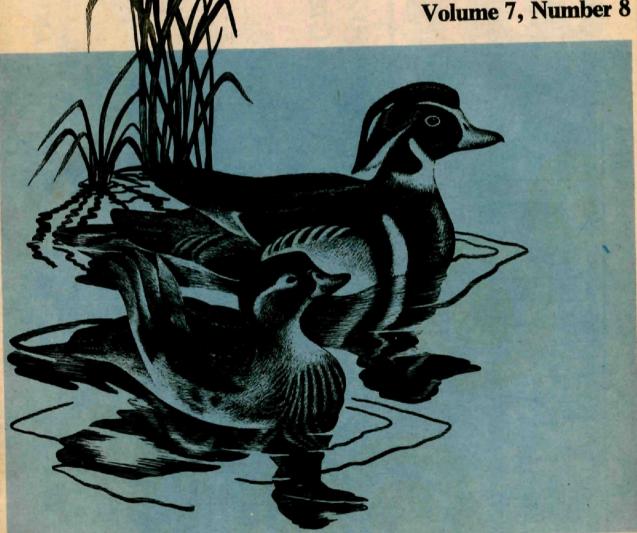
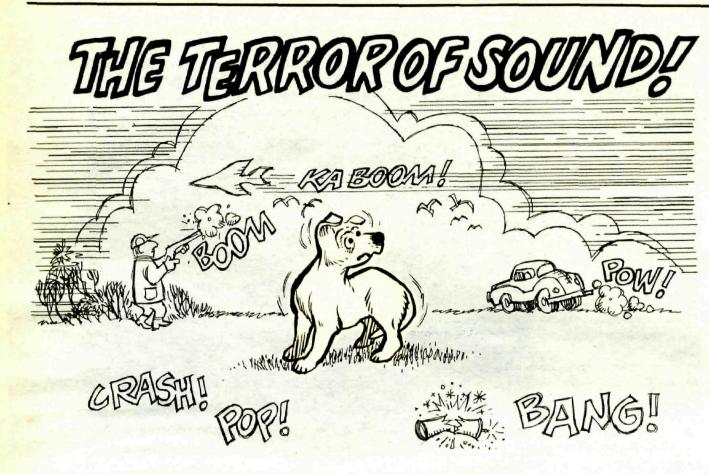
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Todays

RIMAL RIEWS

August, 1981 Volume 7, Number 8





Helping your dog to cope with the fear of sound . . .

Bang! Pop! Boom! Fireworks are such fun for some humans that they continue to blast away long after the Fourth has come and gone. But they can also be a terror for some animals.

For some dogs (and there are thousands of them) a sharp explosion of sound means instant panic. The sound-shy dog may run and hide, shaking with uncontrolled fear. Or he may just run. He doesn't know where he is going, except that he is trying to escape the terror of sound. If he is confined, he could actually tear his way out of a chain link kennel or he could bolt out of a window of your house. Why?

It may be an aquired or in-

herited characteristic. But, usually, it is the result of the dog being badly frightened by a sound it didn't understand. Later associations with a similar sound will recreated the initial fright.

In hunting dogs it is called "gunshy" and refers to the dog that cannot tolerate the sound of the hunter's gun, and bolts in fear. But all dogs, it is the basic fear of the unknown.

But, there is hope if you are willing to devote the time, energy and thought to helping the sound-shy dog overcome its fears.

One way is to build and new and pleasant association with the frightening sound. Here's one proven method: Spend a few moments each day playing with your dog with a common paper bag. Encourage him to play tug of war and tear it up. Each day, as the bag becomes a more familiar plaything, you blow it up a little more. When he finally looks forward to it as an object of fun, you pop the bag gently and give it to him to rip apart. Now he associates the the sound with something he understands. There is no fear because it is a part of of a familiar game. When it makes a "bang" he rips it up. Before long he will look forward to the game and the noise.

The loudness of the bang can increase as his enthusiasm for the game grows. It can be extended to balloons, and then to cap pistols,

until the once frightening bang becomes a prelude to play.

In predictable and extreme situations, such as the start of a hunting season or the Fourth of July, you may want to consult with your veterinarian for the possiblities of a tranquilzer to make the time a little easier to bear. You may be able to reduce the problem during times of stress by stuffing a bit of cotton in each ear. But . . . you must remember to remove it after the crises is past

And reconditioning your pet can also be successful. You can accomplish this by creating a new association with the sound. The first time your pet heard the offensive sound was frightening, so now your job is to re-program him to make him have pleasant associations with that sound. Get the frightening sound put on a record or tape. (Some pre-made sounds are available at a record shop). Pick a pleasant happening in the day of your pet (mealtime is an easy one) and play your tape or record at the same time. You'll probably want to turn the volume down very low in the beginning until your pet becomes accustomed to it. As he does you will slowly increase the volume.

Before long your dog will relate the sounds of sirens, railroad trains, or guns booming as part of a normal happy part of the day.

Being sound-shy is a bother for the owner of a pet. But it is a terrifying trauma for the afflicted dog. But just about all sound-shy animals can learn to overcome their fears, if you are willing to help.

AND NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS...

Dear Reader:

We have some good news for you! As you know, Today's Animal Health has had some problems. Sometimes you got your magazine late. Sometimes not at all. This has been a regretable problem for you and the Animal Health Foundation.

But, starting now, not only will you get every issue regularly, you will get two publications for the same subscription!

Today's Animal Health has combined with Animal News, and our new name is Todays Animal News. This means that you will get twice as much for your subscription. A magazine, packed with informative, interesting features and photos will come to you six times a year. And a newspaper, to keep you up-to-date on the latest happenings in the world of animals, will come to you the other six months. So you now get two for the price of one!

The Animal Health Foundation is concerned with several projects that can touch directly on the life of the animals in your life. Cancer and diabites research offer the hope of future control of these dreaded problems. Great progress has been made already and some exciting discoveries are on the horizon.

But a couple of very special projects are already a reality, and you can help with them.

Veterinary assistance for the elderly pet owners on a fixed low income. For many older folks a pet is the only friend. But, when the

only income of the owner is a slim social security check, where do you turn when that pet needs medical attention? The Animal Health Foundation can provide that essential veterinarian assistance...but only with your financial support.

If you are alarmed by the growing juvenile delinquency stastics you might consider this. Did you know that less than one half of one per cent of youngsters involved in work and training with animals become delinquents? The care and training of animals offers youngsters an interest and emotional outlet to replace the drug and crime scene.

But how do you get them involved? First you have to reach them, and inspire an interest in the wonderful world of animals. One way is through the pages of the publication you are now reading. Animal News is made available in some libraries and schools. Some schools use it as a classroom project.

But we are only scratching the surface. We need to reach hundreds more schools and the thousands of young and impressionable minds.

You can help. For only \$9.00 you can donate a single subscription to a school or library. For only \$30.00 you can provide copies to an entire classroom every month for a year.

