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YOUR PET 2003



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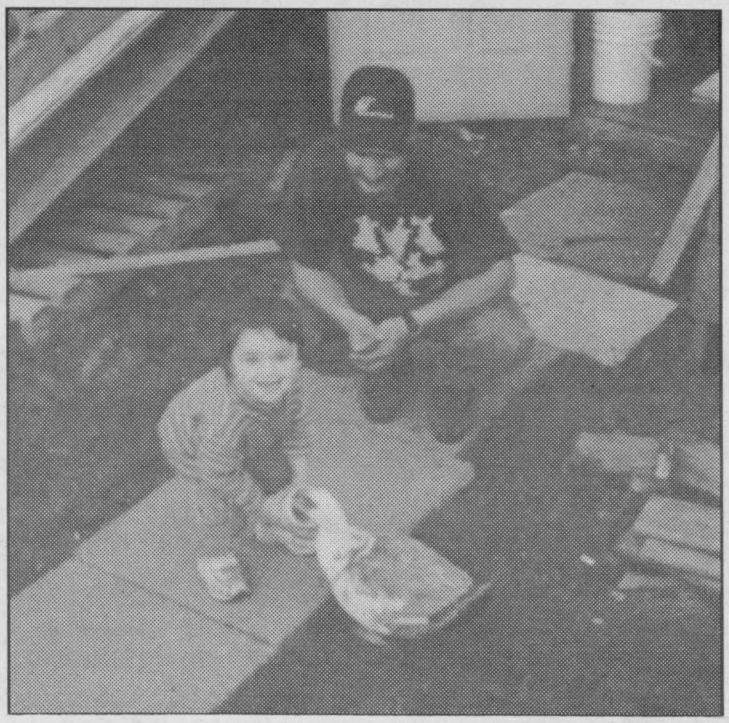


1st-"Cheep-Cheep" and Bryanna Whitford

2500 entrants expected at Woodland's show

The largest outdoor dog show in Ontario will take place from Friday, August 22 to Monday August 25 at Woodlands Campsite on the Long Sault Parkway. The top dog in Canada, Champion "Quiche's Xena Warrior Princess" will be competing in the S.D.&G. Dog Show with over 2500 other entrants. Dog Show President Robin Crawford was pleased with the turnout stating that "there are entries from as far away as Georgia, the New England States and Nova Scotia."

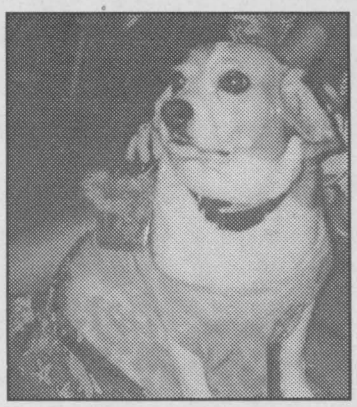
Over 100 dog breeders including the Canadian Bloodhound Club, Canadian Cardigan Corgi Club and Rideau Terrier Club will compete over the four day event, with 750 dogs participating each day. The S.D.&G. Dog Association Show Chairman Jodie O'Meara noted that "these breeds are not often seen in such large numbers at the shows."

The show will run from 8:00 am until 5:30 pm daily, with two to four rings operating at any given time. Confirmation competitions will occur on all four days, with two additional obedience competitions on Saturday and Sunday. The Ottawa Valley All Setters Association invite the public to bring their dogs on Sunday for the Human Animal Bond Association of Canada (HABAC) obedience and temperament test for a nominal fee.

There will be food concession on site, and vendors' booths where you can shop for any variety of dog-related items.

The dog shows take place outdoors so come prepared for the weather and bring your lawn chair. Members of the general public are welcome to come out and watch for the day-use fee of $3.25 for adults, $2.75 for seniors and children 12 years of age and under are free.

