Loving Hearts of February Birth

By E. M. S. FITE

"If you cannot do a kind deed,
Speak a kind word.
If you cannot speak a kind word,
Think a kind thought."

February is the shortest month of the year," said teacher Miss Nivens, "but I think it is a very important month because there have been many birthdays of animal lovers in this month. Who can tell me the meaning of a birthday and about any of the special February birthdays?"

Phoebe Fairbanks raised her hand and was all eagerness to speak; so did Thomas Tormey.

"Very well, Phoebe, you speak first, and tell us what you know about birthdays," said Miss Nivens.

"A birthday," began Phoebe, "is the day when someone is born onto this earth, and--d (long drawn out) that someone may be a human baby, or a bird baby, or an animal baby. I can tell you (very fast) about a bird baby's birthday party, for I wrote it and so did Thomas Tormey, and we are making it into a puppet show. There's lots more talking in it in the puppet show, Miss Nivens."

A smile and nod from Miss Nivens let Phoebe know that she was pleased and that the class would be glad to hear about the Owl's birthday party first, and other birthdays later.

Thomas Tormey stood up and said, "Miss Nivens, I wrote the first part of it so I will start. An Owl had a birthday. He invited his friends. An old friend named Jack came first. He helped his host serve the dinner. The Owl's name was Caesar. Caesar had forgotten to invite a bird he had not seen for a long time. Most of the guests came late. They began to eat their dinners. Then the Owl looked up and saw the forgotten bird. Have you forgotten Bob White?" she said.

Phoebe took up the story at this point. "Just then the wind blew the top of the tree and Bob White fell off. All the birds flew down to see what had happened to him. They found that Bob White had broken his leg. They asked him if he was tired and hungry. Bob White said 'Yes,' so they bandaged his leg and gave him something to eat. You see, Bob White lives on the ground most of the time, he is used to flying only a little way up into the bushes. But this time he was curious to see the party, so he went up high into a tree. He got dizzy because he was so high. When the wind blew he fell off.

"All the birds became very friendly. One of the Owls said, 'Let us get married,' Bob said, 'I shall give you a present.' The Owl said 'Thank you.' The Owl got jealous of the two Owls. The Eagle upset the table. The Eagle took Bob White away. Then the two Owls came in and said, 'Where is our dear Bob White?'

"'I know,' the Eagle was angry and perhaps he took him,' said one of the Pheasants.

"'Let us go and find the Eagle,' said a little Owl.

"They flew far away but they could not find the Eagle. The Eagle knew a naughty Boy, and he told him to steal the Pheasant's pretty eggs. Then he told the Bad Boy to take Bob White and put him in a cage. The Bad Boy said, 'Very well, I shall do what you say.'

"Then the Bad Boy did these two bad things—he locked Bob White in a cage and went away. Poor Bob White began to cry for some water and some crumbs. All of the birds who had been at the party came and sat in the trees near Bob White and screamed and cried. The Bad Boy's Mother heard them scream. She let Bob White out. She found the Bad Boy outside playing and took him in and gave him a hot spanking. The birds helped Bob White back to the party."

"When the party was over the guests said they had had a good time. They wanted to form a Birds' Kind Deeds Club. The Owls and other birds helped to bandage Bob White's broken leg and helped to get him out of the cage, so they had done two kind deeds; they all promised to do a kind deed to a human, so they could earn their Kind Deeds Button. The Owls said they would catch mice in the barn, and the Robins said they would eat the slugs and insects out of the flower garden. Each one planned how to earn his or her Button."

"Well, well," exclaimed teacher Nivens, "that is a fine story, and I want to see the Puppet Show when you
have it ready. Now, besides Mr. Owl’s birthday, who
do you know of that was born in February who loved
his bird and animal friends?"

“There’s Abraham Lincoln,” said Mary Clark. “He
loved birds and animals; he saved the life of two baby
birds by picking them off the ground where they had
fallen, and putting them back in the nest. He never
would hurt an animal; he wouldn’t let anybody else hurt
one when he was around. The Kind Deeds Messenger
told us last year about Lincoln and the pig. He was born
February 12, that’s why we have a holiday that day, for
he was a great and good man and he was president of
the United States.”

