Thunder is a dog with unique talents. He didn't attend any formal training school, yet he's very valuable to his owners. Betty and Leonard Cohen are physically handicapped and they depend on Thunder for a variety of household chores. Betty has no arms. Leonard has only one arm.

Thunder answers the telephone for them, and, while they are arranging the receiver to talk to their caller, he growls into it. This often startles a new caller, who may hang up and call again later.

Thunder helps bring bags of groceries in from the car. He has a special basket in which he carries attachments for the vacuum cleaner. He brings in firewood in a special basket. After the day's work is done, Betty relaxes upstairs. A soft drink is appreciated then, and after Leonard has opened it, Thunder carries the can up to Betty, without spilling a drop. Most dogs dislike holding any metal object in their teeth. But Thunder thoroughly enjoys making life more pleasant for his masters.
Perhaps Thunder's most amusing feat is making the bank deposit for the Cohens. He leaps out the car window, with the deposit in his mouth, and heads for his favorite teller's window, slipping past the first person who opens the door to enter the bank.

He refuses to wait his turn, but goes right to the head of the line. The customer there either moves aside for him, or he growls softly. Thunder is usually permitted to do his banking without waiting. He's popular with tellers and customers alike.

Once Thunder saw a dog dish he liked, as the family shopped for groceries. He dropped it into the grocery cart when Betty wasn't looking. The manager wanted to give it to him when his theft was discovered, but Betty refused. She didn't want Thunder to learn to be a petty thief.

Thunder learned to help the Cohens after seeing their limitations. He soon discovered that he could do things for the Cohens. He seems to delight in doing chores that are difficult for them to do. Even with handicaps, the Cohens are remarkable people and are as self-sufficient as possible.

Betty swims, bowls, embroiders, sews, and types without the use of arms. Thunder delights in helping the Cohens lead a more enjoyable life.

BAN THE TRAP FUND

KIND's special fund to help get the trap banned now totals $91.30. KIND members wishing to donate to this fund should specify it when they send their gifts.

"GET THE LEAD OUT," SAYS THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

According to the Fish and Wildlife Service, "there is strong evidence that thousands of ducks and geese are fatally poisoned each year by lead shotgun pellets which they scoop up from marsh bottoms as they forage for food." In addition, many other waterfowl suffer from diseases and injuries caused by the lead.

It is estimated that as many as 2 to 3 million birds are dying each year from the lead poisoning. This has prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to suggest that lead pellets be totally banned after 1975. They suggest that steel pellets be the replacement for the lead.

As you might have guessed, this proposal has caused quite a stir in the hunting community. Hunters say that the new steel pellets will harm the barrels of their guns. And they rightly point out that the steel pellets will cost more.

The Fish and Wildlife experts have answered these charges by pointing out that concern for the birds should come first—not the hunters' guns or pocketbooks.

Also, it might just be that the hunters will have 2 to 3 million more birds to shoot at and miss if the steel pellets are introduced. Thus, the changeover to steel may be a plus for hunters and bird lovers alike.
MAKE A SCAT BOARD TO STUDY NATURE

You can discover what the nocturnal animals that visit your area are up to with a scat board. Place a large piece of plywood or other board on the ground and put food on it. You may use corn, rolled oats, apple slices, or peanut butter. Place some rock salt in one corner since many animals need salt in their diet.

If you sift fine soil over the board, you will be able to see animal tracks the next time you check your board. If you rake the earth around the board, tracks may be visible there, too.

The food will attract animals and the salt may encourage them to remain on the board long enough to deposit droppings. These are called scats. Examine the droppings to see if you can tell what they have been feeding on. See if you can identify the animals from their tracks.

GROUP ACTION

Kevin Chambers, President of Oklahoma State University’s Animal Welfare League reports a new bill soon to be introduced to ban the steel jaw trap in Oklahoma. KIND members may wish to help by urging the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to approve this legislation. Their address is 1801 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

ANIMALS SHIPPED BY AIR

Jack Anderson, nationally known for his newspaper column, recently reported on the problems of shipping animals by air. Anderson’s information came from Humane Society’s files. Our information is based upon careful investigations of many animal shipments.

