WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1999

YOUR PET '99

Contest WINNER'S Were Drawn JULY 22 / 99



Rabid raccoon 3

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Melissa Flinn and Brutus her cat won first!!

Anti-Cruelty task force is launched by Humane Society

"Nikita", a one-year-old Rottweiler dog survived being dragged behind her owner's truck for more than a kilometre. last week, her owner was criminally charged with cruelty to animals and if convicted could face up to six months in jail, a fine of $200 and could be ordered not to own or work with animals for up to two years.

However, that is not enough according to the Humane Society of Canada. Nikita and others like her are the reason the organization has taken the important step of establishing ACT, an 8-point plan to get tough on animal abusers. "Our Anti-Cruelty Taskforce (ACT) has one very simple goal...to end the abuse of animals, the torture and the cruelty to animals right across Canada," says Al Hickey, Western Regional Director for the Humane Society of Canada.

Through the kindness and generosity of Canadians this means his group is already working on cases like "Nikita" helping sick and injured dogs and cats, wildlife and others animals in Canada. These animals are now being cared for, free from cruelty and abuse.

"You and I are all that stand between animals and people who want to harm them. We are the animals last line of defence. We are their best hope to be free from cruelty," says Michael Sullivan, Executive Director of the Humane Society of Canada.

His group wants to relieve some of the suffering and violence that takes place each day in communities all across Canada. A case in point is the "Happy Face Killer." Keith Hunter Jesperson of British Columbia, who is now locked behind bars for the rest of his life in a dingy Oregon jail cell. The former truck driver pleaded guilty to beating to death eight young women and in his own words:

"It is the same feeling, choking a human being or cat. You've already felt the throat of them trying to grab air. You're actually

Please turn to page 2

Summer pet protection

Summertime is here and the heat is on. With the hot sun and increased outdoor activity, there are a few tips owners should follow to ensure they and their pets enjoy the summer season. Studies have shown the many health benefits of the human-animal bond and most owners are dedicated to the health and well being of their pets. In preparation for the sun and fun to come, take your pet to the veterinarian for a check-up. Make sure it on a safe, effective flea and tick control program.

Sun Safety:

Despite their fur, overexposure to the sun's rays can be dangerous to our pets. Exposure should be limited, especially during peak sun hours, from noon to four. Cats and dogs should have access to water and shade at ALL times. Sunscreen can even be applied to hairless breeds or those with a thin coat.

Is there a Doctor in the house?

Veterinary medicine has made great advancements in the treatment of many common summertime pet injuries. Pet owners need to prepare for the costs of unexpected medical treatments. Only PetCare Insurance Brokers is endorsed by the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association. The Canadian company offers insurance coverage for less than $10 per month. Pet insurance works like a regular medical plan, paying for such things as veterinary costs and medications for covered illness, accidents or injuries.

Doggy on board:

During the hot summer months, pets should NOT be left unattended in a parked car...even if the windows are left open. Excess heat can cause cats and dogs to experience heat stroke, which can be fatal. When driving with pets, make sure the windows remain only slightly open so that your pet is not tempted to stick its head out and risk getting insects, dust and debris in the eyes.

Managing bumps in the road:

The Ontario Veterinary Medical Association agrees that outdoor accidents for pets, like humans, tend to increase during the warmer weather. Pet insurance can ensure the best possible care for your pets' unforeseen medical needs today and in the future. PetCare offers Canada's 9.6 million dog and cat owners affordable coverage for insured animals' veterinary needs in the event of illnesses or accidents.

To learn more about pet insurance, visit the website at www.-petcareinsurance.com or call 1-877-PET-HLTH.



Gregory & Jordon McCaslin's,Jake took first .

Anti-Cruelty

Continued from Page 1

squeezing the life out of these animals and there isn't much difference, they're going to fight for their lives just as much as a human being will..."You come to where killing something is nothing."

But even more frightening is the fact that what Jesperson says is not just the view of one depraved psychopath. He has simply connected the dots in a pattern that has been emerging from studies for decades. There is a very real relationship between animal abuse and a host of other crimes. Child abuse. Wife beating. And murder.

