Earth Week

April 21 through 28 has been set aside by Congress as Earth Week. A special alliance for Environmental Education has been formed to promote Earth Week. The Humane Society is a member of this alliance.

Earth Week’s theme this year is “learning and doing.” Unless we have learned what problems are caused by pollution, we can’t very well do much to solve these problems. But once we know what has caused the problems, chances are we’ll be able to figure out what we can do to solve them.

The energy crisis is one of these problems. Make plans now to start new lifestyles during Earth Week that will help conserve energy. Then keep those habits all through the year.

The U. S. Government has set a fine example in the historic town of Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia. It is famous as the town where John Brown was captured. It is now a national park with sleepy narrow streets. To save gasoline, garbage collection is done by horse and wagon. The team of horses is just perfect for garbage collecting, because of the narrow places along the way where garbage is to be picked up.

There are many ways everyone can help. Turn lights out when they aren’t needed. Turn the faucet off while you brush your teeth. Walk instead of riding. Turn the thermostat down. Open a window on hot days instead of turning on the air conditioner.

On warm days when you shampoo your hair, plan ahead and let it dry naturally instead of using the hair dryer.

Use the push lawn mower this summer and save gasoline the power mower would have used. It will give you great exercise.

Get out the hand can opener and put away the electric one. Wash and flatten cans and return them to a recycling center.

Save and bundle newspapers. Find out if your local animal shelter can use them to line the animals’ cages. If not, take them to be recycled, too.
There are even more clever ways of helping. Get your class, or perhaps your entire school, to recycle all "junk mail" from home for a full month. Fighting pollution isn't just picking up trash, although that is important. It's being concerned enough to protect the environment in every way you can with thoughtful habits that will save and conserve.

The earth can be preserved if everyone pitches in.

- Who is the biggest energy user in your house?
- How can you help that person use less?
- Why should you try to save energy?
- What will happen if everyone tries to save energy?
- When will we see the results of energy saving programs?
- Where is the best place to start saving energy in your house?

A good Earth Week Arbor Day activity is planting trees. If you decide to plant trees, choose a place that needs them. Remember that trees make oxygen, act as sound buffers, and they also serve as wind screens and homes for animals. They're pretty, too!

Arbor Day - April 22

Arbor - a funny sounding word, isn't it? It's a word that isn't used much anymore. It's simply a word that refers to gardens and green plants.

When we celebrate Arbor Day, we think more about trees than other plants. That's because we recognize the importance of trees. They make oxygen. From their trunks comes paper and wood for building our homes. It takes 20 trees to clean the polluted air from the exhaust of just one car.

If you can't plant a tree on Arbor Day, plant a shrub or other growing plant. They make oxygen, too. And they will add beauty to your yard.

Be Kind To Animals Week

May 5-11 is the special week for remembering animals this year. KIND members are kind to animals all year long. But this week we have the opportunity to tell others how important it is to be kind to animals all the time.

Take on a special project. Visit your local newspaper and ask the editor to run a special feature for Be Kind To Animals Week. Perhaps he will want to do a story on your local humane society or animal shelter. He may even want to tell his readers about KIND.

Then write a letter to the editor about the importance of being kind to animals all year. Be sure to mention you are a KIND member.

Use this special week for a report in school to tell your classmates about KIND.
**Kind Project**

**How Old is a Tree?**

We all know that you can count the rings on a cross section of a tree trunk to figure out how old the tree is. But, have you ever tried it? It's pretty tough.

We've discovered a way to figure the age of a tree that's easy on the eyes.

Right after a bad storm, or whenever someone is cutting down a tree, ask them to saw a thin cross section of the trunk for you. The best size is three to five inches thick.

After the varnish has dried, start counting the rings. Count a light and dark band as one year. You will find that some bands are wider than others. Can you guess why? Put an X on the band for the year you were born.

Your cross section might make a lovely wall hanging for your room.

Sand one side of the cross section until it is smooth. Now brush on a clear varnish to bring out the grain of the wood.

We welcome your suggestions for projects. Send a written description and drawings or photographs of projects you wish to share with other DEFENDERS to: PROJECTS, The Humane Society of the United States, Waterford, Virginia 22190.

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**Review**

"Pethood or Parenthood" is the title of a new filmstrip on surplus animals. It explains how much happier a pet can be when it doesn't have to care for a litter of unplanned puppies or kittens.

The sound filmstrip explains each picture and also discusses spaying. The strip answers most of the questions people ask about spaying. It also shows the heartache children experience when they find no one wants their pet's puppies.

The children finally have to take the surplus animals to the shelter where they realize there isn't much of a chance of their being adopted.

The strip is produced by the American Veterinary Medical Association to help the Humane Society prevent surplus animals. Teachers who wish more information about this filmstrip may write to KIND.
Puzzles

Animal Sounds

Find the 14 animal sounds that answer the clues below. If you can’t figure one out, please don’t yelp or scream! The answers can be found at the bottom of the page.

