March 14, 1967 J. L. ARTIG 3,308,789

MINIATURE HOUSING FOR PETS AND THE LIKE

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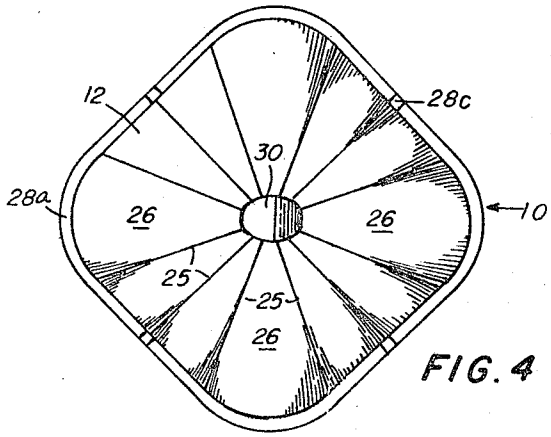


FIG. 4

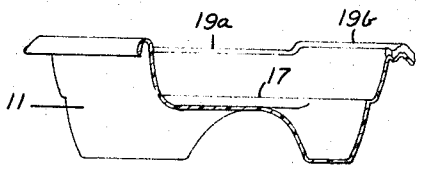


FIG. 5

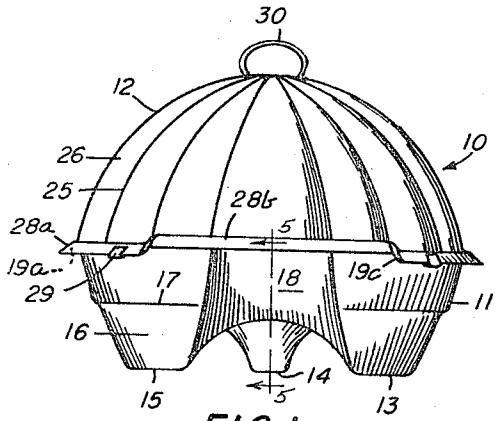


FIG. 1

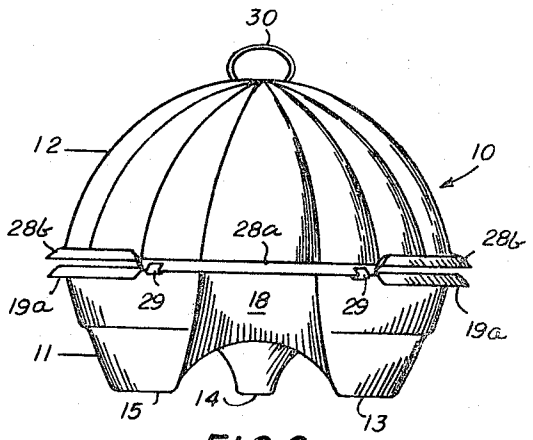


FIG. 2

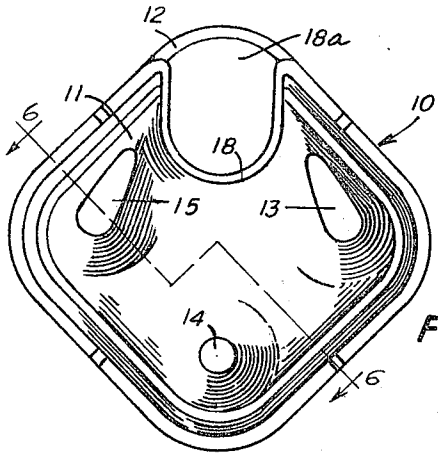


FIG. 3

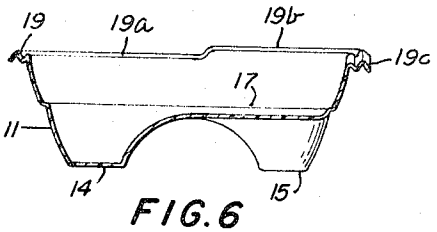


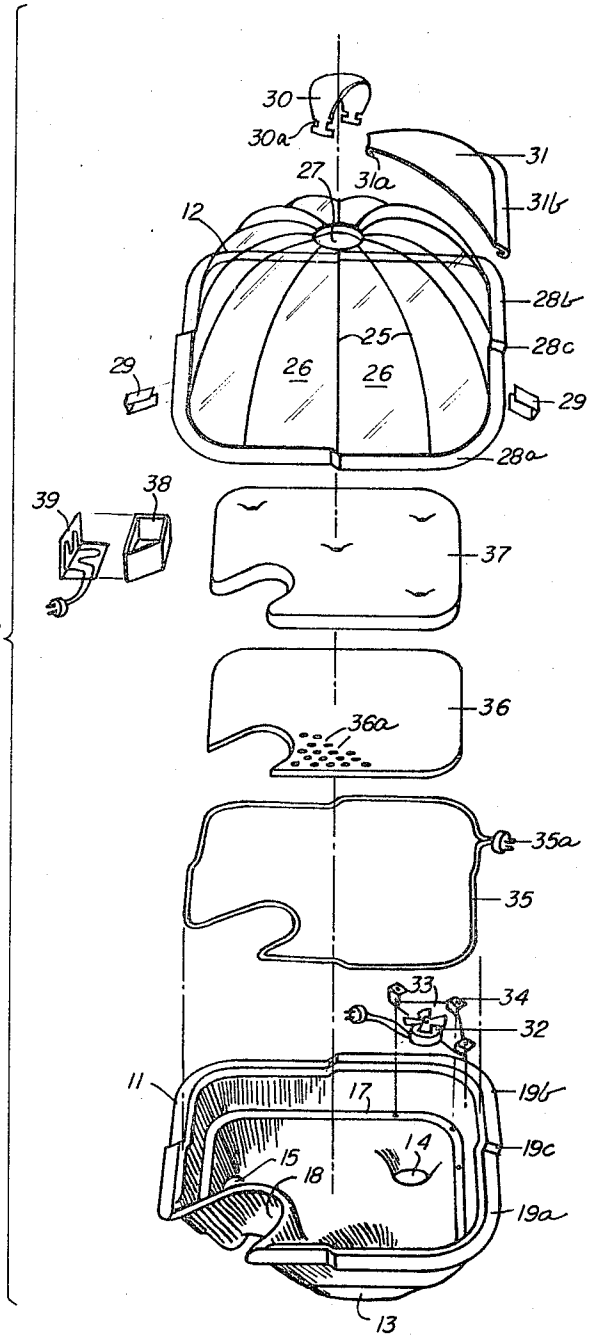
FIG. 6

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FIG. 7



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MINIATURE HOUSING FOR PETS AND THE LIKE

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17 Claims. (Cl. 119—19)

This invention is directed to improvements in building structures and in particular to a building having a bottom and a top received thereon with an access opening in the bottom that is covered by the top and eliminates drafts.

An object of the invention is to provide a structure or shelter that has a bottom with a removable, generally dome shaped top, the bottom having a vertical access opening over which the top also extends so as to cut down drafts and entrance of rain and snow.

Another object of the invention is to provide a shelter for pets that has a transparent removable upper member to provide for the pet to see out ond to be viewed from without and to provide for easy removal of the top for cleaning the shelter.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a shelter for pets and the like which is attractive, has little if any upkeep and which may have adequate ventilation, heating to afford comfort for the housed pet.

