do. Nothing we've ever done — either at the Priory or the shelter — has been done with the help of the church. The church wants your money but it doesn't give you money. I have given the church thousands of dollars. They've never given me a cent. I've fought all my life — I've had to fight — and I've won most of the battles. But not all of them. One day an old Indian lady read my palm and said 'Sister, if you had lived in the Middle Ages you would have been burned at the stake. But before you die, you will go through something which corresponds to that.' Wasn't that funny?"

Although the shelter at Mill Bay takes in dogs and cats in a never-



Mother Cecilia with Twinkle, the dancing goat, when her animal shelter was first located at Metchosin, a suburb of Victoria, B.C.

ending stream (there are currently more than 400 abandoned domestic animals in addition to horses and goats), Mother Cecilia maintains a strict policy of adoption for dogs and many would-be purchasers are often sent on their way without a new pet because Mother Cecilia feels they do not live up to her standards of pet ownership.

She recalls her refusal one time to sell a boxer to the Queen's representative in British Columbia, former Lieu-

tenant-Governor George Pearkes, until she had personally met him before approving the sale. While she makes no distinction as to wealth or station in life, she does insist that no dog leaves the shelter until it is guaranteed a stable and permanent home.

Now that she is past her mid-80's and with her health becoming more delicate with each passing year, this stubborn, dedicated nun continues to care for, with the able assistance of one remaining nun, Iowa-born Sister

Mary Julia, the creatures she feels are forgotten and betrayed. Her work, she says, is in God's hands.

"Any animal or bird in trouble is welcome at the shelter. If we can't find good homes for them, and they are hard to find nowadays, they can live with us permanently. They are not put to sleep. I believe the Good Shepherd Animal Shelter is the only one of its kind in the world where animals can be cared for during their natural life. They are God's children as we are. They were created by God as we were. They have souls; their own kind of souls as we have. They do not die any more than we die. They survive death as we survive death."

Supported by animal lovers throughout the world, the shelter's existence in the future is now assured through the formation some years ago of a non-profit foundation with three directors who make the final decisions concerning its operation.

For more than 50 years, the Maverick Nun of Mill Bay has done more than her share for the sick and oppressed of the world, both human and animal.

