# TODAYS \$2.00 Animal News

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 4 JULY - AUG-1984

IN THIS ISSUE: Goalds as pets? Dangerous medications • Falt pets New raccoon health threat Ashley Whippet retires • Travel tips

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 Todays 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 Todays Animal News.

If you wish to contact the Foundation directly please write or call:

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# Animal News

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### A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR ...

Each to his own taste said the man as he kissed his cow!

Each issue of Todays Animal News concerns some of the many types of animals that are commonly kept as housepets as well as some that are very uncommon. It is obvious that among all these pet-types there has to be a companion animal for every person who really wants or needs one.

I have written in the past voicing my views on the unfairness of renters, young and old, being prevented from owning pets. The passage of legislation correcting this situation, at least in government subsidized housing, is very gratifying.

In the practice of veterinary medicine I am constantly reminded of just how similar all of the different animals really are. The illnesses of birds, reptiles, dogs and others are not so different. Basically, kidneys function more alike than differently, all hearts pump blood and lungs are to exchange old for new gasses.

The reluctance of veterinarians to treat some of the unusual pets is often because the needed equipment is not at hand. There are a surprising number of veterinarians who have developed a special interest in unusual species. These people can often be located by calling the local veterinary association, listed in the yellow pages of your phone book.

The staff of Todays Animal News wishes to apologize for being late in sending the last few issues. We are making every effort to correct this situation.

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

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### **Todays Animal News**

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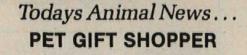
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# **FIP: BAFFLING VIRUS**

### FELINE INFECTIOUS PERITONITIS

### By Tania Banak, University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine.

Caused by a virus, feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) is not a common disease in cats, but it is nevertheless serious when a cat gets the disease. Unfortunately, no vaccine is available to prevent the disease. and there is no cure either. Dr. Mary Tompkins, a teaching associate and research veterinarian at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, explains "We don't know where cats get the virus. But we do know that cats with antibodies to FIP are more likely to develop the disease. Antibodies actually help the disease to develop in this case. That's why vaccines, which produce antibodies, aren't effective."

Dr. Tompkins notes that there are two forms of FIP . . . the effusive and the dry form. In the effusive form, cats develop fluid in the abdomen or chest. "The cat may have trouble breathing if the fluid develops in the chest," she says. "If it's in the abdomen, the cat may show vomiting and diarrhea. Sometimes the abdomen swells up so much that owners think the cat is pregnant."

In the dry form of the disease, the virus attacks specific tissues in the body, so the cat may show signs of eye problems, liver failure, or central nervous system problems due to inflammation of those tissues.

Any cat with FIP will also tend to show general signs of sickness such as depression, fever, or loss of appetite. If a cat is sick and the signs seem to indicate FIP, the veterinarian will take a blood test. The cat has FIP if antibodies are found in the blood sample.

"The disease is often fatal," Dr. Tompkins admits. "All we can do is provide nursing care to make the cat more comfortable.

Since nobody knows yet exactly how FIP is transmitted, and since the disease is infectious, the best prevention is to keep cats indoors where they can't come in contact with other cats. Researchers have found that the FIP virus is unstable, or in other words, doesn't last long. However, it can be carried for short distances on shoes, bowls, hands, etc., says Dr. Tompkins.

If you lose a cat to FIP, other cats in your household may also get the disease," she points out. "However, if the cat was the only cat, you can replace it without fear of the new cat getting the disease. Just be sure you thoroughly sanitize your home, especially the cat's areas, and wait about a month before bringing in a new cat into your home."

She recommends that if you buy a new cat from a breeder, make sure first that their cats are negative for FIP and for feline leukemia. Otherwise you could bring these diseases into your home. This is especially important if you already have other cats in your home.

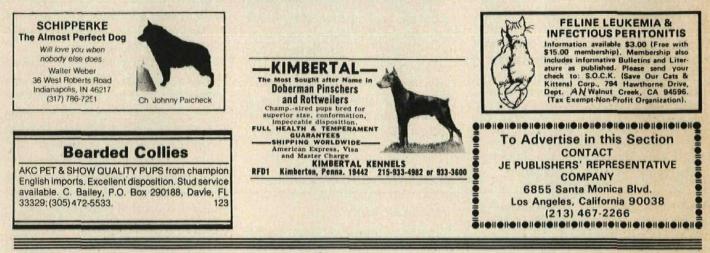
Researchers are busy trying to find out more about FIP. They hope to find a workable vaccine at some point in the future.

In the meantime, there is no need for cat owners to panic because the disease is relatively uncommon. However, it's good for cat owners to be aware of the disease • Page 4



# Todays Animal News...

### THE BREEDERS' SHOPPER GUIDE



### Cats are subject to MIDDLE-AGED AND OLD CATS ARE AFFECTED

The thyroid gland affects the speed of the bodies inner workings; including how quickly food is burned up and how fast the heart beats.

In recent years overactive thyroid glands have been diagnosed more frequently, especially in middle-aged and old cats. It does not affect one sex more than another nor is it more common in any specific breed. The increased thyroid activity is usually associated with a benign tumor of the thyroid gland (adenoma) or by the overgrowth of normal thyroid tissue (hyperplasia). It is rarely found in cancer of the thyroid gland.

### HUGE APPETITE, INCREASED THIRST ARE FREQUENT SIGNS

The symptoms of increased thyroid activity are mostly associated with a big thirst and a big appetite. However, there may also be days when appetite is decreased. Lots of food means frequent trips to the litterbox or outside. Since there is lots of food, there is also lots of clean up. In spite of eating a lot, they lose weight and become very thin with normal sized or big bellies. (Increased food and water keeps



away the slender waistline). Many of these oldster have a wide-eyed, wide-awake appearance and don't seem to sleep as much as they used to. Panting is frequent. As time passes and the disease becomes more severe, weakness, sometimes extreme lethargy, difficulty breathing, cough and other signs of heart failure replace the very active stage. The heart rate is usually so fast it is difficult to count accurately.

### LABORATORY TESTS REQUIRED

Since the thyroid gland's activity affects the whole body, many of these changes can be detected in the blood. Blood cells reflect the severe stress that is affecting the body. Liver cells break down and release substances into the blood that can be measured. Most important, however, is the amount of thy-

## thyroid disorders.

roid hormone found in the blood. Special testing can accurately determine how much hormone is present.

### TREATMENT IS VARIED

These cats do not get better by themselves! Treatment is essential! The overactive gland can be treated by surgery. Removing the affected gland is sometimes the only means of control available.

Antithyroid medication is available and is given by mouth in tablet form. It does not always work and may cause stomach distress and skin rash because of drug allergy. Some cats become resistant to the drug and require higher and higher doses.

Radioactive iodine can be given to destroy the thyroid gland. It is safe and effective but requires treatment by persons licensed to handle radioactive materials and special facilities for disposal of feces and urine which are radioactive.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Be aware. Wide awake, hungry, middle-aged or old cats should be suspected. Some will vomit occcasionally, have periods of lack of appetite. Heart rates of 200 beats per minute definitely means a trip to the doctor.

Charles Robinson, D.V.M. Page 5

### PETS AND PET MYTHS

### OLD WIVES TALES LIVE ON ... AND ON ...

Veterinarians spend a lot of time debunking, i.e. setting the records straight on myths that pet owners cherish.

"Some of these myths about dogs, cats, birds and other pets are amusing. Others can be downright detrimental because improper decisions are reached about pet care and sometimes proper care is delayed much too long," according to Dr. John B. McCarthy of New York City, president of the American Animal Hospital Association.

To get both the myths and answers, over 100 veterinarians who are members of AHA in the United States and Canada were surveyed. Here are some of the replies:

### IF A DOG'S NOSE IS COLD, IT MUST BE HEALTHY:

This is a persistent prognosis of amateurs, but is simply untrue. As one veterinarian comments, "I have seen dogs with a cold, wet nose, but also with a temperature of 105 and a case of pneumonia."



### ANIMALS HEAL THEMSELVES BY LICKING THEIR WOUNDS:

Dogs and cats get much more credit for healing themselves than they should. Cocksure comments like this one are ill-advised, say AAHA veterinarians. Such licking can actually slow down the healing process and cause further damage to the wound, unless the licking is stopped (and that's not easy, either).

### A DOG'S TONGUE IS STERILE (SOME SAY EVEN CLEANER THAN A HUMAN'S):

This is an untrue variation on the wound-licking idea. The fact is that a dog's tongue, besides being nonsterile, is actually abrasive.

### PROPER EAR CROPPING ON A FEMALE DOG GUARANTEES GOOD LOOKING EARS ON HER PUPPIES:

Incredible as it may seem, some people actually believe this.

IN ORDER FOR MY DOG TO BE PROTECTIVE, HE MUST BE TRAINED TO ATTACK OR BE VICIOUS. OR OBEDIENCE TRAINED DOGS CAN'T BE PROTECTIVE, TOO:

The facts: Many breeds of dogs can be obedience trained so they are well-mannered, yet they will be very protective of family members in a threatening situation.

