Vote For America's Bicentennial Animal

KIND is holding a special election to help us celebrate our country's 200th birthday. We want you to elect America's Bicentennial Animal. The winning animal shall become a symbol that will help all Americans to become aware of the togetherness of people and animals. The 200th birthday of our nation is in 1976, and it's coming up fast. Many people have already begun to observe it with Bicentennial celebrations.

But something is missing in all these celebrations. Many animals have contributed to the development of our country. We couldn't have done it without them! Yet we seem to have forgotten the key role animals have played in our history.

We've nominated 14 animals that we feel contributed a lot toward the development of our country. You can read about each one here. Of course, you may vote for an animal that is not on the list. But it must be the one that you think contributed the most to the development of America during the last 200 years. Ballots (see back page) must be in the KIND office on or before July 4, 1975.

Bald Eagle — Selected by our founding fathers as one symbol of our young nation, this bird represented the power and strength the founding fathers saw in our nation when we fought for our independence. A wild bird that lived in remote places, it was a natural symbol of freedom. The independence of the eagle was like our own independence. Today, some bald eagles are endangered. Yet they still symbolize power, strength, and a spirit of liberty.

Beaver — Some historians believe that the lust for beaver skins caused the French and Indian Wars, and the rapid westward growth of our nation. For it was the beaver trapper who "broke trail" to the west and helped establish a white man's presence in the wilderness. In addition, the beaver's engineering activities have provided man and other animals with water sources, flood control, and fertile meadows. Today the beaver is making a comeback.

Beef and Dairy Cattle — Dairy cows and beef cattle were some of the first animals to be brought to this new land. A female calf was prized as it could be raised to produce milk. When horses weren't available cattle were sometimes used to pull loads. The Texas Longhorn was a special breed of cattle. They thrived and put on weight eating the scrubby grasses of the arid southwest. Today the dairy and beef industries add to our nation's economy.

Buffalo — The American Bison was the animal the
plains Indians depended upon for survival. White settlers launched a major campaign to destroy the buffalo and eliminate the Indians’ major source of food. Thousands of buffalo were shot from trains. There were so many killed that a new business arose of shipping bones to be ground up for fertilizer. Buffalo were one of the first species of animals that we saved from becoming extinct.

COYOTE — The most persecuted of all American animals, the coyote was and is being unjustly accused of killing many sheep. As an important predator, the coyote helps maintain balances in nature. The Indians recognized his role. Although the coyote wasn’t useful to them as a meat animal, they studied his habits. Their conclusion was that, “Next to God, Brother Coyote is the smartest man on Earth.”

GRIZZLY BEAR — One of our largest American animals, the grizzly has been respected by many. Now reduced in territorial range to just three main areas in national parks, this animal has just been placed on our list of ‘threatened’ American animals. The grizzly was once so respected it was selected as the symbol for the California flag. Many references can be found in history, indicating that bears were important to the early settlers.

HORSES — Introduced into America from Europe, the horse was used to pull wagons, plow fields, defend our country, carry pony express riders, and was a principal form of transportation. Most wild horses are descendants of horses that escaped from the Spanish Explorers. Some were captured by Indians. The Indians quickly became expert bareback riders. Today the horse has become more popular than ever for pleasure riding.

MULE — The mule has long been one of the most dependable of work animals used for pulling and hauling. It is such a stubborn animal, that once it has been convinced it should do a job, it applies more grit and stubborn strength to pulling than many other work animals. The famous Erie Canal was built with mule power and its barges were pulled by mules. Mules were used to haul supplies and equipment when the first railroads were built.

PASSENGER PIGEON — Undoubtedly the most numerous species of bird that ever inhabited North America, it was little appreciated. They were said to darken the sky when flocks flew over. Early settlers worried about crop damage so they shot them by the hundreds of thousands. Man’s war against the passenger pigeon came to an end when Martha, the last survivor, died in 1914. The passenger pigeon will never again be seen on Earth.

SALMON — King of the fishes, the salmon was the staple meat in the diet of many American Indians and early settlers. The meat was smoked and dried and stored for use in winter. Salmon fishing helped to establish the economic base on which America has prospered. To this day a controversy continues about fishing rights between some Indians and the ‘new Americans’, particularly since the salmon is having difficulty surviving.

WHALES — Many people living inland don’t realize how much whales contributed to the growth of our nation. But many coastal towns along both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans sprang up because of the whaling industry. The U.S. now forbids any whaling from its ports, and has taken the lead in seeking to get other nations to agree on a ten year moratorium on the killing of whales worldwide.

