



# it's a dogs world

## 'TICH' BRAY

I COULDN'T believe my eyes, but there it was, in black and white—a chastity belt for bitches!!

I spotted the item in a Brisbane newspaper, and immediately thought: "Hullo, here's another gimmick." But, being curious, I decided to follow it up with the vague thought that it may have something to offer. It was certainly no gimmick, and I feel, well worthy of inclusion with the countless number of dog accessories available these days.

At first glance, the mere mention of a chastity belt or harness is inclined to raise a smile, as endless jokes have been woven around these two words. Whether it was feasible or extensively employed by our over-protective forefathers remains to be proved. But there was no doubt that it served a worthwhile purpose, and probably was among the first crude attempts at preventing unwanted pregnancies. However, to the dog owner with a bitch in season and an unwanted pregnancy on the cards, it is no joke.

The newspaper item referred to a "NO-MATE" chastity harness for bitches in season, which was recently introduced on the market. I found that a fine old Scotts gentleman named George Robinson, of Grantham, about 70 miles from Brisbane was responsible for the advertisement. He is an inventor of no mean talents and his brainwaves and adaptations cover a wide and varied field ranging from farming mechanical aids, to horses and greyhounds on his stud property. George patented the harness early in 1973 after many years of experimenting with it on his own brood bitches.

Kennelling the seasonal bitch securely for three weeks every six months is the obvious solution to an unwanted mating, but accidents and "near-misses" happen in the most respectable establishments.

I asked George how he came up with the harness idea.

"For the past 10 years I've been kicking the idea around and working at it in my spare time," he said. "I've had dogs all my life, but when I became interested in Greyhounds and starting breeding, I decided to put in the finishing touches on my harness."

"When did you first get this brain-wave?" I asked.

"I came up with the idea of the harness about 1963 when I tried a rough covering on a Dobermann bitch I owned. But it took a lot of experimenting with various leathers and positioning of straps which "stay put" and don't interfere with the bitch's natural body functions, before I was satisfied."

"How effective do you claim it is?"

"I have thoroughly tested my harness on many bitches in season, and not one dog used in the tests had the slightest chance of achieving a mating. When adjusted correctly, the harness is 100% effective," he claimed. "I can tell you, there are some very puzzled dogs up around my way," he added with a smile.

I asked about the bitch trying to chew

the harness off. He said: "Although I've never seen this happen, it's advisable to watch the bitch for the first couple of days until she is accustomed to it. I might add, that the protective flap can't possibly be pushed aside by the dog in his efforts to mate."

Mr. Johnston's harness is efficiently handmade from soft, strong Boxhide leather. The main flap covering the reproductive organs is approximately 7" x 5" and held in place by inch wide straps with chrome buckles firmly and smoothly riveted (see illustration).

The easily adjusted non-slip harness holds the flap in position, and a mating by the most determined dog is an impossibility, no matter how willing the bitch may be. The harness in no way in-



The "NO-MATE" harness in position on the author's brood bitch, illustrates the simplicity of Mr. Johnston's invention.

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