Still further objects and the entire scope of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description given hereinafter. It should be understood, however, that the detailed description and specific example is given by way of illustration only and, while indicating preferred embodiment of the invention, is not given by way of limitation, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.

For a more complete understanding of the invention reference is made to the drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a side elevation of the building structure;

FIG. 2 is a view similar to FIG. 1 with the upper member oriented 90° with respect to the lower member to leave a space between adjacent edge portions of the upper and lower members;

FIG. 3 is a bottom plan view of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a sectional view of FIG. 1 along line **5**—**5**;

FIG. 6 is a sectional view along line **6**—**6** of FIG. 3 showing only the lower member; and

FIG. 7 is an exploded view in perspective of the building structure of FIG. 1 with interior and exterior accessories.

Throughout the description like reference numbers refer to similar parts.

This building structure is particularly adaptable in various sizes for housing pets such as dogs, cats, hamsters and the like. The structure here shown is about 42 inches on each side at the juncture of the lower and upper members. The domed upper member is about 22 inches high. The bowl shaped lower member is about 16 inches deep. Large sizes of the structure can be adaptable to play houses for small children. In such a case as a play house the lower member could be modified to be flat with depending legs.

The building structure or shelter is generally indicated at **10** and comprises a lower member **11** of molded bowl-like shape and an upper member **12** of dome shape received by the upper edge of the lower member **11**.