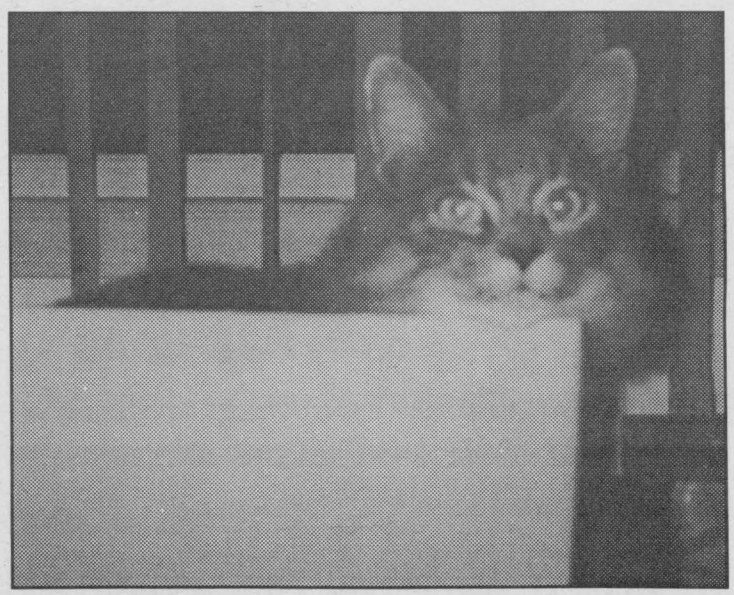
For additional information and/or campground reservation telephone 1-800-437-2233 or 543-4328 locally.



4th-"Brandy" Rebecca Ault



5th-"Sparky" Cole Hoogwerf



3rd-"Smokey" and Brittany Elliot

Is your dog at risk of heartworm infection? Here's how you can tell

(NC)—Whether you're camping, at the cottage, or just playing in the backyard, heartworm may pose a threat to your dog.

Here's how you can quickly know if your dog is at risk of heartworm disease.

- Does your dog spend more than a few minutes a day outdoors?
- If your dog is currently on a monthly heartworm preventative, do you ever miss a dose by more than 30 days?
- Is your dog exposed to mosquitoes?

If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, your dog may be at risk for deadly heartworm disease. Veterinarians recommend you have your dog tested regularly for heartworm disease, and if your dog is at risk, there are several products you can use to prevent this disease.

But all will agree, that prevention is the best — and safest — medicine.

"Heartworm is most often found in Ontario, Quebec, certain parts of British Columbia and southern Manitoba," says



Dr. Ian Sandler, of Rosedale Animal Hospital in Toronto. "Heartworm is something that is very easy to prevent but very difficult to treat. There are surgical risks, cardiac risks and other challenges that make treating a dog with heartworm difficult."

For more information on heartworm prevention, talk to your veterinarian and ask about a new season-long heartworm prevention is one safe and easy dose.

- News Canada

Eyes don't have it

For most humans, the eyes are the primary sense when it comes to distinguishing between two similar individuals. For dogs, however, it's all in the sense of smell.

A report by Kal Kan Foods Inc. conducted in 2000 says a dog's sense of smell helps to interact within an environment and communicte with other dogs as well as humans.

"The scents provide a dog with a wealth of information about the comings and goings in a neighbourhood," says the report.

Many pet owners have allergies but still want pets

Most North American households with animal companions are seeing an increase in the number of pets, as well as allergies, says a recent report by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI).

The AAAAI notes 44 percent of American and Canadian pet owners with dogs, cats or ferrets have allergies, but refuse to give up their furry friends to rid hair and dander causing symptoms.