Because of you and your generosity some youngster may become involved with animals instead of drugs!

Todays Animal News

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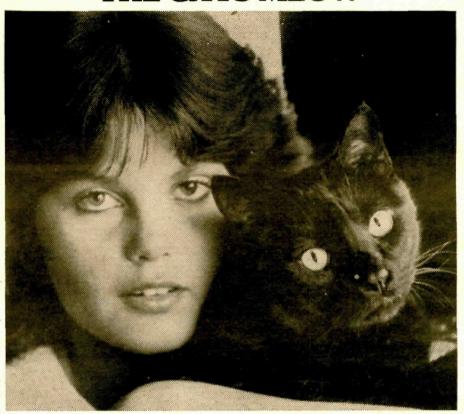
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THE CATS MEOW



The big cat-call contest

Black cats are, according to legend, supposed to be bad luck, but this black cat could bring its owner, fifteen-year-old Laurie Scott of Central Point, Oregon, fame and fortune. "Pete" has been chosen as one of six finalists in the annual 1981 Meow Off contest. If Pete is really lucky he will win \$25,000 and a starring role in the Meow Mix television commercial series. The contestants compete in Beverly Hills for the most distinct and unique meow.

Turtles in trouble

In Equador Olive ridley turtles are caught in huge numbers and skinned alive for their shells.

Fewer than 500 adult female Kemp's ridley turtles are believed to still survive. Dealers collect their eggs by the bushell to sell to the superstitious as "aphrodisiacs."

More than 250,000 hawksbill turtles are slaughtered annually for tortoise shell souvenirs and jewelry.

Elephants too much

Garry Cox is looking for another form of employment that doesn't involve elephants. For more than seven years he has been in charge of pachyderms and apes at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Neb. But when "Paj" decided to show an elephant sense of humor by pelting him with clods of dung, Cox wound up in the hospital with bruises and fractures and the desire for a new job.

Possible small breeding & boarding kennel or hobby kennel. Owner forced to move.

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HORSE FENCE SENSE



There really is no one hundred percent safe fence for horses, but a well-built and strong fence^awill contain all but the most fractious of horses. Fences of bo rds or a poles are the best-looking but they are also one of the most expensive to erect, require periodic maintainance, and subject to damage by cribbing (chewing) by bored horses.

Woven wire fences are practical and inexpensive, and if the top strand is barbed wire it provides an extra measure of safety. The barbed wire prevents the horse from sagging the wire to get the grass on the other side, which we all know is greener. Wire fences have to be tightened at least once a year. It will sag with time and temperature changes and, even if there is barbed wire on top, sagging fences can entangle a horse's

A fence made of all barbed wire is even less expensive than woven wire, and just as safe. Many cases of horses badly cut on barbed wire are reported every year. But investigation has shown that the vast majority of the injuries came from loose barbed wire, either a

sagging fence, or even more often, coils of barbed wire left on the ground and concealed by weed growth. Horses tangled in loose barbed wire become panicky, tearing gashes in their legs in an attempt to get loose.

Horses should be introduced to a new barbed wire fence. They learn quickly that the wire has sharp points. It's a good idea to tie pieces of white rag along a new fence just to remind them. And never introduce a horse to a new barbed wire fence just before dark. Exercise or training rings should not be fitted with barbed wire fences. Exhuberant colts and fillies can be badly scratched by barbed wire while in the process of learning its dangers. Once the lesson is learned it sticks. But be sure to treat the wounds with disinfectants to prevent infection.

Electric fences are handy for pastures, small or large. A single strand at knee height is often used. Many horse owners stretch this electrified wire on top where it serves the same purpose as a single strand of barbed wire. But don't depend entirely on electric fences. Loss of power, a short circuit or extremely dry weather will wipe out any advantages of the wire. And, of course, broken wire

dangling in dry grass can easily cause disastrous pasture fire. Take a little extra time to plan your fencing before you erect it, and you'11 save yourself a lot of grief later on.

> One out of every three American dogs are overweight and good candidates for heart attacks, according to veterinarian Dr. Michael Fox in an article in McCall's magazine.

**

The cause of the problem is reported to be inadequate exercise and overly generous feeding.

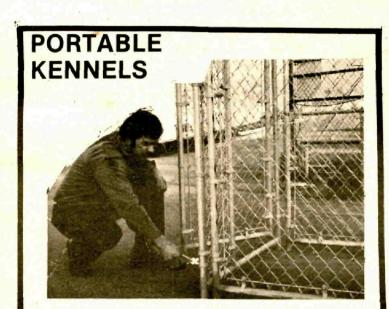


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Good dental care is also important if you plan to show a purebred dog. In dog shows, dogs with missing teeth may be considered flawed and be penalized. And a dog whose teeth are stained with tartar certainly does not make the best impression on the judge in the ring.

Orca, the killer whale, will often flip its prey 30 feet in the air several times before eating it, according to International Wildlife magazine. The eight-ton cetacean uses its tail to propel penguins, seals, and dolphins into the air.

DOG TALK

42 teeth . . . and

how to keep them.

DOG DENTAL CARE

Most dog owners feel they know how to keep their pets in good health. They arrange for the proper vaccinations, groom their pets regularly, and feed them a balanced diet. But they forget tne basics of good dental care, including feeding dry foods, providing hard chew toys, and having the veterinarian check the pet's mouth. I recommend the hard nugget type of pet food because it scrapes the tooth surfaces as the animal eats. It is a good substitute for the rough-textured foods that animals find in the wild. Wolves, coyotes and like rarely develop dental problems because they chew on raw meat and gnaw on bones.

Too many domestic pets eat softened bite sized pieces of processed food that contain considerable amounts of sugar and starch. The soft food particles combine with saliva through the action of bacteria to form tartar — a sticky substance with hardens and forms brownish rings around the base of the teeth. The accumulation of tartar irritate gum tissue, forcing the gum away from the base of the tooth. The gum swells and bleeds, and the tooth finally falls out. Tartar is also a common cause of bad breath in dogs.

There are some dogs that refuse to eat dry foods. You can slow the buildup of tartar for these pets by giving them bones — particulary knuckle or shin bones — to chew on. Some synthetic bones or hard rubber toys are also good. Chicken or other soft bones, and soft rubber toys, are of little value. If your pet is cooperative, you can use a moist cotton ball dipped in table salt to clean tooth surfaces close to the gum line.

In advanced cases of tartar buildup, professional assistance is necessary. Your veterinarian can remove tartar including that below the gum lin, as the first phase of treatment. Teeth that are too loose to be saved will be extracted.

When you check your dog's teeth for tartar, you'll notice that the teeth are different shapes and sizes. The small teeth across the front of the mouth are incisors, and are used for cutting. The longer, pointed teeth on the sides of the mouth are canines, are are used for cutting off pieces of food. Farther back in the mouth are the premolars and the somewhat larger molars for gripping and chewing. The typical healthy dog will have about 42 teeth; each will be firmly anchored in the jaw by surrounding gum tissue.

