

## READING, WRITING, CHATTERING CHIMPS

Aline Amon (*Atheneum*, \$7.95)

### WHY CHIMPS CAN READ

Ann J. Premack (*Harper & Row*, \$7.95)

Invariably any assault upon the humane ethic begins with the allegation we are guilty of anthropomorphism in attributing human characteristics to other creatures. Yet, anyone who has ever lived with a dog or cat must acknowledge that these animals do indeed possess individual personalities and can express joy, sorrow, aggression, submission and other human emotions. Recent revelations in animal behavior are revolutionizing the way we regard other life forms. Not too many years ago scientists defined man as the only animal who made tools. However Jane Goodall observed chimpanzees in the wild fashioning and using basic tools to gather food. Scientists then reasoned that language and intelligence were the related key which distinguished man from other species. Certainly, no creature less intelligent than humans could use words or build sentences. However, two new books indicate that man's self-created image as the only intelligent species may be in jeopardy.

Aline Amon is a casual observer of primate language studies. In *Reading, Writing, Chattering Chimps* she relates the surprising story of

language training projects. In a book interlaced with humorous anecdotes Ms. Amon reviews primate studies from their origins in the 1930's to the famous studies with Lana at the Yerkes Primate Research Center. Ms. Amon tells of Washoe the spirited chimp who enjoyed playing with sign language and making jokes. She recounts how once when sneaking into a forbidden area Washoe warned herself QUIET in sign language. The reader cannot help but be amused and enlightened by *Reading, Writing, Chattering Chimps*.

*Why Chimps Can Read* is a scholarly step-by-step account of the training of another famous chimpanzee pioneer, Sarah. This chimp used an innovative set of plastic language symbols which were designed by the author's husband, Dr. David Premack. The reader is provided with a glimpse of the history of primate language research as seen from the scientific perspective. Ann Premack discusses the complex and difficult problems of designing a research program which fully explores a chimps ability. She discusses the indifference with which the scientific community has apparently greeted these projects and she stresses the importance of continuing this work not only in terms of our increased ability to understand and communicate with other creatures but because of the potential for assisting retarded persons and humans with learning disabilities.



shoe



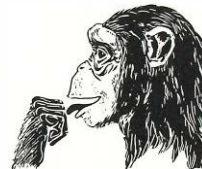
pencil (write)



banana



house



lollipop

## Calif. Voters Say "NO" To Dog Race Betting! HSUS Aids Outcome

**13** is an unlucky number for California dog racing proponents. On election day, golden state voters loudly said "no" to Proposition 13 which would have allowed pari-mutuel betting on greyhound racing.

According to Charlene Drennon, HSUS West Coast Regional Director, "The proposition was soundly whipped by a 3 to 1 vote. Clearly, Californians don't want to encourage the hidden cruelties in greyhound racing."

Pushed by George Hardie, Director of The Golden State Greyhound Association, Proposition 13 was presented as the "pot of gold at the end of the rainbow". Racing supporters

promised "retirement farms" for old dogs, and increased revenues for the schools.

The Proposition contained one big loophole. The use of live rabbits to train greyhounds is already illegal in California. But, Proposition 13 did not prohibit bringing in out-of-state dogs who probably would have been trained with live rabbits.

Proposition 13 was beaten by the combined effort of many local humane societies, individual humanitarians and The HSUS who also did a special mailing to Californians asking for the "no" vote. The Humane Society of the United States proudly salutes the Californians who defeated Proposition 13.