Many of the children in class told interesting stories
of Lincoln; all knew of him and loved to tell of his kind-
ness to four-footed friends. Up went one hand of an
alert looking boy.

“Yes, John,” said Miss Nivens, “What can you tell
us?”

“Why, February 7, 1812, was the birthday of Charles
Dickens, and he was always trying to help others, espe-
cially those who had been cruelly treated. He was al-
ways on the side of the weak, and was kind to animals.
He was very poor as a boy and he worked in a factory.
He couldn’t go to school like we do, and have a good
teacher. He was treated very cruelly. He never forget
that when he grew up, and it made him very sad. So
he wrote many stories that told of cruelties and he got
England to make better laws. He stood for truth and
kindness, and he said that in an emergency of life there
is nothing so strong or wise as the simple truth.” It is
said that few men have ever lived who did more to
prevent cruelty than Charles Dickens.”

“That is a fine report, John, we shall make a note of
Charles Dickens. What can you tell us, Esther? I see
your hand waving over there,” asked Miss Nivens.

“Why, I want to tell you,” said Esther, “that the poet
Henry W. Longfellow was born February 27, 1807; I
looked up the date. He wrote, oh, just so many lovely
things about birds and animals, and he loved them and
was very kind and gentle.”

“Yes,” said Miss Nivens, “you are right, Esther;
Longfellow wrote many lovely poems. One that I re-
member showed his love and kindness and is called
‘The Emperor’s Bird Nest.’ You children can find it by
looking in the book of his poems—it is too long to
repeat here. Then there is another poem he wrote,
‘The Birds of Killingworth,’ in which the last verse,
speaking of the birds, says,—

‘You call them thieves and pillagers; but know
They are the winged wardens of your farms,
Who from the corn fields drive the insidious foe,
And from your harvests keep a hundred harms;
Even the blackest of them all, the crow
Renders good service as your man-at-arms,
Crushing the beetle in his coat of mail
And crying havoc on the slang and snail.

"You see how in a few lines he tells us what useful
and helpful friends our little feathered brothers are to
us. Now, then, I see a hand raised in the back of the
room: is it Bob? Yes, well Bob, what have you to say?"

"Why, Miss Nivens, you know we boys all love to
read about men who did great things, and about
adventures. I read about Daniel Boone, who did so much
to help settle Kentucky and that part of our country. He
explored it where no white man had been before. He
was born in February, too; his birthday was February
11, 1735.

"I read that because he lived in the wild country he
was not taught at school as we are, but he loved nature
and learned a great deal about nature that older people
didn't know. He knew every kind of tree in the forest
and he knew the habits of birds and animals, and he
loved them. He loved horses very much, and when
he was 12 years old he could ride and manage a horse as
well as his father could, who had ridden all of his life.
But more than all other animals, Daniel Boone loved
dogs. When he went into the wild forest to explore,
he took his dog with him. For months at a time his dog
was the only companion he had to talk to, so they were
great chums. His dog helped him to hunt for food, and
more than once he saved his master's life. But for his
dog, Daniel Boone would have been awfully lonesome,
I think, don't you, Miss Nivens?"

"When I was reading about him," continued Bob,
"I read this, and I copied it for I wanted to remember it." Bob unfolded a piece of paper and read what he
had written.

"We little think how much we owe to dogs in the
settlement of our country. * * *
The dog will go
globetrotting with his master's; to hunt for him, fight
for him, and cheer him in his hours of discouragement.
(That means when he is lonely and things are not going
so good, said Bob.) Many animals show a certain
degree of affection for men, but dogs more than all, for
they will often give their lives to save the lives of their
masters."

"Thank you, Bob, we are glad to know about Daniel
Boone; I did not know his birthday was in February.
But there is another poet besides Longfellow who was
born in February: I wonder who can tell me his name
and something about him?" asked Miss Nivens.