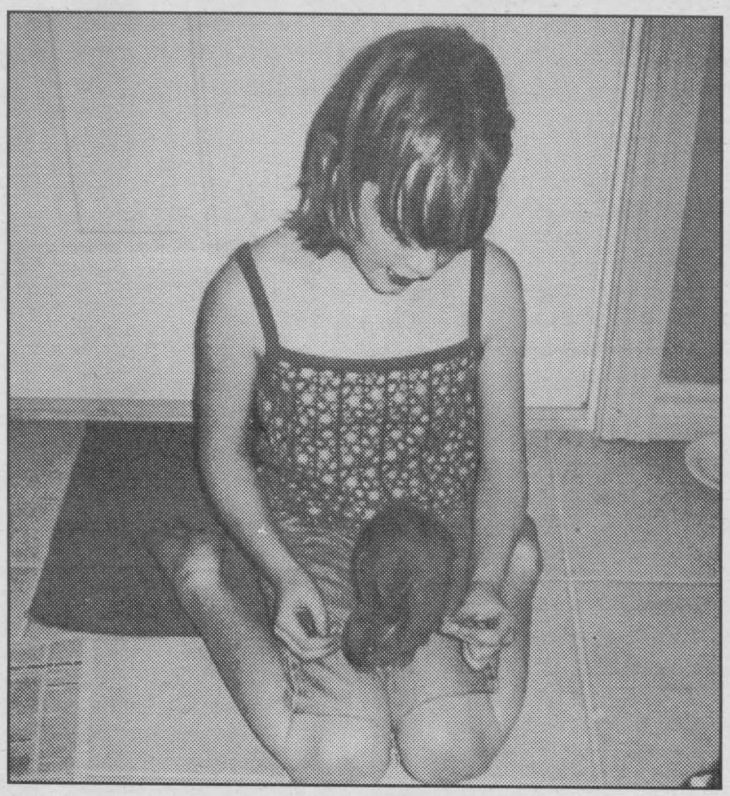
The study included tips on how to reduce household allergens such as;

~washing hands after touching pets and before rubbing eyes

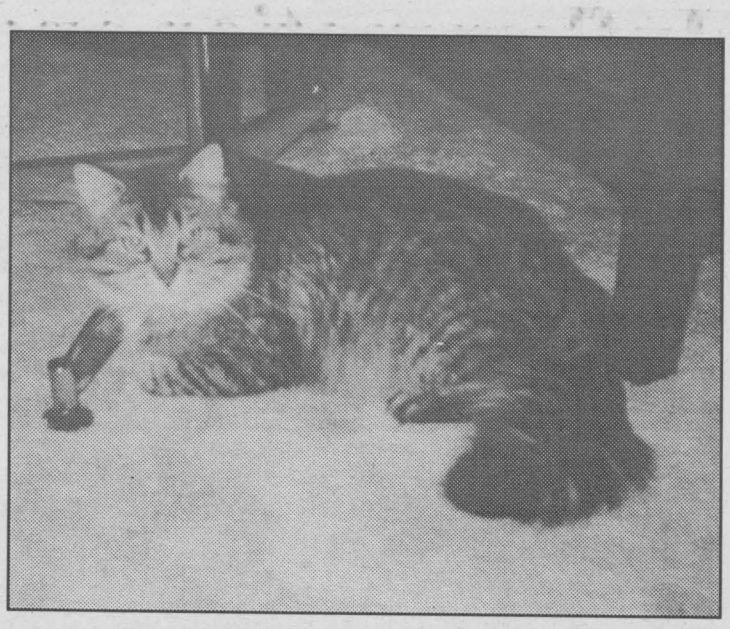
~restricting pets to certain rooms to create allergy-free areas

~using allergen-resistent covers on mattresses and pillows

~avoid dust and dander catching furnishings like cloth curtains and blinds.



3rd-"Fluffy" and Emily Peters



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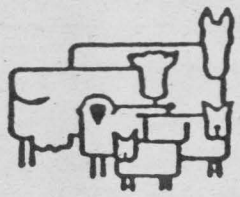

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Inflammation and swelling techniques used in massage

By Kimberly Harper E.M.T.

About Helping Hands Equine Massage: Helping Hands Equine Massage is a sole proprietorship owned and operated by Kimberly Harper. Kimberly has received her diploma at the D'AL School of Equine Massage Therapy in London, Ontario and is establishing her professional practice in the greater Ottawa area.

Who should massage your horse? Equine massage is a new up-and-coming form of alternative health care for our equine athletes. It is to be used in conjunction with veterinarian medicine. Due to the distinctive anatomy and physiology of the horses, only a formally trained equine massage therapist should be called upon to provide this specialized service. A professionally trained equine massage therapist should have completed a rigorous equine-oriented program consisting of a minimum of 2200 hours of course work, with extensive studies in anatomy, physiology, pathology, theory and technique, massage application, and equine management. In addition, studies should include kinesiology, hydrotherapy, equine behaviour, and professional practice.

