

TODAYS *Animal* News

SPRING!



IN THIS ISSUE: The threat of heartworm . . .
Garden poisons and pets . Generic pet foods
Catching the guilty cat . . . The easy rider . . .
Ringworm in pets . . . New dog house plans .

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The Official voice of the Animal Health Foundation

SPRING

TODAYS ANIMAL NEWS

Today's Animal News

Volume nine, number two Spring Issue

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It's Spring!

Ugly word, ugly disease . . .

RINGWORM!

But it's not a worm . . .

Ugh! Just hearing the word "ringworm" is enough to make most people shudder. In fact, to many folks it rates about with venereal diseases, cockroaches and leprosy.

Actually, they are not worms at all, but children and animals get spots and sores called ringworm.

These skin diseases, properly called dermatophytosis, are caused by fungi. Of the thousands of species of fungi in our world only three are important causes of skin infections in dogs and cats.

Microsporum cunis is the biggest offender, affecting man and animals and causing about 80% of the ringworm diagnosed by veterinarians. It is a fungus that can be endemic and can be established in your home and can be especially troublesome in kennels and catteries.

Veterinarians diagnose the disease by using a "woods light" that causes the fungus to glow brightly, or by examining infected hairs with a microscope, or by growing the fungus on special culture plates. Sometimes all three methods are needed in order to understand the problem.

This fungus causes circular patches (that's why they are called ringworm) of gray scaly skin where the hair will be broken off. It is commonly seen of the face, head, ears and paws but all of the body can be diseased. The fungus grows only on the hard keratinized skin and dead parts of the hair. It will not invade live tissue. It typically infects the hair shaft and grows down into the hair follicle, following the dead part of the hair until live cells are encountered. And that's where the growth stops.

The mass of fungus will often force the hair pore open and appear swollen. The general effect is a pebbly, scaly gray patch with ends of broken hair sticking up.

The next most common species is *microsporum gypseum*, a soil inhabiting fungus that occasionally infects man and animals. It causes thick gray crusts that stick tightly to the skin. It can be a chronic skin problem in dogs and will respond very slowly to treatment.

Trichophyton mentegrophytes is the third common fungus causing ringworm. There are many variants of this species and some are highly infectious to both man and animals. This type can be extremely resistant to treatment. These diseases do not always occur with just exposure to the fungus. Other factors such as general physical condition, nutrition and age may alter susceptibility. Young animals, vitamin A deficiency and debilitating diseases predispose to infection. Resistance to reinfection probably occurs in some animals.

Dogs and cats can get it from children but it is usually the other way around. Children very frequently get animal ringworm from infected cats, which may be carriers and not show any signs of the infection.

But however ringworm is acquired it should be treated professionally to prevent it from spreading to other members of the family.

By Charles Robinson, DVM.

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Feline Behavior

MENU: Take one dead bird and . . .

An all too-familiar grisly experience is the cat owner who cleans out under the couch or dusty closet corner and comes across the corpse of a mouse or rat or bird. Usually the owner's nose is first alerted to the presence of a very dead foreign body.

Cats who access to outdoors will also bringing their prey and deposit it in a conspicuous location, awaiting its discovery with a sense of pride and then left to wonder what brought about the angry reaction and scolding.

Why do well-fed cats do this? Of course, they're natural hunters (females especially) and all this is pure instinct. In truth, cats much prefer canned cat food to dead rats and birds.

Research has borne this fact out. It seems the hunger feelings and killing of prey are two separate items in the cat's thinking process. We're talking about household pets now, not feral cats. It was also discovered that cats preferred a chilled rodent or bird over a freshly-killed warm one.

The same research conducted at a New York state College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University showed cats prefer chicken flavored catfood (canned) to liver, and fish such as salmon over any canned cat food.

Naturally, this research is done in university laboratories. And no doubt three out of four cat owners reading this will own a feline that does not fit into the pattern.

Big thirst

In warm weather it may take 24 to 40 gallons of water to quench the thirst of an elephant.

Big digger

During dry spells in the summer, elephants dig their own wells for water. They form the sides with their feet, scooping out the bottom of the well to allow water to seep in and provide a watering hole.

Heartworm in cats . . .

MOSQUITO IS THE VILLAIN!

Recognizing heartworm disease in cats is more difficult than in their canine companions but it's being diagnosed more and more frequently. The adult worms are found in the heart and pulmonary artery just as in other animals but have also been removed from the brain, spinal cord, eye, and abscesses. Microfilaria (the offspring of adult heartworms) are found in only about 20 percent of infected cats. It is these microfilaria that are seen in the blood when tested. No one knows for sure why the adult worms are so often sterile but it may be an immune response by the cat. Immunity may also be responsible for the lower occurrence of heartworm infection in cats. X-rays, bloodcounts, and occult heartworm tests based on specific antibodies against the worm are often required for diagnosis.

Symptoms of heart failure, difficulty in breathing, weight loss, and coughing are all signs caused by heartworm disease.

Young male cats that are frequently outdoors are most likely to be exposed. Heartworm infected dogs in the household or neighborhood increase the risk and cats in these households should be tested regularly.

Treatment is successful using the same medications and techniques used for dogs and other animals.

Control with diethylcarbamazine is possible, but prevention of exposure by controlling infection in the more common host, the dog, and by keeping the cat indoors during peak mosquito activity will reduce the danger of infection.

*From California Veterinarian, 1981,
Flavid Ciferri, MD, MPH*

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New products



Now what's Benji up to? The world's most lovable dog will appear in a series of educational video games for personal computers --- the Benji Discovery Series --- created by ISA Software Inc., Dallas, that combine Benji's hairbreadth adventures with multi-dimensional game action to teach players about subjects such as space, geography and the oceans. The first of these games, "Benji --- Space Rescue," places Benji against alien beings to teach players about the solar system . . .

Toy Dog Disease

KIDNEY DISEASE IN SMALL DOGS...

More cases of chronic kidney disease in Lhasa Apso and Shih Tzu dogs have been reported in veterinary medicine. Research is continuing to try and discover why these particular toy breeds should be affected more so than others. Labeled chronic generalized renal disease, it affects young dogs only, usually causing death in the first year, sometimes two or three years and five years at the most. Suspicion is that it's a hereditary defect.

Most common clinical signs are typical of any kidney problem: vomiting, excessive thirst, loss of weight and diarrhea. Sometimes present are excessive urination, loss of appetite, dehydration and depression. Autopsies revealed shrunken and misshapen kidneys and microscopic lesions on portions of both kidneys.

The disease is irreversible, and can only be treated with supportive measures such as attempts to restore fluid and metabolic balances.

The same kidney disease has also been reported in other breeds such as Norwegian Elkhounds, Cocker Spaniels, and Samoyeds.

No cure has been found as yet. But since heredity does apparently play a part, it's recommended that dogs (or litters) affected not be used for breeding.

Quick quiz

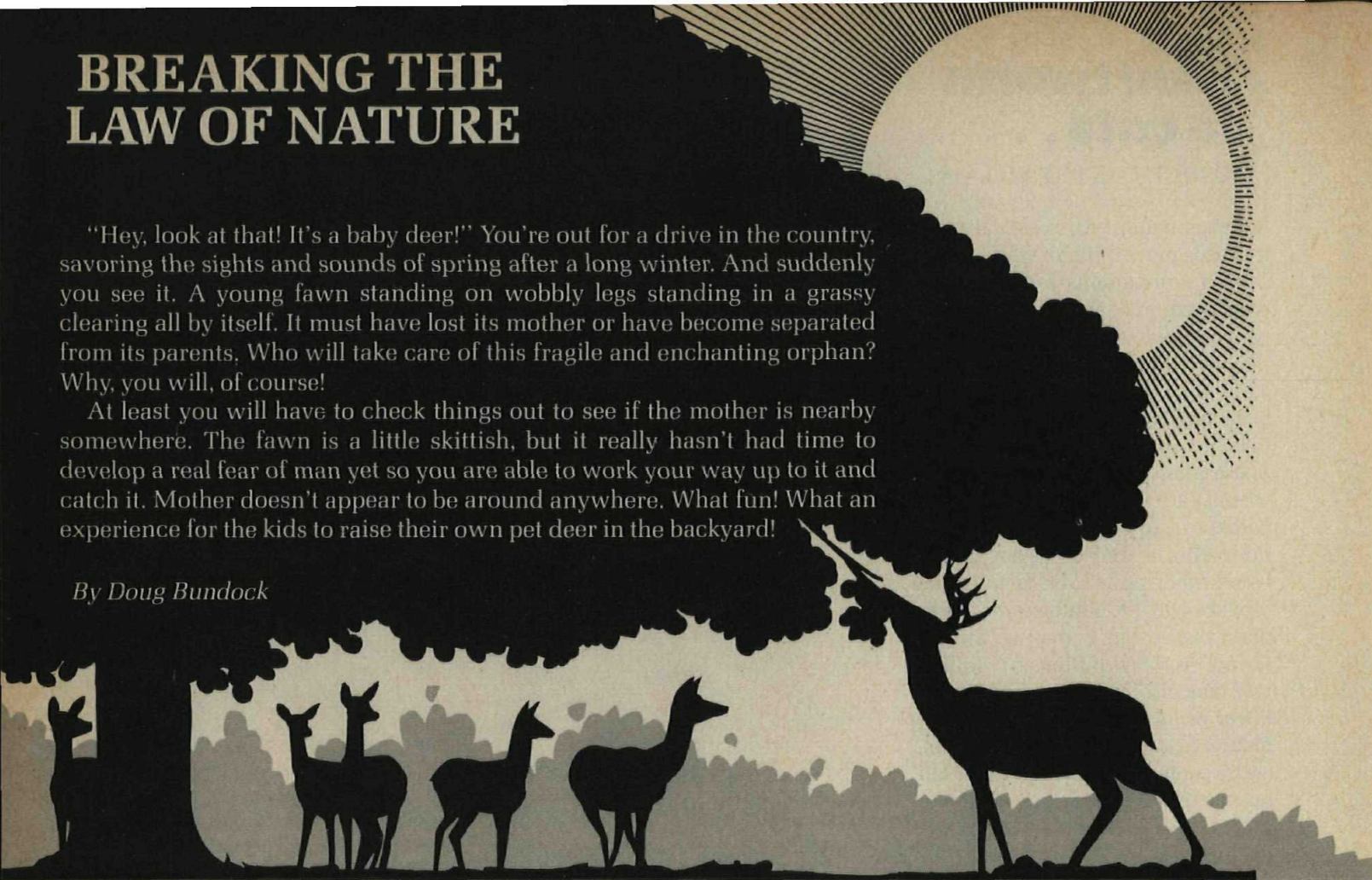
Those Walt Disney characters have become household words now. But do you know Dippy Dawg or Rover? When the characters were created Rover was the character we now know as Mickey Mouse and Dippy Dawg eventually became Goofy.

BREAKING THE LAW OF NATURE

"Hey, look at that! It's a baby deer!" You're out for a drive in the country, savoring the sights and sounds of spring after a long winter. And suddenly you see it. A young fawn standing on wobbly legs standing in a grassy clearing all by itself. It must have lost its mother or have become separated from its parents. Who will take care of this fragile and enchanting orphan? Why, you will, of course!

At least you will have to check things out to see if the mother is nearby somewhere. The fawn is a little skittish, but it really hasn't had time to develop a real fear of man yet so you are able to work your way up to it and catch it. Mother doesn't appear to be around anywhere. What fun! What an experience for the kids to raise their own pet deer in the backyard!

By Doug Bundock



it happens every spring!

This scene is repeated every spring all over the U.S. by countless well-meaning and uninformed people.

But, instead of saving Bambi, these do-gooders usually sentence the innocent animal to a cruel death. Whether it is a baby deer, raccoon, rabbit, squirrel or bird, the chances of survival are slim when the youngster is adopted by humans.

And the real tragedy is that almost all of the so-called "orphans" are not orphans at all. Nature plans the birth of wild animals to coincide with warm spring weather and abundant, lush new feed. As soon as the youngster is able it will start exploring its new world, enjoying a feast of new spring food. It is, of course, chaperoned by one or two parents who stay nearby, but hidden.

