

# Doggone coughing a social disease

Thursday, February 21, 1980 (T.F.13A.5-10A)(B.Wb)15A

Q. I have a dog that has been coughing for several days now. What could be making him cough and what can I do for it?

J.L. Livonia

A. Coughing in dogs is a common complaint seen by veterinarians. Coughing may be caused by a number

of reasons, each requiring a different mode of treatment.

One of the most common causes of canine coughing is infectious tracheobronchitis (kennel cough). This can be a persistent and irritating problem.

Infectious tracheobronchitis is caused by a virus and a bacteria acting together, resulting in an inflamed

windpipe. The dog will demonstrate a dry, raspy cough that often keeps the owner awake at nights.

This disease is contagious to other susceptible dogs. Your veterinarian can diagnose and treat this disease. The best treatment, of course, is preventive treatment. Veterinarians can vaccinate for infectious tracheobronchitis.

OTHER CAUSES of coughing frequently seen are in puppies that have outgrown their collars. Many people purchase a collar for their new puppy, but fail to notice that as the puppy grows the collar does not.

This results in constriction of the esophagus as well as the windpipe. This causes an inability to swallow food as well as coughing.

Older dogs suffering from congestive heart failure may cough.

Diseases of the lung such as pneumonia may cause coughing.

Tumors of the chest, lungs, or tumors that compress the windpipe may cause coughing.

Congenital diseases such as the "collapsing windpipe" in poodles may cause coughing.



ALL THESE diseases can be diagnosed by a veterinarian.

Successful treatment depends on the disease diagnosed and the age, breed, and general health of your dog. The cough may be simple to treat, but it could also be a sign of a very serious problem.

The writers are area veterinarians. Questions may be sent to "Pet Care," 2905 Walton Blvd., Rochester 48063.

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## You've never seen ghost? Some have

Last week I received a letter from a reader who does not believe ghosts can or do communicate with the living. I am sure many other readers share his skepticism.

If you are one of these, it is most likely because you have never happened to see or hear from a ghost yourself.

But the fact that you have never seen a haunting doesn't mean they don't occur. Chances are that you have never witnessed a cold-blooded murder, either, but you believe they happen. Why? Because they are reported in the newspaper?

GHOST STORIES are often reported by the press. Some reliable, respected people have given eyewitness accounts of their encounters with disembodied spirits.

Both George Washington (who never told a lie) and "Honest Abe" Lincoln, our 16th president, claimed to have been visited by ghosts on more than one occasion.

Winston Churchill and Harry Truman were certainly respected men and believed by most to be trustworthy and reliable. Yet both believed the White House to be haunted.

There is an enormous amount of evidence supporting the existence of ghosts. But since ghosts cannot be photographed or fingerprinted many still doubt their existence.

That is why I would like to share this true story with you:

A FAMILY MOVED into their new home in Garden City when their youngest daughter was only 2½ years old.

This child promptly announced she had a new playmate who lived in their house. She introduced her playmate to the family, and became quite upset when they all said that they couldn't see her.

The child's mother had read a great deal about child psychology and was well aware that many preschool children have imaginary playmates. In fact, she had read that it is a sign of superior intelligence.

Therefore, she humored the child and encouraged the rest of the family to do the same.

Her daughter continued to play with this "child," whom she called by name, until the year she started school. Then one day, she told her family that her playmate had told her she wasn't coming to see her any more because the little girl now had other friends, and no longer needed her.

It wasn't until 12 years later that the family accidentally learned that a child with the same name as the daughter's imaginary playmate had lived and died in that house 10 years before their daughter was born.

## Hearing set on senior funds

Next year's plans for senior citizen programs in a six-county area, including Oakland, will be reviewed at a public hearing at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22 in the Oakland County Courthouse Auditorium, east lobby, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac.

"The testimony bears a lot on what we do," said Estelle Galper, of the Region 1B Area Agency on Aging, a unit of United Community Services. The agency disburses about \$4 million for

senior citizen social and nutrition programs in Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, Monroe, St. Clair and Washtenaw counties.

Ms. Galper said the agency expects at least the same amount of money will be available for 1981 programs, which begin next October.

Summary copies of the agency's preliminary 1981 plan are available at the Area Agency on Aging office, 23508 Southfield Road, Suite 100, Southfield, or at senior centers and nutrition sites.

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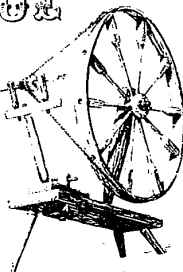
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February 21-24

The Village Antique Show and Sale, coordinated by Jeanne Fishman, brings antique dealers from six states to MeadowBrook Village Mall from February 21 through 24. The extensive show will be highlighted by an old lamp repair service, appraisals, restoration service and daily demonstrations of caning, ruffing and seat weaving.

The show is free to the public from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. For further information, please call 375-9451.



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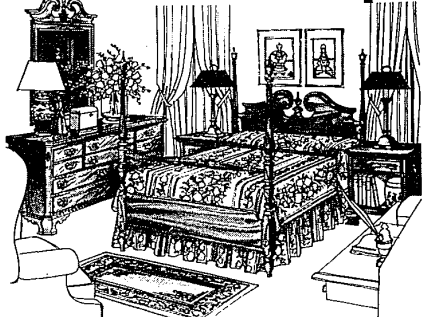
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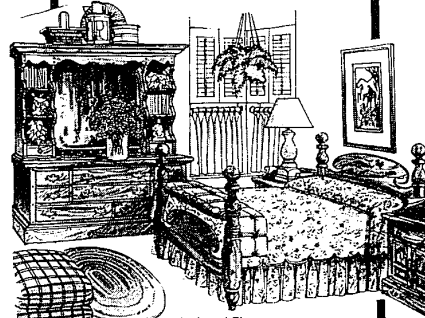
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