Many whale species are nearly extinct.

WHITE-TAILED DEER — Deer meat was the staple source of protein for the first American settlers. Later on woodsmen like Daniel Boone found deer salt licks, where a concentration of salt occurred in rocks. It wasn’t too difficult to kill a deer at these sites. Pioneers also collected the salt and used it to preserve venison for winter. American Indians depended heavily on deer for meat, clothing, shelter, coverings, needles, and thread.

WILD TURKEY — Early settlers learned about this bird from the Indians. They were quite plentiful on the eastern coast where the settlers first landed. Turkey became one of the most important staples of the time. So important to the development of the country was the wild turkey, that Benjamin Franklin nominated it as the bird for our national symbol. Franklin was terribly disappointed when the bald eagle was selected instead of the turkey.

WOLF — Malignant in folklore and literature, the wolf helped Nature maintain an ecological balance for centuries. Once found in every state, wolves have abandoned nearly every area of this country because of the spread of civilization. Some still hold out in the wilderness areas of Minnesota and Alaska. To protect the wolf and help it to regain a firm foothold would be a tribute to the American animal that the Eskimos call the ‘saviour of the caribou’.

Derrick’s mother feared they couldn’t afford the vet bill as an early birthday present for Derrick. It came to $63. Twenty or so other friends pitched in to keep the pony from dying down, taking shifts around the clock. Colic is an illness causing stomach cramps. The natural reaction of a horse is to lie down and roll to ease the pain. But a horse with colic that lies down will almost surely die. Sparky’s life was saved because people pitched in to help save him. Sparky no longer stays in the living room, now that he’s well. But he’s a lucky horse, having that many people who care about him so much.

Whale Day

April 28 has been suggested as a day to remember whales. Put up whale posters. Get people to sign petitions. Learn more about whales. You may even want to make posters and then have a peaceful demonstration in front of stores or auto dealers that sell Japanese products. Let’s save the whales!

Whales pass me by, as free as the wind,
But will they all soon die, and be has-beens?
For we people have been unloyal
And killed them to make oil.

Poem by Darlene Kain, age 13
Help Birds Build Comfortable Nests

Have you ever seen birds flying through the air with bits of string, paper, or cloth in their beaks? That's right, the birds use these things we throw away to build comfy nests. You can help our feathered friends with this special springtime project. The idea comes from Johnny Dommers of Madison, Connecticut. That's John in the pictures.

All during the winter, when his mother couldn't dry clothes outdoors, Johnny collected the lint from the clothes dryer screen. He kept the lint in one of his mother's big antique bottles. He also kept his eyes peeled for pieces of string and twine that litterbugs dropped on the ground.

When spring arrived and the birds began to reappear in Connecticut, Johnny put all of his treasures in a net bag and hung the bag in a tree. Sometimes oranges and grapefruits are sold in net bags. If you can't get a bag, Johnny suggests that you put the goodies in a box near a bird feeder.

It doesn't matter where you live. Birds still build nests. And they can still use our throwaways to make their nests sturdy and comfortable. If you help the birds like Johnny, you'll find that there are more birds in your yard. Their songs will help brighten gloomy days, and they'll cut down on the population of pesky mosquitoes and other annoying insects.

KIND wants to know about your special ways of helping animals. Then we can tell your story too. Ask a friend to photograph you in action. Send your project ideas to:

KIND
2100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Be Kind To Animals Week -- May 4-10

This is the special week each year that gives you the best opportunity to help others learn the importance of helping animals. Plan now for your special campaign.

You may want to make up posters to announce the week. You might even write a play to present at school. Certainly you can write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, asking them to do a special feature to celebrate this week. In all that you do, be sure to stress the importance of being kind to animals all year long. Perhaps the newspaper will do a feature on your local animal shelter. Or, you could suggest they feature the photo of an animal for adoption each day. Many newspapers do this all year round as a public service to help a humane society. If your paper doesn't, perhaps you can persuade them to get it started.

Many radio stations broadcast the animals that have been found and brought to the shelter. And they advertise lost pets, too. This is another free public service. You might ask your local radio station if they offer this service. If they don't, ask if they would consider it. If they do, thank them for doing so.

Reverence For Life

Dr. Albert Schweitzer was born just 100 years ago. People are celebrating 1975 as the Schweitzer Centennial Year. His ethic of 'Reverence for Life' lives on. See how you can honor him this year.

A Prayer For Animals

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering: for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry; for all that must be put to death. We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity, and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals and so to share the blessings of the merciful.

