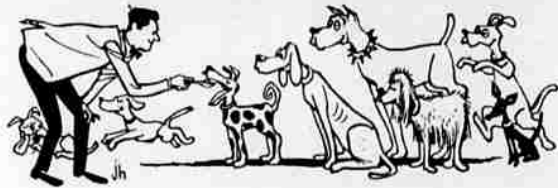


Russ Hopkins

**UNDERWATER DOCTOR:** With the aid of tranquilizers, Dr. Bob Knowles and nurse Myrna Reed (left) operate on a 500-pound patient in Miami's Seaquarium

## Tranquilizers Are Going To The Dogs!



Also to the cats, cows, turkeys and snakes. Here's an up-to-date report straight from the animal kingdom on an amazing new trend that may turn tigers into household pets

By CHARLES D. RICE

YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, N. Y.

In 1958 at least half a billion tranquilizer pills will come rolling off the factory belts, and a good deal more of the stuff will be put up in liquid form. The U.S. public will pay out about \$200 million for tranquilizers, making them second only to antibiotics in the prescription-drug trade.

Pretty alarming figures? Well, yes and no. Until recently I shared the popular notion that tranquilizers were a sort of dangerous toy. I realized their value in treating mental patients—but what about all those high-pressure executives and Hollywood stars who munch them like mints?

But now I realize that there are a hundred totally unexpected and wondrous uses for tranquilizers, and that they have a great future entirely outside the realm of the merely human. The way I found out was this: Miss Briggs, to whom our family is devoted, began scratching the hair off her neck with her hind hoof.

Miss Briggs, I should mention, is our goat. I bundled her into the jeep and drove her off to the veterinarian. He said he thought her trouble was probably a state of mind and darned if he didn't prescribe

tranquilizers. What's more, they did the trick. Miss Briggs is much more relaxed now, and her hair is growing back. The whole affair gave me a new respect for the little pellets and led me to do some research on their impact in the animal kingdom. I can report it's been considerable, and the next few years may bring even more stunning developments.

### A Happier Life For All

Several pharmaceutical houses have developed tranquilizers especially suited to animals. Paxital was the first of these. Most veterinarians will tell you that they've made life happier for all concerned. My own goat's doctor reports that the pills are a boon in treating high-strung animals. He often suggests that clients slip their pets a tranquilizer even before bringing them to the office.

Dr. J. C. Siegrist, Director of the Veterinary Medicine Department at Schering Corp., says the pills have helped solve the problem of the "noisy boarder," one of those dogs left at the vet's for treatment who barks all day and night. He sets off all the other patients,

even the cats, until the sum total of the racket is more than human ears can endure. The noisy boarder is now given a tranquilizer (affectionately called a "hush-mouth"), and peace reigns in the clinic.

They're also useful in bandage cases. The untranquilized dog takes a dim view of surgical dressing and seldom rests until he's worried it to ribbons. A happy pill generally cuts down on the wear and tear.

Several other uses have been recommended by veterinarians at Cornell University. They prescribe the pills for dogs who get jumpy during thunderstorms, for puppies prone to car-sickness and for gay rakes who rove around too much on errands of romance.

But the really colorful uses of tranquilizers lie beyond the range of household pets. Sharks for instance. Professor Perry Gilbert (also of Cornell) shoots at them with a water pistol loaded with liquid tranquilizer. It makes them easier to catch, and he needs them for study.

"National Fur News" magazine reports that the pills are in growing demand to calm the mean-tempered mink, which will

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