WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1998

YOUR PET '98



Contest WINNER'S Were Drawn JULY 23 / 98



Cuddles (Courtney& Casey Mcdermid)-13th



Lilly owned by Crystall Cooper-6th

Vital info on pet care

prepared by Dr. Norene Hyatt-Gervais
Morrisburg Animal Hospital

Summer Care for Pets

Summertime presents some unique situations when caring for our pets needs. Hygiene is a big issue as swimming, bug bites, mud and other problems may create health problems if left alone.

Bug Bites and Stings:

Some dogs and cats may be allergic to stings from bees or wasps and may have acute reactions to only one sting. Dogs typically bite at insects and cats bat at them. We frequently see dogs with big swollen faces and cats with painful swollen paws that occur suddenly after being out in the backyard. This reaction may progress to a more serious problem so should be treated promptly. If possible,get your pet to the veterinarian; but a home first aid kit should include an antihistamine called Benadryl. If you are delayed in getting to the doctor, then cold packs and Benadryl given by mouth (check the dosage with your veterinarian) may help. Benadryl is available in tablet or liquid formulations.

Hot Spots:

Other bug bites may cause infection or a common disorder called "hot spots." In general, if you see an irritation on your pet's skin, clip the fur as short as you can and clean the area with mild soap and water. Your veterinarian may prescribe lotions or oral

Please turn to page 2

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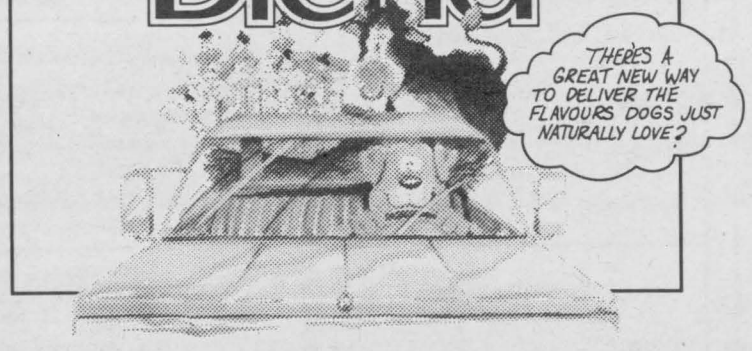

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FROM FRONT

Pet care

medication if the lesion requires it. Hot Spots may also occur for no apparent reason amd may become severe in a very short time.

Intestinal Upsets:

Summertime sun and outdoor romps may allow your pet access to illegal "goodies" in the environment that may cause intestinal upsets. The resulting vomiting and diarrhea may not only necessitate medial care but also make hygiene very important. Diarrhea in a long haired animal, especially can create problems. Flies in the outdoors may contaminate a wound or soiled fur and skin can cause maggots to appear. So, the best thing is to keep everything very clean and if problems do occur, seek veterinary attention as soon as possible.

Poisons:

Read labels on any pesticides carefully to avoid problems with your pets. If possible, use low toxicity "natural" pesticides that may be much safer if ingested accidentally. Some plants may be toxic as well. Different parts of different plants may be a problem,. If interested, a list of toxic plants may be available at the humane society.

Car Travel:

As we have often heard in the media, pets may die if left in the car on a hot summer day. Even a warm day may be fatal if your pet is trapped inside a car. In general, try not to travel with your pets if it means they will be left alone. Take them with you only if you can take them out when you are at your destination. Even what seems like a short time period to you may be hazardous.

In general use common sense when caring for your pets in the summer. Make sure they are protected from the elements and any hazards in the environment.

Road accidents are more frequent for pets in the summer so protect your pet from free running.

Additional information on specific topics is available from the humane society or your local veterinarian. When in doubt, call for information to help keep your pet healthy and happy.

