

TODAYS
Animal News



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NOW YOU GET BOTH A MAGAZINE AND A NEWSPAPER FOR THE SAME SUBSCRIPTION PRICE!

TODAYS ANIMAL NEWS

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Sept., 1981

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Dialogue

Dear Sir:

I have worked in a veterinary hospital for 4 1/2 years. Reading your article on disc problems was very interesting, however you only mentioned 2 ways of possibly taking care of the problem. There is a 3rd way, acupuncture.

My boss (Dr. S. T. Turner, D.V.M.) has been doing acupuncture for about 7 years, and has not had to do one disc surgery since!

With acupuncture there are no side effects as can occur with drug therapy or surgery. If the animal has loss of bladder or bowel function, we can bring it back. Acupuncture will correct "knuckling under", relieve pain, and muscle spasm too!

Dr. Turner has seen dogs that have been referred to him after surgery. The surgery was either a failure or very unsatisfactory, and he has gotten them up and walking again with acupuncture.

Depending on the severity and duration of the problem, 3 - 10 treatments usually does it. They may need a "brush-up" treatment occasionally, but not usually.

This is just one of the many problems acupuncture can help. My feelings are why put your pet (and you) through surgery, when you can have the body do it itself with a little bit of help without drugs!

Rae McCoy,
%Dr. Turner's Veterinary Hospital, Oakland, Calif.

Dear Rae:

We did not mention acupuncture in the article, because we felt the subject deserved an article by itself. We plan a story on acupuncture in a future issue and will appreciate any other comments regarding it.

Editor.

Dear Sirs:

On page 13 of the June 1981 TODAY'S ANIMAL NEWS you printed a letter by Rose Motyczka pertaining to the North American Correspondence School and the hiring practices of certain animal-oriented org. toward mail-order veterinary assistants.

According to the letter, many organizations will not hire graduates of these courses. As a person who has subscribed to this organization, I am eager to find more information regarding the N. A. C. S. and the hiring rate experienced by its graduate.

I took the course in order to "break into" the animal care field. Now, seeing this letter, I realize that after several months of intensive study, I may have worked and signed checks for nothing.

I eagerly seek more information regarding North American and veterinarians attitude toward this school. (Incidentally, I got the subscription for your newspaper from North American.)

I hope I've not taken too much of your time. A quick reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Rizzi,
Baysie Hills, N.Y.

Dear Robert:

Concerned, informed, interested workers in the field of animal care are always in demand. The fact that you have invested your time and money to enrich your knowledge is sure to be a plus for any potential employer.

Editor.

Dear Dr. Young:

Hello. My name is Jean Larson. I am a Nov. '80 graduate from the North American Correspondence School of Veterinary Assistance.

While studying the course I became even more interested in exotic animals and have been doing independent studying through reading materials in a small town library. I don't feel I've learned enough yet and would like to continue studying, if possible.

Could you recommend any correspondence schools and/or courses? Any and all your help will be deeply appreciated.

I have been trying for 6 months now to raise funds with which I might be able to begin an exotic animal orphanage, refuge and park but I have not had any luck yet.

Any and all help will be appreciated. Thank you for your time and trouble.

Jean Larson.

Dear Editor:

I do enjoy Animal News and also the new health addition. And Bundocks cartoons are priceless and all good sense. I am enclosing a check to put the paper in a school or library of your choice.

Keep up the good work. So often I think of writing to say I appreciate the paper, but time goes by and I don't do it.

Very sincerely, Leone Johnson,
Oakland, Calif.

Gentlemen:

I would like to answer the person who asked the question about preventing flies from biting his/her dog's ears. I had the same problem with my boxer's ears.

I solved the problem with some excellent ointment I got from my vet. It's called VIP ointment and it's manufactured by Pet Chemicals, Inc. P.O. Box 660656, Miami Springs, FL. 33166.

It not only repels flies and mosquitos but it also kills ticks and mites. It can also be used on cats.

Christine Tela,
Whittier, Ca.

Canine Obesity

Fun and fitness for a fat Fido.

Dr. Joel Ehrenzweig is a veterinarian who believes that dogs need exercise as much as people do.

Because he believes in physical fitness for himself as well as for his patients, Dr. Ehrenzweig founded and is currently president of the 400-member American Veterinary Runners Association. When he is not running marathons, he keeps himself busy running two animal hospitals in New York. As a practicing veterinarian who treats over 10,000 canine patients a year, he firmly believes that 75 percent of the problems he sees could be avoided with proper diet and exercise!

"More than half the dogs I see are overweight," Dr. Ehrenzweig says. That's because, he explains, a modern "dog's life" is not what nature intended. "Too many dogs nowadays sit home and watch television. They never have to forage for hunt for food. And they're fed table scraps instead of a nutritionally balanced diet." The result is flabbiness, loss of muscle tone, back and leg injuries, and decrease in alertness. In addition, their perceptions deteriorate drastically, says the doctor.

Since few dogs can be expected to work out on Nautilus equipment or other people-type exercise aids, Dr. Ehrenzweig has developed a series of canine conditioning activities that can be performed in the home or back yard and that requires no special

equipment or training. Before embarking on an exercise program, however, the doctor urges some caution: "Always check with your veterinarian first," he recommends. "Once you know the animal is healthy, set realistic goals. Use moderation and build up slowly. Stop the minute you see signs of fatigue. Avoid extreme temperature, and always remember to warm up and cool down before and after each session of strenuous exercise."

"More than half the problems I treat are the result, directly or indirectly, of overweight."

One final tip: Never use food as an incentive or reward. "Dogs like people, will lap up praise, if it's offered. A pat on the head is better than scraps," says the veterinarian, "and it won't put fat on the ribs."

Here are the three basic conditioning exercises developed by Dr. Ehrenzweig for the Cylce Canine Fitness Program.

CATCH AND FETCH: Traditionally played with a frisbee, "Catch and Fetch" can also be played with a ball or stick. Toss the object as far as you can, then encourage the animal to retrieve it. This simple game will trim off inches, help develop coordination and speed and make even a middle-aged dog feel like a puppy again. This can be played indoors or out, on a flat surface or even . . . for the animal who's fit enough for it . . . up and down a flight of stairs.

