Hobo Victim of Trap
Reston, Va. -- Hobo, a 65 pound German shepherd, has just been through one of the most painful experiences a dog could have. He spent two or three days with two feet caught in a steel jaw trap, unable to free himself, and would have died there if he hadn’t been discovered by an old man walking in the woods. Reston is a unique planned community with many open spaces of meadows, woods, lakes and streams. Hobo loves to romp in these open spaces near his home. Apparently he stepped in the trap while romping in a stream. The trap was underwater, undoubtedly set to catch muskrats.

In accordance with state law, the name of the trapper was attached to the trap. He claimed he set the trap in February, but couldn't find it later when the water level in the stream rose after heavy rains. A Reston official said that anyone who set traps on their open space lands was a trespass violator. The Humane Society has filed a charge of cruelty against the trapper.

Hobo is recovering nicely from his painful ordeal, after one hind foot and a toe from another foot was lost in the trap. He is but one example of the many pet animals that have suffered as a result of getting caught in a steel jaw trap. Some of them died of starvation when they could not pull free. Even children have been injured by these cruel traps.

The steel jaw trap is a wicked instrument. The strong steel jaws usually have teeth that close on the leg of the victim with tremendous force when the trap is triggered. The tensile strength of the trap itself is strong enough that it often breaks the victim’s leg. Even though a trap may be set for a certain kind of animal, it can be triggered by any animal. The animals a trapper doesn't intend to catch, and does not want, are wounded anyway, and often have to be destroyed.
Because it is expected that coyote eradication campaigns will begin using steel jaw traps more extensively now that poisons cannot be used, a bill has been introduced in Congress. It would ban the importation or interstate shipment of fur or leather products from any area where steel jaw traps are made or sold. It is S. 2084 and H.R. 8784. Such a bill is practical since there are other traps available that catch animals without breaking bones and which do not cause suffering like the steel jaw trap does. The most humane trap, of course, is a box trap, that simply traps an animal in a cage without hurting it at all. If the trapper finds he has caught an animal that he didn't intend to catch, all he has to do is to release it again, and the animal goes free without being harmed.

You may want to write your Congressmen to urge them to pass the bill that would outlaw the steel jaw trap. Many hundreds of Hobos can be spared the agony and suffering of being caught in a trap each year if use of the steel jaw trap can be forbidden by law.

**PANDAS AND MUSKOXEN**

Now you can have stationery with either of two interesting animals on each sheet. Sixteen sheets with envelopes, half with pandas, and half with muskoxen, in a box for just $2. Profits from the sale of stationery help us help more animals. A delightful gift for a friend, too. Order from KIND.

**MANATEES**

Many members have written to ask what could be done to help the manatees. They had learned from a Jacques Cousteau television program that these animals were being injured by the propellers of boats. The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission says new legislation that would set aside certain waters as sanctuaries, banning boats from them; would be the answer. It would probably have to be a federal law, since manatees are already on the endangered species list, and are already offered legal protection throughout Florida. The Red Book lists propeller injuries as one of the reasons for their decline, and suggests more sanctuary areas should be established. The largest sanctuary where manatees are now protected is the Everglades National Park. What good is the manatee? A vegetarian, it feeds upon the water hyacinth. This plant grows so rapidly that it blocks waterways, unless manatees are present to keep the plants in check.

**SIX-PACK PLASTIC RINGS**

KIND members have been urged to cut each ring on plastic six-pack holders before discarding them, so animals would not get their heads caught in them. This Peking duck is the victim of a six-pack holder that was thrown away carelessly without having the rings cut. He might have died of starvation if he had not been rescued. Photo by Richard McKee, 11234 South Shore Drive, Reston, Va. See back page.

Put up the poster to warn people about plastic rings. You can order more posters -- 12 for 25¢.
KANGAROO PETITIONS

More signatures on kangaroo petitions have been returned by KIND members than those sent in by adult members of the Humane Society, so far! The World Federation has been well impressed by the efforts of KIND members to help the kangaroos. Information on all these signatures you have sent in is now being given to the Australian Government to urge them to protect kangaroos. There is still time for your petition to be useful, so send it in right away if you haven't already done so.

Animal Lover

I know you have a very good newspaper and won a prize for it, but I think you should include more about animals. There are so many animals that are dying of starvation and people don't know it. Please make them aware of it by your newspaper.

I may be only 12, but I at least care about animals. Tell people when they see a stray animal, feed it. If it's mean, leave some food. When you see it gobble it up, your heart will swell up with pride because you have helped an animal.

Tell people to look at pet stores for dirty cages and clean water dishes. Tell the manager if you have any disapprovals. If he acts mean, contact your nearest humane society. That's where I get my information.

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I'm a member of KIND (Kindness in Nature's Defense). I've been in it four years and I love it. I have a lot of information and it only cost $2.00 a year. This lets people know what we need to do for animals. The address is: KIND, National Humane Education Center, Waterford, Va. 22190.

-SUZANNA BEESON

Kernersville,

One of the best ways KIND members can help animals is to tell others about the problems animals have, and the fact they need our help. The best way to do this is to write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Suzanna Beeson did so, and here is her letter as it appeared in print. Notice she took the opportunity to tell about KIND, too. Why don't you write a letter to the editor?

NEW LEAFLET ON HORSES

Another leaflet on horse care is now available for KIND members who own horses, or hope someday to have a horse. Simply ask for the new horse leaflet if you want a copy. If you enclose an 8¢ stamp with your request, we will use the 8¢ you save us for food for Charley Brown, our old horse who loves young people, and the other horses we often rescue from cruelty cases.

JUNIOR HUMANE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Your editor recently spoke at the meeting of all Florida humane societies, urging them to adopt the KIND program as their own junior membership. If there is a humane society in your community, you can invite them to sponsor the KIND program, too. Ask your humane society if they could sponsor KIND as their junior membership program.

ATTENTION CLASS CLUB MEMBERS!

If you belong to a class club, continue your membership in KIND by becoming a member individually. You will then receive the monthly newsletter at your home address. Be sure to list your birthdate. Membership is just $2 a year.

Judy Pacente, 545 Page Ave., Lyndhurst, N.J. 07071, wants a pen pal. Judy is 11.

Mary Payne, P. O. Box 127, Pine Bush, N.Y. 12566, wants a pen pal. Mary is 11.
See story page 5.
All photos courtesy Reston Times

This is recycled paper.