KINDNESS
CIRCLES
THE
EARTH

Members of
The International
Kindness Club,
Representing You,
March On The
Australian
Embassy
To Present
The Kangaroo
Petitions You
Sent to KIND.

Photo courtesy World Federation for the Protection of Animals  R. Senn, Photographer
The steel jaw trap is one of the cruelest devices invented by man. Every year several million American wild animals are killed for their fur by trappers. Most of them die slowly and painfully, after having a leg or a paw caught in a powerful steel jaw (or leghold) trap.

The steel jaw trap is one of the cruelest devices invented by man. It can be hidden under grass along a well-trodden animal path, under water, or among the leaves of a tree. When triggered by an animal's weight, the heavy steel jaws spring shut over a paw or a leg with such force that bones are sometimes broken. Some leghold traps contain sharp steel teeth that pierce all the way through flesh and muscles.

As the animal realizes he is trapped, his fear mounts to the point of panic. He bites frantically at the trap, often breaking his teeth. He twists and pulls his leg to free himself, increasing the pain even more. As the pain becomes unbearable, many animals completely chew or twist off their own legs to free themselves. They then face death from loss of blood, gangrene, or infection. At best, they will spend the rest of their lives at the mercy of predators because of their reduced mobility.

For the ones that remain in the traps, hunger and thirst soon set in. Because most animals are trapped in winter when their furs are in prime condition, the victims are exposed to the cold and often soaked by rain and snow. Their tongues sometimes get stuck against the cold steel as they try to free themselves. And, in his helpless situation, the trapped animal often finds himself at the mercy of a predatory animal, who soon senses his victim's inability to flee or defend himself.

A trapper who checks his traps frequently at least offers an end to his victim's misery. But few people work at trapping full time today, and, although 16 states require checking traps in 24 hours or less, such laws are almost impossible to enforce. Consequently, the suffering drags on until the animal loses consciousness or is killed by a predator.

On top of all this, the steel jaw trap is not selective. It will spring shut on a non-target animal as quickly and as painfully as on the animal desired. For example, ducks often use ponds built by beavers as feeding grounds and, consequently, get caught in beaver traps that crush their legs or break their necks. Dogs and cats are often caught in the traps, too, especially near urban areas. The Humane Society of the United States assisted in the rescue of a German Shepherd who had caught two legs in a trap set for muskrats outside Washington, D.C. One leg and part of a second one had to be amputated. The number of non-target animals caught is often as high as double a trapper's total usable catch. These "trash animals," as trappers call them, are merely discarded, having been tortured and killed for no reason.

Furthermore, the catching of a mother in a trap is likely to result in the starvation of her entire litter. And, because there are no seasonal limits to trapping, pregnant animals are often killed, resulting in the useless destruction of many unborn animals.

As the pain becomes unbearable, many animals completely chew or twist off their own legs to free themselves.

The steel jaw trap is one of the cruelest devices invented by man. It can be hidden under grass along a well-trodden animal path, under water, or among the leaves of a tree. When triggered by an animal's weight, the heavy steel jaws spring shut over a paw or a leg with such force that bones are sometimes broken. Some leghold traps contain sharp steel teeth that pierce all the way through flesh and muscles.

As the animal realizes he is trapped, his fear mounts to the point of panic. He bites frantically at the trap, often breaking his teeth. He twists and pulls his leg to free himself, increasing the pain even more. As the pain becomes unbearable, many animals completely chew or twist off their own legs to free themselves. They then face death from loss of blood, gangrene, or infection. At best, they will spend the rest of their lives at the mercy of predators because of their reduced mobility.

For the ones that remain in the traps, hunger and thirst soon set in. Because most animals are trapped in winter when their furs are in prime condition, the victims are exposed to the cold and often soaked by rain and snow. Their tongues sometimes get stuck against the cold steel as they try to free themselves. And, in his helpless situation, the trapped animal often finds himself at the mercy of a predatory animal, who soon senses his victim's inability to flee or defend himself.

A trapper who checks his traps frequently at least offers an end to his victim's misery. But few people work at trapping full time today, and, although 16 states require checking traps in 24 hours or less, such laws are almost impossible to enforce. Consequently, the suffering drags on until the animal loses consciousness or is killed by a predator.

On top of all this, the steel jaw trap is not selective. It will spring shut on a non-target animal as quickly and as painfully as on the animal desired. For example, ducks often use ponds built by beavers as feeding grounds and, consequently, get caught in beaver traps that crush their legs or break their necks. Dogs and cats are often caught in the traps, too, especially near urban areas. The Humane Society of the United States assisted in the rescue of a German Shepherd who had caught two legs in a trap set for muskrats outside Washington, D.C. One leg and part of a second one had to be amputated. The number of non-target animals caught is often as high as double a trapper's total usable catch. These "trash animals," as trappers call them, are merely discarded, having been tortured and killed for no reason.

