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Animal Crackers

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ANIMAL CRACKERS

FELINE SYMPOSIUM



The Sixth Annual Feline Fanciers Symposium was held on March 26, 1983, at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Faculty members spoke on topics of interest to cat owners and breeders and answered many questions from the audience.

Dr. Linda Medleau discussed dermatological problems, particularly Miliary Dermatitis, in which the signs are itching, redness, loss of hair, etc. The causes include parasites, fungi and allergies. Cheyletiellosis (mite infestation), Notoedric Mange (feline scabies) and Otodectic Mange (ear mites) are parasitic diseases. The cheyletiella mite produces a severe dandruff and is contagious to dogs as well as cats. It is treated with topical medication and controlled by thorough cleaning of the environment. Fleas are a constant problem and require treatment of the animal and the home. Be sure to use products safe for cats at recommended intervals. Flea powders twice a week and mists or dips at least once a week are used on the cat, while quick-kill and residual insecticides are used in the home. Newly-developed sprays are effective against adults and immature fleas and are being used to help "sterilize" the environment. Dermatophytosis ("ringworm") can be a problem in catteries. The signs are quite variable and there may be asymptomatic carriers as well as cats with dermatitis, broken hairs and hair loss. "Classic" round lesions are not always seen. Treatment requires a total body clip, weekly dips and systematic treatment. Food Allergy may occur and cause intense itching but gastro-intestinal signs are rare. Treatment consists of changing the diet.

Dr. Victoria Voith spoke on Behaviour of Cats. She discussed a survey in which a large number of cat owners believed their cats enjoyed being with people and sought attention every day. Most felt that the cat was aware of the owner's moods and that they were aware of the cat's moods. All but one of the respondents considered their cat to be a family member. The most common complaint cat owners have is urinating or defecating outside the litter box. Intact male cats are most likely to spray and there is a 90% probability that this will stop if the animal is castrated. Punishment is not effective. The cat must be encouraged to use the litterbox and discouraged from using any other area. "Claw sharpening" may be controlled by providing an interesting cat scratching tree and consistently and immediately reprimanding the cat whenever it scratches on furniture. De-clawed cats do not appear to be harmed psychologically and continue to engage in the same behavior that they did prior to the removal of the claws. They scratch, catch objects, etc. after they have been de-clawed and do not appear to be distressed or frustrated. Dr. Voith said that grass and plant eating appears to be normal in cats. They may be trained or conditioned if they are sprayed with water or are startled by a loud noise whenever they begin to eat a plant. However, many cats are clever enough to learn to eat plants or sharpen their paws only when the owner is not present. There has been little research in cat behavior and as scientists accumulate data, this should aid in solving behavior problems.

Dr. Gustavo D. Aguirre discussed Feline Pediatric Ophthalmology. He said that the incidence of inherited eye diseases in cats is very low as compared with dogs. A new form of retinal degeneration has been found in the Abyssinian breed. It has not been described in this country but the disease has reached alarming proportions in Europe. A diagnosis can be made at approximately two years and most affected animals are blind by two or three years of age. It is important for Abyssinian owners to be aware of this recessively inherited disease. Dr. Aguirre also discussed infectious diseases which cause upper respiratory and ocular problems. Early diagnosis is important as the treatment for each disease is different.

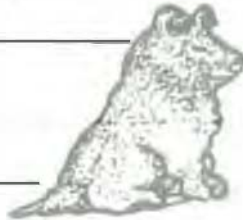
Dr. Lillian Maggio-Price spoke on Signs and Causes of Anemia in the Cat. She said that anemia is common in cats and most often not recognized until it is severe. It is essential to determine if the anemia is primary or secondary to

another disease process. Infection with Hemobartonella (a parasite found in red blood cells), feline leukemia virus and exposure to oxidant drugs may be primary causes of anemia. Severely anemic cats often are lethargic with poor appetites and exercise tolerance. Occasionally, anemic animals display abnormal appetites such as licking cement or walls. A complete evaluation of the patient, including a bone marrow examination, is often necessary to determine if the anemic process is reversible.

Dr. Mary C. Walter's topic was Feline Orthopedics. This medical specialty includes the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries of the musculo-skeletal system. Treatment may be non-surgical (conservative) or surgical management. The goal is to return the cat to normal anatomical alignment and full function in as short a time as possible. Disease or injury affecting the different components of the musculo-skeletal system include tumors, fractures and metabolic disease involving bone (hypervitaminosis A). Arthritis involves the joints and there may be muscle contusions, spinal cord disease affecting the nerves and thrombosis in blood vessels. Dr. Walter gave rules for first aid, warning that any injured animal may bite so handle with caution, stay calm, capture and confine the animal, immobilize, stop major bleeding, cover wounds, do not give drugs or anything else by mouth and seek veterinary advice.

Continuing Education is important for owners and veterinarians. Programs are presented regularly by the School of Veterinary Medicine.

