**Heifer Project**

**Gives Living Gifts to Poor**

**Question:** How many cups of milk would you get in ten years from one dairy heifer and its offspring?

**Answer:** One million.

Just imagine how many hungry stomachs all that milk would satisfy! That’s just what the people at Heifer Project International decided back in 1944. They also did some math with beef cows, goats, honey bees, chickens, pigs, and other food animals. And Heifer Project was born. The purpose was and is simple. Give poor people farm animals and teach them how to care for the creatures. Then, when young animals are born, the owners are to share these animals with other poor people.

The Heifer Project idea multiplies just as kindness does. Each person who receives a gift of a farm...
animal in turn gives gifts of its young animals to others. The Heifer Project people call the idea "a gift of life that multiplies."

Based at the Fourche River Ranch near Perryville, Arkansas, Heifer Project sends gifts of life all over the world. During the past 30 years, HPI has sent more than 40,000 mammals and a million and a half chickens to people in 90 countries and 17 states in the U.S.A. They spend more than one million dollars a year on the living gifts. And all of this money is donated by kind people who care about those in need.

Not long ago farmers from the midwest donated 92 cattle through Heifer Project to Tanzania and Cameroon in Africa. HPI sent the gifts by jet. In another recent story, HPI gave some cattle to the Cattaraugus Indians who live on a reservation near Buffalo, New York. The Indians turned around and started a Heifer Project Association of their own. Now, they're giving gifts to each other. And so the story goes.

Careers Helping Animals:
Veterinary Technician (Part 3)

We've already reported how tough it is to get into veterinary school. But there is another career helping animals that might be just right for you. It's the veterinary technician. More than thirty colleges offer such training. Most only require a high school diploma. Most require some kind of field training in a veterinary hospital before graduation. Upon completion of the course, a student is awarded either a certificate, an associate degree, or a bachelor's degree.

Several state veterinary medical associations also offer training courses. Students usually must have previous experience as hospital attendants and be recommended by a veterinarian. These night classes are held twice a week for eight months, with weekend work in veterinary hospitals.

A veterinary technician may prepare animals for surgery, administer medicine, assist in surgery, administer first aid, take X-rays, and generally care for animals in the hospital. Under no circumstances is the technician permitted to perform actual surgery, diagnose illness, or prescribe the treatment. Naturally the salary is not as high as that of the vet. But the technician doesn't have the cost of equipping a hospital, either. We expect more jobs to be available in this career than there are technician graduates in the next few years.

If you're not going to release the squirrel, kill it quick", and he said, 'No', and I said, 'No! Why are you going to let it suffer?' "Because", he said, "it makes us suffer."

Steven's friend, Steven Sloan, also testified. He told the court that the squirrel's "foot was in the trap and it was still alive. It was running around like that."

In his summation, Prosecutor Ker said, 'This type of mechanism is of such a nature that anyone accidentally setting it off could be caused a lot of harm. Not only tetanus or lockjaw, possible loss of a limb from such an instrument. I would recommend that the maximum penalties be imposed on this defendant." And they were.
Join the Spay and Neuter Campaign!

How many loose cats and dogs are running around in your community? Or, for that matter, how many are running loose all across the country? You can read a lot of different numbers when you try to find the answers to those questions and few of the numbers agree. But, they’re all in the millions. City, town, and humane society shelter workers are putting thousands of unwanted animals to sleep every day. Yet the problem continues. Loose dogs are dirtying the streets and sidewalks. They’re attacking pet dogs and people. They’re knocking over garbage cans in the never-ending search for food. Loose cats are mating and producing more loose cats. And every day the problem grows bigger.

You can do something about it. Get a bunch of your friends together and hold a cat and dog census in your neighborhood. Draw a map of the area that you want to cover. Keep a list of the cat and dog owners. Mark their locations on the map.

The next step is the hardest. You’ve got to find out if the animals have been spayed or neutered. Have the owners taken their pets for the operation that prevents the pets from having babies? One sure way to find out is to ask.

Start by asking the kids who own the pets. If the kids don’t know, then you’ll have to ask their parents. If the pet owners say “no,” you’ve got to convince them that they should take their pets to the vet or to the local humane society shelter for the operation. That won’t be easy. But you can tell them that loose cats and dogs cost a lot of tax dollars. The taxes are used to pay for canine control officers, pet food, running a van to pick up loose animals, and the shelter building itself. Loose dogs make the streets and sidewalks messy. Disease germs grow in dog droppings. It’s just plain unhealthy.

Don’t overload yourself with facts. But before you begin, it might make good sense to talk to the local animal control agent. He can tell you about local problems. The people that you talk to may pay more attention if you bring up local examples.

Join the campaign. It’s the KIND thing to do!

Review - A Book to Howl About

A popular Indian saying is that, “Next to God, Brother Coyote is the smartest Man on Earth”. Erik learns just how smart coyotes are when he and his parents adopt two tiny coyote pups their mother has abandoned. He learns each coyote has a personality of its own, and expresses its feelings in its own way. They love treats like ice cream, but Rogue eats his quickly. Shasta takes her time, picking out the nuts and laying them to one side. Shasta loves to hide things. Once a month she takes a magazine out of the stack and tears it to shreds. There is some special odor in the ink on that magazine that she likes. Rogue loves to play with a tin can.