Furthermore, the catching of a mother in a trap is likely to result in the starvation of her entire litter. And, because there are no seasonal limits to trapping, pregnant animals are often killed, resulting in the useless destruction of many unborn animals.

As the pain becomes unbearable, many animals completely chew or twist off their own legs to free themselves.

The steel jaw trap is one of the cruelest devices invented by man. Every year several million American wild animals are killed for their fur by trappers. Most of them die slowly and painfully, after having a leg or a paw caught in a powerful steel jaw (or leghold) trap.

The steel jaw trap is one of the cruelest devices invented by man. It can be hidden under grass along a well-trodden animal path, under water, or among the leaves of a tree. When triggered by an animal's weight, the heavy steel jaws spring shut over a paw or a leg with such force that bones are sometimes broken. Some leghold traps contain sharp steel teeth that pierce all the way through flesh and muscles.

As the animal realizes he is trapped, his fear mounts to the point of panic. He bites frantically at the trap, often breaking his teeth. He twists and pulls his leg to free himself, increasing the pain even more. As the pain becomes unbearable, many animals completely chew or twist off their own legs to free themselves. They then face death from loss of blood, gangrene, or infection. At best, they will spend the rest of their lives at the mercy of predators because of their reduced mobility.

For the ones that remain in the traps, hunger and thirst soon set in. Because most animals are trapped in winter when their furs are in prime condition, the victims are exposed to the cold and often soaked by rain and snow. Their tongues sometimes get stuck against the cold steel as they try to free themselves. And, in his helpless situation, the trapped animal often finds himself at the mercy of a predatory animal, who soon senses his victim's inability to flee or defend himself.

A trapper who checks his traps frequently at least offers an end to his victim's misery. But few people work at trapping full time today, and, although 16 states require checking traps in 24 hours or less, such laws are almost impossible to enforce. Consequently, the suffering drags on until the animal loses consciousness or is killed by a predator.

On top of all this, the steel jaw trap is not selective. It will spring shut on a non-target animal as quickly and as painfully as on the animal desired. For example, ducks often use ponds built by beavers as feeding grounds and, consequently, get caught in beaver traps that crush their legs or break their necks. Dogs and cats are often caught in the traps, too, especially near urban areas. The Humane Society of the United States assisted in the rescue of a German Shepherd who had caught two legs in a trap set for muskrats outside Washington, D.C. One leg and part of a second one had to be amputated. The number of non-target animals caught is often as high as double a trapper's total usable catch. These "trash animals," as trappers call them, are merely discarded, having been tortured and killed for no reason.

Furthermore, the catching of a mother in a trap is likely to result in the starvation of her entire litter. And, because there are no seasonal limits to trapping, pregnant animals are often killed, resulting in the useless destruction of many unborn animals.

As the pain becomes unbearable, many animals completely chew or twist off their own legs to free themselves.
A change in plans by the Quebec government indicates poison will not be put out for wolves, following the wolf hunt held there. The Quebec Province revealed there was just too much public outcry...proof your protests do protect animals.

Fish and Game officials in Minnesota came up with the brilliant idea of calling the wolf a game animal, and educating hunters to want to bag a wolf. The U.S. Department of the Interior told them that was a no-no; the eastern timber wolf is officially protected from being hunted. Interior believes an assessment should be made of the wolf population to determine whether there remains a viable population level to ensure the future of the species. It is estimated there are no more than 500-1,000 eastern timber wolves in the U.S. and most of them are concentrated in Minnesota, with a few in Wisconsin and Michigan.

PROTESTS HELP WOLVES

SPAY POSTERS

New spay posters you can order to help animals. Posters are 22 X 26 inches, in full color. One shows a cat (depicted), another a dog. Be sure to specify which you want. Posters are $1 each. Display posters on bulletin boards at school, in libraries, stores and other public buildings. Order posters from KIND.

EASTER PROJECT

Stores that planned to sell baby animals at Easter will already have them by the time you receive this newsletter. It won't hurt to visit these stores and see how well the animals are cared for. Report any neglect of animals to your local humane society. You can also write a letter to the Legislative Reference Bureau at your State Capitol, asking if there is a state law prohibiting the sale of infant animals as pets, and requesting a copy of any law there might be. Send it to KIND to help keep our file current. We'll make a copy of it and return the original to you for your files. Knowledge of such a law will help you know how to conduct a campaign before next Easter to protect infant animals.

