AMERICA'S WILDLIFE
IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN
subject of the month

emancipation proclamation of animals

our proper relationship with the earth's animals

Owning an animal places the animal in a situation where he has no freedom of choice to follow the life style he desires. When this country examined the morality of one person owning another human, the conclusion was reached that slavery was morally wrong, and that every person should be considered equal, and free to make his own decisions. It was through this bitter time of bloodshed when the country was divided in war and brothers sometimes fought on opposing sides that the issue of slavery was permanently decided. This decision freed many people from fear, oppression, and cruelty.

Cruelty and oppression of other humans can take many forms besides slavery. Many slaves were, in fact, caused distinct hardship by a freedom that was proclaimed for them. Seeking to make their own way with their new status as free men, many left the security and comfort of a relatively good life in servitude to seek their own fortunes, but were oppressed and mistreated by others, because they lacked experience to enable them to compete in the world of free enterprise. Others, whose former masters were kind, generous, and thoughtful men, chose to remain and continue to serve their former owners as tenant farmers, eking out a meager living on the land that did not belong to them, but content with their simple life. To them freedom was of little value.

Freedom for all living beings is not so much freedom from ownership or control by another, but freedom from oppression or pressure by others. Certain animals, such as dogs, cats, and domestic livestock, would fare poorly if given freedom from ownership and proper care. They are usually quite content when owned by someone who provides proper care and protection. They do not understand the concept of ownership, but respond with affection to their owners when properly treated. Those animals who are mistreated by their owners are the oppressed slaves of modern-day civilization. The oppression and mistreatment of animals may be represented by neglect, cruel treatment, exploitation, or abuse. Or it may be the manner in which animals are raised under unnatural conditions, fed unwholesome diets, or force-fed, or injected with chemicals to stimulate unnatural growth or production rates for more meat or other animal products. Cruelty is not necessarily restricted solely to the infliction of physical pain or suffering, but may involve mental cruelty, or the infliction of stress, that upsets the animal's normal behavior.

Wild animals should not be owned, because even under the best of care and conditions, the life style of a wild animal is changed when it is kept in confinement. It is impossible to own a wild animal without controlling or restricting its freedom of choice to go where it pleases, and this, then, becomes a form of oppression.

While we can and do purchase and own domestic animals, this ownership is incidental to the stewardship we assume when we obtain such an animal. Once we have obtained a domestic animal, we have assumed upon ourselves a responsibility for their freedom and contentment for the rest of its lifetime. If we find at a future time we can no longer provide this care, it is then our responsibility to make appropriate provisions for the welfare of our animal. To do otherwise would be morally wrong.

There has been a lot of discussion on who owns our wildlife. Sport hunters have often felt they owned the game animals they wanted to hunt, because of the fees they have paid for hunting licenses. These funds have been used by state fish and game departments for development of refuges and habitats to encourage the production of more game animals so there will be more animals to hunt. While they make great claims about the benefits that this provides to non-game animals, the truth of the matter is that any such benefits are incidental, and the decimation of predator species has often been for the purpose of protecting game animals so they could be shot by hunters. In concentrating their attention into efforts for the conservation of game animals, fish and game departments have catered to a small minority of the public, neglected or sometimes even persecuted non-game species, and have failed to represent the majority of the public in the protection and preservation of all wild animals.

In protesting these policies, some have made the claim that the wildlife of America is owned by all Americans. This concept is right, but the term ownership is inaccurate. We are all stewards of the wildlife that lives on the public lands, or on private lands, and are responsible for their protection and survival. A new concept is emerging as a result of the criticism being levelled at state and federal fish and game departments. It is possible that within the next few years public policy will be transformed from that of serving a minority segment of the public that derives pleasure from the bloodsport of killing animals, to that of providing proper stewardship for the protection of the wildlife that lives on the public lands, and for the benefit of both prey and predator. Perhaps when this transformation occurs, those men who have supplanted nature's predators, with their guns and bows and arrows, will themselves become a vanishing species. With the return of natural predators to wildlife areas, a balance in nature can once again be restored, and, with proper stewardship, wild animals can live free, to be appreciated and respected by everyone.