ACROSS
3. What a dog does
5. The sound of a cow
6. What a wolf might do at night
7. A lion or bear might do this
10. The sound of a happy cat
11. A baby bird’s call
12. Pig talk

DOWN
1. Donkey sound
2. The king of the jungle’s call
4. What a horse might do if it saw another horse
5. Cat talk
6. What a crow’s cries might be called
8. A duck’s noise
9. Chick talk

ANSWERS:

This puzzle page is your page. Do you have a favorite animal joke or riddle? Do you write funny limericks? Can you make up word puzzles? How about tricky pictures? Whatever you’ve got that’s fun – we want to share it with other DEFENDERS. Send your material to: FUN, The Humane Society of the United States, Waterford, Virginia, 22190.

From You

Dear Mr. Dale Hylton,
I’m sending you a gift of gratitude. Our dog got terribly tangled in her chain. Someone called the humane society and she was rescued right away. Thanks again to the Humane Society.
Mary Jo Koppenhauer, Burnsville, MN, age 13
Thank you, Mary! We’ll use your gift carefully to help other, less fortunate animals. — Ed.

Dear KIND,
Here is my membership renewal and an extra dollar for a whale poster/petition. I plan to put up the poster at school. I’ve waited a long time for this chance to do something for my favorite animal. Thanks!
Your Friend,
Susan Gasper, Pensacola, FL, age 14
Thanks, Susan – KIND members can still order whale posters/petitions at $1 each. — Ed.

Dear KIND,
I would like to give my cousin KIND in 1974.
Thank you,
Susan Beall, Milan, MI, age 14
A great idea! KIND makes a nice gift for any cousin or friend. Be sure to send birthdate of the person to receive the gift, and let us know it is to be sent as a gift. We’ll include a nice card, from you. — Ed.

Dear Sirs,
Everything has gone up this past year, including many of my other monthly magazines. For this reason I’m cancelling three out of five. Yours will stay on my list. DEFENDERS Magazine has not gone up in price or down in quality since I began receiving them. I’ve kept every one since November 1970. Other magazines begin sending you renewal subscriptions and aggravating “You Must Not Miss This Once In A Lifetime Chance” letters. When renewal time comes, you include one simple form – no Christmas specials, no “get one for a friend” campaigns. Your format is good. I can read the first two crucial pages and save the others for later when I have more time. I appreciate the consideration that goes into the making and mailing of DEFENDERS Magazine.
Thank you so much – for EVERYTHING!
Beth Jackendoff, N.Y., N.Y., age 12
Thank You, Beth! The reason we haven’t gone up in price – even though we’re spending more to give DEFENDERS a new look – is that the Humane Society helps support KIND. It believes in how much young people like you can do in helping animals, because you love them so much. — Ed.

Dear KIND,
My cousin, who is also a KIND member, and I tried to build an animal hospital, so you can see how strongly we want to help animals. The wood warped and nothing turned out right. But we still want to help.
Your KIND member,
Bill Clinkert, Mt. Prospect, IL, age 14
Bill, the most successful people always avoid trying to do something that they know is more difficult than they can tackle. A hospital for animals is a big task. You’d need special training to provide care and treatment for them. Right now you can tell others how important it is to help animals, learn how strays are cared for in your town, and perhaps hold a garage sale to raise money to help needy animals. Later you may decide to become a veterinarian and some day have a hospital for sick animals. — Ed.
Editor's Views

When we first learned the earth was in trouble and that people would have to change their way of life to save it, some said it couldn’t be done. They believed we were all so used to the easy way of life that we wouldn’t be willing to sacrifice a little.

But now there is an energy crisis. Some of the people who hadn’t bothered to help save our environment are being affected, anyway. They’re having to wait in line at gas stations like the rest of us.

Maybe they’ll even learn to put on a sweater rather than turn up the thermostat. At least some people are being reminded every day that the earth is in trouble. Even if they don’t care very much, they are being affected by the problems, too.

It’s my belief that the attitudes of these people can be changed. They need to care what happens to our earth. When motorists were first asked not to drive faster than 55 miles per hour, I didn’t think so many would respond on their own. But they did. This gave me more faith in my fellow man.

Visitors to my house are now learning to recycle paper, tin, glass, and aluminum. Neighbors have offered newspapers to line cages for the animals at the shelter. I’ve even met builders who plan to install a windmill for electricity and a solar unit to heat a house this summer. Once they learn how to build them well, they are going to build these units for my home, too.

There are many ways of living comfortably without using up our fuel sources that do not renew themselves and cannot be easily replaced. The energy crisis may create a new age. When we learn how to capture the heat of the sun and the force of the wind for our energy needs, we’ll be living in the sun age.

R. Dale Hylton
Editor