Late last year the The Humane Society met,
To talk of animals — both wild and pet.

They had a banquet late one night,
To honor those that lead the fight,

To give all creatures here on Earth,
Protection from cruelty and a sense of worth.

Awards were given to young and old,
For acts of kindness — simple and bold.

The Charleston Raccoons were on board,
To receive the first KIND Youth Award.

To them we say "a job well done!"
To match your speed, we'd have to run.

Lynn Wigley came forward to the sound of applause,
She was happy and proud to be serving the cause.
Her fellow Raccoons sat in the rear,
Smiling and laughing and shedding a tear.

The Director of KIND presented the Award,
On behalf of the members and Directors of the Board.

They spoke of the deeds the Raccoons had done,
Since starting a KIND Branch back in '71.

They went to their shelter and offered their time,
The path that they followed was all self-made.

They went on radio to expose the pound,
They spoke of the poor conditions they'd found.

The warden didn't think that dogs could feel pain.
The dogs were exposed to the wind and rain,
The time had come - no need to plead.
The Raccoons convinced them there was a need.

After the show, the warden was out.
To insure there was kindness for animals impounded.

A local humane society was founded,
Together they achieved amazing results.

The Raccoons joined in and helped the adults,
Today Coles County, Illinois is a better place.

If it weren't for the Raccoons - it might just be,
That there wouldn't be a Coles County Humane Society.

To help grown-ups make the right choice.
It makes one wonder and look around,
So we can see that youth has a voice,
For animals, including the human race.

What is true on land and in the air is true in the seas
What man usually fails to perceive is the consequences of his own clumsy intervention by way of wolf bounties and campaigns of wholesale extermination.

The American red wolf is now on the very edge of extinction, and coyotes have multiplied on the additional prey that once belonged to the red wolf.

Wilier and more aggressive, coyotes have become a greater plague to ranchers than the wolves ever were.

This predator-prey relationship is even more clearly apparent when we consider the sea.

Save The Whales T-shirts are $2.75 each. Specify size: small, medium, or large. Adult sizes also available at $3.00 each.

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Shorts

Who Really Needs Alligators? (continued from last month)

By Robert Bendiner

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This predator-prey relationship is even more clearly shown in the case of the wolf. For the most part, wolves, too, live on rodents, but what gives wolves special ecological importance is their role in preying on the “surplus crop” of deer, moose or caribou. Since, like all other creatures, wolves eat to sustain themselves, it would do them no good to expend more energy in pursuing a meal than they could realize from eating it. Hence, they tend overwhelmingly to bring down the weak, the old and the sickly. As a result, the general fitness of the deer or caribou herd is heightened, while at the same time its population is kept at a level where the food supply will be adequate.

Thus predator and prey help each other, as they have through eons of time. Should the deer population become too thin, wolves, too, must decrease in number. And they do. Scientific observers report a drop in the wolf birth rate in years when deer or caribou are scarce, and even a reduced number of cubs to a litter.

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Help Your Neighbors Turn Over a New Leaf

Every year at this time we dust off the old saying, turn over a new leaf. Here's a project to help you help your neighbors do just that.

It's a safe bet that your community has a loose dog problem. It's also probably true that many of your neighbors are the cause of the problem. Yes, it's true that many of your neighbors are unaware of their role. But that does not mean that they shouldn't be told. You can do a great service for your neighbors, their dogs, and the community by telling your neighbors about the problem and what they can do.

One way that you can communicate with your neighbors is with posters. It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. It's also true that people really won't read posters that have too many words. The answer is to use a few words and a clear picture. To make your poster really work, suggest that you use photographs. Why not load up your camera and go looking for loose dogs? Carry a small supply of dog biscuits in your pocket. If a dog looks menacing, you can toss it a few biscuits and leave.

