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Animal Crackers

M. Josephine Deubler
University of Pennsylvania

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SEVENTH ANNUAL FELINE FANCIERS SYMPOSIUM

Nearly 100 cat fanciers attended the all-day program held on Saturday, March 31, at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Generous support for the program was provided by Kal Kan Foods, Inc. Following are brief excerpts from the talks.

Jean Holzworth, D.V.M., Senior Staff Member at Angell Memorial Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, spoke on THIRTY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN FELINE MEDICINE. Dr. Holzworth graduated from Cornell in 1950 and has specialized in diseases of the cat since then.

She said that she feels that the greatest threat to cats at this time is FIP (Feline Infectious Peritonitis). This seems to be a "new" disease, possibly caused by a mutation of a coronavirus. It is possible that there are mild cases which recover, but, once clinical signs have appeared, there is no effective treatment and the disease is almost always fatal. Researchers are working on perfecting serologic diagnosis and developing a vaccine.

A solution of Clorox is the best disinfectant.

There has been enormous progress in cat nutrition. Scientists have discovered many special requirements for cats. Cats cannot survive on most commercial dog foods or a vegetarian diet. Calcium deficiencies develop if the diet is muscle meat with no milk. Vitamin A is required but too much causes bone deformities. Vitamin E deficiency causes steatitis and is associated with dark-meat tuna diet. Taurine is essential—a deficiency leads to blindness. Clam juice is the best source of taurine. A low magnesium diet is said to prevent urethral obstruction, although there may be other factors involved. Cats should be encouraged to drink water. "Fad" diets should be avoided.

Spayed females live longer and have fewer problems than male cats. Dr. Holzworth has several patients over twenty years old. The females rarely have problems with urinary obstructions.

It is important that veterinarians identify cats by breed and color because there are breed-related problems and possible color-related problems. Also, breeders should have a good post-mortem examination of every kitten that dies. Congenital heart problems and other conditions must be correctly identified to prevent their becoming established in a breeding program.

Siamese have a number of breed-related conditions. Bob- and kink-tails are being bred out, as is cross-eye (squint). Cloth-eating is believed to be inherited in certain strains. "Rolling-skin Disease" (psychomotor epilepsy) predominates in Siamese and Siamese crosses. It responds to treatment with low doses of primidone. Hairlessness and hypotrichosis have been reported. Hip dysplasia has been reported in a Siamese and its family. Congenital eye and heart problems occur. Some deformities in kittens (cleft palate, hare lip, etc.) may be inherited or the result of griseofulvin treatment for ringworm. Adenocarcinoma of the intestine and anal sac abscesses are found in Siamese much more often than in other breeds.

Persians are slow to mature and breed. The flattened face in show types causes occlusion of tear ducts and overflow of tears as well as malocclusion of the upper and lower jaws.

There are reports of a hypothyroid family of Rex cats. Thyroid therapy produces growth of hair. There are questionable claims that the Rex is hypoallergenic. It is believed that feline saliva is the cause of most allergic reactions to cats.

ENDOCRINE DISEASES OF THE CAT was the topic of J. Eugen Eigenmann, D.V.M., Ph.D., Assistant Professor Medicine.

His discussion included diabetes mellitus. It occurs in cats, usually in animals five years old and older. Clinical signs include weight loss and increased thirst. The appetite may be normal, exaggerated, or decreased. In the later stages, there may be depression and vomiting. The treatment



consists of insulin administration and, if possible, a constant diet. The cause is now known but obesity may trigger the disease—this has not been proven.

Hyperthyroidism occurs in cats, usually those older than six years. The signs are weight loss, increased thirst and appetite, nervousness, diarrhea, hair loss and vomiting. In advanced cases, there may be depression. Because of the cardio-toxic effects of thyroid hormone, affected cats may show signs of heart failure. Treatment includes use of thyroid suppressing drugs or surgical removal of one or both thyroid glands.

K. Ann Jeglum, V.M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine (Oncology) spoke on WHAT'S NEW WITH THE FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS?

There are two tests available in cats suspected of FeLV infection. The Immunofluorescent Antibody Test (IFA) also known as "FeLeuk Test" and "Hardy Test" requires a blood smear. If positive, it means that THIS CAT IS SHEDDING VIRUS AND IS THEREFORE CONTAGIOUS. The ELISA (Pitman-Moore Test) may be done in the practitioner's office on a small drop of serum. This test does not measure the virus within cells. IT DOES NOT TELL YOU WHETHER THE CAT IS OR IS NOT SHEDDING VIRUS. If positive, you do NOT know if the cat is contagious.

A FeLV negative test does not mean that your cat is protected against FeLV or will never contract FeLV.

Prolonged direct contact is necessary for transmission of FeLV. Virus is excreted primarily via saliva but it may be present in urine, feces and respiratory secretions. Grooming, sneezing, litter boxes and feed bowls are major modes of transmission. Young kittens (6 mos.) are most susceptible due to immature immune defenses. The virus does not live outside the cat's body long—24 hours to several days at most. The virus is killed by most disinfectants.