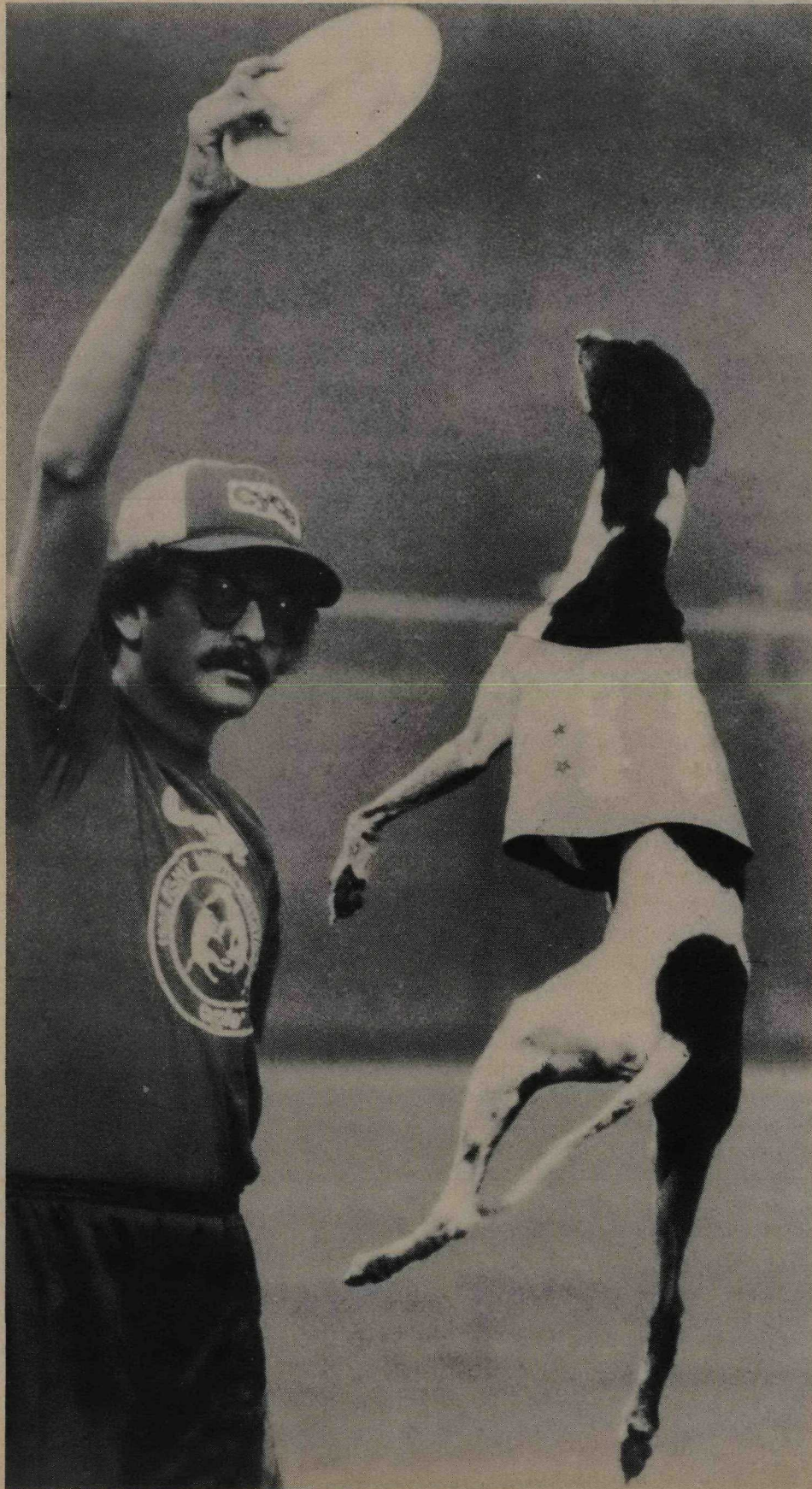
In the best sense of the word, Mother Cecilia has been for the past 88 years a strong right hand of the Creator, caring for those on this earth who pass in a brief moment of mortality.

Of her own life, she says: "I think that everybody has some kind of fear of death. My only fear is that I don't want to give up my work, for it is so needed. I was sure a long time ago that while my work was needed I wasn't going to die. But death itself doesn't worry me. It's only stepping from one phase of life to another. I know I can't live forever. Not in this life, anyhow. Somebody must take over. I want you to feel that animals are God's children; that we all have a responsibility. God will bless you for it. A great work is being done at the Good Shepherd Animal Shelter; perhaps, in its way, greater than anywhere else in the world."

Defiant in the face of overwhelming authority, alone in the sight of God, Mother Cecilia has trodden a difficult path, supported by a stubborn faith in the goodness of Creation. It has been a long journey since the day Ethel Cecilia Dodd, at the turn of the century, had a vision that would culminate in the dedication of her life to the service of humanity.

Photos by Jim Ryan

Up, up and away!



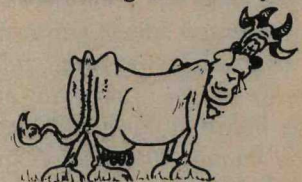
For Ashley Whippet, stardom comes in leaps and bounds. The charismatic canine, considered by some the world's most famous dog, works out regularly with his trainer Alex Stein. The three-time World Frisbee disc Canine Champion will host the Cycle Ashley Whippet Invitational, a disc catching competition open to the public, in major cities across the country throughout the summer. The national finals will be held September 12 at Wrigley Field, Chicago.

Ashley is to canine Frisbee playing what Abner Doubleday was to baseball. But, for Ashley, fame and fortune has come within his own time. What's it like to be celebrity for a dog? Today's Animal News spent a day with Ashley recently and obtained the exclusive "Ashley Tells All" interview. Ashley tells how to become a Frisbee champ, his future plans, how he and his owner almost started their careers in jail in the next issue of Today's Animal News.