"I know, I know, Miss Nivens!" exclaimed pretty
Susie Matthews as she jumped to her feet. "His name
was James Russell Lowell, and he was born February
22, 1819. He was always ready to help the most humble
living creature, for he loved them. He had a kind
heart. I shall tell you a story about how he helped some
robins one time. One time he saw a robin's nest high
up in a tree near his house. It had baby robins in it.
The father and mother robins guarded the nest all the
time, but they seemed greatly excited and fluttered
their wings a great deal. Mr. Lowell felt that something
was wrong. He got a ladder and climbed up to the
nest and this excited the old robins even more for they
feared for their babies. He soon found out what was
the matter. When the old birds had built the nest,
they had woven it a long piece of string, but they
left it too loose. The three young birds had got tangled
in the string. They were old enough to fly out of the
nest, but they couldn't get out. The mother and father
birds were awfully excited and nervous when they saw
Mr. Lowell up there at their nest, but very soon they
seemed to know that he was trying to help the little
birds and they stopped their scolding and sat quietly
on a limb of the tree and watched him.

"Mr. Lowell found the string was twisted too tight
about the foot of one bird that the foot was all curled
up; it was paralyzed, and the little bird could not move
it. One bird was not hurt much and as soon as the
string was cut it flew out of the nest to another tree. The
little fellow with the bad foot jumped from the
nest and spread his wings to fly, but he tumbled to the
ground; he hopped along and the old birds flew down
to help him. Then there was the third little bird in the
nest; he was so much hurt by the string being wound
around his body so tight that Mr. Lowell saw when he
cut the string that the little fellow could not live nor
bear for himself, so he killed him, which was the kind-
est thing to do. The old robins seemed to understand
what he was doing and did not cry nor flutter.

"About a week later Mr. Lowell saw the little lame
robin hopping about quite lively on one foot. He
balanced himself with the lame foot; so he may have
gotten well afterwards. I think this shows what a very
kind man Mr. Lowell was."

"Miss Nivens told the children that they made her
very happy by the splendid reports they had given; the
care they had taken showed how earnest they had been
in their efforts to find out the February birthdays of
real lovers of our voiceless brothers. When she
dismissed them for their February 12 holiday, it was
with a happy smile and many thanks.

FOOTNOTE.—For the first part of this story credit must be
given to the two children mentioned, Phoebe Fairbanks and
Thomas Towsor, second grade pupils in Miss Helen Nivens'!
class at Fremont School, San Francisco. The children wrote
the original little story about the Owl's birthday party and
kindly loaned it to us for use in the Messenger.

QUESTIONS
1. Name some of the animal lovers born in February.
2. For what reason are these people considered
great?
3. How much do you think their kind hearts helped
them to be great, and how?
4. Why was it wrong to shoot Bob White in a cage?
5. Tell what you know of Charles Dickens.
7. What story do you know about James Russell
Lowell?
8. Tell what you know of the poet Longfellow.
9. Tell the stories about Abraham Lincoln that show
him to have loved animals.

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CHECK CRUELTY IN CHILDREN EARLY

DR. LOUIS E. BISCH

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[Dr. Bisch is an eminent psychologist whose statements are founded on wide experience rather than theory. We beg teachers and parents to read thoughtfully his emphasis of Kindness training as a vital need in the lives of children. In his book entitled "YOUR INNER SELF," Dr. Bisch gives a striking instance illustrative of how the neglect of such education may affect to its detriment the individual's whole life. "I recall a cultured and refined gentleman who complained of his inordinate desire to destroy life—to kill... He confessed, and shamefacedly at that, to having experienced often a thrill of delight when despatching a wounded animal. 'I'm glad I have kidney disease,' he said, 'because I'm sure I'd go right on killing. I seek at the thought of the innocent animals I have slaughtered.' A mental analysis brought to light the fact that the nurse employed by his parents during his third and fourth year not only encouraged the child to catch insects, beetles and caterpillars on the ground that they were 'nasty,' but also taught the little fellow to stamp out their lives with his feet.

Children are naturally not kind. Therefore we must teach them kindness and we must begin as early as possible.

For this worldaday world of ours needs kindness. We need the softening influence in our lives and affairs. The world is growing very stern, hard, cold and indifferent and kindness can do a great deal in counteracting these tendencies and in humanizing them.

You must have noticed how unbelievably cruel children can sometimes be. They pinch, tease, and otherwise molest their pets. They say harsh and insulting things to their playmates.

In fact, children start as little barbarians and kindness in the earliest years is often unknown in their make-up.