— Albert Schweitzer
Scrambled Animals’ Names

Here are a bunch of scrambled up animals’ names. All you have to do is unscramble the letters. Hint: think about letters that often go together such as TH, ENT, and so on.

RATIGALOL

FLABUFO

NEROH

KAY

GRITE

How Many Words In Elephant?

How many words can you make using the letters in ELEPHANT? Write and tell us how many you came up with. We keep finding new ones all the time.

Dear KIND,

I just felt like writing to tell you I think you’re wonderful! You help so many animals each and every day. I am very happy to be a member of your beautiful organization. All I can say is keep up the good work and I’ll help in any way I can in the coming years!

Dawn Longo, age 13

P.S. — Happiness is being a member of KIND! Those are very nice comments, Dawn, and we’re grateful to you for taking the time and trouble to tell me what you think. I appreciate it very much. — Ed.

P.S. — Happiness is also having someone like you say you approve of what we try to do.

Dear KIND,

Sometimes here in Ohio some of the stores dye the baby animals different Easter colors. And when they clean themselves, the ink comes off and they die. A long time ago I encouraged a store not to sell them at Easter time. They saw my point of view and took it. Now they sell stuffed little animals and toys. We gave the rabbits and others back to the hatchery.

Yours truly, Sabrina Wallace, age 13

Good work, Sabrina! How about every KIND member getting into the act to help Easter animals! — Ed.

Dear KIND,

A few days ago I found bloody paw marks outside my house. So I followed the blood and it led me to a neighbor’s house. I asked the owner if his dog had been injured. His dog had cut both front paws on sharp snow or ice. He had lost a lot of blood and was being taken to the vet. He is doing much better now. I try very hard to help animals all I can. I’m enclosing my membership renewal.

Sincerely yours, Jennie Davis, age 14

Dear KIND,

Our school, San Domenico, devoted the last week of January to ‘Spring Discovery,” when each student can choose one of the courses offered in the program, or do a project of his own. I chose to do an individualized project — that of observing the normal, everyday routine of a veterinary hospital for three hours a day for the whole week. The doctor told me I would be able to see operations, along with assisting in some of the rounds.

The faculty approved this plan, so now I have a great opportunity to really ‘get behind the scenes’ at the hospital!

From, Elizabeth Womack, age 14

Letters And Pen Pals

Alert—Alert—Alert

The National Woolgrowers are amassing a campaign to pressure the President to cancel the Executive Order that banned the use of poisons on federal lands. It was issued three years ago by President Nixon and is Executive Order #11643. Now they’re asking President Ford to cancel it. They’re not satisfied with the cheap rents they pay to graze sheep on federal lands that belong to all the people. Now they want the government to poison coyotes for them again, so they don’t have to hire as many sheepherders. You can help protect coyotes and other animals from these cruel poisons. Write the President and ask him not to cancel Executive Order #11643. Write USDI, too. Write: President Gerald Ford, The White House, Washington, D.C., 20500; and The Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 20242. Let the President hear from you.
Our Election of the Bicentennial Animal may be the biggest campaign we have this year. This is an election we want every young person to participate in, whether they are KIND members or not. So feel free to tell your friends. Invite them to copy your ballot, vote for the animal of their choice, and send their vote to KIND.

We will be trying to contact all the youth of America we can on this election, so your help will be appreciated. You may want to discuss this with your teacher, and see if you can hold a schoolwide election. Be sure to distribute information on each animal, so every voter will be able to make a wise selection.

Roger Caras has agreed to be the Chairman of our Bicentennial Animal Election. He will announce the election on his radio broadcast. We are issuing press releases to major youth magazines to invite them to inform their readers and let them participate in this election, too. We think it's a good way for people to learn more about animals and to learn to appreciate them more. So do what you can to get the word out.

Press releases have just been issued on the first KIND Awards. Watch for news in the next issue.

R. Dale Hylton
Editor

Clip out this ballot, vote for an animal, and send to KIND today!

NAME _____________________________ AGE __________
STREET _______________________________ ______________________________________
CITY ______________________ STATE _________ ZIP _______

Vote for one. Send your ballot to KIND before July 4, 1975.

☐ Bald Eagle  ☐ Coyote  ☐ Mule  ☐ Whale
☐ Beaver  ☐ Grizzly Bear  ☐ Passenger Pigeon  ☐ Wild Turkey
☐ Buffalo  ☐ Deer  ☐ Salmon  ☐ Wolf
☐ Cattle  ☐ Horse  ☐ Other ____________________________