

# The great outdoors

## Share your life with a faithful pet

BY RICHARD FIEGELMAN  
Special to The Post

For those of you who have never known the love and devotion of a faithful dog, always at your side; you have my condolences. For those of you who say that animals are an encumbrance; you have my sympathy. Man and canine form a harmonious and symbiotic relationship which is centuries old. This week is National Pet Week, and at this time I would like to nominate my German Shepherd, Bear as "Dog of the Year."

Bear and I found each other when he was six months old, and the person with whom he lived had to get out of town in a hurry. Bear and I were in the right place at the right time, and for a mere \$25.00 I have spent the last four years with an animal who is a joy to co-exist with. He is highly intelligent, energetic, gentle and understands many words. He is most inoffensive to all who meet him, yet he has a protective side which emanates at times. I could go on for hours about Bear, but what is important here is that Bear was abused. For a year after Bear and I became partners, he would cover like a frightened puppy every time I picked up a

stick to throw. Obviously, he had been beaten by his previous owner. To know Bear is to know the outrage of that abuse. For that matter, no animal should be subjected to human terrorism of any sort.

There is a holocaust taking place in America. One every bit as widespread as any which preceded it. This one however, is victimizing our brother beings, animals both domestic and wild, most of which never raised a tooth or claw to man. In this refuse-filled society even flesh and blood are expendable. In my line of work I hear the stories every day. Sob stories from people who bought a dog or cat, and then three days later decided that they didn't want it. Novelty buying. Throwaway pets. Absurd. Disgraceful.

You see, there are feelings attached to those canine or feline eyes which look to you for survival. They feel love, hurt and pain. Terrible pain administered to them by supposedly superior beings. Through experimentation (a complex issue), neglect, and wanton violence, thousands die excruciating deaths each day. Though I may take a quiet view, this must be stopped, and stopped now.

There is no easy solution, as it

often the case when violence is involved. Man inflicts his ruthless whims indiscriminately, and often animals absorb the brunt of them. If you ever see someone beating an animal, please report it to the proper authorities. "These people" are breaking moral and criminal laws, and should be fed dog biscuits for a couple months while they sit and think about it.

Because of man's ever-widening domination of earth, more and more animals look to us for help, and more are dying. The Florida Keys, your neighbor's back yard, the Eastern Woodlands, a basement dog fight, everywhere is suffering and at times extinction.

There are measures which can be taken to stem this woeful tide. Spay or neuter your pet to combat overpopulation. Adopt a discarded animal from your local shelter or street corner. Get involved with wildlife organizations who are devoted to saving endangered species. Write L.O.V.E., Box 333, Silverdale, PA 18962. They are a group who oppose vivisectional experiments. Once again, please report any incidents of abuse. It's time that we show concern for our fellow beings both mentally and monetarily. Help stop the suffering and the slaughter. Bear thanks you.



**CAT COLONY CAT SHOW** — Pictured kneeling, Thresea Hummel; seated, Brittany Kurello, Jesse Jacobs and Karen Sherin; standing, Carol Sherin, Miriam Tomasetti, Juanita Bednarz, founder; Janet Kaufer, Dr. Bonnie Mancia, show manager; and Brenda Metzger, show secretary.

## Show off those beautiful cats

"Mutts of America" and "Cat Colony" clubs - a national pet registry are proud to present the first "Cat Colony Cat Show" to be held on May 21 at the Sheraton-Crossgates on Public Square in Wilkes-Barre.

All cats, pedigree, non-pedigree, housecats and all cats are invited to enter this purr-fect event.

Felines will be judged on personality, grooming, coat condition, and special awards will also be given. Trophies and rosettes will be given to the top five in each class. "The Big Meow", a raffle, will also be held the same day, 62 prizes will be awarded door prizes, free face painting done by Julie Hatcher, and lots of fun for everyone. The public

is invited to attend. Proceeds will benefit the homeless animals at the SPCA and local animal shelters.

For further information, call Juanita Bednarz at 287-8726, or Patty Nardone 283-1949. All interested animal lovers are encouraged to attend and make this "Cat Colony Cat Show" a truly unique experience.

