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DEFENDERS

April 1972

Volume 2 No. 4

A VETERINARIAN WHO DEDICATES HIS LIFE TO SERVING ANIMALS MUST, ABOVE ALL, BE COMPASSIONATE AND KIND

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JOE THE BEAR

In your February newsletter we reported the plight of Joe the bear in a roadside zoo near Clover, S.C. We suggested members who wanted to help Joe should write and ask Sen. Strom Thurmond to do what he could to help because he represents that state.

Your editor called Sen. Thurmond's office in Washington, D.C., to learn what had been done to help Joe. The secretary said that a larger cage had been built for Joe, and that "Everything had been taken care of to the satisfaction of the S.P.C.A." We asked what SPCA, but she didn't know. Then she transferred our call to a press secretary, Miss Linda Kelly, who was most helpful.

Miss Kelly reported the larger cage had been built, a veterinarian was to check on Joe once a month, and that the S.C. Wildlife Resources Commission had reported all was well with Joe. She also said that, at the request of Mrs. Sue Pressman of The Humane Society, she had asked the U.S. Dept. of Interior to make an investigation. When we advised her it was the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, not Interior, that was charged with the enforcement of this law, she replied, "I'm sure they will forward the request to the proper agency". We also asked her to find out what 'SPCA' had approved the way Joe was being cared for, and call us back to report this to our members. So far we have received no further information from Sen. Thurmond's office.

We're not satisfied with a report from the S.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. They failed to do anything to help Joe before the federal law went into effect. When jurisdiction. While their latest investigation may have attempt to make people believe the problems have all

The report of approval by an 'SPCA' may well have come from the S.C. Commission. It is a common tactic used by people to 'whitewash' a bad situation.

Sen. Thurmond has tried to intervene to help Joe, because of the many letters KIND members have written to him to request USDA to make a proper investigation. Even more important, why don't you write USDA and ask S.C.? You should write to:

Dr. C. O. Pinch
Animal Health Division
Agriculture Research Service
United States Dept. of Agriculture
Hyattsville, Md. 20782
SEALS AGAIN

Last month's newsletter reported a ban by the Canadian Government on the killing of seals by plane or ship. This information was reported to you from a news release by the Canadian Ministry of the Environment. That news release was incomplete—we suspect it was intended to make everyone think all the seals were now safe from being clubbed to death.

We have now learned that killing seals was permitted by men who could reach them from the land. Men were also permitted to use boats as big as 61 feet long and go out to the ice floes to club seals to death. (The ban on ships reported was later clarified to apply only to boats 65 feet long or bigger, thus eliminating some of the wholesale destruction with the use of mechanized equipment.)

The one encouraging sign is that an Advisory Committee on Seals has issued a report calling for a ban on seal killing for six years, beginning in 1974. It also recommended no increase in killing seals in other areas of the world, especially the Antarctic. (Some governments have been trying to negotiate a treaty to open up the Antarctic to sealing, where the killing of seals is now forbidden.)

We shall have to wait to see if Canada accepts the recommendations of its Advisory Committee and offers protection for seals in the future. The restrictions placed on seal killing this year don't mean much at all, and the information was released made people think the seals would be protected until after the killing had taken place.

You may wish to write Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Government House, Ottawa, Ontario 1, Canada, and ask that the recommendations of the Seal Committee be fol-

HELP FOR ANOTHER BEAR

As a result of a letter from a KIND member, Andrea Barstad, in Athens, Ohio, Charlie the bear is moving to a new home. He will live in a special orphanage for wild animals in California. Before the new federal law went into effect, the local humane society had been unable to get enough help for Charlie to be assured he was comfortable. But then the federal law became effective. A U.S. Dept. of Agriculture agent inspected Charlie and told the owner what he must do to improve on his care.

When Andrea wrote KIND headquarters there was a problem finding another home for Charlie. The Humane Society's regional representative, Mr. John Inman, talked to the owner and he agreed to let Charlie go to a new home. Mrs. Sue Pressman got busy and found the orphanage that will be Charlie's new home. Owners of the orphanage will drive the long distance to take him home themselves, so he will not have to be tranquilized or subjected to the fear he would have in experiencing shipment on an airplane. Much of the credit for getting help for Charlie goes to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture agents for properly enforcing the new law.

Owners of the animal orphanage need help to pay the expenses of the trip to move Charlie to his new home. KIND members who want to help pay for Charlie's trip may send a donation to KIND headquarters. Just be sure to say it is for the Charlie fund.

Cover photo - Dr. Barbara Penney repairs a fawn's injured leg. Most of her work is spay and neutering surgery on dogs and cats in the spay clinic at KIND headquarters. Many more women are becoming veterinarians than ever before before.
HELPING COYOTES

WESTMORELAND SCHOOL, FAIR LAWN, N.J. -- The Student Council has approved a project to help animals and has circulated petitions to urge the ban of the deadly poison 1080. The Student Council, under the direction of Mrs. Joe Eicher, became interested in this project through a Kindness Club newsletter.

HELP FOR COYOTES

March DEFENDERS newsletter reported the President's Executive Order, banning the use of poisons to kill predatory mammals. Now Congress is acting on the President's request to pass such a law. The Humane Society testified at recent hearings on these bills, and reported in its testimony that KIND members had circulated petitions to urge a ban on poisoning. We were able to report a total of 7,289 signatures on the petitions that KIND members returned to headquarters. We expect favorable action on a bill, and believe we will soon have a law to ban predator poisoning forever.

DOLPHINS, PORPOISES, AND SEALS

The House has recently passed legislation to protect marine mammals, but exempted dolphins, porpoises and seals from this protection. Dolphins and porpoises are often killed accidentally when they get in tuna nets. Congress didn't do anything about this from fear of jeopardizing the powerful tuna industry. The seals were exempted because our own government is involved in 'harvesting' seals. Only one fur company benefits from this seal harvest. By contract, all pelts are sold to the Poulke Fur Company, in South Carolina. Since Congress is anxious to adjourn because it is election year, the Senate is expected to pass this measure quickly.

Even if it added amendments, the House will probably agree to them, just to avoid a Senate-House Conference Committee, and a later adjournment. Now is the time to write your Senators, asking them to include protection for dolphins, porpoises, and seals in the marine mammal protection bill when they consider it. We might still get them protected if every KIND member wrote his Senators right away.

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POP-TOP TABS KILL RACCOONS

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK, VA. -- Pop-top tabs are reported to be the cause of a decimation of nearly fifty per cent of the raccoon population here. Apparently the animals are attracted to the reflection of the metal objects on moon-lit nights, and eat the sharp aluminum.

KANGAROOS first got their name when Captain James Cook, the English explorer, asked a native what they were called. His reply, "Kangaroo," actually meant, "I don't know," but Captain Cook didn't realize it until the name had caught on.

IF YOU PLAN TO BE A VETERINARIAN

Many KIND members have said they want to be a veterinarian. Sometimes they choose this career as a goal because they are not aware of the many other careers a person could train for, where helping animals is the primary concern. More information on these careers will be available soon. If the veterinary profession is really the career you want to train for, write for the leaflet on veterinarians and what they do.

WORK WITH MOTHER NATURE

Help nature and learn about soils, plants, and little animals in the soil this summer. Plant a garden of your own. Gurney's Seed Company, Yankton, S.D. 57078, offers special seed packets to young people at very reasonable prices. Learn what the term 'organic gardening' means and see if you can raise plants the organic way. Write KIND headquarters for more information if you have problems.

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