Regular relaxational massages are a beneficial way to help prevent injuries from occurring. However, considering the nature of the horse, this is not always possible. There are several advanced techniques that can be used in conjunction with General Swedish massage techniques. This article is about inflammation and the swelling technique.

Inflammation is the body's protective response to an injury, the most common cause being physical trauma. The inflammation process forms a protective barrier between the irritated site and the surrounding tissues to prevent the spread of infection, to allow for a healthy repair site. When injuries occur from repeated strain or "wear and tear", inflammation heals by way of scar tissue. This result may limit the horse's flexibility and extendibility, which could lead to further damage.

Inflammation has three different stages acute, subacute and chronic. With the veterinarian's approval, a massage incorporating the swelling technique should be performed. The swelling technique helps reduce inflammation by dispersing the fluid into the lymphatic system. By reducing the inflammation some of the pain is relieved, this will also reduce the amount of scar tissue formed. Scar tissue can not be completely eliminated, but massage early on can help align the scar tissue with the muscle fibers for a more flexible injury site. The quicker the inflammation can be reduced the sooner the training schedule can be resumed with little to no side effects from an injury.

For further information, call Kimberly Harper E.M.T. (613) 298-0579; or e-mail helpinghands emt@yahoo.ca



3rd-"Bootsie" Nash Nesbitt-Johnston

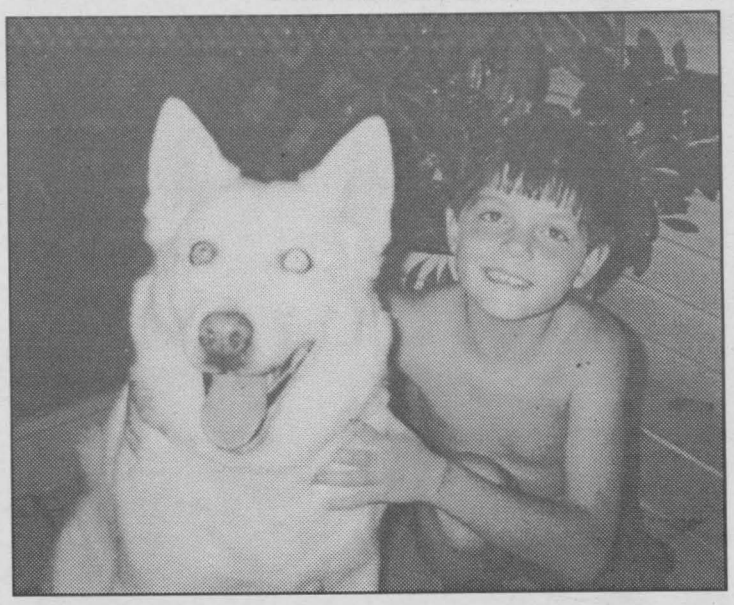
Springing into shape

Nearly 65 percent of dogs and cats in Canada are overweight and need to spring into shape to avoid health problems, says a Western College of Veterinary Medicaine (WCVM) professor.

The consequences for overweight pets include increased risk of joint problems, elavated blood pressure, diabetes as well as heart and liver problems.

"Pet obesity is widespread and even pets with a mild weight problem need to begin a weight loss program," explains Anthony Carr, Associate Professor of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at the WCVM in Saskatoon, Saskachewan.

To ensure that your pet retains a healthy weight, Carr points out owners must see to proper nutrition and exercise.



