

Caring for the Sick Farm Animals.

Of the many difficulties that are experienced by the practitioner of veterinary medicine, the greatest is without a doubt that of securing good nursing for his patients. Many a case results fatally because it has poor nursing, and yet there are many seemingly hopeless cases that recover when they have very good nursing during the course of the disease. A great deal of this could be remedied if the veterinary nurse would only do his best, but there are several discouraging features about the nursing, especially of a very bad, acute condition in the horse. In the first place, the ordinary stock owner or caretaker is compelled to give all of the medicine comprising the treatment through the mouth and you realize that this is no small task in the horse. Some of them are very obstinate, and you occasionally find one that becomes violent when treatment is pursued for any length of time. The average individual knows very little about the physiology of the domestic animals, and still less about hygiene and sanitation and its value in the treatment of some of the conditions with which animals are affected, and is not at all familiar with the diet that should be provided for the sick animal.

In caring for the domestic animals—for that seems to be a more applicable term than nursing—the owner or attendant usually does many things that are detrimental to the best interests of the patient before calling the veterinarian or before he arrives. It seems that some of them will never learn to wait until the doctor arrives to prescribe for the patient. This is many times the cause of the fatal termination of an otherwise simple condition. This would not be so bad in every case if the conditions were safely diagnosed, but many times the diagnosis is as faulty, and as far from being even similar to the condition that when treatment is applied it does not help the condition but rather aggravates it.

Very few stock owners are able to read a thermometer or to count the pulse rate of the domestic animals under their charge, and for this reason they are often in the dark as to the progress that the case is making, and this many times is very discouraging and causes them to neglect their charges and get discouraged.

The stock owner usually has some ideas of his own, and some of them are very erroneous and even ludicrous. Many times the owner simply refuses to be convinced that he is mistaken, or that things are any different from what he thinks them to be. It is very difficult as a rule to handle any conditions for this class of people, especially if they are any way serious. The best way to handle these fellows is to make them believe they know just what is wrong, and just how to take care of it, and advise them as to how good they are at caring for their charges, and soon you have them doing just what you want done, and much better than if you had tried to argue them down and convinced them that they did not understand the patient's condition. They are wise in their own conceit. Many of these fellows will use some little harmless procedures of their own during the treatment, and it does not matter how good the veterinarian's treatment may have been, they are there to claim the major part of the credit for the recovery if such be the case. These fellows will usually tax the average practitioner's control of temper, and many times if one is not very careful a spontaneous outburst of wrath is heaped upon the fellow, and many times he is, strictly speaking, deserving of a good part of it.

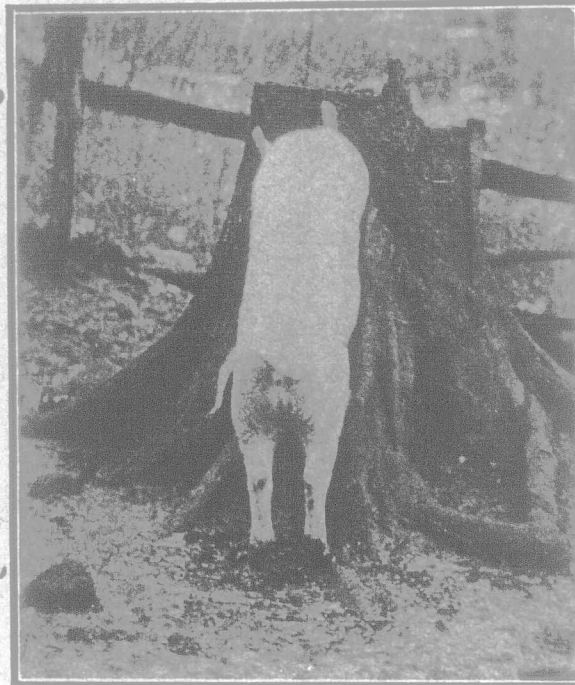
There often occur many circumstances during the practice of medicine that are very provoking, to say the least. It is a fact that some caretakers will tell an untruth concerning their caring for the patients under their charge. I have watched the medicine prescribed and have found that there are times when only a small part of the medicine prescribed has been given in the time specified, and yet if you ask them if they are giving the medicine regularly they will assert that they have never missed a single dose. When you suspect this, it is well to call for the container from which the medicine was formerly dispensed, and in this way you can determine just how they are carrying out your instructions to them.