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GOINGON TO WITH BOY/25



FIRST OF ALL... PLAN A TRIP TO YOUR VET. BE SURE ROVER IS UP TO DATE ON ALL OF HIS SHOTS, ASK HIS ADVICE IF YOU ARE GOING INTO AREAS WHERE THERE MAY BE A DANGER OF HEARTWORM, WHIPWORM OR SLEEPING SICKNESS.



BOTH YOU AND ROVER WILL BE MORE COMFORTABLE IF YOU TAKE A "CRATE" (PORTABLE KENNEL) FOR HIM. CAR. WINDOWS CAN BE SAFELY OPENED IN HOT WEATHER WHEN ROVER IS IN HIS CRATE. USE HIS CRATE IN THE MOTEL WHEN YOU GO OUT. BRING HIS OWN BEDDING AND FAVORITE TOYS TO MAKE HIM FEEL MORE AT HOME.

WATER CAN VARY GREATLY FROM ONE PART OF THE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER AND CAN CAUSE ROVER TO HAVE DIARRHEA. PLAY IT SAFE AND BRING WATER FROM HOME OF BUY HIM BOTTLED WATER.





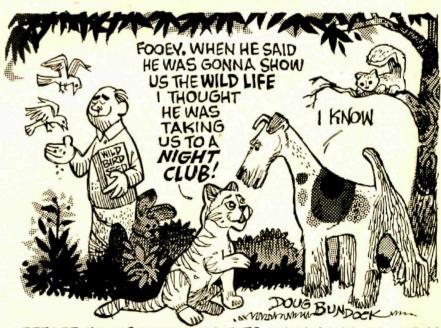


NOT ALL DOGS ARE NATURAL SWIMMERS. BE SURE ROVER CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF BEFORE YOU GET HIM IN DEEP WATER. AND NEVER LEAVE HIM UNATTENDED IN OR BY A SWIMMING POOL.

THINKING OF A TRIP TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY? CHECK WITH YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR VET REGARDING REGULATIONS, SHOTS, AND WHETHER A QUARANTINE IS REQUIRED.



unless your dog is welltrained, keep him safely out of hunting and fishing areas.



BEFORE HIKING WITH YOUR PETS IN ANY NEW AREA CHECK FOR DANGERS OF SNAKES, INSECTS, POISONS, AND TRAPS . A VACATION WITH ROVER CAN BE FUN - IF YOU PLAN FOR IT.

PARROTS

Continued from page 8
playfulness. My young YellowNape, although with or without a
willing audience, will converse
non-stop for hours, will curiously
enough stop when she knows we
have left the house, although
sometimes she will continue to
sound a harsh call-note, perhaps
in hopes of calling us home again.

Mimicry can take another peculiar form, as Broom-Hilda has shown me. My husband, who seems always to be slightly hard of hearing (in the way of all husbands) when I am calling him to help me with some task or another somewhere in the house, will often not respond to my call until after several attempts on my part. Not long after I aquired the Yellow-Nape she began calling me, when I was not in her sight, by saying "Glyn, Glyn" (my husband's name) in ever increasing volume. At first I was rather annoved at her ease at learning my husband's name, but not my own, which I had tried to teach her on several occasions. But, after some thought, and some experimentations on my part, I realized that she had come to the conclusion that "Glyn" was my call-note, as I rarely called my husband in this fashion except when Broom-Hilda was in her cage, and I was in another part of the house. So when leaving her alone, she was trying to call me back in the only way she knew.

If you have ever tried to teach a parrot new words or phrases you are aware of the frustration that can result from your efforts. As your bird sits listening to you, head cocked to one side, you can't help but wonder if the purpose of the lesson is for your eventual entertainment, or for the immediate entertainment of your feathered friend. I once took it uopn myself to teach Broom-Hilda the phrase "pretty bird". After a few days, she was repeating the words in a somewhat amusing nasal tone. Pleased with my small effort, I brought Broom-Hilda's minor achievement to the attention of my husband. Non-plussed, and an irrepressable tease, he replied to her with the words, "stupid bird." Needless to say, she learned that immediately, to my chagrin. Parrots seem to be quite receptive to an audience, and will perform their many gymnastic talents for as long as there is someone willing to watch them. My parrots will spend many happy hours feigning attacks on their toys, apparently for their own amusement. On closer examination however, this sort of play can be compared to cats who will spend many hours practicing attack and retreat with almost any object available, and is actually to prepare them for the day when these skills may be needed. As in Continued on page 10

Manure worth \$\$\$

By Judson Snyder

There's no doubt that barnyard manure has achieved a status these days which almost puts it in a category ususally reserved for much less distasteful farm products. Organic gardeners have always relied on livestock manure, but until the last decade or so, they were in the minority.

A lot of research and analysis of manure has taken place in recent years. No longer is the "cowflop" or horse dropping quickly relegated to a distant corner (where it provides a perfect breeding place for flies) ,now it is carefully husbanded and put to good use.

The average farm produces about \$2000 worth of manure each year, which makes it a billion dollar industry in this country. About one-fifth of the nutrients consumed by livestock end up as manure. If it's used as fertilizer, one falf of the nutrients are used by the plants the first year, one quarter the following year, and the remainder the third year. That's a pretty good record compared to commercial fertilizers which must be applied every year in order to be effective.

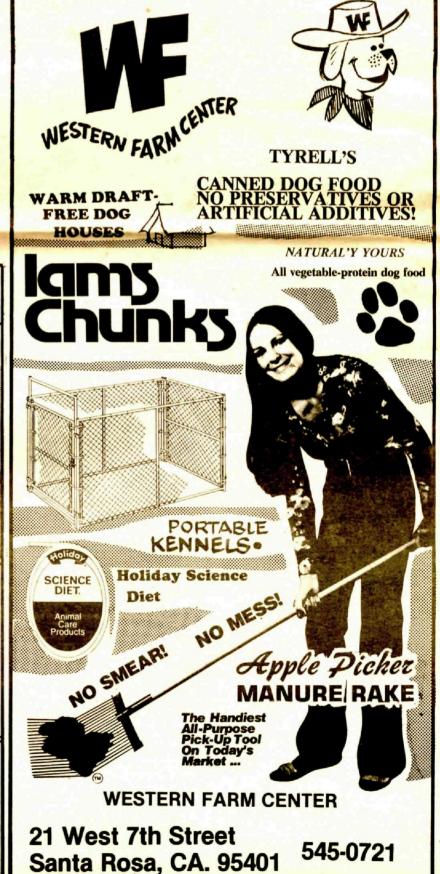
Manure is best known for its nitrogen content, essential to growing plants. Sheep manure, one ton of it, contains 28 pounds of nitrogen. Cows turn out 14 pounds per ton, 13.8 pounds by horses and 10 for hogs. Sheep aren't the best producers of manure, the average being six tons for each 1000 pounds of bodyweight. Hogs produce 16 tons per bodyweight, while horses, beef cattle and dairy cows are in between those two extremes. High protein livestock feeds mean a higher amount of nitrogen in the manure.

