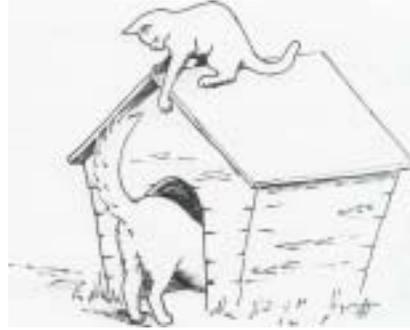


Tails from the Dog House

The Quarterly Newsletter from the
Sardis Animal Hospital



Winter 2004

Vol 2, No.4, pg 1

Animals, Disasters and Mother Earth

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Hospital
7236 A Vedder Rd,
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Columbia V2R 5K7
Canada
Phone 604-858-4415

Distributed free by e-mail
to our subscriber list.

Direct inquiries to:
staff@sardisvet.com

Website:
www.sardisvet.com

In the wake of the recent earthquake/tsunami disasters in south east Asia, several animal stories came out that give us cause to think. We heard of elephants who broke their chains and headed inland for higher ground, well before humans were aware of the impending doom. Livestock running away from the ocean, dogs barking for no apparent reason, flocks of birds taking flight and a school of porpoises playing near shore, suddenly assembling themselves and heading for deeper water. The elephant handler's and livestock herder's lives were spared as they followed their charging animals inland. There was a report of a diving boat crew who witnessed the unusual porpoise behavior and headed out to sea after them and away from certain death close to shore.

How did the animals sense the danger? What triggered the "fight or flight" behavior that saved not only their lives, but the lives of humans who were clued in to the strange behavior of the animals? Can we explain such events in light of our current level of understanding of the five senses? Are other forces at work in the animal kingdom that we have yet to discover?

An animal scientist can come up with partial explanations for some of these phenomena. We know for example that elephants can detect vibration through their toes, sensitive enough to detect others of their species from a distance, or a stampeding herd of wildebeasts 20 miles away. We know that dogs can hear frequencies beyond the human ear and that birds, likewise can detect sound and vibration to alert them to the danger of predators.

Still, an event like this can only be partly explained away by our limited understanding of animal sensory mechanisms. The elephants may have been able to sense vibrations from an earthquake, or from abnormal movement of water, but how did they know which direction to run? What told the porpoises to head out to sea directly toward the oncoming waves rather than away from them and beach themselves to their certain doom? Certainly, these animals could not have learned this behavior from others of their species who have survived such events in the past, as nothing like this has happened in their lifetimes!

We may never fully understand what animals know and sense during such events, any more than we will be able to understand how dogs can sense impending epileptic seizures or heart attacks in their owners.

It gives us pause for thought, that perhaps there is something deeper here, something of a cosmic or even spiritual nature that we in our human ignorance and frailty cannot see.





Staff News

Receptionist Sheila Retires, Trischa Joins Hospital Staff

We are pleased to introduce you to our new receptionist Trischa Buhler. Trischa fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Sheila Hall. We will all miss Sheila, but wish her well in the blissful, blessed world of the "I-no-longer-have-to-work".

Trischa was raised in Chilliwack, and graduated from Chilliwack Senior. She has a degree in music with a major in teaching and worked as a high school music and band teacher in Burns Lake, BC. However, other tunes were playing for her and she decided to follow her dream of working in the veterinary profession. She has recently completed

her training as a veterinary hospital assistant and is as happy to be a part of the Sardis Animal Hospital team as we are to have her. She has called Chilliwack her home for most of her life and shares her home with her husband Trevor and "Zebu" the cat.



Medical Miracles

Taffy Survives Life-Threatening Bone Cancer.



Taffy, a loveable 2 year old Golden Retriever belonging to Ross and Molly Fromhart of Chilliwack, is doing well after having a dangerous bone tumor treated. She was presented to us last April because her owners had noticed a rapidly growing lump on her hard palate. Dr Anvik performed the surgery, removing a shelf of bone that formed part of the palate, as well as several molars and bones that formed the sockets. The pathology report confirmed our suspicion of Osteosarcoma, the same type of

bone cancer that Terry Fox succumbed to. Cancers of this type are seen regularly in large breed dogs. Although bone tumors of the limbs of dogs are potentially as lethal as those in humans, the oral form, which usually invades the maxillary bone, can have a better prognosis if early, radical surgery is performed. Taffy was also given a drug that has been reported to have some anticancer activity along with its pain killing properties. She will be on the medication for one year. She is now 8 months cancer free and is a happy, normal pet once again. Her surgery site has healed so well that were it not for the 2 missing teeth, you would not know that anything has happened.



