

nia, and several who are blind from *Toxoplasma* anterior uveitis. All of these were well-cared-for indoor cats who had no opportunity to hunt rodents, and all had been fed raw meat either as the central dietary ingredient or as treats. Dogs can also get this disease.

Bear in mind that freezing raw meat does not kill all potential pathogens. Moreover, when meat is thawed, the bacteria present in all butchered meat, including organically raised meat, revive and “synchronize” so that all are multiplying all at once.

Dr. Donald Strombeck’s book, *Home-Prepared Dog & Cat Diets: The Healthful Alternative*, is a wonderful resource for both veterinarians and pet owners alike. Any diet should contain all the required nutrients in the correct proportions for your pet’s particular stage in life. Your veterinarian is your best source of information regarding whether a particular diet meets these criteria.

There is a healthy middle ground between “commercial/processed” and “raw.” Buy fresh meat (organic) and *cook* it for your pet in accordance with the guidelines set for preparation of that type of meat for human consumption. Your pet can still enjoy the meat without the disease risk.

Patricia Joy Shea, DVM
Eugene

BURIED IN IT

Your News Brief “The Joys of Co-Mingling” (2/5) helped crystallize some thoughts that I have had about Sanipac and its policies. I have always tried to minimize my consumption of packaging, to recycle whenever possible, drive a car only when absolutely necessary, and generally minimize my impact on the planet. But Sanipac is making it SO difficult. Historically, I have generated about one-half of a small garbage can every two weeks. But Sanipac kept leaving me plastic boxes and rolling cans that I just did not require. I didn’t like paying the rapidly increasing monthly fee for all the service that I didn’t need. Now, I can distribute my small amount of trash into four containers. I have read the rules and tried to put things in the right containers. But people keep stealing my blue box and the Sanipac drivers refuse to take my bottles, because they were in the now defunct white plastic bag. It just got to be too much, so now I just put everything (garbage, bottles, plastic, newspapers) into my old, small trash can. Sanipac, you figure it out.

The other problem I have is that I have no place to put all the containers that Sanipac has bestowed upon me. So they just sit in front of my garage and clutter up my formerly neat driveway. I notice that many of my neighbors have just given up and leave their containers in the street or on the sidewalk. Sanipac cans have now become the worst form of pollution in my neighborhood. Granted, it is visual pollution, but pollution nonetheless.

This is all the result of granny government trying to “help” us and “The law of unintended consequences.” I’m sure I will get lots of outraged feedback condemning my unecological attitude. Sorry, I have tried to be ecological; I’ve just been buried in giant, rolling plastic containers.

Steve Scarich
Eugene

UNDERSTANDING NEEDED

For those of us who support a two-state solution in the Middle East, it is painful to

read Kate Gessert’s propaganda-selected news of the Israeli-Palstinian conflict (2/5).

Along with Mel Gibson’s out-of-context *Passion* and *Eugene Weekly* constantly applying a double standard of the poor “unwashed” masses against the terrible Jews of the Middle East, I am just waiting for another horrible incident in this town against the Jewish synagogue.

There certainly are legitimate grievances on both sides of this issue. For example, did you know that one of the Israeli soldiers returned dead in the well-publicized prisoner exchange, was an Arab-Israeli serving in her Army?

For those who like to call the Palestinians the “indigenous” people of the area, you also forget that King David had a party in Jerusalem three thousand years ago. There are local Jewish students in Eugene whose families have lived next to the Sea of Galilee for more than 500 years.

Ignorance has always been the friend of those trying to eliminate the Jews. Ms. Gessert applies everything Gobels was good at in the case of the Middle East. Her stories and hopelessly one-sided editing are incitement to riot against the Jews in the Eugene area.

Let’s have a real discussion of the problems of the Middle East. There are plenty of people on the left of the political spectrum and peace community who have a good understanding of the problem and are willing to debate this volatile issue with understanding. Ms. Gessert is not one of those people.

Bob Kholos
Eugene

CHANGE OF FOCUS

When I wrote this last “Undercovered” (2/5), I told the story of the people of Budrus, West Bank, who have protected their village from the Separation Wall for the past three months by working as a unified community.

When I read my article in *EW*, it was entitled “Uprooted” and illustrated by photos in which Israeli soldiers were shooting people. These photographs were sent by American photographers in Budrus and chosen by *EW*. The focus had changed, through no one’s fault, I think, but through differences in how people see.

The villagers of Budrus are *not* uprooted, although the Israeli army has uprooted some of their olive trees. Men, women, and children of Budrus are so deeply rooted that they are willing to jump in front of bulldozers and face beatings and live bullets to defend their land. While it’s true that Israeli soldiers shoot at them, it is their persistent protests that are central. (See

www.womenspeacepalestine.org)

I think the title and photos included with this last “Undercovered” reflect common American attitudes. We are likely to see people who are in trouble — often as a result of U.S. government policy — as helpless victims. The dilemma we face is how to hear stories of the sad, wrongful things that are happening in the world, while celebrating the courage and resilience of the people they are happening to. Let us grieve for these people, and let us rejoice that they exist.

Kate Rogers Gessert
Eugene

GREENS WILL STAY

Sybil Fabian’s condescending and derogatory letter about the Green Party (2/12)

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