* In 1997, an Ontario survey of women entering shelters in Hamilton and Owen Sound found that 61% of those with pets reported that their partners had hurt or killed their animals.
* A study in England by the Royal SPCA found that 83% of families with a history of animal abuse had also been identified by social service agencies at risk for child abuse or neglect.
* America's FBI has long identified animal abuse as one of its three leading indicators of future criminal potential.

ACT is a special unit operating within the law with eight major program objectives to get tough on animals abusers:

1) Rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for harming animals. They have already offered rewards for Fergus and Fisher, two dogs that were shot in B.C. and for a pet donkey named Jocko who was shot in Ontario.
2) Broad based education campaign to create and sustain public awareness that animals matter in their own right and because there is a connection between animal abuse and violent crime to humans. Work more closely with childcare workers, teachers and others to identify animal abusers at an early age in an effort to stop this problem before its starts.
3) An ongoing public awareness campaign to reinforce responsible pet ownership. Caring for animals is not just the right thing to do, it is a crime to abuse or neglect animals.
4) Canada has some of the toughest laws in the world, but in many cases, they are not being properly enforced. Right now, no one who owns pets or uses farm animals, wildlife and lab animals is above the law. However, an

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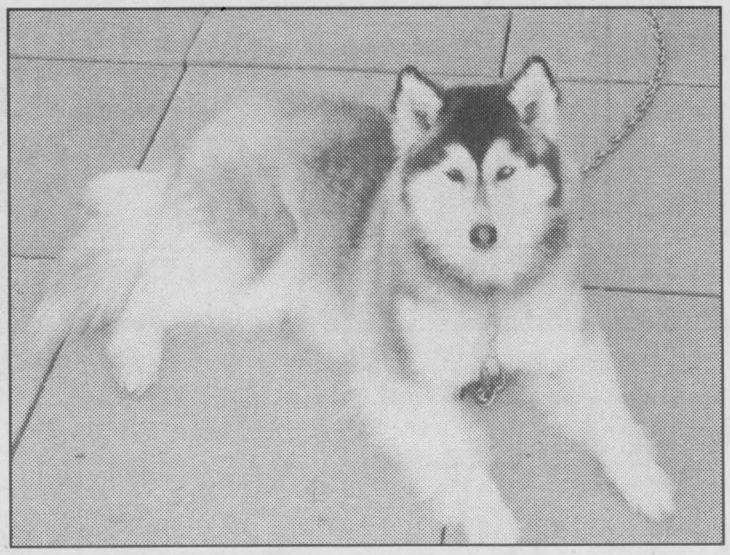
Don't be cruel to your pet



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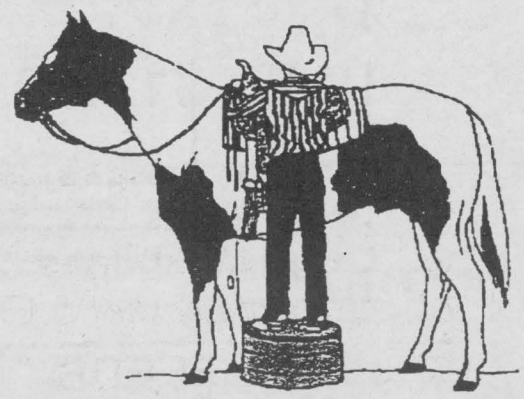

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Nicholas Ault with Daisy ,sister Jessica is absent.

Be on the look-out for signs of rabies

The threat of rabies may be as close as your back yard. Wild animals like skunks, raccoons and bats that thrive in developed areas are the most common carriers of rabies and the animals most likely to expose your pet to this deadly disease.

All mammals, including humans are susceptible to rabies. While wild animals account for over 90% of reported rabies cases, more than half the human exposure to rabies involved family pets. Infected domestic animals may carry the virus for six months before exhibiting clinical signs of the disease.

Rabies can take one of two forms...the more common "furious" rabies usually includes convulsions, muscular incoordination, extreme irritability, frenzied behaviour and foaming at the mouth. In "dumb" rabies, the animal usually become depressed and may hide. Paralysis of the jaw is rapidly followed by general paralysis. The early stage of both forms is marked by abrupt changes in behaviour in the animal, such as increased anxiety, depression, irritability or even more affectionate behaviour. After clinical signs are observed, the animal usually dies within two to seven days. It is important to note that even after death they still pose a threat. Scavengers can contact the disease from dead infected animals.

