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Animal Crackers

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DENTAL CARE

Care of the horse's mouth requires "floating" or filing to remove sharp edges. This should be started at about six months of age and continue at regular intervals. It may be necessary to remove wolf teeth. All the permanent teeth are erupted at five years of age.

In the dog, the deciduous ("baby") teeth are lost when the puppy is three to six months old. Retention of these teeth is a common problem, seen most often in toy breeds. These should be removed as soon as they are noticed - there should not be two sets of teeth in the mouth at the same time. Tooth brushing is very effective in preventing gum disease. At the same time, any dental irregularities will be noticed. Brushing should be done at least once a week and chewing on dental toys should be encouraged.

Many people have rabbits as house pets. Overgrown teeth can be a problem and are treated by trimming.

Early and regular examination of the mouth can help detect problems before they get out of hand.

WHY CATS SCRATCH

Catnip, a newsletter published by Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, has some interesting notes about why cats scratch. They are marking their territory, conditioning their claws (sloughing off the worn outer layer) and exercising their front legs by stretching. Scratching is a natural behavior. Outdoor cats use trees while indoor cats enjoy upholstered furniture and drapes.

Instead of a sofa, scratching posts provide a place to scratch. This must be tall enough to allow the cat to stretch and be firmly attached to a stable base, the floor or a wall. The post should be covered with easily shreddable fabric with vertical fibers. There should be more than one scratching post in a household, including one near the cat's usual resting area.

Training the cat to use the scratching post takes patience and perseverance. It might be helpful to remove the cat from the furniture or the furniture from the cat. Noise makers like marbles in a can, or water pistols or firm voice commands may remind a cat not to use the furniture.

When you leave home, prevent trouble by covering areas that need protection with plastic or tinfoil. Other methods of damage control are nail clipping and nail capping. Declawing is a last resort if behavioral approaches do not work. The usual recommendation is to remove only the front claws so the cat has some defenses and could climb a tree to escape danger.

It is impossible to stop a cat from scratching. Offer alternatives, be patient and persevere.

SHIBA INU

In June, 1993, the Shiba Inu became the 136th breed fully recognized by the American Kennel Club and will compete in the non-sporting group.

The Shiba is considered the smallest and oldest of Japan's dogs. It is believed that the breed accompanied the country's original settlers on their migrations from Southeast Asia. The name has been translated as "Little Brushwood Dog" and Shibas were used as a hunting dog for small game and birds. They have established themselves as the number-one companion dog in Japan. They nearly reached extinction during World War II. The first documented arrival in the United States was in 1954 with an American armed services family. In 1992, the American Kennel Club added the Japan Kennel Club to its primary list of foreign dog registry organizations and Japanese Shibas could be registered with A.K.C.

The Shiba is small, about 15 inches high, active and alert and can adapt to

city or country living. The double coat feels somewhat soft and plush and should not be trimmed. The head is "foxy" and the ears are set high and firmly pricked. The colors are red, sesame (red with black hairs) and black and tan with undershading of cream and/or white. The breed standard describes the colors and markings at length.

An experienced breeder is the best source for a purebred dog. The A.K.C. provides a national breeder referral service. Call 1-900-407-7877 for information about the breed of your choice.

CRIBBING

Stereotypies are stylized, repetitive, apparently functionless motor responses or sequences. In horses, these include pawing, stall circling, fence pacing, flank biting and cribbing. Cribbing is an oral behavior in which the horse grasps a surface with its incisors and then simultaneously flexes its neck and swallows air (aerophagia). There are some published reports that cribbing is inherited. Particular methods of cribbing are apparently learned from other horses. Learning to crib may be contingent on genetic predisposition or an environment that causes one horse to crib may elicit cribbing in other horses.

Many treatments are suggested for cribbing. A common method is a strap around the throat that exerts pressure when the horse arches its neck and attempts to swallow. A strap with spikes is more severe. Surgical approaches and pharmacological treatment may or may not help.



BOOK REVIEW

HELP! The Quick Guide to First Aid for Your Dog by Michelle Bamberger, D.V.M. (Howell Book House - MacMillan Publishing Company, 866 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022. Paperback \$9.00).

This is a book for dog owners who want to know the basics of emergency treatment and how to recognize and handle emergencies until a veterinarian can be reached.

An excellent chapter covers how to recognize emergencies and what to do about them. Subjects covered include anaphylactic shock, birthing problems, bites and stings, burns, bloat, diabetic emergencies, poisoning, urinary tract blockage, vomiting and diarrhea.

A chapter on What to Do First: Basic Life Saving Techniques covers Triage which is the art of determining the problems and sorting them according to severity. No breathing and/or no pulse are at the top of the list. Restraining, transporting and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) are described. Signs of shock are listed - this requires immediate attention.

There is a chapter on wound care and bandaging, including how to make an Elizabethan collar which can keep the dog from removing bandages. First aid supplies for the home are listed. To test your basic knowledge, cases from real life emergencies are presented and the answers on how to handle them are given.

The Appendix gives "rules" on preventing emergencies. Call your veterinarian after you have given first aid. Yearly veterinary examinations may catch problems before they start. Keep your dog on a leash outside the house, unless it is in a fenced area. Keep your garbage secure inside and outside the house. When travelling with your dog, use a carrier or kennel.

Some may say that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, but this book gives much helpful information that will help the dog owner understand the principles of first aid and what can be done until veterinary help is available.

Centennial Medal



Dr. David Detweiler presents the School's Centennial Medal to Dr. Roshchevsky.

The School of Veterinary Medicine recognized Professor Mikhael Pavlovich Roshchevsky, member and officer of the Russian Academy of Science, director of the Institute of Physiology, and president of the Komi Science Center, for his contributions and leadership in the field of comparative electrocardiology. Dr. David K. Detweiler, Professor Emeritus of Physiology in Animal Biology, presented the School's Centennial Medal to Dr. Roshchevsky during the Third International Symposium on Comparative Electrocardiology, held in Syktyvkar, Komi Republic, Russia in June. Dr. Detweiler was the University's delegate to the symposium and guest of the Russian Academy of Science.

Following is the citation for Dr. Roshchevsky:

Distinguished world leader of the field of comparative electrocardiology, skilled investigator, indefatigable scientist, enthusiastic organizer, and prolific expositor; your achievements have inspired students, colleagues and fellow scientists alike.

Your remarkable encyclopedic publications, Electrical Activity of the Heart and Methods of Recording Electrocardiograms from Large Livestock (1958).

Evolutionary Electrocardiology (1972), Electrocardiology of Hoofed Animals (1978), integrated your own numerous contributions and the world literature. In these you codified and analyzed our then existing knowledge, especially that of the spread of ventricular excitation from intracardiac (endocardial), intramural and epicardial electrograms, body-surface maps, vectorcardiography and the study of various electrocardiographic lead systems.

These early efforts have been followed by a continuing mastery of the field, further research, additional inquiry and publication.

For your colleagues and fellow investigators a most important and rewarding accomplishment has been the organization of three International Symposia on Comparative Electrocardiology, 1979, 1985, and 1993, held in Syktyvkar, Komi Republic, Russia and subsequent publication of three proceedings of these Symposia.

In recognition of your unique contributions and leadership, The School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania is honored to present you this ninth day of June, 1993, our Centennial Medal.