The fact that the parents are not in plain view doesn't mean the youngster has been abandoned. The

innocent fledgling has had no experience with humans and can often be approached by humans at this age. When this happens, the man-shy parents will be even more secretive in hiding.

Once the wild animal has been snatched from the natural environment the ability to return to the wild has probably been lost forever. If it survives disease and malnutrition from an unnatural diet the problem has just started.

Dogs, cats and other highly domesticated animals are the result of centuries of selective breeding to produce animals that can associate well with humans. Man has become a natural and comfortable companion for them. The behavior of wild animals, however, is not the same. Every year hundreds of humans are severely bitten, clawed or gored by "pets" from the wild. Some of these surrogate "parents" are killed. The humanization of wild animals in the popular ani-

mated films lead people to look upon wild animals as potential "Bambis" and "Thumpers" . . . and it just isn't so. Wild animals are wild animals and they belong in the wild.

That darling Thumper can unexpectedly open a gash that will send a human to the emergency hospital for a dozen or more stitches. And when Bambi gets older the natural defense system of horns and hooves become deadly. But it doesn't mean the wild "pet" has suddenly become "mean." It is simply reacting to certain situations in a natural way. If the human suffers an attack it is only because the human is not a natural companion.

The cruelty is that the wild animal suffers from acting naturally in an unnatural environment, a captive of the whim of a human.

And although the human had all the best of intentions when plucking the baby from its natural surroundings the bottom line is almost

Every Spring...

always pain and suffering for the wild "orphan."

Here are some simple guidelines to observe:

If you spot what appears to be a an abandoned wild animal, let it alone unless you are completely convinced that it is in some immediate and real life-threatening danger. You may not be able to see it, but the parent is undoubtedly hidden nearby. If you are totally convinced that the animal or bird is really orphaned and cannot return to its nest, and is in real danger, turn the problem over to a qualified wild animal rescue group. Most areas have trained rescue organizations. These folks can, if necessary, raise the foundling and release it to the wild again for a normal life.

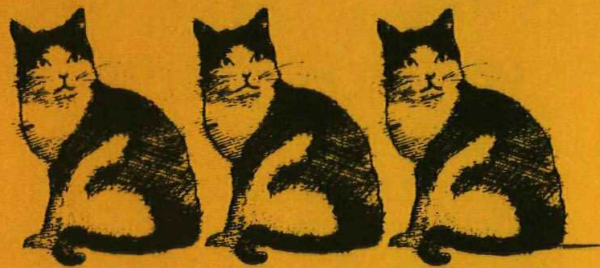
You can usually locate a wildlife rescue group by contacting your local Humane Society, shelter or veterinarian.



If you bring a wild animal home you may also bring a host of diseases into your home and neighborhood, many of which are transmittable to your domestic pets. The wild animal that appears so docile and calm could be in the early stages of rabies.

You should consider, before taking on the project, whether it is worth endangering your household pets and the pets of your neighbors, and, possibly, the health of your family!

FELINE MARKING



Which cat is the guilty one? No one is talking, but here is a plan to let you play detective and catch the guilty culprit . . .

Dwellers within multi-cat households (two-legged, not four-legged) are often plagued with feline spray stains on walls, furniture and other vertical objects. This feline behavioral gesture is their expression of territorial marking, or in many multi-cat households, a gesture of displeasure with the present scene.

It's not always easy to catch the culprit in action and work out a program of discipline. Both male and female cats, neutered or intact, have been known to spray indoors whenever the situation calls for such a release.

If you have trouble identifying the spraying cat, try this gimmick:

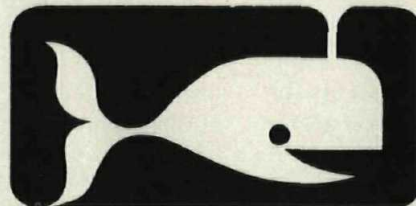
Ask your veterinarian for some sodium fluorescein, a harmless water soluble dye that's used quite often in small animal hospitals for various tests. This can be given orally to the suspected cat in your home. Within two hours it's in the urine and stays there for another 20 to 24 hours.

The next step is to hope the suspected offender sprays in the house. By shining an ultraviolet light on the offending stain, the sodium fluorescein will be highly visible. In normal lighting the stain looks just like any other. But the cat treated with the harmless dye will leave "fingerprints" and guilty verdict is assured. Now all you have to do is figure out why the cat is spraying. That might take some consultations with your veterinarian or an experienced cat breeder.

Oh. Not every home is fitted with an ultraviolet lamp. So while you're talking with your veterinarian about all this, ask if you can borrow a Wood's lamp for looking at urine stains. (That's their name for ultraviolet light.)

It's often difficult to outsmart your animal companions, but this is one time that you can play detective and be assured of solving a vexing mystery!

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Think twice . . .

BEFORE YOU BUY A PARROT

By Susan Forster

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU BUY A PARROT

The exotic bird fad is in full swing; it's become a sort of status symbol to own a beautifully plumed, talking bird. Many of these birds are purchased without much forethought, and what the owner thought would be a decorator touch in his or her home, is, in reality, a living creature with its own personality and habits, some of which are not too pleasing. Before you plunk down your cash, and it will probably be a considerable amount of cash, there are several things you should know about the realities of parrot parenthood.

Owning a parrot may be a lifetime commitment. If well cared for, they live for years. Many people buy a parrot, tire of it in a year or so, then sell it or give it away. The next owner may do the same, and so on and so on . . . If the poor bird survives all this moving around, it may become quite neurotic. Understanding something of parrot behavior and what's involved in the care of an exotic bird before you commit yourself can save you and Polly a great deal of grief later.

Don't just march into a pet shop and choose a bird because he's pretty and will look well in your living room. Do some research first. There are several good books about parrots and related birds published by TFH Publications, 211 West Sylvania Avenue, Neptune, New Jersey 07753; if you can't find one in your local pet store, write for their book list. There are many types of parrot; conures and macaws are loud and raucous; African Greys are inclined to be high strung but are excellent talkers; some Amazons are more easily trained than others; some are more inclined to be biters while many are gentle. Try and get an idea as to the type of bird that will be right for you. Find out whether the bird you're considering is imported or domestically bred. Imported birds

are most often caught in the wild and will not be tamed as easily as birds that are specifically bred and hand raised. Too, the practice of capturing wild birds is seriously depleting the world's parrot population and thousands of them die in transit every year. If you have any feelings about this, you might prefer a domestically raised bird on principle. The bird will probably be more expensive than one that is imported, but will generally be worth the investment.

Parrots are expensive; they range in price from under \$100 for a half-moon conure or a bee-bee parrot, to nearly \$5000 for a hyacinth Macaw. It's not just the cost of the bird you must consider, but also the price of the cage, which can be quite high; at least \$50 for one with adequate room for a medium sized parrot. Larger and custom made cages run a good deal more. Dishes, extra perches and other accessories make the bill still higher, and supplies for parrots can be surprisingly difficult to find. Unless you live in an area with an excellent pet shop, you may be frus-

trated in your attempts to find certain parrot necessities, such as large sized cuttlestone (a parrot can reduce a regular cuttlestone to dust in a matter of minutes!) and other accoutrements for your bird's home. Seed can also be expensive, mainly because parrots eat so much more than smaller birds.

Parrots are a lot of work. They throw their food around, wasting a good deal of it, bathe in their water dishes, tear up the paper on the bottom of the cage, and generally make a mess. You'll constantly be sweeping up seed hulls and feathers; you'll find seed hulls in places you never dreamed possible . . . they get tracked through the house like crazy. If you live in an apartment and don't have a spare room or out of the way place for the bird, or if you simply can't cope with a constant clean-up detail, get a smaller bird. The larger the bird, the bigger the mess.

A parrot's cage must be kept clean. Perches should be scrubbed weekly . . . I'm a fanatic on this point . . . my African Grey came to me with such a severe foot infection

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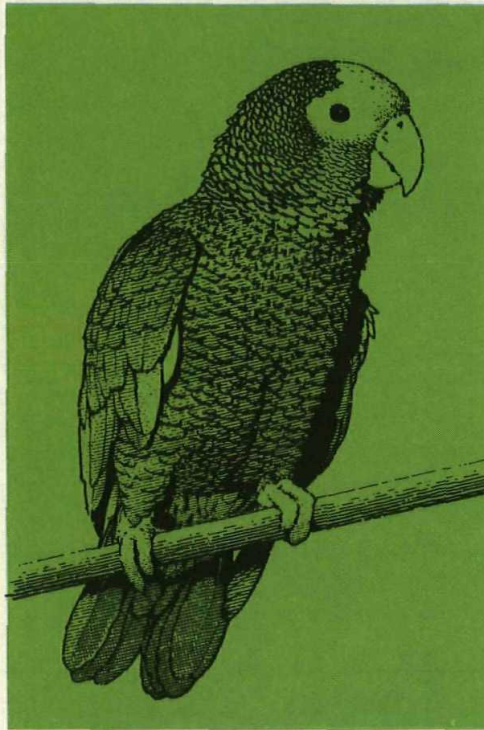
THINK TWICE...

from standing on a dirty perch, that she could hardly stand. It took several months of bird salve and astringent treatments to cure her. I change the bottom of my birds' cages daily; you'll have to do this too unless you have a cage with a grating above the floor. Even with the grating, three times a week is the absolute minimum for cleaning the bottom of the cage. Molds can develop on the bird's droppings, damp seed and uneaten fruit can begin to decay and will draw mice and insects if left for any length of time. Dishes must be washed and fresh water supplied daily.

Parrots bite! You'll probably be bitten several times in the process of taming and training your bird, but that's part of the price you'll have to pay for owning a parrot. Approaching him gently and slowly without wiggling your fingers at the bird will reduce the possibility of severe injury.

Polly can be noisy. Very noisy. Don't underestimate the lung power of a parrot. The sweet little thing you see in the pet store may turn into a screeching terror after you get it home. It's normal for birds to sing in the morning, and parrots are no exception; the only difference is that they "sing" a little louder. If the noise is going to bother you or get you evicted from your apartment, maybe you'd be better off with a canary!

Parrots get bored. If you're going to be away from home all day, you ought to think twice about getting a bird; two birds can keep each other company, but there's nothing sadder than one poor, lonely bird sitting in a cage all day with nothing to do and nothing going on around him. Provide your bird with plenty of toys; not necessarily all at once; I alternate toys so they don't get bored with the same ones all the time. (A cardboard toilet paper tube is a good plaything... the birds enjoy tearing them up.) If you're going to be out for an extended period of time, consider turning on the radio of a parrot training record so the bird will have something to listen to. There are a few good train-



ing records available that feature phrases repeated over and over as an aid in teaching the bird to talk. Parrots are intelligent creatures and need a source of stimulation to keep them alert and happy.

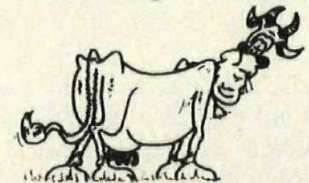
You must keep your bird warm and out of drafts! A minimum temperature of 65 degrees must be maintained... and 70 degrees is even better. If you live in a cold climate, you may have to turn up the thermostat in the winter, and that can be a hardship in these days of fuel shortages and high prices. If there's going to be a problem with maintaining the temperature, do a parrot a favor and get a penguin instead!

Exotic birds are susceptible to colds and pneumonia. Although there are several good bird remedies on the market, it's better to consult a veterinarian at the first sign of illness. A sick bird can decline and die rapidly. Ask your bird dealer to recommend a veterinarian who specializes in birds, and take your pet to him for his first nail clipping. Don't do it yourself unless you are experienced. You may accidentally cut the vein that runs through the toenail, and the bird may bleed to death before it occurs to you to apply styptic pencil to the wound.

Parrots can be destructive and can't be trusted with their own safety. Never leave a bird loose in the house without supervision. They can make confetti out of your plants, shred curtains, chew holes in the upholstery and land on things that can topple and break. The worst danger is to themselves; I know of a case where an unsupervised bird chewed the wiring on a swag light and electrocuted himself. Others have killed themselves by flying into mirrors and picture windows. You can have a bird's wings clipped (professionally, please) so that he'll have to stay wherever you put him when he's outside his cage. My African Grey's wings were broken when she was a baby, so she will never fly, but is perfectly happy climbing around the outside of her cage. In any case, make sure the bird is thoroughly familiar with his surroundings before releasing him from the cage and don't leave him alone to get into trouble.

