

Give Your Turtle A Sporting Chance

Turtles have been popular as pets for many years but few animals are the victims of so much misunderstanding in regard to their care.

The most common turtle of the pet trade is the green, "red-eared slider." With proper food and living conditions this little turtle from the southern United States, can attain a shell length of about 12 inches and live for 16 years or more.

In Ontario, Midland painted turtles are often brought home from the cottage and kept as pets. The small musk turtle, that would never get too big to be properly housed, could also make a good pet but unless our native species are bred for this purpose they should not be kept in captivity. Members of the Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Society are now trying to breed the endangered spotted turtle, hoping to increase its limited numbers and thus save it from extinction. It will never reproduce sufficiently to meet pet trade needs, however. Fortunately, the "red-eared slider," bred for the pet industry, is not in danger of becoming extinct.

All turtles and tortoises require an air temperature from about 75 to 80 degrees or they will not eat well. In nature, northern species must hibernate in winter to escape freezing, but true hibernation cannot take place indoors. In a cool room the turtle will become listless; it will still require food but will not feel like eating it. To achieve the desired warmth, a gooseneck lamp, with a 60 watt bulb, should be placed about eight inches over the turtle's sunning area and left on for part of each day, especially prior to feeding. Never leave the turtle near an open window where it could either be in a draught or too much direct sunlight.

Aquatic turtles, recognizable by their webbed feet, require enough water to allow them to swim fully submerged and a landing place that permits them to climb completely out of the water. Small plastic turtle bowls do not adequately serve these purposes, especially when the turtle starts to grow. A clear, plastic shoe box is much better for baby turtles but as they grow they will need a fairly large aquarium or tank.

Improper diet is a major

cause of pet turtle deaths. Turtles require a highly varied diet of such foods as raw lean beef, beef heart, kidney, chicken, raw fish, shrimps, canned dog or cat food, earthworms, aquatic snails, aquatic plants such as anacharis, lettuce or spinach and raw tomatoes. At least some type of fish, meat and vegetable should be part of their regular diet. Food should be offered in small, easy to swallow pieces but

greens may be left floating on the water. Turtles, especially when young, should be fed as much as they will eat daily. Aquatic turtles must swallow with the head under water.

Land turtles and tortoises can be kept in a dry aquarium with sand on the bottom. If they outgrow this, a child's sandbox might do. They require a water dish that is large enough for them to climb into as they

often like to soak themselves. They also should have a lamp for warmth. These turtles will eat much of the foods suggested for aquatic species, plus fruits, melons, berries, bannans and plenty of greens.

Turtles shouldn't be handled too much or allowed to walk about on the floor where then can catch cold, become lost or are victims of accidents.

The most common ailments of captive turtles, soft shells and swollen eyes, are caused by lack of warmth, an inadequate diet and improper living conditions.

Turtles can transmit an infection to humans which commonly occurs in the form of food poisoning. It is therefore best not to empty the turtle's water in the kitchen sink where vegetables are prepared and

always remember to wash hands well after the pet. Keep its tank clean at all times.

Don't get a pet unless you can give it food and adequate space not only when it is full size. Never keep endangered species in captivity as this only limits their chance to propagate and increase numbers.

Library Service A Bright Light For Hagersville

Hagersville has many libraries that more than make up for its small size. With much larger libraries such as a public library on Main Street, Hagersville has served some 700 people last year.

Dorothy Roulston is the librarian who took over Miss Anna Almas' duties on September 1. Mrs. A. Roth is assistant librarian.

Miss Almas was librarian for 40 years. The library has been at its present location for about 20 years and is associated with the Niagara Regional Library System with headquarters at St. Catharines.

Rural adults pay one dollar for membership and library residents are free members with the exception they pay 10 cents for a library card.

The library is financed initially by municipal funds and a provincial grant from the Ontario Department of Education.

In the last while the library has added additional services such as a film loan service. Films must be booked in advance. The library also has a projector and screen, which it will loan for two dollars a day. Since September when the service was started, the library has booked and loaned 15 films.

The library also has a general service through the library loan service. Many facilities of much interest are available to members, even books from university libraries.

Not unlike many other public libraries in the Niagara Regional Library System, the Hagersville Public Library started as a mechanic's institute in 1894.

Miss Anna Almas (left) retired Hagersville librarian, looks at one of the new books in the library with Miss Dorothy Roulston, who is the new librarian. (Staff Photo)

A year later it was officially sanctioned as a public library. During its history the library has moved from one rented building to the next and has had its financial ups and downs, but has served thanks to those members of the community who realized the necessity of a library service.

