JEANNE DE FELICE HOLDS SHAKESPHERE, THE OPOSSUM SHE HAS RAISED. BUT WINTER IS COMING. IS THIS THE TIME TO RELEASE SHAKE SPHERE? AND HOW TO BE SURE THE OPOSSUM PET WILL SURVIVE?

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Mya, the ocelot, who knows life only as a house cat. An ocelot is 3 1/2 to four feet long, and may weigh as much as 85 pounds.

Dear friends,

Mya is a house cat. She belongs in the jungle. But she lives in a house. She is lucky to be alive, a life she never knew. She is an ocelot.

A man who could not pay his rent moved away. We were lucky to find Mya alive. A landlord died and left Mya alone in a room. She had no food or water. The landlord found Mya, who was hungry, covered a tenant who had left without paying his rent, and abandoned her to die of starvation in a locked apartment. The landlord called the Humane Society, who took Mya to our shelter.

Mya is a house cat, but she lives in a house. She is lucky to be alive, a life she never knew. She is an ocelot.

We fed her and talked softly to her, brought her tidbits, and talked gently to her. Pretty soon she began watching the cats playing in the next room. She began to eat better,elin a lot, and felt around her cage, getting exercise she needed.

We didn't want Mya to live in a cage all her life, but she didn't know how to live free. We were lucky enough to find a woman who devoted her life and adapted her home to care for mistreated ocelots. She adopted Mya, not really knowing if she would react well to the other ocelots. If Mya didn't adjust, there would be no other hope, and she would have to be put to sleep. But Mya adjusted beautifully. She had known no other life than living in a house, and she responded well to the love and affection her new owner gave her. We're very grateful to the woman who devoted her life and home to the care of ocelots who should never have been removed from their native home, and who cannot be released to live free.

It's the best life we can give them, when they have never learned to live as ocelots should. How glad we are we could offer her this life, where she is loved and wanted.

Your friend,
Have you ever wanted a real wild animal as your very own pet? Jeanne De Felice felt that way, but she knew wild animals should be left living free. So she was content with a cat, a dog, and a hamster.

Then one day a boy brought her a tiny baby opossum that his dog had caught. The opossum just fit in the palm of her hand. She fed it, prepared a bed and a cage for it, and soon the opossum was responding to her just like her other pets.

Now the opossum is half grown, and has grown a pouch on her stomach. Jeanne didn't know the opossum was a female, and named her Shakesphere, but the name sticks with her, anyway.

Jeanne lives in Indiana, where winters can get pretty cold. She knows it isn't fair to keep a wild animal in captivity all its life. She's even afraid Shakesphere will get too used to her if she keeps her much longer, and not be able to learn how to live free. But she's afraid she won't have enough time to find sources of food before winter sets in.

Opossums sleep a lot during cold winter months—a type of hibernation, when she wouldn't need too much food. Opossums have been known to learn to live free, even after living two or three years in captivity. Shakesphere probably will have to learn that dogs are an enemy. Jeanne has decided that she must find a refuge where there will be some protection for Shakesphere when she does release her. She hopes to be able to visit regularly and put food out for her for the first few weeks. Jeanne has decided she should keep Shakesphere through the winter, and release her in the spring, when she will be just about fully grown. Then she will have all summer long to get acquainted with her new home, and find good sources of food.

Perhaps you may feel she should have released Shakesphere this fall. List the reasons she should have released her this fall, and why she should wait until spring. Write and tell us what you think Jeanne should have done. Be sure your letter is postmarked no later than November 15. We'll print the best suggestions in your December newsletter.

One of the most appealing of all animals is the koala bear. Gift shops and novelty stores often have fuzzy toy koala bears for sale, but they are all covered with kangaroo fur. Visit gift shops where you live and see if they have koala bear toys for sale. Read the label, or ask the clerk, to find out what kind of fur it is. We have never seen a fuzzy toy koala bear in anything but kangaroo fur. Ask the clerk why they use kangaroo fur when many other fuzzy animal toys are covered with synthetic fur. The clerk may not be able to tell you, but is likely to try to find out. Tell the clerk you would like a koala bear toy, but you refuse to buy one that is covered with kangaroo fur. Explain to the clerk that, if people don't stop killing kangaroos, they may soon become extinct.

If you live in New Jersey, don't forget to help The Humane Society distribute leaflets on the state's new trapping laws. (See October newsletter) Order leaflets from: The Humane Society of the U.S., New Jersey Branch, 1140 East Jersey St., Elizabeth, N.J. 07201
Dear ARAHKUN,
I took care of 2 Gerbils for neighbors while they went on vacation. I know you can use the money I earned for the animals. $5 gift for the animals.

Love, Charlotte Conway, Fairfax, Va. age 7

Dear KIND,
We got a letter from the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. So a few of my friends and I went around all over the place collecting for it. The money is going to an animal shelter they are building for stray and suffering animals. We collected $61. I think this was a nice project for KIND members. Sincerely, Sylvia Wertheimer, age 10

THE CAST OUT
Who could hurt this little dog you may say
He is so cute and fast in his play.
How could someone cast him out?
Was he mad?
What’s this all about?

You may say this every day
But do you stop and try to help?
Will you help without a doubt?
Are you sad that this may happen?

Joro Walker, Chevy Chase, Md. age 10

TIME TO RENEW
Membership renewal time is during the last four months of each year. Send your $2 dues in now for 1973.

NAME
BIRTHDATE
STREET ADDRESS
CITY
STATE
ZIP CODE

Whiskers, the KIND office mascot, sleeps his regular 9-5 shift in the Director’s briefcase.

WOLVES THREATENED IN QUEBEC
There is no bounty on wolves in Quebec, any more. But a far more wicked plan has just been announced. As a scheme to attract tourists and get their business, special prizes will be given to hunters who kill a wolf. Each will receive the jaws of the wolf he killed, embedded in a plastic block, with the name of the killer engraved in the plastic.

Quebec expects to attract 5,000 hunters to a 5,000 square mile area to shoot the wolves. After that, they plan to truck in 600 loads of traps to catch the wolves that are left.

Quebec claims the wolves are over-populating. (Remember, wolves practice birth control, and we know of no other case where wolves became too numerous, unless, perhaps, by being driven out of other territories.) You can write and protest the killing of wolves. Write to: M. Claude Simard, Minister of Tourism, Fish & Game, Office of the Minister, Gouvernement du Quebec, Quebec, Canada.
During World War II everyone had Victory Gardens to raise their own food. They did many other things to save metal and help the war effort. They recycled 35% of all the paper used. Today we only recycle 25% of the paper we use, even though recycling helps the environment.

It takes a tree 100 foot tall to produce the paper one person uses in just one year.

There are 758 million acres of forests in the U.S. If just 50% of the paper were recycled, 500 million trees would be saved each year. They would make a forest roughly equal to all of New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Mark these states on a map.

One acre of trees removes 5 to 6 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year. This is the waste gas you breathe out. In return, these trees produce 4 tons of oxygen for us to breathe each year.

Trees make the atmosphere cooler. One acre of trees can have the same cooling effect in the summer as an air conditioner big enough to cool a 10 room house, if it is operated night and day.

Your KINDNESS CLUB letter is published monthly for members ages 6-10 by KIND, youth membership division of The Humane Society of the U.S.

R. Dale Hylton, Editor