Parrots can be wonderful, funny, affectionate and enjoyable pets. They can also drive you crazy with their noisy antics and demand as much care as a two-year-old child, so be sure you fully understand the ramifications of parrot parenthood before you commit yourself. It's your money, time and sanity at stake... but it's the bird's whole life.

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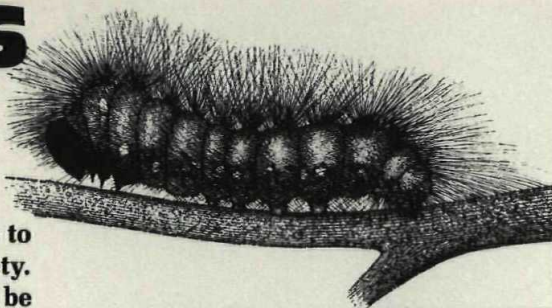
- **Animal supplies**
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—Today's Animal News

—Spring Issue

BEWARE BUG KILLERS

Bug killers can be pet killers . . .



It's gardening time and time to watch out for your pets' safety. Those insecticides can really be tough!

Nice tender green grass and flowers bring out the snails and slugs, bugs and beetles, and the ire of gardeners. While poisons work well to protect pretty plants from parasites, they may work too well on our dogs and cats.

The list of garden sprays is long but only a few of these poisons are often a problem for our pets. Foremost is metaldehyde, the most common poison used against the shellmakers (snails and slugs). These baits are sometimes flavored with a fish oil to attract these pests. Unfortunately, it also attracts cats and dogs. The pelleted forms have an appearance similar to some dog and cat foods. Be very careful when applying them. Whenever possible use the meals or liquid forms rather than the pelleted types. It makes it much harder for the animal to ingest a large amount. New preparations are made to be unpalatable to our pets. Read the label to see if yours is of this type. Nevertheless, if it has metaldehyde in it the garden spray is poisonous and one must take extra care during application to lessen the chance of accidental poisoning.

Organophosphates and carbamates are part of a large group of insecticides that cause most of the poisonings caused by insect sprays. Fortunately they are much more poisonous to insects than to mammals. The garden varieties are usually not dangerous to dogs unless they are sprayed directly on the skin. Puddles of run-off water may have high concentrations that will be toxic if drunk by animals. Malathion and carbaryl are members of this group of insecticides that are frequently used on our pets for flea and tick control.

Cats are more susceptible to poisoning by these chemicals. They are also more discriminating and will usually not drink water that is contaminated with poison sprays. The feline habit of hiding in bushes will sometimes lead to accidental exposure during spraying. Know where your pet is to prevent such accidents.

Weed control presents further problems. Many weed killers contain arsenic as do some ant and roach killers. Insecticides eventually break down, some more rapidly than others. Arsenic stays! It is a metal and must be washed away by rain or irrigation. The amounts left on plants after spraying is usually not as dangerous to our dogs and cats as it is to herbivores, but it can be accumulated in the body by continual or repeated exposure. Puddles of sprays collecting in low spots are especially hazardous.

Poisons enter the body by three routes: by being absorbed through the skin, by fumes being inhaled and most commonly by being ingested.

Keep poisonous substances properly stored. Many boxes of snailbait have been discovered and eaten by unsuspecting dogs and cats. Bottles of sprays will break and expose pets to highly concentrated poisons.

Most of these garden poisons will cause digestive signs of drooling and vomiting or cause muscle twitching and convulsions. If you suspect that your pet may have been poisoned or if you find a broken bottle or box, try to salvage the label and call your veterinarian. The list of ingredients on the label is an invaluable aid in determining treatment.

By Charles Robinson D.V.M.

INTERFERON AND FELINE LEUKEMIA

"Some positive results" have been obtained in using the much-publicized cancer-fighting drug interferon on cats afflicted with feline leukemia. But as researcher Dr. Mary Thompkins, coordinator of the clinical immunology laboratory at the University of Illinois School of Veterinary Medicine said, her research poses "all questions and no answers."

Some of the FeLV-stricken cats have shown clinical improvement, according to her report, but not enough cats have been tested to reach any definite conclusions. Thompkins is seeking funds to continue her research.

The interferon used was made from bovine cells and is a protein secreted by many living cells to "interfere" with the spread of viruses and possibly other infectious agents.

According to an article in DVM magazine, interferon apparently attacks cancer cells and can "trigger" elusive "natural killer cells" which fight cancer and virus-infected cells.

At this point, interferon is extremely expensive to produce and commercial production seems to be years away. Interferon used in treating humans with cancer is produced from human cells.

The cats tested "did well" after receiving the bovine interferon, they gained weight, bounced back from severe anemia and lymph node swelling was reduced. However, they still tested positive for FeLV.

DOG OVERWEIGHT?

Our university-tested kit accurately predicts normal weights of medium and large mixed breed dogs.

Send \$4.35 ppd. to P. Pendergrass, Canine Associates, 6230 Troy-Frederick Rd., Tipp City, Ohio 45371.

This article alerting veterinarians and dog owners about skin problems that might be associated with feeding habits is not intended to condemn feeding generic foods, nor does it imply that all generic foods may cause this problem.

We publish this to remind every dog and cat owner that feeding practices are an important part of preventive care, and that each individual animal has a unique need for every nutritive item. Deficiencies or excesses of vitamins, mineral, proteins, fats and calories all produce disease states that can be corrected once they are recognized. If you suspect that your pet may have such a problem, consult your veterinarian at once.

Editor.

UC Davis alerts veterinarians to newly-recognized skin disease

During the past three months we have recognized a skin disease in association with the consumption of various generic dry dog foods sold by a number of super market chains. Eleven dogs have been identified by members of the dermatology section of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of the University of California School of Veterinary Medicine with this apparent nutritionally related disease. No age or breed predilection has been noted.

In the cases seen to date, lesions began approximately one to two months after the dog has been fed a diet consisting exclusively of generic dry dog food.

Variable amounts of severe crusting and scaling were seen in a somewhat bilaterally symmetrical pattern involving the bridge of the nose, the mucocutaneous junctions, pressure points, and distal extremities. Well demarcated lesions with an erythematous border, variable hyperpigmentation, and lichenification of older lesions have been a constant finding. Alopecia, focal erosions, papules, and pustules have been noted with less consistency. Fever, lymphadenopathy, and dependent pitting edema were seen in more severe cases.



The differential diagnosis for this condition includes immune-mediated skin diseases (especially pemphigus, foliaceus and systemic lupus erythematosus), demodicosis, dermatophytosis, and other exfoliative skin diseases.

Conventional laboratory tests have been nondiagnostic. Histopathologic findings in six cases have been quite similar. The pattern noted has been that of a subacute to chronic dermatitis with patchy areas of epidermal necrosis and a mixed dermal inflammatory infiltrate.

Referral cases have indicated a lack of response to systemic antibiotics, but a partial response to systemic corticosteroids. However, the lesions have exacerbated when corticosteroid therapy has been terminated. Rapid improvement within one week of changing the animal's diet to a national brand of dog food meeting NCR requirements as the sole treatment has been seen in five cases. In cases where dietary change has accompanied other therapeutic protocols, rapid improvement has also been noted.

Further studies are being undertaken at the University of California to document the cause of this condition. Preliminary data suggests an absolute or relative zinc deficiency.

Due to the similarities of this condition to several potentially catastrophic skin diseases, we are concerned that a lack of recognition might lead to the pronouncement of a guarded or poor diagnosis in affected dogs. Therefore, we would recommend that any dog that is presented with clinical signs similar to those described above be biopsied to confirm the diagnosis.

*University of California, Davis
VMTH, Dermatology Department.*

CAT FOODS, GENERIC AND OTHERWISE

Generic cat foods are commercially produced foods that carry the word generic on the label. There are no definite requirements for content, ingredients, color, flavor or character. No pet food is required to have any of these things, however the label must accurately list and describe the contents.

Dry type foods are generally made of whole or dehulled cereal grains, soybean products, animal products, milk products, fats, oils, and include vitamin or mineral supplements. They contain approximately 10 percent moisture, 30 percent protein, and are relatively fatty at 10 percent. This fat is essential for taste and acceptability.

Semi-moist foods with 30 to 35 percent moisture have sugars, sorbates and low molecular weight alcohols for preservation and stabilization. Animal by-products head the list of contents followed by cereals, marine and soybean products, fats, oils and supplements.

Canned foods are more moist and are of two types. Those that are nutritionally complete and the specialty foods that are not designed for completeness. The specialty items are offered to provide cats a variety of different tastes, are high in protein (40 to 65 percent) and in fats (15 to 40 percent). The label should tell the story of what is in the food. Look for the words "nutritionally complete" or for a guarantee of nutritional adequacy. If your cat will eat only specialty items, try to feed as many varieties and food types as possible. Finicky eaters should also be receiving extra vitamins and minerals. Regular physical examinations will help detect and prevent problems caused by nutritional deficiencies.

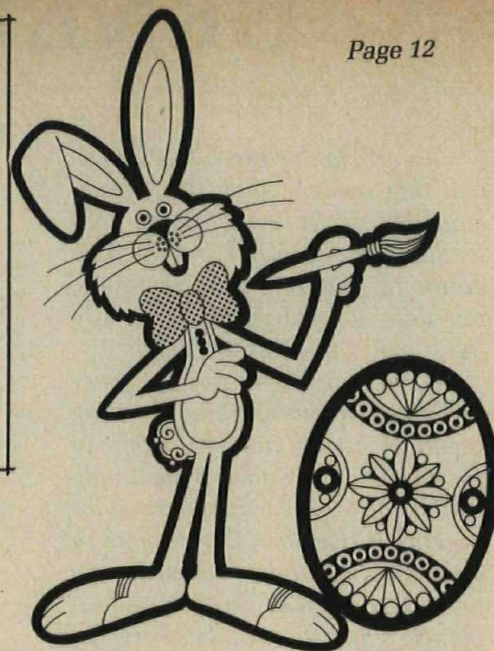
Remember that old or spoiled foods will have lost some of their nutritional content.

Generic cat foods are an acceptable source of food for cats but may lack suitable variety for many finicky felines.

THE OTHER CHOICE:

Page 12

The family pet is an American institution. The typical "average" family unit is almost always portrayed by mother, father, a couple of children and a cat and dog. But there always exceptions to the rule and people who refuse to adhere to the stereotype. The non-conformists seek the company and "challenge" of other forms of more unusual animal life for pets. In this series *Today's Animal News* will explore some of the other choices.



Rabbits as pets . . .

The Easter bunny! Rabbits get a lot of public exposure this time of year because of their association with Easter. And a lot of families buy them for pets for children. The results can be rewarding or tragic. If you are considering making a bunny a part of your family here are a few things you might want to know before making the jump (or hop, in this case):

Most folks think of rabbits as those cute white bunnies with the powder puff tails. But rabbits come in a great variety of breeds, colors, and sizes. If you are considering a rabbit you might just as well have the fun of looking into the different breeds.

How about a French lop, English lop, or mini lop? These are the rabbits that have ears that hang down instead of standing erect.

Or perhaps you might be interested in a Rhinelander, angora, New Zealand (they come in many colors), California, Himalayan, Dutch or checkered giant? No? Well then, maybe you would prefer an English spot (with many spots), or a marten or a chinchilla? This is only a partial list of the breeds that are available. Some of the smallest can, at about two pounds, actually fit in the palm of your hand. The Netherlands dwarf is one example. Or some of the largest are the size of a small dog and can weigh 15 or more pounds. The checkered giant fits into this category.

And they come in a rainbow of colors and markings! Like the American silver fox, American blue (which was the first American breed), Belgian hare, Havana, palomino, blanc de hotot, and Britannia petite. The choice is up to you.

Domesticated rabbits can make interesting members of a family unit, if some special planning and care is taken. They must be watched carefully around other family pets, since rabbits are often regarded as natural prey by other predatory animals. Their quick actions and burst of running and jumping can sometimes trigger the sleeping instincts of the most docile pets!

