CONVERTED TRAPPERS NOW WORK TO HELP PROTECT ANIMALS

See story page 6

Daily Local News Photo by Marge Worth
West Chester, Pa.
PET THEFT
THE HEART-BREAKING CRIME

Only a few years ago the rash of reports of missing pets grew to alarming proportions. Humane societies throughout the country reported the suspicious disappearance of many pets. The logical conclusion was theft. Because the largest purchasers of dogs were experimental laboratories, it was assumed that many pets were being stolen for this market. When The Humane Society received a special gift to be used to investigate the dog dealers supplying animals to laboratories, your editor was given the assignment. Documentation of information required travel to many states, forays into remote backwoods areas, working all through the night, and association with disreputable characters of all sorts. It was dirty work that had to be done to get the facts.

Soon it became apparent that dog dealers had their own network of communication. Dealers knew other dealers in several states. Truckloads of dogs were routinely transported across state lines and traded to dealers for other dogs. Deals were made at regular livestock auctions, two trucks would drive off to a remote area, and a truckload of dogs would be transferred to the empty truck. Every procedure dealers followed as standard practice was done to avoid arousing the attention of others or to escape detection by someone searching for a missing pet. The conditions under which most of these animals were kept were appalling. On more than one occasion investigators returned to a dealer's premises and filed cruelty charges. But this type of action wasn't adequate to solve the problem. It was important to alert the public to what was going on and let them ask government officials to do something about these atrocities.

The Humane Society reported the facts to its members. Other publications began to report some of the facts. LIFE magazine reported a raid we made on a dealer when we filed cruelty charges against him. CBS did a television documentary. People who learned of this traffic in dogs were horrified. Many pets were being stolen for this market. When The Humane Society was asked to testify before the committee that studied the legislative proposal. The information we had collected on dog dealers and their activities was just what the Congress needed to justify passing this law.

At just about the same time a doctor whose dog was stolen decided to see what he could do to prevent or deter the theft of pets. He devised the use of the owner's social security number, tattooed on the inside right flank of the dog, as the best permanent identification that could be given to any dog. He organized the National Dog Registry and contacted major medical laboratories with his idea. They responded enthusiastically and promised to notify him whenever they found a tattoo on a dog. Although researchers must often experiment on animals to gain new medical knowledge, most of them are considerate people and do not inflict pain to animals unnecessarily. They certainly do not want to experiment on someone's beloved pet that had been stolen.

Since enactment of the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1970 and later amendments, the possibility of a sale of stolen pets to laboratories is quite remote. The theft of pets continues in some areas, although not on the extensive scale it once experienced. Usually stolen pets are resold as pets or the thief watches for an advertisement of the missing pet and then returns it to collect a generous reward. Since theft, like abandonment, is difficult to prove unless you catch the criminal in the act, no pet is safe from theft unless he is by his owner's side at all times. License tags and identification tags are meaningless in theft cases, since they are immediately removed. The best protection against theft of your pet is, therefore, may be the National Dog Registry's tattoo system. Once a pet owner's social security number is tattooed on the inner right flank of the pet, the owner should register his name, address, telephone number and social security number with the registry. This can be done for a single $15 fee which keeps this record on file for the lifetime of the owner, and protects every pet he ever has, so long as it is tattooed with this same number. Further information on this pet protection may be obtained from the National Dog Registry, 227 Stebbins Road, Carmel, New York 10512.

Ironically the agent who was given the assignment to document initial information on pet theft and dog dealer activities has himself now become the victim of pet theft. Your editor's constant companion and friend, a black toy poodle, nearly twelve years old, has disappeared. It is possible at that age, of course, that she has simply gone off alone to die, but a daily search has revealed no signs of her body, and now, on the eighth day of her disappearance, these buzzards are still circling overhead. It must surely be confusing to Cindy, the missing poodle, not to understand why her owner doesn't come and get her and take her home, the place she loves so much. It is impossible to speculate on what type of treatment and care she is receiving without developing a tear or a lump in the throat, as she was getting old and required special attention to be comfortable. Only two hopes remain, both somewhat remote. One is that she learns she is tattooed, releases her, and some kind person rescues her and brings her to the animal shelter. Until either of these two possibilities become reality, all there remains is hope.

HOPE FOR THE ENDANGERED

A total of 20 peregrine falcons have hatched in captivity at Cornell University this spring, giving increased hope this endangered species can be saved from extinction.
CINDY IS FOUND!

Just as we go to press, your editor's dog has been found. A man and his family had found Cindy, and liked her so much, they decided to keep her, even though they had heard the radio ad offering a reward. But when the man read the newspaper ad, saying that Cindy had been tattooed, and realized that he could be caught at any time with a stolen dog, he called your editor and returned Cindy. It was a truly joyful reunion, and Cindy is back in her beloved home, thanks to her tattoo. A happy ending to a sad story!

HALLOWEEN

Pets sometimes don't understand the funny costumes you wear on Halloween. Your dog might be frightened and not recognize you in your ghost or goblin costume. He also might want to bite any visiting witches or ghosts who come to your door for Halloween treats. Keep your dog inside on Halloween night, away from the front door so he won't be frightened. When you walk him that evening be sure he's on a leash so he won't try to run away if he is frightened by a visiting witch.

