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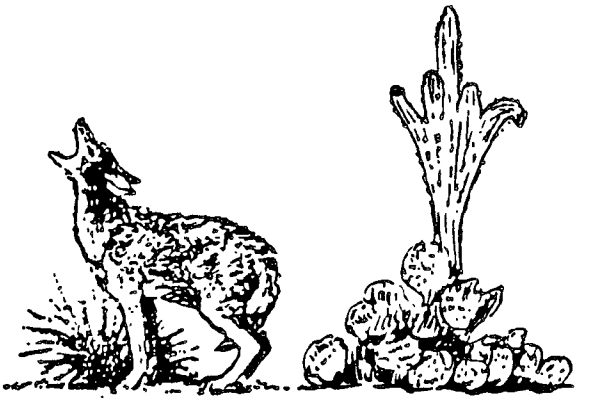
THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

JANUARY 1988 NUMBER 79

ANIMAL TRAPS – KINDER THAN NATURE

DR. WALTER E. HOWARD

(condensed from SAN DIEGO MERCURY NEWS)

It is only natural that we anthropomorphize when we see an animal in a trap and feel sorry for it. Even if it is caught in an offset-jaw trap and doesn't feel much pain - it is obviously very unhappy about the situation. But regardless of the amount of suffering is it justifiable to outlaw all leg-hold traps ? Most people let their emotions make them say, "yes", but if they analyzed the issue from the natural point of view they would probably change their minds.

Most people who trap animals are not intentionally trying to make animals suffer. In contrast with the cruel predatory nature of wild animals, trappers use the most humane methods at their disposal. They don't practice surplus killing, as natural predators do or intentionally wound prey to teach their offspring how to hunt. But because of the propaganda of some vested interests, the public has become too emotional to be objective. They assume that since animals were here first, we are intruders. They develop a religious attitude, "Thou shall not kill." For the most part these zealots come from cities where they are no longer exposed to nature in the raw or the use of farm animals. Their animal association is restricted to television or cats and dogs. To test your objectivity about trapping, consider your response to the following:

- It is preferable for people to use furs and skins (recycling) than to use the finite supply of oil for clothing ?
- How can any sensitive person condone the brutal disemboweling of domestic sheep by coyotes and yet be opposed to trapping ?
- How does the suffering of being trapped compare to dying of starvation, disease, or other cruel ways nature regulates animal populations ?
- Since nature demands a high rate of premature death among wild animals why not humanize it with trapping, shooting, or poisoning ?

The need for people to show compassion and kindness to other animals is real, but this has been distorted and capitalized on by unscrupulous extreme animal rights organizations to raise money. Once humans enter an ecosystem, animal populations must be managed and not left to the whims of nature. The balance of nature is merely the survival of the fittest in which each organism considers itself first and does all it can to survive with little consideration for others.

Football is a game where 22 muscular young men run around like crazy for 2 hours while 50,000 people who really need the exercise watch them.

IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU LOOK AT IT

According to Colorado State University's THE PESTICIDE PIPELINE a recent survey of certain tasks as seen by different groups and ranked according to the perceived risk shows the inflated public opinion on the dangers of pesticides:

ACTUAL LEVEL OF RISK	*HOW RANKED BY*
	1
	2
Motor Vehicles	3
	4 PESTICIDES
	5 (College)
Motorcycles	6
	7
Swimming	8
	9 PESTICIDES
	10 (Women)
General Aviation	11
Bicycles	12
	13
Hunting	14
Home Appliances	15 PESTICIDES
	16 (Business)
	17
	18
Commercial Aviation	19
	20
	21
Power Mowers	22
	23
Skiing	24
	25
	26
	27
PESTICIDES	28
	29
Spray cans	30

PERSONNEL

On KEN GARNER's complaint that his district was too large, the Board decided at the Gulf Shores meeting that both his and RON JOHNSON's regions should be cut into two new regions each. According to our bylaws, our next election will be in 1990 so NADCA President GEORGE ROST with the concurrence with the Board has appointed two more regional directors for new Regions VIII and IX. I'm glad to report that JAMES WINNAT (APHIS, Sun Prairie, WI) and GARY SAN JULIAN (Wildlife Ext. Specialist, Raleigh, NC) have accepted the positions of RD VIII and RD IX respectively. I hope to publish the directory in the February PROBE and at that time give the backgrounds on your Executive Board.