Rabbits can, with patient training, be trained to walk on a leash with you. Unlike a dog, a harness will work better for this than a collar. Many rabbits can be conditioned to come to you for a food reward. And some rabbits can be house-broken to use a kitty box. And, at least, if your bunny makes a mistake in the house, cleaning up the firm "marbles" left by a rabbit is easier than picking up after a puppy.

Quiet! Rabbits almost never make a sound, unless very frightened. They are, however, surprisingly agile and curious. In a house environment they will get into and onto places you never considered possible. Under the couch, behind the TV, and onto the dining room table.

Your rabbit will enjoy petting and fondling, but not be as demonstrative as a dog, and lack the same motivations as a dog has to please you. For instance, your rabbit will probably never bring you your pipe and slippers in the evening.

Rabbits are inexpensive to purchase, as compared to many other pets, so you might as well go to a reputable breeder and buy the best. And they are easy and inexpensive to feed. While some lettuce, celery and carrots do well as treats, you should plan to feed your rabbit a commercially prepared, balanced diet. He will need fresh water available at all times and a "salt lick." For an occasional change of pace most rabbits delight in rolled oats and an occasional saltine soda cracker.

Rabbits relish in grazing on a lawn with fresh grass and clover but this is not recommended as a regular diet. One of the most serious threats to your bunny is heat. Exposure to spring and summer heat, without proper shelter, can take the life of your bunny in a very short amount of time.

Rabbits are not always the darling "Peter Cottontail" that we have grown up with in children's books. Nature has provided them with a lethal defense system. When frightened or provoked a rabbit can inflict awesome bites or deep wounds from razor-sharp teeth and powerful back legs. When you buy your

Rabbits as pets . . .

rabbit you should take a lesson from the breeder as to the best manner in which to pick it up and handle it.

And, in the minus column, rabbits have a shorter lifespan than many pets. Many rabbits may only live to be five or six years old, even with good care.

Most rabbits, like cats, groom themselves often and are easy to keep clean. If you become interested you will find regular rabbit shows and rabbit clubs in most areas. Some of the larger rabbit shows will have 2,000 or more rabbits in competition, and you may find a rabbit show an interesting event to attend.

Secure facilities are a must for keeping a rabbit. They can disappear like magic from a yard that might be escape-proof for a dog. And domesticated bunnies slip back into the wild again easily.

As you might guess by now, keeping a rabbit as a pet will require a little thought and planning on your part. The keeping of any animal is serious responsibility. Before launching on the project you will do well to spend a little time discussing the idea with an established rabbit breeder or your veterinarian.

By Sharon Curry

Rabbit folklore

In addition to being one of man's earliest meat sources the rabbit has become a symbolic part of our culture. Everybody knows the rabbit, from Br'er Rabbit and Peter Cottontail to Bugs Bunny and the Playboy bunny. Rabbits and opossums are the oldest known and recorded living animals in our world.

The figures of rabbits support a sphinx constructed in Turkey about 1500 BC and it still stands, about 3500 years later.

A rabbit foot is a well accepted symbol of good luck. But, did you know how to make it really work for you? Take the left rear foot of a rabbit into a churchyard, just at midnight, during a full moon and, according to legend, it will then protect you from evil. Good luck!

THE PUZZLE OF F.I.A.



The puzzle of feline infectious anemia (FIA) is still not solved, but increasing evidence points to the ubiquitous flea as a transmitting agent. This theory gets strong support from Dr. Anna P. Gilbride, a feline specialist practicing in Santa Barbara, Calif. The area has a warm, moist climate almost all year long, and forms ideal living conditions for the flea.

FIA is usually seen by veterinarians in the latter stages of its deadly process. This is because at onset the cat may seem sick, then bounce back to normal, only to slide into lethargy, loss of appetite, excessive drinking of water and weight loss once again. This "up and down" cycle is typical of the early stages and many a cat owner has put off a visit to the animal clinic because of it.

Another complicating factor is that the FIA virus, called Haemobartenella felis, is common in many cats, but not all come down with FIA symptoms. The virus can be controlled by the cat's natural antibodies or immune system, but if another illness strikes, or if the cat is put through a stressful situation, the body's defenses are down and the H. felis virus population increases.

OUR COVER

The two young bunnies in a basket represent two of the many special breeds of rabbits being bred and shown today. The red rex was developed early in the 20th century in France and Germany. The satin rabbit is a newcomer in the field, developed about 1930 - 1936 by Walter Huey in Indiana, and first shown as a variety of Havanas in 1936. It became a separate breed in 1946 when the national Satin Club was organized. The satin on our cover is identified as Siamese because the coloration is supposed to resemble that of a Siamese cat. But it is also available in white, black, blue, red, chocolate, chinchillas, copper and Californian.

Rabbit breeding has grown into a popular sport and business across the nation. A major rabbit show may top 5,000 entries, almost double the size of the largest dog shows in America.

Cover photo by Doug Bundock-

Many healthy cats, if given a blood test, would turn up positive for H. felis. These cats are called FIA sub-clinical, but they can transmit the virus to other cats through interchange of fleas or other methods of transmission. H. felis can gain a foothold if a cat suffers from an abscess or is carrying an excessive load of internal parasites.

Blood tests can easily determine the presence of H. felis. One of the key signs in a blood smear is packed cell volume, or PCV. If the PCV is below 30, chances are it's suffering from FIA. Cats with PCV's of 20 or below need hospitalization or intense home care. PCV's 10 or below have a dismal prognosis.

Treatment in the home, if the owner is cooperative, calls for administration of antibiotics such as terramycin and multi-vitamins. The cat should be force fed with an eye dropper every two hours, using liver juices, baby foods and other liquids or semi-liquids as recommended. At the same time, it should be encouraged to eat small portions of raw (but warmed) liver and kidney. It's also a good idea to fumigate the house for fleas, or at least use a flea spray or powder on the patient and other cats or dogs in the house.

Critical cases need hospital care including blood transfusions and force feeding by hand or a stomach tube. But the latter method is only a desperate one, since cats do not easily tolerate a stomach tube, have a habit of vomiting the food, and the added stress only weakens their already depleted defenses. Vitamin B complex is injected twice daily.

Cats who do not respond to treatment in 3 or 4 days are usually beyond veterinary help.

Like most feline diseases, the earlier FIA is suspected and treated, the better the chances are for recovery.

FELINE BLADDER STONES

MAGNESIUM MAY BE VILLAIN IN "HUSH-HUSH" FELINE DISORDER

Longterm cat-owners are familiar with what nobody likes to talk about and everybody dreads: feline urological disorders. These conditions affecting the cat's urinary and genital organs are sometimes called F.U.S. (Feline Urological Syndrome) and commonly referred to as bladder stones or "blockage." As many as 10 percent of the cats admitted to American veterinary hospitals are suffering from this life-threatening condition.

Pet-owners should be wary of these early signals of F.U.S., and contact the veterinarian immediately if they see:

- Urinating in unusual places
- A yowl of pain when urinating
- Voiding small quantities of urine — or none
- (Note: don't jump to conclusions if a cat "acts constipated." If it's the urethra which is blocked, a laxative can have fatal results.)
- Pink or red-stained urine
- Listlessness, poor appetite, excessive thirst.

Signs that the condition has progressed dangerously far are vomiting, depression, dehydration and a hard extended bladder. Bladder rupture (generally fatal) is a down-the-line possibility.

According to T.D. Phillips, DVM, a veterinarian specializing in nutrition, F.U.S. is characterized by the formation of struvite crystals in the bladder or urethra. Struvite is a name for the chemical compound magnesium ammonia phosphate.

Phillips works with Hill's Pet Products, Inc., a company which has become a pioneer in animal nutrition.

"For many years", said Phillips, "we have had evidence that the amount of ash or mineral matter in a cat's diet has a bearing on whether or not the pet would suffer with F.U.S. But recently, we have narrowed the focus to the element magnesium, a trace mineral found in bone."

Phillips referred to experiments which showed that the more magnesium in the diet, the more likely it was that F.U.S. would occur. Analysis of various commercial cat foods showed that some foods labeled "low ash" were, in fact, higher in magnesium than is recommended for cats prone to F.U.S. Phillips continued, "The 'safe' limit for magnesium is not more than one percent on a dry weight basis. Few foods sold in supermarkets meet this criterion."

How can one be sure he has chosen a low magnesium food? Phillips suggests talking over the question with a pet shop owner or a veterinarian, both of whom can give you expert advice on the subject. Most pet shops carry scientifically formulated canned and dry food called Science Diet Feline which meets the newly suggested limits on magnesium.

Owners of pets who have already had a bout of F.U.S. are familiar with another choice: a prescribed low-magnesium diet with proper ash content called Prescription Diet c/d, available only through veterinarians. This low magnesium food has been used for decades and proved to lessen the chances of recurrence of F.U.S.; it is available canned, soft-moist and dry.

Since the causes of F.U.S. have not been fully determined there is no sure preventative of the disease. However, it is fairly certain that keeping the magnesium level of the diet low will lessen chances of its occurrence.

Veterinarians also stress the importance of keeping fresh water constantly available, especially if dry food is used. A high water intake tends to dilute the urine and make the formation of struvite crystals less likely.

A clean litter box is also helpful. Cats are fastidious and may delay urinating if the litter box is soiled. Retained urine tends to be concen-

trated and struvite crystals are more likely to form in concentrated urine.

F.U.S. can be successfully treated, if it is detected early. Antibiotics are given for infection and a urine acidifier, given by mouth, may be used. If blockage appears dangerous (more likely in male cats because of their narrowed urethra) surgery may be indicated.

However, if a low-magnesium diet is fed, a cat may never suffer from this painful and sometimes fatal disorder. Perhaps the "hush-hush" disease has met its Waterloo!

YOGURT HELPS

Research at the University of Nebraska has discovered that freeze-dried yogurt added to animal feed can help animals better utilize their food.

Khem Shahani has isolated a strain of micro-organisms called Lactobacillus acidophilus. When added to animal food it helped produce B vitamins that aid digestion, produced enzymes that aid digestion, inhibited the growth of toxic microorganisms, helped reduce cholesterol, produced natural antibiotics and can retard the growth of cancer cells.

The discovery is said to have future impact on feedlot cattle diets as well as other domestic animals and pets.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Check the address label on this copy of your magazine. You may be receiving it through the courtesy of your of your veterinary hospital in the interest of helping you to keep informed on good health care for your pets. We hope you enjoy it!

CANINE BILL OF RIGHTS

by Karen B. Hayes

1

The Right To Be Wanted

Owning a dog is a long-term commitment and one that should be carefully considered. Most likely you will own the dog for 10 to 15 years and should therefore have a dog which you have carefully chosen for personality, breed and sex. A dog's devotion to his master is legend, but the master should be devoted to his dog.

2

The Right To Good Health

Once you have decided you want to own a dog, you must prepare for his proper care. When you have decided on a puppy, agree to buy him only if you are given time to have him examined by your own veterinarian. If the puppy is not healthy, return him and pick another puppy. It is detrimental to the relationship to start with an unhealthy puppy. If you do not have a veterinarian, ask friends for names of their veterinarians. Then visit the doctor and see how you feel about him or her on a personal basis. Once you get your pup, take him directly to the veterinarian you have chosen. The puppy will need to have preventive vaccinations right away and will probably need to be wormed. A general physical exam should be performed at this time. From then on, your veterinarian's office staff should keep you informed as to when the puppy should be re-immunized. You need to find out what to do if you have an emergency after office hours. Is there an emergency number? Is there another veterinarian to cover for your doctor when he is unable to answer emergencies? These are important questions because dogs, not unlike children, always seem to become ill or have accidents outside of normal office hours. It is also helpful to have a book that discusses dog health problems. It will help you decide if you have a real emergency or if you can afford to wait until office hours.

3

The Right To Privacy

While it is true that a dog is a very social animal, he also needs some privacy. When he is tired or not feeling well, he needs a bed where he can go and not be disturbed. Everyone in the family should respect this private place. Often when the dog gets into trouble he will want to be alone and undisturbed so he can sulk for a proper length of time.