TUG-OF-WAR: An ideal indoor exercise, "tug-of-war" is played with an old towel. The dog grasps one end of the towel in his teeth while you hold onto the other and pull. This simple game will strengthen the jaw and stretch the muscles in the neck, shoulders and legs. It's good for the teeth, too!

continued on page 10



KEEPING FIDO FIT, Dr. Joel Ehrenzweig plays "Catch and Fetch" with a four-legged patient. Tossing a Frisbee, the New York veterinarian explains, is an easy way to encourage a dog to burn up unnecessary calories, build up alertness, and improve overall muscle tone.



Paintings by Dumas are more than realistic recreations of wildlife. They are stories within stories.



Artist preserves our wildlife on canvas.

Migrating Geese is from the collection of Cooper and Towrey.

A Dumas painting starts with a number of rough sketches like the one on the left. Many hours of reasearch will follow before the painting is finalized.

"Ready To Run" (right) is from the collection of Mitchell Brown.

BRING 'EM BACK ALIVE!

Jack Dumas doesn't paint animals, he brings them to life on canvas. His nature paintings give the viewer the feeling of having stumbled onto a bit of drama in the wild. The paintings do more than portray an animal in its natural surroundings. The paintings also tell a story. Or, sometimes, several stories.

Dumas paintings are now so successful that one gallery sold a shipment to eager collectors right out of the packing case, without even framing or hanging. But it wasn't always that easy. Dumas has "paid his dues" in the art world the hard way.

He started his career in the 30's, getting his first big break when he was only 17. He tested for, and got, a job with the Walt Disney studios at the time that Snow White was being created.

For most budding young artists this would have been a dream-come-true and the start of a career in the "celluloid city." But Dumas had other dreams and soon realized that he needed more training to realize those dreams. He quit and went back to school. After school he entered the highly competitive field of commercial art, doing just about anything and everything to pay his way.

Wildlife captured forever . . . on canvas.

His love of nature kept bringing him back to paintings of the outdoors. He created hundreds of covers and illustrations for books and magazines, from adventure to western books to the Readers Digest.

An avid fisherman, Dumas stole every moment possible between assignments to be outdoors. And it was this intimacy with the outdoors that helped him to land a job that was the wish fulfillment of just about any artist.

"It was great. Simply great. A wonderful learning experience. Being paid to do the thing I most enjoyed: spending all my time painting the wilderness as I saw it!"

Around 1960 the Weyerhaeuser Corporation launched a campaign to tell the public that planned forest management could allow wood products to be utilized without destroying our wilderness and environment. To graphically illustrate this point they enlisted several leading illustrators to produce a series of fine paintings depicting how our forests could

produce and prosper with proper management. To tell their story they commissioned artists like Stan Galli, Fred Ludikens, and Jack Dumas.

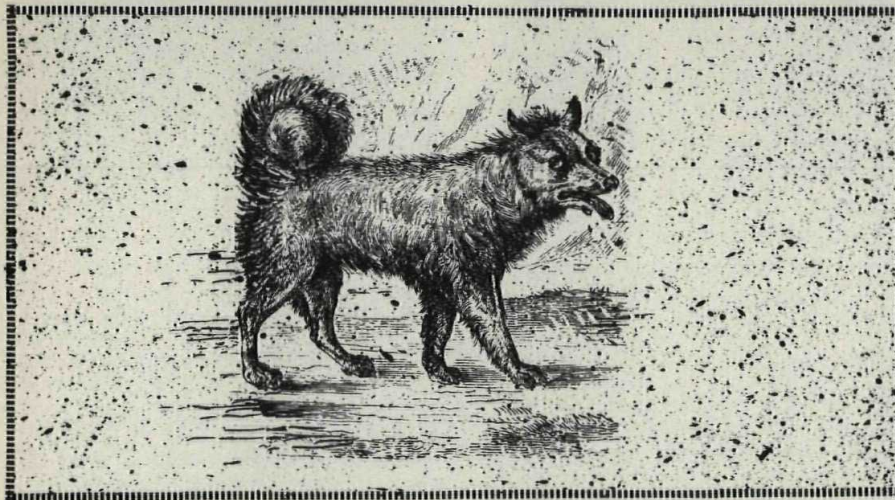
For Dumas it was the opportunity to finally make the transition from commercial art to fine art. Hundreds of great paintings of the outdoors ensued over the years, and collectors and galleries started to become aware of the talents of Jack Dumas.

Today Dumas is settled in the remote redwood-studded hills of Northern California painting the outdoors he loves. Herds of wild horses, bison and deer parade across his canvases. Birds and bears spring to life from his palette. Dumas paints unhurriedly, paints what he wants at his own pace. Dozens of partially finished paintings await his final touches. And, despite the demand, he still slips away to "wet a line" in a mountain stream and refresh his love affair with the great outdoors.

By Doug Bundock



MAD DOG



Puppy terrorizes community.

It was just a sick, homeless puppy, but it left an incredible trail of misery behind it. The puppy was only between eight and ten weeks old. The sickness was rabies.

It started its short life in a trailer camp in California, as the pet for an eight member family. When the puppy became destructive and bit several members of the family it was thrown out of its home. Somehow it made its way to a small town six miles away.

The dog roamed free for at least four days. An investigation revealed that almost every household in and around the trailer park where the puppy's family lived, had allowed the dog to enter their home and/or let their children play with it. At one point, the puppy entered a bar and chewed on a bar stool, and one person was bitten when he attempted to chase the puppy out. Many reports were received of fights between that dog and stray animals in the area. Eleven people, other than those in the dog owner's family, were identified as bite victims in the first four days. Practically every trailer occupant in the court claimed to own some of the 50 plus unlicensed, unvaccinated dogs found there. One household in the neighborhood maintained as many as 13 dogs and cats.

