Animal News FALL

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'Quake Study Quits

\$150

The Official voice of the Animal Health Foundation

ODD TIDBITS



ABOUT CATS

There are 10 breeds: Abyssinian, Burmese, Domestic Shorthair, Himalayan, Longhair, Manx, Rex, Russian Blue, Siamese and Tabby. The Longhairs, comprised of 62 varieties, including Angora, Maine Coon, and Persian, are said to have more placid and lazier temperaments than the shorthaired cats.

Native to every continent on earth except Australia, today's modern domestic is a cross between the African

and European wildcats.

They date back thousands of years. mentioned in Sanskrit over 3,000 years ago. The ancient Egyptians worshiped them. When a cat died, its owners entered mourning. They mummified the remains and interred them in cases of wood or bronze in sacred burial grounds. The penalty for killing one was death, as a hapless Roman soldier discovered. He was lynched.

Despite the Egyptian prohibition of exporting cats, Phoenician traders introduced them to Europe by smuggling them to Mediterranean ports, according to legend, while Julius Caesar introduced them to Britain.

Cat worship was common in Europe until the 15th century, when Pope Innocent VIII ordered the Inquisition to hunt down cat worshipers and have them burned as witches. Consequently, thousands were burned at the stake only because they owned cats. Cats were also worshiped in Peru, China and

Japan.

- In colonial America it became fashionable to take a 公 cat to church on Sunday to keep oneself warm.
- They symbolize fertility in western Czechoslovakia. One buried in a field of grain guarantees a good harvest.
- In Switzerland, they became the symbol of liberty.
- A black cat is supposed to bring good luck in Britain. On the Yorkshire coast, it is believed that fishermen will return safely from the seas if their home has a black cat.
- A black cat is supposed to bring bad luck in modern Italy. When one crossed the path of a bride as she was about to enter the church, the wedding was stopped.

The Abyssinian is considered the oldest breed of domestics. It resembles the sacred cat of ancient Egypt

more closely than any other.

The tailless Manx is the fastest of all domestic cats. It is supposed to have originated on the Isle of Man, but tailless cats have also been found in China, the Russian Crimea and Malava.

- Siamese kittens are born white and become darker as they grow older. Considered the most intelligent of all cats, their vocal range includes a mating call. Legend has it that they were introduced to the western world in 1870, upon being brought to Britain from the Royal Palace in Siam.
- The Persian cat comes from Persia; the Angora cat from Ankara, Turkey; the Burmese cat from Burma; and the Maine coon cat is part raccoon. Right? Wrong. These, too, are legends.
- Cats are the longest lived of all small domestic animals. While their average life span is 12 to 18 years, some have lived to the mid-20's and one was reported to have lived to be 33 years and four months old.
- They usually have five toes on the front foot and four on the back, but some have six and seven toes.
- Their whiskers and eyebrows are organs of touch. It

is claimed that they have the most delicate sense of touch of all mammals.

They cannot see in complete darkness, just better than most mammals in a dim light. They are color blind,

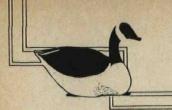
seeing all colors as shades of gray.

- They catch cold easily, get diabetes, leprosy, tuberculosis and, when excessively fat, become prone to asthma. They also are subject to cancer, especially
- A Many cats with white coats and blue eyes are deaf. Since they cannot hear themselves, they are sametimes mute, as well. One such cat used to run up and down the piano keyboard to attract his owner's attention at mealtime.
- Most cats like music. Some prefer the organ, others piano or violin. One cat would run out of her house whenever her owner played the harmonica.
- All cats can swim; some swim just for the fun of it. What they don't like is icy cold water.
- They have been known to teach themselves to ring doorbells, operate door latches, open windows, carry apples by their stems between their teeth and use the toilet.
- During World War II, they were reported to sense the approach of flying bombs as far as 50 miles away, long before the air-raid sirens sounded.
- When cats and dogs live together, the cat is often boss.
- Bottle feed a kitten before it opens its eyes, and it will call you mother for life.
- A single litter of kittens can have more than one father.
- Although seven months is normal, a cat may bear a litter as early as four and a half months. She can produce three or more litters a year.



The foregoing items were culled from the following sources:

- 1. Encyclopedia Britannica, Vols. I, II, III, and IX
- 2. Cat Owners' Encuclopedia, Brian Vesev-Fitzgerald; Pelham Books, Ltd., London, 1963
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- 6. The Velvet Paw: A History of Cats in Life, Mythology And Art, Jean Conger; Ivan Obolensky, New York 1963
- 7. Cat Genetics, A. C. Judd; THF Publications, Inc., Neptune City, New Jersey



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Fall issue

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ART, PRODUCTION: Doug Bundock; EDITORIAL: Joel Blumberg, Judson Snyder, Sharon Curry and staff; BUSINESS MANAGER: George Robinson; MANAGEMENT: CHARLES ROBINSON, DVM, Lee Thorne, DVM.

DVM EDITOR: Richard Glassberg; ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Jane Wright; CIRCULATION: Harry Maiden; ASSOCIATE CIRCULATION MANAGER: Syd Nieman; PHOTOGRAPHY: James Callea; COMPANION ANIMALS EDITOR: Milwood Custer; ECOLOGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR: Robert J. Schroeder; RESEARCH EDITOR: Oscar W. Schalm; EXOTICS EDITOR: Wesley A. Young; ANIMAL HEALTH FOUNDATION PRESIDENT: Donald Hook.

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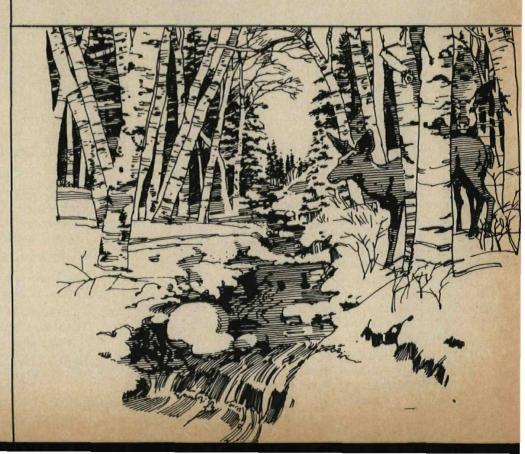
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Todays Animal News Fall issue

The veterinary front



Flea Control

WINNING THE BATTLE AGAINST FLEAS...

Scratch . . . scratch . . . scratch . .

As 98.7% percent of all pet owners will attest, one of the most annoying of problems is FLEAS! Countless hours of sleep are lost listening to Bowser licking and scratching after the pesty varmints. Vacuum cleaners are burnt out in vain attempts to clean up after hair shed as a result

Dr. Richard Halliwell, chairman of the Department of Medical Sciences at UF's College of Veterinary Medicine, is conducting a \$70,000 flea-bite allergy study funded by Seeing Eye Inc. (through the Morris Animal Foundation) to determine what causes flea allergy reactions and why some dogs develop more severe allergies than others. By exposing animals to fleas in a controlled environment, Halliwell and co-researchers hope to develop a vaccination technique which will desensitize dogs to flea bite allergy or prevent its development.

The dogs are vaccinated with a pre-exposure flea extract at various dosages and frequencies and kept in a flea-free environment. Then two-inch square patches of skin are exposed to fleas (commercially bred insects which have not yet absorbed blood) and the animal's reactions are monitered.

"Flea-bite allergy is without question the most common canine skin disorder in the United States," Halliwell said. "It's the major problem for veterinarians, with such cases constituting 35 to 40 percent of the total veterinary practice."

There are already available vaccines for desensitization of both dogs and cats, but their success rate is only fair. While cats have a better that 50 percent chance in alleviating the problem, only about 20 percent of the dogs are helped.

Until a preventative procedure is perfected, Halliwell suggests that pet owners manage flea infestation by treating the environment as well as the pet. He warns, however, against using oral flea repellants because at least one of these products has proven toxic, causing neurological damage leading to paralysis. Others are safe, but have little if any effectiveness.

"There are only two ways one can really control fleas," he said. "One is to kill the flea and the other is to change the response of the body to the flea. We're engineering both approaches."

"Pot" and dogs

With the growing acceptance of marijuana combined with reduced penalties, (if any), on "social" marijuana smoking, the risk of Cannabis sativa poisoning in dogs grows. Not that dogs are "sharing a joint" with their owners, but lots of users lace cookies and brownies with marijuana, and knowing the affinity of dogs for homemade "goodies," veterinarians in several states are seeing cases of marijuana poisoning in dogs.

One dog in Alabama ate two oatmeal cookies with marijuana and went into a state of depression, incoordination, vomiting, diarrhea and a slight fever. It took induced vomiting and intravenous solutions to bring it back to a normal state. The process took 36 hours.