4

The Right To Good Schooling

Every dog should go to school! An ill-mannered dog that will not obey is certainly not a joy to own. If you take an un-disciplined dog anywhere, it is an ordeal to be suffered through both by yourself and anyone else that is present. On the other hand, a dog that has been taught obedience is usually welcomed by most everyone. If you want to go for a walk to exercise the dog, it can be a very pleasant experience if the dog will walk by your side in the heel position. If you turn the dog loose to explore and he starts to go too far away, a simple "come" will bring him running back to you. If you want to take the dog to the store but can't take him inside, you can give him a "down" "stay," command and not worry about him wandering off into traffic. While obedience training can be a sport in itself, its main purpose is very practical. Obedience training, to be truly effective, does take a lot of time and practice but it is a time you and your dog will enjoy together.

5

The Right To Have A Safe, Secure Home

Every dog that is allowed outdoors should have a kennel run. It should be a large pen where the dog can be left and you will know he is securely penned. A run of 4' x 12' is adequate for most any dog, even a large one. It should be made of good quality wire and should have either a concrete floor or wire, covered with sand or gravel. This assures that the dog will not dig his way out. It should also be covered with either a roof or wire. It is amazing how high a dog can climb or jump when he has decided he wants to escape. The dog should have a doghouse for shelter and fresh water at all times. The wastes should be cleaned daily. This is not a place to leave the dog all of the time, but merely a safe place, outside, that you can leave the dog when you do not want to be concerned about where he is or what he is doing. Please make sure your dog has learned not to bark or howl when left in his pen.

6

The Right To Be Returned If He Is Lost

Occasionally, even with the best precautions, a dog will wander and not be able to find his way home. Often

purebred dogs are stolen for resale. There are two things you can do to raise the probability of having your dog returned. First, have a good name tag, engraved with your name and address, on his collar at all times. If you have recently moved, get a new one immediately. The next thing, is to have the dog tattooed by your veterinarian. The dog's AKC registration number is the most practical identification to use. While it may still be difficult to track you down if the dog is lost, a tattoo will usually guarantee the dog will not be stolen or resold.

7

The Right To Be Neutered

Any dog that is a pet, should be neutered. There are so many uncared for and unwanted puppies now, that we don't need anymore. Both male and female make much nicer pets if they are neutered. It also saves you the headache of having a female in heat. If you have a male that hasn't been neutered, he will be inclined to wander.

8

The Right To Proper Accomodations If You Must Leave The Dog

If you must leave your dog behind when you go on a trip, you owe it to him to find a good boarding kennel. Often people board their dog at their veterinarian's, but I feel I would rather not have my dog around others who may be ill. A good boarding kennel will, above all, be clean and not foul smelling. The dogs should have sufficient room to run and should have a warm, dry and clean bed area. Usually boarding kennels will keep most popular brands of dog food on hand, so your dog will not be expected to change his diet. If you use some unusual or expensive brand, perhaps you can work out an arrangement for a smaller fee if you supply the food. Watch how the attendants handle the dogs. They should like dogs and be comfortable around them.

9

The Right To A Long Life

As your dog gets older, you may have to make special accomodations for him. He will slow down physically and probably gain weight. Special attention should be paid to his diet. More frequent trips to the veterinarian may be necessary. His dental health should be watched carefully. If his teeth become bad, he will have trouble eating. Older dogs often get arthritis and may need medication.

The Right To Die When It Is Time

When your pet is in obvious pain or has an incurable disease that cannot be checked, then you should consider euthanasia. There is a time when the consideration must be given the dog, not the owner. It is not fair to have your faithful friend suffer. I have always felt it was rather cruel to take a dog to the veterinarian's office for this procedure, since usually dogs are frightened of the office. Possibly your veterinarian will agree to come to your home to give the injection. If this is not possible, see if you can get a heavy dose of tranquilizers to give the dog at home and then, when he is very calm, take him to the office.

WINTER ADVICE

by Susan Brooks & Cynthia Burns

The trees are getting bare, days are shorter, and winter's chill is already upon us. Bide-A-Wee Home Association suggests taking steps now to make sure your pets won't suffer from ice, snow and freezing temperatures.

Bide-A-Wee does not condone pet dogs living outdoors fulltime in cold climates, but recognizing the fact that some dogs are kept outside we urge the owners to provide weatherproof, waterproof, draftproof, comfortable quarters. The doghouse or kennel should be no more than twelve inches longer and three inches higher than the dog, since the animal won't be able to produce enough body heat to warm a house that's too large. The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with a suitable bedding. Cedar shavings—which are very good since they control parasites as well as help the animal retain its skin oils—or clean, dry shredded newspaper act as good insulators and actually offer more warmth than an old rug or towel (poor choices as they will hold moisture and then freeze as the temperature drops).

Indoor dogs shed their undercoats and should never stay outside for very long. Very short-haired or small dogs may need a sweater or jacket for protection against low temperatures.

Rock salt or other chemicals are commonly used to melt ice on sidewalks and streets. As they defrost the chemicals can cause irritation and burning of the pads of dogs' and cats' paws. Use a damp towel to wipe off your pet's feet and undercarriage immediately after each walk. Don't let your dog or cat lick his paws before they've been cleaned—the chemicals may burn and irritate his tongue and could cause serious problems if ingested.

Cats should always be kept indoors—they live safer, longer and healthier lives that way. But for those unfortunate or stray cats who are left outside, remember that the warm engine block in your car is a great enticement so before you start the engine on cold mornings, smack the hood to scare away any feline occupants.

Dry skin can be caused by decreased humidity during cold weather. A home humidifier can help your pet breathe easier, reduce static electricity and help prevent dry skin. Adding some cooking oil, butter or fat to your pet's diet once a week can also help with dry skin (the amount will depend on the animal's weight—ask your veterinarian). As usual, be sure to comb and brush your pet regularly.

Don't forget the strays as the temperature drops. They need your care and concern more now than at any other time, since food supplies dwindle or freeze in winter months. You can save a life by feeding a stray or taking him into your home. If you can't keep him, check your newspapers and local humane society for lost pet notices, put up signs in the neighborhood, or run a "found" ad in a community newspaper. If you can't find his owner and can't keep him, use every resource available to find him a home. If all else fails, bring him to an animal shelter rather than put him back in the street.

Choosing a kennel...

Planning now saves problems later



All basset hounds look sad. But his one may be even sadder than usual. His owners are busily laying vacation plans . . . that include a stint at the local kennel for their canine family member. But, with a little help from the experts, going to a kennel needn't be such a grim experience.

As the first small signs of spring appear people start to plan and dream of vacations, long weekends and holidays. Happy days for humans, but not always for their pets.

Vacation plans should also include plans for your pets during that time away from home. And now isn't too early to start. Choosing the best boarding kennel will take some time and just before you leave isn't the time to do it.

Here are a few hints from the experts on making your pet's stay away from home worry-free.

Ask around about boarding facilities. Ask your friends, the local humane society, and your veterinarian. (Many veterinarians prefer not to board healthy animals

for vacations.)

After making up a list of recommended kennels call and make reservations to tour them. Most respectable kennel owners will be happy to show you around, by appointment. Do their guests seem happy and clean? Is the kennel staffed all the time? Are any heated facilities provided for dogs who might require them? Are the kennel runs large enough to provide some play and exercise area? Ask questions.

BORED BY BOARD

Many of the better kennels offer some special exercise or walking privileges at a reasonable extra cost. This can help break up the boredom of confinement while

you are away. Consider some training while the dog is there. For a small extra fee your dog may learn a few manners that will make him more enjoyable when you return. This extra activity will also help the time pass more quickly while you are gone.

But, good kennels are often booked up during all the peak times of the year. When you find the kennel that you feel is right for your canine family member make your reservation well in advance, to avoid disappointment later. Secure your reservation with a deposit.

Don't quibble with price. Usually, you get what you pay for. And the boarding rate for most good kennels is a bargain, if you compare it with the cost of a motel or hotel for yourself.

Don't bring a load of blankets, toys, dishes and equipment with your dog to the kennel. They have their own, and would rather not have to look after yours. If your pet has a favorite ball or bone, bring it along as long as you don't care if you don't get it back.

Remember, there are kennels and kennels. They aren't all the same. A big ad in the newspaper or telephone book doesn't mean a kennel is better.

Make sure that your pet is current on all vaccinations. Many kennels require proof of current vaccinations before accepting a dog. And, of course, be sure that your dog's parvo virus shot is up-to-date. With a little planning you can enjoy your vacation, knowing that Bowser is safe, healthy, and happy while you are away.

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From ewe to you

CARING FOR THE CHRISTMAS PET...

Congratulations to you, the owners of the adorable little mischief-maker newly arrived to share your home — the Christmas puppy or kitten.

By now he's well adjusted to his new surroundings and family. You've had several weeks to enjoy his babyhood and shower him with love and attention and, of course, mop up a little after him here and there. His medical and nutritional needs of the early weeks have been met. Now, it is time to move on to many important needs of his growing up — most particularly by maintaining his good health and fostering confidence in you.

Your veterinarian will play a major role in your animal's good health. Young puppies are particularly vulnerable to serious diseases such as infectious hepatitis, distemper and parvovirus. Immunization for rabies will also be needed before licensing.

Kittens, too, need inoculations, to protect them against feline distemper (feline infectious enteritis — panleukopenia) rabies and upper respiratory viruses.

Your veterinarian should also be consulted about control and treatment of worms as well as fleas, ticks, and other external parasites. Many puppies and kittens have to be treated for worms more than ones in their first year. Your veterinarian is your best guide for prescribing a program of specific health care.

Proper nutrition has to top the list for maintaining a healthy puppy or kitten. To support the rapid growth and excessive activity of the very young animal, particular attention must be paid to his special nutritional needs. There must be protein for good bone and muscle growth, vitamins, minerals and, of course, extra calories at this time. Baby animals will vary a great deal as to their individual needs because of differences in size and breed. Once again, your veterinarian is your best consultant for a feeding program you can feel confident about.

Young puppies and kittens need lots of play and still need lots of rest. Besides getting to know the adopted family better, he's learning a multitude of new things every day.

Maybe by now, he knows his name. But new words like "no", "sit" and "stay" can be a part of his early vocabulary. "What a good dog (or cat)" will be his favorite.

Housebreaking occurs in harmony, with his other exciting activities of playing and learning. Apart from simply making his outings regular and praising him profusely for his accomplishments, designating a special spot in the yard for him to do his business can be a big help.

A bonus could be to anchor a clean-up rag previously saturated with his mopped-up urine (you'll have plenty of these) to that special spot to encourage him to know that's what he's to do and where it's supposed to happen. And you will lovingly praise him for it.

Dogs and cats instinctively prefer a clean house-den so their natural tendencies are working with you if you are patient and persistent enough.

Your efforts to keep him healthy and happy plus your encouragement and attention to his growth within the family unit will strengthen his confidence in you. For all the demands on your time plus the added responsibilities, enjoying your pet is what it is really all about.

By Charles Robinson, DVM

IN THE NEWS

LOCKJAW? WELL, NOT QUITE...

A young labrador retriever named "Rascal" lived up to his name and along the way developed a fondness for padlocks. When boarded in a kennel, Rascal would nudge open padlocks from gates and swallow them while the kennel cleaner's back was turned.

When Rascal began to make clanking sounds and showed signs of gastric discomfort, he was rushed to the veterinarian where seven padlocks were removed from his stomach.

No applause in Britain

Dog shows in Great Britain are much more quiet affairs these days. The Kennel Club of Great Britain has banned applause during judging in the ring. Kennel Club officials said applause is not likely to influence judges, but they fear for the impact on dogs in hearing a burst of applause for some other entrant.

Judges are now instructed to forbid applause during competition, and if a group offends, judging will be delayed until the claque suspends its adulation, and then reprimanded. K.C. leaders term applause "unsportsmanlike behavior."

Little bird, big egg

For its size, the kiwi lays the largest egg of any bird. Each egg is about five inches long and weighs approximately a pound!

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MOTHER KNOWS BEST

WHELPING HELPING

If you were a pregnant bitch about to present your owner with a litter of valuable puppies, what would you tell the folks about your needs for a whelping box?

"Well, first of all, make sure it's big enough for me, lying down and all stretched out, and with a swarm of puppies. Not so big that the puppies will be wandering all around miles away from me and the other puppies, but not too cramped. You can figure that out, folks.