Finally, an eleven mile square area was placed under quarantine. Eighty per cent of the dogs and cats the quarantine area were found to have never been vaccinated against rabies.

Special vaccination clinics were held and 2,000 dogs were vaccinated in four clinics and 300 stray dogs and cats were picked up and destroyed.

When it was finally over 70 people were treated for rabies. Fortunately for officials the puppy was easily identified. It was an unusual looking puppy, a Labrador-bull terrier cross wearing two collars. One animal control officer was bitten in the process of capturing the rabid puppy.

The actual costs of hospital charges, antirabies treatment, vaccination, animal control overtime and services for this one puppy amounted to a staggering \$105,790.00.

Despite the ready availability of inexpensive protection against rabies, the disease in on a steady increase and reported incidents have increased almost double in the past two years. Has your dog been vaccinated?

Information provided by the California State Morbidity Report.

Worth Reading

THE GOOD CAT BOOK

(How to Live with and Take Loving Care of Your Cat)
by Mordecai Siegal,
published by Simon and Schuster.

*A book for all cat lovers,
review by Pam Blumberg*

What fun! Finally a fact filled text about cats that is also enjoyable to read.

The Good Cat Book has it all. Whether it is training your kitten, treating a medical emergency, or providing good nutrition, it's all carefully and knowledgeably dealt with here.

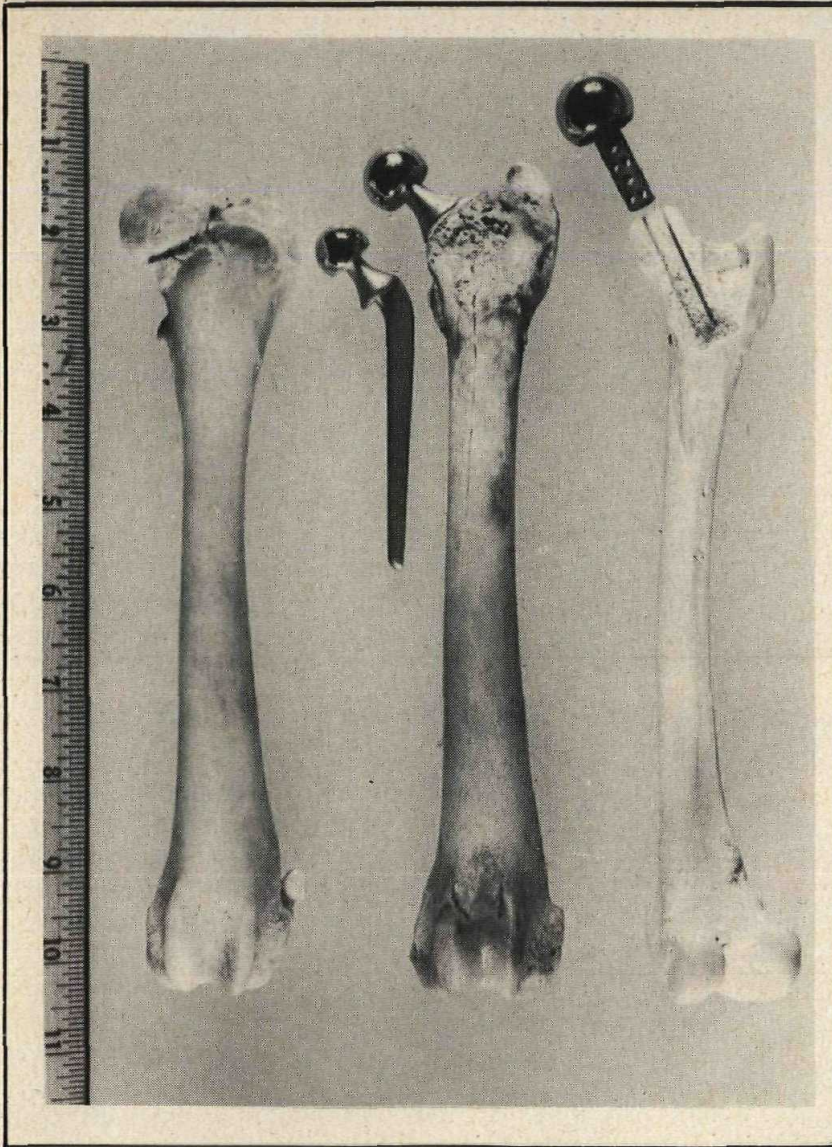
Mr. Siegal presents many original ideas in his section on raising kittens. Kitty rearing can be made easier and more enjoyable by following the author's suggestions.

As every cat owner knows only too well, all felines behave in many mysterious ways. After reading chapter 3, entitled "The Tiger Within," you will understand more, if not all, about your cat's "strange" behavior. Mr. Siegal explains to us their unbelievable sense of direction, hunting habits, the courtship of cats, and feline parental behavior, to mention a few.

In the second half of The Good Cat Book there is excellent unique information on different breeds. Each breed's unique characteristics are discussed so that you can select the one best suited for you. The C.F.A. (Cat Fanciers Association) judging standards are outlined.

Whether you have spent your entire life with cats, or are about to win your first kitten, you really should read this book. I plan on keeping my copy around for a long time.

NEW HOPE FOR DOGS AND HUMANS



Crippled dogs get new hips

There is new hope for dogs afflicted with crippling hip disease. Surgical experiments at Kansas State University have demonstrated the success of a hollow steel hip "bone" that attaches without pins or cement, and does not work loose.

Dr. Hugh Butler, veterinarian at K-State in Manhattan, says the new prosthesis could extend the active lives of large dogs used as guides and hunters.

Eventually, he adds, a similar prosthesis may be implanted in humans who also suffer hip problems. (A prosthesis is an artificial device to replace a missing or damaged part of the body.)

Deterioration of the ball and socket in the hip joint can cripple many breeds of dogs. Three years of surgical experiments on 11 dogs at KSU shows that the animals quickly recovered use of their legs.

"Within weeks, the bone grows through the holes in direct contact with absolute rigidity."