2nd-"Frosty" and Luc Taillefer

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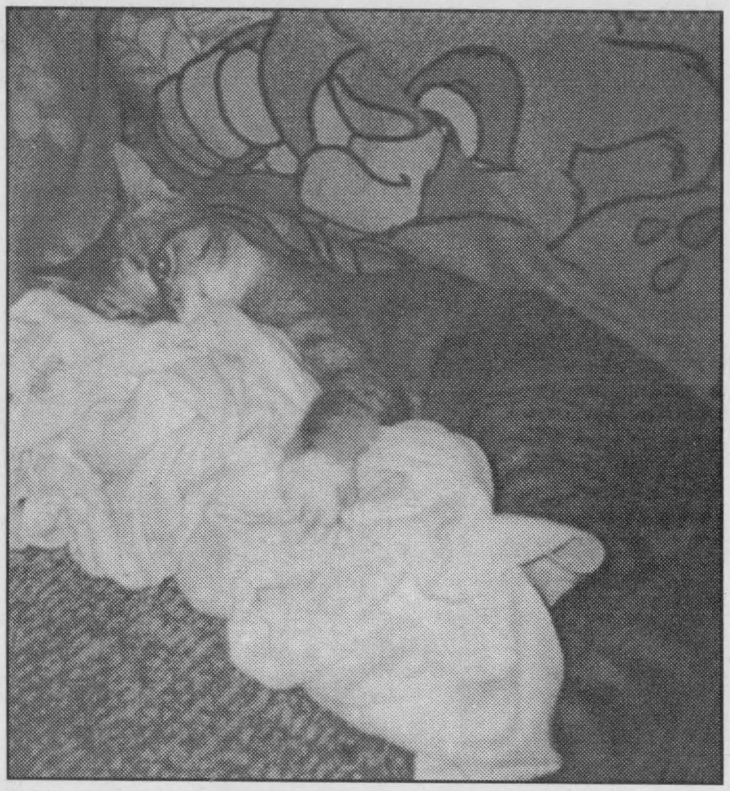


2nd-"Boots and Amber Ault

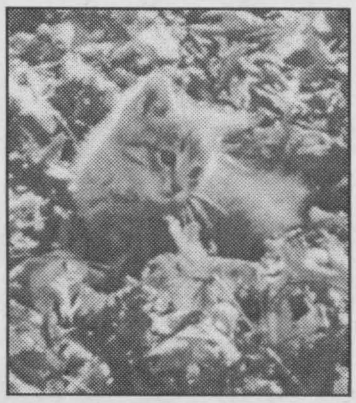
No smiling matter

A Gallup Organization poll revealed two-thirds of pet owners in both the U.S. and Canada understand dental health is important to the well being of a pet, but only one in five owners brush their pet's teeth.

The survey results showed 63 percent of owners have never had their pet's teeth professionally cleaned, explaining that cost was the primary concern.

Other cncerns expressed were risks and complications associated with anesthesia.

"While their actions don't support it, pet owners should consider their dog's or cat's dental health as important as the animal's overall health," say researchers at the University of Minnesota. "The Gallup survey results indicate that owners still have a long way to go to provide total dental health for their pets.



4th-"Smokey"
Evan & Erin Fawcett

Heartworm – a lifecycle that can be deadly for your dog

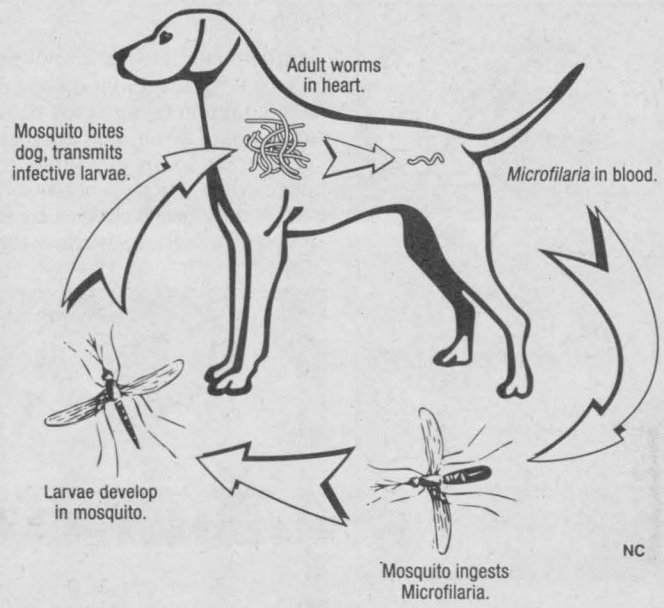
(NC)—Those buzzing mosquitoes that you find annoying can pose a deadly threat for your dog.

