

STATE AND LOCAL

Survey: attention inadequate

Cats need preventative care

By HADDON JOHNSTON  
Reporter

Cats are becoming the preferred pet in the United States but often are victims of the misconception that they can take care of themselves, said a feline specialist at Texas A&M.

"Because of the independent nature and standoffish attitude that cats have," said Dr. Alice Wolf of A&M's small animal clinic. "People are deceived into thinking that cats require less care."

A national study commissioned by the American Veterinary Medical Association found that only 47 percent of cat-owning households in America obtained veterinary services in a single year, compared to the 74 percent of dog-owning households.

The AVMA reported that although cat health care is low-level, the cat population in the United States is surpassing the dog population for the first time.

Considering the relative cleanliness and ease of keeping a cat, more people are realizing that a cat is a much better pet, Wolf said.

"Increased urbanization and the large number of single people around today are other reasons the cat population has grown," Wolf said. "It's a lot easier to keep a cat in an apartment or condominium."

Cats are our wildest domesticated pets, she said. They instinctively hide their ailments as a throwback to the days when ailing animals were preyed upon by stronger ones.

"They don't let you know they are sick until it is serious," Wolf said. "Humans have changed cats' lifestyles and instincts, so it's up to us to protect them as best we can."

Although indoor living does protect a cat, the moment the animal is let outside, it is exposed to disease. The mistake people make is in thinking an inside cat is totally protected, Wolf said.

"Cats may build up a certain degree of immunity if they are outside most of the time," Wolf said, "and inside cats may be fairly well protected, but both groups should be vaccinated and cared for properly."

An AVMA study of 64 million pet owners (representing 107 million cats and dogs) found that cat owners seldom know the warning signs of feline illness. The study indicated

that sudden illness, not preventative care, was the main reason cats were taken to veterinarians.

A cat's roving lifestyle also makes it prone to many injuries and infectious diseases such as colds, pneumonia, rabies and feline leukemia with its AIDS-like symptoms, Wolf said.

"The important warning signs to look for in a cat are loss of activity, unusual swelling or bumps, and loss of appetite, which is less likely to occur initially because of the cat's survival instinct," she said.

The AVMA reports a low national average of veterinary costs for cats — \$26 a year. Most state laws require yearly rabies shots. Other vaccines and boosters are available at reasonable costs as incentives for increased pet health care.

Technology may come to Burleson with accelerator

By BRIAN PEARSON  
Staff Writer

Burleson County is one of the six sites in Texas being considered as the center for a world renowned particle accelerator, a Texas A&M physics department spokesman said Thursday night.

"This would be the biggest and most important scientific laboratory in the world," said Dr. Peter McIntyre, associate professor and director of physics.

McIntyre told about 100 people at the program in the Brazos Center that the installment of the \$2 billion accelerator, or Superconducting Super Collider (SCC), would have a positive economic impact on the area.

"Scientists and engineers from all over the world would come here and use the facility for research," he said.

During the program, which was sponsored by the Brazos Valley Development Council, McIntyre discussed the purpose of the SCC and the importance of it being brought to the region.

"It will be the largest microscope ever built and will be built to view the smallest structures ever seen," he said.

The accelerator tunnel will be built in an underground circular path 100 miles in circumference and use 40 trillion volts of energy to peer

into the inner structure of matter in a way never been done before, McIntyre said.

The microscope, he said, will be able to see the actions of quarks, which are subatomic particles that are much smaller than protons and neutrons they are found in.

Because of the enormous potential for scientific discovery, McIntyre said, industry and technology will grow around wherever the SCC is finally placed. He said 15 states have shown interest in obtaining the SCC.

The SCC itself will employ 2,000 scientists and technicians, McIntyre said.

He said 10,000 acres of land around the Burleson County area near Lake Somerville would be needed to build the central facility. The land above the 100-mile accelerator tunnel, he said, would not be disturbed.

The Brazos Valley area was chosen as a possible site because of its "relatively sparse land utilization" and its convenient location between Austin, College Station and Houston, McIntyre said. He said there is a 40 percent chance the SCC will be built somewhere in Texas.

McIntyre said people in the area of a proposed site will have to show interest before the United States Department of Energy, which funds the project, will consider the location for the SCC.

Regents to vote Tuesday on System budgets

By JERRY OSLIN  
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M Board of Regents will vote Tuesday on the approval of the 1985-86 guidelines for establishing system budgets.

According to the guidelines, all Texas A&M University System employees, excluding faculty and professional staff, will receive a state mandated salary increase of 3 per-

cent above their 1985 fiscal year salaries. They also may receive a merit increase, but the merit increases together should not exceed an average of 4 percent.

Faculty and professional staff may receive merit increases as well, but as the other system employees, the increases together should not exceed an average of 4 percent.

The guidelines also set the rates by which travel expenses are to be

budgeted. System employees will be reimbursed 25 cents per mile if they use their own automobiles. They also will receive a maximum of \$70 a day for expenses.

In other business, the board will consider for approval the sale of \$35 million in Permanent University Fund Constitutional Amendment Bonds.

The board also will consider the appropriation of \$880,000 from the

sale of the bonds to pay for teaching equipment for the Halbouty Geosciences Building.

The board is expected to appropriate \$3.1 million from the Available University Fund to enhance the system's engineering program. Part of the money will be used for purchasing instructional equipment and for paying faculty salaries.

The regents meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m.

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.55 cts.	1,495	795
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.45 cts.	995	535
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.40 cts.	875	465
.38 cts.	495	295
.38 cts.	475	295
.34 cts.	595	325
.25 cts.	470	235
.24 cts.	435	225
.21 cts.	395	195
.20 cts.	295	145
.20 cts.	275	130
.17 cts.	195	105
.15 cts.	185	95
.11 cts.	135	68
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.50 cts.	695	375
.40 cts.	995	485
.40 cts.	635	325
.39 cts.	895	465
.38 cts.	875	460
.37 cts.	835	450
.37 cts.	835	450
.35 cts.	800	425
.35 cts.	800	425
.35 cts.	800	425
.34 cts.	775	410
.33 cts.	650	395
.30 cts.	635	365
.30 cts.	635	365
.27 cts.	625	335

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.39 cts.	635	290
.33 cts.	700	325
.33 cts.	595	250
.31 cts.	525	235
.28 cts.	435	210
.23 cts.	375	175
.11 cts.	165	85
.45 cts.	950	425
.44 cts.	735	335
.44 cts.	735	335
.44 cts.	735	335
.42 cts.	695	315
.41 cts.	650	310
.38 cts.	495	285
.38 cts.	495	285
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