KINDNESS CLUB

LETTER

I walk Bozo for old Mrs. Jones.

I take care of Snoopy while Doug is at camp.

KINDNESS IS BEING A FRIEND OF EVERY PET IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

AND DISCOVERING WAYS TO HELP THEM TO BE HAPPIER

The Taylors work late so I give Tip and Flip fresh water every afternoon.

I'm lost. Won't someone help me?

August 1971
Dear friends,

One morning I counted nine baby birds of different kinds eating from the same bird feeder. Mother birds bring their babies to the feeder right after their first flying lessons.

One baby was a cowbird. I watched closely for its mother, since cowbirds never hatch their own young. They lay their eggs, instead, in another bird's nest.

Other birds came to eat at the feeder but the baby cowbird continued to eat, paying no attention to them. Then a sparrow arrived. As soon as he saw her, the cowbird baby fluffed out his feathers, began to tremble, opened his mouth wide, and screamed for food.

I could tell the sparrow was the foster mother bird who had hatched the cowbird fledgling. He was already bigger than his foster mother, and she had to stretch a little to place food in his beak.

By hatching the cowbird's egg, the sparrow helped the cowbird. Nature didn't teach her to be selfish, even though her own fledglings could have starved, without a ready supply of food to give them, because a cowbird baby eats so much.

Many people think that helping others takes too much in time or trouble. The lazy cowbird mother imposed upon the sparrow, but the sparrow didn't seem to mind. I like to think I helped, too, just by keeping the bird feeder filled. There she could let the cowbird baby eat his fill, while she fed her own fledglings.

If everyone helped each other, we wouldn't be afraid of anyone asking too great a favor. It doesn't really hurt a person to help another-------and it usually brings a good feeling of doing something to be proud of. Try to help someone today, and just see how good it makes you feel.

Your friend,

Arablum
KINDNESS IN ACTION

Suzanne Taylor, Charleston, Illinois, helped animals by...
1. Feeding a stray dog
2. Getting water to a stray dog that was thirsty
3. Rescued a cat injured in traffic, with her father's help. Took it to a veterinarian, then found its owners, and discovered it had kittens, who might not have lived without their mother.
4. Tried to help another traffic-injured cat with her father's help, but it didn't live.

Dear Arahkun,

I had one dollar saved for my Kindness Club membership that I had earned, but I had to spend it. The lady next door was going to take her kitten to the pound because it tore things up on the porch. I had to use the money I'd saved to buy the kitten.

Bonnie Clark, Dowling, Mi.

Rega Lapar, Wappinger's Falls, N.Y., age 8, got permission to put up the Easter poster in the front window of the Town Clerk's Office.

Marc Tamarin, age 7, West Los Angeles, Calif., placed his Seal poster in Westhill's Market.

CIRCULATED MUSTANG PETITIONS

Marcia Madsen, St. Paul, Minnesota
Patti Thompson, Youngstown, Oh. (Good Kind Lion Branch Club)
The Beagletails Branch Club, Nacogdoches, Texas
Susan Fox, Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania
Burt & Bart Kahler, Fancy Bluff Panthers Club, Brunswick, Ga.
Mrs. Fennell's class, Chesterton School, San Diego, Calif.
Lars Wallin Jr., Danbury, Connecticut
Mrs. Coby McElroy's class, Long Beach, California
Annette Stacy Smith, Houston, Texas
Janet Alexander, Tucson, Arizona
The Eagles Branch Club, Heathwood Hall, Columbia, S.C.
Paul Strait, New York, N.Y.
Robert Axelrod, Beverly, Massachusetts
Joni Kaufmann, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

SPECIAL KINDNESS IN ACTION - DEFENDER HELPS GET LAW PASSED!

Dear Arahkun,

I am very happy! A few months ago I sent a letter to our city council asking that there be a law to prevent the selling of turtles. I caught this idea when I saw such small turtles for sale. I asked my Mom if I could have one and she said no. I asked why and she said they carry many diseases. I thought about it and sent my letter. But then I sent another to the City Health Department. Here is the article. I hope more cities will stop the sale of turtles.

