



**That's entertainment**

Not too long ago, every yard in the neighborhood had a tire and rope swing. The reason was simple. Tires were cheap, rope was cheap and the swings that came from a merger of the two were fun. Now one does not see many of the swings. The reason for the disappearance is unknown except for the fact

that tires and rope are a little more expensive now. Even so, cheap used tires are still around and the fun to be had from a tire swing like this one on Magnolia Street in Raeford and a lazy afternoon cannot be equalled.

**Paw hair plaguing dog**

**DEAR DOCTOR:** The hair that grows between the pads of the feet seems to be unusually long on my dog. Should I trim his hair back or is it there to protect the pads?

**ANSWER:** Yes, do trim the hair back until it is even with the surface of the pads. Often it is necessary to spread the pads. Failure to include this area when grooming may cause your pet to develop a painful irritation between the pads.

In the summer and fall the pet may have a bur caught in the hair or you might find a dry clump of mud. In the winter ice and snow will get caught in the hair only to melt on your carpet when the pet comes inside.

**DEAR DOCTOR:** Why does my cat react to catnip? Is it bad for her?

**ANSWER:** Catnip is a herb that is often included in toys meant for cats. It is also available as dried leaves and in aerosol cans of catnip extract. The domestic cat is not the only feline to respond to catnip. It has been used by hunters to attract bobcat and lynx in this country and lions are known to respond spectacularly.

The response to catnip is stimulated by the smelling, chewing and sometimes eating of the leaves or their extract. Smell seems to be the chief source of pleasure. Typically the cat approaches the catnip, sniffs briefly and then licks or chews the catnip. Some cats then shake their heads and then gaze into space for a short while. Others rub their cheeks and chin over the catnip source and then roll from side to side while rubbing their bodies on the source. The complete response lasts from 5 to 15 minutes and then cannot be stimulated for another hour or so.

One in three cats do not respond at all to catnip and this lack of response is thought to be hereditary. While the reason for the response to catnip is not fully understood, it is thought to be due to the scent of catnip mimicking the sexual scents emitted by cats.

The use of catnip is apparently not harmful to cats, some suggest that the cat not be let out into a traffic area shortly after the catnip response because their reaction to danger is lessened.

**You And Your Pet**

**DEAR DOCTOR:** How can I keep my cat from eating my houseplants?

**ANSWER:** Because some houseplants are poisonous to cats, it is important that you not allow your cats to chew on leaves. It takes persistence on your part to train them that the plants are off limits.

One trick that works well is to hide a mousetrap in the pot so that the spring is underneath the wooden base of the trap. When the cat sets foot in the pot, the trap snaps and scares the cat. After a few of these noisy plants, most cats stay clear.

Another training technique is to use a trigger sprayer filled with water. When you see the cat bothering the plants, blast away with water. Don't say anything to the cat or call attention to the fact that you are doing the spraying. We want the cat to believe that the spray is strictly related to the plant and not to your presence.

For the diehard plant chewer you may have to make a solution of Tobasco sauce and mist the plant leaves that taste the best to your cat.

**Editor's Note:** This column is provided as a public service by the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association. Do you have a question about health care? If so, send it to Ralph H. Lee, Executive Director, NCVMA, P.O. Box 1335, Kinston, North Carolina 28501. (535-9988).

**Hi there**

The name is LeDoge, Jean Claude LeDoge. We out here at the Hoke County Animal Shelter would like to cordially invite you to visit our open house. Our house, such as it is, is always open to those of you who would like a pet. Looking for a cute little kitten? We've got them. They are now housed in a new and better area for your convenience and their safety. Is it possible you are looking for a noble type like me? I'll be here and so will many of my friends. Come on out and see us, and hurry. The food out here is almost impossible to look at much less eat.

**Welding, Taxidermy classes scheduled**

The Division of Continuing Education at Sandhills Community College will offer a Basic Arc Welding course designed to teach fundamentals of safety; equipment use; properties of metals; and flat, horizontal and vertical welding techniques.

The course may serve as a primer to more advanced study in welding or as a single course for those who are seeking introductory

knowledge. The class will include 48 hours of instruction.

The class will begin October 2 and end on November 27. Hours are from 7-10 p.m. in the Automotive Building on the Sandhills campus. The registration fee is \$10.

The instructor Robert Burns, is a former welding teacher from Beaufort Technical College in Washington, N.C.

Students may register on the first night of class.

To pre-enroll or for other information, call Jesse Mansfield at 692-6185, Ext. 228.

In addition Sandhills has scheduled a small animal taxidermy course for October 2-November 27 at the shop of instructor David Auman, located near Roseland at the intersection of State Roads 1113 and 1004.

**Glenn graduates as armor crewman**

Pvt. Patrick L. Glenn, son of James L. and Ruth M. Glenn of Rural Route 5, Raeford has graduated as an armor crewman at the U.S. Army Armor School, Fort Knox, Ky.

The training was conducted under the one station unit training (DSUT) program, which combines basic combat training and advanced individual training into one 13-week period.

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