Lost a good subscriber to THE PROBE when MARY KAE HVIZDOS resigned from her Texas position to marry BRUCE CHANDLER last Spring in Oklahoma. Best wishes to you both.

Santa Claus is that jolly old gent who goes "Ho! Ho! Ho!." If you had to work only one day a year, you'd laugh too.

APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.

The following are abstracted from the activity reports of APHIS, TRAPLINE (TX), TRAPPER'S JAW (NM), etc. for the benefit of non-APHIS readers. This is not to be considered a publication source. Only names of NADCA members are used in situations in which they are involved. DWRC stands for "Denver Wildlife Research Center".

BEAVER: (LA) Beaver dams are destroying habitat critical to a rare clam species (the Louisiana pearl shell) on the Kisatchie National Forest so ADC has been asked for assistance.

BIRDS: (AK) A new multibang, rotating propane exploder is proving highly effective in protecting grain crops from birds that have become accustomed to the older single shot, stationary exploder.

BLACKBIRDS: (ND) The blackbird: sunflower situation is being treated with the same techniques (fixed-wing aircraft hazing and pyrotechnics) even though their effectiveness is questionable. Because of the hazard of intensive day after day low-level flying this effort needs a reevaluation.

CORMORANTS: (TX) Cormorants have taken an estimated 2-3,000 catfish from rearing ponds at an estimated loss of $6,000.

COYOTES: (DWRC-ID) A study of coyote scats in an area where marked tallow baits at the rate of 500/100 square miles had been exposed indicated an acceptance of 48% - higher than previous studies. This suggests that during denning season a substantial portion of sedentary coyotes might accept this type of bait.

(DWRC - MT) A study of M-44 lubricants was

initiated with apparently promising results.

(OH) The payments under Ohio's coyote damage to livestock indemnity from March through September has totaled $8,200.

(WY) A rancher cooperating with DWRC in a frightening device study has lost 350-400 lambs to coyotes so far and he still has another 3 weeks to go on this Forest Service grazing allotment. Looks like back to the drawing board.

(TX) ADC trapper caught 2 coyotes in one night in Menard County which had caused an estimated $50,000 in livestock losses.

GRACKLES: (NC) DON HARTKE was successful in reducing grackle damage to sunflowers with applications of 1/2-inch mylar tape stretched between tall posts spaced 100 feet apart.

HERONS: (CA) Black-crowded night herons are accused of taking 15,000 pounds of trout worth $26,000 from a fish hatchery's rearing ponds despite flashing lights, shell crackers, and netting over the raceways.

JACKRABBITS: (AZ-NM) ADC personnel have confirmed approximately $37,000 damage to chili, barley, and cotton crops in NM and $42,000 damage to melon and cotton in AZ.

MAGPIES: (DWRC - WY) A study of secondary hazards with 2% zinc phosphide using Richardson ground squirrels:magpies suggests so far that there is no secondary hazards to the magpies.

MOUNTAIN BEAVER: (DWRC) Pen tests showed 0.29% strychnine alkaloid treated sword fern baits against mountain beaver were well accepted and gave 89% mortality.

MOUNTAIN LION: (CA) DON SIMMS was talking to a rancher who reported losing goats to a mountain lion when the owner's small dog started barking in the brush below the goat pen. The lion killed the dog a few feet into the brush and was subsequently treed with dogs in the area. Other people have to work hard to get their lion. It was wearing a Calif. F&G radio collar but they had lost track of it about a year ago. The same lion had taken other goats in the vicinity as well as peacocks and chickens.

OWLS: (MN) A snowy owl cost a turkey rancher some 854 turkeys when it frightened them into bunching up and dying of suffocation.

PIGEONS: (TX) An estimated 400 pigeons roosting around an Alcoa power plant resulted in short circuits in the electrical system. They estimate having spent $75,000 on cleaning and maintaining equipment.