Amy Sheldon, Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Amy,

Congratulations! This law will prevent suffering for many animals, since most turtles sicken and die being shipped to stores and displayed for sale. Amy, we're proud of you!

Your friend, ARAHKUN

Dear Kindness Club Members,

You can write to your local City Council and Health Department asking for a ban on turtle sales. Turtles can carry salmonella. Those who now have a healthy pet turtle are all right and can keep it healthy with good care. I'll send you a FREE LEAFLET on TURTLE CARE if you'll send me a stamped self-addressed envelope. Remember, store turtles cannot be released to the wild, since they are native to a warmer climate and will not live.

Your friend, ARAHKUN
Fill a large mayonnaise jar with water. Drop a pop-top tab from a soft drink can into the jar. Watch how it flutters from side to side as it sinks. When these tabs are thrown into a stream, pond, or ocean, fish or birds see them move and glitter, and think they are little fish. Any animal that tries to swallow one of these tabs either strangles, or, if he swallows it, he will probably get sick and die. Sea birds and woods animals also get their heads caught in the rings of plastic from six-pack can holders. Before putting these holders into a trash bag, take a pair of scissors and cut each ring. Save pop-top tabs to take to a local collection station for recycling. They are made of aluminum.

ACTION PROJECT

Make a map of your block or neighborhood, like the map from last month. This map should list where every pet lives on your block. Visit your neighbors and learn their pets' names and make friends with them. Find out if you can help, perhaps by walking a dog, or playing with it if it is lonely. When you know all the pets in your neighborhood, you will recognize any animal you haven't met before. You will know it is probably lost. Find out what to do when you find an animal that is lost. Learn how the humane society or dog pound tries to find a pet's owners.

A SALAD RECIPE FOR YOUR GUINEA PIG OR RABBIT

Slice carrots very thin, and chop celery into little blocks. Mix them together. Your pets will love this treat.

Many members of The Kindness Club first heard about it by reading the book, "The Best of Friends", by Charlotte Baker. I've received many letters from you, telling how good you thought the book was. Another book, telling more about that Kindness Club, is now available. It is called "The Kittens And The Cardinals". Charlotte Baker wrote it, too, and it is also published by David McKay. You'll be surprised one of your favorite authors is also an artist. She drew the illustrations on the front cover of this month's newsletter. Ask your library for "The Best of Friends" and "The Kittens And The Cardinals".

HUMANE SOCIETY NEWS......Sue Pressman, who raised Donald the bear, is now working for The Humane Society. Your reports of the zoos you visit will be given to Sue so she can help zoo animals.

Dear Arahkun,

In circulating my mustang petition, I even found two people who wanted to join The Kindness Club! I felt rather like I struck victory. This is a letter of friendliness, and of thanks for, well, for just having a kindness club, because it helps me to be actively kind.

Connie Schwartz, Brooklyn, New York age 14

Dear Arahkun,

The 'Little Beavers' found a stray dog and fed it pork chops, ham and milk and water. Then since we could not keep him we called the Animal Shelter and they FOUND HIS OWNERS! Captain Edie Abma was very proud of us.

Your friend, a 'little beaver'.
K.I.N.D. stands for Kindness In Nature's Defense. It is the official name of The Humane Society's membership program for young people. The Kindness Club is now for members until they are eleven years old. Then they become DEFENDERS. If you are eleven years old or older, and you get this newsletter, please write and send me the date, month, and year you were born, because you should be receiving the DEFENDERS newsletter. Always list your age whenever you write.

OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS.

Do not hurt our feathered friends,
Who bring us beauty through the air,
Do not put a black cloud where once a gull may have flown.
And do not bring us sadness and despair,
Do not hurt the Pink Flamingo,
And do not let the hunters yell "bingo",
Do not let them fall to the ground,
And take beauty from the sky so it will never be found,
Do not let the bright red Cardinal die,
And say, "Oh well. Too bad." with a sigh,
Do not let the woodpeckers perish,
Like the Ivory Billed which the hunters relished,
For only you can keep them flying,
Instead of falling, bleeding, starving...
And worst of all dying.

This is recycled paper.  

Namir Kassim age 13