Another columnist, Les Whitten, reported the suffering animals experience, too, and the major reasons why travelling animals are in trouble.

Puppies from the mid-west’s 'puppy mills' are often shipped in cabbage crates and other inadequate containers for live animals. The energy crisis has caused some flight schedules to be cancelled when not enough passengers are booked for a flight. Animals accepted for that destination must wait for another flight.

The most heartless treatment occurs in COD shipments, the report states. If one animal is sick, the whole shipment may be refused. These animals must then wait for another flight back to their point of origin. They are then without food or water, and left waiting in unheated warehouses.

The Humane Society has asked the Civil Aeronautics Board, which has jurisdiction over animals shipped by air, to establish new rules for animal shipments. The HSUS suggests that the CAB establish live animal shipments as priority cargo. Then, animals will not have to wait for a later flight just because other merchandise shipments are on hand to be shipped.
CHAINWORD PUZZLE

The last letter of each animal's name is the first letter of the next animal's name. All of the names make a chain of words.

CLUES
1. A large marine mammal
2. Our nation's symbol
3. Female sheep
4. One kind of heron
5. This cat has stripes
6. American hare
7. A small froglike animal
8. An extinct animal
9. A large animal with one or two horns
10. A fish-eating fish
11. New Zealand bird with no tail

ANSWERS

11. Kiwi
10. Kiwi
9. Whale
8. Giraffe
7. Giraffe
6. Giraffe
5. Giraffe
4. Giraffe
3. Giraffe
2. Giraffe
1. Giraffe

LETTERS TO KIND
Dear KIND,
Just before Easter a dog came to us. She looked like a very old dog. We did all we could think of to find her owner. We put a description of her in the newspaper and on the radio, but no one called to claim her. We still have her and take good care of her.

Kathy Watlington, age 15

BACK TO THE LAND: Part 2
Building supply houses have a rule to protect their delivery trucks. If the truck driver is not sure about driving up to the job site, he can deliver orders at the side of the road. That's just what happened to all the lumber for my cabin.

Here's just a partial list of that delivery:
18 Girder Beams 2" X 8" X 16'
24 Floor Joists 2" X 6" X 16'
48 Upright Studs 2" X 4" X 18'
10 Ceiling Beams
48 Plywood Sheets 4' X 8'
44 Subfloor Boards 1" X 12" X 16'

It took two men to carry the big beams up the hill, one at a time. Every stick of lumber was carried up that hill by hand.

The heavy picture window was a real challenge. We hit upon the idea of carrying it on top of the car. Four of us lifted it to the top of the Squareback and up the hill we drove with it.

No bulldozer had been allowed to scar my land. Only one small pine tree had to be transplanted from the cabin site. The cabin had to be built right on the slope, instead of the easier way of building on a flat site. It was tricky to square each corner and get every corner post level with the next. But we did it and the cabin began to take shape.

Standing back and admiring my cabin once the ceiling beams were in place, I realized the roof pitch was just about the same as the slope of the land. It made the cabin look as if it belonged in that spot. It was just what I'd dreamed it would look like. It was a most rewarding sensation.

Now I knew for sure I had made the right decision to get back to the land.

There will be more cabin talk in the months ahead.

Bye,
Dale Hylton, Editor
EDITORIAL

It's appropriate during the month that spring returns, that we celebrate National Wildlife Week. It is also particularly significant this year because an amended endangered species law has just been enacted. Its new and stronger provisions give promise not only to endangered animals within the U.S., but also to those animals that may become threatened enough to be listed as endangered.

The new law requires states to establish programs for the protection of endangered species and preventive programs so other animals will not be threatened.

The special theme of this year's National Wildlife Week, March 17-23, is "We Care About Endangered Wildlife." You may wish to write your own state's Fish and Game Commission or Department of Natural Resources and inquire about programs they are planning to establish that will protect threatened animals. If you share this information with us, it will help us keep informed on how the new federal law is functioning. We'll report your findings in the newsletter.

EcoloKIND is published monthly for members ages 15-18 by KIND, youth membership division of The Humane Society of the U.S.

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