PREDATORS: (UT) Coyote and bear problems are 3-5 times greater than they were last year. Four normally reclusive cougars have been shot while killing in sheep herds.

RAVENS: (AZ) DARRELL JUVE was advised by apple growers that future damage to their crops by ravens could reach $10,000,000 annually within 3 years in the absence of effective control efforts.

STARLINGS: (WA) ADC specialists have trapped 47,340 starlings for fruit protection since the start of the season which has resulted in a 70% reduction of damage in the area in comparison with non-control areas.

Why is it listeners always know when the speaker should stop and he seldom does ?

HOW NOT TO GET RICH

This is another cat story but unlike the get rich scheme proposed in a previous PROBE (#77:6), this is not a success story. JOHN DORSETT (APHIS, SAN ANGELO, TX) sent me a Curt Brummett column (LIVESTOCK WEEKLY 1/10/85). I apologize to Brummett as it is too long to put in THE PROBE without condensing it, thus destroying his unique sense of humor, but bear with me.

Three schoolkids (Terry, Larry, & Curt) were discussing ways of getting financially solvent, when a couple of poolhall hustlers set them up with a plan to keep the community cat population under control without reducing the cats' effectiveness against the rats and mice - castrating the Toms. The kids figured there must be 60-65 Toms in the town and

at fifty cents a head they would be independently wealthy. They anticipated no problems as they had all helped castrate farm animals.

The plan was to put some scraps in an old cement silo with only one door to it so it would be easy to trap 30-40 cats. The kids could come over at lunch time and make a quick $10-15. So they sharpened up their knives and skipped school after recess. They were taken to the silo and when the door was opened Curt reckoned there were a hundred cats in the room and at least half were Toms. As the top of the silo was gone, their employers pointed out they had enough light to see by so they locked them in to go to work. When they were done they were to knock on the door to be let out. In Curt's own words,

"...it dawned on all three of us that we didn't know beans about cutting cats. Now these cats were a long ways from being gentle housecats and there probably weren't two that had ever been touched by a human. But we didn't think about it much, cause we were too busy listening to all that hissing and growling. You will never know what stark cold fear is until you are locked in a silo with a bunch of cats as scared as you are. We seriously discussed going back to school but knew we'd be in trouble there so we got started. Since I had the sharpest knife, it was decided that Terry and Larry would do the flanking. We started by Terry grabbing a big yellow Tom. And from there things just went to hell. "

"They got him stretched out and I cut him. Did you know when you cut a scared cat that it changes their voice immediately and at the same time their kidneys go crazy ? The sound from that cat made our hair stand on end, but all that water flying around made it lay back down. I announced that I was through with the surgery and they could turn 'im loose. I'll guarantee you one thing. Turning that cat loose took a lot longer than it did to catch him. Seemed like he was holding a grudge. Did you know a fresh castrated cat can scratch three kids 96 times apiece while screaming and never draw a breath ?"

"Now three kids tryin' to get away from a cat in a silo is a pretty fair wreck, but tryin' to stay away from 99 more cats that gone as crazy as the one just cut is disastrous. I don't know if it was Terry or Larry that ran through the door, but I'll love him forever. Relief comes in strange forms...When we took stock there wasn't a place on any of us that didn't have a cat track of some kind on it. Neither one of us had a shirt left...When we looked back at the silo there were cats still coming out that door. We decided to call our folks instead of going back to school. The way we were hurting from those cat tracks, it wasn't gonna make any difference who whipped us 'cause there was no way we were gonna hurt any more than we already were...Come to think of it we never got our 50 cents for cuttin' that cat."

How come nearly all historical events happen next door to a souvenir shop ?

MEETIN'S

53RD NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES CONF., Mar. 1-3 in Louisville (KY). Contact: Wildl. Mgt. Inst., 1101 4th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.

THIRTEENTH CALIFORNIA VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE, Mar. 1-3, 1988. Papers on the largest and oldest conference on vertebrate pest control. Contact: Rex Marsh, Dept. Wildlife, Fisheries, & Biology, Univ. of California, Davis, CA 95616.

