Is a Boa a Proper Pet?

When we think of someone having a pet we usually think it's probably a dog or a cat. It might even be a hamster, a guinea pig, a mouse, some tropical fish or a horse. We seldom expect it to be a monkey, a cheetah, or a tegu lizard. Yet many people keep wild animals such as these as pets.

Most of these exotic animals do not come from North America. They come from such far away places as Africa and South America. But because exotic animals are often unusual and colorful, they command high prices in pet shops. Most people want young animals because they are "cute" or "harmless." Many young animals are captured only after their mothers have been killed first. Several infants are put in each cage for shipment.

Most animals are shipped by boat. While traveling they must be fed and their cages must be cleaned. There is usually no veterinarian aboard and ill animals get little or no care. Often too many animals are put in a single crate.

The death rate is so high that, of some species, for every one sold in a pet shop, two or three others have died during capture or shipment.

When they enter the U.S., the young creatures will probably be sold to a pet dealer, who in turn will sell them to pet shops. Supplying exotic animals for the pet trade is a heartless business. But now there's hope.

A federal law has been passed that gives the U.S.
Linda Saves Misty

When a stray dog came to Linda’s house, she gave it food and water. But she knew she couldn’t keep it. Her family already had two dogs. She couldn’t find its owner. Then a neighbor called the local humane society, and they came and got it.

Linda had gotten attached to the dog and named her Misty. Linda knew Misty’s chances of getting adopted were very slim, even though she was a delightful dog. Linda told her parents she was going to get her back and find a home for her.

Linda set her alarm for five A.M. It was a long walk to the humane society—five miles. Her heart sank when she awakened. It was March, and it had snowed. But she decided to go anyway. The snow became a blizzard. She stopped in telephone booths to get warm when she began to get too cold.

When she arrived at the humane society shelter at 8:30 and they didn’t open until 9:00 A.M., she was devastated. The staff seemed surprised to see her. Maureen has helped raise a lion, a jaguar, two black bears, and a spotted leopard. When they get big, they could hurt her without meaning to, but it is hard to part with them. Maureen keeps up their friendship by visiting the zoo often.

The photo shows her with Pete and Nancy, Siberian tigers she has helped raise.

Kind Reporter Casey Brown

A Whale’s Dream

It was a midnight when the whales’ meeting ended, but in spite of the time, the problem was mended. They had to try to defend themselves instead of hiding among ocean shelves.

Their leader was “The Son of the Nation.” His plan took a lot of imagination. At first they were all against the plan, but somehow they had to defeat man.

The first time they tried was the following week.

Save The Whales Days

Students in Connecticut are active in their efforts to protect the environment. They have generated so much interest to save whales from becoming extinct that Governor Meskill proclaimed last May 2nd and 3rd as “Save The Whales Days.”

Looking on as he signs the proclamation are: John J. Dommers, The Humane Society’s Director of Education for the New England Region, Naomi Santisteban, student, Thomas Callinan, Teacher, Thomas Johnson of the Connecticut Cetacean Society, Jeanne Nelles, Michelle Roussel, and Billie Evans, students. The four students wrote prize winning works on “Save The Whales.” The students and teacher are all from East Hampton Junior High School.

Michelle Roussel

Daughter of Zoo Director Helps Animals

When a baby animal in a zoo needs special help, sometimes it goes home to live with a zoo worker. Maureen Hayes is the daughter of Pittsburgh’s Highland Park Main Zoo Director. She has helped him raise many infant zoo animals in his home.

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September Calendar

Sept. 17 Citizenship Day. Be a good citizen.
Sept. 22-28 National Dog Week. Learn about several breeds of dogs.
Sept. 26 Johnny Appleseed born in 1774. Learn how he served his fellow settlers planting apple orchards and preaching.
Sept. 27 American Indian Day. Discover how Indians called animals brothers.
Sept. 29 Michaelmas. An old English Holiday honoring Michael the Archangel.
Oct. 6-12 National 4-H Week.
Oct. 6 St. Francis Day. Many churches hold special services for blessing the animals. Learn if yours will.
Oct. 7 Child Health Day. Be Healthy.