Very few caretakers seem to consider that the domestic animal's digestive systems or their general make-up is anything at all like the members of the human family, for when they are sick they feed them the same feed that they have been feeding all the time, and few of them think that a change to something that is appetizing would be valuable when the animal is sick, just the same as such things are appetizing to sick people. Another thing that I have noticed is in the preparation of mashes and the like; they are often placed before a horse or cow and if they do not eat them they sour and begin to ferment very rapidly, but most attendants will allow them to remain in the feed trough for several hours until they are unfit to eat, and besides the sight of them becomes repulsive. If a mash or any other feed is placed before an animal and it does not partake of it within an hour or so, it should be removed and some fresh placed in the feed rack at the next meal. If the animal refuses feed altogether, do not try to force it to eat, but wait, as it will let you know when it is hungry and wants feed. The same thing must be said of the water for the animal; it should be fresh and clean; should be kept where it can be offered to the animal several times each day, and should always be fresh. Under conditions in which there is apt to follow great weakness or shock, it is well to remove the chill from the drinking water, also, in most of the acute respiratory conditions.

The sick animal wants a nice clean bed, the same

How and How Not to Do It When the Veterinarian is Not Around.

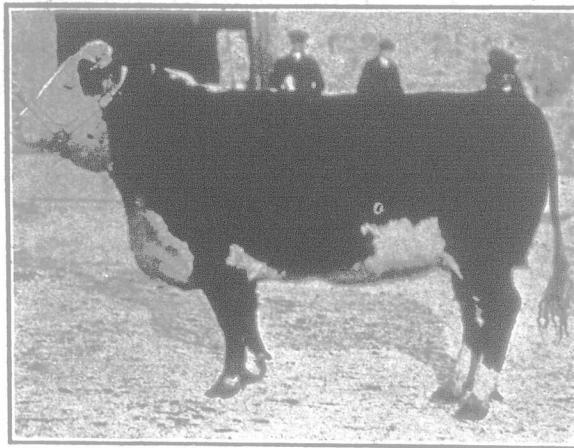
BY G. H. CONN, D. V. M.



Searching for Charcoal.

as the sick person, and wants all the comfort that it can possibly get. The animal with acute pain that wishes to lie down should be provided with a large, well-bedded box stall, away from drafts and noise and any other disturbing influences. Wheat or rye straw makes the better bedding, but shavings and sawdust may be used. In using sawdust for bedding, the animal sometimes becomes galled from lying in urine-soaked bedding. In conditions where the animal remains standing and it is difficult to get the feet a great ways from the ground, it is advisable to remove the bedding as the animal will find greater comfort in moving about when that is necessary.

It is also necessary to provide good light for sick animals, unless it be tetanus or some conditions of the eyes which would call for a darkened stall. Plenty of sunshine and fresh air are essential in the treatment and caring for sick animals; it is necessary, however, to avoid drafts.



Ruby Fairfax.

Champion Hereford hifer at Guelph Winter Fair, for J. Hooper & Sons, St. Mary's. Sold at Ontario Hereford breeders' sale, Guelph, for \$1,400.

It is many times possible by doing some small things in the treatment of the sick animals to get results from them. The sick animal that has a fever and has no appetite and refuses water and anything that may be offered him will sometimes feel much better after having his mouth washed with good cold water, and having a good grooming. They should be brushed and cleaned with great care, and if the extremities are cold they should be well rubbed with coarse cloths or bandaged. In cases where there are injuries with secretions that discharge over the other parts of the body, they should be cleaned as often as necessary for the comfort of the animal.

The foregoing remarks have been made concerning our larger patients, such as the horse and cow. But we have the smaller patients to care for, and they are much easier handled than the ones just named. Now, for instance, the dog can be handled in most cases just about the same as a person. It can be bathed and kept in more comfortable places away from disturbing elements and can be dieted if need be, and medicine can be much more easily administered to it than to our larger patients.

