



Why mutilate a beautiful body?

The human body is one of the greatest miracles of all times. It has evolved through the ages as a most practical, functional and attractive house for the human soul.

Yet there is hardly a part of the body that man has not mutilated or interfered with at one time or another.

I recently met a lady in Detroit whose whole body is covered with "decorative" scars. Cuts were purposely made in her skin to produce scars in patterns which seem to have deep meaning to her.

YOUNG MEN and women pay good money, and suffer great pain, in order to have their skins tattooed with snakes, butterflies, skulls and crossbones, and all other sorts of pictures they consider beautiful.

Various cultures around the world have practiced such mutilation as branding, tattooing, circumcision, ear and nose piercing, lip and neck stretching, etc. Hair is cut off and heads shaved because of one belief, while beards and hair are grown long because of another.

The skin around the female genitals has been shaved, burned, sewn together, and even padlocked.

Teeth have been knocked out or covered with gold and set with diamonds. Fingers have been chopped off, and limbs mutilated.

All such mutilations seem perfectly logical to those practicing them, and are accounted for in terms of propriety, religious rites, hygiene, pleasure or beauty.

AS I FACE MY 50th birthday, I look in the mirror and see traces of the life I have lived. Lines in my face show the expressions I have most often assumed over half a century.

My face looks like the face of a 50-year-old woman. No one would mistake me for 30, or even 40.

Many women my age undergo plastic surgery and get rid of their wrinkles. To tell the truth, I even thought of it myself — but only briefly.

If we consider a young face prettier than an old one, then we must begin to examine our thinking. An old face that shows the traces of all the emotions its owner has known over the years can be far lovelier than a 20-year-old "10."

For that reason, I refuse to get a facelift. I have earned these wrinkles. They show the real me, and I refuse to mutilate them.

Note: You may write Gundella at: Box 434, Garden City 49135. For a personal reply, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

How to treat flea bites

Q. My veterinarian told me my dog has a flea bite dermatitis. Could you explain this?
C.L. Farmington



A. Flea bite dermatitis is a fairly common skin disorder among many breeds of dogs. It is most prevalent during the fall months but can occur throughout the entire year.

The main cause is the allergic reaction of a susceptible dog to flea bite. There is both an immediate reaction and a delayed reaction, which is why the dog may show signs many days after having been bitten.

The characteristic signs are itching, hair loss and scaly reddened skin which occur mainly on the rump and lower back region. Secondary infection is very common due to excessive itching and allergic reactions.

Usually there will be many fleas on the dog, but occasionally not one can be found.

TREATMENT usually consists of clipping the hair from the affected area, bathing in a flea shampoo and applying a flea dip.

An injection of a corticosteroid, such as prednisolone, should also be given to decrease the itching and other allergic manifestations.

Antibiotics may also be prescribed

depending on the severity of the skin reaction.

The flea dip may have to be applied at regular intervals to control re-infection.

WHILE IT IS very important to treat the dog, it is also very important to treat the environment where the dog lives.

This is not a simple procedure but usually entails vacuuming, cleaning and spraying well with an insecticidal spray.

Canned foggers may also be used to treat a single room. In resistant cases the service of a professional exterminator should be sought.

During summer and fall the yard should be sprayed with insecticide monthly.

The writers are area veterinarians. Send questions to: Pet Care, 2905 Walton, Rochester 48063.

Balkan dance highlights tour

The internationally famous Tambovians of Duquesne University will be appearing at Athens Troy High School Auditorium on Sunday, March 16 at 2:30 P.M.

For the past 42 years this group of young entertainers has presented concerts throughout the United States and Canada, occasionally making a foreign tour to such places as South America, the Soviet Union or Eastern Europe.

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