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THE PITS...

Dear Mr. Bundock:

I was very displeased with your article in *Animal News*. I own a few American Pit Bull Terriers. In the eighth paragraph of your article you state that no kennel club use the slang name pit bull. My Pit Bulls are registered with the United Kennel Club (UKC) as American (pit) Bull Terriers. The UKC is the second registering body in the USA, the first being the AKC.

In the early thirties some pit bull owners wanted to register their pit bulls with the AKC. The AKC opened their stud books to pit bulls for a while and registered them as Staffordshire terriers because they didn't want to be associated with the term "pit". The first Staffordshire terrier was Pete the pit bull on the *Our Gang* comedy series. So all AKC Staffordshire are descended from UKC American Pit Bull Terriers.

In paragraph 9 you said that people with pit bulls should only advertise them as fighting dogs. If your next door neighbor trained his German shepherd to fight and then fought him with another dog the German shepherd would be a fighting dog. I don't fight my pit bulls and just because one percent of all pit bulls are fought, I don't think I should have to advertise them as fighting dogs. In paragraph ten you talk about the breeders of proper, recognised breeds meaning that pit bulls are not a proper recognized breed. Well as you have just read you are wrong.

In paragraph seven, you say that dogs, cats, and other small animals are stolen regularly as of this activity (dog fighting). You must remember the owners are what is giving this fine breed a bad reputation. Ninety percent of the people who give the pit bull a bad reputation are inner city street gangs who own the dogs as a macho trip. The fighting urge of most pit bulls comes to them at different ages depending on the individual dogs. The street gangs have these dogs as mascots and expect them to want to fight at an early age they don't know any

ANIMAL NEWS

Dialogue

knowledgeable dog people so they don't get any proper information. Then they read a story on how puppies and kittens are fed to them to give them the killer instinct and figure that is how it is done.

Your article has many truths to stand with a little less ignorance your next article should be excellent.

Sincerely,

Elliott Farkas.

Thanks. We'll keep trying.

Editor.

Gentlemen:

An article in your Spring issue regarding Pit Bulls has been brought to my attention. I have read the article twice and I am still unclear as to the author's intentions. Does he really want to literally wipe the animals off the face of the earth or is he advocating a simple change of the breed's name?

If his objective is the former, then I must object when innocent animals which has been misused by humans become the targets of such malicious diatribe. The American Pit Bull Terrier, when raised in a loving environment, is no more vicious or unreliable than one of my Westies (which, by the way, were also originally bred to kill). Several of friends have them as pets and each individual has completely stolen my heart.

I think you are fortunate that animals cannot file liable suits. Any good attorney could hang both you and Mr. Bundock out to dry.

Sincerely,

Diana E. Belles
Westwind Kennels
Lake Isabella, CA,

Dear Ms. Belles:

Actually, animals **can** file legal suits, with a little human help. But it seems unlikely that any animal would go to court to preserve the status of the cruel sport of dog fighting.

We are sorry that you missed the point of the article, which was to condemn pit bull dog fighting.

Fortunately, our constitution still guarantees the right of free expression of personal opinion. Today's *Animal News* provides a forum for that opinion, which is why your letter has been printed. Over the years we have explored many controversial issues. In this case, however, we have enjoyed an overwhelming majority of support on the stand against fighting dogs. But our pages are still open to contrasting views.

According to the official A.K.C. standard for West Highland White Terriers, "Westies" are "truly sporty, good hunters." A far cry from pit fighting.

But we respect your right to disagree and always appreciate hearing from you. The line to tar and feather Mr. Bundock forms to the right.

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in regards to the letter written by Geraldine Morgan about the North American School of Sciences. I have one more test to send in and I'll have completed my course in Animal Sciences. The course was so easy and simple I've completed it in less than six months. But I'll be paying for quite some time. I don't care who or what they support, I've learned very little for my money. Not one subject is covered well enough to benefit anyone. I doubt if our State Game and Fish Dept would give backing to such a course. I enjoy your paper because I do learn things and I know I learn more being a rancher's wife. I feel North American Schools fail their students. Thank you for reading my letter and I hope you print it. I'd like to think I might have helped someone save all that money.