The DEFENDERS newsletter is published monthly except in July and August by The Humane Society of the United States, 10 S. Wirt Street, Washington, D.C. 20024. Permission to reprint art and text is hereby granted. Photos may not be reprinted except with permission of the photographer. Notices of change of address should be sent to The DEFENDERS, 10 S. Wirt Street, Washington, D.C. 20024. Each issue contains the following: 1. A news story, 2. A short story, 3. A calendar, 4. A photo of the month. The DEFENDERS is a publication of the Humane Society of the United States, the largest animal protection organization in America.
Start a Leaf Collection & Investigation

Can you identify all of the trees and bushes that grow where you live? Do you know what role the trees and bushes play in your local ecosystem? Learning about trees and bushes is a big job. But, you can make it easy on yourself. Here’s a simple way to start a leaf collection and investigation project.

Start with one tree or bush. Clip off a leaf and dip it in melted paraffin. That’s the wax that’s used to seal jars of homemade jam and jelly. If your mother still makes preserves or jellies, she’ll probably have some paraffin around the house. Otherwise, you’ll have to pick some up at the supermarket.

Melt your wax in a double boiler. Do not melt it over direct flame or electric burner. Once you’ve dipped your leaf, place it on a sheet of heavy paper. As the wax hardens, the leaf should stick to the paper.

Now you’ve got your first leaf. What do you do? Well, you can start by taking your specimen to the library. There are several good books that you can use to help you identify your leaf. One we recommend that you look up is, Manual of the Trees of North America by Charles S. Sargent.

Keep a record of the kinds of birds you see in your tree. Do they eat the insects that live on and in the trees? Do the birds eat the tree’s fruit? Does the tree provide needed shade for other plants?

And on and on. Look into every aspect of the tree. Write a short description of the tree and the role you think it plays. Attach your report to the back of the specimen.

Now you’re ready to start on another leaf.

Do you have an idea for a project to help animals or learn more about them? Perhaps you have a hobby that could be used by someone else as a project idea. We’d like to hear from you with your ideas. Send a written description and drawing, if you can, or photographs of projects. Send to PROJECTS, The Humane Society of the United States, 19 S. Wirt Street, Leesburg, VA 22075.

Review - Apes and Porpoises

*Net Profit*

Michael J. Becker, Shelby Sampson—Project Jonah $1.00

The complete story of how porpoises are being killed en masse, in comic book form. Produced by ECOMIX for Project Jonah, this illustrated booklet tells a lot about porpoises. It tells of legends in which they saved the lives of people in the ocean, of porpoises who came up to the beach to play with children, and it tells the story of a tuna fisherman. He didn’t realize the slaughter of porpoises that occurs when they are caught in the tuna nets.

It’s true that the new Medina net allows tuna ships to back down, lowering the net so porpoises can escape. But sometimes the captain won’t take the time to do this delicate backing down maneuver. Often the porpoises have already drowned, anyway, held under by the tuna caught in the net. And porpoises hesitate to leave their friends, the tuna, when they are in obvious danger.

Now the tuna industry is trying to get a permanent exemption from the Marine Mammals Act, just so they can make more profit. This book tells how you can help the porpoises being killed by tuna fishermen. Order it from Project Jonah, Box 476, Bolinas, CA 94924

*Kind Project*

Seymour, A Gibbon

About Apes and Other Animals and How You Can Help to Keep Them Alive

Phyllis Borea — Photographs by Raimondo Borea

Athenaeum Publishers $5.25

Written about Seymour, a mascot of the New York ASPCA Education Department, this book is an interesting learning experience. It talks about the funny antics of Seymour. It tells how he is different from apes, and other animals. The book reports on how animals evolved and developed their unique adaptations for survival. Most important of all, it tells what young people can do to help animals.

This book discusses many other animals and describes their needs. It discusses nature centers, zoos, science museums, wildlife refuges, and animal welfare organizations. KIND is mentioned as an organization for young people interested in helping animals. At the back of the book is a list of names and addresses of ‘Some Organizations Interested in Animal Care and Conservation’. While the list is not in any way complete, and doesn’t describe just what each organization does or how active it is in animal protection efforts, it is a good list. You can learn much from many of the organizations listed.