Depression, disorientation and a lack of coordination prove that marijuana attacks the nervous system of the dog. The ingredient tetrahydrocannobinol in marijuana can also affect the nerves of the digestive system.

Treatment calls for the evacuation of the digestive system of all poisonous material as soon as possible, plus drugs to stimulate the nervous system if necessary. Respiratory stimulants or even artificial respiration are often required. Recovery in most cases is slow since the poison has already entered the nervous system by the time the dog is brought to the animal clinic.

It might be fun and games to feed an Alice B. Toklas brownie to your dog, but the consequences are anything but funny, ... and could be fatal. By Arthur Case, D.V.M.

HOW NOT TO POISON YOUR PET

Pets are closely associated with the family and because of this, are often exposed to dangerous substances found around the home. Pet owners may not know that a certain plant or chemical can poison a pet or a child so no precautions are taken.

Some of the commonly reported instances of poisoning of a pet or child are the result of ingestion of highly poisonous ornamental plants, a prescription drug, pesticides, radiator coolant or a caustic chemical.

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

Cats as well as young children are highly susceptible to the aspirin group of medicines. Dogs and children will both eat mothballs (napthalene). Both children and dogs are easily poisoned by lead compounds because of their chewing habits. Putty, lead paint, linoleum base and caulking compounds are common sources of lead in the older houses built more than 25 years ago.

Pets as well as children have often been poisoned by some toxic substance placed in a milk bottle, soft drink bottle, or perhaps a drinking glass or other than the original container. Such poisons as nicotine sulfate (melon spray), the modern pesticides, cleaning agents, paint thinners, and such things as fertilizer or herbicides should never be placed in any container other than the original. Even adults have been poisoned by mistakes caused by putting a poisonous substance in a container ordinarily used for food or drink. Pets and small children are even less able to tell that a soft drink bottle contains a poison rather than something good to drink! One stricture housekeepers should obey is to lock the dog (or cat) out of the bathroom when the toilet boil is being cleansed by saniflush, copper sulfate or even pine oil. Many pets find the bathroom toilet bowl the ideal place to obtain a drink of cool, fresh water. Larger dogs soon learn how to flip the lid up to get a drink, so lock the dog out while using a strong chemical in the toilet bowl.

It would be impossible, in a short discussion, to mention all of the possible toxic hazards extant around the average home, but some examples taken from our teaching files as well as those reported in the literature will show how accidental poisonings come about.

TOXIC SHRUBS

Several instances where dogs have been poisoned by a plant or shrub resulted from tying the animal to the shrub. Yew bushes (Taxus spp.), oleanders (Nerium spp.), the goldenrain tree (Laburnum spp.), the soapberries and chinaberries, black locust (Robinia spp) and the beautiful flowering vine wisteria will all poison any dog that chews on or eats even a small amount of them. Cats occasionally eat plant material but they also scratch the plant and then lick their feet. Some of these toxic plants can poison such cats. Diffenbachia (dumbcane) is another very common ornamental that has very unpleasant effects on the pet that chews on it. Swellings develop in the throat that may restrict breathing and cause the animal to choke.

Many dogs and cats show no interest in the plants (shrubs, trees, flowering herbs) but others have to be continually chewing or scratching on something. Even sweet william (a member of the Pink family) has recently been the cause of a dog being presented as a patient — eating the flowers made him sick!

TOXIC MUSHROOMS & OTHER FUNGI

Many species of mushrooms are not toxic although not very edible, either. Such fungi, if ingested, may cause digestive disturbances but do not induce serious poisoning. One very deadly mushroom is the Amanita. Both cats and dogs may ingest such fungi with serious poisoning resulting. The pet may show no signs for several hours, then become violently ill with much vomiting, obvious pain in the digestive tract and diarrhea. This type of mushroom poisoning may resemble poisoning by phosphorus (old style rat poisons) and is very difficult for veterinarians to treat. The outlook is poor if these substances are swallow-

Owners who notice mushrooms (toadstools) growing about the place should not allow pets (or children) to have access to such fungi. Identifying harmless ones is a difficult and chancy task.

Moldy bread, and sometimes moldy cereal or other moldy foods may produce serious upsets in health. Such moldy food products should not be fed, or discarded where pets can have access to such.



ho me? Not my dog!...
But it could happen to your
dog. You probably find it hard to believe... after all, you are a responsible pet owner with a fenced yard.
But thousands of responsible (and
some who aren't so responsible) pet
owners lose their dogs every year.

A meter reader, a garbage collector, a careless child leaves a gate unlatched. Or your secure fence was not quite as secure as you thought or . . .

The possibilities are unlimited. The bottom line is that your dog is gone. And, if you are typical, the first reaction is disbelief and the second is panic.

Panic is the last thing you need right now. You've already convinced yourself that the impossible has really happened. You've made your first frantic search, calling and looking for your dog. And now you realize it is gone. Really gone. Now is the time to stop for a minute to formulate a calm, reasonable plan. If you are willing to devote lots of time and energy, and a little money, you stand a good chance of being reunited with your pet. But you need a plan.

First of all, you need help. Lots of it. All you can get. Fortunately, there's lots of it available if you go about it in the right way.

Your first project, after exhausting the obvious calls to shelter and neighbors and a search of the immediate neighborhood, is to compose a poster or "flyer" to describe to your dillemma and recruit that help. Describe the lost dog, including its name, and be sure to give your phone and area code. And include a photo of the dog. If you don't have a snapshot of the actual dog get one of a similiar dog. Dog magazines and dog books will have photos of all pure-bred dogs. Clip one out for your poster. The more complete you make your description the easier it will be for searchers to recognize the lost dog from others.

Lost dog

By Douglas Bundock

A reward will add an incentive to the search, but it should not be limited to the capture of the pet. After "running scared" for a while your dog may not allow a stranger to catch it. But if you state for "information leading to the safe return" you may still get the information that will allow you to find and retrieve your dog.

Don't panic and make the reward too high. Many of your searchers will be children and they will not relate to actually collecting and keeping some astronomical amount of money. Pick a generous, but realistic, figure and remember that the motivation for helping won't be entirely mercenary, anyway.

Use your phone book to find a "quick" printer. He will probably run off your "wanted" posters for you in an hour or two, and quite inexpensively. And now you are armed to start recruiting the help you will need to recover your lost pet.

Pack your car with the essentials. Take a big stack of reward posters, masking tape and thumb tacks to attach posters to telephone poles and bulletin boards, a leash and collar, a good strong flashlight for night-time searching, a thermos of coffee for yourself and a supply of dimes for telephone calls. Wear practical clothing and footgear since you may find yourself tramping through some rough terrain.

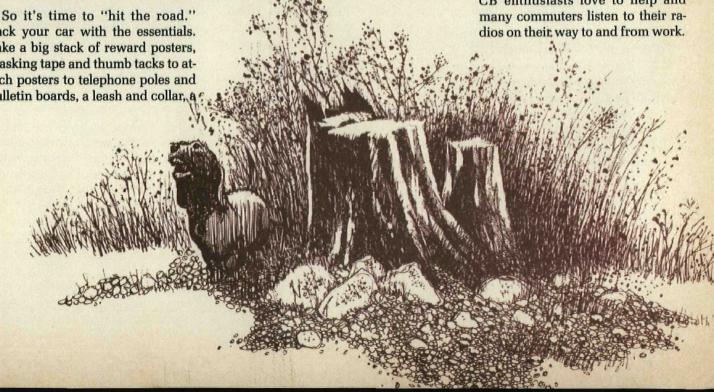
This should be a team effort. One person should remain at home base to wait for any callers who may be able to supply information. The home base can keep busy notifying animal shelters, radio stations, neighbors, kennels and veterinary clinics. Space the calls and make them brief. If someone spots your dog you don't want the line to be busy when they call! It's a good idea to take turns traveling and manning the home base.

Pet shops, feed stores, veterinary hospitals, animal shelters, bulletin boards are the obvious places for your lost dog bulletins. Once these sources are exhausted it's time for the not-so-obvious.

Your best help may come from those people who are very aware of dogs, and which dogs live where. Mail carriers, meter readers, and all sorts of deliverymen always know the dogs on their routes. They make it their business to know every dog at every house. And, by the same token, will be alerted to any strange new dog that appears. Make sure that every one of these people is alerted to watch for your missing

Next are the children. Not only do they know the dogs but dogs and children often gravitate to one another. And it can be a "fun game" for them to play detective on their way to and from school and while waiting for the school bus. Understanding teachers can help by announcing your problem to their classrooms and passing around a stack of your flyers.