And now, with scientists working on methods to convert manure into combustable fuels, the farm animal's waste may achieve even more value!

ARCHERFISH

The archerfish, which lives in fresh and salt waters from India to Australia, shoots its meals out of branches hanging over the water. Taking careful aim, the fish spits pellets of water at insects and spiders, then eats them as they tumble into the water.

A handful of Arctic lupine seeds holds the world's record for living in an inert state, according to the National Wildlife Federation. The seeds began to sprout in a dish of warm water after lying frozen deep in the Arctic tundra for 10,000 years.



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PICTURE OF THE MONTH



In the spring a young chimp's fancy turns to many things. But for Marine World's Bobby, Coby and Shana it is a time to resolve not to hear, speak or see any evil. Humans might do well to follow their example.

Photo courtesy of Marine World Africa, USA

Continued from page 13

Mail...

Dear Editor:

I read the letter sent to you from Rose Motyczka saying that she checked out that veterinarians, etc., would not hire someone who had taken a home-study course. I'd like to know where she checked because she is entirely wrong.

I am finishing up the last 10 chapters of my two-year North American Animal Science course. I have talked to and been allowed to observe many practicing veterinarians (with open arms) and they all have asked me to see them when I complete my course.

Also during my school course I did volunteer work for the Humane Society and the Akron Children's Zoo (where I got a job after six weeks because of my knowledge from the course). It

was worth every penny and she is cutting herself short by not taking the course.

Mrs. Robin Urbank Akron, Ohio

There is a rapidly growing shortage of dedicated, sincere workers in the field of animal care throughout the country. Animal hospitals, kennels, zoos and other related animal facilities all share the same problem. They are all seeking motivated individuals with a rapport with animals who are truly interested in working with and learning about the care of animals.

The problem has become so severe that a number of kennels have either cut back on their business or closed down completely. The Professional Handlers Association of America has dropped their apprentice training pro-

gram because of lack of interest.

Any person who applies for a position in some form of animal care can't help but make points with a prospective employer by demonstrating some real interest. A home study course is one positive way of demonstrating that interest. Obviously, experience is of great value. But experience coupled with knowledge and interest is of even greater value.

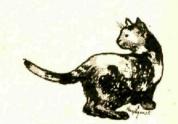
We'11 be willing to bet that if you have demonstrated the sincere interest of completing a home study course you will find someone who will be willing to give you the on-the-job experience to go along with it!

The Editor.

Whales must surface about every 20 minutes to breathe.

Beer, hot dogs, and bees

It seems that yellowjacket wasps and humans share a lot of common interests, according to scientists at Cornell University. They found that the wasps like to wash down their hamburgers with a good cold beer. In fact, according to the researchers, they eat practically everything that humans eat. Some of their other favorites are steaks, hot dogs, ice cream and soft drinks. Is it any wonder that every picnic is well attended by wasps?



PARROT TALK



(continued from last month)
By Carol M. Bettencourt

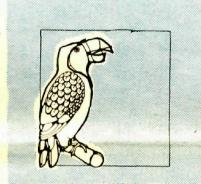
Parrots will often single out a person in a household to be their "mate", as did a bluefronted Amazon of my aquaintance. Originally intended as a gift for me, this parrot developed a passionate longing for my mother. No attempts on my part to become better aquainted with "Killer" as he was soon nicknamed, were acceptable to him. However, as soon as my mother came into view, this bird would go into such a display of fanning his tail and spreading his wings, that it was impossible for her to ignore him! There was nothing for me to do but concede to Killer's wishes, and allow him to live with my mother. When allowed out of his cage he was savagely jealous of my mother, and if you happened to pass too close to where he sat perched on her shoulder, you would become the recipient of a very seriously intended attack, even if it meant his flying across the room to reach you! People in our family soon resorted to some rather ridiculous lengths to avoid arousing Killer's jelousy, but the bird loved my mother, and wouldn't have dreamed of harming her.

But more often, the parrot will resent the attentions of people other than his "intended" with bloody results! We humans will chalk this up to the unreliability of the parrot's nature, but it is actually quite sensible to the bird!

But back to my Yellow-Nape who has flown to her perch in front of the window, and is engrossed in watching the migration of some blackbirds overhead. Rarely will she talk at times like this, but instead will make a soft "rrrrr, rrrrr" sound, which seems to mean that there may be something dangerous about. This sound is made at other times when she notices other objects overhead, as parrots have an innate fear of things, stationary or not, that are above them. If I imitate this sound, she will cock her head and look around her, as if to say, "Quiet now, while I see if this thing is friend or foe, for heaven's sake, and be still!" This common is behavior in parrots, because they rely on their mostly green coloration to camouflage them from their natural enemies. Flying is not usually the case in the house if she is frightened, but one can never be too careful!

I have often had to retrieve one or the other of my parrots when someone made too fast a around movement them. especially if they had been dozing. They will usually try to fly upward, but being rather clumsy fliers, and not as graceful as the Cockatoo, who delights in arial acrobatics, they often make unorthadox landings on the floor. There they will wait, one foot raised in the air, waiting for me to rescue them.

It is for this reason, that in average situations, I cannot advise you to leave your bird's wings unclipped, as there are far too many dangers for the free-flying parrot. There is always the possibility that your beloved pet will make a hasty exit out an open door or window, and flying higher and higher, become lost, not to mention the other misfortunes that may befall him.



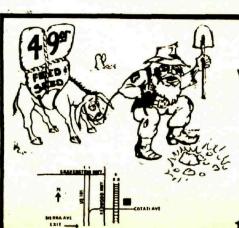
Loud, raucous noises made by parrots are really of a social nature. Usually made when bored or angry, they are more of an attention-getter than anything else, and since a screaming parrot can be a real ear-shattering experience, it usually succeeds! It has been my experience that a bird who is getting a reasonable amount of attention from its owner will not do this as often as will an unhappy bird. Although some of this you will just have to put up with, if a parrot is to be your choice for a pet.

Many parrots will learn phrases which they heard in a moment of excitement of confusion. One of the most delightful accounts of this sort of behavior is told by Konrad Z. Lorenz in his book,

King Solomon's Ring. In this book he tells of the Blue-Fronted Amazon parrot, "Papagallo", who belonged to the naturalist's brother. The bird, who flew freely with the many other birds at the Lorenz home in Altenberg, Austria, was once horribly frightened by the sudden appearance of a chimney-sweep, who for Papagallo was an unfamiliar sight, on a familiar object: the chimney. After this experience, Papagallo learned to cry out, whenever he saw the sweep approaching the house, chimney-sweep is coming!" Keep in mind that the parrot had learned this phrase after hearing the sweep announced in this fashion by the Lorenz cook only between long periods of several months.

