

online

QUICK TIP

Many types of lilies, including Easter lilies, tiger lilies and some daylilies, can cause kidney failure in cats. Even a small amount can be fatal. Seek medical help quickly.

PET DISH / SANDRA ECKSTEIN, seckstein@ajc.com

Efforts to ban dogfights fail again in Legislature

The idea of two dogs ripping each other apart is repugnant to most people. But an effort to get stronger anti-dogfighting legislation through the Georgia General Assembly over the past two years failed again last month.

"I tried everything I could to move it, but I couldn't get it to the House floor," said Sen. Chip Rogers, a Republican from Woodstock, who introduced a bill that would have made it illegal not only to pit dogs in fights, but to own fighting dogs, own the equipment used to train fighting dogs and be a spectator at a dogfight.

Rogers said he wants to protect not only dogs but also people who are being maimed by dogs trained to fight.

"There was a 3-year-old boy in my district who was attacked by a pit bull in his garage," Rogers said. "At first I wanted to ban pit bulls, but when I researched it, I discovered it was the fighters that were making these dogs like this and then letting them run around neighborhoods."

But the bill faced opposition from the beginning. When it was first introduced, it was aimed at stopping all animal fighting or training. John Bowers, director of the Department of Natural Resources said his agency feared the bill was so broad it would have interfered with hunting. Bowers said later changes eliminated the problems, but Rogers said some hunters still were leery.

To appease those against the bill, Rogers said he removed references to everything but dogfighting. They even took out legislation against "hog/dog rosters," which sometimes are torn apart alive by dogs. But during the Senate debate, cockfighting was reinstated, Rogers said, and that brought out the well-

organized and well-funded cockfighting industry.

Rogers' bill sailed through the Senate on a 52-4 vote Feb. 23. But then it hit the non-civil judiciary committee in the House, headed by David Ralston. To get to the House floor for a vote, the bill had to be voted out of Ralston's committee. But Ralston never put it up for a vote before the Legislature adjourned March 30. Ralston, a Republican from Blue Ridge, said there were simply too many other important bills that needed the committee's time.

Ralston also said he had some problems with the bill. He said he wanted to hear from more law enforcement agencies on what's happening with dogfighting and what laws they think will help combat it.

"I agree we need to look at toughening the animal cruelty laws in Georgia," Ralston said, "but I believe both he and his wife were dogs."

Rogers said they agreed to take the cockfighting out again, but that didn't slow the opposition. When asked about calls from cockfighters, Ralston said he didn't keep track of how many people were for or against the bill, but he didn't believe there was an organized cockfighting contingent against the bill.

"I live in a rural area of Georgia and occasionally I hear about cockfights, but I've never heard of a dogfight," said Ralston, who like all legislators is up for re-election this year.

He might have heard of the March 2005 cockfighting raid in Blue Ridge in which five people — including the mayor of Blue Ridge — were arrested. The raid was the result of a four-month investigation that found as many as 300 people crowding into a barn every week to watch roosters fight to

the death.

John Goodwin, who oversees animal fighting issues for the Humane Society of the United States, said that 47 states prohibit possession of a dog with the intent to fight and 48 make it illegal to be a spectator at a fight.

"Under the current Georgia law, police have to follow a fighting ring for months to make a case, and most just don't have that kind of time," Goodwin said. "With what was being proposed, if the training equipment was there, if dogs were clearly used for fighting, then people could be charged."

Despite their disappointment, Rogers and his allies said they will try again next year. And Ralston said he wants to help them get their bill ready for the 2007 session.

"We're going to spend some time on this legislation over the next year so it will be in shape to pass during the next session," Ralston vowed.

Rogers said he is sure it will pass if he can just get it to the House floor.

"I've talked to a lot of people in the House. The support was there," Rogers said. "If we can get it out of committee, it will pass."

Ride for pets

Grab your bicycle or motorcycle and head to Jackson County on Saturday and ride to help homeless animals. The Humane Society of Jackson County is holding Bike Ride '06 starting at the Pendergast Depot. Bicycle riders can choose from a 20-mile or 50-mile loop through rural areas, while motorcycle riders will take a 2- to 2½-hour ride to Blood Mountain and back with a police escort. Lunch will be provided upon return. The ride is \$20 in advance or \$25 the day. The money will go to help

establish a fostering program, for lost-spoof and neuter, and toward a fund to build a shelter. To register or for more information, call 706-367-1111 or go to www.hs-jc.com.

