

The mean daily incidence of apneic spells before caffeine treatment was 13.6, but was reduced to 2.1 after caffeine treatment. There was also a significant increase in respiration from 55 to 62 breaths *per minute*. However, no change was found in the heart rate.

Despite the apparent great success of caffeine therapy for apnea, Dr. Aranda feels that a controlled study is still needed. This would involve treating only one of two similar groups of babies with caffeine and comparing the results obtained with the two groups. He is planning to do this in co-operation with the neonatal units in the Royal Victoria and Jewish General Hospitals.

### The seal who thought he was "people"

He was found on the beach and taken to the local animal hospital. Weighing 20 pounds, he was just an infant, so young that the umbilical cord was still attached. He couldn't even swim — he hadn't learned how!

Henry, as he was soon called, was very thin and weak; the veterinarian diagnosed pneumonia, and prescribed heavy doses of penicillin. The Inspector of the Comox Valley Branch of the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals took the infant home, and put him into a basement shower with a sleeping bag to lie on; a kind neighbour donated a rubber tank to be filled with water.

During the night Henry was fed a preparation of cod liver oil, canned milk and water, from a bottle — nine ounces at a feeding — every three hours! The responsibility for that task fell to the Inspector's wife.

The following morning Henry was put into the water and promptly sank. He

refused to try to swim. So the Inspector and his wife became swimming instructors to a seal. By the end of the first day, Henry had gained enough confidence to swim a little, as long as he could hold the Inspector's hand in his mouth.

Soon he was venturing into the water alone, swimming for a short while, then coming ashore to rest. The Inspector's collie dog took it upon himself to watch over the youngster, ensuring that no other dog could come near.

In time, it was decided that Henry must return to the ocean, but Henry

thought otherwise. He was taken out in a boat and turned loose, but refused to leave. He just swam around for a while, then returned to the boat.

Eventually, because he refused to become a "wild" seal, and because a full-grown seal is rather a large house pet — and perhaps because, by this time, he thought he was "people" — Henry was taken to Sealand of the Pacific, in Victoria, B.C., where he receives all the care and attention he requires, and where he enjoys the admiration of hundreds of friendly visitors.

### News briefs

■ The four western provinces have expressed unanimous opposition to the "user-pay" principle enunciated by federal Transport Minister Otto Lang which calls for users to bear the full costs of transportation without exception.

■ George Knudson of Toronto won the \$20,000 Peter Jackson Ontario Open golf tournament at Hamilton, June 20, with a 54-hole total of 203, ten under par, the first time he had won a tournament since 1972.

■ Marcel Lessard, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, represents Canada at the Seychelles independence celebrations being held from June 26 to July 1.

■ The Department of National Defence will spend \$11.5 million to improve equipment on *Tracker* aircraft for patrolling Canada's proposed 200-mile fisheries zone, said a Department official on June 17.

■ The Canadian International Development Agency will provide \$1.4 million during the next five years to help Botswana develop its road transport system. CIDA made the announcement during the visit to Canada of the President of Botswana.

■ The Commons Justice Committee narrowly defeated on June 16 an amendment to the Government's peace and security legislation that would have made evidence obtained by illegal "wiretaps" inadmissible in court. The Committee passed the gun-control section of the bill that includes about 30 amendments and would require any owner or buyer of rifles, shotguns or ammunition to have a certificate indi-

cating fitness to possess a firearm.

■ Companies that increase their productivity will be allowed additional profits under new incentive regulations released by the Anti-Inflation Board June 15. The draft regulations permit companies to earn at least an 8 per cent return on their investment plus an incentive offer allowing them to increase their profit margin on products even if the average price of those products remains frozen.

■ For the year ending in April, Canada had the fifth lowest consumer price increase of 24 nations surveyed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Canada's 12-month index increase of 8.9 per cent was fifth after Switzerland, West Germany, the United States and Austria.

■ Saskatchewan Liberal leader Dave Steuart announced that he would hand over the leadership of the party at a leadership convention in December.

■ Canadian cable-television operators have incorporated a company, Pay Television Network Ltd, to introduce pay television to Canada under a policy change announced recently by Communications Minister Jeanne Sauvé.

■ National unemployment declined to 7.1 per cent seasonally adjusted, in May from 7.4 per cent in April, the highest in 15 years.

■ Immigration Minister Robert Andras announced on June 21 that about 1,000 Lebanese tourists in Canada would be allowed to remain as refugees from their war-torn country. Canadian regulations will be relaxed to allow them to seek landed immigrant status if the Lebanese community in Canada will help them find work.

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