Many people with good talking parrots can repeat similiar experience, such as the time I was elected to help an African-Grey parrot who had escaped his cage. I was not acquainted with this bird, and the owners were gone on vacation. When, after locating the parrot on the living room floor, I tried to capture the bird, (who was not very receptive to my attempts to get him to climb up on my hand), he began to repeat in a quiet, soothing manner, "It's alright, it's alright" between savage attacks on my person. Obviously, this was rather frequent event in this household, and the owners had repeated this phrase over and over again to the bird in hopes of calming and retrieving

This is an amazing thing about parrots, as they soon learn to apply their talent of mimicry when it is appropriate to the occasion. Such as my Yellow-Nape, who has learned to laugh when exhibiting playful or teasing behavior. This, of course, is due to subconscious signals on our part, and encourages the correct response from the parrot in a particular situation. Scientific research has shown us that the biological purpose of mimicry in parrots is somewhat a mystery. Parrots do not mimic their own kind in the wild, although in captivity they are quite willing and able to do so. Because of this, many animal behavioralists believe this is a form of



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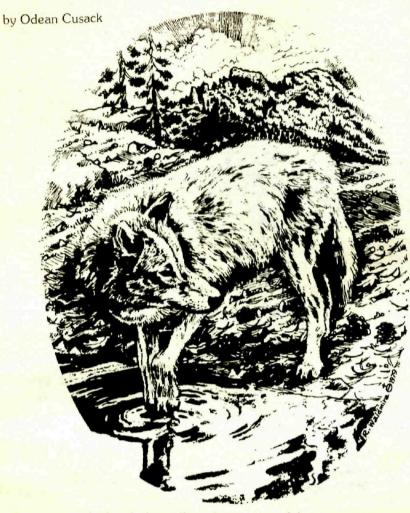


(continued on page 6)

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Save the wolf, as our national mammal!



he howl of a wolf invokes images of the panoramic wilderness, vast lands largely untouched by man, abundant with caribou, moose and a dazzling array of flora and fauna. Sadly, today, that howl is seldom heard outside of a few northern regions of the U.S., the variation of life itself is dwindling (150 species of birds and mammals have become extinct in the U.S. alone since 1960), and more and more of the earth has been despoiled by excessive development with its inevitable companion, pollution. Predictions abound that man's penchant for rampant consumption has placed his own survival, as species, in jeopardy. In an effort to counteract this continuing trend toward expolitation, Mrs. Mary Trindal, of Alexandria, Va., originated the campaign, Wolf for National Mammal, in which the wolf would symbolize the whole of the wild environment.

In her 20 years as a volunteer rehabilitating orphaned and injured wildlife, Mrs. Lindel gained a deep love and respect for nature. She chose the wolf as the symbol of her campaign to preserve the wilderness, not only because of his highly developed social behavior and his vital ecological role as a predator, but because his near extinction poses a test of man's wisdom. "The wolf has been driven out of the lower 48 states and is being driven out of Alaska," she says. "The day will come when his howl will no longer be heard. We need the wolf as a reminder of what we wish to preserve in the future and to guard against the terrible wastefulness of the past."

In her effort to elevate the wolf to companion status with the bald eagle, Mrs. Trindal is seeking one million signatures to present to Congress. Particularly impressive, in her present signature count of 150,000, are the number of young people, through schools, 4-H clubs, and conservation groups, that have expressed support for her campaign. "This is a particularly fine project for youth groups. The future of the wolf and his lands are dependent not only on the efforts we make today, but the attitudes we inspire in our children. It will, after all, ultimately be their decision."

An important by-product of this campaign is the education that occurs in the process. With every petition sent is information elucidating the vital role that the wolf plays in the ecosphere he inhabits. The wolf is nature's finest conservationist; by culling the diseased and sick animals from the prey herds that sustain him, he

maintains the health and vitality of these species which, in turn, assures they do not become overabundant for the vegetation they require. Additionally, many other species, such as foxes, raptors, etc. partake of wolf caches. A viable wolf population insures a healthy habitat. The national park of Isle Royale in Michigan is a living testimonial to the necessity of preserving both predator and prey.

Yet, predators have historically been viewed with disdain, and although the modern science of ethology stresses the interrelationships of all life, a recent Yale University study has revealed that as a group, predators are still less favored than other animals. "If the American people can care about the survival of the wolf, an 'unloved,' traditionally maligned animal, then there is certainly hope for all our wildlife," says Mrs. Trindal.

The campaign will also help preserve the wolf in his last wild strongholds. The future of any species is dependent upon the support and concern of an enlightened public. There is little point to discuss reintroduction efforts for the wolf until the general public is ready to accept him without fear or malice. To this end, the status afforded the wolf as national mammal will do much to enhance his improving public image and make him a "socially acceptable" animal. An overwhelming majority (87%) of the public favors protection for the bald eagle, a fact at least partially attributable to his status symbol and the ensuing efforts on his behalf.

For centuries, the wolf has maintained a symbiotic relationship with his environment. If man, as a species, is to survive, he must learn to do this as well. Wolf for National Mammal is a pledge to preserve the land and the life upon it from excessive consumption and needless development. Only when we have learned to live within our renewable resources and ceased exploitation can we begin to reverse the destructive processes we have set in motion. With the symbol of the wolf in the halls of Congress as a reminder to our lawmakers that the American people recognize the need for their wild environment, we will be one step closer to realizing these goals. And we will have one permanently elected lobbyist to insure that these wishes are upheld.

For more information about Wolf for National Mammal and how you can help preserve the wolf in the wild contact: Mrs. Mary Trindal 8526 Old Mount Vernon Road Alexandria, VA 22309.

Endangered animals can be saved. The musk ox is a good example. Musk oxen are the long-haired grazers that once populated much of Alaska, northern Canada, and Greenland. Explorers, big game hunters, and Eskimos shot so many of them for food and hides that they were almost extinct by 1920.

However, hunting musk ox was then banned, and with only a few left, a herd was captured on Greenland and taken to the University of Alaska for rearing. Of that herd, about 30 were then given to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for transplant on a wildlife refuge on Nunivak Island off Alaska. With all shooting banned and with no predators on the island, the herd began to grow in numbers. By the 1960's the herd had grown so much wildlife managers feared the animals had outgrown their refuge. Starvation was a threat because of too much grazing on the island's grasses.

Biologists of the Fish and Wildlife Service said "no" to hunting as a control measure. They decided to move some of the herd to the mainland. So, in the early seventies, several hundred of the grazers were moved to former musk ox ranges in Alaska. Some were even given to Russia for transplant in the Siberian Arctic, and some went to northern Norway. Today, the worldwide population is about 25,000 and doing nicely.

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Sloppy feline eating habits . . . something to live with.



THE PACKCAT

By Judson Snyder

You've got a newly-scrubbed kitchen floor and the friendly household cat picks up a warmed piece of raw, bloody, liver from her dish and drops it several inches away on the clean floor and proceeds to eat it. Some cats will carry their food yards away from the plate and deposit it elsewhere to eat.

