

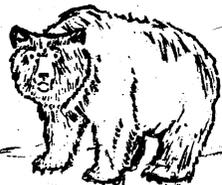
# YOUR KINDNESS CLUB LETTER

FEBRUARY

1971



**KINDNESS IS HAVING A GOOD HEART**



Dear friends,

Valentine's Day got started because people used to think all birds choose their mates on February 14. Even though we know now that this isn't true, we still send valentines to people we like. It's a nice way of saying, 'I'm glad you're my friend' or 'Won't you be my friend'.

A special friend of mine is a little dog whose name is Cindy. She used to hate big dogs. She picked a fight with a big dog every time she saw one. Once I found large tracks in the snow where the garbage box had been raided. I was afraid it was a bear and Cindy would try to attack it.

The next day as I climbed the hill in the snow, Cindy brought the 'bear' down the hill to introduce him to me. Actually it was a BIG, BLACK DOG! He was an ugly dog, but a very nice dog.



Cindy had understood the big dog was starving, and he needed help. How did the big dog say 'thank you'? He got down on his knees when he played with her, so he would seem smaller, and closer to her size.

By helping the starving big dog, and seeing his gratitude after he ate a big dinner, Cindy has learned to be nicer to big dogs. She still ignores them most of the time, but she doesn't try to fight with them as she used to.

There's a special magic in being kind. Every time you are kind to someone, you become a nicer person---the type of person people like. Be kind to someone---or several people---on Valentine's Day.

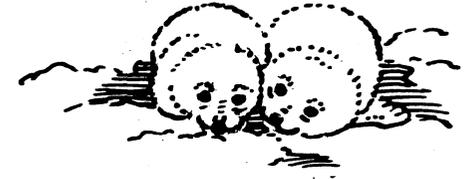
Your friend,

BE KIND



*Arahkur*





## YOU CAN HELP SAVE THE SEALS

### Have You Met . . . .

the Harp Seal, whose snowy white babies are born on ice floes? In only two weeks a baby grows from 12 pounds to 50 or 60 pounds, nourished by its mother's milk. Then its mother weans the baby and leaves it. For two weeks more the baby lives on the blubber it has stored in its body, while its snowy white coat begins to turn grey. When it gets hungry enough, it learns to find food for itself. It eats crustaceans and fish. Its proper name is *Phoca groenlandica*. An adult seal may weigh as much as 500 pounds.

Every year in March men go out on ice floes in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence River and club seals to death for their fur. The soft, snow-white fur of the tiny babies has the greatest value for fur garments.

The Canadian Government has set stricter regulations, and even set a later date so the babies wouldn't be such tiny babies when they were clubbed to death.

Some people have wanted this area made into a sanctuary, so the seal pups could be born there in no danger of being clubbed to death. But this probably wouldn't work, so long as people buy fur garments. The hunters would just kill seals as they swim in the sea, and this is an even more cruel way of killing them.

The best way we can help save the seals is to make fur coats unpopular. Make fake furs popular instead. Make a promise to yourself that you will never wear the coat of an animal that had to be killed so you could wear its coat.

SEE THE KINDNESS IN ACTION PAGE FOR OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP.

It's wrong that seals must suffer and die by clubbing so people can wear their coats.

Fur companies glamorize fur coats to sell them for profit. They could just as easily glamorize fake furs. But they might not make as much money. They could never claim the man-made fake fur fabric was 'rare' or 'endangered'.

Seals are part of the diet of some whales. There are 6 kinds of whales that are in danger of becoming extinct. Without enough seals for whales to eat, some whales may become extinct.

Governments decide how many seals can be killed. They try to be sure to keep enough alive so there will be no danger they will become extinct. But no one really knows how many whales there are, or how many seals they need for food.

Men are trying to take over the job of keeping the balance of Nature, without really knowing all the facts to make the right decisions. Man doesn't have the right to decide how to balance Nature, because he doesn't understand all of Nature's secrets. We don't own the earth; we just live here. Man didn't help the animals get here. But the animals live here, too.

You can help solve these problems. It won't happen overnight, because there are still too many people who are greedy. But little by little, you can help people see how important it is to respect every life on the planet earth, and to respect and obey the laws that work to preserve the balance of Nature.

## KINDNESS IN ACTION

ORDERED POSTER PACKS - Susan Cauble, Las Cruces, N. M.

BEAVER DEFENDERS - Nina Barberos, North Dartmouth, Mass.

### SEAL POSTERS

Help save the seals. Ask people not to wear fur coats, but wear fake furs, instead, by putting up posters. A pack of 12 posters like the one enclosed is just 25¢. Order a pack of seal posters today.

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This can count in place of a project in your manual if you find it too hard to do. Write a letter to the editor of your newspaper in your town, telling about The Kindness Club, and why you are glad to be a member. Be sure to tell how old you are. You can also tell something you've learned, like what is happening to seals, and how it can be stopped, if everyone refuses to buy animal furs. Keep your letter short. Give The Kindness Club address if you want so other people can write for information. If your letter is printed, be sure to send me a copy--I'll be happy to see it.

### BRANCH CLUB REPORT



The Lookout Eagles is one of the newest branch clubs. Its members are the students of the second grade of the Lookout Mountain School, in Tennessee. Lookout Mountain is one of the very beautiful natural places. From its very top you can see five states.

That is why the club chose the name Lookout Eagles, because eagles nest in high places. The club members are writing stories about animals as one of their first projects, and are hoping for warmer weather when they can go out on field trips to visit animals in the woods. Mrs. Dorothy Temple, their teacher, is their Raccoon Captain.

WE WISH TO THANK BIG BIRD AND MR. HOOPER FOR APPEARING ON THE COVER OF THE KINDNESS CLUB LETTER. (By permission of Henson & Associates & Children's Television Workshop, to M. File, Kindness Club.)

Dear Arahkun,

We learned in school that hunters are sometimes good. Let's say there are too many bobcats in the country. They would eat all the deer and throw the balance of nature off. So we have hunters to not let the bobcats make deer extinct.

Your friend,  
John Scarano



Dear John,

I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but what you have learned in school about hunting is wrong. Sport hunting is encouraged by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Game, Bureau of Wildlife Management, because selling hunting licenses has become big business. The report from that department shows that, according to license sales, more hunters are out to kill deer---not to protect them---than hunters after any other animal.

The Humane Society has just gone to court against the U.S. Interior Dept., in fact, to prevent the Great Swamp National Refuge (in Morris County, New Jersey) from being opened for sport hunting---of deer. Interior Dept. publications state that when deer population must be reduced, the proper way is with a crew of expert marksmen, under rigid supervision. Sport hunters are not supervised like that.

I'm sure you mentioned bobcats just as an example, because there aren't many left in New Jersey. N.J. Wildlife Management publications state: "The only predators of deer in New Jersey are dogs, most of which are pets or farm animals which run free. Some years, scores of deer are killed by dogs." Programs for the control of dogs in New Jersey are not very good and need to be improved.

Maybe you'll want to discuss this new information in your class. I'm sure your teacher will agree that the best education is studying all new information and finding out for yourself what is the real truth in all the information you can obtain.

Your friend,

ARAHKUN

## THE BEE

A busy bee is working hard  
Gathering pollen in your back yard.

You'll see her flying from flower to flower  
Collecting her samples hour after hour.

The pollen & nectar she carries home  
To use for food in her honeycomb.

And so considerate is she too,  
That the honey she makes, she'll share with you.

MJF

Kind hearts are the gardens,  
Kind thoughts are the seeds,  
Kind words are the blossoms,  
And fruits, the kind deeds.

Anonymous

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# The Kindness Club

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