Solid steel "balls" attached to long steel shanks have been implanted into dogs' diseased thigh bones with cement for five years, he says. But the cement often works loose, causing main and making corrective surgery necessary.

"This new device should end those problems," Butler says.

He uses a hollow-core drill bit to shape the bone, then drives the hollow shaft of the prosthesis into the bone. The shaft looks like a metal straw with holes in it. Bone quickly grows through the holes.

Two years of clinical trials remain before the cementless ball will be ready for marketing, he says. Meanwhile, a Swiss firm is developing a matching plastic socket to make the new artificial hip complete.

This improved design (right) enables surgeons to implant a hollow artificial "ball" in the thigh bone of dogs crippled by deteriorated hip joints. Unlike the previous models (center), the new prosthesis uses no cement and thus does not work loose. KSU veterinarian Hugh Butler says humans with hip problems may also benefit. A Swiss firm is developing a matching plastic socket to make the artificial hip complete.

Poisoned pets

The mysterious death of several animals may have been the alert that will save the lives of hundreds of residents of Clinton, Mass. The alarm went out when ducks, dogs and cats suddenly started becoming ill in this New England community. When the animals died veterinarians discovered they all contained a common poison. Reports showed large amounts of lead and thallium.

Environmentalists went to work on the problem, finding that it related to a sudden and unexplained hair loss suffered by the human residents of the area. They theorize that the problem may be linked to an old tannery washed out by a flood more than 100 years ago.

NEW PRODUCTS

Rub paw . . .



"Ah, that's the rub!" The "Love-Rub" is a paw-shaped grooming glove worn like a mitten and designed to be a treat for your animal. This glove has a soothing soft acrylic side for that delicate touch of attention and a rougher terry cloth side for a more positive touch — the back scratcher. Either way, it's an entertainment for you and your pet. An elasticized wristband prevents slipping, and the glove is machine washable.

Pawfect Products is a small California operation featuring the development of creative novelties and pet accessories. More information can be obtained by writing to Pawfect Products, P.O. Box 192, Fremont, Ca., 94537, Attn: John Howard.

cat pads

If you are a cat fan you'll be interested in a unique collection of stationary, note cards, and note pads now available from Crowning Glory, Inc. Four original artists's rendering of favorite cats grace the collection.

The unusual note cards come by the dozen, note pads by 200 lots and monarch size stationary complete with matching envelopes are available in packets of 20 each. For further information contact : Crowning Glory, Inc., 1353 Seaview Drive, North Lauderdale, Florida, 33068.

obesity---

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JOG-A-DOG: Jogging is an excellent form of cardiovascular exercise; it burns up calories and strengthens the heart and lungs. It's also an easy way for owner and pet to get into shape together. If neither you nor your dog has jogged before, build up slowly. Once around the block is a fine beginning. Before you know it, you'll be up to a mile or two. Remember, though: always use a leash, and never run with a dog in traffic.

Helping your dog to stay fit will help him to live longer!



This German Shepherd is enjoying his Canine Castle, a new approach in dog housing. This lightweight house is warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and protects your pet from all kinds of weather. Best of all, it's easy to clean because of the raised floor and easy pop-out plugs which allow you to hose the dog house out and let it drain.

The Canine Castle is constructed of one-piece durable polyethylene so there are no cracks or crevices to let in water or drafts. The one-piece molded construction and unpleasant taste of polyethylene is also a deterrent to chewing.

The manufacturer promises that the Canine Castle will never rust or dent and will always retain its bright color. It even fits into a station wagon for traveling, and an automatic closing magnetic door is offered as an option. It comes in sizes for both large and small dogs and cats and may be used in or out of doors. For more information call Toll Free: 1-800-351-1363

Want to live longer? Preserve your sanity?

By Kenneth L. Marcella

Make a pet a part of your life

Humans and animals have shared a close relationship almost from the beginning of recorded time. Pets have occupied a prominent and privileged place in our lives. It may surprise you, though, to find out exactly how much a pet can contribute to your mental health. Their warmth, love and nonjudgmental acceptance oftentimes fills sensitive gaps between the interpersonal relationships in our lives. They mirror our fears, frustrations and anxieties and help us celebrate our joys and happiness. Psychologist R. D. Laing writes "We are born into a world where alienation awaits us." There are many who believe that pets provide us with a defense against that isolation and recent work with disturbed children, prisoners and the elderly seems to support this view.

Disturbed children often resist human contact because they have been emotionally "burned" and are not prepared to become involved in entangling relationships. A pet apparently does not pose such a threat and is more readily accepted. Dr. Boris Levinson, a professor of psychology and a practical clinical psychologist, believes that there are two types of pet therapy. One is the use of pets as therapy aids by the clinician in his office. Dr. Levinson often uses his own dog "Jingles" in such a role. The other type of therapy is the introduction of a pet into the child's home environment. The choice depends on the child's particular problem and home-life situation. Qualities of warmth, trust and affection are the essential elements involved in the bond formed between child and pet. The strength of that bond determines the success of therapy. Dogs and cats don't talk back. They are not competitive. And they return love in situations where

adults often do not. For the disturbed child the pet becomes an ally against an unfeeling adult world.

Pets as mental therapy

It is important that the disturbed child learn that, although not perfect, it can be loved and accepted. Here the pet provides comparisons and examples. Even though the dog demonstrates a variety of behavior that meets with disapproval, chewing the favorite chair, soiling the rugs, and stealing forbidden objects, it is still a loved and accepted member of the family. If the dog can be accepted then the child, who has misbehaved far less than their pet, can also be loved. And if the dog does not feel guilty, why should the child? Overcoming feelings of guilt may be the first step in the pathway to recovery. Pets open routes of communication in withdrawn children. Beloved dogs and cats from the pound help adopted children accept the love of their foster parents. If an adopted cat can be special and loved then the adopted children see themselves as worthy of love and are more secure about their family position.