Only recently has it been discovered what may have caused many people to take the wrong viewpoint in regard to animals—an incorrect translation of a very important Hebrew word. The Hebrew word actually means "to exercise tender care for," or being able to exercise control over something. The original Hebrew word actually means "to exercise tender care for." Man, (Continued on page 4)
then, has been given the responsibility so to live in harmony with all of God's creation, that he could use his intelligence to see to it that neither the Earth nor any of its creatures are violated or abused. The intent of the Genesis story is to invite man to honor and respect and use nature as a gift of God.

No man has a right to own another life. You may buy a puppy and for all intents and purposes, according to our modern standards, you are his owner. But in actuality, unless you are a proper steward, protecting and caring for that life, and giving him love, and becoming his friend and companion, you have placed that puppy in slavery. If, of course, you have offered your love and good care, and you have earned the trust of your puppy and you become his best friend, then you don't really own him, but are his steward and guardian. In the same way, but respectful of their need to live free, stay wild and keep apart from people, we can also be good stewards to all the other wild and free creatures that inhabit planet Earth along with us. By respecting their needs, we shall find that, in time, they will learn to trust us, and our opportunities to appreciated wild creatures will be even greater, as we visit their homes and appreciate their kinship with nature.

DOLPHINS COMMIT SUICIDE

Dr. John Lilly, foremost authority on dolphins, reports that dolphins often commit suicide when they are kept in confinement. Farooq Hussain, researching dolphin circuses in Britain, verifies Dr. Lilly's findings, stating that dolphins are trained to perform silly tricks that bore them. They become brainwashed and neurotic, and simply close the breathing blowhole in the top of their heads and commit suicide. He is currently preparing a report on the morality of keeping dolphins in circus-like conditions. Dr. Lilly gave up his research on dolphins five years ago when six of his dolphins committed suicide. He said, "I felt that I had no right to hold dolphins in concentration camps for my scientific convenience." Dr. Lilly maintains that any dolphins kept in captivity should have an outlet to the sea, to come and go as they please. He says that, because they are social animals, they will return, just to be around people. He states: "You cannot treat animals of such intelligence, sensitivity, passion and affection like caged lions." Dr. Lilly also commented on the dolphin's habit of helping an injured or sick dolphin, by holding him up to the surface so he can breathe. A number of cases have been reported of dolphins saving people from drowning, in the same manner. The Navy reports the special Medina escape panel, designed to allow dolphins to escape tuna nets, is not working as well as they had hoped, perhaps for the same reason, as the dolphins appear reluctant to abandon their friends, the tuna, when they are caught in the net and are in trouble.

KINDNESS ON CAMPUS

Students of the Newark School, New Jersey, of Fine and Industrial Arts have initiated their own Kindness program, rescuing and caring for homeless animals and finding good homes for them. They board the animals at a veterinary hospital, and plan to spend the summer raising more funds to continue their welfare program. Jane Jordan, Ali Tawfeek and Walter Runne Jr. walk "Beauregard," one of the homeless animals they have helped. Mildred Kaiser, one of the instructors, acts as a counsellor for their special project.

Dear KIND,

In the next KIND newsletter please remind people not to leave their dogs in their cars in summer. I read one time about a dog who was left in the car and it smashed its teeth and tore its feet trying to escape the heat. The vet was unable to save the dog. Its temperature was 109. Even though it may not be that hot outside it's like an oven inside the car. Someone did an experiment and even though it was 85 degrees outside, in the car it was 130 degrees. So please leave your dogs at home.

Sincerely, Patti Braga, age 13

Thanks for the reminder, Patti. KIND members can also order posters warning people not to leave dogs in hot cars. 12 posters are only a quarter. - Editor

HELP KIND

Discover what emergency veterinary services are available to pet owners in your area after office hours, and on Sundays and holidays. Report name, address and telephone number of veterinarians or answering service for participating veterinarians that offer these services in your community to KIND.

