

## **Draconian Laws**

The passage of the HEART ordinance in Albuquerque NM, and most recently the new 91-page animal ordinance in Louisville KY should be a wake-up call to animal owners concerning the level of draconian thinking legislators can achieve while trying to reach solutions to animal control issues.

The HEART ordinance trivializes the meaning of animal cruelty with regulations such as a crate for a 66 pound dog to sleep in at night must have 24 square feet of floor space, bird perches must be of different sizes, and causing emotional harm (undefined) is a violation.

Revisions to the Louisville ordinance began in an emotional flurry for breed specific regulations following a dog attack on a child. The end result is an unenforceable ordinance with pet ownership limits, breeder permitting, seller licenses, differential licensing, targeting and profiling of all unaltered dogs. Under this draconian new ordinance the owner of an unaltered dog may not use invisible fencing, may not use anything longer a 4 foot leash, and must notify animal control if the unaltered dog will be off the owner's property for more than 3 days.

Restrictive laws, breeding bans, limits, and mandatory spay/neuter proposals are appearing at an alarming rate. However, many municipalities that have enacted these strict regulations have not met with success.

Camden NJ and Ft Worth TX are communities that have abolished the so-called "spay or pay" laws-those that require a substantially higher license fee for pets not neutered or spayed. Montgomery County MD "rescinded it's breeding licensing ordinance after the Office of Legislative Oversight pronounced it a failure in the stated objective of increasing spay/neuter procedures and blamed it as a direct cause of a 50% drop in licensing compliance."

Closer to home, both Durham and Forsyth counties have enacted differential licensing. Despite active attempts at enforcement neither county can reach even a 50% compliance rate. Charlotte-Mecklenburg with a \$4.5M budget and ample personnel estimates a 10% compliance rate. The Town of Matthews estimates a pet population of 10,000 and only 2,000 tags have been purchased.

Breeding restrictions and intact permits are generally enacted on the premise that removing the supply will eliminate animal shelter intake - stop breeding animals and shelters will be down to zero euthanasia. Breeding restrictions and bans do not magically educate owners into becoming responsible for their pets. Breeding restrictions do absolutely nothing to solve pet retention problems. It is undisputable that the number one reason for owner turn-ins at shelters is related to pet behavior or health problems, or the owner's lack of time or ability to care for the pet.

Punitive laws punish responsible owners more than irresponsible ones. There are better solutions: public education, better shelter management, increased training for animal control officers, and low cost spay/neuter programs which have repeatedly proven to be effective.

*"A misconception among those who believe that sterilization alone would decrease euthanasia rates was that 'unwanted' births resulted in pups and kittens flooding into shelters. Most animals in shelters are not, in fact, young pups and kittens, but rather 'adolescents,' approximately six to 18 months old, which have outgrown their cuteness and are manifesting minor behavioral problems their owners have neither the skills nor the patience to resolve,"*  
Bob Christiansen - Save Our Strays

# Educational Programs For Children

By Barbara Axel

## Preliminary Meeting:

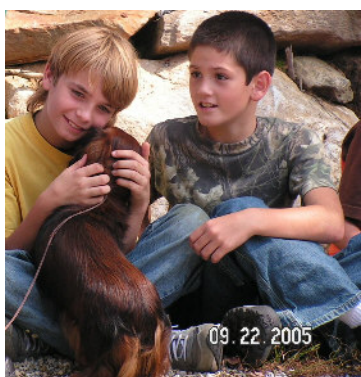
We have been presenting programs on dog care and training for some time and I find it is best to visit the facility about a week before the actual program to see the room we have to work in and sometimes rearrange the room so it is more dog/child accessible. We also want to see how close to the front door it is, to find out if the school or organization has special regulations that must be observed, and if we are required to sign in and wear visitor or volunteer tags.