"Make the box high enough on the sides to keep out the drafts, and raise it about three or four inches off the floor so that cold and dampness doesn't come through the bottom. For safety's sake, it's not a bad idea to put up a railing around the inside about three inches up and three inches from the sides to prevent me from accidentally crushing or trapping one of the puppies against the side of the box. And, of course, don't make the sides of the box too high so that I have a devil of time getting out of the box whenever I want to get away from the pups for some food and exercise.

"Several layers of newspapers on the bottom are dandy for insulation (you have been saving clean newspapers for the past few weeks, haven't you?) and it's always nice to

put some cloth on top of the newspapers. This not only provides bedding but gives the youngsters some traction to help them learn to walk and move around faster. Old towels, old rugs or bathmats, things like that are nice on top of the paper. They can be changed and laundered frequently. Don't use hay or straw . . . they can sometimes obstruct the breathing of my puppies.

"My whelping box, folks, should be very clean to avoid parasitic infections. And I don't mean to sound antisocial, but please keep visitors away from the pups the first couple of weeks or so, and avoid needless handling for a couple of weeks. By then my youngsters should be ready to get acquainted with people on a limited basis. And don't forget to check with the veterinarian on immunization shots and all that good stuff.

"Now, of course, I want my whelping box to be clean and germ-free, but not all sterilizing agents are good for puppies. If you have any doubts about what to use maybe you had better check with your veterinarian before using.

"If all that sounds like a lot of work and planning, folks, think of the work I'm going through to present you with a healthy litter of puppies!"

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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 Today's Animal News.

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

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

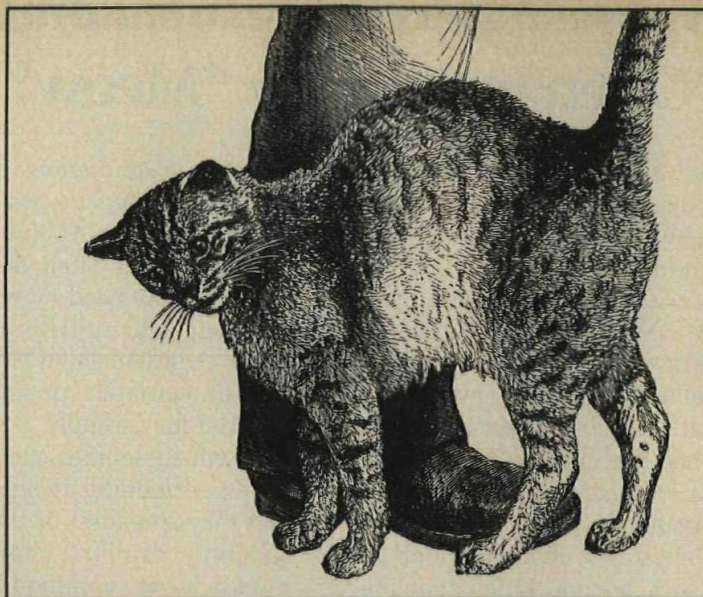
It's hard to appreciate spending millions of dollars for space exploration or to develop a new agricultural program for some country that you have never heard of. It's really hard when you can't scrape up the few dollars needed to help your pet that may be your only friend and companion in this world.

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

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

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

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



Marking the spot...

FELINE TERRITORIAL MARKING

Like their jungle relatives, domestic cats are very much concerned about their "territory". Outdoor cats define borders by scratching trees and spraying urine. Indoor cats substitute furniture for trees, unless a scratching post is provided, and unaltered toms will spray vertical surfaces in the home with urine.

These two methods of identification serve as a warning to other cats in the neighborhood. The tree-scratching isn't only a visual mark of shredded bark, pads in the cat's feet are equipped with tiny scent glands which are imprinted on the tree or furniture. Urine spraying by toms is as natural to them as drinking water. But altered toms and spayed females will also spray under certain conditions, usually due to emotional or unsettling reasons. Bring a small kitten home in a house with one or more settled adult felines, and you'll witness a flurry of urine spraying by all concerned... except the kitten.

Besides serving as a warning, tree-scratching and urine marking also gives the cat a sense of security. It will make the rounds of its territory reassuring itself that everything's where it's supposed to be, and at the same time, it will check

out new arrivals who might have added their mark to already marked trees, fence posts and shrubbery. Quite often the cat will "renew" the marks with additional scratching or spraying, even though there are no outside stimuli to trigger this... just another reassurance.

A third method of marking is rubbing the head and cheeks against people, table and chair legs, and favored animals in the home. Apparently this maneuver is designed to mark these people, animals or objects which are in A-1 standing. The corners of feline lips and the area between the eyes and ears are dotted with tiny scent glands. Each time the cat rubs this area against something it's leaving a trace of its own scent.

The cat may appear to be rubbing against your legs in a plea for attention, but at the same time it is reassuring itself that this human is "OK in my book," and just to make sure instant olfactory recognition is present, it will rub a bit of its own scent glands against the person, animal or object.

Not too much research has gone into this special sort of feline traits, but enough assumptions have been drawn to pretty much narrow down the motives.

Today's Animal News has the largest general pet ownership readership of any publication.

The feline physical examination ... Open up and say "Meow!"

The reasons for a periodic (at least yearly) physical examination are many. When your feline is a kitten, the contact you and your pet make with your veterinarian help insure a healthy pet. At this time the kitten is seen and examined for congenital defects or other evidence of illness. External parasites such as fleas and ear mites are checked for and discussed as necessary. Internal organs are palpated or listened to. Sometimes characteristics are seen in a normal kitten that may result in future medical problems. An example of this is a cat with white ear margins and/or nose that may develop skin cancer after years of exposure to sunlight.

Diet is quite important to the young feline and is discussed to make sure that kitty is eating nutritious food. Along with diet, toilet training is discussed. This is also a good time to talk about what is normal behavior for a kitten or a cat, especially for the owner who either a first cat owner or starting anew. Normal behavior discussions often involve the topic of neutering pros and cons.

Preventative diseases are discussed and vaccines given as appropriate. Feline leukemia virus testing is sometimes discussed.

Many people feel that after initial well-kitten care, no further examination is necessary for a normal cat. In the young and middle aged cats, yearly physical examinations are an excellent idea. Besides getting necessary vaccinations, an exam of the cat can show many things that owners don't see. Dental disease becomes more common as a cat ages as do coat problems and nutrition (usually too much nutrition). We start to see tartar build-up in middle aged cats and sometimes gingivitis (inflammation of the gums). Behavior problems are more common in this age bracket than in youngsters and often pose more threats to a happy household than illness.

Just as examinations are crucial for geriatric humans, so are they for geriatric felines. At this period of their lives cats often don't groom well and may need more help with brushing and nutrition. Cancer (other than leukemia) is most common in geriatric patients and is checked for carefully. A careful history will sometimes show that cats are experiencing weight changes that they shouldn't or that they are suddenly drinking more. Kidney disease is very common in geriatric cats. Special diets are sometimes helpful if indicated. As you see, there are many reasons for periodic physical examinations and discussions of your feline's health (both mental and physical). Check with your veterinarian to see how often he recommends them in your case, because each patient is different and has different requirements.

By Lee Thorne, DVM

BOSTON TERRIER DEVELOPS EXPENSIVE TASTES

A Florida veterinarian was presented with a 3-month-old Boston terrier with a sagging stomach. When placed on the examining table, a distinct jingling sound was heard, and the terrier's abdomen slung down like a sock filled with rocks.

Surgery revealed that the terrier had consumed 26 pennies, three dimes and one nickel—61 cents in change. Also discovered was token from a Monopoly game, a piece of lead and some staples.

Eleven days later the pup was returned for removal of sutures and because she was vomiting. A second operation turned up a dime, nickel and four pennies.

The dog's owners, who apparently had a proclivity for leaving loose change about the house, gave up on the dog and the veterinarian adopted her, hoping her fondness for metal "develop into a taste for expensive jewelry or Visa cards."

BOOM IN ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS ...

NO RECESSION IN PET PRODUCT SALES

Banks fold, airlines collapse and bankrupt businesses cease to be news in today's sagging economy. But the pet product industry doesn't seem to know about the recession as sales continue to climb.

Dollar sales of animal health products, measured at the manufacturers' price level, reached a whopping \$920 million during 1982, a 10 percent increase over the previous year, reports Business Trend Analysts in a new report.

The report projects that the overall market for animal health products will total close to \$3 billion by 1993. Biological product sales are expected to grow at an average of 14 percent over the coming decade, with sales projected to top \$1 billion by 1993. Over the same period, a 9 percent rate of growth for veterinary pharmaceuticals will bring sales in this segment to approximately \$1.7 billion.

Generally, the future looks bright for sales of veterinary health products, according to the report compiled by Business Trend Analysts, a leading business research and publishing firm.

Already sales of antibiotics have increased over the past decade at an average annual rate of 13.2 percent, compared to a 10 percent rate of growth for the overall segment. Representing over 42 percent of this market in 1981, they have been a mainstay of the animal health product industry. However, their share of the pharmaceutical market is expected to decline to roughly a third by 1993 as increased emphasis is placed on genetic engineering and biotechnology rather than chemical preventatives for animal diseases, states the report.

It would seem that, no matter how pinched the economy may get, pet owners can still find a dollar or two for the care of their pets.

Todays Animal News

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To hunt or not to hunt . . .

VETERINARIANS WHO HUNT . . .

Quite a ruckus was kicked up recently in Modern Veterinary Practice magazine when the question of why a veterinarian who treats sick and injured animals should take up a gun and hunt animals for sport.

Veterinarian Neil Wolff of Bay-side, N.Y., a suburb of New York City, triggered (an unforgiveable pun) the debate when he sharply criticized veterinarians who hunt.

"But what baffles me is why go out of your way to kill an animal that has done you no personal harm? Could it be that the hunting veterinarian has lost a deference for animal life?" Wolff asked.

"A doctor who goes out stalking and killing is similar to an upholsterer who goes home and slashes apart his cushioned furniture, or a botanist who, on his day off, goes deep in the forest to axe down vibrant foliage.

"To many outsiders the concept of a veterinarian hunting is a let-down of their portrait of the practitioner," Wolff continued. He says "I can't come up with a bit of justification for the hunter, especially the veterinarian who hunts."

Wolff asked for comments on his stance. And he sure got 'em.

"We spend our entire time keeping feed animals (poultry, beef, pork and mutton) disease free so they

can be killed and eaten," replied a Texas veterinarian. "What is the difference in this and killing a wild animal in the same way? Has Dr. Wolff ever visited a "humane" society where they kill cats and dogs because they are overpopulated?"

"Surely someone with the ethical convictions of Dr. Neil Wolff must be a strict vegetarian," writes a Mississippi veterinarian. "Unless he adheres to these tenets his arguments are at least as sophisticated as those of the hunters he so disdains."

"I might recommend Dr. Wolff consider restricting his practice to lap dogs, horses and non-predatory species to avoid conflicts with his conscience," commented a Pennsylvania veterinarian. "It's questionable to treat dogs whose greatest enjoyment is hunting, cats who are only surpassed by humans as hunters, or food animals whose ultimate end is consumption regardless of their other utilitarian functions."

"Yes, I am a hunter," writes a California veterinarian. "I love to get up before dawn and go out in the cold after my prey. Sometimes I come back empty-handed, but I enjoy it anyway . . . I sometimes am outsmarted by one of God's cunning creatures."

The debate will probably continue . . .

Judson Snyder

"PUPPY LOVE" THERAPY . . . RX for mental health . . .

page 24



Photo courtesy of Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.

The special therapy of animals helping people, especially the elderly, is growing in importance as researchers find increasing evidence that pets improve the lives of their human companions.

FOR PATIENT AND DOG . . .

PRESCRIPTION: ONE WARM PUPPY

Puppy love can help to mend a heart.

That's what scientists and doctors are discovering more and more.

It's not only good for the patients, but volunteers working with puppies, and the puppies lap it up.

This is according to Kathy Bauch of the Chicago AntiCruelty society who says, in one of their programs, volunteers and puppies pay visits to patients in the Chicago area.

In a report on file in the Project Bank of the President's Task Force on Private Sector Initiatives, she related these case histories:

At a psychiatric nursing home, Juanita, in her 40s, very uncommunicative, basically non-verbal, rarely left her room and when she did, never left her floor.