### IF A PURE-BRED MATES WITH A CROSS-BRED OR MONGREL SHE IS RUINED FOR LIFE:

This concern, usually provided with solemn head-shaking, is not at all true. A pure-bred mother can still produce puppies of acceptable lineage if mated to a pure-bred mate the next time around.

So sex is a problem with dogs and cats. For dogs and cats there are solutions . . . neutering and spaying. It is good, veterinarians indicate, to clear up this myth: *THE*  FEMALE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE ONE LITTER BEFORE BEING SPAYED; SHE WILL BE A BETTER PET: There is no proof of this. Animals spayed at six months of age get along just fine.

Should you worry that a neutered or castrated pet will grow fat? Says one veterinarian: A spayed female may have a lowered metabolic rate, and may gain weight if fed too much and allowed to become inactive. A neutered male cat need not be listless and fat. Lack of exercise and overfeeding, along with normal aging, cause that problem.

# CATS ALWAYS LAND ON THEIR FEET:

This is a vicious rumor that undoubtedly has brought misery to many cats. "The many broken bones cats have suffered disprove this idea again and again," said one veterinarian.

Toronto, Canada and New York City are high-rise communities, populated by many cliff-dwelling cats (as well as people) and the highrise syndrome in which cats plunge many stories to their deaths or to severe injury is a common clinical event."

Obviously, there is as much mythology surrounding pets and pet care as there is for human medicine. Keep in mind that your best bet for the right information is to check with your veterinarian. One old saying that (for a change) is right on the mark is: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," Dr. McCarthy concluded.

### How sweet it is!

Automotive antifreeze tastes and smells delicious to some pets, but even a few drops can cause sudden kidney failure and death in dogs and cats. Remember your pet when you change your car's antifreeze or coolant for this summer. Don't leave open containers out; don't let the excess flow into the street; and check your radiator hoses frequently for leaks.

# HUMAN MEDICATIONS DANGEROUS FOR PETS

Tania Banak, University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine

"Pet owners see their pets acting ill or see that the pet is in pain after returning home after surgery and they decide aspirin would help to ease the problem. Not only are they filling the animal with drugs that can harm it, but the real problem is getting worse because the drugs have no effect on it."

For example, Dr. Cullison explains that veterinarians sometimes don't prescribe pain medication for animals after surgery because pain is the only thing that will keep the animal from becoming too active too soon. Another common problem for cat owners is to give laxatives to their cat when it seems to be constipated. The problem may actually be a hairball that's blocking the intestines, however, and laxitives could cause the intestine to burst. Or, the cat may not be constipated at all, but have a bladder problem instead.

"Many people have heard that aspirin is especially dangerous for cats," Dr. Cullison say. "So they give the animal Tylenol instead because this drug is advertised as safe for people who can't safely take aspirin. Unfortunately, cats are even more sensitive to Tylenol than to aspirin. One tablet can kill a cat."

He notes that signs of Tylenol poisoning in cats include gasping for breath, bluish gums, and a puffed up face. The animal may also be depressed and have a lower body temperature.

"If the problem is caught early enough, your veterinarian can often successfully treat it, but be sure not to stress the animal or get it excited because it will amplify the effects," he warns. "Ideally, don't try to treat your pet at home. Contact your veterinarian if the animal seems ill. And be sure to keep medications safely out of reach to prevent accidental overdoses."

He points out that chocolate can be toxic to dogs. They metabolize the active ingredient more slowly than people, so it could build up and cause nervousness and other more severe problems.

## RACCOON DISEASE AFFECTS HUMANS

### **PREVENTION...**

Human beings risk severe illness from a common intestinal roundworm of raccoons, warns the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) Council on Public Health and Regulatory Medicine.

According to the council, the parasite *Baylisascaris procyonis* has recently been the cause of fatal infections in other wildlife species and two children. Milder infections in adults have resulted in eye damage and other symptoms.

People, especially small children who habitually insert dirty hands or objects into their mouths, may become infected by injesting parasite eggs found in contaminated dirt or food. The eggs eventually hatch into larvae, migrate through the body organs, especially the brain, eyes, and spinal cord and cause death.

Since raccoons are frequently found in residential and recreational areas, raccoon fecal contamination in these areas is likely and exposure to *Baylisascaris procyonis* is a possibility. The parasite eggs may remain ineffective for long periods of time.

The AVMA recommends that pets and children should not be allowed access to areas where raccoons may have nested or been caged. In addition, people should wash their hands immediately after contact with dirt or waste material.

Because there is no effective rabies vaccine for wildlife, the AVMA also cautions against keeping raccoons, skunks, and other wild animals as pets.

Have your pets received their booster vaccinations this year?

Is your dog over eight years old? How long since his kidney function has been tested?

### HUMAN MEDICATIONS CAN POISON PETS

Even though pet owners mean well, they may do more harm than good when they give their pets over-the-counter drugs which are meant for humans.

According to Dr. Richard Cullison, a veterinarian who specializes in toxicology at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, animals, especially cats, don't metabolize many drugs the same way people do. As a result, human drugs may have a totally opposite effect when given pets.

"Overdoses are quite common," says Dr. Cullison. "This is due in part to the size difference between pets and humans. One aspirin tablet is a heavy dosage to 10 pound cat." He also points out that animals metabolize these drugs more slowly than humans, which means the drugs stay in the body longer, permitting them to have an even greater toxic effect.

Although sometimes dogs will get into problems when they chew open a container of pills, most drugrelated poisonings in pets are a result of owners trying to treat what they perceive to be a sick pet, Dr. Cullison notes.

# THE VETERINARY FRONT

## WHAT NOT TO DO FOR HEAT STRESS

### **OVERHEATED DOGS...**

Overheated dogs with tongues hanging out to their knees often cause concern to pet owners who automatically try to think of ways to bring its body temperatures down to normal.

According to research veterinarian Dr. Garry D. Hanneman, the best thing to do is just put the dog in a room of normal temperature and simply let it alone. Put a bowl of water nearby, but don't force the dog to drink. Never mind thrusting it into a cool, air-conditioned room. And don't surround it with ice cubes or wildly blowing fans.

The object is to get the temperature down from its high level to a normal 101.5°F in a slow, relaxed, natural manner. Going from one extreme (hot, humid yard) to another (cold, air-conditioned room) just to "cool him off" can lead to pulmonary problems.

It will take about 45 minutes to an hour to slow down the panting and bring the body temperature back down to normal, but that's a lot safer than a "quick fix."

And, of course, the best thing is to be watchful and avoid the problems of overheating of your pet in the first place. Summer overheating of your pet can be dangerous . . . but avoidable.

### RABBITS AND UTERINE INFECTION

Many rabbits die because of infection of the uterus while still quite young. For this reason most adult pet rabbits seen by veterinarians are males. This does not have to be the case because rabbits can be spayed. Many pets are nuetered routinely and some veterinary practices have experienced an increase in hysterectomies in rabbits. The surgery is very much like that in other animals with one notable difference . . . rabbits have a cervix in each of the horns of the uterus.



### **KILLING WITH KINDNESS**

No animal should be allowed to be overweight. We all know that obesity is not a healthy physical state.

Dogs and cats become overweight because they consume more food that they use up in physical activity. They get fat and stay fat because we overfeed them.

Young animals that are full of energy play, romp, roll, and run enough to stay slim but as they grow older they become less active. Older animals are less active; this is one of the reasons why they are often more fat.

There are two stages of obesity. The stage of weight gain that occurs because of inadequate exercise, the presence of excellent taste buds, and our overindulgence caused by our desire to be loved by our pets. After they are fat there is a different problem. Fat animals usually do not overeat and become fatter. Most stay about the same weight neither gaining or losing.

Weight control must include reduced food intake and increased exercise. Older animals require close attention during this weight reduction time. A thorough physical examination is necessary to be sure that the program fits the physical abilities of the animal. Increased exercise can be severely painful to degenerated joints or a severe strain on an old heart. Your veterinarian can determine the ideal weight at this time and a reasonable weekly weight loss set as a goal. When your diet begins there are a few helpful things to remember.

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1. Let your veterinarian keep an accurate record of your pet's weight and record the weight loss every week.

2. Reduce food consumption. Do this by measuring the food in a measuring cup or by weighing it, don't try to guess.

3. Don't give in! Keep the amount of food just as determined at the beginning of the diet. If snacks were a part of the old ration, fine ... just give less. There is no need to change your pet's lifestyle, just the amount of food it eats.

4. If there is no weight loss, reduce the amount of food again but be sure to check with your veterinarian first. Vitamins or a different diet may be needed. Increase exercise. Walks are best, but let the pet's doctor be the judge of how long, how vigorous, and how often to go. Walks are fun for all animals. It's great just to get out and see what's new!

There are special low calorie diets to help you and these are sometimes ideal. R/D, Fit and Trim, and Cycle 3 are three of many such foods.

Remember, exercise, less food, a weekly weighing time, and being a little hard-hearted is what it takes to trim up your fat friends.