## Presentation Day:

On the day of the program when we arrive at the site about 15 minutes before the start time we set up an ex-pen at an already designated area outdoors to allow the dogs to relieve themselves and have a drink if they so wish. While the dogs are in the ex-pen their crates are arranged on a dolly. Then the dogs are placed in crates on the dolly and wheeled to the room. Sometimes it is a long distance from front door to the room where we will be working and we are pleased the dogs are accustomed to the routine and are quiet. The travel crates are the fiberglass type with metal mesh doors so it is less likely a passerby will be tempted to stick fingers in the crates at the most inopportune times. We usually are able to set up before the children arrive.

If the room has carpeting, and many do, I ask that the children be seated on the floor in a half circle. When we work with 80 to 100 children at a time we have the children arrange themselves in rows with enough room for a dog and handler to walk between the rows. We promise the children that all of them will get to pet a dog IF THEY WANT TO. Some children may be afraid or allergic and they are positioned to the rear of the room by the teachers or monitors UNOBTRUSIVELY at the time the children are seated. We are clued in to where not to go with the dogs at that time. We want this to be a positive experience, so it is best to have few surprises.



## The Program:

Programs are geared to the age of the audience, with presentations for preschool and kindergartners lasting for 1/2 hour, and the older children a full hour with time for questions. The children really are responsive to the interactive educational program, and as you can see, the best part is petting the dogs.

## Demonstration Dogs:

What kinds of dogs are best suited to these programs?

Dogs MUST be in exceptional health, be up to date with inoculations, well groomed, trained to the minimum attainment of a CGC, and be extremely steady and calm in large crowds. Not only should they tolerate touching. They must look forward to it. Unexpected events are the norm. Adults sometimes rush toward a pet without warning and extend fists in a way that may be interpreted by the dog as threatening. Children in groups can be busy, may touch the dog in inappropriate places, and may even pull an ear or tail.

Dogs that aren't steady when there are sudden percussive sounds, or fast jerking motions should not be used for these programs even if they are good at home. Demo dogs should not be wild in any way, or jump up aggressively on a youngster....or adult. They should have the same attributes as therapy dogs.

### Handlers:

The handlers, in addition to having good rapport with their dogs must also be very attentive to what is going on around them. No cell phone calls during the performance. And do not allow anyone other than yourself to give the dog a treat. Dogs must be picked up after, and a clean-up kit consisting of spray, paper towels, and plastic bag is usually part of the equipment we bring.



### Props and handouts:

- Clean stainless steel food dish
  - Collar with ID and rabies tags (We talk about rabies and the NC state requirement)
  - Soft dog toy to be played with under supervision...and talk about good and bad games to play with dogs
  - Nylabone for chewing when left alone
  - Grooming tools such as combs; bristle, pin, and slicker brushes; gloves for short coated dogs
  - Toothbrush and special toothpaste....we have a box of baking soda handy and say that it too is good for brushing teeth
  - Ear wipes, Nail clippers
- And !!!!!!! rubber facsimile dog BM inside plastic bag to demonstrate pick up techniques

### The Program:

The program starts with me holding a stuffed toy dog. We discuss how this is the perfect pet for it never gets into trouble, doesn't eat and doesn't get sick, and when you are tired of it you can throw it away. (I throw it away.) Then I ask for a show of hands from the children to see if they have pets already. Caged pets? Fish? Cats? Dogs?

How many have been asking their parents for a puppy? And how long does a puppy live? What are you going to be doing 10 years from now? Do your parents want the dog so much that they are willing to take care of it when you are busy with other things like going to college?

At this time we hand out the AKC bookmark, the Workbook, review them, and talk to the group about the ways people and pets are similar or different. Then, while passing around props we talk about care and training, ending with the demo on the way to pick up after your dog.

Along with that demo I ask those who are old enough some math questions. If your dog has 3 BM's a day how many does he make a week? A year? What about for the next 10 years? How many of you own 2 dogs? The numbers are startling.

