

'Takes a Lot of Love' Depicts People, Pets

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NEW YORK—You could hardly do better in these troubled days for the beleaguered television networks than CBS' Wednesday night special, "It Takes a Lot of Love."

It was an hour dedicated to man's love for animals and vice versa. There was a boy and his dog, a girl and her horse, an old lady and her cat, a woman with a 60-pound beaver who likes to sit in her lap—all very gentle and sentimental.

Sponsored by a pet food company, the program was the sort to warm the cockles of the nation's animal lovers, who make up an enormous segment of a population which supports, according to the program, 24,184 veterinarians and 71 million cats and dogs.

It was a curious mixture of cliché and interesting feature material put together skillfully blended. It opened with breakable shots of a poppy playing with a ball and learning about newspapers. Then it moved to the more heart-tugging problem of young people trying to find a home for unwanted kittens.

An interesting portion showed the work of a Montgomery County, Ga., dog warden—not dog catcher, he insists—who spends most of his time trying to reunite lost pets with their owners and find homes for strays. His great triumph was to reunite a savage pit bull dog with a home in a happy life as watchdog for a lumber yard.

The program moved on

to a young man living in the Snake River country of the West with a "friendly eagle" for a pet; a California business couple with a bright chimp named Moe which has acceptable table manners; a red setter named Laramie who is an unofficial member of the staff of a Missouri mental hospital and can teach the habits of children with greater ease than psychiatrists.

A down-to-earth segment showed the ranch which a Utah politician has turned into an animal preserve. He finds, he said, that after dealing with people all day, animals are relaxing and undemanding. He has discovered, incidentally, that buffalo are the most affectionate of his wild pets.

The program was a refreshing change of pace in specials—warm, happy, funny at times. It was also a fantasy of sorts since it was a world inhabited by happy, cared-for animals.

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