That's because mosquitoes are the carriers for heartworm, a potentially fatal disease that can infect your dog. Here's a quick look at how heartworm can be transmitted to your dog.

- The heartworm lifecycle begins when an infected dog, carrying tiny, immature heartworms circulating in its blood, is bitten by a mosquito.
- When the mosquito takes a blood meal, it ingests the heartworm larvae.
- During the next two-three weeks, the larvae develop within the mosquito into the infective stage.
- When the mosquito feeds again, it can transmit the larvae into a healthy dog. The larvae penetrate the dog's skin and migrate through the tissues and develop over the next few months, eventually reaching the dog's heart.
- Once in the dog's heart, the worms can cause damage to the heart, lungs and other vital organs. If left untreated, heartworm disease can result in death.

Your veterinarian can recommend a canine health program that includes regular heartworm testing. Ask about a new injectable heartworm preventative that provides season-long protection in one safe and easy dose.

- News Canada



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Ferret ownership... is it for you?

Few people can resist the innate charm of the ferret, an affectionate, curious, energetic creature, which is why the popularity of the domestic ferret has greatly increased. Breeders everywhere are turning out more ferrets than ever before and pet stores cannot keep up with the high demands. New products for ferrets such as vaccines, diet formulas, toys and furniture have even flooded the pet market. And there are thousands of magazines and internet websites detailing the specifics of this household pet.

Potential ferret owners should understand several important factors when considering a ferret a pet. Too often, potential owners fall in love with these creatures, knowing too little about the care they require, which is why it is important to know more about its diet and health requirements.

About the ferret

The lifespan of a ferret in North America is seven to nine years. Males average about 2.25 to 2.5 pounds and females approximately one to 1.25 pounds. Young ferrets are called "kits" and are often purchased neutered and descented (without the anal sacs that produce a somewhat noxious material).

Most ferrets are either sable (dark brown and tan with a dark mask across the eyes) or albino, however, numerous colour variations exist such as champagne, silver mitt and panda. Private breeders often specialize in specific colour variations or other bloodlines and are the most common source for intact kits.

Ferrets are indoor pets that do not require the outdoors like dogs and some cats. In fact, they prefer an indoor lifestyle much like a typical cat. And they can be easily trained to use the litter box, however, they are not always as careful as a cat.

Ferrets which are largely hypoallergenic, enjoy interaction with their owners, other animals and especially ferrets. They need to interact with others as it is vital to a ferret as food and water, which is why they are not suitable pets for people who spend long hours away from home. Leaving a ferret on its own and with little or no interaction could result in disease from boredom and stress.

Ferrets co-exist exceedingly well with other pets. Ferrets and dogs are often become fast friends, (keep in mind a large or

Please turn to page 6



2nd-"Forest" and "TV", Guerins' pets

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CONTINUED

Ferret ownership

Continued from page 5

energetic dog may unwillingly harm a ferret if the two are not properly supervised). Ferrets also love cats, but often receive little affection from them. Even households with exotic species get along well with ferrets. Ferrets should only be kept away from smaller species such as birds, rabbits and small rodents such as gerbils and hamsters because play may have strong adverse affects.

Every home welcoming a ferret should, nonetheless, undergo rigorous preparation commonly referred to ferret proofing. Ferret proofing requires the location and elimination of all holes, crevices and potential danger spots such as recliner chairs and dryer and heating vents.