Today the library is fortunately located in a former store building at the centre of the community's vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Eye catching displays in its front windows enhance the library and lure people inside.

The bright interior houses some 6,000 volumes, current periodicals and a useful vertical file. A separate section has been set aside for the children as has a section for reference materials. This year the hours have been increased from nine and a half hours a week to 14 hours.

Progress is a result of hard work.

Miss Almas, who still comes to work at the library although she has officially retired said recently, "The Library Board, under Chairman M. Hutcheon, is actively interested in the future of the library, and with these ladies in charge we are expecting to see a continuing expansion of service."

6,700 Miles Of Roads

TORONTO The 414 miles of all-weather roads built last year through their timber limits by Ontario's forest industries bring to 6,700 the total number of miles constructed since 1941, says Murray D. Seeley, of Thunder Bay, president of the Ontario Forest Industries Association.

He estimates the industry's nearly three-decade long program of building has cost the companies involved more than \$53-million, an average of at least \$2000 per mile.

"This program of road construction has been entirely financed by the OFIA's member-companies without government subsidies," Mr. Seeley said, "and has been instrumental in furthering the development of much of northern and northwestern Ontario."

He pointed out that such road construction goes on continually as the licensed forest areas of the Association's members are developed.

Built by the industry primarily as a necessary means of harvesting the forest crop, these all-weather roads also provide a ready and vital access to the forest for action against fire, insects and disease, as well as for forest management purposes.

Some 45 pulp and paper companies, sawmill operators and independent pulpwood producers make up the membership of the OFIA. They are engaged in logging operations on more than 94,500 square miles of forestlands in Ontario, most of it under licence from the Crown.

The OFIA provides its member companies with a common voice on such problems as forest protection and management, road building, research, legislation and other related aspects of development of the forest resource.

BOOST YIELDS

EDMONTON (CP) — Hybrid wheats expected to boost yields 25 percent will be marketed by United Grain Growers, a Canadian co-op, as a result of a deal with DeKalb Agriscience Inc. of North Dakota. Hybrid wheats would cut production costs and make Canadian farmers more competitive in world markets.

With UNICEF's help, the death rate among children from malaria has been lowered from 3.5 million in the '50's to less than a million a year.

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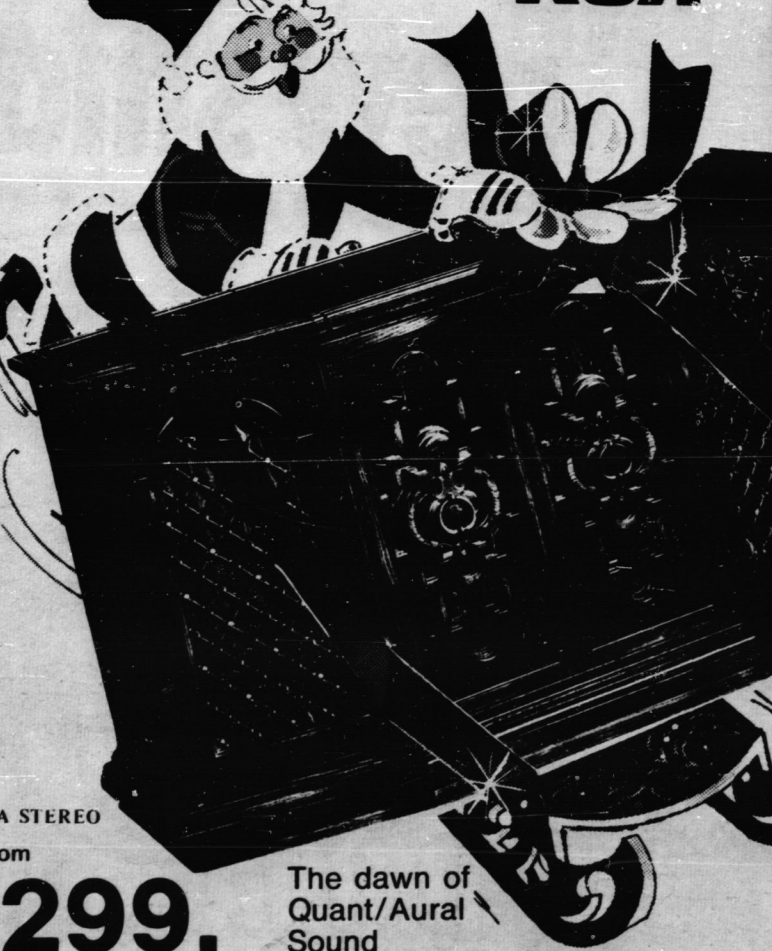
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