COYOTE PUPS ARE NORMALLY KILLED IN THE PREDATOR CONTROL PROGRAM WHEN THEIR DEN IS DISCOVERED. THIS PUP WAS SAVED AND SUCCESSFULLY RELEASED IN A PROTECTED AREA WHEN OLDER.
PRESIDENT ORDERS BAN ON PREDATOR POISONING

The concerted effort of people objecting to the mis­
treatment of animals has created a public awareness,
striking at the conscience of our own government. On
February 8 President Nixon climaxed this concern with
an Executive Order, banning the poisoning of predators
on all federal lands. The order refers to 'chemical
toxicants,' which includes strychnine and the deadly
poison 1080. It also bans any other "chemical substance,
which, when ingested, inhaled, or absorbed, or when
applied to or injected into the body, in relatively small
amounts......may cause bodily malfunction, injury, ill­
ness, or death, to animals or man."

The Executive Order deals not only with the direct pois­
oning of animals, but also prohibits its use to cause a
'secondary poisoning effect.' Clearly it reflects the
President's understanding of the vast amount of destruc­
tion of animal life the poison 1080 has caused, continu­
ing its lethal effect in additional food chains as ani­
mals feed on carcasses of poisoned animals. A ban by
Executive Order that so significantly protects such a
multitude of animals from destruction is a major mile­
stone in the history of America and its growing awareness
and appreciation and concern for animal life. KIND mem­
bers who have worked tirelessly to inform their associates
of the cruelty and suffering caused by poisons have ach­
ieved success more quickly than any of us dared hope.

The Humane Society had enjoined the government in court
action to abandon the entire predator control program as
it is now operated. Assistance to ranchers by state
agents, to eliminate target predators that have turned
to destroying livestock, is preferable to wholesale des­
truction of all predators. No decision had been made on
this case prior to the time the Executive Order was iss­
ued. It is reasonable to assume that the Executive Order
may have been issued because of this court suit.

Three bills have been introduced in Congress proposing
to ban the use of poisons in the predator control pro­
gram. Rogers Morton, Secretary of the Department of
Interior, recently announced publicly he planned to send
a fourth bill to Congress, containing similar provisions.

An Executive Order is the most effective means of obtain­
ing immediate change in the policies of a government agen­
cy. It is, however, action that could be rescinded by a
later administration, and should, therefore, be considered
only a temporary, though significant, victory. Enactment
of the pending legislation by Congress would, however,
establish national policy and the poisoning would be stop­
ped permanently. We fully expect the Congress to act on
these measures without difficulty in this session, affirm­
ing the stand taken by the President.

Letters to Congressmen and other public officials are
effective. Your letters to your own Congressmen and to
members of the committees that will study these bills
will help get them passed. In the meantime, we can re­
jocie in the fact that coyotes will not be poisoned this
year.

A word of caution is timely because the President's
order was confined to the use of 'chemical toxicants.'
This will undoubtedly mean that agents of the Depart­
ment of Interior, under heavy pressure from sheep ran­
chers, will use traps more extensively to destroy coy­
otes. It is critical, therefore, that members of Con­
gress learn of the cruelties caused by the steel jaw
trap, and be persuaded to support legislation that would
ban its use. Bills that would do just that have been
introduced, but may need a great amount of public sup­
port to be enacted. Information on these legislative
proposals, and the various committees where the bills
will be studied are listed below. You can do your share
by writing your Congressmen and the chairmen of these
committees, urging speedy enactment of this legislation to provide further protection for coyotes. You may also order the number of copies you need of a free trapping leaflet, to distribute to others to urge them to help. Simply let us know how many leaflets about the cruelties of trapping you can use effectively.

TO BAN STEEL JAW TRAPS

S. 2084, introduced by Senator Bayh, and referred to the Senate Commerce Committee. Senator Warren G. Magnuson is Chairman.

H.R. 8784, introduced by Representative Broomfield, and referred to the House Committee on Interior and Foreign Commerce. Representative Wayne N. Aspinall is Chairman.

All Senators may be addressed at: Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Address all Representatives at: House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

EARTH WEEK -- April 17-23 being considered by Congress, suggested by Senator Gaylord Nelson.

PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE

"Wild places and wild things constitute a treasure to be cherished and protected for all time. The pleasure and refreshment which they give man confirm their value to society. More importantly perhaps, the wonder, beauty, and elemental force in which the least of them share suggest a higher right to exist--not granted them by man and not his to take away. In environmental policy as anywhere else we cannot deal in absolutes. Yet we can at least give considerations like these more relative weight in the seventies, and become a more civilized people in a healthier land because of it".

from President Nixon's message to Congress, February 9, 1972

PHOTO COURTESY WFPA

CANADA BANS KILLING OF SEALS BY PLANE OR SHIP

A little-publicized announcement, released in limited copies, reports a ban by the Canadian Government on the killing of seals by plane or ship. This ban will put an end to the annual bloodshed on the ice floes of the Gulf of the St. Lawrence River. Pregnant Harp Seals migrate annually to this site, arriving usually in February, and give birth to their baby white-coat pups during the last of February or the first part of March. The grey-white fur of the baby white-coats is especially prized in the fur industry. Men armed with clubs have traditionally killed these baby seals every year when they were but a few weeks old. The public protest against the killing of the baby seals has been significant. The Canadian Government attempted to placate the public last year by delaying the date of the killing until the baby seals were a little older. This did not have the effect that was intended and people still disapproved of the killing.

Share your newsletter with a friend, who may want to join KIND, too. Annual dues are $2. Membership application:

__________________________  __________________________
name                       birthdate: date,month,year
__________________________  __________________________
RFD or street  # street    city  state  zip
KINDNESS CLUB ages 6-10, DEFENDERS 11-14, EcolOkIND 15-18
The recent announcement of a ban applies to the killing of seals with the use of planes or ships. There is no other way, of course, to get to the ice floes, so the elimination of planes and ships effectively stops this annual seal slaughter. The reason for the ban was advanced as a concern that the species might be endangered. It is more probable that the Canadian Government has finally bowed to the demands of an irate public conscience, but is still reluctant to admit the clubbing of seals had tarnished its public image.

ECOLOKIND EXPLORERS IN ACTION

A new kind of activity for both boys and girls has been developed with the help of Boy Scouts of America. Scout representatives help to organize Explorer Posts for high school students whenever a program of community improvement can be suggested. A unique Explorer Post is #9041 in Bel Air, Md., chartered in February. Post #9041 will help its local animal shelter, operated by the Humane Society of Harford County.

Girls man the shelter on Sundays so more people can see animals available for adoption. Previously the society was unable to hire enough staff to keep the shelter open seven days a week. Post #9041 is planning a campaign to stop abandonment of pets and another to develop 11 acres owned by the society as a wildlife refuge.

Explorers in Post #9041 have enrolled in KIND. They plan to attend a special weekend seminar at KIND headquarters to learn how to care for animals in a shelter operation. This will be scheduled in the spring and will include inspection of the Center's wildlife areas and forestation and wildlife cover programs.

A UNIQUE YOUTH PROGRAM

Last year the Canadian Government set up the Federal Opportunities Youth Program, to offer meaningful employment to students during summer vacation. They didn't just grant money to hire students to do routine jobs. They offered instead to hire the students who suggested the projects that accomplished the most for a community. About 28,000 high school and college students participated last year. Public reaction has been so good that 29,000 job openings will be available this year, funded by $33 million. If we had such a program in the U.S., what kind of project would you suggest? Give it some thought. Perhaps your suggestions will be of interest to local city or county officials. Write to them and see what happens. They may even know how such a project could be funded.

The President's message to Congress February 9 was entitled "Environmental Awakening." Included in it was a program for 'Enlisting the Young.' Four programs are underway which you may want to learn about. They are:

- The President's Environmental Merit Awards Program for high schools. Ask your own high school if it is participating in this program.
- Youth opportunities in the Department of Agriculture's Field Scout program. Youth will count the numbers and types of insects in control plots to help farmers determine if insect controls are needed or not, and what insects must be controlled. Write your State Department of Agriculture at your State Agriculture University or College for more information.
- The Environmental Protection Agency is helping state and local pollution control agencies to monitor pollution, enlisting young people. Ask local pollution control agencies about this program.
- Neighborhood Youth Corps, Job Corps, and other agencies enlist young people in helping on inner city problems. Inquire from city officials if your city has such a program.
MEMBERS OF NEW EXPLORER POST #9041 AT CHARTER PRESENTATION MEETING. (SEE STORY PAGE 6). Photo Laurel Glen Studios

This is recycled paper.