DOG SHOW JUDGES



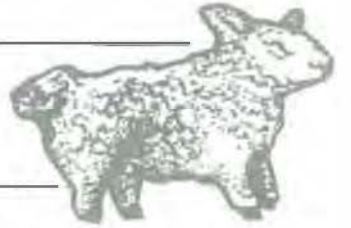
There are just over 3,000 persons eligible to judge at championship shows held under American Kennel Club rules. There are additional judges with a provisional status. There were 919 All-Breed Dog Shows and over a thousand Specialty Shows (limited to one breed) held in 1982.

Judges must meet a number of requirements before they are approved. They must have a background which includes owning, breeding and exhibiting dogs. Judging at non-championship events (Match Shows), Club membership, stewarding experience and a thorough understanding of A.K.C. rules help establish eligibility. Some persons are excluded because of their occupation. This includes those who buy and sell dogs as a means of livelihood, salesmen for dog food, dog remedy or kennel supply companies, persons employed in and about kennels, professional dog handlers and dog show superintendents, and any one connected with kennel advertising. A judge cannot board or groom dogs.

A Judging Application, which is quite lengthy and detailed, is submitted to A.K.C. The names of applicants are published in their official publication (American Kennel Gazette), there is an interview and written examination and, after about six months, the A.K.C.'s Board of Directors decides those who will be approved. Usually a first-time applicant is approved for only one breed as a Provisional Judge. The new judge is observed in action by A.K.C. representatives, particularly important is ring procedure. About 25 dogs an hour must be judged and keeping to the time schedule is important. After at least five assignments as a provisional judge, the A.K.C. will decide if the individual qualifies to be made a regular judge. There is a Directory which lists all regular judges and the breeds for which they will be approved. To obtain additional breeds, another application is required and the evaluation process is repeated.

Assignments in a breed must be 30 days and two hundred miles apart, so judges cannot officiate in the same area too frequently. Judges, dogs and handlers may gain experience at Match Shows where no championship points are awarded and entries may be made the day of the show. At these shows, the only requirement is that the judge be in good standing with the A.K.C. Most judges start their careers in the show ring at these Match Shows.

HOT WEATHER NOTES



Heat Stroke may be caused by forced exercise or excitement when the weather is hot and humid. Lack of available water, obesity and the anatomic peculiarity of the brachycephalic breeds (Pugs, Bulldogs, etc.) may be contributing factors. **MOST IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER** is that an automobile with the windows closed can become a death-trap in just a few minutes. If you must take your pet on shopping trips, a wire crate and open windows can save its life in hot weather. Chronic heart disease predisposes to heat stroke and very young and very old animals need extra attention when it is hot and humid.

The signs of heat stroke are staggering, collapse and even unconsciousness. Be prepared to act promptly. Cool the animal immediately by soaking with a garden hose or in a tub of cold water. Packing with ice helps. The quicker the body temperature is reduced, the better the chance of avoiding permanent injury.

When travelling in hot weather, keep the animal in a well-ventilated crate. Wet towels may be used to keep the dog comfortable. Ice bags help the short-nosed breeds. Offer water frequently. It probably does not help to give extra salt or salt tablets provided the dog is drinking adequate water and is fed a well-balanced diet. When driving, don't allow dogs to keep their heads outside the windows. They often can't resist the temptation to jump out and flying pebbles could seriously damage an eye.

"Hot Spots" seem to be more common in the Summer months. Anything that makes the dog scratch, fleas in particular, may result in skin lesions which appear overnight as a reddened, moist area. If not recognized and treated promptly, a serious skin problem may develop. There are numerous home remedies which dry up these spots and your veterinarian can recommend a preparation to have available for use at the first sign of trouble. If scratching persists, the cause must be determined before effective treatment can be prescribed.

Heartworm has become a nationwide problem and a preventive program may be desirable, particularly when the dog will be exposed to mosquitoes. Your veterinarian can explain diagnosis and management. Medication to prevent infection must be given daily to be effective.

Rabies is important from public health standpoint. Be sure your dogs and cats are vaccinated. The increase of rabies in wildlife is a cause for concern. Vaccines now available are safe and effective for three years.

Fleas and Ticks are a constant problem. Regular grooming helps control them, along with regular use of insecticides. If animals are outdoors, one treatment will not be sufficient because there will be constant exposure. Be sure to follow directions and use products at recommended intervals. The flea and tick visit the animals only to feed, then the parasite drops off the animal and lays eggs to start the life cycle. You need to treat the house as well as the dog. There are products which have a residual effect and newly-developed room foggers will kill adults larvae in rugs, drapes, upholstered furniture as well as cracks in floor and walls. **USE ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS!**

Swimming Pools are hazards for dogs and should be fenced. Dogs and cats can swim but should be watched when in the water. Panic or exhaustion may lead to drowning if the animal cannot get out of the pool.

