DEFENDERS

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CONVERTED TRAPPERS NOW WORK TO HELP PROTECT ANIMALS

See story page 5
For many years reports of missing pets across the country have come in at an alarming rate. Humane societies, studying the situation and discovering few of the missing animals were taken to the animal shelters, began investigating the disappearance of pets. From the information they gathered, they concluded that many pets were being stolen and sold for medical experimentation.

In 1964 The Humane Society of The United States received a special grant that was to be used to investigate dealers who supplied animals to laboratories. Your editor was the person hired to conduct these investigations. The work required extensive travelling over many states, late hours, and forays into remote wilderness areas where dog dealers often maintained their holding stations. A massive amount of information was compiled and it soon became obvious that most dealers knew one another. Because dogs brought more money than cats and could be caught more easily than cats, most dealers traded mostly in dogs. Just as soon as they had a truckload, they usually delivered them to a dealer in another state, and trading between dealers was common.

There were animal auctions, where many dealers congregated and sold or traded dogs. Dealers even made contact with other dealers at regular livestock auctions, but usually they met in the parking lot after dark. When the deal was made, both dealers drove off in their trucks to a remote spot away from the auction and transferred the dogs from the loaded truck to the other dealer's empty truck. All of these shady activities were designed to avoid attracting the attention of anyone, but they also led us to believe that many of these dogs might have been stolen. Although we could prove that more pets were reported missing in the situation and discovering few of the missing animals are anance of pets. From the information they gathered, they concluded that many pets were being stolen and sold for medical experimentation.

Owners of stolen pets were completely frustrated in their attempts to locate their dogs by the methods the dealers used of shipping dogs to another state and trading dogs with other dealers. To avoid attracting the attention of anyone, but they also led us to believe that many of these dogs might have been stolen. Although we could prove that more pets were reported missing in the situation and discovering few of the missing animals are anance of pets. From the information they gathered, they concluded that many pets were being stolen and sold for medical experimentation.

When Congress studied the idea of passing a law to protect animals destined for sale to laboratories, The Humane Society's documented information on dog dealers was presented to the Congressmen studying the bill. It helped them to decide that dealers should be licensed and inspected by the Federal Government, New York 10512. No dog is safe from theft except while he is right beside you. A tattoo and a lifetime registration may protect your pet from theft, or increase the chances of him being returned if he is ever stolen.

At about the same time a doctor who wanted to help protect animals from theft got an idea on a way of permanently identifying pets. His idea was to have the owner's social security number tattooed on the inside right flank of the dog. He wrote the laboratories about his idea and they responded with enthusiasm, promising to report any animal to him that was delivered to the laboratory, on which they discovered a tattooed number.

Most researchers provide good care for their experimental animals and try to spare them any suffering they can. They certainly don't want to experiment on someone's stolen pet. The doctor organized the National Dog Registry. Once a pet is tattooed the owner may register his own name, address, social security number, and telephone number with the National Dog Registry for $15. This is a single registration that is good as long as the pet owner lives, and protects every pet the owner ever has, so long as the pets are tattooed with this same number.

Pet thieves still steal pets, but they aren't likely to get laboratories to buy them any more. They usually sell them again as pets. Some wait until an ad for the missing pet appears, then return the pet and collect the reward the owner has offered. Any thief who finds a tattooed serial number on a dog is likely to dump it out on the street, though, because he knows the owner can always identify that dog. If any person finds the dog and takes it to an animal shelter the chances are still pretty good the dog will be reunited with his owner, if the owner visits the animal shelter regularly to look for his dog.

It is ironic that your editor, who was so involved in documenting the evidence on pet theft, has now become a victim of this vicious business. A twelve year old poodle companion has disappeared from his home. She might have, of course, just gone off to die, as an old animal often does, but a thorough search has not revealed her body anywhere. It is discouraging to think that she might have been stolen, and to think of her confusion from being handled by total strangers. The only hope that remains is that Cindy was tattooed. The National Dog Registry has been notified of her disappearance, an advertisement is being broadcast on the radio and appeared in newspapers. With luck the ads will be heard or seen by the thief. If, when he dumps her on the street because a tattooed dog can't easily be sold, some kind person rescues her and brings her to the shelter, there will be a happy reunion.

Your social security number tattooed on your pet and registration with the National Dog Registry is no definite assurance your pet will be returned if it is stolen, but it is the best identification your pet can have. It also offers the best hope of getting your pet back from a thief, because, once he learns a dog is tattooed, he will let it be known that he wants more information about the National Dog Registry, write 227 Stebbins Road, Carmel, New York 10512. No dog is safe from theft except while he is right beside you. A tattoo and a lifetime registration may protect your pet from theft, or increase the chances of him being returned if he is ever stolen.

A total of 20 peregrine falcons have hatched in captivity at Cornell University this spring, giving increased hope this endangered species can be saved from extinction.

HOPE FOR THE ENDANGERED
CINDY IS FOUND!!!

Just as we go to press, your editor’s dog has been found. A man and his family had found Cindy, and liked her so much, they decided to keep her, even though they had heard the radio ad offering a reward. But when the man read the newspaper ad, saying that Cindy had been tattooed, and realized that he could be caught at any time with a stolen dog, he called your editor and returned Cindy. It was a truly joyful reunion, and Cindy is back in her beloved home, thanks to her tattoo. A happy ending to a sad story!

CLEM AND JETHRO

The person accused of poisoning Clem and Jethro has been released. The judge decided that there just wasn’t enough evidence to prove that she did it. The District Attorney’s office is still studying the case, however, and may decide it should come before the grand jury.