THE PHANTOM OF MOONSHINE CREEK

She came at night on padded feet
In search of something good to eat
And looked in ev'ry garbage can
For scraps of food thrown out by man
Her coat was thick and luminous
Her shadow quick and ominous
Her slinky ways caused some to fear
Her past was known by no one here
And then by fate a stranger came
Who felt the dog had once been tame
He thought she'd seen domestic days
Despite her lone and wild ways
And so, with patience, food, and love,
He lured her down from up above
And when the course of two days passed
He got to pet the dog at last
Then cupid came from up above
And caused the two to fall in love
Then "Moonshine" stayed near his camp site
And came out even when it was light
Soon came the time for him to leave
He wanted her so she'd not grieve
But time for leaving came so soon
It was too early to find "Moon"
He searched the camp as best he could
And hunted through the brush and wood
As "Moon" was nowhere to be found
He sadly left the dog's home ground
The campers fed her food and bone
But, in day time, she hid alone
And then one day the man returned
As eagerness throughout him churned
They met, and "Moonshine" ceased to roam
For her new master took her home.

Randall Grose, President, Sarasota Humane Society, found this beautiful dog abandoned near a campgrounds in North Carolina, while on vacation. The campground owner was planning to shoot her. Mr. Grose befriended her and won her confidence. He left food with another camper for her while he returned to Florida. Then, two days later, drove back to get her. "Moonshine" is her new name and she is now the mascot of the Sarasota Humane Society animal shelter.

Karen Heasley
Age 16
OUR COVER STORY
FORMER TRAPPERS NOW HELP ANIMALS

Carl Honer, 11, and Robert Hayes, 10, had four traps and caught a raccoon in one. Its leg was torn and it was dying. "We killed it, but we really didn't know how to kill it properly," Robert said. "We decided we were not going to use the traps any more." Then they saw The Humane Society's Special Report on Trapping. Within a few weeks they had collected 65 traps from friends and neighbors and turned them in to the Chester County SPCA.

The Thylacine, or Tasmanian Tiger, undoubtedly the most rare and most critically endangered animal on earth today. If it still survives in its native Tasmania forest home, it will be difficult to find. An expedition is searching for it now. The last captive Thylacine died in a Hobart Zoo in 1934. The Thylacine is a Marsupial.

New York Zoological Society Photo

During the past 150 years the rate of extermination of mammals has increased 5,500%. At this pace it will take only 30 years for the remaining 4,000 species to disappear.

Dr. Lee Talbot, Smithsonian Institute

The Bear In The Roadside Zoo

His fur looked dry and dusty.
It was bare in one big spot, And I knew from looking at him That his cage was much too hot.
He paced and paced around and 'round His water dish was dry. Then suddenly he stopped and turned And we stared--eye to eye.
I thought that bears were proud and strong, And scary when they're mad. I never knew until that day That bears could just be--sad.

Dear Mr. Hylton,

This is a copy of letters that I sent to Senators Weicker, Ribicoff, and Steele and Cotter. They all replied and agreed to help pass the bill.

Your friend, Jane Bonnell

Dear Mr. Hylton:

I wrote to you in March requesting help to establish a refuge for Tule Elk in Owens Valley, California. It has been awhile since then, and since you agreed to help, I am wondering what actions have been taken toward this project. I am told that a meeting is scheduled in September. I know you are busy, but when you have time, could you please write and tell me what is happening about it?

I certainly hope that the bill to establish a refuge for the Tule Elk is passed, for it will prove worthwhile to both the elk and the community. Thank you very much.

Sincerely, Jane Bonnell Age 12

Editor's note: Jane has written a very proper and polite letter. As we go to press we learned hearings were scheduled for September 24 and 25. We'll report what happened to this legislation in the next issue.

Dear Mr. Hylton:

Just though I would tell you about my first animal first aid emergency. About 8:30 one night I got a call from a lady down the road. Her puppy had been hit by a car and she called me because I had built a pen for her dog. She said she had been unable to reach a veterinarian, so I grabbed my animal emergency phone numbers and ran down to her house.

As far as I could tell the dog had 3 broken legs and was cut up. I muzzled him, made him comfortable, and then started calling. I finally reached a vet, a friend of mine, explained the situation, and asked him to meet me at his animal hospital.

By this time the dog was in shock, so I found a board, laid my towel on it, eased the dog onto the board, and sent him off with his owner to the vet. The vet contacted me the next day and said that I had done a good job. He reported, though, that the pup was broken up pretty badly. I talked with the owners, explained the dog's condition, and they asked me to have the dog put to sleep. I paid the vet since they are very poor.

Your friend, Myles P. Kelley,
WILDLIFE PINS

Enamelled and gold or silver trimmed pins of endangered wildlife are still available from KIND. They make very nice gifts. Each pin is only $2.

NEW PLAY

A charming play about ecology, written by our friend Charlotte Baker, has just been released. Adam and Eve and their children, realizing they have so polluted the Earth that they can no longer survive on it, seek to return to the Garden of Eden. They find that they must obey the wishes of the animals and promise never again to hurt a living thing to be permitted to return to the Garden of Eden. Entitled, "Return to Eden", it can be ordered for $1.00 from Parameter Press, 705 Main Street, Wakefield, Ma 01880.

PHOTO AND PROJECT CONTEST WINNERS

The winners of the EcolokIND Photo Contest are: First place - Nancy Krom, Second place - Tom Vogelsang, and Honorable Mention Casey Brown.

The winners of the KIND Project Contest, Individual entries, are: First place - Susan Onzick, Honorable Mention - Tom Vogelsang.

The winners of the KIND Project Contest, Branch Club entries, are: First place - The Eagles in Lima, Ohio, and Honorable Mention - The Eagle Defenders in Eldridge, Iowa. Prize-winning photos and projects will be in next month's newsletter. Congratulations!