The lower member **11** here shown is a molded member of polystyrene material that may be painted. It is molded in bowl shape having three spaced apart depending hollow leg portions **13**, **14** and **15** that are hollow and can have ballast such as sand and small rocks placed therein to hold down the lower or bottom member. The lower member **11** is formed with a wall portion **16** that tapers inwardly from top edge to bottom and has an inwardly offset ledge **17** formed therein intermediate the top and bottom to serve as a support for a floor board to be described. The wall **16** adjacent or between legs **13** and **15** protrudes inwardly at **18** so as to form an access opening **18***a* disposed generally vertically through which ingress and egress is made. The upper edge of the lower member **11** is made as a transversely outwardly extending flange **19** shaped to drain off rain and melting ice and snow. This flanged edge **19** has four stepped portions. Two of these stepped portions **19***a* are of one height and two portions **19***b* are of a slightly higher height. Between the flange portions **19***a* and **19***b* there is a sloping transition portion **19***c* joining adjacent portions **19***a* and **19***b*.

The bowl shaped bottom has a generally square flanged upper edge with three rounded corners and the access recess **18***a* at the fourth corner location in the depicted shelter or building structure.

The upper member **12** in the form shown is dome shaped and is of a transparent material such as Plexiglas of about 3/16" stock. It is formed from a sheet of stock 42 inches square in the structure depicted. The material is heated and blown on one side while a vacuum is applied to the opposite side. A mold is provided for the dome and with it rods are bent and placed to form the valleys **25** between the billowing out segments **26** which converge toward their top ends. This design adds strength to the upper member. The peak of the upper member terminates in a ventilation aperature **27**, see FIG. 7, of about 4 inches diameter and the dome is about 16 inches high. The lower edge of the upper member is flanged at **28***a* and **28***b* and stepped corresponding with the flanged upper edge of the lower member. A transition portion **28***c* joins the flanged stepped portions **28***a* and **28***b*. Suitable U-shaped clips **29** are slipped over the abutting flanged portions of the lower and upper members.

The upper member **12** may be placed in direct flush contact with the lower member **11** as shown in FIG.1 and the U-shaped clips **29** slipped on to hold the member together. In FIG. 2 the upper member **12** is oriented about 90° to the lower member **11** so as to leave a space between flanges **19***a* and **28***b* as a ventilation passage.

The access passage **18***a*, see FIG. 3, is covered over by the upper member **12** and this generally vertically extending passage serves as a means of access, yet prevents drafts, rain and snow from entering the structure. It serves as an airlock for ingress and egress.

A ventilation cap **30** of formed U-like shape but having a curvature transverse to the U-shape has notched portions **30***a* so as to be received in the aperture **27** in the peak of the upper member. This cap might have a number of vertically spaced apart notches so that the cap could be raised or lowered, thus permitting control of the flow of air through the structure which enters through the passageway **18***a* and rises and leaves the structure through aperture **27**. The ventilation cap or wind scoop may be oriented in any attitude through 360°.

A sun shade **31** of opaque material generally triangular in shape is provided to cover about a third of the upper member. This shade **31** has upper hooks **31***a* received by the edge of aperture **27** and a lower hooked edge **31***b* received over the flanged bottom edge of the upper member. In place of the sun share, a portion of the upper member could be painted with non-toxic paint to provide a shaded area for the pet.

In FIG. 7 the billowing segments **26** are best shown as their upper ends billow out and then inwardly to meet to form the aperture **27**. Also in FIG. 7 the various accessories that may be used are illustrated.

In the lower member there may be installed an electric fan **32** that is mounted on a triangular plate **33** having upstanding angle brackets **34** that rest on the ledge **17** and are apertured to receive suitable securing screws. This mounting of the fan places it below the level of the ledge **17**. Also mounted in the lower member and below the area of ledge **17** is an electrical heating cord **35** having a protective plastic cover and a plug **35***a* that may be plugged into an electrical power cord (not shown).

On the ledge **17** is received a floor board that has vertical apertures **36***a* therethrough to provide for ventilation from the fan **32**. A suitable mattress **37** may be placed on the floor board **36**. If the weather is warm, a pad filled with cedar shavings could be used which would provide ventilation therethrough. If colder weather is had, a foam rubber pad could be used for more warmth.

A further accessory is a watering pan **38** that is mounted on its own electrical heater unit **39** that is attached to the wall **18** of the lower member **11**.

If the floor board **36** is not desired, the lower member **11** can have straw placed therein.

The airlock feature of the access passage **18***a* keeps out drafts and prevents entry of rain and snow. Control of the flow of air through the interior may be adjusted by the vent cap **30** and by the vent openings created at the juncture of the lower and upper members. When the side vents are closed and the top vent nearly closed, as may be provided for by placing more spaced notches **30***a* therein, only enough air goes through the interior to permit the pet to be comfortable. Blowing snow, for example, will approach the opening **18***a* and falls down without entering the interior. In extreme cold weather there is as much as 28 degrees difference between the outside and inside temperatures with a hunting dog occupying the interior without supplied heat. In extreme cold weather areas, the heating wire may be used. The heating wire also acts to defrost the upper member.

