

Pet lover fights animal cruelty

owners' loss of interest cited as biggest problem

By **MARTHA BLISS**
Of the Emerald

Outcries against wild animal mistreatment echo throughout society today, and the concern is valid.

But what about all those cats and dogs that are literally over-running our city streets? Although their plight is quite the opposite of extinction, they suffer just as much from man's selfish lifestyle as the blue whale and the Sumatran tiger.

Sam Newson, a 1973 Oregon graduate, is one animal lover who focuses his attention on the problems closest to him. For seven years he has worked on getting equal time for domestic animals in the fight against animal cruelty.

To alert his fellow city dwellers of the problem, Newson teaches a new SEARCH class called Unwanted Animals: The Great Dilemma. The class meets every Wednesday night, when Newson creates an active awareness of domestic animal cruelty and proposes solutions to the problem.

According to Newson's statistics, 10,000 cats and dogs are born every hour in the United States. Of this needlessly large amount, only one-sixth of them will survive to maturity. And of those that do survive, many are homeless. Newson estimates that the United States has 50 million cats and dogs either wandering around aimlessly or crowding already-full pounds. Lane County's averages are only slightly better than the nation's,

with a survival rate of one out of four.

"The biggest problem in animal control," Newson remarks, "is the owners' loss of interest after the puppies and kittens grow out of the 'cute stage.' After that, the pets become mere burdens. Many times, they are cast off and-or forgotten."

Stray animals, then, are the crux of the dilemma. Having no home, these wanderers tip over trash cans in search of food, defecate on both public and private property, and most importantly, breed like mosquitoes in Panama.

To avoid total disaster, dog catchers pick up most of the strays and cage them for up to five days. Then, if no one claims them, the animals are destroyed.

The primary method of killing the unclaimed animals is called euthenaire, a suffocation process. Newson objects strongly to this method, arguing that it is too painfully slow and not 100 per cent effective. He suggests that the animals be put to sleep by injections, as veterinarians do. The main problem with this method, however, is that the animals must be treated individually.

After the animals are dead, they are then destroyed, usually by incineration.

"Lane County uses incineration," Newson comments, "and it's a fairly good method. At least they don't throw them in a trench like they do in Clatsop County."

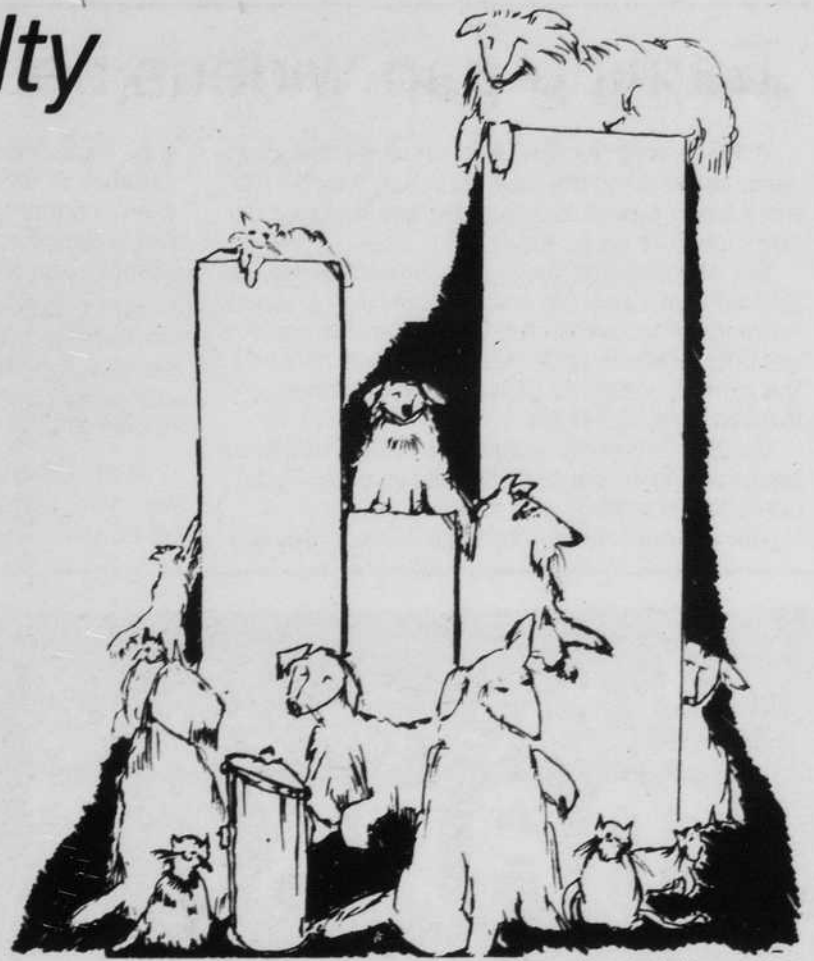
According to Newson, the key to animal control is prevention, not cure.

"Every conscientious pet owner

should have his pet sterilized," he remarks. "This runs from \$40 to \$70, which I think is overcharging, but necessary. But if people can't afford this fee, how can they afford to feed the pet for 10 years or so?"

Newson also proposes higher license fees for fertile pets and volunteerism on the part of veterinarians to sterilize pets as a social benefaction.

Newson has fought against domestic animal cruelty ever since he lost his own dog to the dog catcher seven years ago. In 1971 he voluntarily helped build new facilities at a Deschutes County dog pound. He quit, however, when he found out that they were shooting the unwanted animals.



Drawing by Vanessa Wallace



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Make sure you get yours on —and get a FREE BIG MAC too!

Even though we wouldn't do anything to detract from your loyalty to the *Emerald*, we strongly recommend you get a copy of Wednesday's (today's) *Register-Guard*.

Why? Because it contains our wild new Big Mac iron-on along with complete instruction on how to get it on and collect a free Big Mac to boot. And we don't expect to be repeating this offer soon, if ever.

We had hoped to run this iron-on, in all its glorious colors, in the *Emerald* too, but technical problems prevented that.

So check Wednesday's *Register-Guard* so that you can get yours on and get your Big Mac too. And keep on reading the *Emerald*.



1417 VILLARD

Starts TODAY



Mustard
7:00 & 10:20
Tall Blond
8:40

'The Mustard is Creeping up my Nose!'

"...AN OUTRAGEOUSLY FUNNY MOVIE...!"



"...ONE FANTASTIC MESS AFTER ANOTHER — THOUGHT I'D NEVER STOP LAUGHING...!"

STARRING PIERRE RICHARD • JANE BIRKIN
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY CLAUDE ZIDI • PRODUCED BY CHRISTIAN FECHNER
PANAVISION AND EASTMANCOLOR
A SEABERG FILM DISTRIBUTING, INC. RELEASE **PG**

Plus 2nd Big Comedy

The fast moving plot just barely gives you time to keep up with the laughs.

the tall blond man with one



The EMU Cultural Forum Presents:

CHUCK MANGIONE

Jan. 21 8 p.m.
EMU BALLROOM

Tickets:

UO Students \$4.00

General Public \$5.50

Available EMU Main Desk