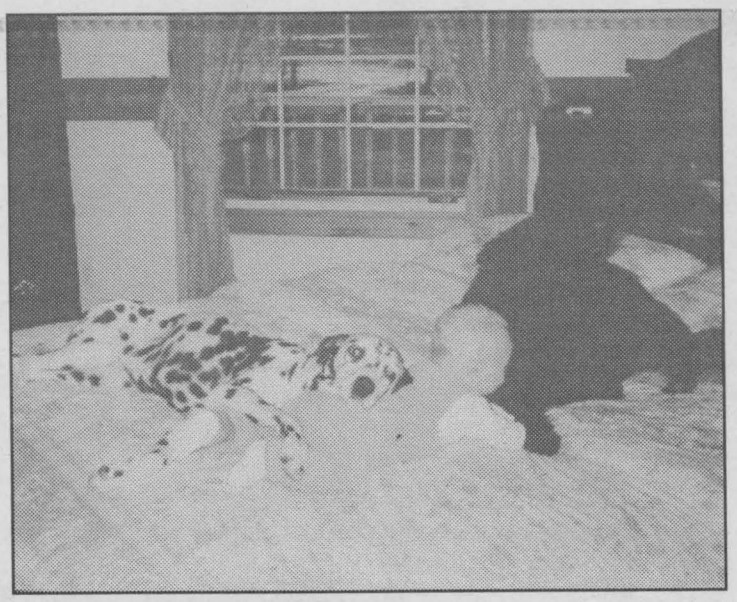
Ferrets lack opposable thumbs, which means they investigate their surroundings with their mouths. As a result, kits often enjoy a lively game of nip-and-run and do not understand why human skin is not as tough as their own. In fact, some kits may require a bit of training along these lines, but owners will realize this is a natural behaviour and not an act of aggression. A ferret bite is less frequent and severe than a cat or dog since a ferret's jaw does not have the crushing ability, deep puncture potential or pathogenic oral bacteria. However, it is recommended ferrets should not be kept in households with small children. In addition, small children may view a ferret as a toy and the implications could be disastrous for both child and ferret.

Diet and Health

The diet of the domestic ferret is not extremely complex, but it is unique since the ferret is a carnivore with extremely, rapid digestion, requiring a high level of protein in its diet. Specially formulated ferret chows are available and many owners use premium kitten chows. which fullfills the ferret's unusually high protein requirement and provide taurine-an essential compound for retinal function. Appropriate ferret food will list animal products and byproducts (usually poultry) as the primary ingredient. Chows that use plant protein as the main ingredient are of a lesser quality and may result in a number of problems, including urinary stones. Dog chow which lacks taurine and contains lower levels of protein is not suitable for ferrets.

To prevent any disease and keep a happy ferret, routine veterinary checkups, where ferrets receive vaccinations and are monitored for signs of illnesses should be made at least once a year until the age of five. After five years, visits should become semi-annual as diseases may appear.

Ferrets require annual vaccinations for canine distemper and rabies. Kits should receive a series of three distemper shots between the ages of 6 and 14 weeks and one each year there after. They should also receive a rabies vaccination at 14 weeks and annually there after. Vaccinations for feline diseases as well as the use of a multivalent canine distemper vaccines are not necessary and may have adverse effects. Ferrets who live in areas where heartworms are endemic should receive a monthly heartworm preventative. Most flea products including new varieties such as Frontline and Advantage are safe for ferrets. However, check with your veterinarian for the appropriate dosage.



1st-"Morgan" and Brandon Ault



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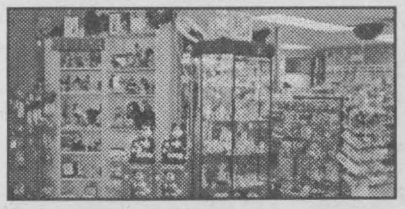

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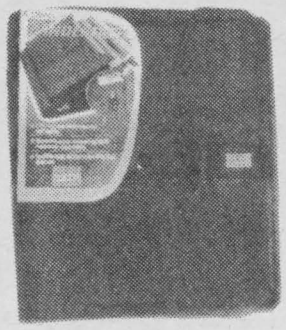

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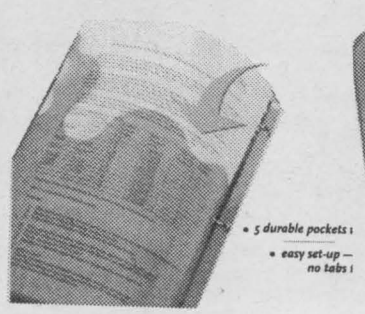