Air Conditioning in homes and kennels keeps animals comfortable but seems to result in a decreased tolerance to heat. They should be exercised outside in the cooler part of the day. Do not expect them to be as active as usual if they are outside in hot weather.

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GROWTH HORMONE

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hormone, growth factors and thyroid hormone. All three are necessary. If one is absent or deficient, normal growth will not take place.

In man hypothyroidism (low levels of thyroid hormone) is the second most frequent endocrine disorder of childhood. In the dog this juvenile hypothyroidism appears to be rare. Instead it was found that dwarfism in the dog is of pituitary origin. It is postulated that these dogs may have a cyst of the pituitary and that this interferes with growth hormone production. Another possibility is that the pituitary cells are not properly developed. At this time it is not known why growth hormone production is lessened in the affected dogs. Pedigree analysis of affected German shepherds points to the condition being transmitted by autosomal recessive inheritance.

The animals are small, they only grow for a few weeks after birth. Their skin is fragile and they do not develop an adult haircoat. Eventually the puppy coat starts to fall out and the dog becomes bald. Tests show that the animals are deficient in growth hormone and insulin-like growth factors. They can be treated with injections of growth hormone. "Treatment is quite expensive," said Dr. Eigenmann. "The growth hormone injections will cause the haircoat to grow, also the skin will lose its fragility. Treatment will have to be repeated when the hair falls out again." The injections of growth hormone do not cause the animals to grow as most are presented to Dr. Eigenmann when the growth plates have closed or are about the close.

Underproduction of growth hormone can also occur in older dogs. "This happens in some smaller breeds," Dr. Eigenmann explained. "These dogs develop normally and then at about age one to three years, begin to show signs similar to those of the dwarfs. The hair falls out and no new coat growth take place." These dogs can be treated by injections of growth hormone. It is not known why the production of growth hormone ceases. "The condition is not yet studied, though it is possibly genetic in origin," Dr. Eigenmann said.

His current work involves the study of dwarfs and the older dogs which underproduce growth hormone. He is also studying several breeds to evaluate growth hormone secretion potential and the levels of growth factors. Growth factors have only recently been identified and Dr. Eigenmann's project is designed to gather further knowledge about the importance of these factors. The dwarf dogs, the adult dogs with insufficient growth hormone levels, and dogs of different body size may provide some important answers. He is collaborating with Dr. D. F. Patterson from the Section of Medical Genetics, and Dr. E. R. Froesch, Metabolic Unit, University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland.

Dr. Eigenmann came to the University of Pennsylvania in December 1980. He arrived here from the University of Utrecht where he received his Ph.D. in 1981. Prior to his work in Holland Dr. Eigenmann had been a visiting research fellow at the "Laboratoire Hormones," Department of Biochemistry and "Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale," University of Paris. He received his veterinary degree from the University of Zurich in 1972 and the advanced Dr. med. vet. degree from the same institution in 1975.

ANIMAL CRACKERS

"NEW" DOG BREEDS



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The American Kennel Club recognizes 125 breeds of dogs which may compete in championship shows. Beginning January 1, 1984, three breeds will be added to the show classification. These are the Pharaoh Hound in the Hound Group, Portuguese Water Dog in the Working Group and the Tibetan Spaniel in the Non-Sporting Group.

There is a Miscellaneous Class at A.K.C. shows. These dogs are not admitted to registration in the Stud Book and are not eligible for championship points. They may compete in obedience trials and earn obedience titles. In addition to the three breeds named above, the following may compete in Miscellaneous at this time: Australian Kelpies, Border Collies, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and Spinoni Italiani.

The Federation Cynologique Internationale which governs dog shows in 50 nations, mostly in Europe (not Great Britain), accepts 325 breeds. The latest breeds they have recognized are a long-haired Weimaraner developed in Czechoslovakia and a South Russian Sheepdog.

ANIMAL PROFILE

THE SHORT LIFE OF JUSTIN

A baby gorilla dies.

Justin, the Philadelphia Zoo's youngest gorilla, died May 20, 1983.

Since April 27, the four-month-old had been ill with shigella, a condition that resembles dysentery in human beings. According to Dr. Keith Hinshaw, Zoo veterinarian, the shigella caused a severe inflammation of the bowels. From this, the infant developed the blood poisoning (septicemia) which led to his death.

The gorilla had been removed from mother Snickers on April 27 when he was first taken ill. After intensive care by the Zoo staff and after showing signs of improvement, it was decided to place him back with Snickers on May 7 in order to allow him to nurse. He had not been feeding well for the Zoo staff. On May 18, the staff noticed that the infant had become depressed and was not nursing. The next day Justin was again taken from his mother to be given treatment, including intravenous fluids and antibiotics. Following treatment he had appeared to be improving, however, he began to lapse in and out of consciousness until he died at 6:15 am.

The Spring issue of *Bellwether* carried a story announcing the birth of the baby gorilla.



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