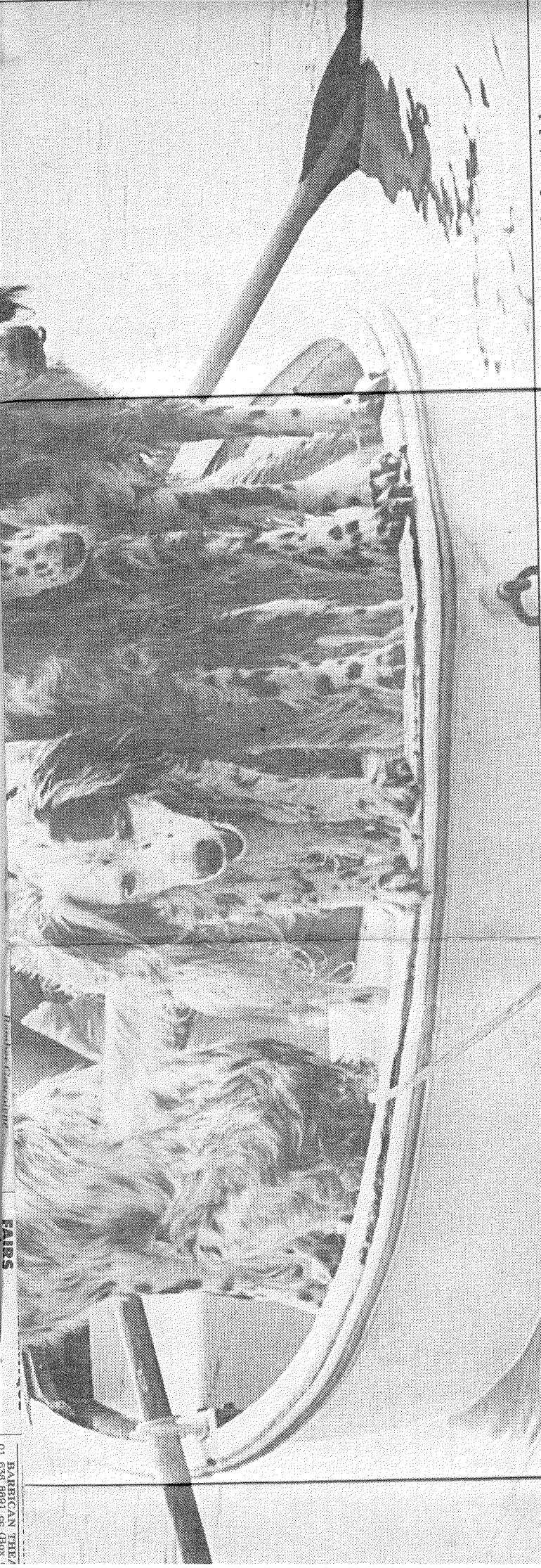




New course: Brigitte Bardot at St-Tropez with some of her 100 pets. "When I think of what animals suffer, I cry and cry." Left: Her poem on the plight of a deserted dog

BARDOT'S ANIMAL PASSIONS

With a British newspaper, Brigitte Bardot explains why she has emerged of animal rights, a crusade which this week sees her World Festival for perry spoke to her and examines the life of a sex kitten turned tigress

importation. The subject has scarcely been out of the news since.

Bardot strusses at every turn that she has reappeared on the screen only for the cause. She never liked the cinema, she says, and calls it "a métier of idiots". Withering honesty she also admits: "It is no fun to go in front of the cameras at 5 and show how I look now. It is not a return. I am not an actress going back. I am myself and I do it only to sound a cry of alarm."

For the same reasons, perhaps,

think that one will one day look like an old map of France," she has said.

Bravely, she stuck to her decision and left the myth more or less intact. But her passing years, unrecorded on celluloid, have been marked by the press like milestones for a generation: Bardot at 30, 40, 45, 50 and now 55. The hedonistic, hoydenish memory she left fades slowly and a little painfully.

Her growing commitment to the cause of animals — their rights, welfare and conservation — was at first dis-

female ass. Mimosa, took a vigorous fancy to his hostess's 32-year-old mare.

Bardot was frantic: Charly's attentions, if allowed to proceed, would prove fatal to such an old lady. Bardot had no space on the property to separate the beasts, and she could not contact Charly's owner. So, on advice from a local vet, she had the ardent beast castrated under anaesthetic. Charly seemed not to mind too much, but his owner was enraged and the story was the subject of great ribaldry in St-Tropez this summer. Bardot is appalled by the way the incident was reported.

From the outset, Brigitte was more a personality than a performer. If now she claims to play her real self, in 1955 she was not doing much else. Indeed, as Vadim saw, that was her secret. "She

Bardot père is said to have declared when his daughter went for her first (unsuccessful) film test. But, like it or not, that is what all his devoted severants had bred. Significantly, as her fame and daring grew, threats and protests came from family organisations and the O.A. Young people loved her.

As Glenys Roberts wrote in her 1971 biography of Bardot, the young "had had enough of watching the older generation make a mess of things all over the world and those in occupied Paris had good reason to feel particularly vulnerable. All over Europe, students led the universities because they felt before their time; they wanted to get with real, not theoretical, life. They had seen the fighting, now they wanted experience something good before