Fat Cats and Christmas Feasts

Kitty Capers

The Over-fed Feline



"Fat Freddie"

Has your Christmas feasting left you looking and feeling like "Fat Freddie"? Did your New Year's binging leave you belly-up and bloated? Did all that rum & egg nog make your sagging mid-section sag even more?

We have the perfect solution! Medi-Cal Weight Reducing Diet for fat felines! One cup for "Fat Freddie" and two cups for you. Both you and "Fat Freddie" will be as fit as any feline can be. Serve it straight for Freddie or with a diet Pepsi for you.

Doggy Doo-Doo

Dog stops murderous owner



Clint "Eastpup" Makes My Day!



The following story was published in Trends Magazine, a publication of the American Animal Hospital Association

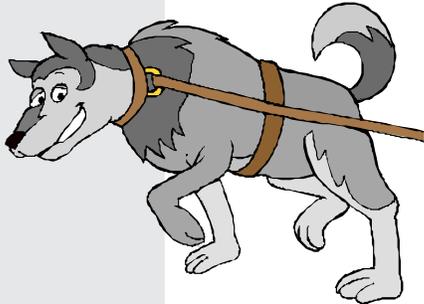
According to September 2004 news reports, a Pensacola, Florida man who tried to shoot seven puppies was himself shot in the wrist by one of the puppies.

The owner of the 3-month-old shepherd-mix puppies purportedly decided to destroy the dogs because he couldn't find them a home. He had already killed three of the dogs and was aiming his .38-caliber revolver at two more he was holding. One pup in his hand wiggled and put its paw on the trigger, discharging the gun.

The Escambia County Animal Control, which recovered the four rescued puppies and made them available for adoption, named them Remington, Winchester, Colt and Trigger (any guess which pup was the hero of the day?). The owner was charged with felony animal cruelty.

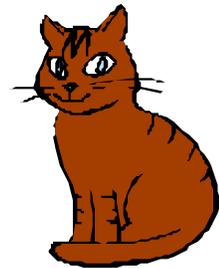
Trivia Page

Animal Trivia



The calories burned daily by the sled dogs running in Alaska's annual Iditarod race average 10,000!! The extreme muscular exertion can increase metabolic demands more than 60 fold! The 1,149-mile race commemorates the 1925 "Race for Life" when 20 volunteer mushers relayed medicine from Anchorage to Nome to battle a children's diphtheria epidemic. (visit the website www.iditarod.com and see article p5)

A cat's pupil is a vertical slit shape to allow more efficient closing and protection of the retina in bright light than is possible for a round pupil. This is a common adaptation for nocturnal species which bask in sunshine.



Question: Which famous horse was fitted with eye glasses?
Answer: TV star "Mr. Ed"

A cow gives approximately 200,000 glasses of milk in her lifetime.

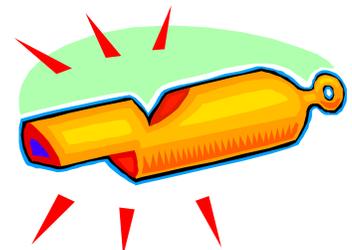


All pet hamsters are descended from a single female wild golden hamster found with a litter of 12 young in Syria in 1930



An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain!

At the end of the Beatles's song "A day in the Life", an ultrasonic whistle, audible only to dogs, was recorded by Paul McCartney for his Shetland Sheepdog!





Famous Dogs

Famous Dogs in History - Balto



The world famous Iditarod sled dog race from Anchorage to Nome is held partly to commemorate the life-saving efforts of dogs and mushers to bring serum to battle a diphtheria epidemic in Nome in the winter of 1925. Flying the serum was not an option, as the only bush pilot capable of the flight was unavailable. 20 volunteer mushers with dog teams were hastily assembled in a pony-express like delivery process. The serum was taken by train to Nenana, as far as the newly built railway could take it. From there, every village along the way offered its best team to speed the delivery to Nome.

