



MATTHEW HOWSAM, 18 months, tries to figure out the jack-in-the-box at the Y's Kiddies Club last Friday.

Firearms fell three dogs since beginning of year

Three area dogs have been wounded by firearms since New Years, according to the veterinarian who treated them.

The veterinarian, Dr. Ron Trenton, said that at least two of the dogs, both males, required surgery and he discovered one of them carrying a pellet from a previous

shooting.

Halton Regional Police Sergeant Richard Hilton said Tuesday that he's had no complaints, unless in the last little while. Shooting incidents should be reported to police, he said.

The most recent incident involves a Lakeview subdivision Beagle on February

18. The dog returned home bleeding and the owner brought the animal to Dr. Trenton's Main Street office. He discovered a .22 calibre pellet, which makes a small hole, about eight inches into the body, next to the ribs. The doctor figures that this deep penetration indicates that the assailant was quite close when he fired.

Another pellet

An x-ray of the male Beagle turned up another pellet, lodged deeper in the body. This wound had healed over.

Three days prior to the Beagle shooting Dr. Trenton removed a .22 calibre bullet from the knee of an R. R. 4 Labrador. The wounding bruised the whole inside of the thigh. An x-ray shows a mushroomed bullet and fragments. The dog is recovering, Dr. Trenton said.

Just after New Years another Labrador, this one from the Fifth Line, was brought to the doctor. This one had been hit by a shotgun

blast, but because of the animal's hostility in the truck that brought him, the doctor was unable to tend it fully.

In the cases of the two latest shootings Dr. Trenton said: "These guys that bring dogs in are just horrified. They don't know that the dog has been shot."

Bylaw 75-45

The only areas where firearms may be discharged, say police, is Ward Two with the exception of Limehouse and Stewarttown. Hunting in the area requires a licence, and under Halton Hills Bylaw 75-45 written permission must also be obtained from an owner before someone else fires a gun.

The bylaw, however, does not apply to farmers who, under the Livestock, Poultry Protection Act, are allowed to protect their animals from another animal that's endangering them.

An animal may be shot by a farmer as long as it's on the farmer's property, the veterinarian said. However, according to police, there have been court cases involving farmers who have shot dogs as they fled their property.

Dr. Trenton pointed out that there are other ways of getting rid of unwanted animals. For example, he said, the Animal Control Unit, at Limehouse, will pick up animals that are in town. However, the unit won't pick up a stray in the country unless the animal is caught and contained.

Don't realize

Neutering animals is a good way of controlling strays. Female dogs will attract males for miles and miles, said the doctor. "I think a lot of people don't realize this when they tie up a bitch outside. That intact males tend to roam and unspayed females will attract," the veterinarian said.

"They may be shooting dogs because they fear rabies, and a stray may be rabid," Dr. Trenton said. "There's just no way to tell," he added.

The veterinarian cautioned children not to play with stray animals.

"Over the past years, there seems to be an increase in the amount of rabies in wild and domestic animals in the Halton area," Dr. Trenton said.

In December this paper carried a story about two Erin Township residents who were undergoing rabies shots because they'd come in contact with rabid animals.

Kiddies club is rest for mothers

A new club met at the Y on Friday and the membership is very exclusive. Members must not be over five years of age.

Kiddies club was held in Y gym and could be made a regular event. The day was designed so mothers could drop their children off in the capable hands of the babysitters and leave town or have a free day without the children.

On Friday, Ruby Hansen and Pat Garton kept a close eye on 14 youngsters from just a few months old to five years. Games were played, songs were sung and the boys and girls had a good time.

Half of the youngsters were still in diapers, which also

kept Mrs. Garton and Mrs. Hansen busy a good part of the day. Mothers provided diapers, packed lunches and playpens where needed.

Former program coordinator for the Y, Helen Van Sicker, said Friday's success will be looked at and a committee will look into having the club meet regularly, perhaps once a month.

Actonian sees equator during two week tour

After visiting Ecuador for ten days, Phil Cloke, R.R. 3, Acton, said "I'd go back tomorrow. It's a beautiful country."

Ecuador is the tiny South American country which straddles the equator. There is a dispute over just where the equator is, and two lines are observed in Ecuador. The main one goes through San Antonio, according to Mr. Cloke, and there is a huge monument there.

Mr. Cloke said he was "definitely glad" to have gone. He and his wife were away on vacation for two weeks with a tour group, and when he came back he was more than willing to tell the Free Press about his trip.

"Ecuador is a land of high mountains and dense jungles but whose main roads are excellent," he says. "Switchbacks are very prevalent on all roads since you are criss crossing the high Andes Mountains. On many of the steep climbs or descents drivers are constantly changing gears and running for long periods of time in the lower gears."

"Population is made up of native Indian and Ecuadorian people and farming is a very prominent industry. Indian people particularly are the farmers who till even the steep slopes by means of manual labour. It was most amazing to see crops being tilled and harvested even on the high slopes. Where possible, oxen are used to break up the land. This looked very primitive to us, who come from a land where mechanization is a must for farming."

"Building is booming in many areas, but is very slow since once again manual labour is the only method."

"It is most amazing to us to see Indian mothers with child slung on back working either in the fields or on construction sites along with their men."

"Quito, the city which we visited, is the capital located at the 9,000 foot level in the Andes Mountains. It is surrounded by higher mountains up to 20,000 feet which are snow-covered but are visible only on clear days. Clouds shroud the high peaks for days at a time. An active volcano is also visible from Quito and from the town of Mera, or Shell as it is commonly known. Missionary personnel serving in the remote area have told us that they have seen molten lava flowing down the slopes on clear days and nights."

"Transportation to other remote areas in the jungle is by small aircraft operated by Wycliffe Bible translator pilots who carry all manner of freight in the tiny planes."

On the occasion of our visit they were flying over with 12 20 gallon cans of gasoline and a box of dynamite. Wives of the pilots are in constant contact by radio while their husbands are in the air. Flights range from 20 minutes to two hours.

"On return flights cargo may be injured persons being brought in to hospital or cargos of slaughtered beef to be cut up at the mission kitchen located at Shell."

"The town of Shell is so named since it was the Shell oil company who used this location in the exploration for oil. Oil is a principal industry and is very reasonably priced at 17 cents a gallon. It is pumped in by pipe line from deep in the jungle."

"Language is chiefly Spanish and many very beautiful buildings and churches are adorned with Spanish paintings dating back many

many years."

"The main purpose of our visit was to visit with friends who are serving there as missionaries."

"Panama and the Canal zone was also visited while on the tour. Here shops of all nations traverse through the canal which is more than 50 miles in length, and whose locks are raised and lowered by the input and output of over one million gallons of water. Electrically operated trains with cables attached to the sterns of ships on both sides of the locks are used to guide ships through the locks. A minimum of eight hours is necessary for ships to traverse the canal."

Mr. Cloke said that National Geographic is now making an expedition through the Andes Mountains in Ecuador until the explorers reach the headwaters of the Amazon river.

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