

Shelhamer urges rabies vaccination for pets

HARRISBURG - As the incidence of rabies increases each Summer and early Fall, a large number of household pets may be ex-

posed to the disease. State Agriculture Secretary Kent Shelhamer is urging pet owners to have their dogs and cats vaccinated to

prevent the loss of their pets through contact with rabid animals.

Rabies is an acute virus disease of the nervous

system of warm-blooded animals which is usually transmitted through the bite or scratch of an infected animal. Although the majority of positive rabies diagnoses involve bats, in the past foxes, raccoons, skunks, dogs and cats have been found to have the disease. Vaccines have been developed, however, to protect pets against the virus.

Rabies vaccines come in three types, both inactivated virus vaccine which is administered annually, and two forms of modified live rabies virus which can be

administered every three years.

Shelhamer said that a vaccination against rabies is an inexpensive way to protect a pet. "If you love your pet, you will protect it. A rabies vaccination is a simple means to avoid the heart rending situation when a child is forced to lose his pet because his parents did not see fit to inoculate it against rabies."

The incubation period for rabies varies from a few weeks to over a year, depending on the carrier animal. Because of this, animals may be infected but the virus may not make itself known for long periods of time.

If an owner suspects his

pet has been exposed to rabies, the pet should be confined and a veterinarian should immediately be contacted. If your pet is bitten by a known animal, the biting animal should be confined for ten days. After the ten-day period, if the offending animal is healthy, you can once again allow your pet some freedom.

The Agriculture Secretary noted that 19 positive cases of rabies were diagnosed in the commonwealth in 1977. The Department's Summerdale laboratory provides rabies diagnostic services free of charge. Results are reported to the concerned individuals following completion of the testing procedure.

Square dancing classes organizing

FLEMINGTON, N.J. - Teens who are looking for something that's fun, new, and challenging may be interested in a modern square dance class being sponsored by the Hunterdon Hayshakers 4-H Square Dance Club for young people in the 6th to the 12th grades. The class will be held Thursdays, from 6 to 7:20 p.m. at the North Hunterdon High School girls' gym. There will be eight sessions starting on October 19 with one free introductory lesson on October 12. Price for all eight lessons is \$10. The instructor is national professional square dance caller, teacher, leader Dick Jones.

Modern square dancing uses modern, pop music. It concentrates on learning the basic movements from all the various positions rather than on learning dances. Once the basic movements are known, they can be put together in many different combinations and the dancers can enjoy an infinite number of dances without further instruction.

The same basic movements are being taught in square dance classes all over the United States and in

thirty five foreign countries. This makes it possible for people from all over the state, in fact all over the country and even foreign countries to enter a dance complete strangers, square up on the dance floor and dance all night to a caller they never heard before.

Although this class is for teens, there are also several adult classes now forming in the area. For further information call Mrs. Peter Ternosky at 609-537-2564 or Dick Jones 609-832-7580.

Nursery class opening

NEFFSVILLE - The Neffsville Christian Nursery School, sponsored by Long Memorial United Methodist Church, Neffsville, has opened another class for 2½ year olds on Tuesdays. Classes are held from 9:30 a.m. until noon. There are also a few openings in some of the older classes.

The purpose of this school is to provide for children in a Christian atmosphere the basic educational training and group experience preparatory to entering kindergarten, and to enable them to grow in Christian habits, attitudes and ideals.

Registration information may be obtained by telephoning the Church office at 717-569-2931.



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