BE KIND TO ANIMALS WEEK

Although it's more important to be kind to animals every week, all year long, it's nice to have a special week to celebrate. It is especially useful to bring the attention of other people to being kind. Be Kind to Animals Week is May 6-12 this year. Use it to publicize KIND, at school, through the newspaper, even on radio and television.
THE EUROPEAN POLECAT, FREDDIE'S COAT IS MAINLY BROWN, WITH INTERMINGLED BLACK GUARD HAIRS, AND BLACK LEGS AND TAIL AND MASK. HIS COAT BLENDS FROM BROWN TO CREAM ON HIS THROAT AND BELLY.

MS. MARSHA GOCHNAUER HOLDING FREDDIE

LEOPARDS WIN 'WHO IS THIS?' CONTEST

Richard Smith, Secretary for the Leopards Branch Club in Ivy, Virginia, sent in the first correct identification of Freddie, featured in our 'Who Is This?' contest in the February and March newsletters. Ms. Barbara Merkel is their teacher. Richard reports the Leopards decided Freddie was a European Polecat. He also sent us information about this animal, taken from the World Book Encyclopedia, from page 545:

"The European Polecat, related to the North American skunk belongs to the family Mustelidae; it is classified as genus Mustela. Its food is rabbit, rats, mice, eels, fish, frogs, snakes, eggs, and wild birds. It lives in a tree or under ground; they have four or five young in May or April. They make good pets but the female become irascible when pregnant."

We call Freddie a ferret, because his closest relative, the domestic ferret, is given that name, as is another cousin the Black-Footed Ferret.

Freddie is a most sociable animal, and loves to play in the KIND office while his cage is being cleaned. He feigns attacks at objects, hisses at the staff, and loves exploring cupboards and boxes of literature. His greatest fun is turning over waste-baskets.

PEN PALS

You Can Help

1. Urge your friends, neighbors, and fellow students not to buy anything made from the skins of wild animals.
2. Order additional copies of this report from KIND to give to others. This report, printed as a separate flyer, is available from KIND at 25¢ a dozen.
3. Whenever you see animal fur advertised, write to the publication that carried the ad and object to this advertising. Write a protest to the producer, too, or the store sponsoring the ad.
4. Write the editors of your local newspaper and include a copy of this report, asking them to write an editorial on the cruelty of trapping. If they do not do so, write a letter to the Editor of each paper, describing these cruelties in your own words. Mention you are a KIND member and why you want to help animals. Give the address of KIND for readers to order a free copy of the Special Report on Trapping.
5. Write the Legislative Reference Bureau at your state capitol and ask for the laws regulating trapping. Inquire, too, if there is any current legislative proposal to ban the use of the steel jaw trap.
6. Write the Fish and Game Commission of your state and ask them to ban the use of the steel jaw trap by Administrative Order, just as the Florida Game and Fresh Water Commission did recently. (The agency with such authority in your state may be called by another name. Obtain this information and their addresses from your local library.)
7. The following states have introduced legislation to ban the steel jaw trap: Connecticut, Indiana, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. We have been told such legislation will soon be introduced in California, Nevada, and Pennsylvania. If you live in any of these states, write the state Fish and Game Commission asking them to support this legislation. If you live in New Jersey, order enough copies of the leaflet on trapping regulations to give to all your friends. Order from HSUS New Jersey Branch. Their address is: The Humane Society of the U.S. New Jersey Branch, Inc. 1146 E Jersey Street Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201

8. Order posters on trapping to put up in your neighborhood. Posters show the raccoon in the trap at the beginning of the report on trapping. Posters are 25¢ a dozen.
9. Do a special report at school on the information you have learned about the cruelties of trapping. Enlist your schoolmates to urge the steel jaw trap be banned in your state.
10. Help a neighbor fix up his yard this spring to earn money to send to help The Humane Society in its campaign to educate the public about the cruelty of trapping.
MARCH TO SAVE KANGAROOS

Over 100 delegates march to the Australian Embassy in Zurich, Switzerland, to present 151,000 signatures on petitions from 60 countries, appealing for a ban on killing kangaroos. This delegation represented The Kindness Club internationally, and carried the petitions KIND members circulated in the U.S. The Australian government has responded with protection for the kangaroo, and the U.S. now bans import of any kangaroo products.

Photo courtesy World Federation for the Protection of Animals
R. Senn, Photographer

AMANDA BLAKE ELECTED TO HUMANE SOCIETY BOARD. Amanda Blake, known to many as Miss Kitty in the Gunsmoke television series, has become a member of The Humane Society of the U.S. Board of Directors. The Humane Society's Board Members are not just figure-heads. They are expected to work actively with the society and help guide the society programs to accomplish the most good. We even have a provision that they have to attend board meetings regularly, or they are replaced. We're grateful to Miss Blake for wanting to get so deeply involved, helping the society on major problems.

EcoKIND is published monthly for members ages 15-18 by KIND, youth membership division of The Humane Society of the U.S.
R. Dale Hylton, Editor

Add this newsletter to your kit for supplementary information.

This is recycled paper.