Contact a citizen's band radio base station and have a description of the lost dog broadcast in your area. CB enthusiasts love to help and



Ranchers, farmers and stockmen may not be as en husiastic but can certainly advise you if there has been a strange dog crossing their lands and pastures. Unusual, restless behavoir by livestock is one strong clue. Another is the sudden "alarm" barking of resident farm dogs, alerting of an intruder.

Make a map of the directions in which your pet may have traveled and insert a flyer in each mail box along the route. The more people who know about it, the better.

While you are out looking stop at phones regularly to report to your home base. If someone has spotted your dog and called, you may not have very long to follow the clue successfully.

Don't think that just because you have walked or driven a route once that your dog isn't there. It could have been behind a tree under bushes, or even arrive just after you have left. Keep covering the most promising routes over and over again.

Once separated from the security of home and family a dog may be come frightened and confused. He may be nearby and hiding, afraid to come into the open even if he hears you calling.

If you don't find your pet the first day or two, don't despair. Most dogs can live a long time on their body reserves and can usually find some source of water. Sometimes they will adopt another family and it may take time for that family to put you and your dog together again.

There are many cases of dogs who have been successfully recovered after having been lost for many days or weeks. Some even for months! Inyou follow all these ideas your chances are quite good for recovering your lost pet. When you do don't make the mistake of welcoming him home with a big feast. He'll be stressed and tired and your "feast" may be more than his poor stomach can handle. Small, bland meals will be in order for a while. If he is extremely thirsty give him ice cubes instead of water to keep him from bloating on water.

Check your dog thoroughly, inch by inch, for any wounds he may have encountered during his travels. And get him to a veterinarian for a checkup as soon as possible. Count your blessings and, needless to say, be more careful next time!

SPEND LESS AND GET MORE?

In these days of soaring prices it is always a surprise to get more of anything for less money! But that's what we are doing for you at Todays Animal News.

We have incorporated our old newsprint format into your new and enlarged magazine. The magazine will now be one third larger and come to you bi-monthly. It will contain even more timely stories, articles and pictures. It will provide additional space to bring you longer and more indepth stories.

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It's a tough life now for **Horse thieves**

NEW PROCESS HARD ON HORSE THIEVES

Life gets tougher for horse thieves all the time. And especially in the state of Washington. It used to be that all you had to do was to truck your horses to the slaughter house and say, "Yep, that horse is mine." That was about the only proof of ownership required.

Things aren't that simple now and it gets harderfor an enterprising horse thief to earn a livelihood all the time. As a result of the change in state law, slaughter house employees must now ask for a certificate that not only identifies the legal owner, but also the freeze marked horse - - - down to the most minute detail.

This new mandate, as well as other effects of the revised law, signal "a victory in the continuing battle against horse theft" says Pat Farrell, a horse identification expert at the Washington State University veterinary college.

"It'll be extremely difficult now for a thief to make any money at the slaughter house - - - if she or he has made the mistake of stealing a freeze-marked horse," said Farrell.

Freeze-marking is a painless method of identifying horses with an unalterable, instantly recognizable set of symbols. The late Dr. Keith Farrell, a WSU veterinary scientist, developed the marking method and the numerical symbols in the 60s, while his wife, Pat, invented the alphabetical symbol system.

Through the use of a superchilled branding iron, symbols representing a breed registry or state, the horse's date of birth, and an individual number are permanently imprinted near the base of the horse's mane. These symbols, as well as numerous physical characteristics peculiar to that horse, are recorded on a certificate, or what Farrell calls a "signalment key."

"About 20,000 to 25,000 horses are currently being freeze-marked each year in the United States by three licensed organizations, the Bureau of Land Management, The Arabian Horse Registry, and Kyro Kinetics, Inc.," explained Farrell, who manages Kyro Kinetics.

Before last summer, the Washington state Livestock Brand Act required that every identification symbol be recorded with the state's brand office by the horse owner. But lawmakers were convinced that this would create a massive mountain of paperwork to accomplish.

In Washington livestock inspectors are now required to check the identification papers of freezemarked horses at slaughter houses, as well as public sales and before interstate travel.

And instead of having to record each symbol with the state office, the state now recognizes the prefixes used by the freeze-marking organizations. "For example, when our technicians freeze-mark a grade horse, the first symbol applied represents a "W" for the state of Washington," said Farrell.

She added that if a livestock inspector pinpoints a stolen horse, the inspector can check on the real owner's identity by contacting the state, the organization that marked the horse, the breed registry, or the National Crime Information Computer, which as of 1980 began accepting data on stolen freezemarked horses.

Currently, freeze-marking --which is formally referred to as the International Identification System -- is in use for horses in 19 countries on four continents, according to Farrell.

However, acceptance of freezemarking in the United States has lagged behind other countries, such as England where fire branding is illegal, and New Zealand and Australia where laws mandate that all racing standardbreds be identified with freeze-marking.



Older cats often spend more time in quiet contemplation

Photo by Diane M. Bellavia

The senior citizen cat.

When is a cat old? Like humans, it varies between individuals but you can figure on a cat 10 years of age or older is either in or on the threshold of senior citizen status. A slowing down of physical activities is one sign. In dark-haired cats, gray hairs will often appear to give a "grizzled" look about the muzzle, but like humans, this is not a reliable indicator of old age.

Condition of the teeth is another yardstick. Also, if the cats seems to be having kidney problems this could be another indicator. It seems the elderly feline is highly susceptible to kidney problems.

Cat owners can take several steps to prolong their pet's life, besides the routine once-a-year checkup at the veterinary clinic. Your veterinarian may suggest certain vitamin and mineral boosters which will help compensate for a reduction in the cat's normal metabolic system.

At home, cut down on the cat's food since it is not as active and obesity is a prime enemy of the cat's heart and kidneys. Don't give it salty foods since they place another extra burdon on the heart, and be sure plenty of fresh water is always available. Lack of fresh water can lead to kidney and urinary tract

problems. Check the teeth often since bad teeth can develop into dental abscesses. Bacterial infections in the mouth can often lead to infections in other areas of the body such as kidney, liver and heart.

The older cat should be kept indoors as much as possible to avoid auto traffic, exposure to infectious diseases, parasites, and belligerent neighborhood cats. With a little special care and thought on your part your cat may live out all nine lives to their fullest.

What you can do

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In The Company of Cats 1983

a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this calendar will be donated to the Humanie Society of the United States

A YEAR OF BEAUTIFUL CATS!

Friendly cats abound in Bo-Tree Productions' 1983 In The Company Of Cats calendar. Full-color photos capture twelve felines in a variety of cat-like activities and moods. The calendar will be available in many gift and bookstores and a portion of the proceeds from sales will be donated to the Humane Society of the United States.

CAT FUR SCHEME

Then there's the story about Charles Carroll of Baltimore who, back in 1847, heard the report that coats made from black cat fur were all the rage in China.

In the spirit of American free enterprise, he rounded up all the black cats he could get any way he could, bought them, traded for them, or just picked up black strays. He offered 25 cents for each black cat, and then took his collection of felines to a small island in Chesapeake Bay... which he owned. Carroll figured a winter on the island with plenty of fish to eat and spring water to drink, he'd return in the spring and find the island crawling with black pelts of all sizes.

But he didn't figure on a winter that froze Chesapeake Bay. The cats, also in the spirit of American free enterprise, all walked across the ice to better quarters. Come springtime the island was deserted.

LAP CAT ALTERNATIVE

Do you have a cat that's determined to get on your lap no matter how inconvenient it may be to you? Like when you are trying to read a heavy book? Some cats accept a newspaper as an alternative. No, that doesn't mean you have to drop the book and switch to a newspaper. But try putting a crinkly piece of newspaper on the chair or couch next to you. It may take several stern demonstrations that the paper is just as good as your lap, but many cats will reluctantly, if not cheerfully, accept the alternative.

His amber eyes
Are very friendly, very wise;
Like Buddha, grave and fat,
He sits, regardless of applause,
And thinking, as he kneads his
paws,
What fun to be a cat!

Christopher Moorely.

A warm memory... Meeting marvelous Mother Cecelia Mary

Such warm hospitality was totally unexpected and welcome! I had arrived on Vancouver Island, Canada, with more than a dozen dogs scheduled to be shown at a series of shows in the Victoria area but, being an American, I was unprepared for the shortage of motel facilities in Canada 20 years ago. After hours of fruitless driving, rejection and "no vacancy" signs I was exhausted and frustrated.

A friend finally suggested I try a Catholic priory outside of town. It seemed ridiculous to me. I wasn't Catholic and certainly not eligible to be taken into a priory anyway. But I was desperate enough to snatch at any straws.

My predicament was explained to the nuns who greeted me and one of them asked me to wait while she discussed it with a superior. Certain of the decision, I waited hopelessly. My poor showdogs were growing more restless by the hour. They had traveled more than 1,000 miles and badly needed to exercised, fed, watered and bedded down for the night.