No effective vaccine is available now.

There is no evidence to date of transmission of FeLV to humans. Also no human disease (including cancer) is known to be caused by FeLV. The newly discovered human leukemia virus is not related to FeLV.

FELINE EMERGENCIES WERE DISCUSSED BY Rebecca Kirby, D.V.M., Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine and Head, Emergency Service, VHUP. She went over the procedures followed in emergencies and discussed several cases.

Four common emergency problems are trauma (hit by car, fallen out of a window, dog-cat fight or cat-cat fight, etc.), inability to urinate, labored breathing, and vomiting.

In trauma cases, the most life-threatening problem must be treated first and then the animal must be carefully observed for the next 24 to 48 hours. Slow internal hemor-

rhage and ruptured urinary bladder may not be detected immediately.

When a cat is unable to urinate due to blockage, toxic wastes accumulate and lead to shock as well as heart and kidney failure. The crystals plugging the urethra can usually be removed by back-flushing, although surgery may be required in some cases. The owner should seek veterinary advice when urine is not produced.

There are many causes of labored breathing and often the animal must be stabilized in the oxygen cage before an effort is made to determine the cause.

Common causes of vomiting are ingestion of foreign bodies, intestinal obstruction, poisonings, metabolic diseases, parasites, tumors and drug sensitivities. Many cats vomit periodically due to ingestion of plant material, hairballs or dietary sensitivities and at home management may be sufficient after a telephone discussion. Vomiting becomes an emergency when there is evidence of dehydration. These patients require fluid therapy and diagnostic measures to determine the cause.

BREEDS AND VARIETIES AT DOG SHOWS

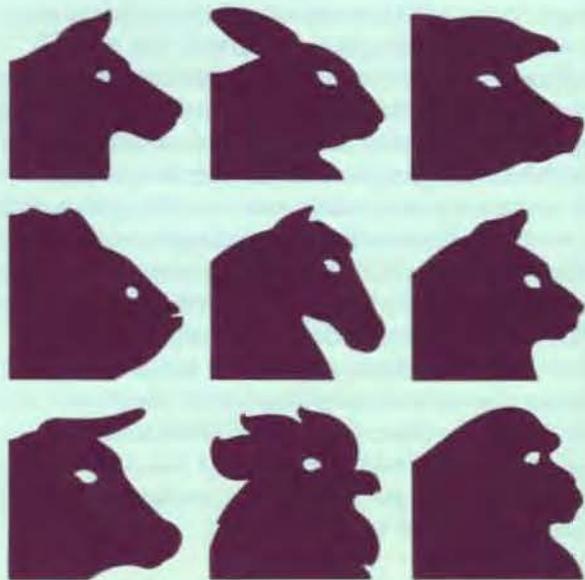
Some breeds of dogs which differ from each other in coat (color, length, texture) or size are classified as varieties at AKC shows. American Cocker Spaniels are divided into solid color black, ASCOB (any solid color other than black) and parti-color (patches of two or more colors). Bull Terriers may be white or colored. English Toy Spaniels are "King Charles and Ruby" which are considered solid-colored, the King Charles being black and tan while the ruby is rich chestnut-red. "Blenheim and Prince Charles" are broken-colored dogs, the Blenheim red and white, the Prince Charles tri-colored (white, black and tan).

Dachshunds may be long-haired, smooth (shorthaired) or wirehaired. The Rough Collie has an abundant coat while the Smooth variety has a short, flat coat. Fox Terriers have either a smooth coat or are wirehaired (broken-coated). Chihuahuas may have a smooth or long coat.

Beagles are divided by size (under 13" at the shoulder) and 13-15" in height. Any Beagle over 15" high is disqualified at AKC shows. Poodles also are classified by height. The Toy is 10" or under at the shoulder, the Miniature Poodle must be under 15" with a 10" minimum height and the Standard is 15" or higher.

The Manchester Terriers are divided by weight. The Toy must not exceed 12 pounds and the Standard must be over 12 pounds and not exceeding 22 pounds (heavier is a disqualification).

Different varieties of the same breed may be bred, with the offspring registered according to coat and size.



BRANKERS



THOUGHTS DURING HOT WEATHER

The current raccoon rabies outbreak in the mid-Atlantic area makes it especially important that dogs and cats are vaccinated against this disease. During warm weather, dogs and cats are outside and there is greater exposure to wildlife (foxes, skunks, bats, etc.). There is a significant increase in the number of cats with rabies. Raccoon rabies poses a dangerous problem in that the raccoon is frequently an urban-suburban animal living in close proximity to man. Vaccinated dogs and cats are fully protected.

Death from heat stroke comes quickly when a dog is left in a closed automobile during very hot weather. Even if windows are partly open, a buildup of heat can kill a dog or cat quickly. It's better not to leave pets in cars during the warm weather months. The treatment includes cooling the animal as quickly as possible—a tub of cold water or packing with ice. Neither is readily available in a parking lot. If you travel with a dog, a well-ventilated crate or window barriers are essential.

