

Articles

The Relationship Between Elderly People and Pets

Hajime SAKUGAWA and Yoshimi HOZUMI

In recent years, it has become known that some of pet owners suffer as if they had lost their close relatives when they lose their pets. The symptoms of pet loss can be serious especially in elderly people.

In the modern industrial society, the aged become removed from productive activity which results in a lower social status. Their human relationships become unsatisfactory, and so-called “disengagement” occurs. This phenomenon is an inevitable result of the industrial society and a clear cut solution is difficult. Communication with pets gives much needed support to elderly people in such situations. Dogs, for example, are very obedient and trust their owners implicitly. This is fundamentally different from actual human relationship. However, the pet owners get a true relationship that is in accord with the pace of the elderly person.

Pets make good companions that can take the place of relationships with humans.

Original Papers

A New Type of Chinese Women in Bing Xin's Novels

Jiang Bo

This thesis analyzes Chinese women described by Bing Xin, a female writer, in her short novels from social and feminine perspective. As the result, two points are clarified as follows.

One is on a new type of woman living in social cataclysm at the end of feudal days. Bing Xin appreciated a well cultivated woman who was awakened to her ego and had her own opinions, while still being a good wife and wise mother. Bing Xin challenged the old-fashioned conventional society in which women were expected to be obedient as a part of their virtue. The other point is that Bing Xin intended to awaken women's consciousness in order to promote a social revolution by showing women's tragedies in her novels. With such a discussion, this thesis may give a new understanding of the writings of Bing Xin.

A Survey on Subjective Symptoms of Fatigue

— Complaints of Fatigue among Workers Engaged in Day and Night Shifts and the Effect of Taking a Nap —

Masana OGATA and Makiko DOI

Complaints of fatigue in 38 care givers working day and night shifts in the special nursing home for the aged were surveyed.

The results obtained were as follows:

1. Complaints of feeling fatigued on the day shift were general type in nature and those on the night shift type were due to the particular condition of night work.
2. Care givers on the night shift felt more fatigue than those on the day shift.
3. Just after taking a nap, care givers, felt more fatigued, and had greater difficulty concentrating on their duties. Therefore, greater care must be taken to protect against unnecessary accidents in the care of