PET OF THE WEEK



Missy, a 2-year-old spayed Australian shepherd/basset hound mix, is an adorable, sweet girl who needs a little tender loving care. Missy is looking for a family that will shower her with the attention and care that she needs to stay happy and healthy. There is no history on Missy regarding children or other animals, so it is recommended that you bring the entire family, including pets, to meet her prior to adoption. She has had her DHLPP vaccinations and has been dewormed. She will be at the Atlanta Humane Society, 981 Howell Mill Road N.W. Sealed bids will be at 1:30 p.m. today.

Jog with a dog

The 20th annual Atlanta Dog Jog will be at Piedmont Park on April 30. The jog is staged by the Greater Atlanta Veterinary Medical Society and will benefit Noah's Ark, a center in Locust Grove that takes in abandoned animals and abused, neglected and orphaned children. There will be a one-mile run/jog at 8:30 a.m. and a two-mile run at 9 a.m. Meet at the park picnic shelter area near the swimming center. Registration is \$25 and includes a T-shirt and race refreshments. Prizes will be awarded in various categories. For more information and to register, go to www.rungorgia.com/dogjog.html. People also can register the day of the event.

Microchip your pet

Tags can be lost, collars can be removed. But a microchip the size of a grain of rice could bring your pet home. Almost all shelters now scan for microchips, and when they find one, they check the company's registry to see who the pet belongs to. If your pet is lost, it's often your best chance to get them back. Microchips can be placed in almost any pet, including dogs, cats and birds.

Atlanta Animal Rescue Friends is holding a microchip clinic 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at Park Pet Supply in East Atlanta Village. For \$35, your pet will be microchipped by a licensed veterinarian. 479A Flat Shoals Ave., Atlanta, 404-588-0140, www.aaratlanta.org.

SPORTS COLLECTIBLES / BILL WAGNER, babewaxpak@charter.net

Hall-worthy player's ball isn't worth a lot

Q: We have a Reach baseball signed by Dale Murphy (the leather has a lot of little nicks) and a Little League bat that is engraved with "Carl Yastrzemski, 12517 Louisville Slugger, Flame Tempered." It is also slightly used.

Gloria Hobbs, Douglasville

A: Dale Murphy, a two-time National League MVP, is still well known for that call from Cooperstown. Tuff Stuff lists a single-signed Murphy ball at \$50. Your ball's value might be hurt by the nicks. I don't think the bat has any value.

Q: I have a baseball signed by Ted Williams and two others.

Ron Cerwonka, Athens

A: Without seeing the ball, there's always a chance that one of those other signatures could be another HOFer. Assuming that the other two

signatures aren't special, the ball is probably worth \$150-\$250, depending on how well Williams' autograph displays.

Q: I have the last 51 years of Sports Illustrated magazines with maybe 20 issues missing. They start in 1956.

Bob Gibson, Atlanta

A: That's a nice run, but you really need those that first year and a half to make it work. "I would finish the run, because it is worth more as a run than as an incomplete run," said Phil Regli, owner of P&R Publications in Irvine, Calif., and a long-time dealer. "A dealer would pay \$3,500-\$4,000 for a run, but would retail it for \$6,500-\$10,000. But an incomplete run would see \$1,000-\$1,500 knocked off the top."

Write to Bill Wagner at Babe Waxpak, Box 492397, Redding, CA 96049-2397.

CHESS / SHELBY LYMAN

Russian titan's exit leaves hole at top

A year has passed since Garry Kasparov shocked the chess world with the announcement of his retirement from competitive chess in order to immerse himself in Russian politics.

Except for a few minor promotional appearances and some important chess-related writing projects, he seems, indeed, to have devoted himself to his new calling. Kasparov — though No. 1 in the world in numerical rating — is no longer included on the World Chess Federation's list of the top 100 active grandmasters.

The omission is more symbolic than substantive, but it reminds us that for the first time in modern chess history the game is lacking a player of the very highest stature.

Veselin Topalov and Viswanathan Anand are the top two on the list — are open to being achieved the same dominance over their peers as their grandmasters of the last 60 years, such as Mikhail Botvinnik, Vassily Smyslov, Mikhail Tal, Tigran Petrosian, Boris Spassky, Bobby Fischer, Anatoly Karpov or Kasparov.