One way of teaching kindness is through animals. Every child ought to have a dog or a cat, and in country districts a pet lamb or calf or chicken goes far in making them considerate.

Kindness, however, must be taught to them.

We cannot expect children of tender years to be kind of themselves. And in order to teach them, we must talk about kindness, reward kindness, and try to prove over and over again the personal satisfaction that flows from sympathy bestowed upon dumb, helpless creatures.

I do not mean to say that unless kindness is inoculated into a child's character that such a child will necessarily become a heartless wretch. I do mean, though, since the child is primarily a material and sel-

"Cruel is the world,

THEN BE THOU KIND, even to the creeping
thing

That crawl's and agonizes in its place
As thou in thine."

—ROBERT BUCHANAN.
Mrs. Gwen Tebault, the Foundation's field representative, is now making a tour through Alameda County schools after an absence of many months. She reports that interest and enthusiasm are being wonderfully sustained everywhere. The ESSAY CONTEST promises a larger number of participants among the older pupils than ever before experienced. WHY AMONG OLDER PUPILS? Because when we entered the field these older pupils were young children and they have kept the results of those early years of training. What do you think of the following evidence that this is one of the most encouraging facts in our experience? Mrs. Tebault says: "I stopped at a Shell station at San Leandro. A young fellow about 17 or 18 gave me service and when I was paying him, he said, 'Mrs. Tebault, you don't know me, but I was one of your members in the Kind Deeds Clubs and I want you to know how much the work has helped me.' Friends, if you could have been with us in the first hard year of our work when older pupils looked upon it with a kind of scornful superiority, you could understand how our hearts sing and rejoice now over this change in older pupils, a change which is full of prophecy for ever-widening circles as its influence spreads and KINDNESS TO ALL LIVING CREATURES becomes a general principle of school training.

Mrs. Agnes Weber Meads, Superintendent of Yuba County Schools, writes, 'Our children are doing some very fine constructive work in citizenship through Kind Deeds Clubs. We are very proud of results obtained.'

"We are very happy to know that the Foundation appreciates our efforts in aiming for a better understanding of humane education, because it is bringing our youth to a realization of the better things in life."

Mrs. Meads has interested her teachers in the formation of the clubs and their reports with letters from the children show how much earnestness and effort is being put into the work. We wish to congratulate both teachers and children.

Mr. J. A. Forbes, a distinguished English humanitarian who, through over fifty years of active service, has sponsored many uplift movements, says that in all his experience nothing has ever appealed to him as strongly as the KIND DEEDS CLUB MOVEMENT. Defiant of the three score years and ten limitation, Mr. Forbes is actively organizing these clubs in New Zealand and covering many hundreds of miles to carry the humane message across. He is circulating large quantities of our literature in organizing the clubs and he reports a growing interest in the schools. "It is encouraging to note," writes one of the teachers, "the many little unselfish actions done day by day as reported and testified to as being genuinely correct by many of the boys and girls."

Mrs. Tillie H. Glasscock, Principal Tenneyson School: "The results derived from the study of Humane Education during the past three years in Tenneyson School are most satisfactory. The Latham Foundation is doing missionary work of the greatest importance to society. A young child will form habits of consideration and kindness just as readily as he will cultivate habits of thoughtlessness and cruelty. Carrying out your plans, we have directed special attention to developing in the child a disposition toward fellow feeling for animals and an attitude of sympathy for our younger and our less fortunate brothers and sisters. Upon this foundation character rests... No teacher who aims to educate children to take their places as Citizens of the World can overlook the importance of Humane Education. Let us try to turn out one generation that understands the sacredness of all life. Then watch the crime curve drop."

*Emphasis our own.*

How Pal Won a Kind Deeds Club Button

DORIS BURNS (Age 11)—1928 ESSAY CONTEST
Mr. Eden School, Alameda County, Calif.

There once lived a little boy named Billy Carter who had a number of pets. He had his pet Shetland pony, a tame squirrel, a cow and twin calves, a cage of white mice with pink eyes, an old mother dog named Pal and her two little puppies and a beautiful Persian cat and her little kitten.

Billy Carter was a very kind child and every morning he fed a "Good Morning" call to each of his pets, while at night he went to see if they were comfortable.