But imagine my complete surprise. Mother Cecelia Mary was not only only happy to provide shelter for me and my dogs (at a very reasonable charge) but also sent word that she planned to make her debut in the show ring with one her own dogs tomorrow,



Everyone was most helpful as I unloaded and exercised my dogs and got myself settled in my new quarters. Although it was late when I completed my chores I decided to try and find this warm and understanding person to express my gratitude.

Feeling quite ill at ease I wandered across the road and through a small pine woods to the secluded quarters that housed the nuns.

I'm sure that few males had ever ventured into these quarters, especially at that late hour. But when I asked how I might find Mother Cecelia I was promptly given directions to her quarters. Once there I was greeted warmly by the Mother and her assistant. In an attempt to repay her hospitality I had brought a special show-type leash as a gift and the offer to help prepare her dog for its appearance in the show ring.

Todays Animal News

My offers were accepted with the hand-clapping enthusiasm of a school girl. On meeting the bright-eyed Mother I had the feeling that she should have been cast in a movie with Bing Crosby and Pat O'Brien.

She was breeding keeshonden, she happily explained, and had a young litter of puppies and would I like to see them? The hour was approaching midnight and I wondered about the propriety of a man in these hallowed all-female halls.

We pawed through puppies, talked about show dogs, dogs, and dogs and other animals in need of help. And the germ of her idea of a different kind of shelter for animals in need surfaced.

The next few days I showed my dogs and I don't really remember whether they won or lost. But I do remember the Mother showing, in her traditional habit. And doing a pretty good job of presenting her dog. And winning!

Over the years I have attended hundreds of dog shows across the U.S. and in Canada, but my stay at the priory will always remain as one of the most pleasant and memorable. I have followed the unique struggle of Mother Cecelia Mary from afar. The memory of her sparkling enthusiasm is as clear yesterday,

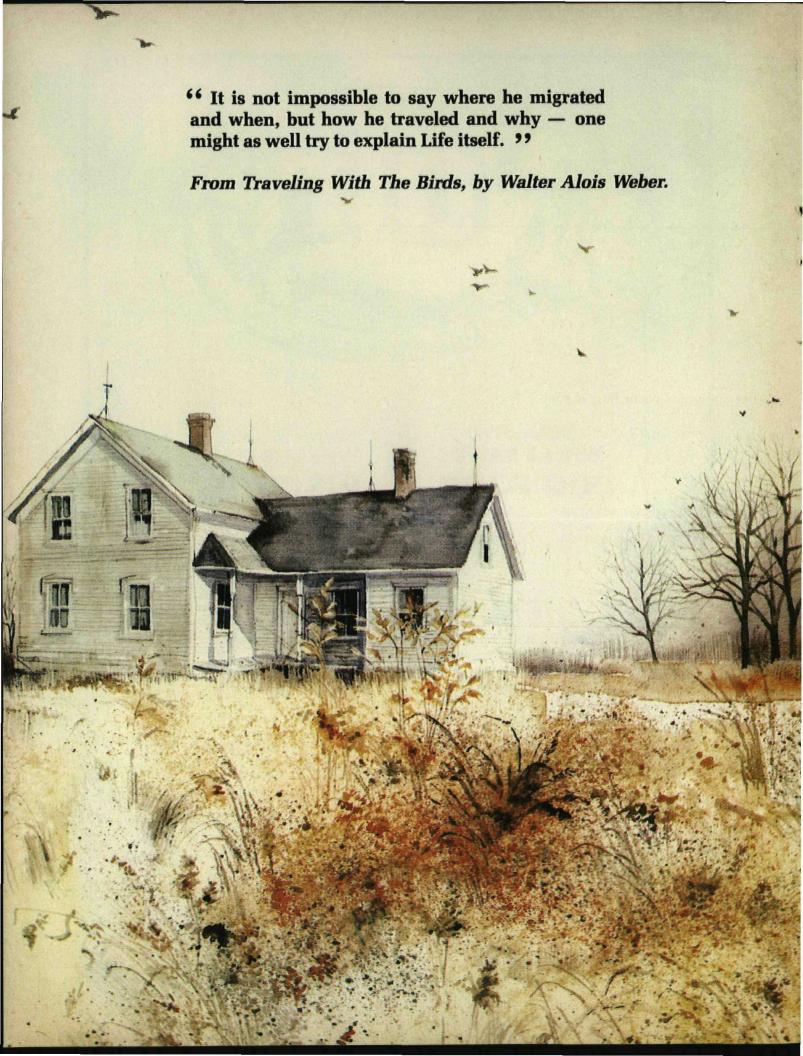
Today her beloved shelter faces a new struggle for survival. The sanctuary has been overtaken by progress. It stands in the way of building developments. The animals must leave.

A home in California (near Sacramento) awaits. But building new facilities and moving a couple of hundred foundlings is a staggering undertaking. And an expensive one.

Additional funds must be raised to save the dedicated work of Mother Cecelia Mary and establish a new home. The issue is not a religious one. The issue is saving a very special care and love for helpless animals. You can help with donations to: Good Shepherd Shelter Foundation, 3297 Telegraph Road, R.R. 2, Mill Bay, British Columbia VOR 2PO,

I'm sending mine today. How about you?

By Doug Bundock



Well-meaning humans disturb The magic of migration

Thousands of well-meaning, bird loving Americans often begin to feed wild birds at this time of year. Bright-colored birds abound and it's fun to see them hopping about your yard and bird-feeders. But without some long-range planning this well-intentioned feeding can result in tragedy later on.

The Animal Protection Institute has a warning about this: If you start, don't stop.

As harsher weather arrives, the birds who have become dependent on a food supply from humans can suffer if the food is suddenly withdrawn by on-and-off samaritans who don't understand the bird habitat.

Narca Moore-Craig. specialist on bird-lore and bird-life says that "start and stop" feeding can endanger wintering bird populations. The birds may collect at feeders and become too concentrated to survive on natural food supplies when humans tire of feeding. Inconsistency, by human bird-feeders, can be the path to serious trouble during harsh winter months.

Here are some do's and don'ts that could affect the fate of these feathered friends:

- DO be old-fashioned about your cat if there are lots of birds coming by. Bell him with a carefully selected bell collar. Yhis old idea still works... and deserves a revival.
- DON'T listen to those who suggest honey for hummingbirds. It can make a fungus grow on their tongues. Pet centers can supply you with vitamin supplements to add to sugar water.

- DO your best to fight against the unnecessary use of pesticides with harmful side effects. These are the primary cause of the decline in many bird populations.
- DON'T build your birdhouse without a preliminary trip to your public library. Bluebirds need homes built to exact specifications details are involved in attracting the birds you want by knowing their needs.
- DO put out sunflower seeds if you'd like such spectacular visitors as the grosbeak. These heavier billed birds can crack such seeds (many other birds can't) and you can attract some woodland friends you might otherwise miss.
- DON'T worry about "drunk" birds. Certain types of overripe berries induce bird behavoir that resembles that of a human drunk... but they sober up on their own and are usually fine (we don't know if they have hangovers.)
- DO be a careful, non-obtrusive watcher and you'll find that the birds have fascinating habits you can study and enjoy. There are, for instance, types of woodpeckers who go shopping for homes; male and females often peck agreement when they find an acceptable home. Current bird literature is rife with findings on the meanings of particular calls made by different

species. Scientists are discovering that, besides carrying the tune of their own species and region, various birds alter the songs individualistically, conveying (for other birds, at least) territorial needs, courtship patterns and other interactions.

- DO try to keep your community from converting so completely to real estate developments that every old orchard in the area is destroyed. Lingering old orchards are Eden to birds; their complete destruction can be the end of paradise.
- DO watch for birds in a drought. A pan of water in an open space can be a boon to birds during dry periods. In an article in Animals magazine, bird experts Jan and Will Curtis noted "While the insect-eater and the berry-eater may get some moisure from the high water content of caterpillars and berries, the seed-eaters may avoid your home unless they are assured a good supply of fresh water."

Above all, says API's Narca Moore-Craig, don't plunge into bird-attracting with enthusiasm unless you can keep it up during the winter, too. Without realizing it, humans have changed the habits of entire bird populations. The migratory patterns of wild birds have been altered by well-meaning human interference. It's been noted that bird-feeders in New England led mockingbirds and cardinals to stay up north and forego their seasonal migration to the South. Amateur naturalists can thrive on the comings and goings of birds . . . but if you really care for them, be concerned about the effects of your interaction with them!

One cannot think of the travel of birds without realizing what wonderful journeys they make. If, in proportion to his size, a man traveled as far as a Rufus Hummingbird does between its summer and winter homes, he would be able to go half the distance from the earth to the sun, forty-five million miles in two months. ??