Fleas always seem to be more of a problem in summer. The flea visits the dog to feed, then drops off and lays eggs. It is necessary to treat the entire environment. None of the insecticides will kill the eggs, but new products can be used to fog a room and kill adults and larvae in rugs, drapes, upholstered furniture, and cracks in floor and walls. After a house has been closed for a few weeks, an army of hungry fleas will be ready to attack any warm-blooded creature which enters. Foggers are especially good to get this situation under control. There is no way to fumigate outdoors. It seems that fleas can be controlled but not eliminated. Treatment of the dog may be external—sprays, dips, powders and collars, or insecticides may be given by mouth. Whatever product you use—follow the directions carefully. Be careful what you use on cats!

Some pet owners object to pesticides and use a flea comb to catch fleas. Daily grooming with the fine-toothed comb will remove fleas which must be dropped into a pan of hot water to kill them. It is said that it is possible to completely control a household flea infestation in this way.

VETERINARY STUDENTS

Statistics recently released show that during the 1983-84 academic year there were 8,744 students enrolled in the 27 veterinary colleges in the United States. Two of the new colleges (North Carolina and Tennessee) will not graduate their first class until 1985. The first class entered Wisconsin in 1983. There was a total enrollment of 1,025 in the three Canadian veterinary colleges.

There were 4,628 (52.9%) men and 4,112 (47.1%) women enrolled in the United States, but in Canada 549 (53.6%) of the students were women with 476 (46.4%) men.

Approximately 31% of all qualified applicants were accepted in the 1983 first-year class. There were an additional 2,215 students enrolled in graduate degree (M.S. and Ph.D.) programs and certificate programs (internship and residency).

The American Veterinary Medical Association, in September 1983, had 37,342 members and lists 6,621 non-member veterinarians. With over 2,000 1984 graduates, some feel that the profession is becoming over-crowded. However, the opportunities in the field are expanding. Information may be obtained from A.V.M.A., 930 N. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60196, on veterinary colleges and programs for training animal technicians. The Bulletin of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, giving admission requirements and information about courses, may be obtained by writing to the Office of the Dean, 3800 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA 19105.

BOOK REVIEWS

There are a number of books giving details on different breeds of dogs. One of the best is the recently published *The Complete Rottweiler* by Muriel Freeman (Howell Book House, 1984). The introduction states "This book is intended to impart, to all who read it, an appreciation of the Rottweiler's great heritage, and the knowledge necessary to be able to pass it on to future generations intact." The book covers history, guidance for a potential owner, the breed standard, showing, training, breeding, care and feeding of puppies, health problems as well as information about Clubs and Rottweilers in other countries.

Potential owners are told that breeds characteristics must be recognized and understood and that proper training of a puppy is essential. "An obedient Rottweiler is a pleasure. An undisciplined one can grow to be a menace."

This book should be read by anyone considering a Rottweiler as a family dog. Those who are familiar with the breed will find much useful information. *The Complete Rottweiler* is a well-researched model for the ideal breed book.

The Complete Jack Russell Terrier by D. Brian Plummer is also available from Howell Book House published in England in 1980 by the Boydell Press. Although not registered by the American or English Kennel Clubs, they are quite popular hunt and working terriers. The thirty-six excellent illustrations show these dogs working and give a good idea of their appearance. The Jack Russell Club of Great Britain has developed a provisional standard to achieve a uniform type. The book answers many questions about this little dog which thrives without formal recognition as an established breed.

CENTENNIAL AWARD FOR DR. HOLZWORTH

The Centennial Award of Merit was presented to Jean Holzworth, D.V.M., Senior Staff Member, Angell Memorial Hospital, in a special ceremony on March 30, 1984.

Dr. Holzworth began her academic career not as a veterinarian but as a classical scholar. She received her A.B., M.A. and Ph.D. in Latin from Bryn Mawr and taught Latin and Greek at Mt. Holyoke and Bryn Mawr.

At this point, there was a reawakening of Jean's childhood interest in veterinary medicine (as a child of eight, she set up a veterinary clinic and busied herself in treating the sick cats and rabbits on her farm in Connecticut). To explore the possibility of pursuing a career in veterinary medicine, Jean took a year off from teaching and worked as a ward attendant at the Speyer Memorial Animal Hospital in New York City (the forerunner of The Animal Medical Center). Subsequently, she entered the Veterinary School at Cornell University, where she received her veterinary degree in 1950.

Following graduation from veterinary school, Jean went directly to the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston, where she began to specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the cat. Through her writings and lectures, which are at the same time charmingly original and scholarly, Jean has long been recognized as the major authority on cat diseases in the world. The many interns and residents that have trained at Angell Memorial Hospital since she came there 30 years ago have received from Jean Holzworth, not only tangible medical knowledge, but a lasting fascination with cats and their diseases. And, if they were at all interested in writing scientific papers about their observations, they learned something else from Jean: how to write coherently and unpretentiously.

Jean Holzworth's present projects include editing and writing a large part of a two-volume work on *Diseases of the Cat*, which will be published by Saunders here in Philadelphia.



Dr. Jean Holzworth