She had been practically non-verbal for years.

Startling to all was the outcome of a visit one day by a volunteer and a roly-poly, flop eared puppy with bright eyes and a tail just barely long enough to wag.

Juanita's response, slow but nevertheless a positive reaction, was a half-smile. Then, a pat. Finally a real smile.

By the end of the visit, she was speaking. Not just a word, or uttering a phrase, but sentences. Admittedly short, but sentences.

Now, when volunteers and puppies visit, she goes from floor to floor with the volunteers. Her latest effort—holding a puppy and showing it to another patient.

People, says Kathy, who have a problem relating to other people, can relate to animals. This is because animals are totally non-judgmental and non-threatening.

"Puppies love everybody. It's unqualified love. They are givers without questions or expectations. That's why they're so effective as a bridge to people."

Another somewhat startling account of pet therapy is the story Kathy tells of a child in a coma, visited by a volunteer and a puppy.

The volunteer held the puppy near the child's face. The puppy licked the child's cheek and the child shuddered.

"Oh, I've done something wrong," murmured the volunteer.

"No," replied the nurse. "Keep doing it. That's the first reaction she's had."

This bond between people and pets—particularly puppies and dogs, is so strong that psychologists, scientists and psychiatrists continue searching for ways in helping patients through pet therapy.

Also, medically, it's been proven, says Kathy, that when a person talks to a person, blood pressure rises. When a person talks to an animal and pets it, blood pressure drops. Once again, the non-threatening factor.

In Chicago, another innovative program by the Society is Maxi-Adoption Volunteers. Carl Dunker, who is retired and loves dogs, particularly large dogs, is one of the Society's volunteers.

He spends hours every day, walking large dogs in the shelter's courtyard, talking to them and petting them. He also helps in the adoption of dogs, giving advice.

One of the main problems with dogs in a shelter is depression. When they get depressed, they don't eat and they get further depressed and they die.

Advice from Kathy to those who love their dogs and cats:

Identify your pet. Lack of ID, along with overpopulation, are the main problems in the nation where it is estimated there are 13 to 16 million lost, wandering or abandoned pets annually. Fewer than ten percent make it home, despite the Lassie and Rin Tin Tin stories.

Identification is simple. With a ball point pen, says Kathy and the Pets are Wonderful Council, you can write your dog's name, your name and phone number on a flea collar. Or do the same thing on adhesive tape and put it on a collar.

continued on next page

In spite of its name, canine heartworm disease is not confined to dogs ... nor the heart ... but has been shown to also affect horses, cats, ferrets, wolves, coyotes ... and man!

The mosquito is the key to understanding how this disease is transmitted from animal to animal. Over 60 species of mosquitoes have been shown to be capable of being part of the life cycle of *Dirofilaria Immitis*.

Adult, fertile female heartworms produce offspring called microfilaria. It is these microfilaria that veterinarians look for in the most commonly used laboratory tests. The microfilaria sucked up into the mosquito when it feeds develops within the mosquito to a larval stage. This larva is in the infective stage when it enters an animal as the mosquito feeds again. After a prolonged period of development, 70 to 90 days, they are found as adults in the heart and blood vessels.

The signs of the disease depend on the extent and nature of the damage to the blood vessels, lungs and decreased blood circulation (flow). Coughing, with or without blood, weight loss, fainting, poor appetite and reduced exercise tolerance are all possible symptoms of heartworm infection. Since the adult worms are primarily in the

HEARTWORM THREAT



right side of the heart and in the arteries leading to the lungs, signs of right side failure prevail. There may be no symptoms of heartworm disease if there are only a few worms present.

Blood tests for microfilaria may not be good enough in all cases. Some dogs have worms of only one sex, so microfilaria cannot be present.

These cases require different tests called Occult Heartworm Tests. About 15 percent of heartworm cases fall into this group. It is hoped that there will soon be a test for occult heartworm disease that can be performed at veterinary clinics. At the present time, they are generally sent to regional laboratories.

Treatment is effective but hazardous. The adult worms must be killed and then the dead worms removed by the body's defenses. Veterinarians usually require the animal to be hospitalized for this procedure.

After the adult worms are gone the microfilaria are killed using different medication. Only then can control measures using Diethylcarbamazine begin.

Mosquito time is here for many parts of the nation. Consult your veterinarian for control of this deadly disease.

Called a *coin lesion*, the spot on the lung x-ray looks like it could be cancer.

Confirmed human cases of disease caused by canine heartworm have been reported from Australia, Japan, Africa, Italy and Spain, and the Far East. Fifty cases have been diagnosed in the United States. The coin lesions are seen on lung x-rays and are caused by the adult heartworms plugging a small branch of the pulmonary artery. They can produce symptoms of pneumonia and are often difficult to diagnose. The adult heartworm, unlike in dogs, is not often found in the heart of man.

As expected, most cases of human heartworm disease occur where the problem is most severe in dogs or wildlife. The Gulf and Atlantic states report the most cases. Infected mosquitoes infect man just as they do other animals.

With this in mind it seems prudent to be certain that our pets are not infected. The disease may not be life threatening in man but it certainly is to the dog and cat.

Puppy love:

If you go out of town with your pet, put adhesive tape on the pet's collar with the name and phone number of the person you are visiting or your local contact point. Also, should your pet get lost, don't delay looking for it. Timing is important. Start looking for it right away and keep looking, she advises.

For many elderly people living alone a pet is their only companion and friend. The Animal Health Foundation, understanding the importance of this pet-human bond, provides veterinary care for ailing pets belonging to the elderly who lack the funds to pay for necessary medical care for their pets.

"BEST AVAILABLE PROTECTION AGAINST LOSS OR THEFT"

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Doghouse Plans

Your dog will be healthier and happier if you allow it to live in your home.

But if the winters in your area are not too severe, and your dog has been accustomed to the outdoors, it can be kept outdoors for part of the day in a properly constructed doghouse like the one shown here.

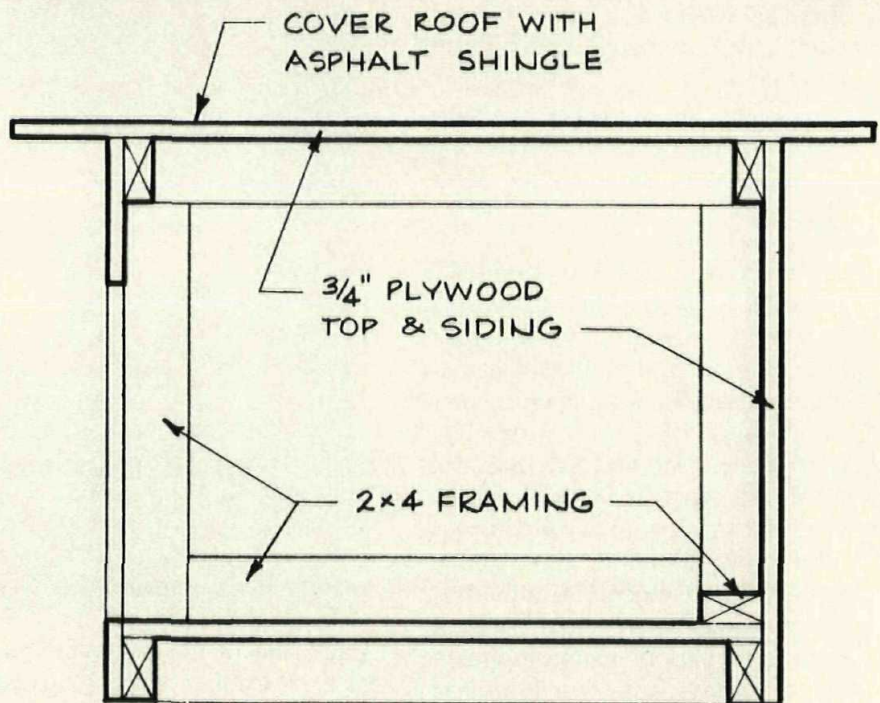
The measurements are based on the size of the dog, and the inside wall helps block the wind. You may wish to add a cloth or canvas drape for a door. Also, make sure the door does not face the direction from which the wind usually blows. The floor can be covered with cedar chips for comfort and a clean smell.

Always keep the doghouse clean and free from parasites. Give your dog the proper amounts of nourishing food, and make sure its water does not freeze over in the cold.

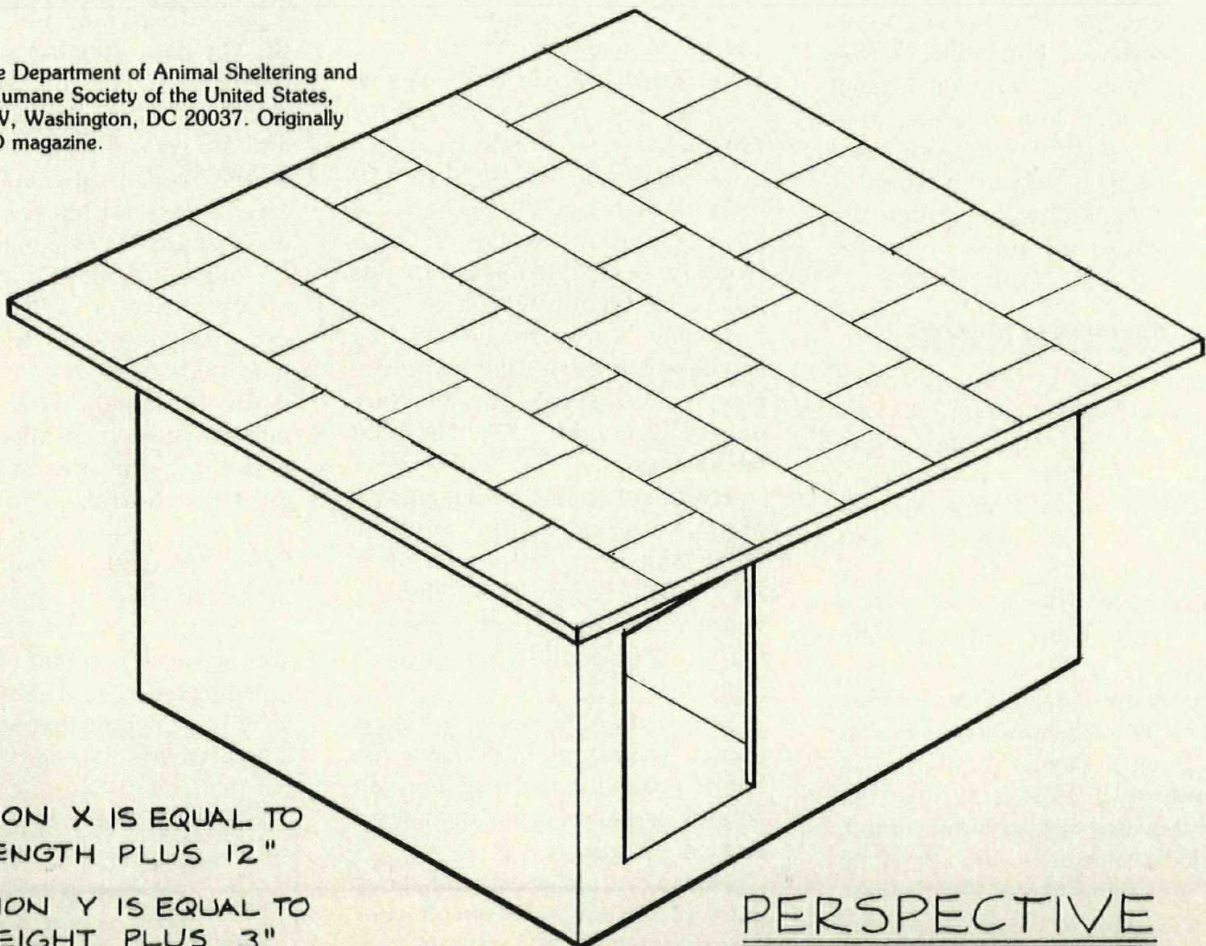
And remember that the outdoor dog needs as much companionship as the indoor pet. To keep your outdoor dog healthy and happy and to prevent continuous barking and other signs of boredom, give it lots of love and attention.