In the horse, by far the best way of administering medicine is with the use of the dose syringe, which is a

syringe of metal or of hard rubber, metal being the longest lived and also the best—that has a long nozzle and should hold either two or four ounces. I like the two-ounce, and use it altogether. I always take my left hand and pass it through the space between the incisor teeth and the molar teeth and catch the horse's tongue in my hand, and then turn my hand over so that my thumb is in the roof of the horse's mouth and my little finger rests upon the floor of the mouth; this holds the horse's mouth open and then you can insert the nozzle of the syringe over the base of the tongue, and expel the contents of the syringe. With care, the medicine will be thrown over the base of the tongue, and as soon as the tongue is released the horse is compelled to swallow. If you have no dose syringe and are compelled to drench the horse, never do so through the nose, as this is very dangerous. Take a small rope several feet long and make a loop in it that will not slip tight, and large enough that it will go around the upper jaw, and then place this rope over a beam or through a pulley and draw the horse's head up. This keeps the mouth open so that he cannot get his tongue back of the medicine and throw it out, and he is not nearly so apt to crush the bottle. This loop may be placed back of the nose band on the halter to keep it from slipping off the upper jaw when the horse's head is drawn up. Medicine may also be given in powdered form by placing it well back on the tongue with a spoon, or it may be made into a thick paste with licorice root, and molasses or syrup and then spread upon the tongue.

In giving liquid medicine to the cow, it is usually sufficient to catch the cow in the nostrils with the fingers the same as a cattle leader would hold her, placing the elbow back along the neck, and then slightly elevating the nose you can use a long-necked bottle or a dose syringe to place the medicine back upon the tongue where it is readily swallowed. It may also be given in powder form, or in the paste form, or mixed with some sweet substance, the same as for the horse.

In giving medicine to swine, it is best to catch them with a loop or small rope passing through the mouth and then draw them up to a post or something solid and tie them and allow them to settle back; then take a piece of rubber hose and insert in the mouth and allow them to chew at it while the medicine may be poured through the tube into the mouth. If you use a syringe, be sure and throw the medicine into the mouth while the hog is not squealing, otherwise you will strangle the animal with it. Never use a bottle in giving medicine to hogs, as they are very apt to bite it in pieces for you.

Giving medicine to dogs and sheep is comparatively a simple matter, owing to their size and the ease with which they may be handled. It may be given with a small syringe or with a spoon.

Of late years azoturia has claimed many hundreds of valuable horses and has been the bugbear of practicing veterinarians, not so much from their inability to cope with the conditions, as the mistakes made by the owner before calling the veterinarian. Azoturia is too well known to have a discussion of its train of symptoms here. When you have a horse that you suspect of taking azoturia, stop him at once and if he is very bad, or it is any distance to the nearest stable, do not attempt to move him, but allow him to remain quiet, just as quiet as you can possibly keep him. If you cannot get a veterinarian soon, give him a good dose of raw linseed oil and, if the weather is cool, or the horse seems to have a chill, cover him with sufficient blankets to keep him warm. Many times in very bad cases rest, if given at the first sign of the disease, will effect a return to normal conditions in a very short time. Take oats or salt and place in a grain sack, and place over the region of the loins, keep them hot, and massage the muscles of the hips and loins. Above all, do not walk him, as I have seen several that were simply walked to their death. If he is very weak and persists in wanting to lie down, permit him to do so; the exertion put forth in trying to remain on the feet sometimes proves fatal.

In cases of colic or indigestion, it always provokes me to see an individual on the opposite end of a strap dragging a poor brute of a horse around and continually clubbing him to keep him from lying down when he is so full of misery and pain. The first thing a person does if he has abdominal pain is to lie down and try to get into some position that will afford him some relief. The same may be said of the horse; make him as comfortable as possible and watch him that he does not injure himself and allow him to rest as well as he can. Never walk him, as it is unnecessary and cruel. If you cannot get trained help at once, give about two ounces of turpentine in a pint of raw linseed oil or in sweet milk and a tablespoonful of ginger. But be sure and tell the veterinarian what you have given. Allow them water if they will take it, especially in constipation and impaction.

In tetanus or lockjaw we have a condition that is easily recognized by any one that has ever seen a case of it. Just as soon as possible get the animal into a quiet place away from any other animals or anything that might excite it and make the stall dark, and do not allow any strangers or any one other than those necessary to go near it. Place water where it can have access to it at all times, and feed where it will not be compelled to undergo unnecessary exertions to reach it. Get a qualified veterinarian.

For cases of laminitis or founder in the horse, place him with the affected feet in a mud hole, or in running