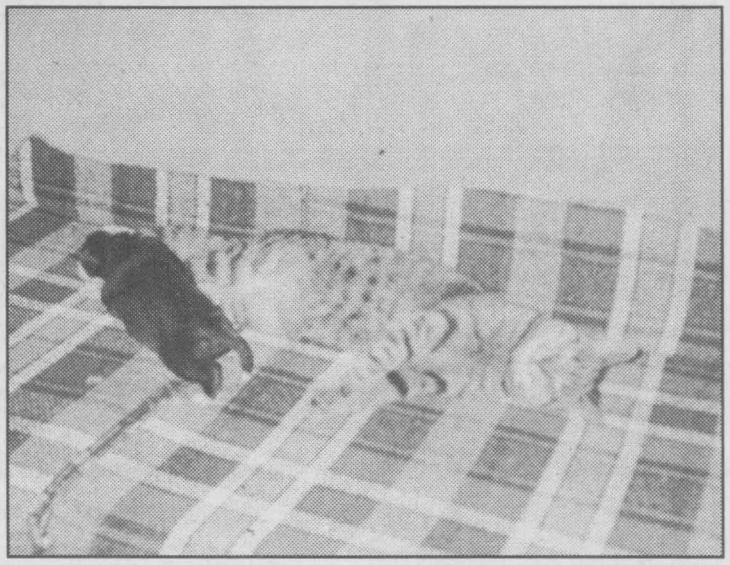
Dog Bites

Dogs are colour-blind, yes, (though some dogs can distinguish reds and blues), but their night and peripheral vision are far better than humans.



Macayla & Abby (Lacey Mallett)-14th

Tiger & Sparky (Crystal & Caelina Cantin)-9th



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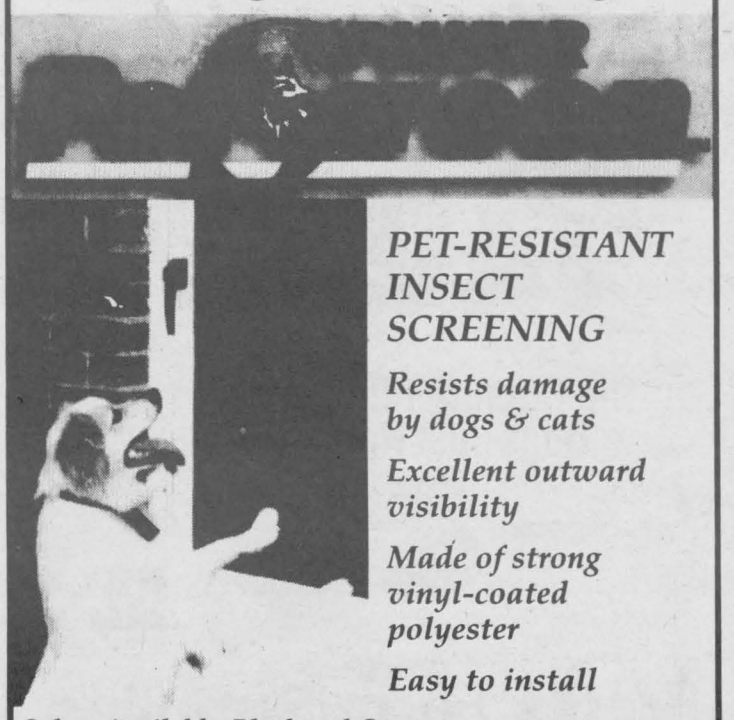

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(This picture is of a full-grown, female Great Dane)

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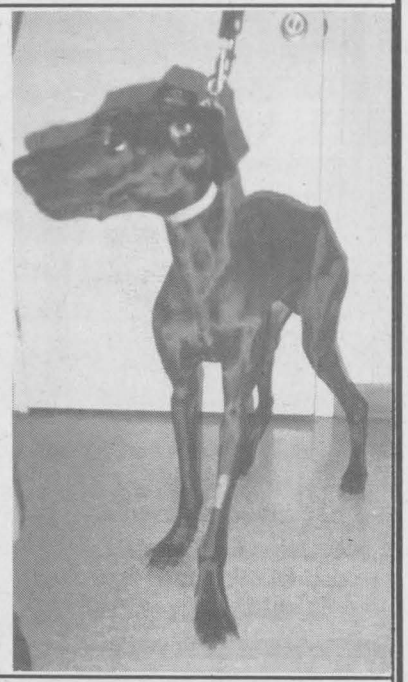

