

Pet care taught in vet's free fair

By Lem Meese
outdoors writer

Anyone can own a pet. Taking care of it is something else.

The first Pet Care Fair will run from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 6, in the Southfield Civic Center, Evergreen at 10 1/2 Mile Road, according to First Veterinary Clinics.

"The Pet Care Fair focuses on responsible pet ownership and the benefits of the human-animal bond," said Dr. John M. Simon, Royal Oak veterinarian who is one of the fair's 18 sponsors.

"Responsible pet ownership means providing food, shelter, love and health care as well as making pets good citizens."

"Obeying local licensing and health ordinances and respecting the privacy and property of others is reflected in the theme — 'Caring People Care for Animals,'" he said.

At the free event, you can learn from movies, demonstrations, question-and-answer sessions and booths on all phases of pet care. Among topics will be careers in veterinary medicine and animal technology, pet-population control, puppy and kitten adoption, flea control and care of horses, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

"FROG FRENZY" will feature a chorus of male frogs serenading their mates, according to the whimsical naturalists at Independence Oaks County Park. The program will run 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, May 4.

Of the region's 11 species of frogs and toads, nine can be found at Independence Oaks, on Sashabaw Road north of the I-75 exit to Clarkston.

Hikers will be able to hear individual frog calls on tape, then listen for them in the wild. Park officials advise wearing boots and bringing a change of shoes — just in case.

Preregister by calling the Oakland County Parks office at 858-0903.

INDIAN SPRINGS Metropark near Clarkston has several nature-center programs this weekend:

• "Spring Stars" — 8 p.m. Friday, April 27, an evening of star gazing.

• "Nature Bike Tour" — 9 a.m. Saturday, April 28 — bring your own bike and maybe a light snack for an eight-mile trek.

• "Spring Music from the Pond" — 2 p.m. Saturday, April 28, another program on frogs.

• "Spring Things" — 10 a.m. Sunday, April 29, a family nature walk.

Programs are free, but register in advance by calling the metroparks' toll-free number, 1-800-552-5772.

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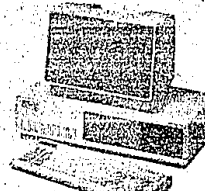
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W84 x H132	274.00	274.00	274.00	274.00	274.00	274.00	274.00	274.00
W84 x H144	294.00	294.00	294.00	294.00	294.00	294.00	294.00	294.00
W84 x H156	314.00	314.00	314.00	314.00	314.00	314.00	314.00	314.00
W84 x H168	334.00	334.00	334.00	334.00	334.00	334.00	334.00	334.00
W84 x H180	354.00	354.00	354.00	354.00	354.00	354.00	354.00	354.00
W84 x H192	374.00	374.00	374.00	374.00	374.00	374.00	374.00	374.00
W84 x H204	394.00	394.00	394.00	394.00	394.00	394.00	394.00	394.00
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