What to do when The lights go off!

POWER OUTAGE PROBLEMS

"Where were you when the lights went out?" might sound like the introduction to a joke . . . but to the owner of a tankful of expensive fish without aeration and heat for several hours it is big trouble.

Winter and fall storms often bring downed power lines and darkened homes. And in rural areas it may be several hours before the power company gets around to repairs. Cats and dogs and birds can see through it with comparative ease as long as their owners have candles and hand operated can openers . . . and a supply of water for the home that depends on electric pumps and well water. (We're assuming that the rural dweller keeps a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator and maybe a rain barrel outside for emergency use.)

The simplest method of providing oxygen to the fish when the power is out is to simply change the existing water. It's the movement of the water that creates oxygen, not just the amount of bubbles. By setting up a siphon system with a length of hose and a clean plastic or glass container, your're in business. Let the water splash into the container set lower than the tank to get as much oxygen as possible into it.

When the container is full, pour it back into the tank. Do this ten times with a one-gallon container and you will have completely "changed" the water in a ten gallon tank.

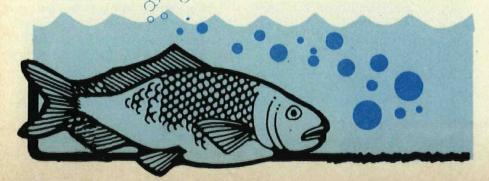
You can be fancy by using two containers, one above and one below the fish tank. You can get even fancier by pouring the water back into the tank through a flower pot (clean) with a layer of charcoal or filter material in the bottom. Before electric aerators were invented, tropical fish hobbyists used a variation on this method and the fish did very well.

Controlling the loss of heat can be accomplished by insulating the sides of the tank with a blanket to keep the water warm. But, it's not a good idea to cover the top since the surface of the water is where the oxygen is coming from when the aerator is out.

of If you live in an area where winter storms cause frequent power outages, you might check into pet shops and tropical fish supply catalogs for battery-powered aerators and heaters. They even have hand-operated aerators, but these require constant pumping by shifts of household members.

Oxygen starved fish will move very little, gasp at the surface for air and then swim close to the bottom of the tank. Some species of fish are more susceptible to oxygen deprivation than others, but if one species is having trouble, you can be pretty sure others will soon begin to show the same symptoms.

With the storm season upon us you can make the power outages go smoothly by having all alternate equipment ready and in an easy to find spot when the house suddenly goes dark.



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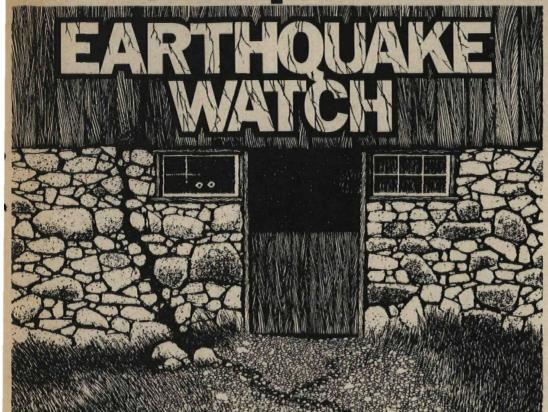
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Earthquake watch folds



FUNDING CUTS CLOSE PROGRAM

Can animals sense and predict earthquakes before they happen? Could this special awareness be harnessed to provide humans with an early warning alert to possible quakes?

For a hundred years or more humans have recounted instances in which animals have demonstrated unusual behavior prior to earthquakes. Some of the most remarkable of these incidents have related to gold fish in Japan, and this been credited with actual prequake predictions.

Project Earthquake Watch was established about five years ago to attempt to prove the feasibility of this theory. A network of animal owners was established to report and record any unusual actions prior to known tremors. A special "hot-line" was used and any reports that preceded quakes were evaluated. (It's common for animal owners to report after a quake that their animals had reacted strangely before the quake, but these reports have to be discounted.)

California was chosen as an obvious site for the test because of the frequency of quakes in this state. The program was born and operations were based at SRI International, in Menlo Park, California, with most of the funding coming from the Federal government.

1,500 animal owners were recruited to report all unusual behavior. Dogs, cats, horses, cows, birds and fish were all included. Reports were then tabulated, evaluated and weighed against any future earthquake activities.

During the study thirteen earthquakes of moderate magnitude occurred near or on the fringes of the network of observers. Of these, seven were preceded by enough hot-line reports of unusual animal behavior that the results were statistically significant.

"Only one of these seven, however, was a truly impressive hit," reports the Earthquake Watch Newsletter. "The Fremont earthquake (of 4.3 magnitude) was preceded by 21 hot-line reports during the 30-day period before the earthquake. The number of reports expected for this region for the same 30-day period was less than one. The probability of this result being due to chance alone was one in 20,000."

Although impressive, one "hit" doesn't prove the case in research of this type.

"We needed at least one more good hit, preferably in another region of California, to encourage the powers that be that more funding is justified," said Project Leader Leon Otis.

And Federal funding for the program has been terminated. The final newsletter has been printed, and service on the telephone hotline has been discontinued. Project Earthquake Watch is no more.

Participants are wistfully hopeful that new life will be provided to the study in the future. Perhaps, they say, some interested "angel" will come along with private funding.

But, for now, Project Earthquake Watch is history.

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Hang this DOORBIRD alarm from the inside door knob, and it will sing when the outside knob is touched by hand or metal object. It is so sensitive a gloved hand will trigger it. And yet it is reliable, never any maltrigger by noise, temperature or humidity, drift, or aging of battery, A nine volt battery gives three months of continuous operation and an alkaline type for more than half a year. It is easy to use, simply hang it from the door knob, switch on and it will be alert in ten seconds. It is light weight and handy, a convenience for travelers.

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Cobra cure

ARTHRITIS AND COBRA

Cobra venom has been recommended for the treatment of arthritis in people for many years, but it has not exactly been given the stamp of approval of the medical community. As you might expect, veterinarians and veterinary researchers are also slow moving on the use of cobra venom to treat arthritis in dogs. But the results so far have made a strong case for the venom in combatting the pain and resulting physical disability of the arthritic canine.

Diluted cobra venom is distributed under the trade name Cobroxin, supplied in capsules of 50 "mouse units" each. The venom is also supplied in more dilute versions for smaller dogs. The use of Cobroxin is indicated when routine pain relievers, such as aspirin, fail to alleviate the situation. A veterinary clinic in Vienna, Virginia has used Cobroxin in 600 cases of arthritic dogs in the past decade with excellent results."

Injections are given at five to seven day intervals and it usually takes three to five doses before the effects are evident. In severe cases. ten or twelve doses are needed before the dog begins to show freedom from pain and disability. The venom is always bracketed by antihistamine injections, before the shot and the second five hours after. This is to minimize any adverse reactions of the venom. In about two per cent of the cases, vomiting will result, usually about eight hours after the second or third doses.

The value of this therapy is after the series is completed. The dog has prolonged periods of freedom from pain and disability. . . months to a year or more. The number of doses needed depends on the severity of the arthritis and the size of the dog. A repeated series, usually a lesser number of shots, can also be given after the first series has worn off.

Until researchers find a cure for arthritis, aspirin in mild cases and cobra venom in more severe cases offer an alternative in providing an active and pain-free life for the arthritic dog.

CONDOR LIKES NEW HOME

The kidnapping was legal but that was small consolation for the parents. While a proud pair of condor parents were out hunting the U.S. Fish and Game Service swooped into the nest and spirited away the only chick in the nest. It is now being raised by humans at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. When the parents discovered the loss they wandered aimlessly around, searching for their missing offspring. Meanwhile, the baby condor is happily dancing around, gobbling down about 50 mice every other day. Condors are close to extinction and researchers believe that the total population is only about 30 birds. They hope to start a captive population.

Our cover

"WALKIN' THE DOG ..."

It's fall. Snatches of summer linger on . . . but there is also a touch of crispness, turning leaves into a final flash of dying color. Winter is on the way. It's time for those last brisk walks in the pause between fall and winter. And photographer Missy Yuhl captures it all in this dramatic shot.

The dog is the Brussels Griffen Champion Wallen's Charlie Brown, owned by Miss Sachiko Takada. He is a multiple Best-In-Show winner and one of the all-time winning Brussels.

Photo by Missy Yuhl, courtesy of Kennel Review magazine.





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That "Bargain" Bird!

BUYING BARGAIN BIRDS IS OFTEN COSTLY

M s. "R" recently made the buy of a lifetime. At a swap meet-flea market in Spring Valley, she bought two half moon conures and a red-eyed lory for a tiny fraction of the prices quoted at pet shops. Only one problem. All three birds died within a week.

