



Moving cats; beware poison houseplants; chipmunks vanishing

My family is sorry to hear that you are moving. How are you going to move your cats out west?

That's a good question, and it's one Tom and I have been thinking about quite a bit. We already know that we will be driving with the cats and Marbles. I am getting our two cats used to wearing a collar. George Girl doesn't mind the collar at all, but Teddy Bear rolls all over the place trying to get his collar off. He is getting better about it. I leave the collar on him a few more minutes a day. The reason for the collars is to have some I.D. on them just in case they get away from the hotel room.

While we are driving, the cats will be in their own medium-size carriers. Georgie and Teddy like their carriers as long as they don't have to go in the car. We are hoping that by the time we leave they will be used to the car. If they are still uncomfortable in the car, we will have to resort to a mild medication from the vet for the trip. I would rather not use medication if at all possible. But then again driving with just one cat crying let alone two would be annoying very quickly.

Our cat Sabrina has a habit of chewing on plants. She chews them all. We are worried that some of our plants may be toxic. Is there information on what household plants are toxic to animals? And is there a spray we could put on our plants that would repel the cat?

Most houseplants, even those containing toxins, do not pose a lethal threat to cats. A few plants, such as azaleas and most types of lilies, are so toxic

to cats that they can cause death. All cat owners should remove these plants from their homes. For information about houseplant toxicity, write to the National Animal Poison Control Center, 1717 S. Philo Road, Suite 36, Urbana, IL 61802, for its booklet, Household Plant List.

There is a commercial deterrent spray designed specifically for use on houseplants. It is called Bitter Apple Plant and Leaf Protector which is sold at pet supply stores.

We have been living in Farmington Hills more than 35 years. Each year we've had chipmunks running around our patio competing with ducks and birds for grain we put out. They have been entertaining and cute... a few holes in the flower beds, but no problem.

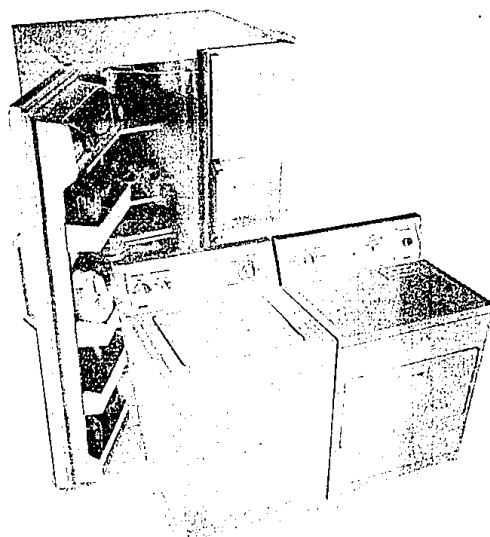
This year NO CHIPMUNKS! There have been no visible changes in our environment, no new cats in the neighborhood. I've asked adjacent property owners and they too are now "chipmunkless". Do you have any idea what could have happened?

There could be several reasons for the loss of chipmunks in your area. The first reason that comes to mind is that someone is poisoning them. Another reason could be outdoor cats. I could be wrong on my answer and it may always be a mystery.

Bev Cornell is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and former veterinary aide. She will answer pet and wildlife questions in care of ASK BRISTOL, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335 or her e-mail address: bristol_dog@msn.com.

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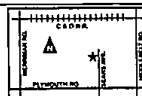
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Author at Borders tonight

Author Rich Rahn will lead a discussion group and sign copies of his book "Evolve Yourself" at Borders Books in Farmington Hills on Thursday, June 17, at 7:30 p.m.

In the book, Rahn explains how beliefs determine our experience, why we see only what we choose to notice and why science and religion are in agreement. It also shows that the search for meaning is the search for self, how human consciousness evolves and where to find the meaning of life.

Rahn had been in each of the 48 contiguous states by the time he was 10, also Mexico, Canada and England. He was expelled from a Michigan high school at 17, and took up the surfer life in California. At 19, he was busted for drugs but given probation instead of prison.

Later he went to college, got married and settled in Ohio where he published a series of successful joke books. His personal search for life's meaning took him to Spain, Florida, California,



Richard Rahn

a thousand miles off the coast of Mexico on a tuna boat and finally home to Michigan. In "Evolve Yourself," Rahn introduces readers to what he's discovered about life and the pursuit of happiness.

Borders is on Orchard Lake Road south of 14 Mile.

Forum will address bone marrow news

One of the simmering issues in health care today is that of bone marrow and stem cell transplants. For some forms of breast and ovarian cancer, leukemia, lymphoma, aplastic anemia, multiple myeloma or other blood disorders, transplant is a potential treatment.

There is certainly a growing demand for information. The National Bone Marrow Transplant Link is hosting "Ask the Experts" from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, June 26, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, just east of Farmington Road at Five Mile. There is no charge.

The program is especially for patients who are considering a bone marrow or stem cell transplant, their families and friends. For many who have already had a transplant, special transplant discussion groups are also on the agenda. An in-depth panel discussion begins the program, followed by small topic oriented discussion groups.

Leading medical experts in

bone marrow and stem cell transplant will participate in the afternoon activities. Among these are Dr. Joseph Uberti from the University of Michigan Cancer Center, Dr. Nalini Janakiraman of Henry Ford Hospital, Steve Hutchings of Oakwood Hospital and Sue Smedley from Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Wealth of information

Included in the program are BMT nurses, social workers, survivors and caregivers. A question-and-answer session will follow. A wide range of educational materials will be available, including a demonstration of how to find cancer information on the Internet.

This is the fourth year for the Ask the Experts program. This year support comes from Amgen, Immunex, Coram Health Care and the Jewish Fund.

For more information or to register, call the National Bone Transplant Link at (800) 646-5268.

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