Animals provide new incentives

Teaching spastic children to use their limbs can be a long and frustrating process. But pets in these children's environments greatly aid in their progress. One such girl was given the task of feeding the family fish and soon became adept at the manipulations needed to open the fish food package, measure the correct amount and drop it in the tank. Another youngster refused to use his legs because he often fell and hurt himself, until his father bought him a puppy. The boy overcame his fears and was soon stumbling, falling, and occasionally walking around the house following his new pet!

Pets can have a tremendous effect on some aspects of mental health. As Dr. Levinson remarks, "Maybe some day we shall advance so far in our understanding that we shall be able to prescribe pets of a certain kind for different emotional disturbances."

Just as disturbed children are alienated from a world they don't understand, prisoners and institutional patients are isolated from a world that has rejected them. The prisoner has few rights and fewer responsibilities. His relationship to society is similar to that of a disturbed child. It is not surprising, then, that the use of pets in therapy works well here, too.

The bird or fish kept in a prisoner's cell provides a break from the boring routine of prison life and provides needs that give the prisoner a feeling of responsibility. The pet provides affection, companionship and the trust that society has withdrawn. Discipline is less of a problem where inmates are allowed pets.

Pets and prisoners

The French so value the effect of the pet owner bond that the French S.P.A. (like our S.P.C.A.) takes over the care of pets of people sent to prison. They care for the animal until the time of release, often writing letters or visiting to talk about the pet. The pet is seen as a small door between prison life and the reality of the outside world.

Unlike disturbed children and prisoners, the elderly are not necessarily confused or rejected, but often forgotten. They have ceased to be part of the hustle and bustle of society. Adjusting to a lower position in later life is often aided by a pet that never challenges or competes and doesn't know the difference between old or young. Dogs, cats, or birds never tire of hearing the

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Earning the friendship of your cat

(sharing is the secret with cats)



Hide and seek. That's a common form of play that provides both cat and human a mutual area of interaction. This cat has tucked itself away in a wicker basket awaiting the pretended surprise of its owner. Games like this increase the the ability of cat and owner to find develop common areas of communication.

Sharing your life with a cat can be a rewarding experience, but only if you are willing to accept that cat on its own terms. Cats are not dogs, and you can't force your friendship on a feline. Much of a cat-owner relationship must be left up to the cat. Accept a cat for what it is and you will both enjoy a mutual respect.

When choosing a kitten, try to pick one that has come from an even-tempered, attentive mother. If you find a stray, hopefully it has come from a good mother and first owners. The treatment a kitten receives during its very early life and the disposition it inherits from its parents will have a big effect on its behavior and later personality development. Once you bring your kitten home, the environment in which he will be raised is another important influence on its personality.

Most cats are interested in constant human companionship. You may notice your cat has been missing for several hours, only to find it holed up snugly in the corner of

closet. Don't be offended by such behavior. When your cat wants to be friendly, it will be.

This type of behavior has caused the cat to be labeled as aloof and independent. However, this really isn't an accurate assessment of a cat's personality. A cat is independent in the sense that unless it wants to do something, chances are it won't, despite your prodding. But your cat is dependent on you to fulfill both physical and emotional needs. And he will talk to you when he finds it necessary. Unfortunately, many owners do not take the time or interest to learn how to understand this "talk."

A cat has a remarkable ability to communicate with humans. His language includes a variety of sounds and facial expressions and body motions. If you take the time to learn this communication your cat's personality and moods will become evident to you.

Cats also have some finely tuned senses that play an important role in personality develop-

ment. Often your cat is affected by what he feels instinctively. Even if your cat doesn't understand the words being said to him and around him, he does have an understanding and feeling of the situation at hand.

Your cat's self-esteem is vitally important, and he can sense when he is being made fun of or being treated in a disparaging manner. A cat will naturally be hostile in a situation that makes him feel anxious or uncomfortable. Your cat will convey his discontent by thrashing his tail from side to side or by crouching as if to defend himself. Traumatic experiences are difficult to forget, even for a cat.

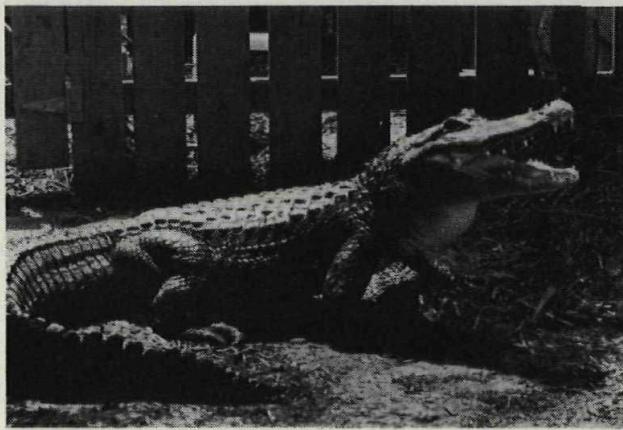
Such events, coupled with those that occur during kittenhood, determine how social your cat will be as an adult. If you want your cat to be a more social animal, it is a good idea to expose it frequently to friendly people during the highly impressionable adolescence. Spend some time (as much as possible) with it yourself so that he feels comfortable with you. A feeling of trust is essential between you and your cat. Once that bond has been achieved, your cat may finally think you have earned his friendship. Accept it graciously; it may never be offered again!

Out, damned spot!

Fresh paint and dogs seem to attract one another, but getting that paint out of Rover's coat can be a tricky chore. Solvents will burn the skin and should not be used. A safe way to remove the new spot of color is with "waterless hand cleaner". It is a thick, creamy material used by painters and mechanics. Work it into the paint with your fingers and remove it, along with the paint, with paper towels. It may take several treatments, but it will remove the paint safely. Thick hand lotions and creams may sometimes work as a substitute.

Lisa is the most beautiful girl in the world

(if you like alligators)



Lisa, the first alligator to lay a nest of eggs fertilized through artificial insemination, displays some strong maternal instincts. . . and two rows of razor-sharp teeth . . . while guarding her nest in a specially designed pen at Gatorland Zoo. The first artificial insemination was performed on Lisa by University of Florida veterinary researchers.