So we talk about the way worms can be transferred from other dogs through infested BM's left on the ground. And then I mention that some worms can be transferred to boys and girls the same way. The moral is that dogs BM's must be picked up.

## Review the Workbook:

We talk and review the ways dogs communicate by looking at the line drawings in the Workbook. Children can see for themselves the differences between calm and angry dogs, warning signs, and how to minimize dangerous situations. We also talk about correct dog etiquette by referring to the Workbook drawings. I tell the very young to make sure there is a grownup present when they play with their own dog. By the time a child is in 4th or 5th grade he is ready to take on some responsibilities himself. Included in the Workbook is a contact phone number for a local low cost spay and neuter program. Depending on the age of the audience, and the decision of the group inviting us we may discuss spay and neuter also. It is when we review the Workbook that the audience seems to ask the most questions. Be prepared and say you don't know if you can't answer a particular query. Also tell the questioner that you will find out and tell the teacher who is asked to relate the answer to the class. They mostly do. Often the organization sponsoring the program will print copies of written handouts.

## The Manners/Obedience Demonstration:

By this time our dogs who have been waiting patiently (or not so patiently) in their crates are ready. The doors are opened and as dogs exit crates, leashes and collars are fitted, then the dogs perform to verbal and signal commands. If the dogs just walk quietly on leash, stand for brushing, and sit or down on command that is impressive enough. The most important command is to come when called. We talk to the dogs quietly, and ask the children to be very quiet so the dogs can concentrate on what we are whispering to them. Children are encouraged to applaud when I say "exercise finished." The audiences are very cooperative and also concentrate for those words of release to be uttered. All audiences love it best when a dog makes a mistake. We do too, for it gives us a chance to teach the children not to get impatient with their own dog, but to find a way to communicate. The applause is deafening when the dog then completes his task with no mistakes.

If the dog has had some training there are some fun things to demonstrate too, such as retrieving a dumbbell or key ring, picking up a coin, or running through a tunnel on command. Unless the footing is really good we don't demonstrate jumping exercises.



By now the children are excited, and the dogs can hardly wait for they know is coming next. The children are instructed on the right way to pet a dog. They are asked to pat hard on their own heads. Next, on instruction, they stroke their own arm softly with their hand. Which feels better?

They know that everyone will get a chance to meet at least one dog, and are told to remain in place as the dog approaches, then to hold their hand out, palm up and cupped. After the dog sniffs their hand they can stroke and feel how soft the fur is.

Dear Mr and Mrs. Axel  
Thankyou for coming  
and teaching US about  
pet saffety and pet care,  
you are very nice and  
I enjoyed having you  
in are class room, your  
dogs were very well  
trained, thanks to you  
hopefully will have a  
better life living at  
my house.



## Liability Insurance:

If you are teaching on your own, or are with a group that does not have insurance, I would strongly recommend that you obtain liability insurance. Therapy Dogs International, Therapy Dogs Incorporated, and People Pet Partnership have testing procedures and issue insurance to members in good standing.

Insurance policies do change from time to time, and it is advised that you check the current status of the group when you apply.

*Barbara Axel, breeder/ trainer/exhibitor, Board Member of North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance (NCRAOA), has organized and participated in programs promoting responsible pet ownership since the late '60's. Positive interactions between dogs and children under the supervision of adults has been a primary goal.*

## More Than a Family Member

By Myrna Milani, BS, DVM

Few, if any, pet owners experience much surprise when they hear about studies or surveys that conclude that many of us view our pets as members of the family. However, it turns out that all pet owners don't agree on what it means to treat a pet like a member of the family. This, in turn, poses a good news/bad news situation for our pets.