Don't shorten their lives with too much food.

# **ANIMALS IN THE NEWS**

# HAIRBALLS IN CATS

### HAIRBALLS IN CATS

By Allan Paul, D.V.M., University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine.

In the process of grooming themselves, cats will invariably swallow some of their hair. Usually, this hair is passed in the cat's feces or is vomited up. Though the vomiting of hair may occasionally cause a cat to refuse to eat for a short period, it can almost be considered normal for a cat.

However, problems arise if the hair does not pass but accumulates in the stomach as a hairball instead. This hair accumulation is especially a problem in cats with long hair. Cats with hairballs usually vomit occasionally and their hunger is satisfied by just eating a small quantity of food. If the hairball is quite large, you may notice weight loss and loss of appetite as well.

Treatment of hairballs depends on the individual situation. Some cats are able to vomit the hairball, if it's small, and get rid of it. If that's the case, no further treatment is needed. A vomited hairball usually looks like a tubular, brown mass. If teased apart, you will find it composed primarily of hair.

If your cat is unable to pass the hairball on its own, however, treatment will be needed. Commercial laxatives, available through your veterinarian or at pet stores, are usually effective in moving the hairball out with the feces. Petroleum jelly can also be used with similar effects. Try placing a dab of the material on your cat's paws. Cats hate to have dirty paws and will immediately lick the material off their feet. If the hairball is large and is causing a severe impaction or intestinal blockage, surgery may be necessary to remove it.

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Remember that vomiting can also be a sign of other potentially serious diseases in the cat. Hairballs are not always the cause. If your cat's vomiting persists, contact your veterinarian. To prevent hairballs, a good brushing and grooming program will be very helpful. Preferably, long-haired cats should be brushed daily. Even short-haired cats should be brushed twice a week or so to distribute their body oils and to remove loose hair. Brushing reduces the amount of hair your cat swallows.

If your cat has a tendency to develop hairballs, it's advisable to routinely give the cat commercial hairball prevention preparations or petroleum jelly as a preventative.

### "PUPPY MILL" REDUCTION

The clampdown on so-called "puppy-mills" in the Midwest by agents of Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, is apparently paying off.

In Kansas, for example, there were 1,608 USDA-licensed "dog breeders" in 1975. By 1983 that number had dropped to 674. What happened to the other 58 percent (934) who got out of the business?

They simply stopped raising puppies," said Oscar Clabaugh, Kansas veterinarian, because they "couldn't measure up to federal standards." A few of them, Clabaugh said, "decided to sell strictly at retail"

The fight to control the puppy mills is not over, he maintains. "Continued federal inspection is needed to keep breeders up to USDA standards." •

### **FELINE HISTORY UNSURE...**

#### CATS AND PALEONTOLOGY

Seemingly, domesticated cats suddenly appeared on the scene in ancient Egypt when they became revered animals, near-gods and objects of worship. Cats are depicted on hundreds of friezes, drawings and statuary unearthed by archaeologists burrowing in the sands of Egypt. Are we to assume that Egyptian cats suddenly got together and said "Hey, let's get a relationship underway with these people," or were they domesticated before this era? The answers are not readily available.

Theorists have been able to piece together the dog-man relationship stretching all the way back to caveman days, but the cat-man relationship has a lot of empty holes. Some archaeologists say cats became domesticated when man first began storing grain for community use. The cats found a ready supply of rodents, and people encouraged this feline drive to hang around grain warehouses, which slowly led into domestication.

But there's no pictorial or written evidence of this in the ancient cities of Assyria, Babylonia or even Jericho. Going further back, did Stone Age man or cave dwellers have "cave cats" as pets? We just don't know. • By Jud Snyder

### Snake bites.

Warm weather means that snakes will be more active, and the nonpoisonous ones can carry a danger to your pet. A destructive bacteria is carried in the mouth of most snakes. Their bites should be treated with a proper cleaning and with antibiotics. A poisonous snake bite requires more vigorous and immediate attention.

### **RETURN OF THE BOLSON**

For centuries, it was assumed the Bolson tortoise was extinct. It thrived in southwest U.S. and Mexico all during the ice age but was thought to have passed from the scene along with the wooly mammoth and other ice age mammals.

But in 1959 the Bolson tortoise was rediscovered in a remote, arid, mountainous area of northern Mexico. Its territory was only 100 miles square, and its existence there was perilous due to herds of Mexican cattle roaming the same mountains, eating the same sparce grass Bolson tortoises enjoyed, caving in the tortoise burrows and crushing slowmoving reptiles underfoot.

A campaign was started to rescue the remnants of the tortoise population. Ralston Purina pitched in with a special tortoise food formula that was airshipped to the region. Funds were sought to fence in the limited acreage the tortoises occupied and plans were drawn up to bring healthy tortoises to the U.S. and set them loose on private ranches where grasslands were well managed and they could multiply.

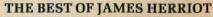
But, then all government funding was cut off in an economy move by the Reagan administration. Only a meager fund of \$3,300 from the World Wildlife Fund was still available. Dr. David Morafka, biology professor at Cal State U Dominguez Hills, Carson CA 90747, is heading up a drive to preserve Bolson's tortoise before it really does become extinct. He's working with Mexican wildlife groups on the project.

"Where the tortoise still survives is marginal at best," said Morafka. "If there are a few dry years, the hatchlings will be unable to cope."

#### **Doggy jogging**

Jogging can be wonderful exercise for your dog . . . if you use a little common sense. Like a human, the animal must be eased into the stress of traveling long distances. Start off on a soft surface until the pads of your dog are toughened. Check the pads after each jogging trip.

# WORTH READING



By James Herriot St. Martin's Press The Readers Digest Association, Inc. \$19.95

This hefty volume of James Herriot's memories is a collection of the author's fifty favorites. The book, some 500 pages, includes over one hundred full color pages of breathtaking photographs and many lovely line drawings.

The book includes stories of Herriot's early days in Darrowby, episodes of his finding a wife, a section on his memories as a wartime veterinarian, and then nine stories about his experiences in Darrowby after the war.

If you are a Herriot admirer, there could be no more perfect addition to your library. If you are looking for the perfect gift for someone special, this book fills the bill.





# **HANDLING BURN INJURIES**

### **BURN INJURIES IN PETS**

### By Allan Paul, D.V.M., University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine.

Burn injuries are relatively uncommon in pets but when they do occur they can be a serious or even lifethreatening situation.

Pets can get burned in a variety of ways. Direct heat and scald burns are usually preventable accidents that occur in or around the home. For example, cats may sustain severe foot pad burns when they walk across a recently heated stove burner. Dogs and cats may burn their tongues and mouths by licking hot barbecue grills in the summer. Adding hot water to dry pet foods can also cause mouth burns. Scald burns usually occur in the kitchen when a food-seeking pet accidentally spills hot water over itself or when the pet inadvertently trips a person carrying hot water.

Electrical burns occur most frequently in puppies who bite into appliances and lamp cords. This type of injury may result in severe heart and lung complications. Chemical burns are caused when a pet comes in contact with a caustic substance such as an acid or alkali. These types of burns usually occur when an animal gains access to the area where these products are stored.

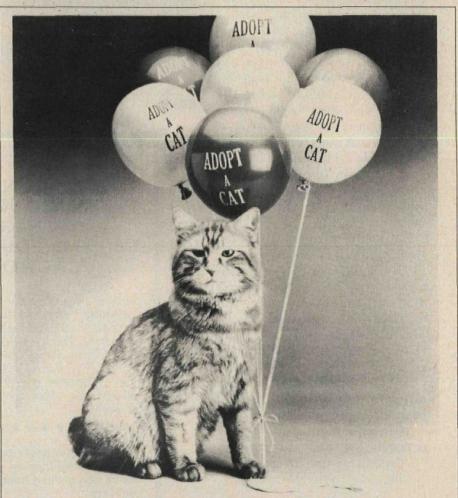
Animals trapped in burning buildings not only can be severely burned but may suffer from smoke inhalation as well.

Burns are classified accordingly to the depth and extent of the injury. The depth of the injury is expressed as the degree of burn. First degree burns are minor and are characterized by redness and swelling and minor pain upon touch. Second degree burns are more severe and are indicated by blistering and considerable pain and swelling. Third degree burns are the most serious and can be life-threatening if large portions of the body are involved. The skin may appear charred and loss of the full thickness of the skin occurs.

Burns that cause extensive damage to less than 10-15 percent of the body usually have a good prognosis. Those in which 15-50 percent of the body is involved can result in severe complications and the prognosis is only fair to poor. If more than 50 percent of the body is affected the prognosis is very poor. Most of these patients die within two weeks and are in severe pain. Euthanasia should definitely be considered in the severely burned animal.

If your pet is unfortunate enough to get burned, it would be best to have it examined by a veterinarian who will be able to evaluate the extent of the injury and determine what treatment is necessary. Applying ice compresses to the burn soon after it occurs will help.