While a square shape at the juncture of the upper and lower members has been illustrated for the building structure other shapes as round, square and triangular could be utilized. In case of a larger structure for a childrens play house, a flat bottom with legs would be used and the upper member would be higher and probably opaque with windows.

I claim as my invention:

1. A building structure for housing animals comprising a lower member having a hollow bottom, open at its top and having a side wall and spaced apart ground engaging leg means, said side wall having an inwardly recessed portion forming an opening extending generally vertically for ingress and egress to the lower member, said leg means being closed at their bottom and sides and open at their top, and adapted to receive material to weigh the lower member down, and an upper member that is hollow and open at its bottom received and supported by the lower member with a portion extending outwardly beyond and above said inwardly protruding wall portion of the lower member whereby the opening for ingress and egress is covered by the upper member.

2. A building structure according to claim **1** wherein a portion of the inwardly protruding wall forms portions of two of the spaced apart leg means.

3. A building structure comprising a lower member having a hollow bottom open at its top and having a side wall and spaced apart ground engaging leg means, said side wall having an inwardly recessed portion forming an opening extending generally vertically and providing a passage for ingress and egress, and an inverted cup-shaped upper member that is hollow and open at its bottom received and supported by the lower member and having a portion extending above and over said inwardly recessed wall portion of the lower member thereby providing a cover over the same.

4. A building structure comprising a lower member having a hollow bottom open at the top and having a side wall and spaced apart ground engaging leg means, said side wall having an inwardly recessed portion forming an opening extending generally vertically and providing a passage for ingress and egress to the lower member, said wall of the lower member having a generally transversely extending flange at its top on a portion thereof, said wall at its top flanged portion having a portion thereof extending upward a relatively short distance beyond the rest of the flanged top of the wall, and an upper member that is hollow and open at its bottom received and supported by the lower member with a portion extending outwardly beyond and above said inwardly recessed wall portion of the lower member, the bottom of said upper member having flanged portions thereof complementary to the flanged top portions of the lower member whereby the upper member may be supported by the lower member in at least two different positions thereby fitting flush therewith or leaving an opening between the lower and upper member in portions for ventilation therethrough.

5. A building structure according to claim **4** wherein a portion of the inwardly protruding wall forms portions of two of the spaced apart leg means.

6. A building structure according to claim **4** wherein the upper member has a vent means in an upper portion thereof which permits control of the flow of air through the structure.

7. A building structure according to claim **6** wherein said upper member is transparent and has opaque means for a portion thereof.

8. A building structure according to claim **4** wherein the lower member has the side wall tapering inwardly from top to bottom and a horizontal inwardly extending ledge is formed therein intermediate its bottom and top and a removable floor supported on said ledge.

9. A building structure according to claim **8** including heating means and power driven ventilating means housed therein.

10. A building structure according to claim **9** wherein said removable floor has perforations extending vertically therethrough and said heating means and power driven ventilating means are positioned below said floor.

11. A building structure according to claim **10** wherein said upper member is transparent and including an opaque means adjustably positionable to blank out a portion of said transparent upper member.

12. A building structure according to claim **8** wherein said lower member at its top and said upper members at its bottom are generally square in plan and having round corners with said inwardly protruding side wall portion being at one of the corners of the lower member.

13. A building structure according to claim **8** wherein said top member is dome shaped and having outwardly protruding segments joined together integrally in ribbed valley portions so as to add strength to the top member.

14. A building structure comprising a lower member having a bowl-like shaped bottom and depending spaced apart ground engaging leg portions formed therein, said bowl-shaped bottom having an inwardly recessed portion forming an opening extending generally vertically and providing a passage for ingress and egress, and an inverted upper member received on said lower member that is dome-shaped and open at its bottom and having outwardly protruding segments joined together integrally

in ribbed valley portions whereby to strengthen the top, said upper member having a portion extending above and over said inwardly recessed wall portion of the lower member thereby providing a cover over the same.

15. A building structure according to claim **14** wherein the upper member has its segments terminating at their upper ends to form a vent aperture in the peak of the upper member.

16. A building structure according to claim **15** wherein the upper member is transparent and has opaque means for shading a portion thereof.

17. A building structure according to claim **16** wherein said lower member has its upper edge formed with a flange and said edge has stepped portions, said upper member is also formed with a flange and complementary stepped portions to those of the lower member so spaced that the upper member may be oriented with respect to the lower member to be supported in one position in spaced relation thereto to provide vent openings at portions of the lower and upper member.

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