IF YOU FIND A DOG SUFFERING FROM HEAT EXHAUSTION, AND THE OWNER CAN NOT BE QUICKLY LOCATED, PLEASE CALL YOUR LOCAL HUMANE SOCIETY, POLICE DEPARTMENT AND/OR ANIMAL CONTROL

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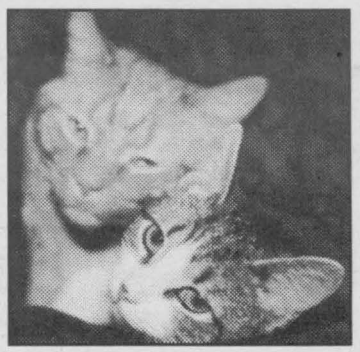
Chelsea (Paige Cooke)-11th



Snuggles &Molson (Kirk & Rachel Gibson)-7th

Please Spay or Neuter Your PETS...



Teddy owned by Derrick Johnston-8th

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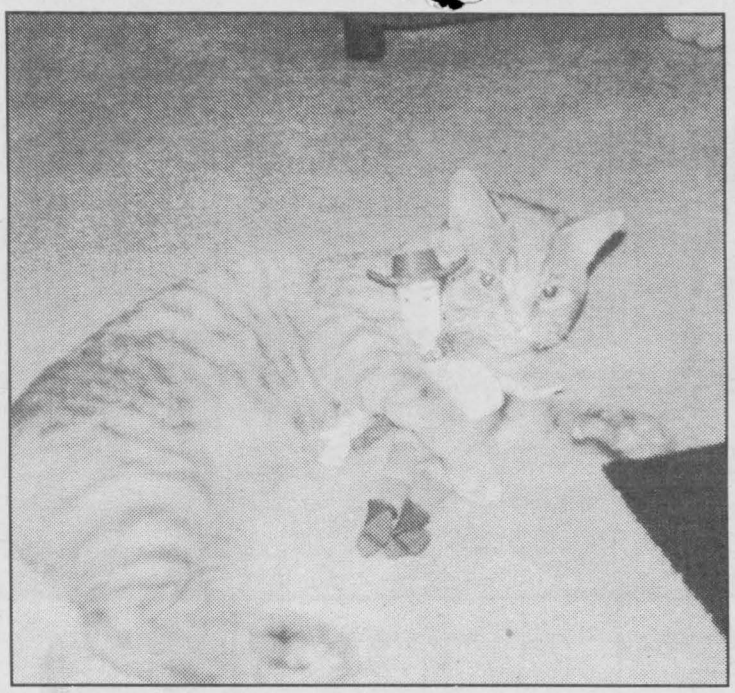

Simba owned by Chelsea Bosman-4th

Does your pet have fleas? odds are he/she does

Although there are over 2,000 species of flea, the most commonly encountered today is the cat fleas (Ctenocephalides felis). Despite its name, it is adaptable and is found on both cats and dogs.

Fleas are responsible for a variety of problems ranging from simple itching and infections tc allergic skin reactions and the spread of tapeworms.

Contrary to popular belief, the female flea always lays her eggs on the pet. The Merck Veterinary manual confirms that "When attached to a host (adult fleas) fed voraciously, but digest only a small percentage of ingested blood, the remaining being excreted as small black fecal "flea dirt." Feeding stimulates egg laying while on the host and adult female fleas will lay several hundred eggs during their lifetime. The small, white eggs do not adhere to skin and hair, but fall freely off the host to contaminate bedding, floors, carpets and the external environment."

The adult flea represents only a small percentage of those present in your home. In fact, the vast majority of the flea population is actually either in egg, larval or pupal stage, which you cannot see!

Effective elimination of fleas, requires control at all levels of the life cycle...egg, larvae, pupae and adult.

Vicious cycle

Before you can effectively control fleas, you have to understand a little about their biology...more specifically their life cycle.