Treatments of minor burns can be done on an outpatient basis. Your veterinarian will usually prescribe keeping the wound clean, giving the animal pain relievers, and antibiotics to prevent infection. On the other hand, animals with major burns will need to be hospitalized to receive intensive care.



Morris the cat gets into the spirit of national Adopt-A-Cat Month at the Bide-A-Wee Home Association and about 700 other animal shelters throughout the country. Although Bide-A-Wee offers cats for adoption in their three New York locations they suggest that there is a cat or kitten for you in just about any part of the U.S. There are 26 million cat owners in America, but there are also eight million kittens and cats abandoned every year. This time of year is chosen to encourage people to adopt a cat because it is the peak time of the year for feline breeding and most shelters will be receiving a steady flow of kittens for adoption.

## HEARTWORM TESTING

A medical alert was recently issued to dog owners by Dr. Phillip R. Fox, staff cardiologist at the Animal Medical Center in New York City, to have pets tested for heartworm disease during this spring and summer season. Heartworm is a potentially fatal disease affecting dogs and is most prevalent during the summer. Because it is transmitted to dogs by mosquito bite, all dogs that wander out of doors, even on leash, risk contracting heartworm disease. In fact, since mosquitoes can get inside the home, all dogs should be tested. Dr. Fox warned pet owners that heartworm disease continues to increase.

A blood test is required to determine if a dog is infected with heartworm disease and is recommended during the premosquito season. If heartworms are not present, preventative medication in either liguid or pill form can be given to the dog or placed in the pet's food daily. If heartworm infection is detected by a blood test, the dog must be hospitalized and treated to remove the existing infestation. Dr. Fox said, "Although treatment for heartworm infestation is usually effective and necessary, it does have potential side effects for the kidneys and liver, and can be costly in comparison to preventative medication. Therefore the old adage ". . . an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure . . ." holds true.

Heartworms are long, thin white parasites that live in the heart of infected dogs. By biting a healthy dog, the mosquito injects microfilaria, or immature heartworms, underneath the skin. These parasites migrate into the bloodstream during development. They reach adulthood in seven months, growing to maturity in the heart, and can develop to be several inches in length. Coughing, difficulty in breathing, lethargy, and a dull, coarse hair may be signs of infestation.

Heartworm testing can be done with a simple blood test by your local veterinarian.



# HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE YOUR PETS?

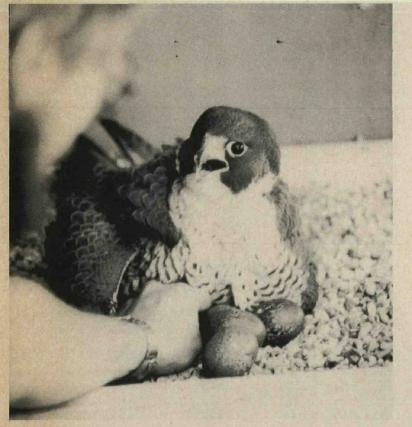
If your love knows no bounds, care for them with the new Homeo-dietal line of health products from Nature's Symphony. Researchers studying the function of cells, discovered that animals have their own resources to fight against systemic aggression. These homeopathic products help your pet's system react 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.

<b>ITEM #</b>	DOGS	PURPOSE	ITEM #	CATS
1D	Dog-Calm	Tranquilizer	1C	Feli-Calm
2D	Dog-Drag	Digestion	2C	Feli-Drag
3D	Dog-Start	Teeth & Bones	3C	Feli-Start
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
9D	Dog-Catal	Ear Infections	9C	Feli-Catal
10D	Dog-Verm	Worms	10C	Feli-Verm
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# **NEW HOPE FOR PEREGRENES**



Nestlings on the Union Bank loading dock as they were about to be transported to their new home.



This photo was taken by Jim Jennings, field coordinator for the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, while the eggs were being switched. To the surprise of everyone, the bird was so confused and startled by the switch that she failed to attack or fly away.

### **Photos by Jim Jennings**

### Peregrines adjust to city life

The top of the Union Bank headquarters building in downtown Los Angeles may seem an odd place for the endangered peregrine falcon to nest, but two of them have done just that.

A repopulation program conducted by the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology seeks to place falcons in the city where they say their chances for survival are good. The peregrine falcon seems to agree. In fact, you might say that these two peregrines are willing to bank on it!

Having settled into their chosen home on a ledge near the top of the 38-story building, these two falcons are proving the experts correct. They've been giving on the urban high-rise for nearly two years and, if the start of a family is any indication, they're here to stay.

The future didn't always look so bright for the peregrine falcon, though. Once plentiful in California, their number began to fall rapidly due to the appearance of the pesticide DDT in the natural food chain. By the 1970s, the problem had become severe. "As a result of DDT, the females were unable to produce eggs with shells thick enough to endure the rigors of hatching in the wild," explained John F. Harrigan, chairman of Union Bank, and an avid ornithologist. "Consequently, almost no young were being born. Clearly, it was time for human intervention."

Working with the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, conservationists from the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group at the University of California gathered eggs from nests in the wild and hatched them in an incubator. The birds were reared to young adulthood without human contact . . . a process called "hacking" . . . and set free in urban and rural areas. The Union Bank pair are believed to be the first couple from the local repopulation program to produce eggs," commented Harrigan. "The

### Falcons favor city life . . .

Continued from previous page

four eggs were being watched very carefully. However, before the end of the 30-day incubation period, two of them had been accidentally broken. There are two reasons this happened: the young parents are inexperienced and the egg shells are still fragile. As a matter of fact, they were later found to be 18 percent thinner than normal."

A rescue operation for the remaining two eggs was then set into operation. Brian Walton of the Predatory Bird Research Group climbed out on the 38th floor ledge and removed the eggs, replacing them with plaster ones which had been painted red to look natural. The real eggs were flown to Walton's lab in Santa Cruz, where they were hatched. Those chicks will be placed with another mating pair.

Meanwhile, the Union Bank falcons were fooled and continued to try to hatch the plaster eggs. Then, on April 26, Walton once again found himself on the ledge. This time, he placed in the nest two 10day-old fledgling chicks, also hatched at the lab. The parents accepted the chicks almost immediately and began feeding them. This is due, in part, to the fact that older chicks have a stronger begging response, which helps to bring out the novice parents' feeding instincts. The chicks still bear the coat of white fuzz that they were born with but will eventually shed it for the striking brown and black feathers of the adult perigrine.

It is now more than a month since the chicks were placed in the nest and the new family is doing well. The young chicks have begun to fly and will remain in the area five to six weeks learning how to hunt before setting off to find their own five-to 10-mile radius territory.

### **Busy parents**

If you have ever wondered how parents can take care of quintuplets, imagine having 99 offspring at the same time. Water snakes are known to have this many young in one litter.



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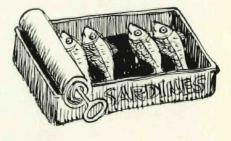
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#### Bang! You're dead.

It's hunting season time again. In their zeal for the big kill hunters shoot everything from barns to cows. Keep dogs and cats confined during open hunting season. If an animal is injured, apply pressure to the wound to control bleeding. Keep the injured animal warm and quiet and seek professional help immediately.

#### **High flyer**

If you have ever wondered just how high birds can actually fly, the record is held by a group of whooper swans spotted by an airline pilot back in 1967. They were logged in 27,000 feet in Northern Ireland. The spotting of high flying swans was backed up by their appearance on air traffic control radar •

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## Todays Animal News LETTERS

#### Editor:

My husband and I are interested in obtaining a female Russian blue kitten. We would appreciate any assistance you could provide in directing us to an appropriate breeder.

I have combed the newstands in my area, but none carry any periodicals on cats or pets. I am sorry to say that Milwaukee is just not a very cat-enthusiastic city!

Shirlee A. Kalstone indicates in her book entitled "Cats," that you could be some assistance in locating responsible breeders. Thanks for any help that you can offer.

Janell W. Stanosz

#### Dear Mrs. Stanosz:

Under separate cover we have sent you the names of three breeders of Russian blues, and the name and address of the author of the book on Russian blues.

Also included is an order form for the annual yearbook for the Cat Fanciers Association. This is a huge and impressive volume of about 720 pages that should be of interest to many cat lovers. It has a hard cover, is printed on top quality enameled paper and packed with full-color illustrations of every popular breed of cat. It includes useful information on the care and keeping of cats. It weighs about seven pounds and sells for around \$20, including taxes and makes for a great "coffee table book" for anyone captivated by cats.

Feline enthusiasts can order it from : Cat Fanciers Almanac, CFA Publications, 1309 Allaire Avenue, Ocean, New Jersey, 07712.

Good luck, The Editor.

### **CHECK YOUR LABEL**

Does your address label have the name of a veterinary hospital on it? If so, that hospital has selected you to receive a complimentary subscription to **Todays Animal News**!

# ASHLEY WHIPPET RETIRES

After a career spanning a dozen years of appearances all over the U.S., Ashley Whippet has retired.