There is NO cure for rabies once your pet has exhibited clinical signs. The only proven method of control involved routine vaccination of pets and control of stray dogs, cats and wildlife that can carry the disease.

While local regulations in most communities require that dogs be protected against rabies, cats are vulnerable and also require vaccination.

Cats are in fact at increased risk since they are more likely to roam at night and come into contact with rabid nocturnal wild animals. Rural cats are more numerous than rural dogs, and even house cats are occasionally outdoors and thus at risk through exposure to other cats and wild animals. Most cats are not vaccinated and thus more vulnerable to rabies.

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Rabid raccoon near Maynard

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

A little too close for comfort...or a wake-up call...

Anyone who has gone through the needles for days in the abdoman or knows someone who has undergone treatement for suspected rabies contact knows it is no fun. Rabies is a deadly disease both for animals and for humans.

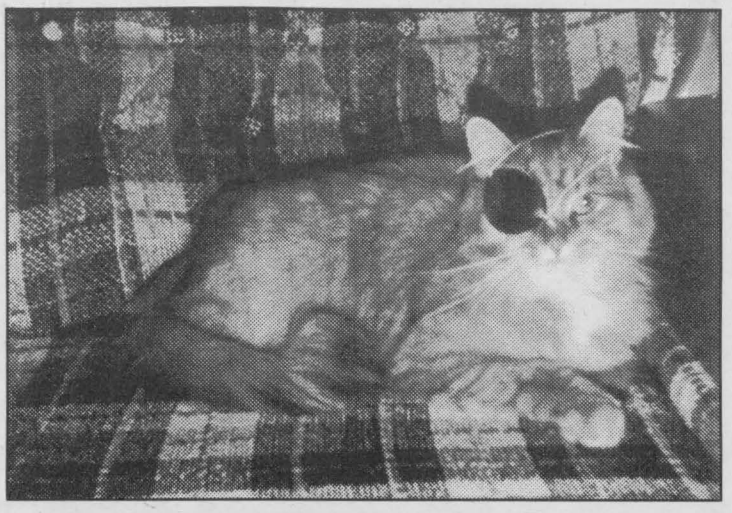
Three dogs had to be destroyed after a dead rabid raccoon was found in dogs' outdoor pen near Maynard.

Ministry of Natural Resources Rabies Research Unit officials agreed that they could and would not take any chances in such a case. "The dogs had direct contact with the rabid 'coon, they had killed it and so had to be put down. The rabies virus is transmitted through saliva and blood even after the infected animal is dead. It is vital that people not touch dead animals, just in case."

It was confirmed by the Animal Disease Research Institute of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in Nepean that on July 14 the dead raccoon had MidAtlantic Raccoon Rabies strain of the deadly virus, the MNR personnel began a plan to stop the virus from spreading...all skunks, raccoons, foxes and stray cats within a 5 kilometre radius of the property were being trapped and destroyed since it is useless to vaccinate an animal that has already been infected. This phase was completed on Wednesday, July 21. Phase two will take longer to accomplish, requiring MNR crews to vaccinate all wild animals captured within a further 5 kilometre radius...past the initial area, thus establishing a buffer zone for the spread of the virus.

Over the past few years the Ministry has set up a buffer area along the St. Lawrence River from Niagara to Cornwall vaccinating skunks and raccoons that would be infected first by any animal crossing over from the U.S.A. The rabid raccoon is suspected to have crossed the bridge at Johnstown (perhaps hitching a ride on a truck) and moved through the established buffer zone and into an area where vaccination has not taken place.

Raccoons are mobile creatures and so the area to be checked is rather large. The rabid find was between Maynard and Domville, an exact locale not divulged. It is vital that people take the necesary precautions at all times against rabies, and this incident just brings that point to a head. Keeping your distance from wild animals and having your pets vaccinated are two good pieces of advice. Any direct contact with an animal suspected of being rabid need to be reported immediately or an animal acting ill or abnormally needs to be reported as well to the Health Unit at 1-800-267-0852.



Ginger plays pirate with Lindsay Fawcett.