The critical leg across the Norton Sound ice from Sahaktolik to Golovin was mushed by the territories premier musher Leonhard Seppala and his lead dog Togo. Gunnar Kaasen drove the final two legs to Nome behind his lead dog Balto in an 80 mph blizzard. The serum arrived in time to prevent the epidemic and saved hundreds of lives. The 20 mushers had covered about 700 miles in 127 hours (about 6 days) in temperatures that rarely rose above 40 below and in winds strong enough to sometimes blow over dogs and sleds.

The serum run received worldwide press coverage and the mushers received special gold medals. A statue of Balto, heroic lead dog was erected a year later in Central Park, New York City. It is still there. Balto died in 1933 and his body is preserved in the Natural History Museum in Cleveland. Recent efforts by Alaskan school children to return Balto's body to Alaska and have him displayed in the Iditarod Museum at Wasilla have been unsuccessful. Balto spent half his life in Cleveland, and the the museum there is not about to give him up!

Sled dogs led by "Balto" saved hundreds of lives in a diphtheria outbreak in Nome Alaska in 1925



"Balto"

**Animal
Crackers**



Question: How many Dogs Does It Take to Change a Light Bulb?

The answer of course, depends on the breed of dog.

1. **Golden Retriever:** The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a stupid burned out bulb?

2. **Border Collie:** Just one! and then I'll replace any wiring that's not up to code.

3. **Dachshund:** You know I can't reach that stupid lamp!

4. **Rottweiler:** Make me!

5. **Boxer:** Who cares? I can still play with my squeaky toys in the dark.

6. **Labrador Retriever:** Oh, me, me!!!!!! Pleeeeeze let me change the light bulb! Can I? Can I? Huh? Huh? Huh? Can I? Pleeeeeze, please, please, please!

7. **German Shepherd:** I'll change it as soon as I've led these people from the dark, check to make sure I haven't missed any, and make just one more perimeter patrol to see that no one has tried to take advantage of the situation.

8. **Jack Russel Terrier:** I'll just pop it in while I'm bouncing off the walls and furniture.

9. **Old English Sheepdog:** Light bulb? I'm sorry, but I don't see a light bulb.

10. **Cocker Spaniel:** Why change it? I can still pee on the carpet in the dark!

11. **Chihuahua:** Yo quiero Taco Bulb!

12. **Pointer:** I see it, there it is, there it is, right there.....!

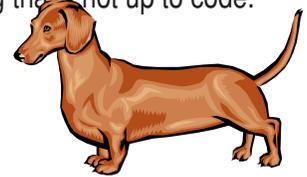
13. **Greyhound:** It isn't moving. So who cares?

14. **Australian Shepherd:** First I'll put all the light bulbs in a little circle....

15. **Poodle:** I'll just blow in the Border Collie's ear and he'll do it. By the time he finishes rewiring the house, my nails will be dry.

The Cat's Answer: "Dogs do not change light bulbs. People change light bulbs. So, the real question is: How long will it be before I can expect some light, some dinner, and a massage?"

All of which proves, once again, that while dogs have masters, cats have staff!!



**Feature
Photo**

Dogs on Hogs*



This amazing photo of a dog riding a Harley Davidson Road King was captured by Dr Anvik's 83 yr old mother last summer near Kamloops. The biker is a lady who has had a special seat made for the dog. Note the railing behind the dog to help contain the pooch. The dog also had a harness fashioned to help secure him. The canine passenger is also wearing "doggles", special goggles to protect the eyes and seems very comfortable on his ride. He is quite happy looking over the driver's shoulder, like a regular biker passenger! But Hey! Where's the "Helmutt" after all, there is a helmet law for motorcyclists and their passengers in BC!

Mrs Eline Anvik is an award winning photographer who has taken up photography late in life. She is a member of the Abbotsford Photographic Arts Club and has had her work published in a number of well known Photography Magazines. Many of the photographs that are published in our quarterly newsletters were taken by her.

** ed note: for those of you who might not be familiar with biker jargon, a "Hog" is the nickname for a Harley Davidson Motorcycle.*