SIXTH ASTM SYMPOSIUM, Mar. 4, 1988 in Monterey (CA). Methods, tests, techniques, etc. in vertebrate pest control measures. Contact: DR. WILLIAM B. JACKSON, Dept. of Biological Sciences, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE RANCHING SYMPOSIUM, May 16-21, 1988 in Las Cruces (NM). This is on operations and marketing strategies for wildlife ranching. Contact: Raul Valdez, POB 4901, NMSU, Las Cruces, NM 88003.

INTERNATIONAL UNGULATE BEHAVIOR & MANAGEMENT CONF., May 1-22, 1988 at Texas A & M University. Any aspect of ungulate behavior and management. Contact: Dr. Elizabeth Mungall, 342 Double Tree Dr., Lewisville, TX 75067.

Remember, the Christmas present of today is the garage sale item of tomorrow.

READIN'

My fame as a 'cat expert' continues to spread. Viking Penguin (40 West 23rd St., New York, NY 10010) sent me a review copy of PRACTICAL CAT MANAGEMENT, by Grace N. Officer with a publication date of January 13, 1988. This is a slick, hard-cover book of 223 pages, indexed and attractively illustrated. It is printed in the UK and lists for $18.95.

It is clearly written with a minimum of British idioms. Emphasis is on care of feline diseases, parasites, and injuries. Chapter headings include nutrition, examination of the cat, first aid, feline infections and common ailments, disinfection, setting up a cattery (not the type proposed in THE PROBE, #77:6), sexual behavior, moving cats, and cats around the home. As the title suggests it is a practical handbook on the cat, delving into the problem of strays as well as some of their behavior patterns. It gives the best description of cats I have ever read - "Humans have to expect nothing in return from their cats; these animals will not put themselves out to please any human, although some give a little of themselves - when it suits them !"

Never try to guess your wife's size. Just buy her anything marked "petite" and hold on to the receipt.

LETTERS TO YE ED

JEFF BEEMER, Trapper, N. Mankato, MN:
I would like to express my appreciation to you and all the members of NADCA for such an enjoyable and informative newsletter. Although I'm not directly involved with ADC as of yet, I hope to contribute to the organization as much as possible. After reading FRED KNOWLTON's letter, I felt compelled to express a concern of mine about Animal Rights. I, myself, would like to see NADCA take a more active role in the ongoing battle with the Antis. NADCA is one of those organizations in which the majority of members are professionals with a college background, work with wildlife the year round, and know wildlife management. I have some ideas of my own and would like to hear from other members who feel the same as I do. I felt this at least needs mentioning and wish you all a Merry Xmas.

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DR. M. E. R. GODFREY, EATON MFG., Twinsburg, OH:
No great news but a note to accompany my check. I enjoy and appreciate your newsletter and your efforts. Rodent control is getting more restrictive, particularly with agricultural rodenticides. The future outlook is a bit grim. At present, the registration requirements outweigh the problem.

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C.R."PINK" MADSEN, rtd. NADCA RDII & USFWS, Florence, WI:
GUY CONNOLLY's relay from the field ("What has the outfit done for me lately ?") elicits paraphrasing Jack Kennedy's, "What have they done lately for the organization or for themselves ?" NADCA will be worthwhile only if the members in the field make it worth while. I never once received support or encouragement from the field when I was Regional Director. When I met face to face with trappers/supervisors in the field, they would say they appreciated our efforts, but they never followed through with info that would give us a chance to work. All this doesn't upset me too much as I know new ideas and new organizations really have to struggle to succeed.

I have been aware that the Antis were talking about providing lower schools with teaching outlines favoring their ideas on hunting, trapping, etc. I visited the biology department of a high school and found they had 2 18-minute film strip/narrative programs. (1) UN-ENDANGERED SPECIES, documented the distribution and numbers of several game animals and the monies expended by sportsmen (Internatl. Assn. F&W Agencies, 1981) and (2) WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT HUNTING, was a mixed bag of Humane Assn., Funds for Animals, Natl. Wildlife Federation, Wildlife Mgt. Inst., etc. (1983). But when I talked to the head of the Biology Dept. she told me they had no film strip projectors and no one had taken the time to "review" either of these programs. As they are provided a "mandated" text and schedule by Board of Education regulations, they have little time to put in other teachings. I did get the impression that she would be glad to

schedule time for me if I wanted to come back.

