TIPPIE RACCOON VISITS A SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

Photo courtesy of VIRGINIA SENTINEL
Dear friends,

Reddy is a red fox who thinks he is a dog. At least he did when he was brought here to the Humane Center Shelter. Someone found him playing with several boys and their dogs in town. No one knew where he had come from. A red collar on his neck and his liking for dogs and people suggested he had been raised by a human family. He may never have known his own mother.

For days I watched Reddy in his pen, where he could see people come through the front door. He seemed interested in every person who came in and he watched them closely, looking for the people who had raised him.

Whenever someone brought a dog in, Reddy's tail would wag. When he got to know us better, we let him run and play in the fenced patio with Dusty, the collie who became his special friend.

A red fox is usually born in March, and his teeth grow so rapidly they are fully grown by August. Reddy, then, was still a fox kit, and still growing, when he was brought to us.

Reddy has lived at the Humane Center just about a year now. He kept growing until he was the right size for a full-grown fox. He was too tame to release. He makes friends with anyone and might have just walked right up to a hunter with a gun. Of course, thinking he is a dog, he would never be able to understand the foxhounds that chase foxes in this area. Some people still think this is sport. They claim the fox is seldom killed, yet they have to import foxes periodically so there will be enough to chase. This often upsets Nature's balance, and sometimes many more animals become infected with rabies. Then the state traps the foxes to control the rabies, and rabbit and rodent populations multiply out of bounds. Then the fox hunters import more foxes.

Reddy still likes dogs, but now he has company of his own kind. A little female Arctic fox named Ruff has been his companion for several months. The girl who bought her in a pet shop discovered that keeping a fox as a pet was more trouble than she wanted, so she just brought her in and gave her up. Now two other foxes have joined Ruff and Reddy. One is another Arctic fox, and the other is a grey fox. All have been raised as pets.

We can give them a large pen to live in and try to make their lives as happy as possible, but they have been doomed by people to an unnatural life. And, for their sakes, we keep urging people not to have wild animals as pets, but let them live free, as nature intended.

Your friend,

[Signature]
Have you met...

the bird who is a champion long-distance runner? He doesn't fly very well, but friend roadrunner will race nearly anyone - and probably win. He lives in the southwestern desert areas and in Mexico. He needs to be able to run fast, to catch the lizards, snakes, and insects he depends on for food. One of his favorite foods is rattlesnake.

Friend roadrunner is a fun-loving clown. Often he just runs in circles or around things, playing by himself. He's a member of the cuckoo family and, in fact, is sometimes called the ground cuckoo. Roadrunner, whose proper name is Geococcyx californianus, grows 24 inches long. His feathers are streaked brown and white. His call is something similar to the cuckoo's call, although some people claim it sounds more like "beep-beep."

He is notorious for racing just for fun, and used to watch for stage-coaches to race them - probably winning most of the time. Mexicans call him "fellow countryman."

Branch Club News - Byram Court

Our club made pins and bookmarks out of felt. We made paperweights from seashells glued onto stones, then dripped colored wax on them. We sold these items to our neighbors to raise money to send to the Humane Society. Now we are planning a circus.

Alligators in Trouble

Efforts to protect alligators are beginning to work. One of the biggest hide dealers, Q. C. Plott, from Atlanta, Georgia, has pleaded guilty to illegally selling and shipping alligator hides. He was sentenced to six months in prison, his son to 90 days in jail, and both were placed on five years' probation. Plott admitted to shipping 4,788 raw alligator hides to New York during a period of only six months. He claims his business makes $800,000 a year. Meanwhile, the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission has announced a 13-day alligator hunt, even though alligators are on the endangered species list. Write and protest to Louisiana Senator Russell B. Long, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.
A NEW AIRPLANE DESIGNED TO PROTECT ANIMALS

The new Douglas DC 10 has special "pet vents" installed in its cargo holds, so pets being shipped can breathe. Many animals have died from suffocation during air shipment. Braniff has drilled holes in the forward holds of their DC 8 planes, to help pets breathe.

SUMMER PLAYGROUND

The Animal Welfare League sponsored the Kindness Club in Fairfax County this summer. Tippie Raccoon (front cover) helped tell children how important it is not to keep wild animals as pets, but to let them live free.

WHALE SANCTUARY

Grey whales migrate every year to Laguna Ojo de Libre, in Mexico, where their calves are born. Mexico has established the Laguna as a sanctuary, where the whales will be protected.

HAVE A CLASS CLUB AT SCHOOL

Just as soon as you go to school this year, tell your teacher about The Kindness Club. Take some of the materials and show them to her. Then send us your teacher's name and address, and we'll send her information to tell her how your entire class can be a Branch Club.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

October 4 is St. Francis Day. Hundreds of years ago, St. Francis of Assisi taught people to respect animals and treat them as brothers.

CRUEL TRAPS

Florida has banned the saw-toothed leg hold trap. Hearings on a similar law have been held in Missouri, but there is no decision on it yet.

YOUR PET'S DIET

Some canned cat and dog foods are all meat, with no cereals, grains, vegetables, or other foods in them. Just as you would not be as healthy if you ate nothing but meat, your pet needs other foods, too. If you feed your pet an all-meat food occasionally, mix vegetables with it so he will be eating a balanced meal.

PEN PALS

Charles Grilliot, 1211 S. Carroll Avenue, Freeport, Illinois 61032, wants to write to boys who are interested in sports of all kinds. Charles is 10.

TIME TO RENEW

Membership renewal time is during the last four months of each year. Send your $2 dues in now for 1973.
There are so many puppies and kittens born in this country that few of them find permanent homes. The rest of them lead lonely, suffering lives—often cut short under the wheels of a car or in the death room of a pound.

Don't be responsible for more suffering and needless death. Have your pet spayed or neutered.

A service of The Humane Society of the United States