The parents-to-be haven't ordered any birth announcements printed for the historic event, but if they did the cards might read something like this:

"University of Florida veterinarians and Lisa the Alligator proudly announce the first nest of alligator eggs fertilized by artificial insemination."

Should any of Lisa's 14 fertile eggs produce live offspring, as they are expected to around Sept. 4, UF veterinarians who performed the artificial insemination say there's hope that science could help replenish some endangered species of crocodilians, and could make alligator farming a more lucrative and productive industry.

"Although the alligator is thriving in the wild once again in Florida, low fertility is a major problem for gators in captivity. And, world-wide, there are several species of alligators and crocodiles on the list of endangered animals. If Lisa's eggs hatch, it means man won't have to watch helplessly while some of the Earth's oldest inhabitants approach extinction. There'll be hope for these reptiles through artificial breeding," said Dr. Paul Cardeilhac of UF's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Lisa is an 8-year-old American alligator residing at Gatorland Zoo, the world's largest alligator farm. To researchers the 8-foot reptile is the most beautiful gal in the world right now because of what she has unknowingly accomplished. She is the only one of 18 female gators in the UF experiment in which the artificial insemination was successful.

"If we get just one baby alligator from this we'll be ecstatic. But we're hoping for more than one egg to hatch from Lisa's nest. This is the first time that artificial insemination in alligators has produced even one egg, much less a fertilized egg," Cardeilhac said.

Lisa's not aware why such a fuss is being made over her nest, but the feisty reptile, whose ancestors date back to when dinosaurs roamed the Earth, has already developed keen maternal instincts. Only Gatorland Zoo president Frank Godwin is able to separate mama from her nest so that her eggs can be examined.

"It's fantastic what this artificial insemination program could mean to commercial alligator farming in Florida. The days of throwing gators into a big pit and telling them 'okay, go at it and make a bunch of baby gators

for me' are over, Godwin said.

"Once artificial insemination realizes a high rate of fertility, it would cost less to raise more alligators, and would also mean that fewer bull gators would have to be captured from the wild to breed with our females."

When Lisa's eggs hatch Godwin and Cardeilhac may be the ones handing out cigars, but the real father was a wild "nuisance" gator that had to be killed by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

One reason for the success of UF's artificial insemination project is the large quantity of bull gator sperm they've been able to collect through a new procedure developed by UF veterinarians. The game commission gives the university the carcass of nuisance alligators killed in the Gainesville area for the animal's reproductive tract. Using their own surgical procedure UF veterinarians are able to extract all the semen from the gator, or about six to eight times the amount a live male can produce.

Zoo animals abused

Zoo visitors in Topeka, Kansas, are finding an exhibit that touches home. It is called the "Museum of Human Stupidity" and depicts the brutalities inflicted on zoo animals by humans. It features a collection of objects removed from zoo cages, including can openers, rocks, bottle caps, wires and cups. More than half of the half of the animal abuse consists of throwing improper food into the cages, despite warning signs. Other acts include hitting and poking the animals, crossing zoo barriers and entering enclosures, and throwing rocks and other objects at the animals.



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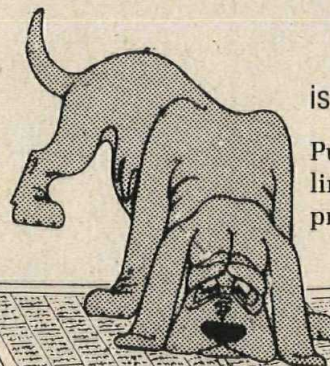
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The next endangered species could be you

Will man become the next endangered species? It's a possibility if the predicted shift in the temperature of our earth happens.

Recently a California town topped 120 degrees to set a history-making high and driving residents off the streets from the blistering heat. This scorcher wasn't recorded in the Mojave desert, noted for extreme heat, but in the far north, not far from a winter snow area.

Is our earth and temperature changing? Some scientists think so. And they think the change could alter the habitat of all animal life, including that of man, in the years to come. In fact, the trend may already have begun.

The water shortage crises of a couple of years ago could be only a mild preview of the future if some researchers are correct. And, in contrast, other areas could be faced with floods as heat waves melt snow packs and ice floes.

"By the middle of the next century our planet could be warmer than at any time during the last 100,000 years. If that happened, entire growing zones, deserts, grasslands, and forests could all shift. Melting ice in the polar regions could raise sea levels 15 feet," projects International Wildlife magazine.

What's causing this alarming rise in temperature? The culprit is an odorless, colorless gas called carbon dioxide. A vital ingredient

in photosynthesis, it makes up less than .04 percent of the atmosphere. But since the start of the Industrial Revolution in the late 1700's, the amount of carbon dioxide in the air has increased by 15 to 25 percent.

Carbon dioxide is formed when fossil fuels are burned and stored up carbon combines with oxygen in the air. Around half the carbon dioxide generated each day is absorbed by the oceans or green living matter. The other half accumulates in the lower atmosphere.

This virtually transparent layer of gas has little effect on the sunlight which passes through it to warm the earth. But infrared heat radiated back into the atmosphere has a longer wave-length. Some of it is trapped by the carbon dioxide in a process that has been called a "greenhouse effect." So far, it hasn't had much effect on the climate. But William Kellogg, a senior climatologist at the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research, says "The increase theoretically has been something on the order of one degree fahrenheit. When it gets near two degrees, then it'll dominate over the natural process."

That's what scientists fear. If we continue to consume fossil fuels at the present rate, the carbon dioxide build-up could cause an average temperature increase from three to as many as eight degrees fahrenheit. What would that mean? Researchers have made a number of predictions—some good, some bad:

Increased precipitation and evaporation might result. Decreased rainfall might occur over Northern China, the USSR, and the U.S. Midwest, with increases in Europe and Africa.

As climate zones change, so would food-growing patterns. Northern Hemisphere farming areas might extend north, with losses from crops such as corn and wheat, and gains for others, such as rice.