The flea life cycle consists of 4 very distinct developmental stages. Adult fleas comprise about 1% of an infestation. Pre-Adult fleas make up the other 99% and they consist of ...Flea Eggs (34% of the infestation), Flea Larvae (57% of the infestation) and Flea Pupae (8% of the infestation).

Adult Flea

The biting, reproducing and most annoying stage, the adult flea is the most visible stage and feeds on the blood of your pet. Adult fleas feed on the pet and most adult fleas will remain on the same host pet throughout their entire life. For every flea you see, there are about 99 pre-adult fleas you cannot see. Adult fleas can cause your pet health problems like tapeworms, various skin disorders, infections and allergies.

Flea Eggs

Flea eggs fall from your pet into your home and your yard. A female flea can lay up to 2,000 eggs in her lifetime and all eggs are laid on the animal. They are barely visible to the human eye. The eggs do not adhere to the animal, but soon fall off into your carpeting, furniture, yard or anywhere your pet roams. Flea eggs can develop into the larvae stage within 10 days under optimal conditions.

Flea Larvae

The worm-like larvae settle deep within carpet fibres and under furniture. Almost invisible, the larvae must be controlled if any flea treatment is going to be effective, since they compromise the largest segment of the flea population. The larvae have long spines on each segment that allow them to cling to carpet fibres, making it difficult to remove all of them by routine vacuuming. The flea larvae feed upon microscopic organic debris for 5-11 days before producing a silk-like cocoon and entering the pupal stage.

Flea Pupae

Shielded by a sticky cocoon, no treatment can control flea pupae. Concealed by carpet fibres and other debris adhering to is sticky cocoon, flea pupae account for 8% of a typical infestation. Hungry adult fleas emerge from the pupae in as little as 8 days.

Remember!

* In as little as 15 days, the flea life cycle is completed. In 30 days, 10 fleas can multiply to 250,000 fleas!!
* If one dog or cat in the household has fleas, it should be assumed that they all have fleas. Therefore, all animals in the household should be treated.
* To get rid of fleas for good, you have to kill both adult fleas and their off spring.

* Treat your pet
* Treat your home.



Daisy (Nicholas & Jessica Ault)-10th

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Nutrition needs important to pets

Growth in all species of animals has a genetic as well as an environmental component. Dogs have the genetic potential for very rapid growth. This is particularly true of the large and giant breeds. However in dogs, an accelerated growth rate is not necessarily desirable. Maximal rate of growth does not correlate to optimal skeletal development. Studies in large breeds, as well as in pigs and chickens indicate that those animals with the most rapid growth rates are those most likely to suffer disturbances in their skeletal development, particularly in breeds of dogs with a genetic predisposition to skeletal diseases, maximal growth must be avoided. In the rearing of dogs, optimal rather than maximal growth should be the goal.

It is well known that nutrition is one of the most important non-genetic factors affecting the growth rate of an animal. Inadequate nutrition during the critical growth period can result in a permanently stunted adult. During the period of most accelerated growth, a puppy may need to consume up to three times more energy than a mature dog of the same size and weight. The puppy's diet must provide him with sufficient energy during this time and all the required nutrients in the proper balance.

Overnutrition can be as serious a problem as undernutrition during the growth period. Hedhammer (1980) performed extensive studies on Great Danes correlating energy intake to growth rate and bone morphology. Again, two groups of puppies were fed test diets during the growth period. This time, both diets were offered ad lib, but while one was a medium energy diet, the other was relatively high in energy. This study found that the puppies on the higher energy diet had significantly greater increases in body weight and height over the trial period of 20 weeks and that the lengths of the puppies bones on this diet were significantly longer than those of the medium energy diet puppies.

Radiographic examination of the bones of the puppies showed that the faster growing puppies had an increased level of premature bone disposition and an increased frequency of abnormal cartilage maturation. Hedhammar was able to show that growth rate, as influenced by energy intake, adversely affects normal bone development and mature bone structure.