### And the Good News is...

The good news about pets as family members takes two forms:

1. People who relate to their pets as family members pay more attention to them. Rather than keeping Nemo chained to a doghouse in the backyard, the Greens share their home with him. Because of this, they immediately notice when he throws up, doesn't eat his dinner, or even just acts a little out of sorts. "What's the matter with Nemo?" asks 7-year-old Billy Green. "He doesn't want to play hide-and-seek with me today." His mother agrees that something definitely must be bothering the dog because he loves the game as much as his human playmate, and she makes an appointment for a veterinary exam. Owners who don't share such intimate relationships with their pets can easily miss these sometimes subtle early signs of problems.



2. Both human and animal have more opportunities to experience the positive physiological and effects of the human-animal bond. We all know about the benefits animal companionship offers humans in the form of improved health and mental well-being. Other studies indicate that quality human interaction yields similar benefits for our pets. To appreciate the power of this often taken-for-granted aspect of pet ownership, pause here and perform the following experiment:

Close your eyes and imagine yourself sitting or lying in a favorite place with your pet beside you. Now imagine yourself stroking your pet. Feel the softness of fur or feathers and how your pet's chest rises and falls more slowly and rhythmically beneath your hand as the animal relaxes. Hear your pet sigh or begin to purr in utter contentment. Feel your own mind and body begin to drift to a quieter place, too.

Of course nothing beats relaxing with our real pets, but most people find that even the image of such an interaction makes them feel much better. In fact, thoughts of these and other interactions with the family pet help more than a few working owners make it through the day. And the way our pets greet us when we return leaves no doubt that they look forward to interacting with us, too.

## **And the Bad News?**

The bad news side of pets-as-family members is the good news minus a knowledge of and respect for each pet's unique species and individual physical, behavioral, and bond needs. Let's compare what goes on in the Greens' household to what goes on in Marcia Brown's home next door. Both Nemo and Marcia's dog, Binky, eat dinner when their owners do. However, Nemo gets a well-balanced diet formulated to meet his canine needs while Binky gets fed from Marcia's plate because "My little boy eats everything I do." After dinner, the Greens take Nemo for a long walk then play fetch with him in the back yard while Binky and Marcia veg out in front of the television. "I hate exercise," explains Marcia, giving her pet one potato chip for every one she eats herself, "and I'm sure Binky does too." When bedtime arrives, Nemo automatically curls up on his fuzzy rug on the floor beside Billy's bed while Binky sleeps in the bed with Marcia. "I don't particularly like it because he growls if I disturb him," Marcia admits. "But what else can I do? I can't expect my baby to sleep on the floor!"

The Brown's knowledge-based approach to Nemo as a beloved family member with unique needs results in a healthy, well-behaved pet whom everyone adores. Marcia's choice to treat Binky as a furry humanoid instead of a dog leads to multiple problems. His diet results in periodic bouts of vomiting and diarrhea. In addition to the discomfort this causes Binky, he must endure numerous trips to the veterinary hospital, work-ups, and medication. Each visit ends with the veterinarian recommending that Marcia make the necessary dietary changes to spare her pet these and perhaps more serious problems in the future. Even though Marcia promises to try, the thought of her baby eating that "yucky dog food" proves too strong for her to resist. Add Binky's lack of exercise to his unhealthy diet and he becomes a good candidate for obesity and the many medical problems related to it. Finally, Marcia's willingness to give in to her pet's every whim rather than relate to him in a manner that fulfills his needs for a knowledgeable human leader in their human-canine pack yields a dog with behavioral problems in addition to everything else.

And what effect does Marcia's view of her pet as a human rather than canine family member have on the human-animal bond? Unlike healthy, well-behaved lovable Nemo, Binky's many physical and behavioral problems result in a pet only his owner loves. Granted Marcia might feel a rush of pride when she boasts, "Binky would die without me!" but what about Binky? Even though the veterinary staff tries to do their best, the fact that Marcia refuses to make the necessary dietary changes to spare her pet problems frustrates them. His unruly behavior in the clinic undermines their positive feelings about him even more.

