

Parents urged to register kids for Kindergarten



KINDERGARTEN BECKONS: Both Emily Loewen (left) and Erin Hamilton can verify that Kindergarten is great. The Robert Little School Kindergarten students, along with principal Don Warren, are urging parents to register their children for both Junior and Senior Kindergarten. — Frances Niblock photo

Acton parents of Kindergarten-aged kids are being urged to register them now for class this fall so proper staff planning can be done.

"I know they're out there," said Don Warren, principal at Robert Little School, adding the school is projected to have 59 Junior Kindergarten (JK) students this fall and so far, just 12 have registered.

"We're supposed to have 60 Kindergartens (in September) and we've got 39, and last year we had seven register on opening day — well, they should be doing that way ahead of time," Warren said on Monday, adding those who wait to register miss the orientation and schedule for teacher interviews.

As well, several years ago when the Kindergarten numbers were down prior to the start of school, the board removed one staff member from Robert Little and then had to find a replacement teacher when more students registered on the first day of school.

The Halton District School

Board began accepting registrations for its new Junior Kindergarten (JK) program earlier this month at 34 schools, including Robert Little, McKenzie-Smith Bennett and Limehouse. The remaining half of the schools will implement the program for 2002-2003.

Despite protests from parents who prefer half-day instruction, the board will offer all-day/alternate day programming beginning in September for both JK and Senior Kindergarten. Students will attend all day Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday with alternating Fridays. That will save the board approximately \$1-million in transportation costs when JK is offered at all schools.

To register for the 2001-2002 school year, JK children must be four years old by December 31, 2001, and live within the boundaries of the school offering the JK program. When registering at the school, parents must bring

proof of the child's age, their immunization record and proof of address.

For parents of students living outside the school boundary, registration for optional attendance begins May 7, to apply for a JK space not filled by a student from within the school boundary area. A lottery will be held to fill those spaces and parents will be told of their ranking on the priority list by early June.

POLICE BEAT

Continued from Page 1.

Refuse sample

A 24-year-old Acton man was charged with refusing to provide a roadside breathalyzer sample after smashing his car into a parked car on Churchill Road at 2:40 Sunday morning.

Police didn't see the accident occur, but the man, showing obvious signs of impairment, admitted being the driver. He appears in court on May 24.

Straight From the Horse's Mouth

A horse isn't just a horse, of course, but a new member of your family that needs as much care and attention as would you.

Whether your horse is for showing, sport riding, or recreation, the weight of the responsibility may seem daunting, but the challenge of tending to your horse is easily mastered.

Nutrition - When feeding a horse, you must remember that state of mind, and digestion, affect each other. A happy horse will be much healthier than a sad or neglected horse. Proper feeding goes a long way to promote emotional well-being.

Most horses are fed twice a day although there are people who feed their horses four times a day, the same amount of food as twice a day, just in smaller increments. Horses have small stomachs so they can only eat a little bit at a time. In the winter, horses need more calories to keep themselves warm.

Taking Care of Your Horse - there are a lot of diverse elements that go into taking care of a horse. An animal as large and magnificent as a horse needs to be looked after constantly to keep it healthy, both spiritually and physically.

Taking the time to understand the specifics of horse care will enable you to preserve a positive environment for you and your horse.

Grooming - Every time you groom your horse you also have the perfect opportunity to assess his health, check him over for injuries, use your grooming techniques to help ensure that he stays healthy, and catch any problems while they are still minor.

Exercise - If your horse is restricted to a stall, small pen, or corral, exercise is imperative. Its exercise should consist of an hour or more of formalized work, which includes: *Riding, Longeing, Driving and Pasture Time.*

Veterinarians & Horses - The responsibilities of owning a horse include choosing the right vet to look after your animal's health. It is important to remember that there are two types of veterinarians, general practitioners and specialists.

For the everyday care of your horse, you'll need to find a general practitioner that is not only close, but practices on equines at least 50 percent of the time. Your vet will be able to recommend a specialist, who is geared towards the specific medical needs of your horse.

HEDGEHOGS

Hedgehogs are indigenous to Europe, Africa and Asia. Free-ranging hedgehogs are hardy animals that live in scrub, deciduous forests, rocky grasslands and deserts. Hedgehogs eat very little plant matter, preferring instead insects, spiders, slugs, snails, worms and grubs. They nest under shrubs and rocks or in burrows. To reduce the potential risk of Salmonella infection, owners should wash their hands after handling a pet hedgehog and avoid the animal's contact with human food or cooking utensils.

How to Keep Your Hedgehog Healthy, Happy and Safe!