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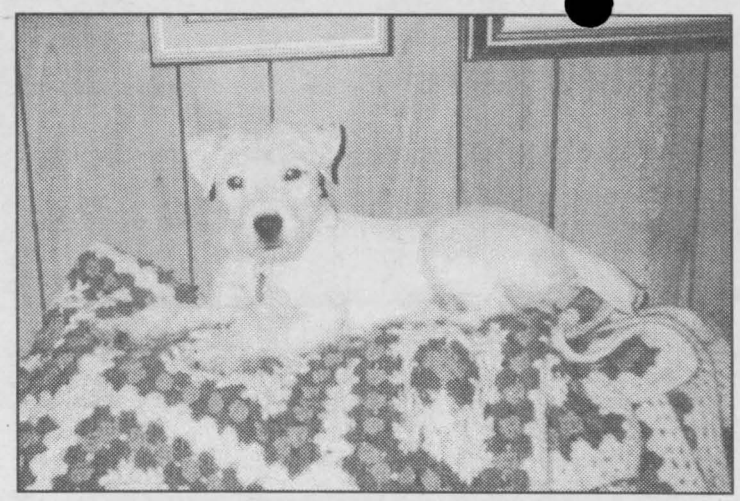

Krista &Jennifer Schrader and their puppy, Jill.

Recycle It's your future

Anti-Cruelty

Continued from Page 2

investigation by the Humane Society of Canada has uncovered evidence that some groups are now hard at work trying to convince federal politicians to let them do whatever they want to animals. If they succeed, there will be even more widespread cruelty. "We do not intend to let that happen. But, we need everyone's to make sure that all animal abusers are punished to the fullest extent of the law."

5) Strengthen our special investigative support unit for animal protection groups to assist them with the latest high tech crime fighting techniques, equipment and training. The latest advances in forensic sciences and undercover investigations. In the past we have worked with police agencies, Crown Attorneys and we have an ongoing relationship with INTERPOL.

6) Make more widely available our library of case law to help overworked and underpaid Crown Attorneys launch even more successful prosecutions against animal cruelty. And give them the necessary support to appeal bad decisions handed down by judges.

7) Educate the key players in the criminal justice system and hold then accountable for their actions.

8) A special fund to help pay for veterinary care of animal victims who have been the targets of cruelty. Animals battered and bruised at the hands of abusers need immediate medical care. The Humane Society of Canada has already donated $500 to help pay for Nikita's veterinary care.

"Many people do not realize...but it is the courage and support of women, men and children from all walks of life that allow us to continue the daily fight against animal cruelty. Sometimes we get discouraged, sometimes we wonder if this is all really worth it. Then we hear stories like the one about Nikita and like other Canadians, we see the pain and suffering inflicted on animals and want to do something about it,"says Michael O'Sullivan.

Michael has a final warning for animal abusers..."Then we get angry and become even stronger. Because when it comes to fighting animal abuse, we do not give up...EVER!"

You may contact Al Hickey or Michael, toll free at 1-800-641-KIND or at their cell phone 416-876-9685 or visit the website at www.humanesociety.com

Al has been the Chief Executive of the BC SPCA for over 17 years.

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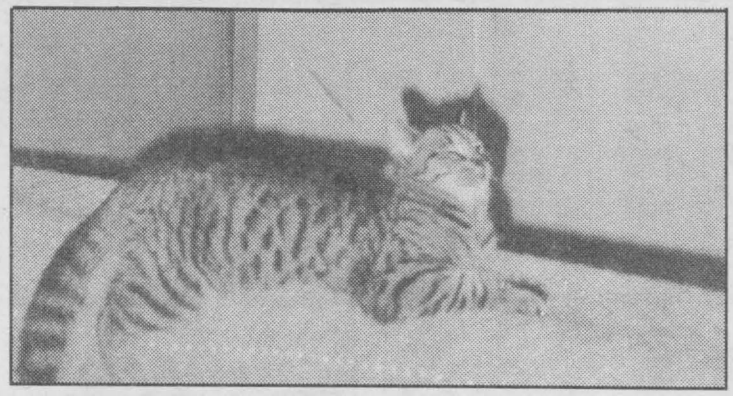


Tiger lives with Crystal and Celina Cantin.