Mount your pictures on oaktag or posterboard. Then add a catchy phrase or saying. Here's a few examples:

Is This Your Dog?
Is Your Dog Loose?
Loose Dogs are Dangerous.
Is your Dog a Good Neighbor?
Where is Your Dog Today?
It's Against the Law to Let Your Dog Run Loose!

Perhaps you want to quote your local canine law.

Post your posters in banks, schools, food stores and other locations where they would get the most exposure. Don't forget to ask permission.

You can use the alphabet on this page to make your slogan. Just put some carbon paper underneath this page and trace your words on another sheet of paper. When you've finished your slogan, center it on the poster and trace again. Then use bright colored felt markers to fill in the letters of your message.

If you have the time, take a photo of your poster and send it to KIND. Our new address is 2100 L Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037.

Review -

In the Shadow of a Rainbow

The True Story of a Friendship Between Man and Wolf

Robert Franklin Leslie

One of the most exciting and fascinating tales we have ever read, this book will keep you spellbound. It is a true story of a young Indian named Gregory Tah-Klima and his friendship with the leader of a wolf pack. The author has recorded the story just as Greg told it to him.

Nahani is the great white she-wolf that became Greg's special friend. He tried to show the wolves, in every way he could imagine, that he was trustworthy. They seemed to sense this, particularly Nahani. Little by little they came nearer his camp-fire, until one night she sat across the fire from him for an hour. A bond of unspoken friendship began to cement. When she got up and went back to her den site, he followed her on all fours as far as the creek. A strange thing for a man to do? Not if you want to communicate with wolves.

Nahani was undisputed leader of her pack. She would tolerate no act that threatened her supremacy. If Greg were to relate to her, therefore, he must be subservient to her, and obey her commands. For him to have done otherwise would have threatened her position as leader of the pack.

Nahani responded by giving him status as her special friend. She refused to allow other members of the pack to enter the circle of his campfire, or to get to know him well. Once their bond of friendship was established, it didn't bother her for him to walk upright, or sometimes run with her, for that is how man gets around the best.

Man and she-wolf spent many peaceful hours in quiet solitude, communicating thoughts and feelings with only gestures and no words. Nahani lay with her muzzle in his lap as he sat and combed her fur. He could put his arms around the great shaggy ruff of her neck, in perfect trust. When she didn't want him to follow, she rose on hind legs, with a paw on each of his shoulders, and growl softly. Then she would lick his face to remind him of their friendship.

He, of course, obeyed her implicitly.

There was a huge reward bounty out for Nahani, because of the tall tales natives told about the damage the great white wolf and her pack had done to trap lines. It was his hope that somehow he could communicate to her the importance of establishing a new territory farther north, where the danger from man was not as great. Obviously, for her safety, there must come a time when man and wolf must part.

From his experience, Greg learned the true meaning of the Indian saying, "When anything strengthens a bond of friendship, the friends have walked in the shadow of a rainbow." Greg and Nahani did just that.

Robert Frank Leslie is a Humane Society member who once took a crash course from a veterinary friend so he could treat injured and ill burros on the desert. That experience is told in his book, "Wild Burro Rescue", another fine tale. Other books he has written are: "The Bears and I", "Read the Wild Water", "High Trails West", "Wild Pets", and "Wild Courage".

Shocking Revelation
State Dog Fighting

To the Editor:
I wish to thank you for your October 9 editorial describing the inhumane “sport” of dog fighting. You made the people of Connecticut aware that their own state is one of the major participants in this bloody sport. This came to light in the opening session of the house hearings on a bill that would make the activity a federal crime.

It was further stated in the editorial that ADOA President Duncan C. Wright showed a film, parts of which were so bad that many persons could not watch the whole thing. This film should be sent to both the House and Senate. Let them see why there’s a need for a law with teeth.

I am 15 years old and a member of KIND, a part of The Humane Society of the United States and I urge all animal lovers to write their congressmen and senators urging the passage of this bill.

Ann M. Volowski, East Hartford, CT.