Not much she could do about it either. All she knew about the salesperson was the girl's name, Jean. She had no receipt for the cash purchase.

The dead birds were sent to a poultry disease diagnostic laboratory in San Diego for testing. The laboratory report came back—exotic Newcastle disease, a foreign virus disease of poultry and pet birds.

United States birds do not have this disease. Quarantine programs run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) made sure that all legally imported birds are free of the disease before being allowed into the country.

Conclusion, the birds bought at bargain prices were probably smuggled into the country.

Ms. R had no other birds at home, so the disease "stopped" with her three bargains. How different the story could have been if she had had an aviary of healthy birds. They would have become infected with the highly contagious disease.

Or, had she lived in a poultry raising area, those bargain birds could have been the start of another exotic Newcastle disease epidemic, like the one that devastated southern California in the early 1970's. That outbreak

caused the death or destruction of some 12 million birds, mostly laying hens. It cost taxpayers about \$56 million to eradicate the disease.

With nothing more to go on than a hazy description of "Jean," it's doubtful that federal or state veterinarians will be able to find this individual, the source of her birds or any others that she may have sold. Bird lovers can only hope that any other birds she sold died in private homes. Void of other birds, buried in a backyard or sanitary landfill, such birds cease to be a danger.

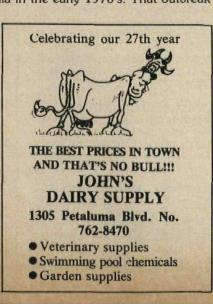
Exotic Newcastle disease is not usually a human health hazard. It is harmless to consumers of eggs or poultry meat. However, people handling infected birds have developed mild eye infections, which should be treated by a physician.

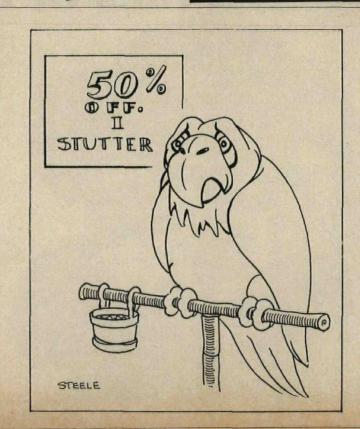
According to state-federal veterinarians trying to stop outbreak of bird diseases in California, people offered birds at suspiciously low prices can help themselves by avoiding purchasing such birds. Further, they can help stem the flow of smuggled birds by getting as much information as they can about people offering such bird bargains—license plate numbers, descriptions of vehicles, etc—and contacting the U.S. Customs Service director of investigations

Exotic birds make great pets. Healthy exotic birds make even better pets. To really enjoy a pet bird, be sure that you buy a healthy one. It will live a lot longer than Ms. R's bargain.

CHECK YOUR







NEW HIPS FOR DOGS

HIP REPLACEMENTS SUCCESSFUL

It's a case of cautious optimism on replacing hip bones with a prosthetic device. But the Canine Hip Committee of the Veterinary Orthopedic Society reports a 93 per cent success ratio in 195 cases. Admittedly a small sample, they'd like to see thousand cases of successful hip replacement before announcing any form of true success.

Canine hip problems stem from poor interaction at the point where the thigh bone fits into the pelvis. This ball and socket malfunction is most often seen in canine hip dysplasia. Fractures of the hip often cause similar problems.

Of the 195 cases reported by the committee, 134 returned to perfectly normal function, a detectable limp was reported in 47 cases, four had slight impairment of function, eight had considerable impairment of function and two cases were total failures.

The procedure uses two dissimiliar materials: usually metal for the head of the thigh bone or femur, and a hard plastic for the acetabulum, or portion of the pelvis where the femoral head fits. The first total canine replacement was accomplished in 1955, and progress has been steadily advancing since then. Each September a course of study on the surgery is given at Ohio State University and attracts an increasing number of veterinary orthopedic surgeons each year.

But this not a problem peculiar to dogs alone. Humans also suffer from the same affliction. And the work done on dogs today may help humans tomorrow.

In California last year there were 559 cases of rabies reported. If your pet is not current on rabies vaccination, this would be a good time to bring his protection up-to-date.

NARC DOGS LOSE AGAIN

Drug sniffing dogs lost still another round in their role as crime fighters. The police dogs had been used to search and find illegal narcotics in the parking lot of the Prairie Du Chien, Wis., High School. But when police tried to employ the same method in the halls and lockers of the school local authorities drew the line. Parking lots were okay, because the cars did not belong to the school, school authorities explained. But uncovering drugs within the school itself was, in their belief, an "indiscriminate search."

Canine narc agents have been banned from searching within the school buildings in Wisconsin. Two suits are presently being heard in the courts to determine the legality of parking lot searches. Meanwhile, the canine sniffers are in the "dog house."



SUGAR AND DOGS ...

A weight conscious America has condemned sugar, and some of this condemnation has spread to dog owners who look upon sugar as a villain in their pet's diet.

Truth is, sugar is a valuable carbohydrate, needed for energy and a balanced diet. Much of the grains in dog food contain sugar and if this, along with other carbohydrates were not in the dog food, a dietary imbalance would be the result. If the dog has no carbohydrates, it would utilize proteins for energy, and proteins perform a more valuable function in building and maintaining body tissues.

Sugar does not cause cavities as easily as it does in humans in teeth. The enzymes in a dog's saliva are different than human's. Digestion of carbohydrates begins in a human's mouth, but in a dog this process doesn't start until the food enters the stomach.

This does not mean your dog can consume candy bars several times a day and not feel any ill effects. But it does mean a fanatical deprivation of sugar from the dog's diet can lead to dietary imbalances. There is a common sense middle ground.

FLYING PENGUINS

These highly specialized birds do fly, in a sense, underwater. Their wings are powerful flappers which propel them through the water swiftly, as fast as 22 miles an hour.





Fifteen-year-old Alan Friel of Marietta, Georgia, won a Certificate of Merit in the 1981 Scout Photo Scholarship Awards for this picture of a frog on a log. The annual competition is sponsored by the Eastman Kodak Company.



This dramatic shot of a seagull landing on the waterfront in Seattle won the first place \$1,000 award in the 1981 Scout Photo scholarship Awards sponsored by Eastman Kodak Company. It was taken by Scott Tracy, 14, of Kent, Wash.



Country Times



can you depend on it? J. F. Smithcors, DVM

BLACK CATS BRING BAD LUCK

Do black cats bring bad luck? Many think they do, especially if one happens to cross their path. In ancient Greece a black cat was considered an omen of death, and ever since there have been countless stories of black phantom cats envisioned by dying persons or their relatives. In Germany a well established belief - superstition if you will - was that if a black cat jumped onto the bed of an ill person, it foretold his approaching death. And if vou were French, a black cat crossing your path in the moonlight was a certain indication that you would die within the year. To the Chinese, black cats have been an omen of sickness and poverty.

In our culture black for years was associated with all things bad and abominable. Thus the blacker the night the blacker the deed, which is understandable, since darkness can hide any number of perils that might easily be avoided in daylight. Those who believe in witches "know" they travel by night, and by dressing in black, how better to avoid detection until the propitious moment? By blending into the night, the black cats they kept as "familiars" were perfect companions whose stealthy ways added to the sinister connotation of witchcraft.

So firm was the association of witches with cats that substantial citizens reported seeing witches transform themselves into cats. One such legend concerns a woman who disappeared from home every night. Upon following her one evening, her husband was astonished to see her transform herself into a black cat. Then invoking the name of the Devil, she cast off to sea in a sieve along with seven other black cats. The horrified husband promptly invoked the name of the Trinity, thus upsetting the sieve and drowning its unholy crew.

Witches were believed to assemble at gatherings called Sabbats, some of which were held in places so well known as to be identified on maps as late as the mid-18th century. The Devil himself was said to preside at these conclaves, usually in the form of a he-goat but sometimes as a black cat. When the Sabbat was over, the witches reputedly flew home on a broomstick or a black cat. As related by one authority on witchcraft and magic: "Cats held an important place in sorcery, principally black cats. which were and still are regarded as demons incarnate or transformed witches. It is on this latter count that in recent centuries peasants all over Europe make hecatombs (sacrifices) of black cats, thinking thus to destroy the witches they accused of having bewitched them. It follows quite naturally that every graphic representation of an episode in sorcery should include a cat.'

During long periods, black cats were equally unlucky in other respects. In a sense, they brought bad luck to themselves merely by being black. Thus an old Scottish remedy for blindness requires one to: "Take the head of a black cat, which hath not a spot of another color in it, and burn it to powder in an earthen pot; then take this powder, and, through a quill, blow it thrice a day into thy eye." Cats have long been associated with healing and, as indicated by the foregoing, this has not always been to their benefit.