Thinking of obtaining a pet?

Obtaining a pet is a very important decision. You are assuming responsibility for the care of another living creature. The decision will have an impact on you, your family and your pet.

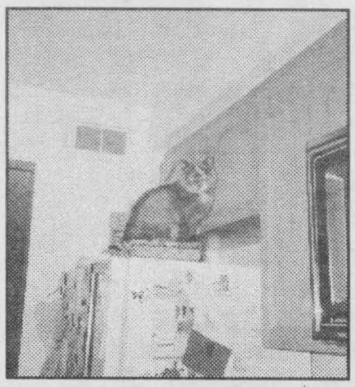
It is a sad fact that within a year approximately 15% of dogs and 35% of cats are no longer in their original homes. One third of these dogs have been given away and another one third surrendered to shelters.

Ontario destroys thousands of unidentified stray or homeless cats and dogs every year. Some are abandoned, as a result of poor selection and lack of commitment. Until people identify and choose their pets more carefully, this will continue.

Before you decide to buy a pet, consider the following points: Can you have a pet? Are they permitted where you live? Are you likely to relocate? You may be forced to give up a pet when you change homes. If you intend to be mobile, be very careful in choosing your pet.

Do you have other pets now? Will they be compatible?

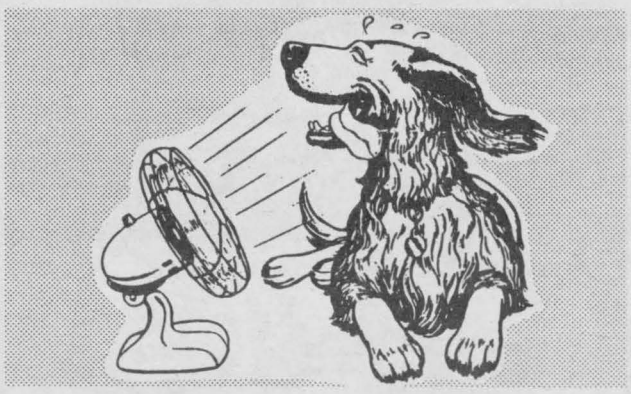
Does anyone in your family have allergies? Dogs, cats, rabbits and birds are common causes of allergy problems. A veterinarian may suggest pets that can sometimes be kept by those with allergies.



Purrcy likes the fridge and owner Greg Cooper.

DOGS AND HOT CARS DON'T MIX!

"I'd rather stay home and keep cool"



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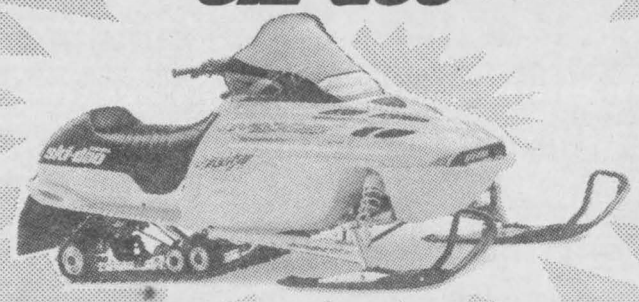

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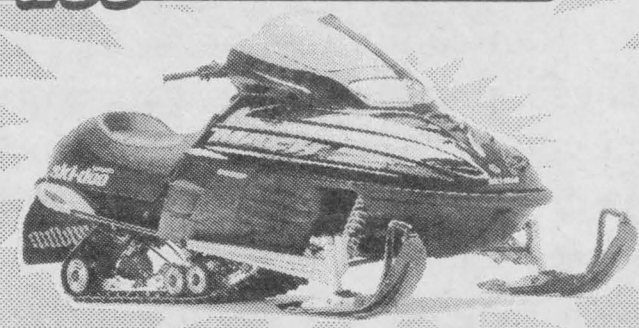
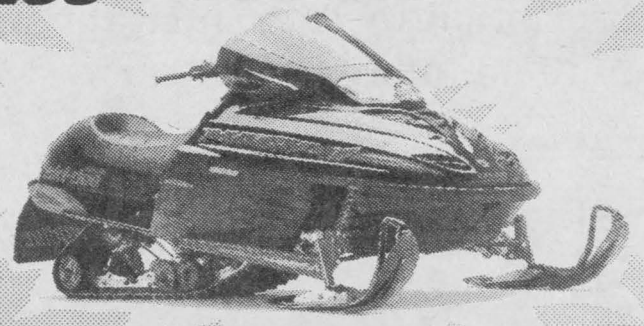


