



## Bellwether Magazine

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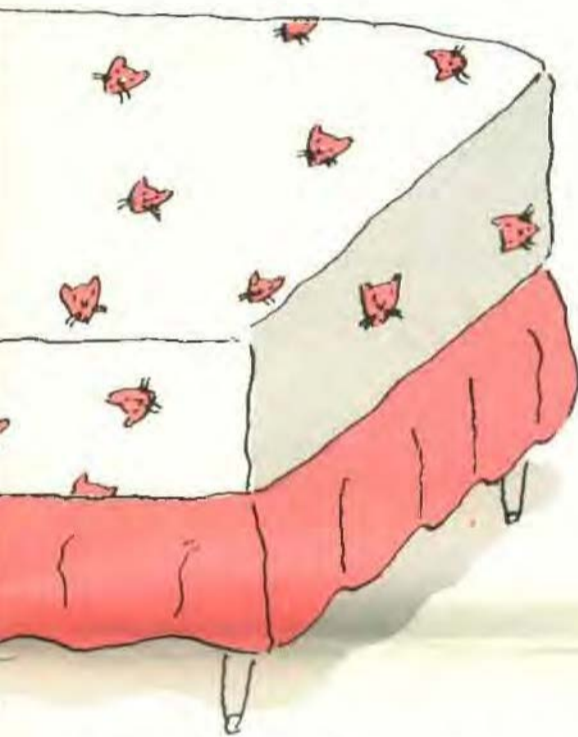
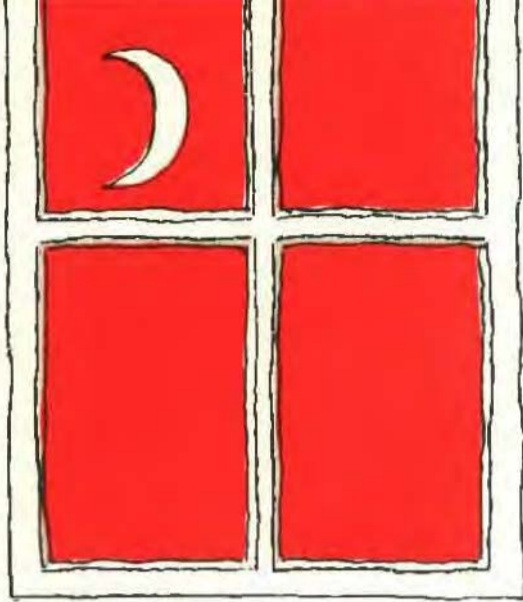
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# Animal Profile: Animals Depend on People Too



are not known to the owner or the behaviorist. However, the problem can still be solved by identifying the factors that are maintaining the behavior. The owner is usually advised to cover the surface with plastic or foil and to move a litterbox nearby. When the cat finds its favorite scratching surface inaccessible, it will use the litterbox. Gradually the box is moved back to the desired location. Food and toys placed in the previous area further discourage its use as a litterbox.

Some clients consult the clinic because they believe their cat is aggressive toward people. This is frequently a case of misunderstanding between the feline and the human. "These cases usually turn out to be cats who play too roughly," Dr. Voith stated. "They may scratch or bite the owner who interprets the behavior as aggression." Dr. Voith explains to owners how to redirect the cat's play to objects such as moving toys which can be pounced upon.

Another frequently-heard complaint is that cats awaken their owners earlier and earlier each day. Dr. Voith explained that usually these owners, unwittingly, have conditioned the cats to expect food the moment the owner gets out of bed. "The first thing they do every morning is feed the cat. Treatment is simple. Ignore the cat when getting up, feed it later in the day and change the schedule. In a short time the cat will no longer associate getting up in the morning with being fed."

## Animals Depend On People Too

Tom, a fennec fox at The Philadelphia Zoo, is a very lucky animal. Born at The Frankford Zoo in 1977, he was presented to The Philadelphia Zoo in 1978 by Frank Palumbo. Palumbo christened the African fox, Tom, in honor of Tom Fox, a columnist for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

This past March the University's Communications Department adopted the fennec fox. For only fifty dollars a year the department supplies him with his daily meals of canned dog food, a baby chick, a handful of meal worms or crickets, a hardboiled egg, and perhaps a slice of apple or banana. Tom has quite a large appetite for an animal who measures only sixteen to seventeen inches long and weighs just under three and a half pounds.

The Zoo began the ADOPT (Animals Depend On People Too) program in late 1978 to defray the enormous cost of feeding 1800 animals. Tom's meal might seem large for a small animal, but one tiger consumes as much as fourteen to sixteen pounds of horsemeat a day!

Ann Novak, the program's director, is pleased with ADOPT's progress. In fiscal year 1981, the Zoo netted approximately \$60,000 in donations. The 1982 tally reached almost \$100,000.

Supporters of ADOPT include a wide range of people: school classrooms, Todd Rundgren, SmithKline Corporation, and Mrs. George Bush. According to Mrs. Novak "parents" become very attached to their "zoo children." Animals often receive letters and holiday cards. One woman even composed a poem for her aardvark, consisting entirely of words beginning with the letter a.

The Communications Department has not attempted poetry yet. But they have a picture of Tom hanging on one of their walls and they visit him as much as possible.

Tom's home is the Small Mammal House. At one time he was on display in the rotunda of the building. Unfortunately, the rotunda area echoes greatly and Tom's six inch ears are extremely sensitive. Once when a number of school children were exploring the Small Mammal House, Tom became excited by the commotion and jumped out of his African habitat. Senior Keeper, George Konopka, finally caught him amid screaming children and teachers. Ever since this escapade Tom has been housed in a glass cage.

Soon a female fennec fox will join Tom in his house. If all goes well they will mate. Anyone interested in adopting the new fennec fox or any other animal should dial B-A-B-O-O-N-S and ask for Mrs. Novak.



Photograph courtesy of the Philadelphia Zoo