It may be a sign of the times, but demonstrating such superiority is a more difficult matter than it used to be. Chess resources are more widely available around the world because of computers, databases and the Internet. The theoretical knowledge once available only in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe is accessible everywhere.

Even a capacity for exceptionally intense work and immersion in the game — Fischer is the outstanding example — no longer confers the advantage it once did. Most players work substantially harder than previously — often to full capacity.

As in so many phases of modern life, we have entered a new era.

Below is a win by Zamar Efenenko against Julien Arizmenendi Martinez from the Gibraltar Masters in Gibraltar.

	Efenenko	Arizmenendi Martinez
1.	c4	e5
2.	Nc3	Nf6
3.	Nf3	Nc6
4.	d4	e4
5.	Ng5	h6
6.	d5	hxg5
7.	dx6	e4
8.	cx7	Bx7
9.	Bf4	e3
10.	Bxe3	g3
11.	fxg3	Ng4
12.	Qd4	Nxe3
13.	Qxe3ch	Be7
14.	Qd3	Rf8
15.	e4	Bb2
16.	Be2	Rb2
17.	O-O	Be5ch
18.	Kh1	Qe5
19.	Rf4	Bd6
20.	Rg4	Rxh2ch
21.	Kg1	Qc5ch!
22.	White resigns (a)	
(a) If 22. Kxh2, then ... Qh5ch!		
23. Rh4 Qxh4ch 24. Kg1 Bc5ch		
25. Kh1 Qh1 mate.		

BEGINNER'S CORNER

Hint and explanation: Win the rook.

GENEALOGY / KENNETH H. THOMAS JR.

Events in September will mark 1906 Atlanta riot

The remembrance of the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot takes place in September. Brown, Jewish and other local groups are continuing research on that subject. The Metro Atlanta Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society and the Coalition to Remember the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot are seeking family members of those involved in the riot in any capacity.

In particular, they are seeking descendants of individuals murdered or wounded in the riot, so they can be properly recognized during the centennial. Among those known to have been killed or wounded

during the riot: Mattie Adams, Eustace Carter, Milton Brown, Walter Brown, Wiley Brooks, Marshall Carter, Georg Dickerson, Stinson Ferguson, James Fletcher, Frank Fambro, Malcolm Harris, Officer Jim Hard, Andrew Holly, Walter Jeffers, Zeb Long, Leola Maddox, Will Marion, Luther McGee, Sam McGrunder, J.C. McCoy, Jim Middlebrook, Will Moreland, Ben Nelson, Milton Peterson, James N. Reeves, Clem Rhodes, Sam Robinson, Annie Laurie Shepard, Frank Smith, Roy Thomas, Tom Walton, William Wardlaw, Ed Watson, Henry Welch and George Wilder.

If you have any informa-

tion about these individuals, or about any others involved in or witness to the riot, contact the AAHGS at AAHGS.metroatlanta@yahoo.com or Clarissa Myrick-Harris and Cliff Kulin of the Coalition to Remember the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot at publiceducation@1906atlantaraceriot.org or 770-423-6069. Mailing address for Cliff Kuhn: History Department, Georgia State University, P.O. Box 4117, Atlanta, GA 30302-4117.

Information on the riot and planned events is at www.1906atlantaraceriot.org.

Georgia Salzbergers

The Georgia Salzburger Society, including its Greater Atlanta chapter, has many activities going on and several new publications. The Web site for the state society is www.georgiasalzbergers.com, and publications are listed there. The society and museum are at 2980 Ebenezer Road, Rincón, GA 31326. The museum is housed in the circa-1760s Jerusalem Church, among the oldest church buildings in Georgia — is open only a few days a week, so call 912-754-7700 before you go.

In 2004, the society published an expanded, four-volume set of "Georgia Salzberg-

ers and Allied Families," which can be found in the Georgia Atlanta chapter, the central library (Marietta) of the Cobb County library system and at Washington Memorial Library in Marietta. They are working toward further translations from the German of unpublished letters of Pastor Bolzius.

For information about the Greater Atlanta chapter, which meets twice a year (next meeting is Sept. 24), contact president James Heidt at the state society's address above.

Contact Kenneth H. Thomas Jr. at P.O. Box 901, Decatur, GA 30031, or the Web site www.gagsociety.org

Solution to BEGINNER'S CORNER: 1... g6! If 2. Rxh6... Bd2ch gets the rook.