“Seymour” is a great book to introduce young people to the world of animals. It should be in every elementary school library.

Net Profit is a new comic book that describes the plight of the porpoises that are caught in the nets of tuna fishermen.
In the puzzle above, you should find 15 animals’ names. They read up, down, across, backwards, and at a diagonal. Please don’t go ape because you can’t find all the answers right away. The answers are printed on the right.

From Mary Payne
Age 14
Pine Bush, New York

ANSWERS

| CUMGAESUOM | LAPWOZBLUP | EOTOADYSKI |
| LSRQCKEKBG | RMURSRUMODY | IBXRADNAKR |
| ULOTLETODI | QHKCOABWIB | SZEBAWCVL |

This is your page. Whatever you’ve got that’s fun — we want to share it with other DEFENDERS. From Mary Payne Age 14 Pine Bush, New York

Dear KIND,

I’ve noticed that many Defenders, besides myself, wish to become veterinarians. Maybe you could print some information on veterinary medicine and how you can become a veterinarian. Joining KIND has been the greatest thing that ever happened to me. Keep up the good work!

Love, Linda Mussillo, age 11, Staten Island, NY

An excellent idea, Linda! We’re already working on it. Meantime Defenders can write for the free leaflet “So You Want To Be A Veterinarian.” — Ed.

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Letters and Pen Pals

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Dear Sirs,

I’m ordering 50 Special Reports on Trapping. I have started a petition to ban trapping in Minnesota. I have 105 signatures. I’m writing to newspapers, magazines, and television stations, too.

Sincerely, Nona Narvaez, age 13, St. Paul, MN

The Special Ban the Trap Fund keeps growing, too. We’ll have reports on ban the trap action in a next issue of your newsletter. — Ed.

Dear KIND,

We have a dog named Peppy. We all love him but he always barks. We keep him outside and he will bark all day. At first we thought it was because he was hungry, but even after we feed him he will still bark. Could you give me some advice?

Sue Pavlis, age 11, Sewickley, PA

Peppy’s name may be a clue. If he has lots of pep he may just want more action. Or, he might be lonely and bored and just barking for something to do. He could also be upset by other sounds, like passing traffic. Try spending more time playing with him. He might enjoy going for a walk with you, too. Be sure to use a leash. See if he will play with a doggie toy or a rawhide chew bone. Let me know if any of these ideas help. — Ed.

Dear KIND,

I found this “Conservation Pledge” and hope you can print it for other KIND members:

“Conservation Pledge”

“I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country; its soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife.”

Stacy Collins, age 11, Pleasantville, NY

Branch Club News

Dianne Kessler’s Fourth Grade Class Club raised $50 to give to the local animal shelter, so “Pets Won’t Go Hungry.” Presenting the money and food to warden Joe Alberti are, standing, left to right: Denise Damiano, and Lynn Carion, Club President; kneeling in front: Ray Irizarry, Robert Conklin.
Editor's Views


Observe Citizenship Day by learning your community's animal control laws. Is your dog a good citizen? Be sure he never follows you to school. Only a dog should be a school drop-out.

Your class may find it interesting to examine the regulations USDI has proposed to govern the importation of exotic animals. You may want to discuss what changes you think should be made before they become final, and send your suggestions to USDI.

School starts this month. It's a good time to make new friends and tell them how they can become KIND members. We receive letters from people all the time who have just learned about KIND. They want to help animals. But we need KIND members to help us find these people. And, if you show the newsletter to your teacher, she may want to enroll your entire class in KIND and have a class club.

Several KIND members have suggested other animal charities you could send a gift to. Many are worthy causes. But some don’t use gifts wisely. As a KIND member, you are a junior member of the Humane Society of the U.S., which depends solely on contributions for all its programs to protect animals. If you want to send a gift, why not send it to the charity that you already belong to? If you want to help other charities, be sure to find out if they use the contributions they receive wisely.

Do you like your newsletter? Are the stories interesting? What would you like to read about in future issues? It's your newsletter! We want to hear what you want. Use the boxes below to tell us what you want. We'd appreciate hearing from teachers, too! Send to KIND.

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R. Dale Hylton
Editor