This brings up some interesting facts - the programs were of high quality but so was their price ($50-60). Furthermore, the teaching staff felt it didn't have the time to review or use these programs in their normal schedule. So....it looks like if we are to get into educating school children, we need to put out not only quality programs that are attractive but provide someone to put on the programs. Might I suggest that NADCA Directors (and members) contact local schools to learn their conditions and attitudes ?

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EUGENE A. LEBOEUF, APHIS Crowley, LA:
I was recently contacted by a local sportsman who was justifiably upset over the loss of his 8-year old water spaniel. After obtaining permission to hunt quail on farm property, the hunter put his dog in some dense cover. Within several minutes, the dog began yapping and thrashing. He approached the dog with caution as the last time he heard something like that his dog had crossed a skunk. When he finally got there, he found the animal had been caught in a snare and literally hung himself in the struggle to get loose. Now don't get the wrong idea. I know this reads like something out of an animal rights publication. I am a firm supporter of trapping and snares. I simply find it ironic that a coyote trapper and quail hunter, who generally enjoy a symbiotic relationship, are now at odds with one another over a senseless oversight. This situation could have been easily avoided had the farmer known that someone was trapping his property so he could warn the hunter. All the trapper needed to so was obtain permission before snares on another person's property. Most farmers and hunters are supportive of trapping activities and these days trappers need all the support they can get. Remember the words of the old sergeant in "Hill Street Blues", LET'S BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

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DAVE PAULI, Supt., Animal Shelter, Billings, MT:
I will make a wholehearted attempt to begin sending you some of the wacky humane stuff that crosses my desk. I think I'm on every mailing list from DOW to Friends of the Ripley Sea Turtle. NADCA readership shall find some of it interesting.

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DON ALTHOFF, MCKINZIE SCIENTIFIC, Lancaster, OH:
Just returning from the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conf. in Milwaukee today and reading about the Ronnie-Mikhail agreement I ran across the following in the lifestyle section of USA TODAY. Seems Nancy and Raisa are going to bring back furs in greater demand by high-fashion buffs. If the mink coats they are wearing have the same impact as Jackie Kennedy when she wore a leopard coat, mink pelts will certainly increase in value. I suggest we get the two first ladies to wear either beaver or coyote coats...the demand might make a dent in our beaver and coyote damage problems ! *(see article review in newspaper column)*

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GARY SIMMONS, APHIS, Washington, DC:
I'm enclosing an article from the WASHINGTON POST *(the paper I love to hate)*. The anti folks should be made to understand that their actions do actually harm people not to mention contribute to the erosion of personal rights and freedoms. *(see article review in newspaper column)*

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WALTER WEBER, Lecturer on Ecological Sanity, Indianapolis, IN:
I never realized there were so many money-seeking organizations trying to impede progress. When I returned home from Florida there were 5 letters and several articles in the paper. They come with some elaborate names. The enclosed features FRIENDS FOR ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS. *(see article review in newspaper column)* I recently found a sign "No trespassing. Unauthorized trespassers will be subject to arrest." *Walter has quite a collection of signs !*

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DALE E. KAUKEINEN, Sr. Research Biol., ICI AMERICAS, Goldsboro, NC:
"I have been very much concerned lately with the rampant advertising in the trades attacking brodifacoum. You have Eaton, Bell, Chempar and everyone else attacking TALON by name on both efficacy and safety grounds. Some even claim they are No. 1 in the market! All their claims are