And although Billy Green would like to take Nemo next door to play with Binky or play with Binky himself, his mother won't let him because, "I just don't trust that dog. Besides, he's always sick and I don't want Nemo to catch anything." Meanwhile Marcia finds it harder and harder to find a kennel or a friend who will take care of her pet who goes to pieces in her absence. She tells herself this occurs because "He loves me so much he can't bear to be without me!" However, as she spends more and more time alone because of Binky's behavior while her friends go off to enjoy themselves, she finds herself as apt to snap at him as hug him, confusing the dog and further undermining their relationship. All this because she chose to treat him like her baby instead of her dog!

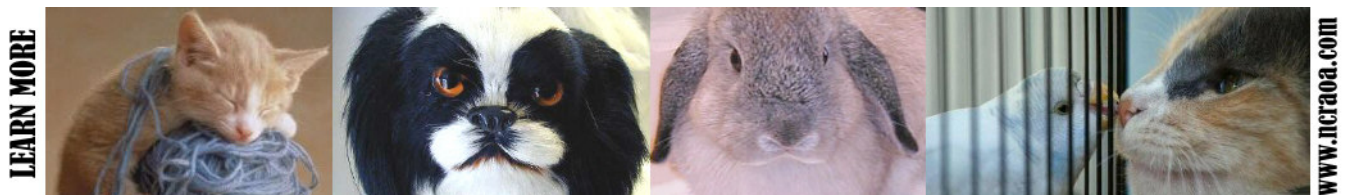
## **Developing Appropriate Human-Animal Family Values**

From this we can see that viewing a pet as a member of the family can mean different things to different owners and even different owners in the same household. So how can we make sure that how we relate to our pet reflects its needs as well as our own? One easy way involves learning as much as you can about your particular pet's species (as well as breed, if appropriate). Cats most certainly pose different challenges than dogs, and the physical, behavioral, and bond needs of both of these species differ from those of birds, reptiles, or amphibians. However, thanks to public libraries and the Internet, even those living in the most remote areas can gather a great deal of information about even the most unusual pets. Many libraries also have or can get you videos on a wide range of species, too. Like anything else, some resources provide higher quality information than others, so make sure you examine more than one. Over time you'll get a feeling for which recommendations about your particular pet's physical, behavioral, and bond needs arise from good science and solid experience versus from fads proposed by fleeting gurus of one sort or another.

Above all, make your fact-finding fun. Involving any household snacksters or couch potatoes who like to treat your pet the same way they treat themselves in an upbeat quest for information about your pet's unique needs will yield more positive results than nagging them. Rather than collecting data then insisting your spouse or parent stop treating your cat like a furry humanoid because "It's a mean and cruel thing to do!" casually share your findings about certain feline needs in a neutral manner: "I had no idea that Tuffy's a carnivore which means she has different nutritional needs from dogs or humans. Now I think I really need to be more careful about what I feed her. I love her so much, it seems only natural to give her some of my ice cream so it will be awfully hard not to, but I'm willing to try. What do you think?" No doubt exists that the combined effects of domestication and a spiritual or emotional connection we have yet to comprehend makes pet owners realize that their animals play a very special role in our lives. For us, the challenge remains to grant them the intimate family member status they deserve without neglecting their unique needs.

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*Myrna Milani earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Capital University (Columbus, Ohio) and a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the Ohio State University, College of Veterinary Medicine. Following a year as a full-time academic advisor to pre-veterinary students at the university, Dr. Milani entered private veterinary practice in New Hampshire. Her interest in and study of the relationship between humans and animals as it affects the health and behavior of both led her to write seven books for the general public. [www.mmilani.com](http://www.mmilani.com)*



## I Thought My Dog Loved Me,



## Where Did I Go Wrong?

by Linda Tilley

“Guess what? I just got a puppy!” How many times have we heard that very thing? Okay, now that you have it, how are you going to raise it? You have probably gone to the pet supply store to buy all the “new baby” things that are so cute.