- Feed once a day in the late afternoon or early evening, preferably in heavy crocks.
- Fresh water must be available at all times, offered either from a sipper bottle or crock.
- Prevent obesity. Ad lib feeding may not be appropriate. Weigh hedges at least monthly.
- Take your hedgehog to your exotic animal veterinarian for an annual physical examination.
- Routinely brush its teeth and provide veterinary scaling.
- Prevent chilling; provide heated environment with dry bedding.
- Clean toys frequently.
- Handle a tame hedgehog every day to keep it tame.
- It is important to prevent hedgehogs access to...
 - high fat diets
 - unlimited food
 - wire enclosures
 - wire rodent exercise wheels
 - cat or dog food as sole diet
 - sawdust, pine or cedar shavings
 - wet bedding
 - garden soil (may contain parasites)
 - dogs, cats and small children
 - pesticides



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In home...

Is it time to spay or neuter your pet?

The optimum age to spay or neuter your pet is after six months of age. It is best to spay females before their first heat. Here are a couple of tips:

- Do not feed your pet at least 12 hours before surgery.
- After surgery confine cats to the house and dogs should be walked on a leash at least as long as the sutures are in place.
- Do not allow your pet to chew on their sutures.



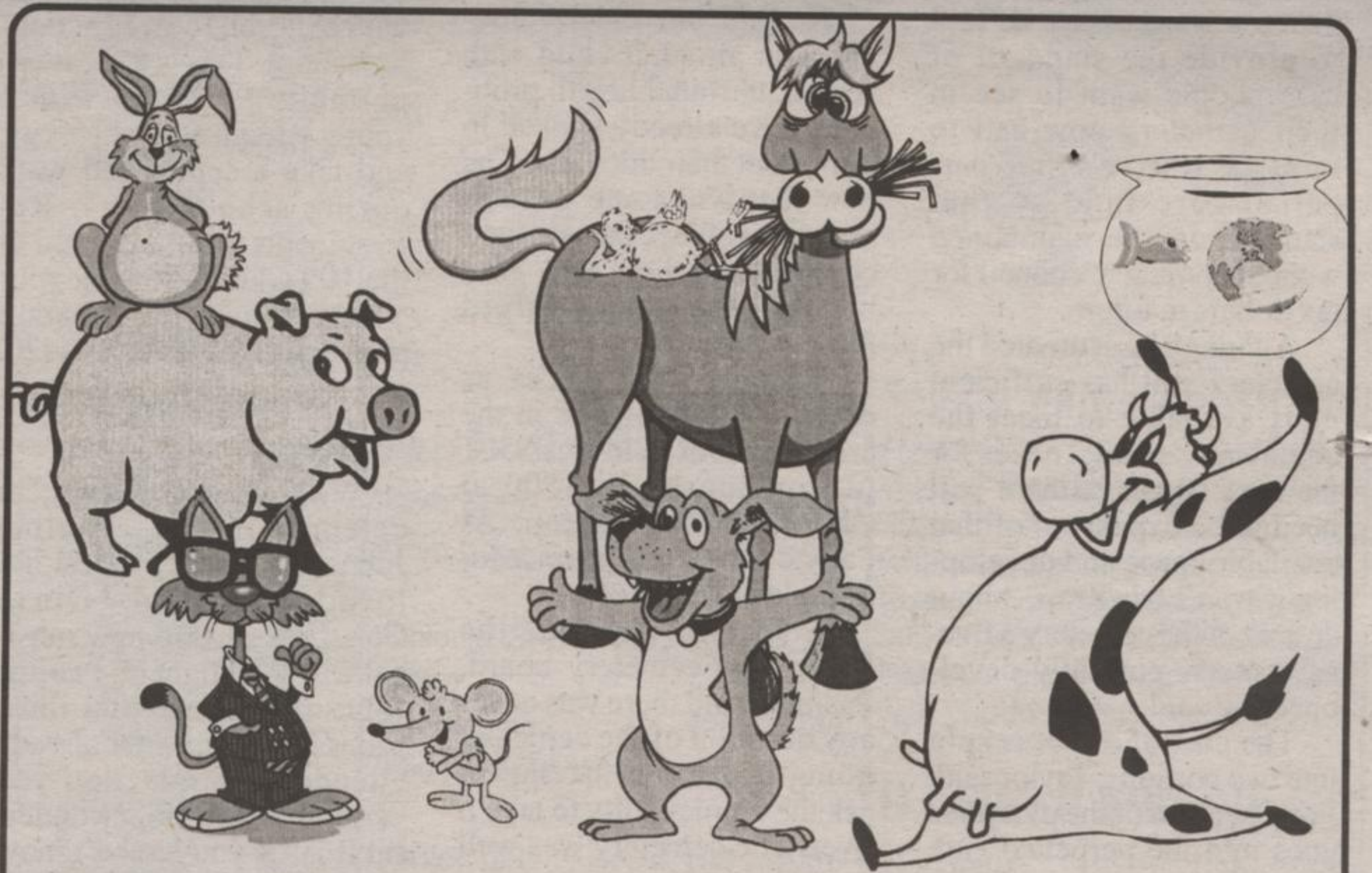
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