Ashlev first made American dog owners aware of Frisby catching. both as a form of recreation and exercise, and as a competitive sport. In his first public appearance Ashley and his owner, Alex Stein, charged onto the field of a professional baseball game to demonstrate disc catching. The baseball players loved it, the crowd loved it, but the demonstration was unscheduled and police whisked Stein off to jail. But as a result of this, hundreds of thousands of Americans discovered the sport of disc throwing for their dogs. Before long Ashley was being invited to appear at functions to show off his disc catching abilities, and a career was launched.

Disc catching for dogs has become a national sport. The Gaines Ashley Whippet Invitational (obviously sponsored by the Gaines Dog Food Company) hosts 136 local and state contests annually, plus another eight regionals, and topped off by the world finals on September eight at Comisky Park in Chicago.

Ashley may be officially retired, but he and trainer Alex Stein will be there to watch over this canine olympics. And so will quite a few young Ashley offspring, carrying on in their father's paw prints.

Photos of Ashley and friends follow on the next pages.

# Summer dangers: Pets in parked cars

What are the signs of heat stroke?

- Restless pacing, trembling and twitching.
  - •Panting, an increased pulse rate, and an anxious or staring expression.
  - •Frantic pawing or scratching at windows or doors if confined in a vehicle.
  - •Frothing at the mouth is not uncommon.
  - •Gums may be pale or bluish.
  - •There may also be vomiting. Convulsions, stupor or coma may follow.

### Unless there is prompt, proper action the animal may collapse and die.

What should you do if your pet gets heat stroke? The American Animal Hospital Association offers the following advice:

- •First, try to lower its body temperature as easy as possible by immersing the animal in a tub of cold water, a swimming pool, lake or stream, or even spraying it with a garden hose.
- •Put the animal in the shade,

preferably where there is a breeze.

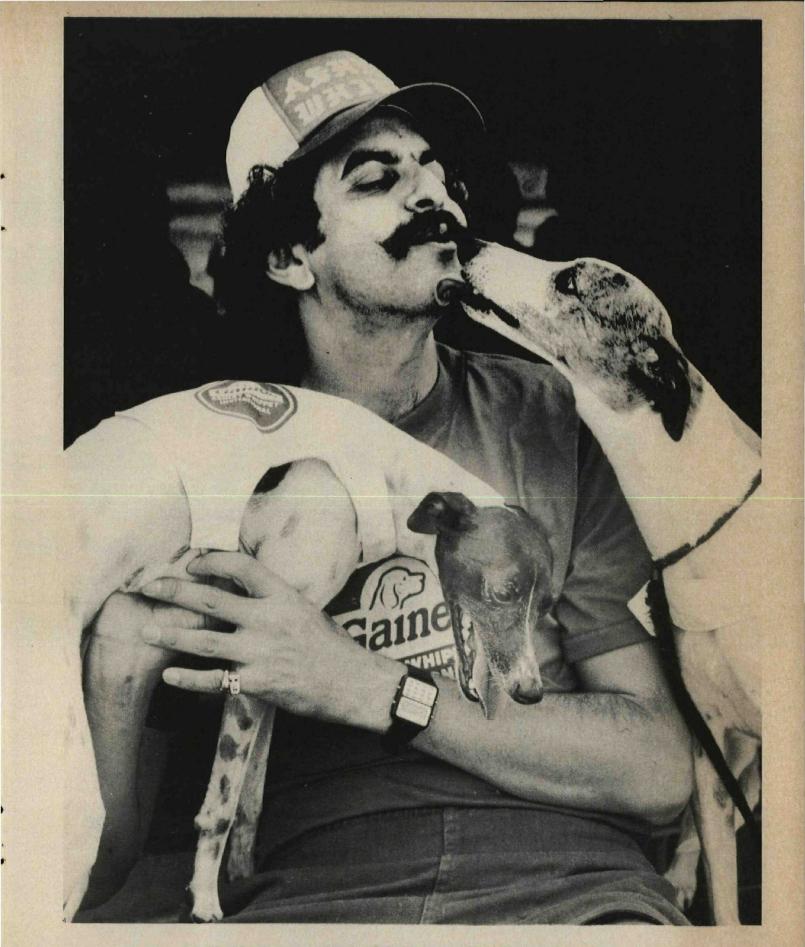
- •Once the cooling off process begins, massage the skin and flex the animal's legs to increase circulation, thereby dissipating the heat.
- •Always have a heat stroke pet checked by a veterinarian, even if it appears to have recovered, because additional treatment may be required.

To prevent heat stroke never leave a dog or cat in a closed car, unattended, for any length of time on warm or clear sunny days. Provide all the air ventilation possible and have water available.

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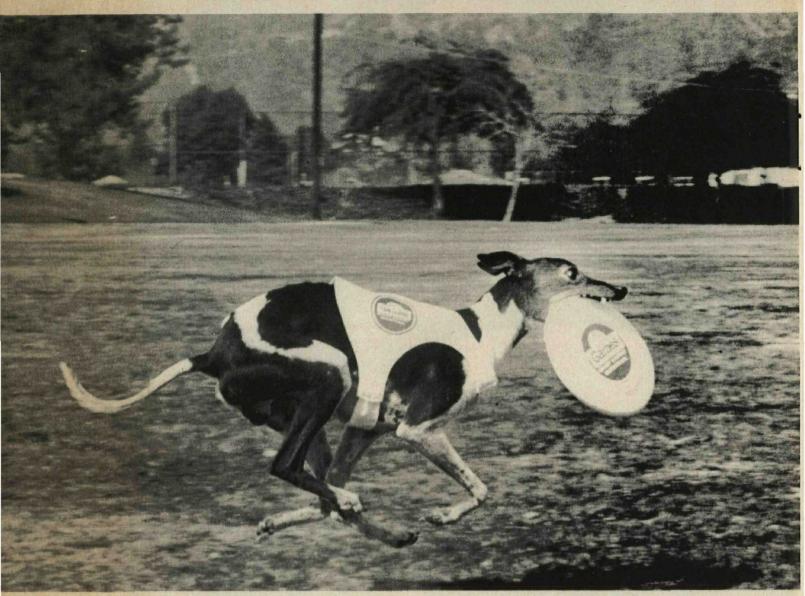
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Heat stroke can occur almost any time of the year, when heat gradually builds up during the day and even when the sky is cloudy. Clear, bright sunny winter days can also produce surprisingly high inside car temperatures, even if there is snow on the ground! •



Alex Stein, owner-trainer of the Ashley Whippets, gets a smooch from one of Ashley's offspring. Ashley may be retired but a whole new generation of young Ashley's are ready to carry on for him.

# **Canine olympics star**



Ashley Whippet himself races to return a disc. Now 13 years old and retired from active competition, Ashley is still in fine form.



Ashley watches as a quartet of young Ashley Whippets show the form that made the founder of the family the three-time world disc-catching champion.

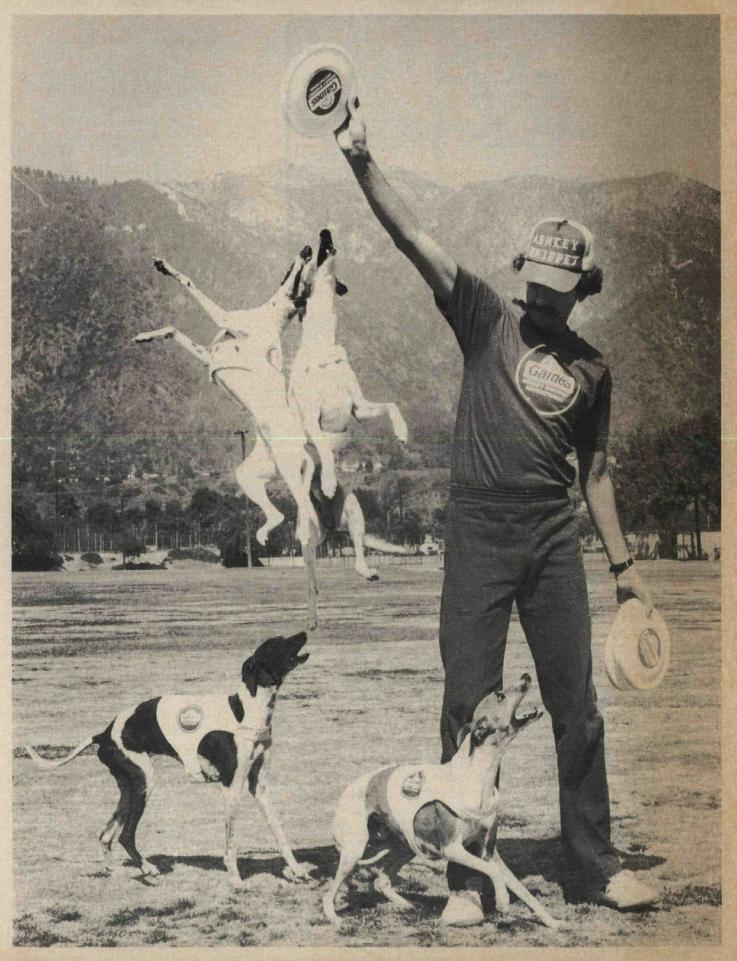
These young Ashley Whippet offspring demonstrate some of the style that earned Ashley three K-9 Frisbee World Championships. While simple disc-catching can be a fun form of exercise for many pets, there are a few pitfalls to avoid. Be sure that your dog is in good physical condition before you start. Start in slowly. Make early workout sessions short ones. Quit before the dog wants to quit at first. If it's hot or excessively humid, take it easy and resist the temptation to overdo it. Workouts should be at least an hour before or after mealtimes.

