SHARE YOUR LOVE DURING THE HOLIDAYS WITH YOUR ANIMAL FRIENDS
Dear friends,

We celebrate Christmas as the birthday of Jesus. Animals were the first to greet the new-born baby, since, according to the Bible story, there was no room in the inn and the family had to sleep in the stable. Then angels appeared to shepherds in the fields and gave them the good news. A legend says a little lamb followed the shepherds to the manger to see the baby Jesus. On the way it got caught in the thorns of a holly bush, and the drops of blood from the little lamb that froze on the branches became the red berries the holly bush now wears.

When Jesus was grown and taught people how to live a good life, he taught them the Golden Rule, which is very much like your Kindness Club Pledge. He said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." I think he meant that word 'others' to include animals, too. Every major religion in the world has its own Golden Rule, very much like the one Jesus taught.

Christmas is a time of love and thoughtfulness and giving. Children in many countries receive gifts on that day. In some countries Santa Claus is the official gift-bearer; in others it is the three wise men who followed the star to Bethlehem. In many countries children put out grass, hay, wheat, and bowls of water for Santa's reindeer or the wise men's camels.

In Scandinavia grain is tied to a pole as a feast for the birds. Sometimes suet is added. No one sits down to the Christmas feast until he has put food out for the birds. In Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, a rice porridge is put in the hay loft for Nisse, the Christmas elf, who is also the guardian of the animals. Extra food is given to the animals, and all hunting and trapping is banned at Christmas.

In Czechoslovakia a part of every course of the Christmas dinner is taken out to the barnyard to share with the animals. In Greece the first slice of the Christmas loaf is saved for the first beggar who comes by. In Austria the animals are blessed and fed extra rations. In Norway the same thing is done. The farmer makes the sign of the cross on the fur of each animal to bless them.

In Sweden special bird feeders in the shape of Christmas trees are built and stocked with suet for the birds. In Greece special loaves of bread are baked for the animals, then crumbled into bread crumbs and fed to them to protect them against illness. French Canadians believe it is unlucky if a cat meows in the house on Christmas Eve, so they feed their cats extra well that night.

A legend that seems to come from Poland, but is found in many other places, says that animals are able to talk at midnight on Christmas Eve. People share the leftovers from their supper, and holy wafers, with the animals because they think the animals should be treated as equals with the family on the one night of the year that they regain their speech. Of course, the legend isn't true. Animals can talk whenever they want. It's just that most of us don't try to learn their language. Isn't it a pity that people think they should treat animals as equals only on the night they believe they can talk our language? Why don't we treat animals as equals all the time?

Spend more time with your pet during Christmas holidays. See if you can learn to understand his language better, so you will remember always to treat him with respect. Capture the love and friendship of Christmas, with your pet, your family and your friends, and let it live with you all through the year.

Your friend,

[Signature]
THE ENERGY CRISIS AND CLASSROOM ANIMALS

Many schools are being asked to lower their thermostats to conserve energy in this present emergency when there is not enough fuel. Reducing the temperature of the classroom could harm or kill some animals kept in the classroom. Guinea pigs, for instance, should have temperatures between 68 and 72 degrees at all times. If the thermostat is turned below this overnight or on weekends, they will surely die. If your school has classroom animals, there are ways of protecting them from harm: 1. Keep them in a special room where the temperature is not turned down, 2. Keep a 40 watt light bulb, with a hood over it, in their cages, or 3. Arrange for someone to take them home each weekend.

ERIC, A REMARKABLE DOG, ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS BECAUSE HE ALWAYS GOT A PRESENT OF HIS OWN. ERIC ALWAYS OPENED HIS OWN PRESENTS AT CHRISTMAS, AND THAT WAS HALF THE FUN.

A PRESENT FOR YOUR PET

Pets often share the excitement of Christmas. Even if it is nothing more than a leather chew-bone for your dog, or a new bell for your cat’s elastic collar, wrap a present for your pet. He may not be able to open it himself, (as Eric could) but you can show him it is for him, and he will be interested, as you open it for him.

Dennis the Menace and his friends visit the S.P.C.A. The comic book, #130, is on the newsstands now.
The Monkeys Kindness Club, sponsored by the Tacony Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia, have been active writing letters. They have written many public officials to protest animal abuses or to urge them to enact strong laws that will protect animals. Natalie Baldwin is their Raccoon Captain.

TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE OWNER FINED

The United States Department of Agriculture has finally taken legal action against people who 'sore' their Tennessee Walking Horses. This action is the enforcement of the federal Horse Protection Act of 1970. Two owners were fined $1,000 each on September 7, and on October 23 another owner was fined $1,000, and two of his employees were fined $500 each. Both legitimate horse exhibitors and humane society investigators have been impatient with USDA investigators who inspected sored horses but did nothing about them. The horses' feet are made sore to make them raise their feet higher, creating an unusual style of gait. Soring is done because the competition in these shows is so fierce, and everybody wants his horse to win. One of the most common soring agents used, oil of mustard, is called 'scooter juice.' It is rubbed on the horses' feet and burns terribly. One rumor stated that two USDA investigators inspected a number of sored horses, but didn't disqualify them from the show. It wasn't until they had gotten into their car and driven away that they realized someone had smeared 'scooter juice' all over the car seat. Perhaps it was the 'scooter juice' that started all the action. KIND members can encourage more effective enforcement of this law by writing USDA officials and complimenting them on taking people who violate the law to court.

United States Department of Agriculture
Independence Ave. Bet. 12th & 14th Sts., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

To The Hunter
You'll shoot him, won't you,
That big buck there.
But then why not,
You don't care.
He values life,
Much as you or I.
But you can't see that,
I don't know why.
He's dead now,
And what have you gained?
Something you call fun,
And a bit of fame.

Heidi Beth Roots

REPORTS OF PROJECTS NEEDED

What are you doing to help animals? Perhaps your special project will give other KIND members a good idea. Send reports of your projects, and Branch Club reports to KIND. If you can send a photo of your project, we may be able to publish it in your newsletter.

CINDY, MY POODLE, WHOM I HAVE HAD FOR NEARLY 12 YEARS, BUT WHO WAS STOLEN IN SEPTEMBER, I GOT HER BACK AFTER 8 DAYS OF SEARCHING, WHEN THE MAN WHO TOOK HER READ THE NEWSPAPER AD, TELLING ABOUT THE TATTOO ON HER STOMACH. HE KNEW I COULD ALWAYS PROVE SHE DIDN'T BELONG TO HIM BECAUSE OF THAT TATTOO, IT IS MY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, AND THE NUMBER IS REGISTERED WITH THE NATIONAL DOG REGISTRY. IT'S THE BEST PROTECTION YOU CAN GIVE YOUR PET FROM THEFT.
Animal Note Stationery

Your own special stationery featuring animals is now available from KIND headquarters. For just $1.00 a box, you can order stationery with pictures of wild animals, Siamese cats, or pelicans. For just $1.40 a box, you can get stationery with pictures of Dachshunds, Siamese kittens, a horse, or koala bears. Memo pads (50 sheets on each pad) are also available with a cat, an owl or a horse, at $1.00 each. Be sure to state which animal you want.

TIME TO RENEW

If you haven't renewed your KIND membership for 1974, do it now. Use the form below and send your dues in right away.

1974 KIND MEMBERSHIP

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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

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