This typical feline habit can be distressing to the immaculate housekeeper. That is, if you buy the premise that it is possible to keep an immaculate house with one or more cats as pets. Actually, it's merely a throwback to their jungle ancestors and their eating habits. Lions and tigers kill and

PARROTS Continued from page 6

other animals, the more this is done, the better heightened are the animal's defense mechanisms, although this is an innate and not a learned behavior. This is one reason why a bird or any other animals who has the space and the opportunity to practice these actions is often more active, alert and lively.

Parrots can be very entertaining, and they will soon learn some very clever tricks in response to the reaction of the people watching them. It is well worth the money to purchase or build a playpen on a birdstand, where you can watch your parrot play. It's really better than television!

However, the most rewarding feeling of all for me is when in the evening Broom-Hilda will curl up under my chin for a nap. The closeness and trust involved in a companionship of this sort, cannot be duplicated, unless we are

·

drag their prey to another location to dine in peace. Domestic cats do the same thing, but on a smaller scale. You'11 notice they do this only with such delicacies as liver or other meats, not with canned food or crunchy dry foods.

It doesn't make much sense to try to break this habit as it's probably ingrained in the cat's deepest trait system. The cat does a pretty good job of cleaning up after itself. The only danger is that it might lick up an excess of detergent or other chemical agent from the floor in its zeal to get every drop of meat "juice."

Your cat is not aware that it is displaying bad manners. It is really just being a cat.

Reprinted by popular demand

PARROT

willing to share our lives and environment with an animal who has so much to offer us, both as a pet and as study in animal behavior.

OFFUTT'S ENGLISH TACK & WEAR

UPS & MAIL ORDERS DAILY 201 EASTMAN LANE PETALUMA, CALIF. 94952 (707) 762-8958 The ability to adapt to change is often the key to survival. That ability is demonstrated by the birds that build nests under the drawbridge of the Tower of London. The nests are in the section of the bridge that swings up, but the birds construct the nests so that the eggs never fall out.

A canary is most apt to sing if he is alone in his cage.

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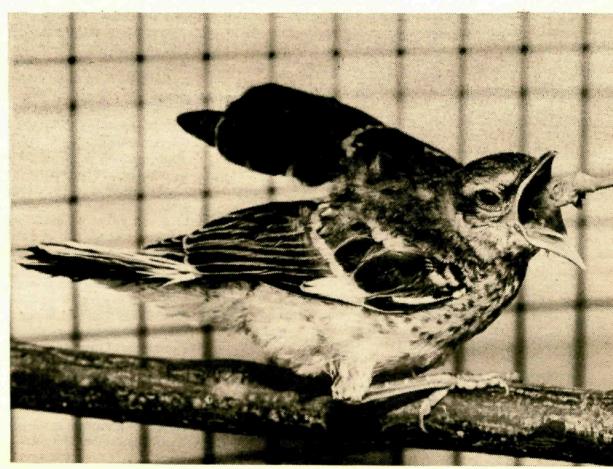
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Feeding time comes often for these baby swallows . . .

Photo by Reichard, Marin Wildlife Center



PARROT NEWS

By Gene Gleason

Parrots don't usually figure in heroic rescues. However, there was at least one exception; a pet shop owner's parrot raised such vocal ructions that police sped to the shop, discovered that the proprieter had been tied up by holdup men, and set him free.

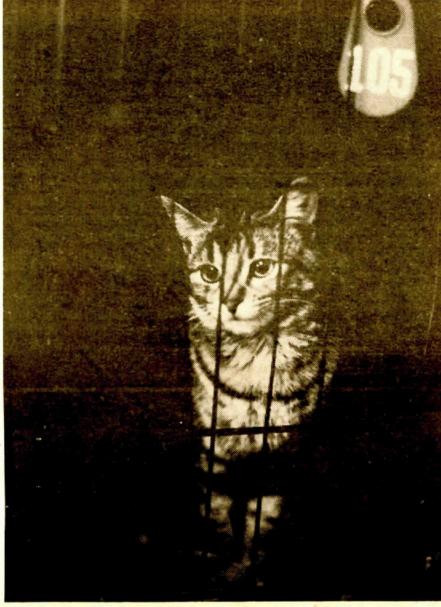
A bird-fancier was disconsolate when some juvenile thieves made off with her canaries and her parrot. The crooks stashed their feathered loot in a house nearby, permitting the distraught lady to guide police to them by overhearing, and immediately recognizing, the unique sounds of her loud-speaking parrot.

Dallas radio station KLIF once hired a parrot to squak its call-letters for an appreciative audience.

In June, 1944, the international wire services reported that a London parrot, safely dug from the ruins of a robot-bombed house, greeted its rescuers by croaking, "Blimey, wot a bloomin' war!"

On New York's Park Avenue, where even the birds are expected to preserve decorum, a rebellious parrot screamed and shouted profanity until its owner was hailed into court. The owner held a long serious talk with his pet, Polly piped down, and the complaint was withdrawn.

Parrots have sometimes been named as beneficiearies in the wills of their masters. A parrot and a dog shared \$12,000 in a Philadelphia will, and a lucky parrot was left \$40,000 by its owner.



LONELINESS, photo by Gail Heissenberger

Thousands of pets like this tabby wind up in shelters every summer, deserted by owners who no longer want the responsibility of their care. This cat typifies the many who wait behind bars for families that will never return. If you have ever considered adopting a pet, this would be an ideal time to visit the shelter in your area.

There was endless confusion... and more than one missed appointment . . . in the household where a playful parrot learned to reproduce exactly the sounds of a cuckoo-clock.

The Venus's Fly Trap, an insect-eating plant, takes between 10 and 35 days to digest one small bug, the National Wildlife Federation reports.

SOME ANIMAL RESCUE CENTERS:

International Bird Rescue Center Aquatic Park Bay Street Berkeley, CA. 94710 (415) 841-9086

Alexander Lindsey Musem 1901 First Avenue Walnut Creek, CA. 94596 (415) 935-1978

Wildlife Rehabilitation Service Inc. 524 Delaware Street Fairfield, CA. 94533 (707) 429-4295

Peninsula Humane Society 12 Airport Blvd. San Mateo, CA. 94401 (415) 573-3785

Marin Wildlife Center 76 Albert Park Lane P.O. Box 957 San Rafael, CA. 94902 (415) 454-6961

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Ft. Cronkhite, Ca. 94965
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Wildlife Waystation 14831 Little Tujunga Canyon Road San Fernando Valley, Calif. 91342 (213) 899-5201

Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary 18328 Gulf Blvd. Indian Shores, Florida 33535 (813) 391-6211

Animal Rescue Force P.O. Box 418 East Brunswick, New Jersey, 08816 (201) 257-7559

Animal News will print the names of any rescue centers submitted. Is there one in your area?

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Goats go first-class, burros don't do as well

Burros in trouble, mountain goats doing well

If the thought ever crossed your mind that you'd be willing to adopt one of those wild burros which are facing removal by order of the Navy command at China Lake Naval Weapons Center, in California, now is the time to speak up.

