

Health Officials Report 2,662 Bites During Year

"There have been 2,662 bites to humans in the Torrance Health District this past year. Every bite to humans by a warm blooded animal must be investigated," Earl W. Kendrick, M.D., district health officer, explained today.

These bites are investigated to assure that the biting animal did not have rabies. The only way this can be done is to quarantine the animal for observation.

Do not kill the animal after it has bitten a human being, Dr. Kendrick said. Instead someone should watch or follow it so that it can be captured by health or animal shelter officials. If the animal must be killed, however, avoid damage to the head. The head is needed so that the brain can be ex-

amined in the laboratory for evidence of Negri bodies or for demonstration of virus by fluorescent antibody test.

DR. KENDRICK warned that the brain deteriorates rapidly in warm weather. A brain which is allowed to decompose cannot be tested. This can happen within a few hours. If the animal is killed or dies, refrigerate the head or whole animal, if small, in a closed container until it can be transported to the laboratory.

"Many people undergo rabies treatment because the bit animal cannot be located, was destroyed, or the head man- or allowed to decompose," Dr. Kendrick stated. "Get a good description of the offending animal and confine it without

touching, if possible," he added.

ALTHOUGH any warm blooded animal can have rabies, health officials are concerned primarily with domestic animals, especially dogs. Pets need the protection of anti-rabies vaccine. The kind most often used gives immunity for two years.

"Children are most often the victims of animal bites because they are closely associated with household pets. Teach children how to handle pets, do not allow a child to tease a pet, or play with him while it is eating," advised Dr. Kendrick, adding, "Instruct your child to be careful of a mother animal when picking up her young ones."

State Tax Forms Are on the Way

Nearly six million 1968 State income tax forms are on their way to California taxpayers as the Franchise Tax Board completed its annual mailing Dec. 30.

Most California taxpayers will receive a packet of materials containing Form 540 and an instruction booklet, said Martin Huff, executive officer. However, if a taxpayer has moved since filing his return last year, he will not receive his forms directly in the mail and should plan to pick them up at one of the many distribution points located throughout the State.

An additional five million forms are being mailed to banks, chambers of commerce, some U.S. Post Office facilities, and offices of the State Board of Equalization, the State Department of Motor Vehicles, and the

State Department of Employment.

Taxpayers who do not receive forms directly in the mail may pick them up at the above locations or at any office of the Franchise Tax Board, or upon request, they will be sent from the main office at 1025 P St., Sacramento.

Single persons with an adjusted gross income of \$3,250 or more, and married couples with an adjusted gross income of \$6,500 or more, are required to file a return.

The filing deadline is Apr. 15, but an early start in preparing returns may be beneficial to the taxpayer, Huff pointed out. It allows him time to double check his figures and compile his records when he is not under pressure of a last minute deadline, he said.

Icy Mountain Roadways Create Driving Hazards

"Each year more and more people are attracted to the snow-covered mountain playgrounds during the winter months, and many of them become involved in traffic accidents because they haven't taken the proper precautions for the special conditions which prevail," Capt. P. J. Ford of the California Highway Patrol said this week.

"The two most important things to remember when roads are slick from snow or ice are to drive slower and to leave more space between you and the car ahead. Speeds which are safe under normal conditions can be extremely hazardous in snow and ice, and the distance required to stop is very much greater."

The Patrol official noted that whenever snow or ice conditions warrant it, state highway officials may declare a prima facie speed limit of 25 miles per hour. This can be expected at all times when chains are required.

AND, HE noted, there are times when even 25 miles an hour will be hazardous and therefore illegal.

"In snow or blizzard storms, when visibility is limited and roads are icy, California's basic speed law prevails. This states that it is illegal to drive at a speed greater than is 'reasonable and prudent' having due regard for weather and visibility," Captain Ford said.

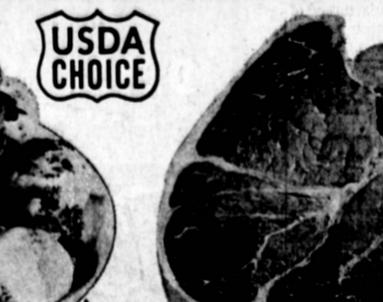
"It is also a misdemeanor to drive without installing tire chains in areas where the 'Chains Required' sign has been posted," he said.

"PARKING IN snow country also presents special problems. Park off the road, so that your vehicle doesn't impede the flow of traffic or interfere with snow clearing equipment. If snow has narrowed the highway so that only traffic lanes are open, don't park. And don't park on a freeway where 'no parking' signs are posted.

"An illegally parked vehicle will probably be ticketed, and, if necessary, towed away, and the owner will be liable for the tow charges."

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