## W-B YMCA sponsors camping

The Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA and the Easton Family YMCA will offer parent-child weekend camping at Camp Kresge-Hugh Beaver in the beautiful Pocono Mountains.

Here is an opportunity for a parent and children under 12 years old to spend some real quality time together, something we find little time for in today's family lifestyle. You and your child or children will cherish the memories of this weekend long after he or she has children of their own.

There will be both planned activities and time for you and your child to be on your own. Camping sessions will be as follows: Mother-Son, June 3, 4, 5; Father-Daughter, June 10, 11, 12; Father-Son, June 17, 18, 19; Mother-Daughter, June 24, 25, 26.



### Gdosky honored

Wildlife Conservation Officer Edward R. Gdosky (right) of Dallas receives Wildlife Conservation Award from Barry L. Warner, left, Director, Northeast Region Pennsylvania Game Commission. Gdosky was honored for his outstanding performance in Wildlife Law Enforcement.

## SPCA announces winners

The results of the 1988 Be Kind to Animals Week Poster Contest are in. The annual event co-sponsored by the SPCA of Luzerne County and Marquis Art & Frame of Wilkes-Barre held the judging Wednesday, April 27 at the Marquis Art Gallery on South Main Street.

Judges were Mary Ruth Kelly, Asst. Gallery Director; Jim Butterwick, Art Instructor LCCC; and Andrew Palencar, Art Supervisor for Wilkes-Barre Area Schools.

The winners will be receiving their gift certificates by mail. Prizes were donated by Ken Marquis of Marquis Art & Frame. All winning posters Kindergarten thru 12th grade will be on display at the First Eastern Bank, downtown

Wilkes-Barre, during BKA WEEK, May 1-7.

Kindergarten-1st, Janell Bucha, Mercy Center; Third Grade-1st, Lori Buzin, Dallas Elementary, Dallas; Fifth Grade-1st, Thomas Kutza, Westmoreland, Dallas; Seventh Grade-1st Andy Johnson, Dallas Jr. High, Dallas; Eighth Grade-1st Laura Cashore, Gate of Heaven, Dallas; Ninth Grade-1st, Tara Wadas, Tunkhannock High, Tunkhannock; Tenth Grade-1st, Kerry Burke, Dallas Sr. High, Dallas; 3rd, Heather Harris, Lake-Lehman Sr. High, Lehman; Eleventh Grade-1st Heidi Stradusz, Dallas Sr. High, Dallas; 2nd, Kelly Spencer, Tunkhannock Area, Tunkhannock.

## Farm legislation approved

State Senator Charles D. Lemmond Jr. (R-20) has announced that the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee has approved several bills, including 1251 which he co-sponsored, that provides for insurance and distribution of the \$100 million in state bonds approved by the voters in November for farmland preservation.

Senator Lemmond said the measure establishes a method for distributing the bond money to

counties for purchase of development rights to prime farmland from farmers who want to participate in the program. By purchasing agricultural easements from farmers, the counties could ensure that the farmland is used only for agricultural purposes.

An Agricultural Conservation Board will be established to oversee implementation of the program, certify county programs and distribute state funds.

## Forests going

The world's forests, which produce much of the oxygen we breathe, are being chopped down at such an alarming rate many experts fear man is endangering his own survival.

Forestry specialists for CARE, the international relief and development organization, warn that more than 50 acres of tropical rainforests are cut down every minute to satisfy our insatiable appetite for lumber and fresh farmland. That amounts to an area of forest the size of New York State lost each year.

CARE reports that whole forests in Africa, Asia and Latin America have already vanished, leaving behind barren soil and desert sands. Nearly half of the world's tropical rainforests were hacked down or burned in just the last 40 years.

According to CARE, the wholesale destruction of trees jeopardizes the planet's oxygen production, destabilizes global climate patterns and may leave us without enough trees to produce fuelwood, construction timber, pharmaceuticals and other necessities. Without trees to protect it, topsoil is exposed to erosion from wind and rain, threatening world food production.

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