worthless--our lawyers have secured data and it will not support the claims. We are currently advising legal action unless these ads are withdrawn. I was sorry to see this activity even make the PROBE. Surely you realize MIKE GODFREY's note on brodifacoum dog toxicity was just commercial posturing! He started out by citing our old beagle LD_{50} of 0.25 mg/kg which Marsh and ourselves have published but we have also published Mike's own data which gives higher values. Mike concludes with a bait equivalent figure that is not much lower than the one he criticized in the first place! Needless to say, Eaton's own diphacinone baits have more intrinsic dog toxicity. But to say any rodenticide is 'safe' isn't ethical. We stand by our product and record. Let's keep THE PROBE free of this nonsense!"
(Unfortunately, YE ED has been downgraded to an armchair researcher. As I am not independently wealthy and have no connections with any commercial labs or even opportunity for field studies here in Albuquerque with commensal rodents, I have no basis on which to judge claims and counterclaims, particularly with chemicals that evolved long after my commensal rodent experiences ended. I try to give as even-handed treatment to any ADC controversy (except Animal Rights) as I know how, but I don't intend to be dragged into a drawn out controversy on comparable efficacy of any commercial chemicals.)

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Nothing tastes as good as thin feels.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

The biggest controversy spawned by the Reagan-Gorbachev summit has nothing to do with arms and everything to do with animals. The two first ladies have been walking endorsements of that most emotionally charged of fashions: furs. The fur industry is thrilled while animal rights groups are enraged. When first lady Jackie Kennedy wore an A-line leopard coat in the early 60's, it started a run on spots. The fur industry hopes Nancy's Lunaraine mink and Raisa's cross mink and Persian lamb will do the same. But the ARs are appalled that "...two women of such stature who have influence over so many millions of people will appear in fur." Thanx to DON ALTHOFF & USA TODAY 12/9/87.

When several Eskimo hunters went to Montreal for meetings with government officials, they shunned the city's first class French restaurants and dined on food they had brought with them - a seal they skinned in the bathtub. Police were called in when a maid reported the blood-stained bathroom. This highlights the cultural clash between the way Eskimos stalk wild game and the activist groups in southern Canada, Europe, and the USA who have succeeded in the crusade to "Save the Baby Seal" and have expanded their campaign to include the protection of all animals. The seal crusade wiped out the international markets for virtually all seal fur ruining in the process the marginal, local economies of several Arctic communities. Hundreds of families of sealers and fisherman ended up on welfare. A spokesman for the Dene Indians said the animal rights people "...are mostly upper middle class and have nothing better to do but to talk about the rights of foxes, monkeys, and rabbits. It offends me no end. I think they are totally insensitive." John Spery, the Anglican bishop of the Arctic believes that if the ARs succeed in bringing an end to the fur industry in North America, "...they will be guilty of cultural and economic genocide in the Arctic." Mike McDiarmid of Greenpeace who agitated for the ban said, "Native people were never the target of that ban. The ban was against white-coated pup pelts...We were not very happy to find ourselves in a situation where we were getting criticism from native communities and we are sensitive to that criticism." *(but will they ever learn ?)* Elizabeth White (Toronto Humane Soc.) says, "Basically, the position is we're opposed to trapping and to fur farms...The issue is not so much with the native people. It's with the more broadly-based industry." *There is a difference ?* Thanx to GARY SIMMONS, APHIS, Washington, DC & WASHINGTON POST 12/7/87.

The throng of protestors were told by the Terre Haute (IN) police to stop blocking the sidewalk in front of a pet owner's shop. The pet shop has a lion in a 25x25 foot cage which he uses to attract customers. He's had the animal since it

was a kitten (it now weighs 400 pounds). Mrs. Claire Allen "an animal lover from Charlotte, N.C." has offered to pay $5000, "I'm a one-on-one lady. I've always loved animals. I use my own money and crusade by myself, but other groups are behind me." Thanx to WALTER WEBER, Indianapolis, IN & THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR.

Stop believing in Santa Claus and you get underwear.

THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF NADCA. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY OR A CONSENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

YE ED -
William D. Fitzwater

Am a little early this time as I'm not sure just what the USPS is going to do with rates in 1988. Also want to get the 1988 Directory published in the February issue so if you want to be in it make sure your dues are paid by the end of January.

IF YOU ARE 'BLESSED' WITH AN ORANGE REGISTRATION CARD IT MEANS THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE ACCORDING TO MY RECORDS. WE WILL MISS YOU IN THE YEAR TO COME. AREN'T YOU GOING TO MISS US TOO ? YOU MUST ADMIT WE DO TRY.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

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National Animal Damage Control Association

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