Hopefully, you didn’t take the puppy. Socialization is very important, but not in that type of environment. Wait until the puppy is safely vaccinated. That doesn’t mean just a vaccine at 6 weeks. One of the reasons for a series of vaccines for a young puppy is because it may still have some immunity from the mother. If so, that immunity may block the beneficial effects of the vaccine. Until safely vaccinated, socialization should be in a controlled environment.

It doesn’t matter if your puppy came from a reputable breeder, the shelter or off the street. You have it now and you have to do the very best you can to assure it will die an elderly dog in

the home it started in. You know a puppy needs to go to the veterinarian for checkups, vaccines and heartworm preventative. It needs good food to grow a strong body, a warm place in winter, a cool place in summer and a safe place to play. It needs playtime and rest time. You will provide all the attention; play and loving a young dog can stand. You love it and it loves you. All will be right in your world.

At least it will be until you wake up one morning and realize that a monster has taken possession of your dog’s body. Who is this creature and what did it do with your friend? Various and assorted acts of demolition greet you when you arrive home. Then to add insult to injury you are pummeled by a streaking blur that barely resembles that cute puppy you brought home. Where is your dog? What connection to your dog is this panting, drooling thing with scraps of last night’s pizza box stuck in his teeth? You don’t even want to look in the kitchen. But then you don’t need to because it all seems to be in the living room. Where is your dog? He’s standing there, happy as a lark, thrilled to death that you’re home. Isn’t adolescence wonderful! We’ll call him “Otis” to protect his innocence.

What went wrong? You love your dog. You have given him the very best of every thing. Does he hate you? Why is he doing these things to you? Answer – he isn’t doing anything *to* you, he is acting on his own, without having had the benefit of guidance as he was maturing – he’s a dog. Hate to tell you this but he wasn’t giving you the first thought as he enjoyed his day. What you are is a typical owner of an adolescent dog. Your dog is out of control.

We need to rephrase the question – what did *you* do wrong? While you weren’t looking that puppy has grown into a young adolescent dog and you didn’t teach it anything about living with humans. You fulfilled your needs, but, did you fulfill his? My guess would be -- nope.

You look at your neighbor’s adolescent dog, who we shall call “Lucy.” She doesn’t do those upsetting things that your dog does. She must love her owners more than your dog loves you. Nope! She has had training and structure to go along with the attention, play and loving as she was maturing.

Most adolescent dogs are challenging brain-dead jerks for awhile. It's how you started them and the consistency you give while they go through this stage that will determine their behavior when the fog lifts.

When Lucy first came home she had all those same things from the pet supply store. The same loving, good food and veterinary care, but (here's the key) she also had rules, limitations and consistency.

The times when you thought it was so cute when Otis jumped and clawed on your legs, Lucy was being taught to sit for the attention they were both seeking. When Otis jumped all over you on the couch, Lucy was taught to stay off until invited up. When you would leave the room so Otis could eat privately (because he had growled when you approached his bowl), Lucy was being taught to accept people near her food. When Otis was using your house as a bathroom, Lucy was crate trained, watched whenever she was loose in the house and rewarded for going potty outside. The time when Otis drug you down the street, Lucy was taught to walk on a loose leash. When Otis would maul guest because he was so happy to see them, Lucy was taught to greet with "four on the floor." The times when Otis scratched holes in the back door because you had to have him out of the house, Lucy was peacefully curled up snoozing in her crate. Remember that time Otis knocked you down the front steps when he bolted out the door? Lucy was being taught to wait at the door until told it was okay to go outside. The times you were afraid to even guess what had happened while you were away, Lucy's owners were content that the house would be in one piece when they returned. She had been confined in their absence until she proved her dependability when left alone.



Is Lucy a better dog than Otis? No, not at all. Does Lucy love her owners more than Otis loves you? No, for heavens sake, he thinks you are his best bud, his brother, his playmate. The difference is that Lucy is content and happy knowing that her owners are her leaders. That she can depend on them for *all* her needs.

