The Giant Panda

A Symbol of Friendship Between Nations

Drawing by Duwayne Beason, Kernersville, N.C.
Dear friends,

Hobo is a 65 pound German shepherd who lives in a lovely suburban area just outside the nation's Capitol. Nearby is the new community of Reston, built with a respect for nature that isn't found in many places. There are houses built in rows together, apartment buildings, shopping centers, but near them all are wide open spaces of grass and trees, lakes and ponds, meadows and rolling hills. Hobo loves these open spaces, where he can romp and play to his heart's content.

One day while he was romping in a stream something snapped hold of two of his feet. He struggled but it wouldn't let go. The pain was unbearable. Hobo fought until he was too exhausted to fight any longer. Then he lay there, panting, not understanding what held him prisoner. The sun went down and day turned to darkness. It began to get chilly on the damp streambank.

It seemed like forever before the sun came up again and its rays began to warm Hobo's body from the chill of the night. Still the pain continued. Now his feet were swollen where the thing held them in its grip. The slightest movement sent sharp jabs of pain up his legs. Hobo lay still and wished for his master. Why, oh why, hadn't he come looking for him? He knew Hobo always returned home faithfully after a romp in the woods. Perhaps it was his fault; he had gone awfully far this time. If his master had whistled for him last night, would Hobo have been able to hear him?

A second night came, and then a third. Still the pain continued to tear at his flesh and his brain became dull and confused. He heard footsteps and began to hope once more. Even with the pain, he began to wag his tail at the thought he might be rescued. He whined softly as the footsteps came nearer.
"Oh, you poor dog! How long have you been here like this?" the kind old man exclaimed. Hobo's tail started to wag again as the old man petted him. He knew he didn't have the strength to pull the jaws of the trap apart, and he tried to explain to the dog that he had to go for help. Although Hobo didn't understand all he said, he sensed somehow the old man would help him, even when he started to walk away again. He lay quietly, waiting patiently for help to return. The pain was still intense, but now he felt he could endure it until help arrived.

Hobo's frightening and painful experience is now no more than a nightmare memory. He is constantly reminded of it, though, because he walks with a limp. One hind foot and a toe from the other foot had to be amputated. Hobo's experience may serve to protect other animals from getting caught in traps, if the use of the cruel steel jaw trap can be outlawed. The Humane Society is taking Hobo's case to court, because the trapper wasn't authorized to set the trap where he did. We hope the case will help encourage people to urge Congress to pass a law banning the cruel steel jaw trap.

Your friend,

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.

ANIMAL NOTEPAPER

You can have stationery with pictures of the Giant Panda and the Muskox. It comes in a box of sixteen sheets with envelopes. Eight sheets have a Panda and eight have a Muskox on them. A box of stationery is $2. Profits from the sale of stationery will help The Humane Society to help needy animals.
LITTER HARMs ANIMALS

A DUCK WITH ITS NECK CAUGHT IN A PLASTIC SIX-PACK RING WILL STRANGLE OR STARVE TO DEATH. METAL POP-TOP TABS HAVE KILLED FISH AND WATER BIRDS AND HALF THE RACCOONS IN ONE NATIONAL PARK. ANIMALS DIE FROM INTESTINAL BLOCKAGE FROM EATING PAPER, PLASTIC, AND POLAROID FILM LITTER. ANIMALS DIE WITH THEIR HEADS CAUGHT IN CANS AND JARS TRYING TO FIND FOOD. ANIMALS GO BAREFOOT—BROKEN GLASS CAN CUT THEIR FEET. PROTECT ANIMALS FROM PEOPLE HAZARDS. PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. DON'T LITTER.
Have You Met . . .

the cousin of our own raccoon, who is a native of China? He is the Giant Panda, whose proper name is Ailuropoda melanoleuca. He may weigh as much as 300 pounds when grown, and is the largest representative of his family. He resembles a bear much more than a raccoon. Panda is especially fond of bamboo shoots. Pandas are found in only one place in the world—a province in southern China. They would soon become extinct if they were not protected in their only native habitat. Two Giant Pandas now live at the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C., given to America by China.

Have You Met . . .

the small cousin of the buffalo, who lives in far northern regions, living off mosses and lichens he digs up from under the snow? He is the Muskox, whose home is northeastern Canada, Greenland, and some Arctic regions. His proper name is Ovibos moschatus. Muskoxen travel in herds. When danger threatens, they form a circle with their heads out, to protect females and young within the circle. Baby muskoxen are called ramkins. America gave two muskoxen to China, when representatives of the two nations met recently to discuss mutual concerns.
KANGAROO PETITIONS

The Humane Society was quite impressed by the number of signatures KIND members have collected to help save the kangaroos. They have sent this information on to the World Federation for the Protection of Animals, who will urge the Australian Government to protect the kangaroos. We will send more petitions on to WFPA as you send them in, so if you haven't returned your petition, finish getting signatures and send it to KIND.

NEW LEAFLET ON HORSES

Another new leaflet is now available on horses. If you own a horse or want to learn more about horses, send for your free copy. Enclose an extra stamp when you write for your leaflet, and it will save us 8¢ we can use to help needy animals.

YOUR LOCAL HUMANE SOCIETY

Humane societies in Florida were recently urged to sponsor The Kindness Club, during their meeting they hold once a year. Your editor explained the program and described how a humane society could appoint a Raccoon Captain and organize a branch club as its own junior humane society membership. Perhaps your local humane society would be interested in organizing a branch club. Why don't you ask them?

MANATEES

During the Florida meeting a representative of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission discussed the manatees. If you saw the Jacques Cousteau television program about manatees several weeks ago, you may remember they said many manatees were being injured by the propellors of boats. Some members have written, asking what they could do to help the manatees. The Florida official suggests the only thing that will protect them properly is a new law, setting aside sanctuary areas where boats would not be permitted. Manatees could live there safe from the injury a boat's propellor could cause. Manatees are on the endangered species list, but are protected in Florida--except from the accidental injuries from propellors.

SIX-PACK PLASTIC RINGS

Kindness Club members may remember we warned not to throw six-pack plastic ring holders away without first cutting each ring open. The duck on the back page shows proof of how these rings harm animals. Put up the poster to warn people about these plastic rings. More posters--12 for 25¢. See photo on back page.

Dear Arahkun,

My friends and I sold Koolaid and made a couple of dollars and my mother gave us three dollars more for the animals. Here it is.

Love, Charlotte Conway, Fairfax, Va. age 7
VICTIM OF LITTERING
See story page 7.

Photo by Richard McKee