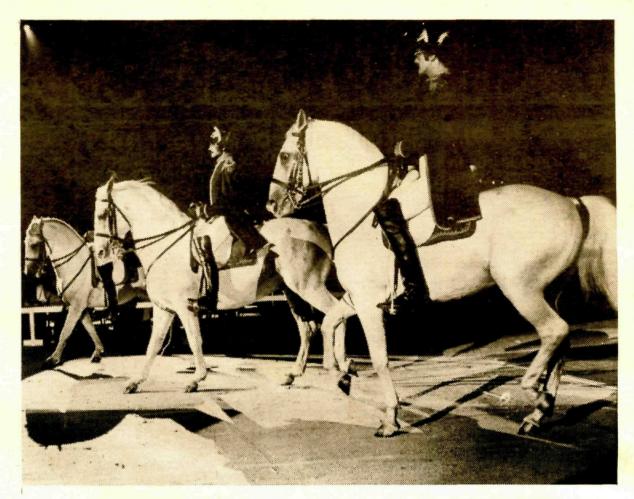
"The Navy has declared an emergency and that means we have to act in a hurry," said Animal Protection Institute president Belton P. Mouras. "an estimated 100 burros will probably be removed from the airfield vicinity at China Lake over a very short period of time."

"We need adopters for those, but we also need to know how many families in America would be willing to take a burro under their wing."

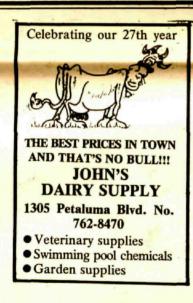
The Navy commander at China Lake expects a large-scale removal of thousands of burros (as many as 5,000 may exist there). The Navy contends the burros are in a position to cause an air crash or vehicle collision. Anyone willing to adopt a China Lake burro should contact API at (916) 422-1921.

Meanwhile, mountain goats have been labeled a threat to the Olympic National Park in area of Port Angeles, Wash. The National Park Service says the overcrowded herds are destroying the wild flowers and meadows, and they must go. But, unlike the "shootouts" of burros, the mountain goats are being air-lifted out and moved in air-conditioned trucks to new habitats. Hunters introduced the goats to the area around 1920, but it has not been legal to hunt the goats since 1938. Since that time the mountain goats have multiplied at a rapid rate and now consume so much of the vegetation that naturalists fear many plants may not be able to reproduce again. Even worse is the goats' habit of rolling on their backs. They happily roll about in a meadow until their is nothing left but bare ground.

But the shaggy creatures are being transplanted to other areas in the Northwest where they are in small numbers. And the goats are making the trip traveling first-class all the way.



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Despite steadily improved vaccination programs, rabies continues to be on the increase. In fact, this past year saw the largest amount of rabies cases (6,405) in more than 15 years. Actual confirmed cases of rabies rose 19 percent for the year. Once again, wild animals were leading the amount of reported cases by a wide margin. Domestic animals only accounted for 15 percent.

The biggest dinosaur to roam the earth was the Supersaurus, reports the National Wildlife Federation. That prehistoric creature was three times taller than a giraffe and weighed as much as 14 elephants. The smallest dinosaur was the Compsognathus, about the size of a chicken.

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Home study . . . Good or bad?

Dear Editor:

In response to Rose Motyczka's letter about the North American School of Animal Sciences, I took both of their home study courses, and they are very good. I took my lessons to my family veterinarian, where he looked them over. I started out as a volunteer once a week and within 3 months I was working full-time with pay. My vet (and his two partners) were great. I showed them each lesson and they tested me as I went along. If I had any questions, they were more than happy to help. A lot of vets are willing to help a person who is genuinely interested in their work.

Please don't put this school down. It is a good, honest school, and really helps to get you started in the right direction. I have two diplomas on my wall that aren't just pieces of paper, I really had to work for them.

I truly believe in this school, and so do my bosses. There are a few other vets here in town that know of it, too.

Lynda Rood Albuquerque, New Mexico

PS: I like the new look you have. It's great.

Dear Mr. Mahan, Publisher **Todays Animal Health**

I want to thank you for publishing the article that Odean Cusack wrote concerning the campaign to have the wolf designated our national mammal.

Thinking you may be interested in the type of response we received to the article I have attached a sample of the letters. Actually, there were about five other letters that came in after these were run off and one phone call from Mr. Robert Eames of Yelma, Washington. There were no derogatory letters received. I am pleased with the response and rather expect more letters will be coming in as I am sure your magazine is placed in veterinary waiting rooms.

Sincerely, Mary E. Trindal, WFNM Dear Mary and readers:

The flood of mail regarding this idea would more than fill the pages of this publication. We are printing below only a few exerpts indicating the overall opinion of readers. And, because of the unusual interest indicated, we are reprinting the article elsewhere in this month's publication. With this kind of enthusiastic support we feel that the wolf as our national mammal could actually become a reality!

Editor.

I would like to preserve the wolf in the wild state. Melissa Maki, Minneapolis . . . I believe that this beautiful animal deserves to be saved and given national recognition, T. Herrington, New Rochelle, N.Y.... I have a sincere and heartfelt interest in preserving the wolf and I think your idea is terrific. Stephanie Trono, Vermont . . . I am particularly concerned with the future of our wildlife in Nothern Canada and Alaska . . . once they are driven from here . . where else can they go? Shirly Sacco, Fairbanks, Alaska....Iam very pleased to discover that there are many more concerned persons who are acting to preserve this noble animal. Anne Coker, Knoxville, Tn., . . . It's past time that someone made a stand for this monumental animal. Debbie Heaton, Continental Divide, N.M., . . . The reintroduction of wolves into some of their former ranges could be greatly facilitated by the species becoming the national mammal. Carol Hadden, Davis, Calif. . . The wolf has been the most misunderstood and persecuted animal since recorded history. Paul Patsarikas, Fishkill, N.Y. . . . Maybe we can help each other and give the wolf the acknowledgement he deserves. Mrs. Shannon McMurrer, Killeen, Tx.

Please see page 9 for the reprint of the save

Turtles not so slow . . .

Editor:

I would like to comment on the article "Pet Store Turtle" appearing in the Sept.-Oct. issue. I was glad to see how much emphasis the author put on a turtle's "mental health". I think most people think of turtles being a notch above a fish on the list of dull pets. But when I was a kid I had two of your quarter-sized 5 and 10¢ store red-eared turtles and they were two of the most personable characters I ever met. One was extremely adventurous and always managed to talk the other one (who was more sedate) into his shenanigans. I am probably one of the few people whose turtles didn't die quickly either. One summer I made a turtle house for my turtles so they could appreciate more of the outside. They liked being outside so much they got out of the turtle house and struck out for the big, wide world. I was heartbroken, but always felt they had a good chance of survival because they had so much spunk.

Diane Ging, Pittsburg, Pa.