Remember that it is strenuous exercise. Give your dog small quantities of water (or ice cubes) at a time for the first half hour after a training session. Be careful not to allow the dog to bolt down large quantities of water at one time.

Always choose an exercise area, whether it is in the backyard or a park, where the surface is soft and, preferably, grassy. Before you start check carefully for broken glass or other dangerous debris. Never workout the dog on concrete or asphalt or where he could run into the path of oncoming vehicles. With planning and patience on your part you can keep your dog fit and strong with the fun of catching Frisbees.

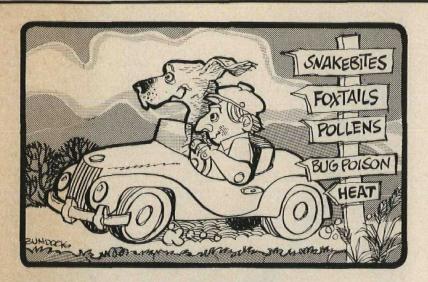
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# UP... UP... AND AWAY!



### **Todays Animal News**

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# THAT GOOD OL' SUMMERTIME

The lyrics of an ever-popular song proclaim "Summertime ..., and the livin' is easy ..." But, summertime isn't so easy if your pet gets in trouble. And summer presents a lot of hazards for pets.

**Snake bites.** Snakes are more active in the summer and are often unseen in tall grass and weeds. Or the natural curiosity of your pet may lead it into attempting to play with a snake that it discovers. The results may be the same: a serious bite. If this happens, get your pet to a veterinarian pronto. And try, if possible, to identify the kind of snake to help the veterinarian in his diagnosis. Much the same is true for spiders and other insects.

Heat stress. Remember that your dog or cat doesn't perspire as you do, and so does not have the same cooling system. Pets are lost every summer from being left in locked cars in the sun. Too much heavy exercise in the heat will do the same thing. If your pet shows signs of heat stress try to cool it off with water and get it to a veterinarian as soon as possible. (A rectal thermometer should be a must in your pet's first aid kit and it can tell you how serious the problem is.)

**Swimming.** Swimming in the ocean can be great fun for your dog, but it should be closely supervised. Dogs can lose their sense of direc-

tion if they swim too far and cannot see over the swells and waves. After swimming in either the ocean or in brackish waters a quick rinse with fresh water can avoid some skin problems.

**Grasses and weeds.** Foxtails, burrs and stickers abound in the good ol' summertime and your pet is a prime target for them all. Pollens and seeds are ready and waiting for your pet. A complete brushing and check of eyes and feet on a daily basis can help to reduce this common problem.

Bug poisons. Summer is also gardening time. But it is also time for the pests that eat up those carefully nurtured gardens. Hundreds of sprays, powders and pellets are available to combat these garden pests. However, some of the poisons that kill these garden pests can also kill your pets. Before using any poison read the label carefully to make sure that it will be safe around pets. If in doubt, check with your veterinarian as to the safety of the product. And if your pet does ingest one of these poisons you should get the pet to your veterinarian as soon as possible. If you can bring the label from the poison to your veterinarian it will help greatly in the diagnosis and treatment of your pet.

### ORPHAN KITTEN CARE

There's probably nothing quite as appealing as a handful of tiny kittens, crawling about clumsily with eyes tightly closed, as if they're afraid to peek at this new environment they were suddenly thrust into. The appeal can turn into a nerve-wracking, harrowing, frustrating experience, however, if you're suddenly the surrogate mother to these four-legged infants. Just like human babies, hungry kittens will set up a clamor, and not always just before feeding time. Just remember, there is a danger of overfeeding. Tiny digestive systems are designed to hold just so much. Wellfed kittens will generally sleep in between feedings until they reach the exploratory stage. You can check up on their health with the aid of a small scale, such as a gram scale or even a mailing scale will suffice. A steady and continuous weight increase tells you you're doing things the right way.

If you have a spayed female cat in the house, she might be inclined to take over as surrogate mother in every department except food. But make sure the cat is willing and cooperative before giving her free access. Some queens, especially those of long standing in the household, might just be jealous and decide to kill these newcomers.

How much do you feed a kitten? Just enough to fill out its little belly. It's always best to underfeed than overfeed. As the kittens get older you can begin introducing canned food mixed with milk and get them used to a bowl of water near their box. When they start climbing out (or trying to climb out) of their box, it's time to introduce them to the outside world.

Judson Snyder •

### THINK SMALL

How small is small when it comes to birds? Well, how about the bee hummingbird which is slightly more than a half ounce? Or maybe a white fronted falconet which weighs less than an ounce and a half... and is a predatory bird!



### HERE'S TO YOUR NEW PUPPY'S HEALTH ...

Keeping a new puppy includes socialization, observation, vaccinations, deworming, proper diet, and a good environment. That may seem like a tall order, but most dog owners find the effort is minimal compared to the enjoyment they get from their pet.

"Your future satisfaction with a dog can depend on the choices you make with a puppy," says Dr. Sandi Sawchuk, a small animal veterinarian at the University of Illinois Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital. "For example, it's best to get a puppy when it's about eight-weeksold. If the puppy didn't get used to the new environment before that period, you might wind up with an animal that's permanently afraid of vacuum cleaners or other household situations."

She also points out that a pup that bounds to the front of the kennel and barks at you may be too dominant in the long run and too difficult to control, just as the pup that hangs back may be too submissive. She recommends choosing a puppy that shows a happy medium of these behaviors.

The puppy should be alert, active, with clear eyes and a shiny hair coat, she says. A puppy that's been kept isolated could have behavior problems in the future. Also, a clean environment is more likely to produce a healthy puppy.

As soon as possible after you get the puppy, take it to a veterinarian," Dr. Sawchuk urges. "Bring a fresh stool sample . . . 24 hours old or less . . . so that the veterinarian can check for egg worms. Most puppies

# Starting your new puppy out right

do have worms, and although commercial wormers will do a fine job of eliminating certain worms, your puppy may have different ones."

She points out that if your puppy does have worms, you should make certain to keep all stool picked up from the puppy's environment. Otherwise the pup could get reinfected in spite of the deworming treatment.

Vaccinations to protect the puppy from common diseases are also important. "A puppy can start getting its shot around six to eight weeks of age and then your veterinarian will set up a schedule for a series of booster shots," Dr. Sawchuk notes. "After the puppy's first year, an annual visit to the veterinarian will do. Of course, if you notice signs of illness such as vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, weight loss, loss of appetite, or depression and lack of playfulness, do contact your veterinarian. That also applies if you notice persistent head shaking, scratching, or other abnormal behavior ...."

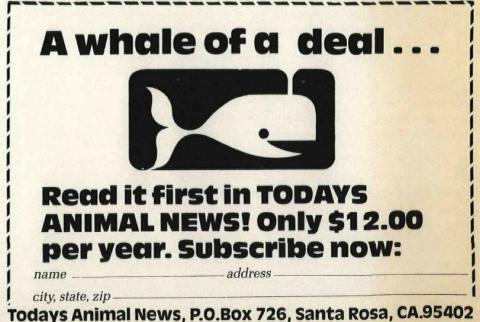
As a precaution, avoid contact with other dogs, especially ones that are ill, until all puppy vaccinations have been completed. At that point, Dr. Sawchuk suggests that it's a good idea to enroll the puppy in puppy obedience classes. This helps socialize the puppy and may also help prevent some future behavior problems.

If the owners do not intend to breed their pets, male dogs should be neutered about eight months of age and females should be spayed between four months and eight months, depending on their size, she says. Your veterinarian will advise you.

"Get the puppy used to wearing a collar with tags as soon as possible so that it can be identified in case it wanders off", Dr. Sawchuk recommends. "It's also helpful to get the puppy accustomed to nail trimming, grooming, bathing and other care early so that it will learn to tolerate these procedures."

She also points out that since puppies like to chew, they should not get any toys that are small enough to be swallowed or that break easily. Nylon and rawhide bones or hard rubber toys are best. Puppies can't distinguish between old shoes and a new pair of \$100 shoes, or between a cloth toy and its owner's clothes.

It's a lot to do and think about, but there is one consolation. If you can endure the growing pains of a puppy, someday it will grow up and be an enjoyable and relaxing part of your family.



Warm weather hazard to dogs

By C. D. Evans, D.V.M., Purina Pet Food Nutrition Research Reprinted Courtesy Ralston Purina Company

During hot summer months or in areas where a warm Climate normally prevails, dogs that are exposed to high environmental temperatures, high humidity, inadequate ventilation and at times excessive exercise may succumb to the effects of heat stress.

