

WHAT A CAT TEACHES A CHILD

By Doris Weston

Most of us look back to our own childhood with many tender memories of a beloved pet. It may have been anything from a Guppie to a dog or cat.

Loving and caring for a pet teaches a child tenderness — a tough, rough boy can show love and affection for his pet without fear of emarrassment.

Feeding, cleaning and taking care of the physical needs of a cat does help to teach a child responsibility, but too much should not be expected of a small child; he will no doubt need reminding but the cat or kitten should not be neglected however, on account of the child being too young to accept full responsibility for its care.

Cats that have kittens teach a child about birth far better than any words or pictures the human mother could supply. Observing the mother cat grow week by week until time for the eagerly awaited birth and even watching the great event itself, can contribute to the lessons on life as taught by mother cat.

Cats show their love for human friends when treated properly with gentle loving care but are quick to put a mean or thoughtless child in its proper place just as they do their babies; thus a child learns to be gentle or pay the penalty.



Mrs. Weston and Crystolite



Daughter and her cats

Even the death of a kitten teaches compassion for the mother cat and perhaps an understanding of death that is difficult to explain, and that life continues as the mother cat takes good care of the rest of her family and accepts her loss. Many parents hesitate to buy a pet for a child because of the grief felt at its loss, but the pleasure in loving and living with a cat far outshadows the moments of sorrow.

Friendship with a cat is a great lesson in living for any child from six to sixty.