

high blood pressure is a symptom of kidney disease while high blood pressure in humans is as common as a cold and can be attributed to poor diet, lack of exercise, etc. Using dogs to determine the causes of high blood pressure in people is an experiment regularly conducted but since the disease itself is so rare in dogs, it makes little sense to use this animal to help humans.

Immune systems of animals function differently which is why animals are not subject to a great many diseases afflicting humans and humans do not contract very many animal diseases. Dogs and cats manufacture vitamin C in their bodies; humans do not. Frequently, distemper, parvo, and other animal diseases respond to treatment with additional high doses of vitamin C, indicating that for animals at least, a natural diet with vitamin and mineral therapy is nearly a cure-all. (There are many books on this subject.) Because the immune systems of animals differ so greatly from that of humans, ask yourself: Have any of your friends died from distemper, either canine or feline?

Dogs and cats, being carnivorous, consume massive amounts of meat and other high cholesterol foods, their natural diet. However, when humans consume large amounts of meat and similar foods, the diet causes extremely dangerous diseases including heart and vascular diseases, diabetes, strokes, cancer, etc. And yet our animal friends don't suffer from cholesterol build-up and the vast array of animal-fat related diseases. Why? Because they are different from humans.

Animals don't suffer from tooth decay. Not so much because their diets are different (most household pets partake of the same diet as their owners) but because they are different in every way than are humans. The structure of their teeth and saliva, their digestive systems and metabolism are not the same as ours. We are a different, unique species and for that reason, applying test results learned from animals to humans can - and often is - either worthless, invalid, or fatal!

When a human infant falls into a swimming pool, lack of oxygen to the brain of that child will cause irreversible brain damage after five minutes and death after eight-to-ten minutes. Brain research on animals has shown that cat and dog brains can be brought back to life after 60 minutes and monkeys have been revived after 16 minutes without any noticeable brain damage. All of which proves that a child who drowns and is pulled from a pool will stay dead, but an animal may be revived. How does that benefit the child?

-Barbara Bouyet

Barbara Bouyet, animal activist and author, has long been involved with the Akita Rescue Society of America. Her profile on the Akita appeared in the October 1984 issue of AR.

Part Two of her six-part series *Animals in Experimentation, PAIN FOR PROFIT*, will be in the next issue.

Keeping Vigil at Unexpected Wildlife Refuge

"...For some the fight was a lonely one. Hope Sawyer Buyukmihci of The Beaver Defenders and owner of the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge in Newfield, New Jersey, found that not even thorough posting of NO TRAPPING signs did any good. She had to thread the trails on her property. Then, even at night, she had to patrol, and when she found a thread broken, she knew she had to find the trapper or his traps before one of her semi-tame beavers found them."

-from *MAN KIND? OUR INCREDIBLE WAR ON WILDLIFE*, Cleveland Amory, Harper & Row, NY, 1974.

The foregoing excerpt illustrates the necessity of keeping vigil at Unexpected Wildlife Refuge. Hunters, as well as trappers, frequently and deliberately trespass.

"During the five months of the year," began Hope Sawyer Buyukmihci (pronounced approximately Bew-yewk-MUTCHA), a petite, yet commanding figure, "when there are hunting seasons - from goose season in October through raccoon and fox season in March - our refuge is besieged by hordes of hunters who tear down our NO TRESPASSING signs and sometimes threaten to kill us. We have been shot at, our woods have been set afire, and our mailbox obliterated. All this, not because we have interfered with anyone else's rights, but because we have tried to maintain our own rights, and the protection of the animals that live on our land. Hunters torment us by hanging rabbit entrails upon our fence, stuffing butchered fawns in our mailbox, and scattering headless quail beside our driveway."

Why don't Hope and her husband, Cavit, a metallurgist, seek the help of law enforcement officials?

"We try," she explained. "Sometimes legal authorities tell us we don't have enough evidence. Even when we gather sufficient evidence, such as hunting license numbers, judges frequently decline to convict trespassers."

In spite of the need for constant vigilance, Hope - agile and fit at 73 - claims there are many joys in owning a private wildlife refuge. "Our land harbors nearly every animal indigenous to south New Jersey," she said of the 351-acre refuge of swampy woodland and meadow she and Cavit purchased in 1961, and which became, in 1965, a non-profit organization.

Hope vigorously works to make life better for the animals who live on her refuge. She plants poplar sprouts for beavers, provides housing for bluebirds, clears trails, and frequently checks for trespassers and other problems.