The potential heat stress victim is often a pet confined in an automobile (or other poorly ventilated enclosure) in hot, humid weather. Even if the vehicle is left in a shady area, shade cover may disappear over a period of time. The effects of direct sunlight contacting the car along with inadequate air circulation can be disastrous to the dog.

Most total body heat loss in man and animal occurs through radiation and conduction of heat from body surfaces. However, unlike man and other animals that have the ability to sweat freely, dogs have a relatively poor development of sweat glands so that less moisture evaporates from the skin. Dogs lose body heat primarily through breathing, by the vaporization of moisture in expired air. The common response in dogs to rising body temperatures is an increase in the rate of respiration. Breathing becomes faster but not deeper (panting), which causes an increased water and carbon dioxide loss. Prolonged exposure to high atmospheric temperatures and humidity or improper ventilation overtaxes the dog's heat-dissipating mechanisms and places an extra burden on circulatory and respiratory systems. These conditions are favorable for the onset of external heat stress.

### **TYPES OF HEAT STRESS**

There are three types of heat stress which may occur in animals. Prompt veterinary treatment is essential in all cases to save the animal from permanent impairment or death.

Heatstroke (also called sunstroke, hyperthermia) is the most common and most often fatal syndrome in dogs. It is associated with exposure to high temperatures and humidity and poor ventiliation. Heatstroke develops rapidly. Physical symptoms include panting, a staring or anxious expression, failure to respond to commands, warm dry skin, extremely high fever (at times as high as 110°F), rapid heartbeat and collapse. Vomiting may also occur.

Heat Exhaustion or heat prostration is another form of heatstroke which may occur in animals following prolonged exposure to intense heat and heavy exertion. Salt deficiency may serve as a predisposing cause. Heat exhaustion develops less rapidly than heatstroke. It is characterized by fatigue, muscular weakness and circulatory collapse. Although heat exhaustion is not common in dogs, it may occur as a complication of cardiovascular disease.

Heat Cramps are painful muscle spasms caused primarily by the loss of considerable amounts of salt from the system and by severe exertion in hot weather. Heat cramps are rare in dogs; however, racing or hunting dogs may occasionally be affected if heavily exercised in intense heat.

### TREATMENT

In heatstroke cases, high fever must be reduced rapidly to save the dog's life and prevent permanent brain damage. Body temperatures of 106°F and above can be tolerated for only a few minutes before irreversible damage occurs to the central nervous system. The most effective treatment is probably immersing the dog in cold water. If this is not possible, an alternative is to spray the dog with cold water from a garden hose. Ice packs on the head and neck may also be applied. Recovery depends on prompt treatment. The animal should be taken to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Heat exhaustion or heat cramps must also be treated by a veterinarian.

### **OTHER FACTORS**

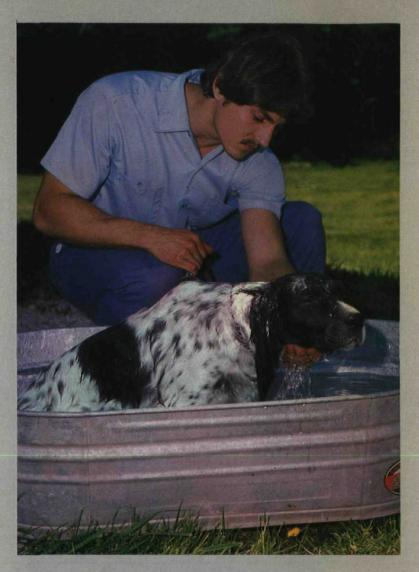
In addition to environmental conditions, other factors may influence a dog's susceptibility to heat stress. Puppies are more vulnerable to external heat stress than adult dogs. Elderly dogs are also more susceptible. Short-nosed breeds like the bulldog suffer more in hot weather. These dogs have greater difficulty in breathing, which reduces the amount of body heat loss. Obese dogs may be affected more readily than dogs in good body condition. Layers of subcutaneous fat in overweight dogs reduce the condition and radiation of heat from the body surface. General health is an important factor. Dogs with cardiovascular diseases or respiratory problems may be stricken under conditions which would not be hazardous to normal, healthy dogs. And dogs with a previous history of external heat problems are apt to be susceptible to a recurrence of heat stress.

### **PREVENTIVE MEASURES**

Most cases of canine heat stress can be avoided when dog owners and kennel managers observe a few hot weather precautions for dogs:

- Never leave a dog in a closed automobile for any length of time in hot weather. This is a major cause of heat problems not only in dogs, but in young children as well.
- Kennels should have adequate ventilation to provide good air circulation for dogs in summer months. Dogs should also have a well-protected rest area to escape midday sun and heat. If dogs are kept outdoors, some type of shade cover should be provided.
- Avoid excessive exercise of dogs during hot weather. Overexertion is a common cause of external heat problems.
- Keep plenty of fresh drinking water available at all times for dogs.
- 5. If a dog does exhibit signs of heat stress, move him to a cool place, apply cold water to the body, and consult your veterinarian at once.

Proper summertime dog care will help prevent external heat problems in your dogs.





# **GETTING YOUR GOAT**



### PET GOATS ... NOT ALWAYS PERFECT PETS, BUT FUN!

goat as a pet? The idea may seem strange to many owners of more conventional pets but actually goats can make interesting, intelligent and useful pets, if space is available and local ordinances will permit it. You may be surprised at how affectionate and demonstrative and playful a pet goat may be.

The advantages of goat ownership are numerous. They are trained easily and will learn to walk on a lead just about as quickly as a dog. A simple reward system will condition them to come when called.

### **COMMON FALLACIES**

Jokes and cartoons about goats are numerous, but present an untrue picture. For instance, they don't eat everything in sight. And especially, they don't eat tin cans. This myth was probably originated by the fact that goats are very curious and will sample just about anything. They will pick up a tin can to "test-taste" the glue from the label. Actually, goats can be very fussy about their food. A goat may take a bite out of an old straw hat or snatch up an old cigar butt, and then turn up its nose at expensive alfalfa that has been left in the dirt.

Unlike their sheep relatives, goats are really not grazing animals. They'll crop a little grass, but browsing is their real preference. They gobble poison oak, thorny weeds, wild berry vines and any low foliage they can reach. Some will actually climb up into the trees to snatch the leaves. Because of this love for brush and foliage goats have been employed with great success to clear brushy land and to make fire trails in national parks.

### THE TASTE OF ROSES

But before you engage a goat to clear the brush from your land you should know that they also eat prize rose bushes (a real favorite!) and most other decorative plants and flowers. They will nibble the bark away from a tree until it dies, and, of course, a vegetable garden is a real treat.

Despite this, goats do not really bite. They might give a human a painful pinch or nip, but they don't really have the teeth with which to inflict a real bite. Goats are social animals and relate well with other animals . . . cats, dogs, sheep, horses and, of course, humans. These pictures illustrate interplay with a cat and goats and a greeting of a young Welsh corgi and a French Alpine kid.

### MORE MYTHS

Another popular fallacy is that all goats smell. An unaltered buck can be pretty pungent, because his urine odor acts like a perfume to does during breeding time. But goats can be altered (preferably at a young age) like other animals and this problem will not occur.

Most goats have a coarse, medium coat. If brushed regularly it will be clean and without odor. They enjoy the attention that goes along with grooming. And an occasional bath with a mild soap keeps them clean and sweet-smelling.

Their hooves must be trimmed from time to time, but with the help of your veterinarian, you may be able to master this skill yourself.

They may not bite, but they butt. They do this in play and in selfdefense. Young kids spend hours playing the butting game together. But (no pun intended) they don't have to be allowed to do this to humans and their owners. A little simple training will teach them that this behavior is unacceptable. And, of course, your pet goat should have its horns removed at a young age by a qualified veterinarian.