Dear Editor:

This is to comment on the letter in the June issue. The letter was written about how vets and other animal facilities wouldn't hire people whose only education and experience were through home study course.

Well, I'm sorry to report that North American School of Animal Sciences is my only form of education and experience in this field.

But I've worked at grooming shops and animal hospitals and done very well. In fact North American is very well known for their study courses.

Just let me say this, "It's not where you study" but what you learn, and show how much you learn that counts.

Just about every job you go for anymore wants experienced help, so you have to prove what you know first. If you can prove that no matter where you learn from most places will hire you.

At least that's been my experience.

Lynn Edwards Drayton Plains, Michigan

Gentlemen:

We have enjoyed Animal News for some time and are delighted with the news that you are combining Today's Animal Health with Animal News into a new publication Today's Animal News. Subscribers to both organizations will benefit.

In the June issue on consecutive pages 2 and 3 there is an account of the "Pets and the Three-Mile Disaster" in which Dr. Kronfeld suggests that a program "will have to be developed to take care of pets" in case of like disasters where evacuations of humans is necessary. This is followed by Judson Snyder's open letter essentially on the same subject. In reading both of these items I was struck by the fact that although it may not be possible to take the domestic pets with evacuating families into 'people shelters", the suggestion to leave them in previously "animal shelters" designated would leave them in facilities that would be affected by whatever the disaster, natural or man caused, that forced the evacuation by people in the first place. The caretakers of these facilities would also be evacuated leaving the animals trapped without care until the owners might be permitted to return.

It would appear that the "animal shelters" like the people shelters would have to be away from the site of the disaster, and adjacent to the areas where people are sheltered. If this was Mr. Snyder's intent, it didn't come across in his letter.

Although it might be possible to take the small domestic pets along at the time of the evacuation, there is still the problem of large pets...horses, ponies, etc., ... not to mention livestock. A great deal of thought needs to be given to this problem if the animals we care for are to be protected. It is my understanding that the American Humane Association and the American Red Cross have been working on this problem for some time and an article on their planned solutions would be worthwhile in Todays Animal News to give them wider publicity.

Humanely Yours.

Edmund J. Evans, President, Animal Humane Association of New Mexico, Inc.

Dear Col. Evans:

We are delighted if we have stirred you and others to give more thought to this subject and look forward to hearing more about any answers to this potential problem from any group.

Editor:

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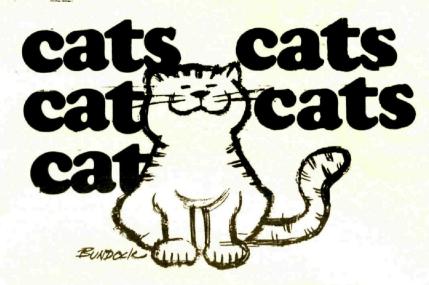
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Quantitatively speaking, the caterpillar is more muscular than man. Where the human body has 639 muscles, caterpillars have more than 4,000, according to Ranger Rick's Nature Magazine.

A caterpillar would rather starve to death than eat a plant it finds distasteful, according to Ranger Rick's Nature Magazine for children.



To groom or not to groom . . .

THE WELL-GROOMED FELINE

By Judson Snyder

How often do cat owners groom their pets? According to a reader survey in Cat Fancy magazine, most cat owners let their pets do it themselves with only limited assistance from humans. Naturally, longhaired cats received more attention than their shorthaired cousins, and purebred show cats get the most attention.

Longhairs are groomed daily by 16 percent of their owners, several times each week by 34 percent, once a week by 11 percent, occasionally by 38 percent, and never by one percent. Shorthair percentages were 7 daily, 16 several times each week, 14 once a week, 56 occasionally, and 7 never.

One big reason why cat owners don't do it more often is that their cats hate the process, according to the survey. About 30 percent of the readers said this and another 30 percent said their cats only "tolerate" it occasionally. This left 40 percent of the felines who seemed to enjoy the brush and comb attention. For years, feline experts have been telling cat owners that their pets would gladly accept it at an early age. But more than one repondent said "not so". Their cats hated it even though they have been groomed ever since kittenhood.

The truism that cats rarely, if ever, need bathing has gained wide acceptance. Only in dire emergencies were they bathed. In fact, 77 percent of the shorthaired owners and 67 percent of the longhaired never bathed their cats. And show cats only got the treatment with shampoo and water 3 or 4 times during the show season.

Calif. leads battle against dog fights

\$10,000 reward offered to end dog fighting

California has taken a big step forward in the crusade to put an end to the rapidly growing "sport" of dog fighting. A coalition of local and national welfare organizations have announced they are offering up to \$10,000 reward for information resulting in felony convictions of people caught fighting dogs in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is hoped that other areas across the country will follow this lead with similiar programs.

Legislation has finally been passed in California making dog fighting a felony with penalties including time in jail and as much as a \$50,000 fine.

Talk about your long days! The Arctic terns, which commute from pole to pole, see more daylight than any other living creatures. Dog fighting is a cruel and violent activity. Dogs are brutally injured, and may die. Their death is a slow and agonizing process. Small animals, such as kittens and rabbits, are used in the "training" process, they are taunted and tortured, and usually die in agony.

Anyone with dog fighting leads should call their local humane society, day or night. Anonymity is guaranteed. The reward is being offered by the American Humane Association, Animal Protection Institute, Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society of the Santa Clara Valley, Marin Humane Society, Monterey SPCA, Oakland SPCA, Penninsula Humane Society, and the San Francisco SPCA.

Hopefully, other humane societies, shelters, and interested groups will join in a national program to stop dog fighting.

Did you notice?

Notice something different? Animal News has changed its name! We are now TODAY'S ANIMAL NEWS. This may seem to be a very small change, but it indicates a very big step forward for us.

We have merged with an outstanding publication you may already know, called Today's Animal Health. Like us, the staff is comprised entirely of professionals, dedicated to the creation of a better world for animals. It is the official publication for the ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION.

By combining forces we can do an even better job for you and your and the world of animals. We will reach a larger audience than ever before. More contributing authors will bring you more up-to-date information.

We want to educate more people in humane animal care. To do this, we hope to have Animal News used in more schools (it is now used very successfully as a teaching tool in a limited amount of schools and colleges). We hope to reach an even larger audience through more public libraries.

It's a big job, but it is a job that needs to be done. Would you like to help? You can help reach and educate hundreds more interested people by just donating a subscription to a school or library. With your help we can work together to make a better world for animals!

YES! I would like to help Animal News in the special educational project. I am enclosing \$7.50 for a year's subscription to a school or public library of your selection (or to the school or library I have indicated below:).

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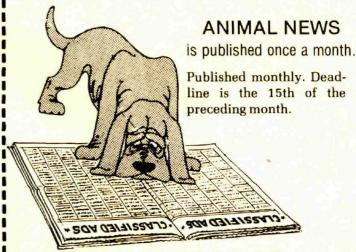
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