



Completes training
Keith English, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence English of Raeford, has completed basic training and individual training at Great Lakes, Illinois. After a short leave at home, English will be stationed in Norfolk, Virginia on the U.S.S. Eisenhower Aircraft Carrier. English is a 1984 graduate of Hoke High School.

Cat has urge for scratch

Dear Doctor: I have a seven-year-old female cat that began to have unusual symptoms about three years ago. She would suddenly stop what she was doing and lick vigorously at her back and run and jump as if she was very excited. She has no hair loss and her skin is normal.

My veterinarian has checked for many types of problems and comes up with no definite answer. He has suggested that it may be a nerve problem. What can I do with this problem.

Answer: Since your veterinarian has ruled out many of the common skin diseases, I would think that the skin problem may be neurodermatitis.

This is an uncommon problem that affects some breeds like Siamese and Abyssinians more frequently than others.

Affected cats have an uncontrollable urge to lick certain areas of their bodies and may lick so much that the hair is removed.

Sometimes the cat with neurodermatitis will have increased sensitivity over the back and the skin may ripple due to muscle contractions. The skin may also be sensitive to touch.

Control is often accomplished by the use of tranquilizers such as Phenobarb administered as directed by your veterinarian. Once the areas are healed, the problem may reoccur if the animal is not receiving medication and it is put under stress.

Dear Doctor: My dog is forever snapping at flies and bees. I know he is going to be stung by a bee one of these days. What should I do if this happens?

Answer: Bee stings are common at this time of year.

If your dog suddenly shows up with a swelling around the face or front feet, you should suspect a bee sting.

Look in the center of the swollen area to see if the stinger is still in the skin.

If it is, scrape it out from the side so the venom left in the venom glands is not squeezed into the tissue. Next, if the sting is recent, apply ice to the area to slow the movement of the venom out of the immediate area and to control swelling.

If the sting has caused a large amount of swelling, or if you are not sure whether it is a sting or an abscess, have your veterinarian check the swelling. He or she may want to treat the pet with antibiotics or medication to help lessen the reaction to the sting.

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, NCVMA, P.O. Box 1335, Kinston, North Carolina.

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Mr. & Mrs. Billie Mayes of Rockingham, N.C. accepting the keys to their 1983 Buick. "It's amazing after shopping all the Richmond County dealers we drove home our new Buick from Marko's, we just couldn't refuse the tremendous savings."

Sgt. Alphonse Turner Jr. of Fayetteville, N.C. accepting the keys to his new 1983 Toyota Celica. "Going away Marko's deal was the best after shopping 4 different Toyota dealers."

Mrs. Josephine Luther of Ellerbe, N.C. driving her new Pontiac home. "I appreciated the time and service we received at Marko's. I recommend all my friends and family to Marko for a great buy." Thank you Mrs. Luther, we are hearing the very same thing from more and more Richmond County residents all the time.

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