Prepared by the Department of Animal Sheltering and Control, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037. Originally printed in KIND magazine.

Springtime is when many people start thinking about a new house. That's a pretty big undertaking. But if you are just thinking of a new house for Rover here are some plans to make it simple.



SECTION B-B

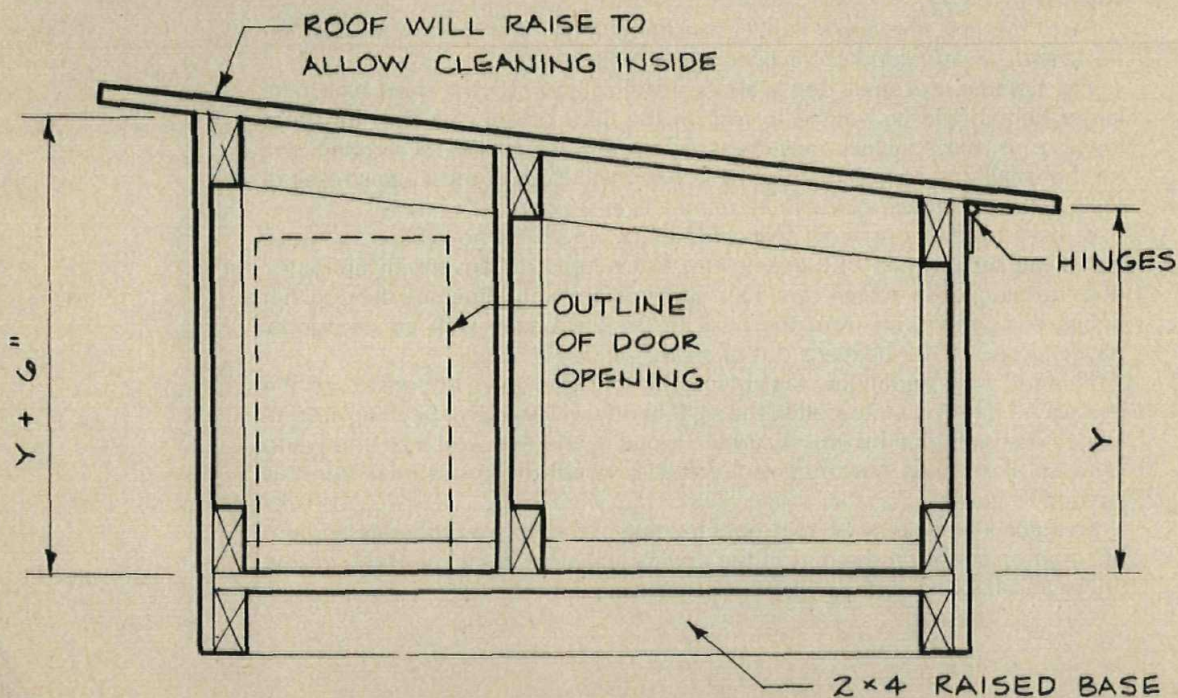
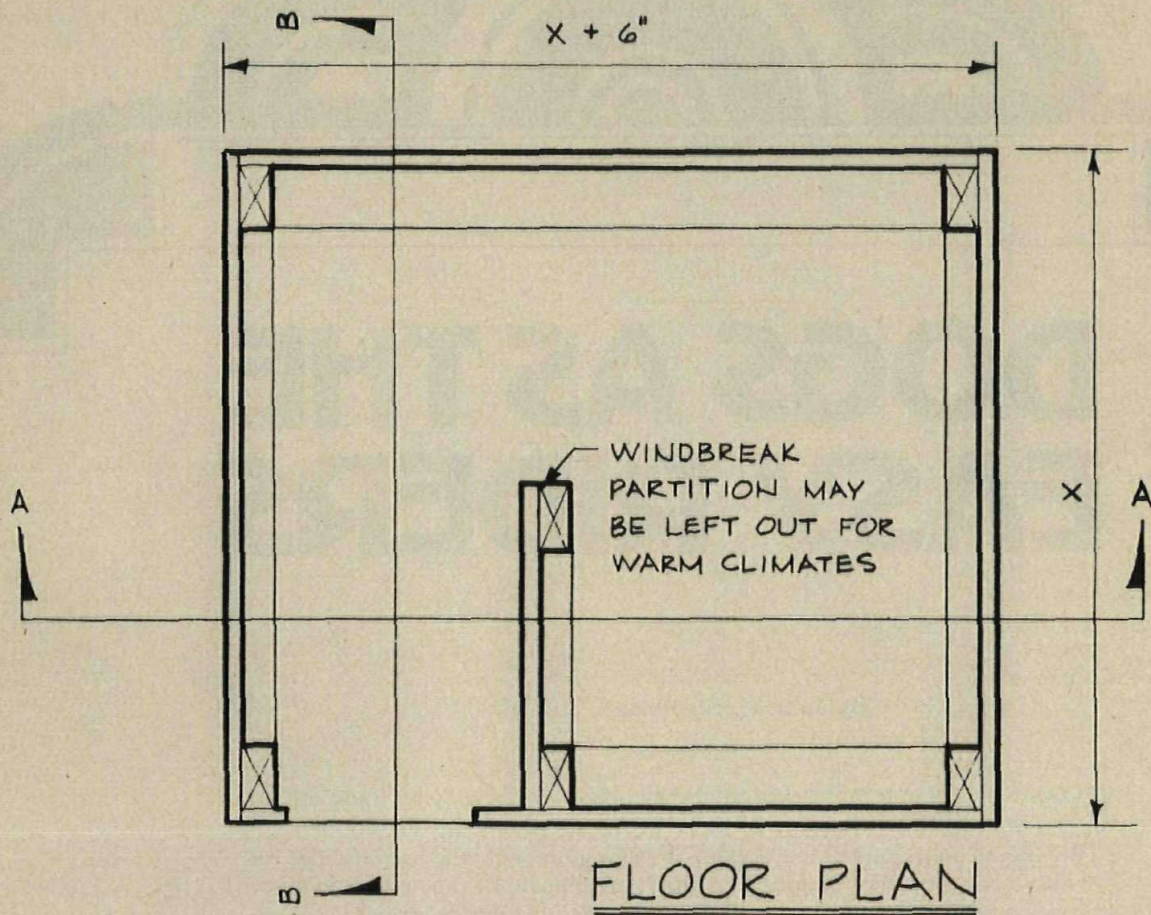


PERSPECTIVE

NOTE :

DIMENSION X IS EQUAL TO
DOG'S LENGTH PLUS 12"

DIMENSION Y IS EQUAL TO
DOG'S HEIGHT PLUS 3"



SECTION A-A

DESIGN BY:
WILLIAM R. MEADE, III



DOGS AS THE EASY RIDERS

By John C. Stevenson, D.V.M.

Dogs riding in automobiles present difficulties. Unfortunately, there are no statistics as to the number of traffic accidents caused by such dogs.

We are all conscious of the slogan, "Fasten your seat belts", everytime we get into a car. But what of our pets? Shouldn't they be held by a passenger or told to lie on the floor for their safety in the case of sudden stops?

I see two interrelated problems here. First is the concern for the dog. Second is the hazard of having the dog in a position to throw the driver off balance.

As to the first, the dog's skull is structurally built to withstand sudden impact; and, as an added protection, it is heavily muscled.

The holding of a small dog is an excellent solution for the short haul. The larger dog should be trained to rest on the floor of the car. But, for those longer trips, during which most dogs will get restless, I advise a carrying case for the small dog and a crate for the larger ones. Both of these, as a result of their use in air travel, come in extremely light weights.

If these precautions were followed, there would be no reason to worry about the second half of the problem. But people do drive with untrained dogs running loose in their cars. I am sure you have all witnessed the dog that jumps back and forth from the back to the front seat--with an occasional pause to search the heavens out of a side window.

This not only endangers the driver's life but also everyone else's on the highway. I have never forgotten the sight of one witless driver peeking around a large dog sitting on his lap. A sudden move by the dog would be enough to send an alert driver out of control. What it would do to this relaxed nut is anybody's guess.

So again it all boils down to proper training of the dog, a moderate amount of common sense on the part of the driver, and strict discipline--both for the driver and his dog.

Loss of pet has happy ending . . .

Dear Editor:

Since my husband has an allergy to dogs and cats, we have gotten rather unusual pets for the children over the years.

We were camping, and stopped for fishing worms at a house that happened to have a baby French lop for a pet. (A French lop is a rabbit whose ears hang down, instead of standing up, and they grow to be much larger than a regular rabbit.)

My son, Paul, who had just celebrated his ninth birthday at the time, came up with every possible excuse to stop at this home to play with the bunny. I never knew anyone who could run out of fishing worms so frequently, just so he could go see this "Little Cutie."

Paul couldn't have that particular lop, but we found out where there were some for sale, so we arranged for him to buy one with his birthday money. The one he chose was black and cuddly, and he called her Fluffy. She had the most pleasant disposition, and was very gentle with the children. We were very proud when she won a prize in a pet show.

We took excellent care of Fluffy, and enjoyed her very much. My husband even put heat in her coop, so she would be warm enough in the winter. We had to be careful that her long ears didn't freeze. (What happens, if they get their ears in their water, there is a possibility of the ears freezing, so if we notice that her ears were wet, we would bring her in the house, and use the hair dryer on her.) She was so docile that she never even flinched when we did this. We were super careful in the winter, but didn't realize how susceptible these animals are to the heat in the summer. After a wonderful year with Fluffy, Paul went out and found her dead from a heat stroke, when the temperature was 100 degrees.

(We learned later that it is necessary to put ice in the coop with the rabbits, when it is hot.) It was a very sad time for us all. We cried as we wrapped her up, dug a grave, and gently buried her.

To fill the void, we went right out, and tracked down a source of

getting another lop. We went to where we had purchased Fluffy, and from there it turned into a real fiasco. They no longer had any lops, but sent us ten miles down the road, where we found out that the woman who sold rabbits was at a fair. We went another fifteen miles to the fair, and found the "Rabbit Section." After three hours of careful deliberation, Paul chose a cute little white lop with brown spots. (They call these "broken"). We call her "Whiskers", and if possible, she has an even better disposition than Fluffy. (By the way, she also won a prize in a pet show.)

Whiskers is now three and one-half years old, and we have enjoyed her immensely. She has been a real "Joy" to us. (We took the advice about putting ice on her coop on really hot days, and obviously it has "paid off.")

Although Fluffy will always have a special place in our hearts, we have grown to love Whiskers very much, too.

Yours very truly,
Joan S. Caldwell
Monroeville, PA.

Dear Sirs:

My interest has prompted this inquiry as to any information that is available on research currently being done on "mountain lions" (*Felis concolor*) located in the Santa Ana Mountain range. If possible contact with person or person involved with this type of exploration is desired and any leads that would be directive would be appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration and any possible information you may be able to furnish.

Yours truly,
David N. Hartje
13051 Ranchwood Rd.,
Santa Ana, Ca. 92705



Dialogue

Dear Today's Animal News:

Enclosed is the money for two more years of a wonderfully written magazine.

Today's Animal News is so fulfilling, and I've learned even so much more to take care of my four cats, one dog and one dove.

I've even helped friends who needed advice on their pet and your magazine comes in handy.

Keep up the great articles and stories. Maybe I'll send you a story of my cat Milly who I've raised since she was one day old and is now six years old and big and very healthy.

I hope more people can buy or subscribe to this magazine because it's very educational! Thank you for a great magazine.

Lucia Flores,
Norwalk, Calif.

Another North American booster . . .

Dear Editor:

I am writing in defense of the North American School of Animal Sciences. I completed their course last year. I agree that the course lacks detail. It does provide a good background for someone who wishes to continue his or her education. Presently, I am a pre-vet student. What I learned from the North American School of Animal Sciences has really aided me in my studies. I hope that you print this letter to help prospective students get the most for their time and money.

Thank you,
Dawn Marie Reifeiss
Haughton, Louisiana

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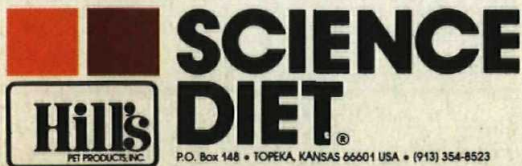
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