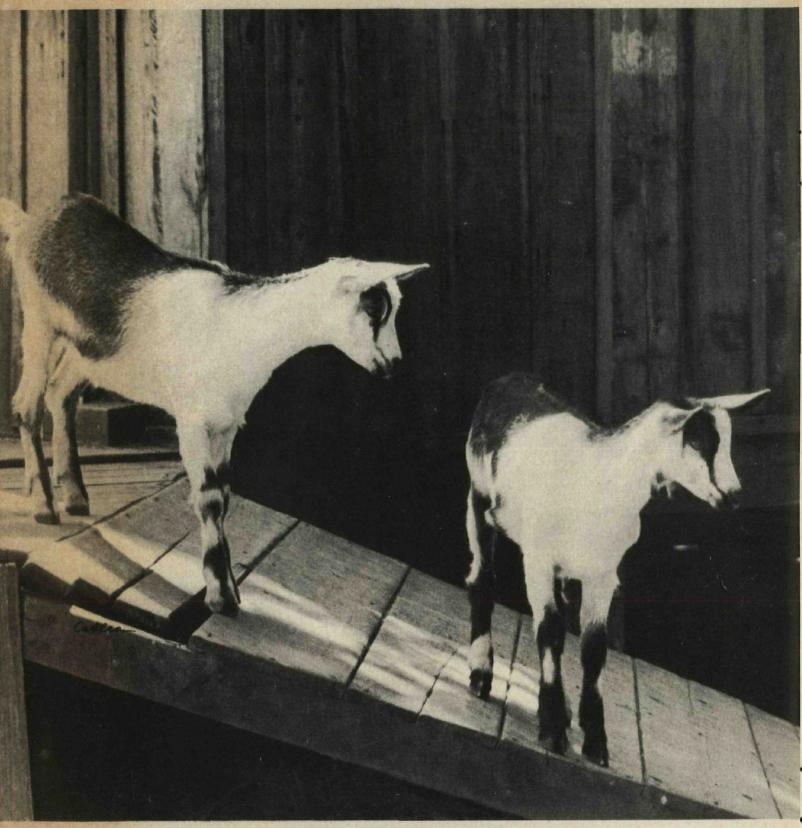
Goats often live longer than many dogs and have relatively few health problems. They require some shelter from the elements, a source of clean water and usually require a salt lick. They learn to ride in cars. Or, if you like, they can learn to pull a cart for you. They are bright and intelligent and can be taught a variety of things if humans spend sufficient time with them.

# **KIDS WILL BE KIDS!**

Young French Alpine kids

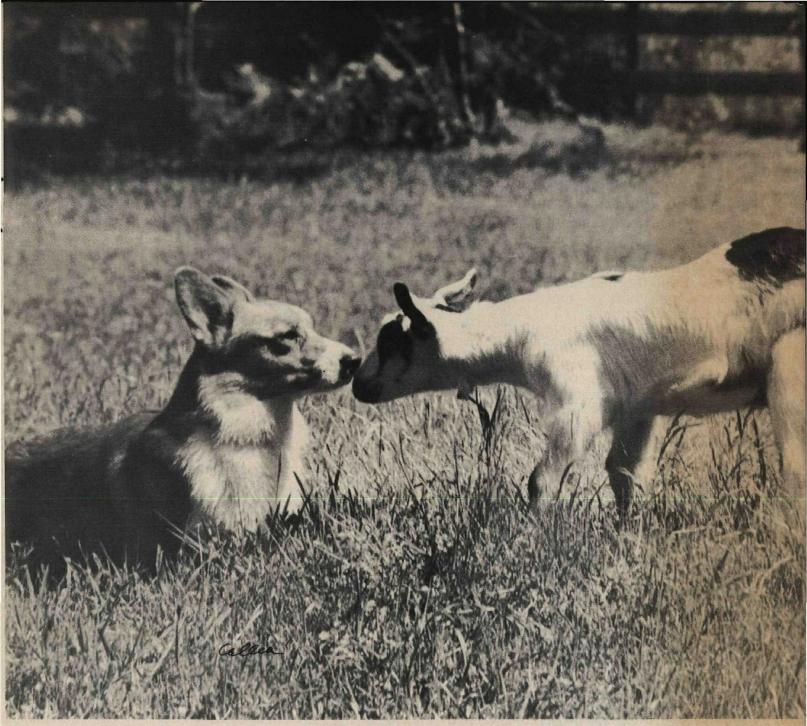
Floating in space! No, this isn't a trick photo. It's a young goat showing off with a favorite game that consists of running up a wall and trying to defy the laws of gravity! The suspended animation appears to fascinate the watchers as they wait for their turn at the game.

### **GOATS AS THE PERFECT PET?**



## All this and milk, too!

Your pet goat can also provide your family with an excellent source of food. With planning you can have about a gallon of nutritious milk a day for about ten months out of the year. Goats are easier to milk than cows and the rich, highly digestable milk can be used for the table or to make cheese or cottage cheese.



This Pembroke Welsh corgi and goat register mutual surprise at their first meeting. But with a little guidance they can learn to be fast friends. Goats enjoy the company of almost all species of domesticated animal life.

Selecting the right breed of dog can be a confusing experience, with well over 100 breeds from which to choose. But the process is greatly simplified with goats, since your selection is really limited to about a half dozen breeds.

Each breed has distinct characteristics and differences in temperament. Which one is right for you? That's a decision that you will have to make for yourself. County fairs usually have a representation of the various breeds for you to see. Literature is available from the library or your local farm advisor, or goat breeders (listed in your local telephone books) are happy to show off their stock. But, whatever the breed you choose, you'll find a goat will make an interesting and rewarding pet.

There are a half dozen commonly accepted breeds of goats, and all have distinguishing characteristics. The most recently recognized breed is the oberhasu. A longtime favorite is the saanen,

distinctive because this breed is always white. The nubian is easily recognized because it is the only breed in which the ears hang down, instead of being erect. Nubians are noted for milk that is very rich in quality. In contrast, the la mancha has almost no visible ears at all. Perhaps a toggenberg or alpine would be the perfect goat for you. But whatever your selection, you should find a goat an interesting and rewarding pet. Page 29

### Page 30 ABOUT OUR COVER

Worker, loyal companion, guardian and show dog. That's quite a package for any dog! But that is the Australian cattle dog.

Often incorrectly called the "blue heeler" the breed actually comes in both red and blue colors. It originated in the rough lands of Australia out of necessity. The popular stock dogs found the going too hard, but the frustrated ranchers soon noticed that the native wild dog of the country, the dingo, was able to handle the rough, brushy terrain with ease.

The inventive Aussies crossed their best domesticated stock working dogs with this hardy wild canine and, generations later, the Australian cattle dog emerged.

Word of their success traveled to other countries and, before long, so did the Australian cattle dog. American ranchers had them shipped in to handle rough range stock. Recently the American Kennel Club finally accepted them, making them eligible for dog shows. The rugged dog from down under is now proving its versatility in all arenas of competition!

Our cover dog is Ch. Country Times Red Jester, the Australian cattle dog who helped launch the breed into show ring by winning the first-all-breed Best-In-Show award.

#### Cover photo by Doug Bundock.

#### The fleas are back!

Contrary to popular opinion, fleas don't die in the winter; they just move into the warm and comfort of your house. And now that it is summer they become more active again. They transmit tapeworms and they can consume enough blood to create anemia in pets. To defeat these stubborn insects treatment must be directed both toward control on the animal and the environment in which the flea flourishes.

### VACATIONING WITH YOUR PET Travel tips for pets . . .

Summer is travel time and millions of Americans take to the roads, the sky and the waterways for vacations. But what about their pets? The following helpful hints are excerpts from "The Portable Pet", by Barbara Nicholas.

AIR TRAVEL. Try to avoid flying with your pet in the summer or winter. If you must fly in the summer, flights in the early morning or after sundown are safer. Travel in hot weather is especially dangerous for short-snouted dogs, because they experience breathing difficulties.

A tranquilizer prescribed by a veterinarian will eliminate much of the stress of travel for your pet. Often it is a good idea to test the prescribed tranquilizer on your pet a week or so before the trip. This way you'll know ahead of time how long it takes for the pill to have an effect, how long the reaction lasts, and whether there are any side effects.

Most airlines that transport animals also sell kennels. You can also buy a flight kennel at many pet supply stores and department stores. Once you purchase the kennel, let your pet become accustomed to it . . leave the door open, put his

favorite toy or food inside, let him sleep in it. Remember, you want your pet to have only positive associations with his kennel, so never put him in it as punishment!

Never muzzle your pet during a flight. Panting is vital to an animal under stress, and an inability to do so could cause his death through asphyxiation.

CAR TRAVEL. Kennels for car travel, which, unlike air kennels, have no legal standards to be met, are sold in pet shops and department stores and are available in several different designs, some made of heavy cardboard and some of metal wire.

You can get a veterinarian's prescription for motion sickness pills if your pet is carsick. His sickness may be from nervousness or fear, so it's a good to get him comfortable with car travel on practice drives before the big trip. Never leave your pet alone in a parked car in the summer. Exposures to high temperatures for even a short time can cause irreparable brain damage or even death.

It isn't difficult to find hotels and motels that allow pets. Among the chains that allow pets are Howard Johnson's, Quality Inns, Hiltons, and Sheratons. Check for local differences in policy.

Many tourist attractions either have kennels on their ground or can supply information on those nearby.

Travel supply checklist for dogs and cats:

- Health certificate
- Leather collar with identification tags
- Two plastic bowls . . . one for water, one for food
- Thermos to carry cold water in the car
- Brush and comb
- Bedding
- Medicine . . . tranquilizers, if prescribed, and any current medications.
- Toys
- Can opener and spoon
  - Small quantity of food
- Snacks
- Paper towels
- Leash
- Scoop and small plastic bags
- Small bag of litter and litter box

Printed with permission from "The Portable Pet: How to Travel Anywhere With Your Dog Or Cat", by Barbara Nicholas (\$5.95 paperback), published by the Harvard Common Press, 535 Albany St., Boston, MA 02118. Include \$2 for postage and handling •

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