In parts of England the tail of a black cat figured in a number of remedies. For any kind of an itch a left-handed man should whirl the cat three times around his head, then prepare an ointment containing nine drops of blood from a black cat's tail. For a sty, a person in Northamptonshire could pluck a hair from the tip of a black cat's tail on the first night of a new moon and draw it nine times across the swollen eyelid. This may have been more insult than injury to the cat, but "it is possible to avoid sickness in the family altogether if you can bring yourself to cut off a black cat's tail and bury it under your doorstep."

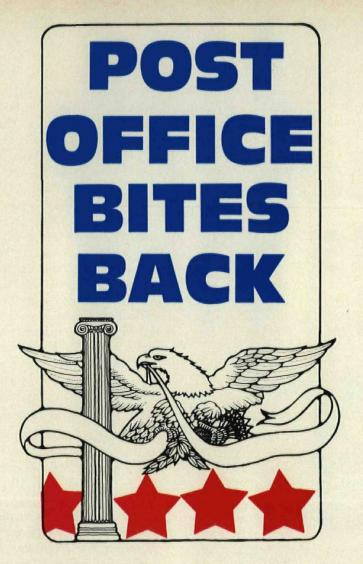
In other places the cat was dealt with more gently in the application of its reputed healing power. Thus in Japan it was believed that a black cat placed on the stomach of a person could cure spasms, melancholia and epilepsy. In ancient Egypt, black cats

were considered as omens of good luck and as such were worshipped. But their sacred status apparently did not prevent some from being killed and embalmed to be buried with notable persons. Others were luckier in being allowed to live out their lives, and upon their death they were embalmed and consecrated to the catgoddess. Later generations were less reverent. During the late 19th century literally tons of cat mummies were disinterred and sold as fertilizer.

This brings us back to the original question: Do black cats bring bad luck? What constitutes luck - good or bad is often in the mind of the believer. and for centuries the beliefs of various peoples boded ill for cats, especially if they were black. Better treatment in some times and places notwithstanding, for the most part cats have been maligned, largely because their silent and stealthy ways have been misunderstood and therefore suspect. And in this regard the black cat was the most sinister of all.

People today - including many who are otherwise rational - will change their course to avoid having a black cat cross their paths. Such persons may congratulate themselves upon having circumvented the bad luck that might otherwise have befallen them. But whose fault is it if, in a futile attempt to avoid such a catastrosphe, the true believer is injured?





The Post Office has been taking a healthy bite out of our income for years but, according to the U.S. Postal Service, American dogs have also been taking some bites out of those not-so-intrepid carriers of the mail. In fact, more than 5,700 postal employees were victims of canine attacks last year. And the postal workers are biting back.

"Neither rain nor sleet nor dark of night"... doesn't include dog bites and James Van Loozen, of the Washington Postal Service, says "It is a national epidemic... and it has got to stop."

Owners of dogs that nip (or even threaten) mail carriers can have their mail delivery stopped. In some cases residents of an entire city block may have to do without their junk mail. Biting dogs can be forced to endure a quarantine. And mail carriers have the option of filing a

lawsuit. Backed by a federal ruling that states: it is Federal offense to assault a postal employee. Even if you are a dog.

The majority of bites are inflicted on new or substitute mail carriers. The veterans have usually long since learned how to cope with the problem. Many of the bites are triggered by green carriers who panic when threatened by pooches. Kicking, running, and swinging mail bags often change simple challenges to real attacks. Some carriers pack cannisters of spray called "Halt." But the use of the Mace-like spray can sometimes backfire, turning a barking dog into a biting one.

The newest anti-dog weapon to be employed by mail carriers is called the "dog-brella" and is really just a simple pop-open umbrella. The postman is instructed to snap it open in the face of the would-be attacker and use it as a shield. The desired effect is to confuse the aggressive canine.

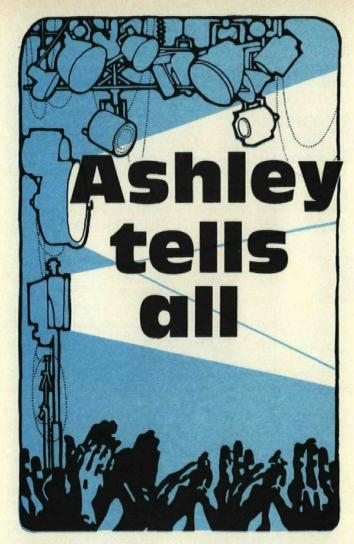
However, lugging around an additional piece of equipment may prove about as popular as the 20-cent-stamp. Along more popular lines *Todays Animal News* suggests some effective ideas for pet owners, postal carriers, and other delivery folks. (These ideas can apply as well to meter readers, milkmen, garbage collectors, etc.)

- Don't panic. Stay calm and quiet. Yelling and leaping around is a good way to turn a harmless barker into a biter. If you stand perfectly still you will greatly reduce your chance of being bitten. The dog may circle and sniff you, but it is a very rare dog that bites a completely quiet and non-moving object. It takes great determination on your part but it is the best defense.
- Bring a few treats with you. Dog biscuits are often a winner. When that canine terror comes charging out of the bushes toss it a treat and a friendly greeting. It's hard to be fierce with someone who brings gifts.
- Find out the name of the protective pooch, and greet him with it.
 "Hello, Teddy, how are you today?" can be a disarming salutation for a dog who had considered you to be an outsider.
- If the dog has had any obedience training try giving it a command that it knows, like "sit" or "down". Even if it does not obey you, this will put it on the defensive by failing to obey.
- Avoid staring directly into the eyes of the dog, since this can be considered to be a challenge by the dog. Keep your wits about you, keep calm, and you may keep from getting bitten. Good luck!

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The following is an exclusive interview with a canine who has become a legend in his time . . . Ashley Whippet who has become synonymous with the Fris bee.

In fact, the world series of flying discs has now become known officially as the Ashley Whippet Invitational in honor of the threetime world champion. News stories and press releases about the famous Frisbee fetcher would fill volumes. Ashley is even represented by a New York public relations firm. But we weren't really interested in the usual "canned" press hand-outs. We wanted to know first hand (first-paw?) what it was really like to be a real celebrity. And so with the help of a translator (Alex Stein). . .

TODAYS ANIMAL NEWS: Ashley, thousands of dogs owe the popularity of Frisbee catching to you. How did you become a star?

ASHLEY WHIPPET: Well, really by accident. As a puppy I was given to my owner and trainer, Alex Stein.

And I grew up as his constant companion. He didn't have a wife or kids or anything so I sort of became like a son to him. Like I went to school with him and waited outside the classroom until we could go home together. And for fun and exercise we'd play with the Frisbee together. You should know that at that time Frisbee catching was pretty much a sport just for humans.

TAN: That sounds pretty ordinary. How could that lead to stardom?

AW: Well, you gotta remember that Alex is really a Frisbee freak. The more we did it the better we both became. And, in all modesty, I'm pretty darned good. When we'd go to the park or someplace we'd draw quite a crowd. People hadn't seen a dog that could run 35 miles an hour after a disc and jump nine feet in the air to catch one. So one day Alex got this crazy idea that almost sent both us to the slammer. And it also almost darned near split us up for good!

TAN: You can go to jail for catching a Frisbee?

AW: Only if you do it right. Like trespassing, and a few other charges. They were playing this big important ball game at Dodgers Stadium, and Alex figured that if a few people in the park liked our act, the crowd at the stadium would go crazy over it. So he smuggles me into the stadium and at the start of the ninth inning he goes running out onto the field, past all the guards, and we start doing our Frisbee number. Well, he was right about them going crazy over it. He figured we'd last about a minute before the fuzz caught us. But the crowd went wild. Even the ballplayers liked our act, and we were out there in front of thousands of fans, and on national TV for eight minutes. We got more applause than the winning home run that night.

TAN: How long ago was that?

AW: Oh, that was about 1974, and that was really the start of the whole thing. But it was also darned near the end of it all, too. Alex saw that we had overstaved our welcome and started to (you should pardon the expression) high-tail it out of there. But the cops nabbed him and in the confusion I got separated from him. They hauled him downtown to book him and I just ran around, not really knowing what to do. All I could think of was that they'd probably slam me in the local pound, But I've always been a lucky dog and a nice 15-year-old boy from Long Beach took me home with

TAN: Did Alex actually go to jail for that?