HALLOWEEN

Pets sometimes don’t understand the funny costumes you wear on Halloween. Your dog might be frightened and not recognize you in your ghost or goblin costume. He also might want to bite any visiting witches or ghosts who come to your door for Halloween treats. Keep your dog inside on Halloween night, away from the front door so he won’t be frightened. When you walk him that evening be sure he’s on a leash so he won’t try to run away if he is frightened by a visiting witch.

DEAR MR. HYLTON,

This is a copy of letters that I sent to Senators Weiker, Ribicoff, and Steele and Cotter. They all replied and agreed to help pass the bill.

Your friend, Jane Bonnell

Dear Mr. Hylton,

I wrote to you in March requesting help to establish a refuge for Tule Elk in Owens Valley, California. It has been awhile since then, and since you agreed to help, I am wondering what actions have been taken toward this project. I am told that a meeting is scheduled in September. I know you are busy, but when you have time, could you please write and tell me what is happening about it? I certainly hope that the bill to establish a refuge for the Tule Elk is passed, for it will prove worthwhile to both the elk and the community. Thank you very much.

Sincerely, Jane Bonnell Age 12

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Editor's note: Jane has written a very proper and polite letter. As we go to press we learned hearings were scheduled for September 24 and 25. We'll report what happened to this legislation in the next issue.

During the past 150 years the rate of extermination of mammals has increased 5,500%. At this pace it will take only 30 years for the remaining 4,000 species to disappear.

Dr. Lee Talbot, Smithsonian Institute
A TAG SALE, BAKE SALE AND FUN FAIR WAS SPONSORED TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE HUMANE SOCIETY. A TOTAL OF $55 WAS RAISED TO HELP ANIMALS. PICTURED ARE, LEFT TO RIGHT, SARAH WHEELER, "SAMANTHA THE DOG, AMY WHEELER, GAE EVERSON, CATHY VILLECCO, "LADY THE DOG, KARIN ELY, JOANNE GREENALCH, DONNA HAYDEN. IN BACK ARE KRISTIN ELY, JULIE NICK, DIANE VALLEY, SUSAN TOMLINSON, LARA BARNEY.

BRANCH CLUB NEWS

The Hawks Branch Club in Mt. Carroll, Illinois have planned a visit to their local animal shelter to learn for themselves how the animals are treated there. One member plans to adopt a pet while she is there. Martha Wagner is Raccoon Captain.

The Eagles, Branch Club in Eldridge, Iowa, have fed calves for a farmer, sent labels to help save eagles, ordered posters, and reproduced the report on Pet Overpopulation to distribute to pet owners. Officers are Audrey Fahrenceig, President, Shelly Cole, Vice President, Brooke Bainter, Treasurer, Susan Stephens, Secretary, Amy Tanis, Project Secretary.

Dear Sirs:

To raise money for The Humane Society some of my friends and I held a carnival. It featured booths, prizes, horse and pony rides, refreshments, and a cake raffle. We raised $39.70. I hope it helps some animals. Workers included Joanie and Paula Deziel, their cousin Lisa, Laura Dispirito, Linda Bagley, Mickey Odonell, and myself.

Sincerely, Nancy Belhumeur Age 13

MAN AND HIS TRAPPING GEAR

Tis a terrible plight, for animals and their young
To be killed and chased each year,
By helicopters, planes, and worst of all
Man and his trapping gear.

Running their legs off, plunging to their death
Now listen carefully dear,
It is easier dying by a wild, mad bear
Than by man and his trapping gear.

Once you are caught there is no escape
Even if you're the fastest of deer,
You'll tear off a toe, or maybe a foot
Because of man and his trapping gear.

To stop this killing is a very hard task
Like getting alcoholics off their beer
People are the problem, people are the solution
Of man and his trapping gear.

You must not buy these furs for which animals are killed
Even if it's a bulky old steer,
For he, the same as the others, is killed
By man and his trapping gear.

Send a letter on how you feel
To your Senators, fill it with fear,
If they have feeling and understand
They'll stop man and his trapping gear.

Cathy Gilliam
Age 11

Dear KIND,

One day my puppy got real sick so we took her to the vet. He said she was poisoned. She was so sick he even took her to his house that night to try to save her, but "Brandy" died.

I would like all KIND members to keep poison and poisonous plants out of their pets' reach.

Yours truly, Julie Klein, Marietta, Ga. age 13
Enameled and gold or silver trimmed pins of endangered wildlife are still available from KIND. They make very nice gifts. Each pin is only $2.

NEW PLAY

A charming play about ecology, written by our friend Charlotte Baker, has just been released. Adam and Eve and their children, realizing they have so polluted the Earth that they can no longer survive on it, seek to return to the Garden of Eden. They find that they must obey the wishes of the animals and promise never again to hurt a living thing to be permitted to return to the Garden of Eden. Entitled, "Return to Eden", it can be ordered for $1.00 from Parameter Press, 705 Main Street, Wakefield, Ma. 01880.

PHOTO AND PROJECT CONTEST WINNERS

The winners of the DEFENDERS Photo Contest are: First place - Lisa Brunner, Second place - Cornelia Harrison, and Honorable Mention - Marge Parrott.
The winners of the KIND Project Contest, Individual entries, are: First place - Susan Onzick, Honorable Mention - Tom Vogelsang.
The winners of the KIND Project Contest, Branch Club entries, are: First place - The Eagles in Lima, Ohio, and Honorable Mention - The Eagle Defenders in Eldridge, Iowa. Prize-winning photos and projects will be in next month's newsletter. Congratulations!