"What They Say About Hunting" is a booklet that contains a comparison of the official policy statements of major associations in the United States, on the subject of hunting. It is an interesting and revealing comparison. You may order this booklet from: The National Shooting Sports Foundation, 1075 Post Road, Riverside, Ct. 06878. The booklet is 50¢.
Note stationery is now available from KIND, each style with a different animal. You may buy a box or two at retail price for your own use, or order in quantity to sell to raise money for local projects. Fund-raising orders: Minimum quantity one dozen, any combination, prepaid only. We will pay all postage. Please order by catalog number.

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### NOTE STATIONERY

- **(155) American Wildlife Ecology Cards**
  - 8/animal mother with infant cards, each different
  - Retail Price: $1.00 box
  - Fund-raiser Price: 12 boxes for $9.60

- **(243) Siamese Cat, Mixed Poses**
  - 10 cards in box
  - Retail Price: $1.00 box
  - Fund-raiser Price: $1.00 box

- **(340) Pelicans - Black on Blue**
  - 10 cards in box
  - Retail Price: $1.00 box
  - Fund-raiser Price: $1.00 box

- **(359) Dog - 10 sheets with envelopes**
  - 10 cards in box
  - Retail Price: $1.00 box
  - Fund-raiser Price: $1.00 box

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**NATIONAL PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS DAY**

Representative Ronald A. Sarasin (Connecticut) has introduced a House Congressional Resolution (#243) to request the President to issue a proclamation designating August 29 this year as "National Prevention to Animals Day." This date was selected because it is the anniversary of the birth of Henry Bergh, born in 1813 on this date, the founder of the first official animal welfare organization in the United States. Bergh founded the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in New York, undoubtedly with the intent that it would represent the welfare of animals throughout the United States, possibly by authorizing branches of the society in every state. Instead, other humanitarians organized SPCA's in other states after the example of the ASPCA in New York, not as state branches, but as independent and separately incorporated agencies. Much of the unity of the humane movement was lost in this action and only dedicated efforts can restore it, through voluntary participation by all humane societies and SPCA's toward common objectives. Recognition and celebration of a special annual day for the prevention of cruelty to animals might be one useful way of achieving this unity.

Contrary to what many people believe about humane organizations, a true humanitarian cares about the welfare and happiness of people as well as animals. It is interesting to know that Henry Bergh went on to organize the first official agency for the prevention of cruelty to children, during those early days when child abuse was not uncommon. His first successful prosecution in court, in fact, to protect a child who had been beaten by her guardian, was tried on the existing cruelty to animals law, since there was no law against cruelty to children. He won the case on the argument that a child is, indeed, an infant animal, and the court upheld this opinion and removed the child from the unfit environment. Many humane societies are chartered to prevent cruelty to children as well as animals, and seek to prevent cruelty to children through the education of the public on the importance of respect and concern for all living creatures.
THE COONSKIN CAP MYTH

Daniel Boone, who is so frequently portrayed in a coonskin cap, refused to wear a coonskin cap. Although a frontiersman and a hunter, he disliked this style of headwear that was so popular among his colleagues, preferring, instead, the plain style of hat worn by most farmers. During most of his lifetime, Boone depended heavily on the meat and income from the sale of hides from animals he hunted. He and his colleagues went to great pains to cure the meat so it would keep, and there are records of their disgust when they encountered the carcasses of bison killed only for their tongues, with the remainder of the meat left to decay. In no way can the frontier hunter, like Daniel Boone, who depended on killing animals for survival, be compared to the modern sports hunter, who does not need to kill, but who does so for the pleasure he derives from the experience.

HOPE FOR DEVIL'S HOLE PUPFISH

The Department of Interior got an injunction against millionaire Francis Cappaert, to prevent him from drilling wells for irrigation water, that would have dried up Devil's Hole in Nevada. Devil's Hole is the only place on earth where the ice age desert pupfish survive. While loss of this isolated form of life might not have contributed heavily to further upset the delicate balance of nature, it is most encouraging to know our own government agency has intervened, to save this rare species from extinction.

SUMMER PHOTO AND PROJECT CONTESTS

Send entries to contests before September 1, 1973. (See June and July newsletters for details.) Remember, no photos can be returned. Announcement of winners of contests will be reported in your October newsletter.

EcoloKIND 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

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