The Behme family learn all these things, and many more about the behavior of coyotes. They’re kept as pets, of course, since they have learned to trust people. They get along with the cat and dog. Sometimes when they enjoy an evening howl, their people family join in, too.

Even when they are walked on leashes, the coyotes are sometimes threatened by people who hate coyotes so intensely. But the Behmes protect their pets and give them the best of care.

You’ll envy Erik, growing up with coyotes as pets. But you’ll also experience the sadness the Behme family does, knowing their coyotes can never have that most priceless treasure—living free.

Some KIND members want to belong to more than one animal welfare organization. Sometimes they ask us for a list of organizations. But because some are better than others, that puts us in the position of judging groups like our own. We don’t think it’s fair for us to have to do that.

The best answer is to find out about your own local humane society and do what you can to help it. Whenever you want to contribute to any group, find out what it does and be sure it will do the best job it can with the gifts it receives.

Of course, if you want to help the beaver, that gentle little animal that helps others and harms no one, Beaver Defenders is for you. Write and ask about them at: Newfield, NJ 08344.
Letters And Pen Pals

Dear KIND,

Here is my renewal money for another year. I love your great newsletter!! I thought I’d write to you about two experiences. I was with my father on a truck ride on one of the country roads leading to our house. There is a river that flows there. In the river I saw the body of a dead BUCK!! (deer). I almost cried. Above that, whoever threw that in also threw the trash from their lunch. I thought this was terrible!!!!! Also, I saw a poor rabbit caught in a skimmer of a pool. It was shaking with cold and fear and kept backing away from me. I finally rescued it, dried it off, and fed it warm milk. I let it go with tears and a broken heart, but I knew I must. As the rabbit went, it suddenly stopped and looked at me as if to say, “Thank You”.

Yours truly, Shannon Golenia, age 11

Dear KIND,

I believe highly in helping animals. So far I have taken in 13 stray cats. I think everyone should take in strays if they can. The first stray I kept but after awhile I found out that if you really want to help strays you should find them good homes and not keep them yourself. That’s because the more you have in your house the less you can help other strays. If I had kept all those strays I wouldn’t have room to help others. But we found them all good homes.

Love, Bonnie Halvorsen, age 13

Dear KIND,

The three children that I babysit for have a dog and they are very mean to the dog. They jump on the dog and kick it. The children even put a whistle up to the dog’s ear and blow into its ear. I tell them to stop it, but they don’t listen to me. The dog isn’t very well fed or taken care of either. What can I do to help this poor suffering dog?

Sincerely, Lisa Denning, age 14

Branch Club News

A new Branch Club is the Chipmunks, in Bellmawr, N.J. They have built bird and squirrel (and chipmunk) feeding stations and are keeping food in them for six months, to carry the animals through the winter, when it is hard for them to find food. So far, the club has just three members, Marianne Cookling and Ellen and Edwina Onder. But Mrs. Ernst is their Raccoon Captain, so they’ve made a good start.

Another new club is the Bluejays. They are the twenty students at the Quarles School in Winchester, VA. Their teacher is Dorothy Vargo. They have also joined the Junior S.P.C.A. and have helped at the new animal shelter’s Open House ceremonies. They meet during school time each Thursday and Friday morning, but do special projects after school, too.
Someone has suggested that we shouldn't have an editorial page, because kids don't know that editorials are really the editor's opinions. Now we're telling you. This is where I get to spout off. And it's strictly my opinion. But we reserved a place for your opinions, too, in 'From You' on page 7. If you don't agree with us, let's hear from you. We won't be afraid to print your opinions, even if we don't agree.

When I was your age we had two cows. I had to care for these cows and milk them each morning and night. One summer the cows were on property we'd just bought, two miles from where we lived. Until we built our house, I had to balance that bucket of milk on my new bicycle every day. It was good training to learn responsibility for the care of animals. At that time the Heifer Project was asking high school students with experience to care for the heifers on shipboard, on their journeys to foreign lands. I wanted to volunteer but I wasn't quite bold enough. I've always regretted I didn't go. It probably would have been a fun experience.

There are bound to be a few regrets in every person's life. But being too cautious and afraid of the unknown sometimes leads to regrets, too. Better to take life as it comes, and be outgoing and on the ready to make the most of each new experience.

The Heifer Project is just the opposite of the scandalous slaughter of calves by Wisconsin farmers a few months ago. Those farmers sought to bring public pity for themselves, because they were caught in an economic squeeze. Instead they were scorned and rebuked by people who were shocked and disgusted by such callous actions. Over the years Heifer Project International has helped many starving people with their gifts of cows to produce milk. A plan like this that helps others is far better that a mass slaughter of baby animals just to get publicity.

What would you do if you saw an animal caught in a leg-hold trap? Especially in an area where trapping was outlawed? Would you have the courage to plead with the trapper like Steven Schlag did? Or report the case to the authorities? Or even more courageous, to stand up and testify in court against the trapper? It's people like Steven Schlag and Steven Sloan, who help make laws work to protect animals and people. Someone once said, it takes courage to be kind. And it's true. Don't pile regrets up in your memories because you didn't have enough courage to act when an opportunity came your way.

Don't forget—what you read on this page is my opinion. Page 7 is reserved for your opinion. Why not tell us what you think?

R. Dale Hylton
Editor