MACH* 1
Ski-doo MUSCLE 2000



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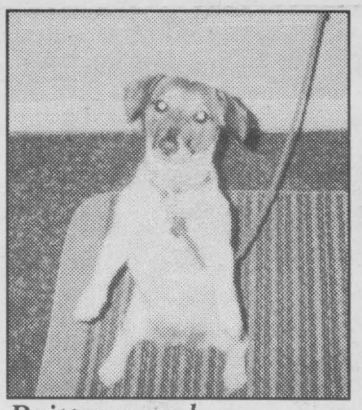

Brittany and Amber Lalonde love their Casey .

Summer care for your pet

Cats and dogs aren't the only creatures that enjoy the nice weather. Summertime also brings an increase in animals such as skunks, snakes and porcupines. When walking with your cat or dog, especially in campgrounds or cottage country make sure your pet is on a leash and in your sight at ALL times.

Follow these summertime care tips and you and your pet should enjoy a safe, healthy and doggone good summer.

Tips:

* Rapid breathing, loud panting and staggering are all signs of heat stroke. If your pet exhibits any of these symptoms, take it to a shady, ventilated area and sponge the animal with cool water.
* In case of emergency, keep your veterinarian's number handy.
* Don't let your pet walk in areas which may have been sprayed with insecticides or chemicals as it could ingest poison.
*Many dogs love swimming however, the potential for drowning still exists, even in backyard pools. Keep an eye on your pet at ALL times.
* Ear and skin infection can develop after prolonged periods in the water. To remove water from your pet's ears, towel dry inside and out. Never insert cotton swabs in your pet's ears.



Crystal Cooper is proud of Lilly's dancing.



Teddy belongs to Natalie and Kurtis Corry.

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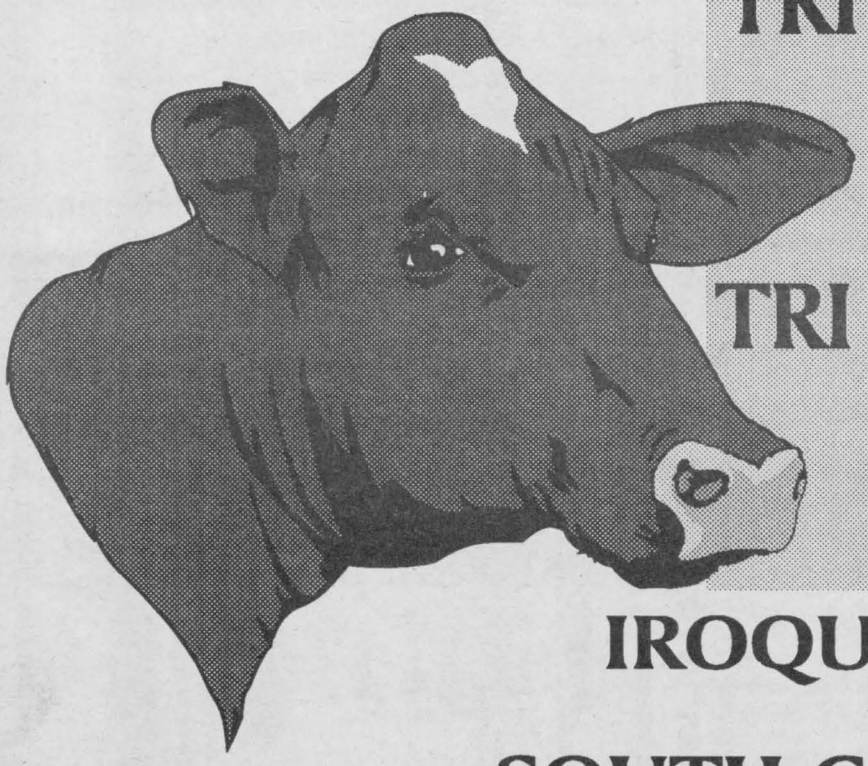

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