Hedhammar went one step further and correlated the faster growth rate and altered bone structure to the incidence and severity of several skeletal diseases. The incidence and severity of hip dysplasia and other skeletal disorders for example, were shown to increase with an accelerated rate of growth. There are of course, many factors involved in the incidence of hip dysplasia and other skeletal diseases. Overnutrition itself does not cause hip dysplasia. However in dogs predisposed to skeletal disease, overnutrition increases the risk of the condition occurring in that animal.

Feeding the working dog

Many factors can influence the energy requirements of a dog. In living organisms, energy is required for muscular work, for breathing, for metabolizing nutrients and for the maintenance of body temperature. Quantitatively, energy is the most important item in a dog's diet.

In certain cases, a dog's energy requirement is so high that it cannot be met by feeding a regular maintenance diet. In such cases, a specially formulated, high energy diet is indicated.

Gestation and lactation place additional stress on a female and dramatically increase her energy requirements. For the first two-thirds of gestation, the female's energy requirements will be slightly greater than maintenance. During the last trimester of pregnancy however, her energy requirements may increase by up to 160%. Depending on litter size, caloric requirements during lactation will often reach 3.5 times those of maintenance. Until the puppies are weaned, the mother must consume enough energy to meet the needs of all her puppies as well as herself. The ability of the mother to maintain adequate food consumption will determine whether her energy requirements are met.

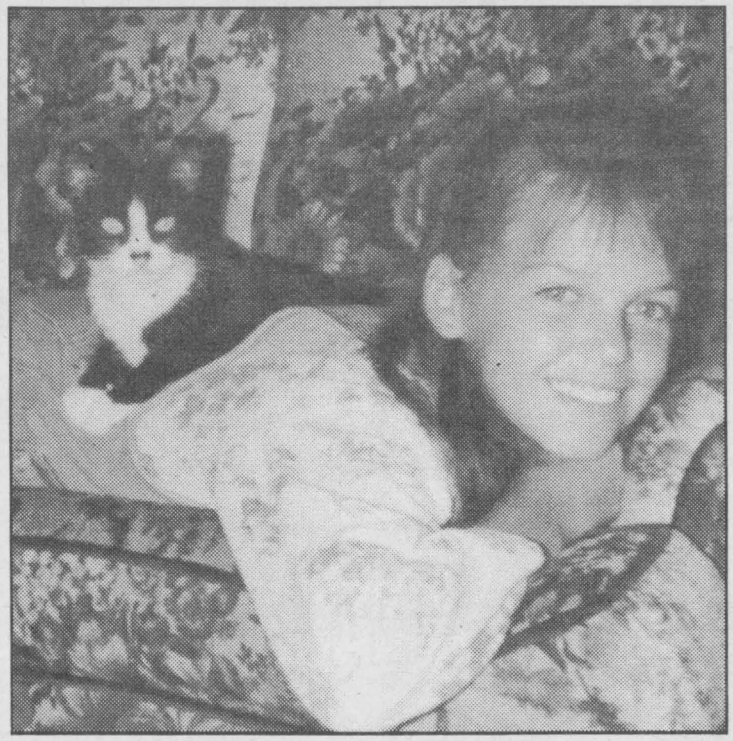
Stress, hard work and adverse environmental conditions also increase a dog's energy requirements. A cold-acclimated dog will have an increased metabolic rate. The animal's increased rate of food metabolization helps him generate more body heat to keep warm. A heat-acclimated dog will also have an elevated metabolic rate, but in his case it is to help him lose heat and reduce body temperature.

It is difficult to predict the exact energy needs of a working or stressed animal. While racing greyhounds may require energy only 110-120% above maintenance, working sled dogs may need 300-400% more because of their colder environment. The best way of evaluating whether the dog's requirements are being met is to monitor his weight and condition.

If your pet is also a working dog, check into this carefully.

As dogs reach their senior years, they tend to be less active and can become overweight if their eating habits are not adjusted. Before beginning any weight reduction program with your pet, be certain that your dog is healthy. If you have any doubts, contact your veterinarian.

To achieve proper weight reduction, a combined program of deceased calorie intake and regular exercise is best. As soon as your dog reaches its ideal weight, begin feeding according to the guidelines for maintaining your dog's weight.