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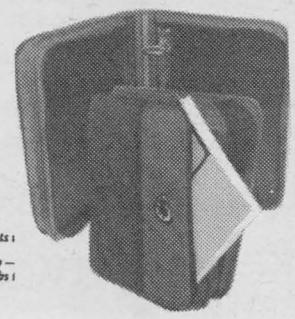

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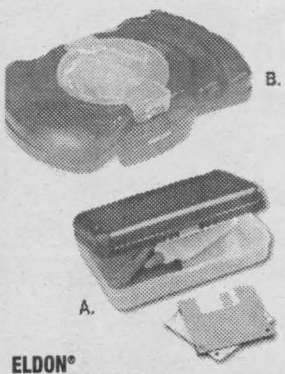

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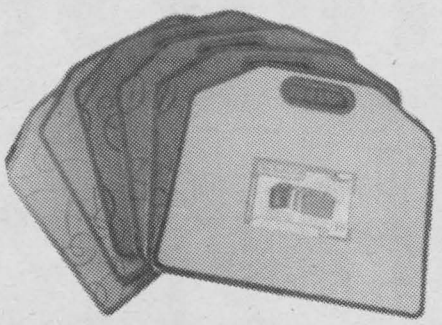

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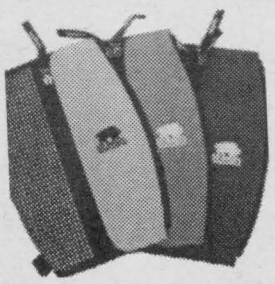

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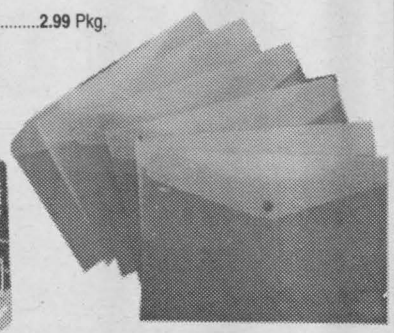

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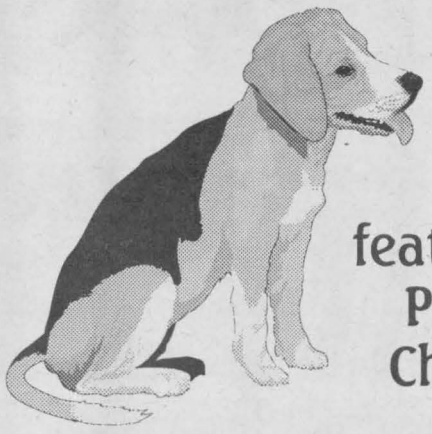

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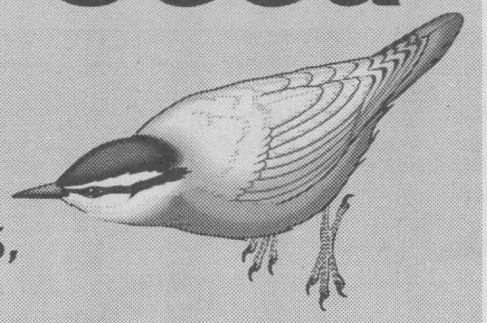

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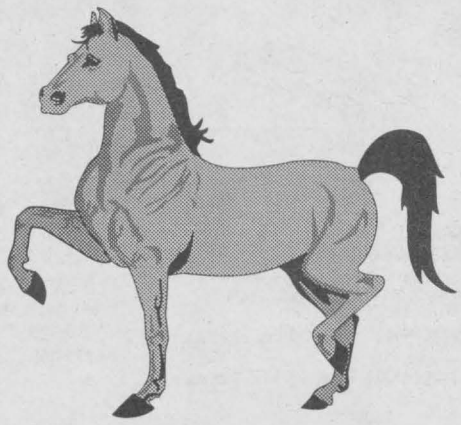

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