

COMMUNITY LIFE

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1997

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BEV CORNELL AND BRISTOL

Try to cage pet's anxiety during move



(Bev Cornell is a retired veterinary technician and wildlife rehabilitator licensed by the state DNR. Bristol is her trusty dog.)

Our family is moving. We have two loving female cats. How do we re-acclimate our cats

with the least amount of stress to them? An excellent question. My husband and I are moving our three cats along with Bristol at the end of summer.

We have a cage that is 4-foot square. This cage was used for our cats as kittens to keep them safe when we're not home. Even so, adult cats like it. When I use this cage for baby raccoons, the cats go into this cage when the door is open. Our cats are totally indoor cats. There is a hammock I made for this cage that the cats like to sleep in.

On moving day we will set the cage up in our new condo. They will have their toys, food, water and a litter pan. They will stay in this cage until we have moved into our new home. Then while we are unpacking we will let the cats out of the cage to investigate their new surroundings.

When we leave the condo, the cats will go back into the cage. Once our cats aren't so spooked about their new home, they won't need to be closed in their cage when we're not home.

Please see BRISTOL, B2

Boy's Beanie hat trick brings bucks to help kids



BY MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

Jake Hickey, 8, of Farmington Hills, knows what it's like to spend time in the hospital. He knows it's not fun, especially for kids.

So this summer, the veteran of a dozen surgeries has decided to raise money for other young patients at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, where he has spent much time.

"The last time I was there a couple years ago, a little baby was crying bloody murder," he said. "I gave her a red balloon and she stopped screaming."

Figuring he was onto something, Jake gave away the rest of his get well balloons before he was discharged. He saw the happy smiles his generosity fueled.

"It cheered them up. So I decided to do something for the kids who don't go home right away."

The Beechview Elementary student hit on the idea of making Beanie Baby beanies, tiny felt caps decorated with colorful beads to be worn on the heads of the ever popular beanie babies.

This past school year, Jake made and sold the beanies as part of a mini-society project third graders participate in to learn about the economy.

"Jake's goal is to raise \$500," said his mom, Val Hickey. "Child Life, the organization that takes the funds, gave us a list of possibilities the money might be used for: monthly birthday parties, an endowment fund. Or they may buy one special item for the kids."

On a whim, Val Hickey took some of Jake's beanies to Toy Wonders of the World at 14 Mile and Haggerty roads, where she was shopping for birthday gifts. Realizing that beanie babies were a popular item there, she wondered if the store might like to sell some of Jake's beanies for the charity. They did.

"Barb, the store manager, said she would test them to see if they would sell. We took 20 in and they sold in the first few hours," said Val. "We brought more in last week and they sold out again."

The little caps sell for \$2. The Hickeys are absorbing all material costs for felt, pins, foam, elastic and beads.

The dining room of their house on Wildwood Trail has been transformed into a production line, with materials scattered all over the dining room table and several of Jake's friends pitching in to help. Even his little

Please see BEANIE BABIES, B2



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMMON

For kids' sake: Jake Hickey's third grade project at Beechview Elementary School (Jan O'Neill's class) has continued to be a service project for himself and his friends and brother.

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