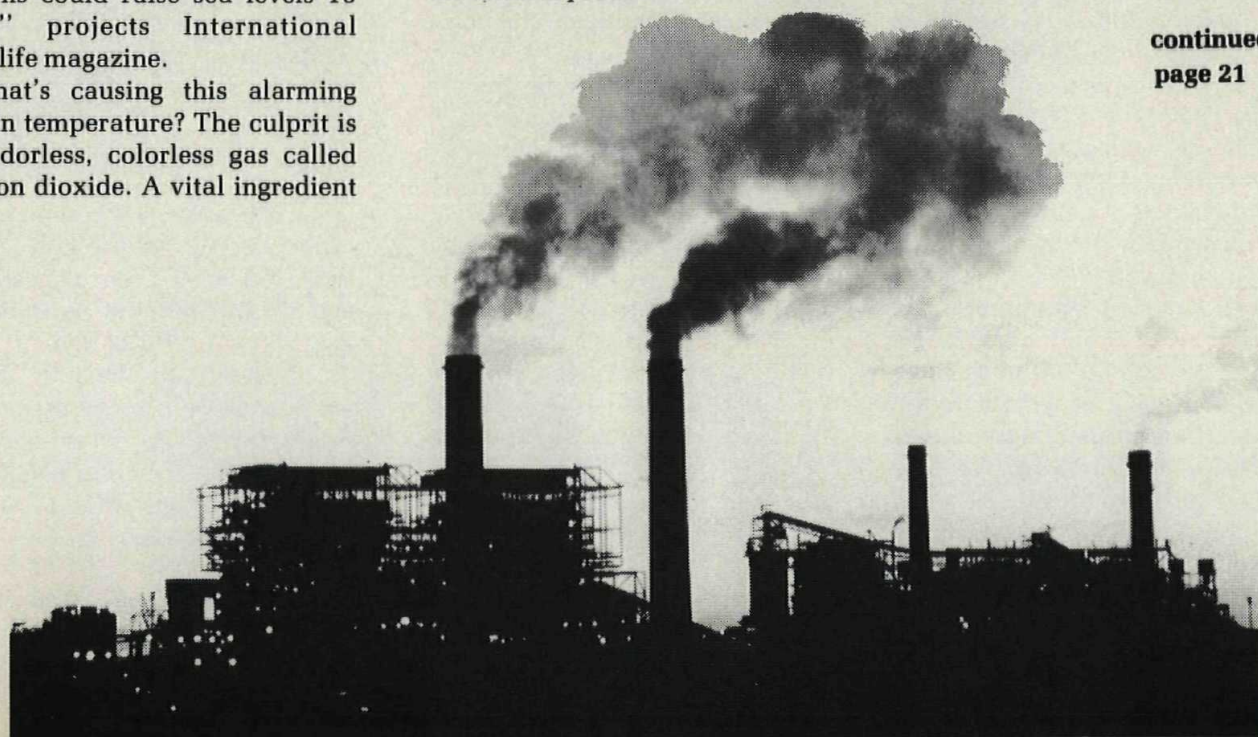
Insect pests, which already destroy more than 35 percent of the world's crops, would likely multiply in a warmer global climate. Crop diseases could become an increased threat.

While most wildlife would migrate with the climate, some species that live in specialized habitats might become extinct.

Our fish "crops" could be severely damaged, reducing a major source of food for the world.

The west Antarctic ice sheet could eventually melt. As a result, coastal areas throughout the

continued on
page 21



Help Wanted: Birds!

New jobs for animals

Since prehistoric times, humans have domesticated and trained animals to help them perform onerous chores. It started with cavemen training dogs to help in the hunt, and today people are still dreaming up new schemes to make animals do their work.

Over the years pigeons, especially, have been found to be cooperative workers. During the four-month Prussian siege of Paris in 1870, pigeons carried hundreds of thousands of official and private messages to and from the outside world. The messages were inserted in a small goose quill and attached by a waxy silken thread to the strongest tail feather.

And during World War II British forces dropped pigeons in baskets from airplanes so that local residents could retrieve them, attach any information that might be of interest to allied forces and then release the birds. After circling the area once or twice the pigeons would head for home, perhaps hundreds of miles away.

Researchers now think pigeons may have a future as assembly line inspectors—checking for defects in drug capsules or electronic equipment, for example. Human inspectors tend to make errors about 15 percent of the time, whereas pigeons make errors only one percent of the time, one psychologist found.

"And they don't get bored," according to a National Wildlife Federation report. "Studies have found that they can remain on the job for three straight days without sacrificing accuracy. The birds do loaf on the job, though, so most pigeon projects call for three birds inspecting in tandem, each a check on the others."

The technique used in training pigeons and other animals is called

positive reinforcement, developed by B.F. Skinner, the famed behaviorist. It involves using food as a reward—when, for instance, a pigeon spots a defective drug capsule—and ignoring wrong behavior. Animals are not starved; the reward is part of a daily ration.

British submarine commanders employed this technique during World War II. Their submarines would release large amounts of bread in the water, and gulls would flock to it. After a while, the birds gathered naturally at the sight of a long, dark shadow sliding underwater. Spotters ashore alerted the authorities. No one knows how many German U-boats fell victim to a flock of hungry gulls.

Today, the U.S. Coast Guard is training pigeons to spot orange, yellow, and red—the colors of life jackets, buoys, rafts and flags. The pigeons will be carried in a plexiglass bubble beneath a helicopter and will peck at an electrical switch when they see these colored objects floating on the ocean below.

It is interesting to note that, as our lives become more and more influenced by technology, we also find more ways to use the abilities of our companion animals. In fact, animals now play a larger role in our society than ever before.



TOXIC TOY

Warning issued on rawhide chew toys

The following report is an alert from the California Veterinary Medical Association, but could be important to pet owners anywhere in the U.S. The alert concerns only one brand of rawhide chew toy and does not suggest that other brands are dangerous. At this writing Animal News has received one unverified report of the death of a dog related to the chew toy.

Channel 5, Eye Witness News, San Francisco, reported that a rawhide chewbone product, under the trade name, Mr. Max, distributed by C & L Distributor Company, was possibly responsible for a series of incidents which involved strange behavior in dogs.

