A new life for Charley the bear. Already he realizes these people are friends, and it's fun to play.

Photo courtesy Orphans of The Wild
San Diego Zoo, San Diego, California -- Weekend visitors to one of the better zoos in America have recently broken all attendance records. The big attraction is a wild animal show given each weekend by Pat & Ted Derby, directors of "Orphans of The Wild". This refuge, the only one of its kind in America, rescues mistreated wild animals and gives them special care and unique love.

Pat & Ted Derby believe that, in order to communicate with animals, they must think like the animals they are helping. They refuse to impose human standards on any of their orphans. Their wild animal show is also unique. None of the animals performs silly 'clown-like' tricks such as seen in circus acts. Instead, the show is a demonstration of the natural talents and abilities of each type of animal as each animal has developed on his own, in response to the love and affection they have given him.

When this writer first saw a wild animal show offered by the Derbys, he was dubious, even though the performance was at a special meeting of The Humane Society. We watched for the slightest indication of actions suggesting harsh training or treatment. We could find none. Even at the truck where animals were transported in cages, parked out of view of the audience, the attitude of play and affection was apparent. Animals willingly returned to their cages, after a playful run on a leash, and the next animal just as eagerly left his cage to romp and play with Ted, and then put on a performance that delighted the audience.

Orphans of The Wild now cares for some 200 wild animals rescued from mistreatment and abuse. Charley the bear (reported in your February DEFENDERS newsletter) is one of the newest residents. He is responding beautifully to the love and affection Pat and Ted give him and already has displayed a tremendous personality. KIND members who may want to help support Charley the bear and the other wild animals the refuge cares for may send a gift to Orphans of The Wild, P.O.Box 1865, Buellton, Ca. 93427. Be sure to mention you are a KIND member.

A few of the animals at Orphans become such 'hams' that their talents can be used to earn money to help support the other animal orphans. Chauncey, the cougar, has worked hard all this week, in fact, helping film the television commercials for the 1973 Mercury Cougar. Chauncey has developed his own game of playing with sticks and snarling at them, to demonstrate he is bigger and stronger than they are. Now Ted can get Chauncey to snarl simply by showing him a small stick. This is Chauncey's clue to snarl for the television Mercury Cougar commercial. Watch for the commercial and Chauncey snarling at the right moment in the script—he's actually playing fun and games, snarling at a stick Ted is holding off camera.
FILM TRASH AND FOREST ANIMALS

Forest animals have been eating the paper throw-away portion from polaroid film. It was first thought they liked the chemicals on it and they might be causing the death of these animals. Polaroid has tested the chemicals, and maintains they are not harmful. They claim the animals die of simple intestinal blockage just as they would if they ate paper plates or paper or plastic cups. What are any of these things doing in our forests? A new camera, just announced by Polaroid, will make prints of photos quickly, and there is no trash to be thrown away.

SOME JUSTICE FOR "HOBO"

Remember Hobo the German Shepherd who was caught in the steel jaw trap? (April DEFENDERS newsletter) The owner of the trap was found guilty and fined $100. The fine was suspended, provided he make a donation of $50 to the Animal Welfare League, the local humane society that rescued Hobo and rushed him to a veterinarian for treatment.
Sylvester the wolf loves children. During each weekend show at the San Diego Zoo, children get a chance to meet a real wolf, pet him, and usually get a kiss.

Photo courtesy Orphans of The Wild
Ted Derby shows the stick for the photographer when Chauncey is not looking. Seeing the stick makes Chauncey snarl on cue in the Mercury Cougar television commercial. Photo courtesy Orphans of The Wild

PENNSYLVANIA MAY HAVE NATION'S FIRST STATE-WIDE SPAY CLINICS

Until a few years ago, the state of Pennsylvania had one of the most brutal dog laws in America. It provided for the payment of a $2 bounty for a pair of dog's ears. In 1965 this law was changed, but there are still surplus animals. Now the director of the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for the state has said he intends to have a bill introduced to provide for spay clinics throughout Pennsylvania. If such a bill is passed, Pennsylvania will lead the nation in efforts to prevent unwanted, surplus, homeless pet animals. If you live in Pennsylvania write your legislators and urge them to support such legislation. Ask your local librarian or newspaper for the names of legislators in your state.

DELICACIES - YECH!

In the nation's capital a specialty grocery store called Safeway International carries many specialty food items that are unusual or considered exotic. Two of the cans on the shelves were turtle soup and kangaroo tail soup. These animals, being slaughtered to make these exotic foods are endangered. It would be a good summer project to find your most exclusive delicatessen or food specialty shop, and look for such foods on their shelves. Get the address of the producer from the cans, and write and protest the manufacture of foods from endangered animals. Write the delicatessen you visited, too, and tell them you are asking your parents not to buy such products, or patronize stores that sell such items.
A NEW POSTER YOU CAN ORDER

A new poster, from a dog's point of view, tells what he appreciates about the kind of care his people give him. 12 posters for 25¢. Don't forget, too, to order Hot Dog posters to warn people about leaving dogs in hot cars during the summer.

DUMB POEM

The word DUMB can mean: 1. Unable to speak
2. Not very intelligent

Be kind to all Dumb Animals,
And give each Bird a Crumb;
Be kind to Human Beings too,
For They are sometimes Dumb.

BAN THE CAN

A new law in Vermont imposes a tax on all soft drink bottles and cans. This money will be used to construct land fills and recycling centers. The law is a temporary one, setting the stage for a law to become effective at a later date that will ban all non-returnable bottles and cans.

BUYING TUNA ENDANGERS DOLPHINS

The International Whaling Commission has refused a proposal to ban the killing of whales for ten years, in spite of the willingness of several nations to see these animals protected. The dolphins, or porpoises, one of the most playful animals of the sea, are members of the whale family. Thousands of dolphins are killed annually when they are caught in tuna nets. They are exposed to this danger because they follow the ships at sea. The Whaling Commission, organized originally to regulate the catching of whales so no species would be lost to the world because one nation was too greedy, has failed its mission. Perhaps now the only way whales can be saved is through public opinion. Ask your mother if she will refuse to buy and serve tuna until the tuna industry uses a way to prevent the killing of dolphins when they catch tuna. Even if she doesn't agree to your request, get the name and address of the tuna company from the can and write to them. Simply tell them what you have asked your mother to do. You don't have to tell them what she said. If enough people refuse to buy tuna, or even threaten to, they will find a way to catch tuna without harming dolphins.

NEW PRIZE WINNING BOOK FOR ANIMAL LOVERS

A book about a ten year old boy who finds a "mammy" dog with puppies and tries to help her, has just been published. It is by the same author, Charlotte Baker, who wrote THE BEST OF FRIENDS, that tells about The Kindness Club. The new book is called COCKLEBURR QUARTERS. Ask your librarian about it. It is published by Prentice Hall.
10,000 puppies and kittens are born every hour in the United States. Most of them will end up homeless, spending their lives searching for food, dodging cars, and fighting disease. Many are put to death by animal control officers and animal shelter operators. All because there are just too many.

Be a responsible pet owner.

Have your female cat or dog spayed.
Have your male cat or dog neutered.