Misty owned by Allison-2nd

Dog Bites

Dogs have a "third eyelid" to provide added prevention against injury. In the event that the dog's eye is injured, the eyelid swells over the injury for added protection.

Dogs overheat much faster than humans, because they only sweat through their noses and footpads. They pant to release that heat through their mouths.

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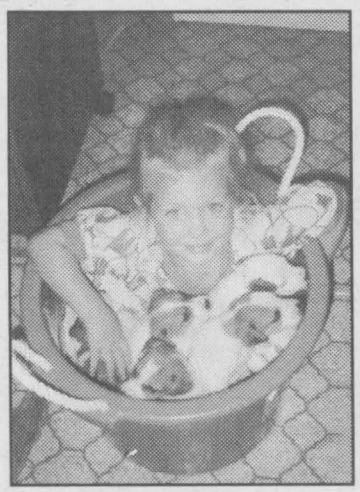
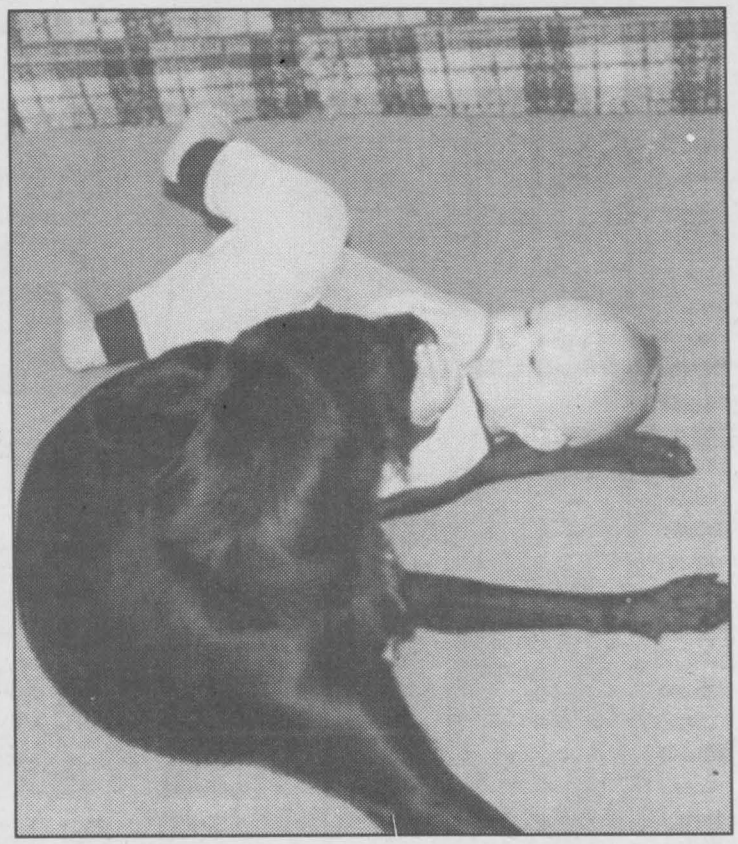
Coco & Sammy(Jessica MacDonald)-12th



Scout & Snuggles (Kristy McGill)-5th



Jaymie Thurler and his Jack Russel pups-3rd



Chrissy (owned by Kevin Phifer)-1st

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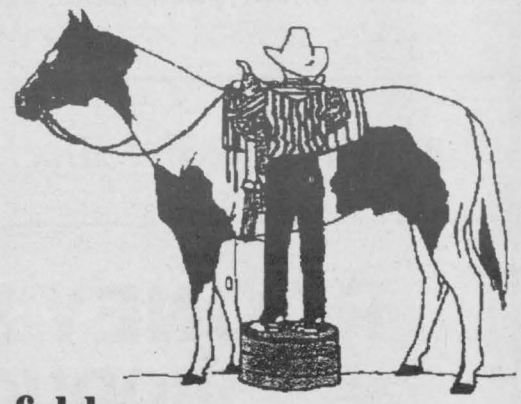

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