It seems that dogs which have chewed on or ingested the white bleached rawhide bones under this label have exhibited bizarre hallucinations and "seizures." Symptoms include the following expression of events: dilation of pupils, frightened expressions, excitement, loud barking, crouched rear ends, racing around as if the dog were being chased by a ghost, urinating, and hiding under beds and other objects. This group of symptoms lasts from 10 seconds to a reported 10-minute episode.

After the most acute symptoms have passed, the dogs have acted frightened, with considerable trembling and paranoia. Some have run away and remained in hiding for up to one hour. They then return to near-normal for awhile until another episode occurs within one to 24 hours.

To date, all routine blood analyses have been within the normal ranges. Affected animals seem to recover within one to two weeks so long as no further rawhide is ingested.

Courtesy the California Veterinary Medical Association Alert.

In The News·news·news·news·news·news



The prognosis is good for the golden retriever, whose veterinarian is now discussing the results of the dog's ECG with a cardiac specialist from CARDIOPET. A new, simple procedure allows any veterinarian to obtain an immediate diagnosis of the heart condition of his patient by telephone. Cardiopet has helped to diagnose and successfully treat heart disease and related conditions for many thousands of animals, from dogs and cats to horses and tigers.

Eskimo comeback

The legendary Eskimo dog is making a comeback. In fact, visitors to Canada's North may soon be treated to tours by sled . . . pulled by Eskimo dogs.

A remarkable feat, when one considers that in 1975 only one Eskimo was thought to remain in the world. But the Eskimo Research Foundation, headed by Bill Carpenter, came to the rescue and now maintains a kennel of about 120 of the Inuit native dogs.

The rare breed is properly identified as the *Canis familiaris borealis* and is an aboriginal breed that was once called the esquimaux, and then the husky, and eventually the Eskimo. Inuit natives called it the kingmik in the wester Arctic and Qimmiq in the east. The breed has been relatively unchanged for some 2000 years.

The versatile dog, somewhat resembling a large Alaskan malamute, has been used to pull sleds, carry packs, and to hunt seals in the frozen North.

Now breeding pairs of Eskimo dogs are given to the native people of the Northwestern Territories who, like the Eskimo, are once again returning to their traditional lifestyle.

Endangered

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world could be inundated. One study estimates that 11 million Americans would be uprooted, including 40 percent of Florida's population.

Scientists have some ideas for coping with the problem. One route would be to slow down the consumption of fossil fuels through energy conservation and the use of nonfossil energy. Such policies, however, would have to be global.

Another way is to prepare for a warmer world by developing drought-resistant crops and new strains that would stand up to higher temperatures and utilizing saltier water, and by requiring global food reserves and plans for a massive disaster relief.

"We are taking the thin film of air and water upon which life on earth depends and messing around with it in an absolutely fundamental way . . . without really knowing the consequences of what we're doing," commented David Burns of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Story material courtesy of National Wildlife Federation.

Berries save oil

Fans of the jojoba plant believe the magical berry might do everything from saving the whales to reducing the world-wide oil crunch. And a current experiment in San Francisco may help to support their claims. The AC Transit system is now adding the oil from the berries to the transmissions of the buses, and officials are enthusiastic so far. According to AC authorities the natural lubricant cuts down on oil changes and holds up better in extreme heat.

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Although the new company got a lot of laughs when they started, the owners now have the last laugh on their way to the bank. They have over 300 subscribers already, plus nine condominiums, as their pickup service continues to grow in popularity. Their fee is based on a typical one dog family, and the more dogs you own the more you pay. Their motto is: "We pick up where your dogs left off."

Pill not the answer

"The pill" may not be the answer for dogs, says Dr. Klaas Post of the Small Animal Clinic at the University of Saskatchewan. He suggests that the pills should only be used for emergency situations and that prolonged use "may actually damage the dogs."

The Canadian veterinarian warns of side effects that could cause behavioral changes, weight gains, and could close off bone growth in young animals. The pills are used to postpone the heat cycle of dogs for shows and hunting seasons.

Bears spook sheep


Idaho sheepmen are beginning to look at bears as a major predatory threat. About 400 sheep plunged to their deaths recently when frightened by a black bear and her two cubs. The sheep spooked and followed one another over a 60-foot cliff near Parairie, Idaho.

Earlier this year one sheep rancher reported losing about 100 sheep that were mauled by bears.

Dogs thwart rescue

Well-meaning watch-dogs may have been responsible for the deaths of five children who perished in a Homestead, Florida fire recently. When the house went up in a burst of flames the parents made it out with two children. Efforts to save the five children remaining in the flaming house were thwarted by two chained watchdogs that blocked the way of rescuers.

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put a pet in your life!

continued from page 11

same stories told over and over again or of listening to the countless lessons learned throughout a lifetime. The pet accepts. Pets lead to new adventures, interests, and hobbies for the older person. Pet ownership becomes a means of making friends with other elderly people with similar interests. The pet allows the owner to continue to be a provider and protector while returning the affection needed to offset the loneliness often experienced by older people.

In a study done on patients of a coronary care unit, many of whom were elderly, doctors found that the heart attack patients who owned pets had a higher percentage of recovery. The dependence of their pets gave them a sense of being needed and contributed to their drive to recover.

In order to feed and care for a pet, owners may engage in activities of which they thought themselves no longer capable. Since most pet owners will not neglect the feeding of their pet, they find it harder to ignore their own nutritional needs. Mealtime becomes a joint venture. In taking care of a pet the owner is frequently taking care of him or herself, too.

Pets can be valuable and indispensable aids to the mental health of their owners. They return love and affection, and their dependence provides owners with the crucial sense of being needed. While pets contribute these qualities to every relationship, their effects are best seen in cases where owners are isolated from society in some way—the disturbed child, the outcast prisoner, the elderly. In instances where man is abandoned by his fellow man it seems natural, or even necessary, that he should seek companionship with other animals.

Kenneth Marcella is a third year veterinary student at Cornell University, placing special interest in animal behavior and the interrelationships between men and animals.

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