Anita Habel,
Wamsutter, WY

Dear Anita:

Thank you for your comments. We have received more mail regarding the North American School than any other single subject. At this point, the letters are about nine to one in favor of the work being done by the school. We would be interested in hearing from other students.

Editor.

Gentlemen:

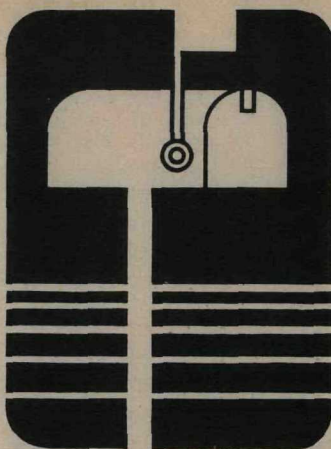
Our attention has been focused on the article in your Spring issue "Let's Get Rid of Pit Bulls". Mr. Doug Bundock very obviously has exhibited his ignorance and lack of insight into the problem at point. We are not dealing with an issue where the Defendant is an animal. The actual criminal he should be speaking so harshly about is the sick, savage animal, human, who commits the real crimes in fighting and abusing these dogs.

The United Kennel Club, which is the national registry for the true American Pit Bull Terrier, has, for a long time, ardently and vehemently stated its policy regarding the fighting of dogs and has vigorously upheld its position. (See enclosed) It is the largest and oldest registering body of pure bred dogs in America and is unquestionably, along with the National Defense League, doing more to prohibit dog fighting than articles such as Mr. Bundock's.

We welcome Mr. Bundock or anyone from your staff to be a guest and report on any of our conformation fun matches, point shows and obedience trails but realize that this sort of reporting doesn't sell.

We would also like to point out the rescue operations we perform in retrieving Pit Bulls from the animal shelters and pounds and the care we take in placing these homeless animals in loving family situations where they won't become victims of these offenders.

Mr. Bundock, through your publications, has presented a biased, undiscernable, and truly pointless portrayal of a problem we, as fanciers of a fine breed of dog are ever striving to combat. Could there not be a rebuttal in your publication stating the facts and correct infor-



mation concerning this problem and not based on "spectacularism" and emotional propaganda such as Mr. Bundock has shown?

Sincerely,

Richard Jones

National Defense League for the American Pit Bull Terrier.

Dear Mr. Jones:

Please consider this your chance for a rebuttal. Your offer to attend United Kennel Club functions is very interesting, but we have never seen or received any notification of these events. Today's Animal News staffers do, however, attend between 75 and 100 A.K.C. dog shows and trials annually.

If you will check some of our back issues you will find that many major dog shows (like Santa Barbara Kennel Club, Golden Gate Kennel Club and the famous Westminster Kennel Club) have been covered quite extensively. However, this is not our prime function and we do not report on smaller shows and matches. There are a number of highly successful magazines that specialize in this field and we leave that job to them.

We like to think our pages offer a forum for opinion, even when it is in disagreement,
The Editor.

Cover art . . .

Dear Doug:

I have been trying to get a poster-sized reproduction of the cover picture that appears on your Spring Issue. I would like to frame it and place it on our waiting room wall.

If you could send me any information where I may order this French Clinique Chekon poster I would surely appreciate it.

Best regards,

Gary Krogaard, DVM

Dear Doctor, and others:

We have been very pleasantly surprised at the response to our Spring cover art. So much so that we immediately followed it with another painting by the same artist for our Summer Issue.

The artist, Theophile-Alexandre Steinlen, had a fascination for animals and most especially cats. He created thousands of drawings and paintings, from murals to song sheets. He died in 1923 and the only collector of his works that we know is Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick Street, New York, N.Y., 10014.

Dover has compiled books of his work which you might enjoy. If anyone has his work in poster form it would be Dover and we would suggest contacting them. Good luck!

The Editor.

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