Dear KIND,
I would like to congratulate you on producing an excellent newsletter.
Each year our biology department at high school promotes the ritual of dissecting live frogs, something which I don’t approve of but am not quite sure how to stop. A friend and I have tried reasoning with the teachers, circulating a petition, (so far unsuccessful), and bringing it up at a board meeting of our local Humane Society (they say there is legally nothing they can do). We were hoping that you might be able to provide us with some other possible solutions.

Thank you for your time and help.

Very truly yours, Kristi Baum, age 16

Plan a special project that calls for more work to get a good grade on, and ask if you can do it as a substitute to the dissecting sessions. We had just decided more information was needed on this entire subject, when your letter arrived. KIND members with similar experiences can help by writing and telling us. When all the facts are together, we’ll print a special report on this. —Ed.

Thank you, Linda Smith, age 15

There are many ways KIND members can help endangered animals, Linda. But your effectiveness will be measured directly by the amount of knowledge and understanding you have developed from learning all you can about them. Think carefully what important people could help these animals the most. Can they be helped best by laws to protect them, or can important people do other things to help endangered animals?
Write letters to people who can help them the most.

Watch, too, for articles about endangered animals in newspapers and magazines. Clip them out and send them to KIND. Then write a letter to the editor, thanking him for the article. He’ll appreciate knowing you liked the article, and it might encourage him to print more articles on endangered animals.

Look up the official ‘Red Data Book’ at your library. Examine the reasons given for the decline in numbers of each animal species. Can you reach a conclusion about what has threatened animals the most? I’d like to know what you decided. —Ed.

Tom Vogelsang, with his dog, Lady, demonstrates the proper technique of dog grooming. Tom raised a lot of sunflowers in his garden last summer, and is feeding the birds the sunflower seeds this winter.
Our First Annual Youth Award is finally a reality. We've dreamed of having such an Award for five long years. But first there had to be a lot of KIND members out there helping animals. Now there are. What are you doing to help animals? Send your reports (with black & white photos) so we can tell about you in the newsletter. And don't forget to nominate kind people for our KIND Award we give at any time of the year. These Award Certificates do nobody any good sitting on the shelf.

Many students are writing for information on a certain animal, for a report in class. Most are endangered species they're studying, but some aren't. What we need is a fact sheet on each animal. But there just isn't time or people to prepare these. If you have done a report for school on a certain animal, why not share it with KIND? It would be a big help to us. And to kids who don't know what KIND is all about. Maybe they'll be so impressed that they will want to join our team, too.

You don't have to be a writer to help. KIND reporters simply watch for useful news articles and send them in. Artists and photographers are needed, too, to make your newsletter more interesting. Send what you can to KIND.

You can help on our report on dissecting frogs, too. Is this a required project in biology at your school? What other types of dissection are done? What kinds of animals are used? Please send us all the information you can obtain.

It's not really corny to make New Year's resolutions. It's a good time to start some habit patterns to improve your life style. Decide now to be a more helpful, more cheerful person in 1975. See if it doesn't bring more happiness as a reward.

The New Year has brought with it a new home for KIND. Now every department of The Humane Society is in the same building. It means we can get news reports to you sooner. Now we have all the experts right there to get advice from, so we can share lots more information when you need it. When you write, be sure to use our new address.

It's 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

There's still time to renew if you haven't done so. Renewals aren't needed for class club subscriptions; just individual members. But we don't want to lose you, but we need your dues to pay the costs of the newsletter. We hope you'll agree that it's a bargain.

If you got DEFENDERS last year, and now receive ECOLOKIND, it's because you've graduated to the next age level, because you'll turn 15 this year. We've lost several KIND members who turned 19, too, as they are now adult members of The Humane Society. That's the realization of another of our big dreams. We feel those original KIND members will be the best adult members The Humane Society has ever had — because they love animals and they've already learned what they can do to help them.

R. Dale Hylton
Editor