Hope is a living advertisement for veganism, a lifestyle in which participants abstain from meat, eggs, dairy products, leather, and all animal products. If anyone has doubts concerning either the health aspects or taste-appeal of vegan meals,

these doubts will be erased after sampling Hope's yummy homecooking and after observing the dynamic energy of the Buyukmihci family, all fueled on a vegan diet.

When asked how the family became vegans, Hope answered, "During the early '60's, a neighbor in an adjoining field watched tolerantly as I was replacing shot-up NO TRESPASSING signs. He asked, 'You eat meat, don't you? Cows and chickens? I eat deer and quail. What's the difference?' I tried to explain, but my arguments crumbled. It was not so much that I could not convince him, but that I could not convince myself. We eventually became vegetarians, then vegans."

Love of nature and animals has been in three generations of Hope's family. Her father, Edmund J. Sawyer, a wildlife artist and naturalist, established a reputation as the "Dean of American bird artists." Her Turkish-born husband, Cavit, in 1979, founded and still chairs the New Jersey Congress for Animals, a coalition which lobbies local and state governments for legislation to protect area fauna. Hope and Cavit are two reasons why New Jersey is one of the few states that has succeeded in outlawing - in 1984, the law took effect in 1985 - the steel-jaw leghold trap, a painful device trappers use to capture animals for the fur market. Now they are working for federal legislation.

The Buyukmihci's son, Nedim, whose question at age 8 "What is a bluebird?" prompted the family to purchase the refuge, is now a veterinarian who is serving as an associate professor of surgery/opthalmology at the University of California, Davis, where he developed a first in veterinary medicine: a course on the ethics of animal use. He also co-founded, with Dr. Neil C. Wolff, in 1981, the Association of Veterinarians for Animals' Rights.

Daughter Nermin, former proprietor of Nermin's Dry Goods (which offered products which did not contain animal by-products and which had not been tested on animals) and daughter Linda are also active in the animal rights movement.

With the motto, "They Shall Never Be Trapped Anymore," Hope founded, in 1970, The Beaver Defenders, and edits the newsletter of this organization. Through this quarterly newsletter and Hope's published books *Unexpected Treasure* (1968), *Hour of the Beaver* (1971), and *Beaversprite* (co-authored with Dorothy Richards in 1977), readers learn about beavers as a species and as individuals.

Hope awed seven-million readers with her true account of a father beaver who braved frigid currents to gnaw the ice which threatened his dam and family, published in the world's largest-selling women's magazine, *Family Circle* (January 25, 1983).

Hope uses her talents for writing, photography and drawing as the 'Teen Window columnist of *AV Magazine*. Readers learn scientific knowledge about wildlife and at the same time gain insight into the needs and feelings of animals.

Another method Hope uses to raise

consciousness about animals and their habitat is her trademark, "the chalk talk," which is in popular demand by schools, libraries, and organizations. While describing truelife adventures of animals, Hope illustrates her words with vivid chalk drawings.

While recognizing the importance of humane education in homes and schools, Hope also points out that adults can learn from children. "Cavit and I developed greater respect for animals as we raised our children," she explained. "Instead of squelching their concern for animals, we cooperated with them and let them lead us to better things."

-Marsha Gravitz

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Visits to the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge can be arranged by appointment. If you are intrigued by beavers and other wildlife, and/or disturbed by hunting and trapping of these animals, you can join The Beaver Defenders for only \$5.00 per year. You'll help support the Buyukmihci's work with animals and their educational programs. Membership includes *The Beaver Defenders Newsletter*, an always-interesting quarterly that keeps members up-to-date on local and national happenings, and also includes short stories, poems, letters from members, and book reviews.

Educational materials - pamphlets, books, coloring books, and posters - are also available through The Beaver Defenders.

For more information, send a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Hope Sawyer Buyukmihci, Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, Newfield NJ 08344.

SPECIAL NOTE: Last year, the Buyukmihci's and the beavers lost a special friend. Dorothy Burney Richards, a dedicated naturalist affectionately dubbed "The Beaver Woman", died August 27th, 1985. through *The Beaver Defenders Newsletter*, AR has learned that the Richards' New York sanctuary, Beaversprite, will live on. Her home is to be opened to the public as a beaver museum and education center because a new organization, Friends of Beaversprite, has recently been formed. Dorothy Richards' book, *Beaversprite*, recounts her more than 40 years of close contact with beavers. It is available from The Beaver Defenders (see address above) for \$9.95 postpaid.

For information about Friends of Beaversprite, write: Sharon T. Brown, Chairman, FRIENDS OF BEAVERSPRITE, Box 591, Little Falls NY 13365.

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