This is the point where a lot of owners give up and surrender their dog to someone else. The shelters and rescue groups are full of dogs like Otis. Once a dog enters the throw away cycle of abandonment it is unlikely he will ever live to be an old dog.

Are you a bad owner? That answer depends on how you deal with the difficulties of living with Otis. If you give up, then, yes you are a bad owner. Get a goldfish next time, or better yet, a pet rock. If you admit there are problems that you created and love Otis enough to seek training solutions that keep him in your home, then you have the potential to be one of the very best owners around. Otis has all the potential to become more like Lucy. He can't do it alone. You have to take the leadership role. Talk to Lucy's owners, maybe they can suggest some helpful things to try. If you don't know what to do, that's okay. You are human after all. Admitting you don't know and finding someone to help is what is going to make you that great owner Otis deserves. Find a trainer who specializes in pet dogs and get some help. I know you love Otis, but love him enough to give him what he needs. A good home and a great owner until he dies an elderly dog in the home he first came to. He deserves no less and neither do you.

When a puppy is brought into your home, raise it from day one to become the dog that it has the potential to become. If you don't know what to do then seek help. There are people out there that can help. Don't give up until you get the answers you need.

*Linda Tilley is a Board Member of North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance (NCRAOA) and is endorsed by the National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors (NADOI).*

## Cats Can Succumb To Feline Alzheimer's Disease

Ageing cats can develop a feline form of Alzheimer's disease, a new study reveals. Scientists at the Universities of Edinburgh, St Andrews, Bristol and California have identified a key protein which can build up in the nerve cells of a cat's brain and cause mental deterioration.

In humans with Alzheimer's disease, this protein creates 'tangles' inside the nerve cells which inhibit messages being processed by the brain. The team says that the presence of this protein in cats is proof that they too can develop this type of disease.

Scientists already thought cats were susceptible to dementia because previous research had identified thick, gritty plaques on the outside of elderly cats' brain cells which are similar to those found in humans. But, by pinpointing this second key marker, the Edinburgh-led team says we can be sure that cats can suffer from a feline form of Alzheimer's.

Dr Danielle Gunn-Moore, at the University of Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, said: "This newly discovered protein is crucial to our understanding of the ageing process in cats. We've known for a long time that cats develop dementia, but this study tells us that the cat's neural system is being compromised in a similar fashion to that we see in human Alzheimer's sufferers. The gritty plaques had only hinted that might be the case - now we know.

"The shorter life-span of a cat, compared to humans, allows researchers to more rapidly assess the effects of diet, high blood pressure, and prescribed drugs on the course of the disease. However, we also need to understand more about our geriatric cats for their own benefit, so we can slow down the degeneration the disease brings and keep them as happy cats for as long as possible."

"As with humans, the life expectancy of cats is increasing and with this longer life runs the greater chance of developing dementia. Recent studies suggest that 28% of pet cats aged 11-14 years develop at least one old-age related behavior problem and this increases to more than 50% for cats over the age of 15."

Experts suggest that good diet, mental stimulation and companionship can reduce the risk of dementia in both humans and cats.

Dr Frank Gunn-Moore, at the School of Biology, University of St Andrews, said: "This work relied on a team effort with the different skills and expertise from our different institutions. It has given us an insight into the molecular changes that are occurring in the degenerating brain. From this knowledge we are now currently trying to develop new and novel treatments which will be able to help both cats and humans".

The findings of the study are published in a recent edition of the *Journal of Feline Medicine*.  
Article URL: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=58305>

North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (NCRAOA) is a statewide organization of animal owners and professionals dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of responsible citizens to breed and own animals. NCRAOA, a 501(c)3 organization, provides education and information to the public and supports reasonable and humane animal welfare laws.

***Your donations help us with the cost of printing and mailing flyers, brochures, and educational packets.***

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