AW: No, they just kept him a few hours and a good friend named Irv Lander posted \$250 for bail and a fine. But now Alex didn't know where I was, and I thought I'd never see him again. By the time he got back to the stadium it was about three in the morning and the cleanup crews were cleaning up the mess. I guess he was just about frantic. He kept asking around and nobody knew anything. Finally he talked to some sportswriters and they thought it was kind of a good feature story idea and ran it in the

Ashley tells all

newspaper. And lo and behold the boy saw the story and contacted Alex and he gave him a nice reward and we got back together again. By now we were sort of famous, in a small way. And talk about coincidences! This Irv Lander was promoting competitive events for human Frisbee players. So he had us appear at a couple of them as a sort of novelty attraction to show humans what a whippet could do.

TAN: How did the human Frisbee players like your act?

AW: Not much. You see, none of them could jump nine feet in the air to catch a flying disc, or turn flips in the air at the same time. It made what they were doing look sort of tame. But the crowd loved it, so we kept appearing more and more often. Well, you can guess the rest. So far we've had about 3,500 dogs in competition in some 1,200 cities. We're even thinking of maybe inviting some human Frisbee players to appear at one of our competitions. As a sort of novelty attraction, you know. TAN: So this has been your whole life for the past eight years?

AW: Yep. We got lucky. Some Los. Angeles disc jockeys got together and sponsored something called the "Fearless Fido Frisbee Fracas." Awful name, but it got the whole thing started. Irv wrote the first set of rules and, with a few modifications, we still play by them. Now I'm on the road most of the year, between our contests and appearances at rodeos, and on TV, and at race tracks, and that sort of thing. I've done shows with Johnny Carson, Merv Griffon, Mike Douglas and even Zsa Zsa Gabor. But the one that was really fun was when Jimmy Carter was president I taught "Grits" (that was Amy Carter's dog) how to play Frisbee. I even got a nomination for an Acadamy Award for a live action short short called "Floating Free."

TAN: It sounds like you've had a lot of miles and a few years of this. Do you ever think of retiring?

AW: Once in a while. Y'know I travel over 60,000 miles a year on my American Express card. You did know that I have my own American Express card, with my own name that I sign with a paw print, didn't vou?

TAN: No. I don't even have one of those for myself. Let's change the subject.

AW: Okay, don't get touchy about it. I'm ten years old and in very good condition. I work out several times a week and watch my diet. I figure that I have three or four good years before I quit. My good friend Hyper Hank (who started his career by winning the Fearless Fido Frisbee Fracas) is already retired. But he's about 13 and his eyesight isn't as good anymore.

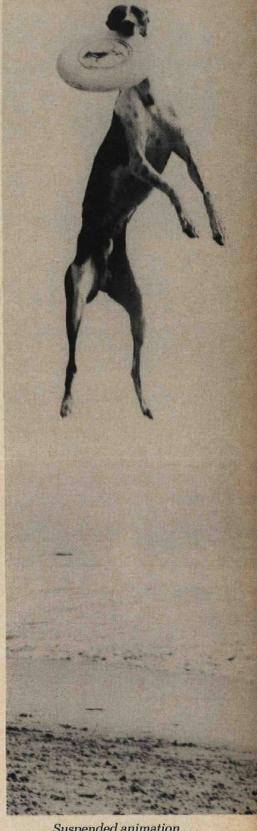
TAN: You look pretty trim and healthy, Ashley. What kind of a diet do you follow?

AW: Good grief! I forgot to mention that? I am on a straight diet of Cycle Four. Cycle is made by General Foods who sponsor me and I should have gotten in a few plugs for it before now. But that really is my diet and it does help to keep me fit.

TAN: You mean that really is your diet? You don't slip in a few goodies here and there?

AW: Well, I have to admit I indulge myself in an ice cream cone once in a while. Did I tell you that I have an Ice Cream Parlor named after me? It's at Yale University. And I really am fond of ice cream. Oh, and of course, I get a complete physical checkup at the veterinary hospital at least twice a year. In fact I just had my teeth cleaned a few days ago. Aren't they pretty? Good dental health is important for Frisbee players, you know.

continued



Suspended animation . . .



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Ashley speaks out, with trainer Alex Stein . . .

Ashley tells all

TAN: So what happens to the Frisbee world when you retire?

AW: Oh, we've already planned for that. I have several youngsters, sired by me, that are already in training. One, Ashley Whippet, Jr., is already started. And I have a daughter named Kyra that shows a lot of promise. Her timing is still a bit off, like she is so enthusiastic that she jumps so high that she jumps right over top the Frisbee sometimes. But she'll get it put together in time.

TAN: It sounds as though you expect this kind of competition to continue for a while.

AW: Actually, it gets bigger every year. For many people it's a chance for fun and fame that might never happen any other way. Did you know that three of the world champions were originally dogs from animal shelters? People came and chose them just to have a Frisbee competition dog. The dog may just be a mutt, but it's an opportunity for a dog and owner to achieve something great together. I will always remember a contestant arriving for the first time at the Rose Bowl and kneeling down to kiss the ground. He was actually crying, and said to his dog, "Josephine, never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine that you and I would wind up in the World Championships at the Rose Bowl!" That's sort of touching.

TAN: What suggestions would you have for someone who wanted to start a dog out right to be Frisbee champ?

AW: Well, we start our hopefuls out by always feeding and watering them right out of a Frisbee. This helps to build a positive mental conditioning. And when we start them catching Frisbees they learn to do it for the satisfaction of doing it well. No treats or things like that. And, of course, we use the accepted tournament quality Frisbees.

TAN: You mean that there is a difference in Frisbees? AW: You bet your can of Cycle (that's a plug) there is. Proper ones are less rigid and have an outside rim that is not as deep, and so is easier to get into the mouth of a dog. The folks at Cycle even have their own tournament Frisbees manufactured just for them by Wham-O. And, naturally, it is very important for the human to learn to toss one properly. This is a team effort, you know. TAN: Well, if retirement is down the road for you, what do you plan to do then?

AW: Oh, there are lots of things planned. We have a series of dog food commercials being tested now. Instead of some overstuffed Old English sheepdog or bulldog, they portray a lean, hard whippet. Guess who?



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The Ashley Whippet Report

TAN: Well, Ashley, it sounds as though the life of being a celebrity really agrees with you. Anything in particular that turns you on?

AW: Actually, I love the whole life. Meeting interesting new people. Performing. Sometimes, when I



Ashley shows 'em how at the Whitehouse . . .

arrive in a new city and get to the stadium or park or whatever, I just can't help barking with excitement. I like ice cream and television. Whenever Alex leaves me, like to go to dinner, he turns on the television. So I watch a lot of it. Sports are good, and Boomer, and I always enjoy watching myself on the tube.

TAN: Okay, so what turns you off?

AW: That's easy. Flies. I hate flies. I once ate a fly in the middle of a TV interview. I don't like the crowds at airports. And the hot lights when we are filming on TV bother me.

TAN: Is that all?

AW: No. One other thing really bugs me. The dumb questions that interviewers ask me!

TAN: Well, I guess that wraps up this interview, Ashley.

in the NEWS

EQUINE FALSE TEETH

It seems a first in equine medicine was chalked up by two dentists in Renton, Washington, when they fitted Blanche with a lower bridge.

It all began when Blanche was chased by an ornerey mule. She fell and broke three of her lower front teeth. This caused quite a problem in Blanche's grazing habits and malnutrition was just around the corner when dental surgeons Lowell Neufeld and John Carmody were contacted by Blanche's owner, Darcy Alderman. An enthusiastic horseman himself, Dr. Neufeld called in veterinarian William Moffat.

They took the necessary impressions of Blanche's mouth and called on a Tacoma dental lab to come up with the outsize teeth. Blanche was anesthetized and the teeth cemented in place.

Dr. Neufeld said he took the case because of the challenge involved, but did not plan to open an equine dental practice.

SEA LION RECORD

Sea lions can stay underwater for up to 20 minutes and can descend to at least 450 feet, although a trained California sea lion once set a diving record of 820 feet.

RABIES DEATH

Rabies still thrives. A recent report noted the rabies death of a 29-year-old American woman living in Kigali, Rwanda. She developed rabies despite receiving the new human diploid cell vaccine on the day of the dog bite exposure as well as on days 3, 7, and 14. But she was not given the rabies immune globulin (RIG). Twenty-two days after the exposure she had onset of clinical rabies and died on the 40th day of her illness.

Dirty baths

Many species of birds prefer to bathe in dirt rather than water, according to National Wildlife magazine. Ruffled grouse, ring-necked pheasants, wild turkeys, larks, wrens, and quail regularly get dirty in order to come clean by tossing dirt at themselves with their wings or beaks. Dirt removes excess oils stops the spread of parasites, and improves insulating quality of their plumage.

Sperm whales have up to 60 large, cone shaped teeth on their lower jaws which are used for holding their prey. But their upper jaws are essentially toothless.



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