One bright afternoon Fluff, the mother cat, strolled out of the gate into the road in front of the house. Many machines went along this road in good weather and just as Fluff was about half way across a big gravel truck came around the corner. Before the driver could see Fluff he was on top of her.

He stopped his truck as fast as he could and looked to see what was the matter. He discovered the dead form of the cat and recognized it to be the Carters' cat.

The driver felt very sorry and ashamed for having killed Billy's pet, and, picking it up and laying it in the hedge, went to tell Billy about it.

Billy was dreadfully sorry that his pet was dead, and fetched and buried it in his own garden.

Billy was sad and quiet all day and forgot about "Fluff," the small orphan kitten. He also forgot to say goodnight to his pets.

In the morning before going to school he went to say good morning to his waiting pets. When he reached Pal, the mother dog, he stopped and opened his mouth in amazement, for lying close to the faithful old mother dog lay three instead of two puppies he thought,—but no—two puppies and the little deserted kitten, whom all had forgotten except the reliable old mother dog.

When Pal saw her master she wagged her tail joyously and barked as if to say, "I didn't forget." Then she licked her puppies and to Billy's astonishment she licked the little deserted kitten, who purred with appreciative thankfulness.

This proves that even dumb creatures can do kind deeds. Then why not we little children?
THE CARE OF YOUR DOG

EDITH LATHAM

If you are going to have a dog, it is worth your best care, and he will reward your intelligent study of all his requirements with devoted comradeship. When you buy a piece of machinery you study all its parts and how to keep it in perfect running order. Why not give your dog as much consideration? The three great essentials are proper housing, proper feeding and a feeling of good fellowship towards him. Unless you can give him all three, make up your mind not to have a dog.

HOUSING

No house is too good for a well-trained and well-kept dog, unless he is too large for indoor life. If you cannot provide for such a dog in the protection of the barn, have made a thoroughly weather-tight kennel and placed in a sheltered spot where it can get the direct rays of the sun in winter. It must be raised several inches above the ground to avoid dampness. Otherwise your dog will develop rheumatism or pulmonary troubles. See to it that the kennel is always kept dry and the bedding sanitary by frequent changing. Once a week is not too often. Cedar shavings are highly recommended for bedding as a precaution against fleas. A heavy curtain over the entrance is indispensable. A kennel is not a desirable shelter in the coldest winter weather.

FEEDING

Many of the troubles from which dogs suffer are due to wrong feeding. Most dogs cannot digest potatoes. They produce vomiting, and sometimes fits. Other starchy vegetables, as beans, corn and peas, are bad. Never give fish or meat containing bones. Bones with jagged points are dangerous. Many an obscure and fatal illness has resulted from these points piercing the alimentary canal. A smooth knuckle alone is permissible. Rich milk we consider a pernicious food for very young dogs.

Says the Washington Bureau on the care of dogs: "Pups after being weaned can be fed soups that are not too greasy, broths thickened with bread or rice. Gradually add to their diet well-boiled vegetables (except potatoes), and a little well-cooked meat. Puppies that are three or four months old can be fed the same kind of food as a grown dog, but in smaller quantities and more frequently. The growing puppy should be fed at least four times daily until he is nine months old. From this age on, for active outdoor dogs, two meals a day will answer, but where exercise is not given or the dog is confined indoors, one meal a day is ample, preferably in the morning. Candy, sweets and fruit should not be given to a dog. When you give them to a dog you are preparing for trouble, for it will result in serious sickness if it is continued. As to the liquids, give nothing but water." Meat alone is not a balanced ration. It is thought to cause worms.

If your dog eats grass it indicates he is not being properly fed. It is nature's way of supplying relief.

In order to safeguard your dog from neglect, form the habit at dinner time of setting aside for him regularly his part of the meal—meat and vegetables.
For the benefit of vegetarian families, we can say that we have seen perfectly healthy and animated dogs raised entirely on meatless feeding. Spinach, mixed with brown rice is a very fine food for dogs, and meatless broths and soups poured over well-baked cornmeal makes a wholesome and sustaining meal. Steamed turnips and potatoes, shredded cabbage cooked only fifteen minutes and mixed with vegetable fat agrees with dogs, and they like it.

Most dogs are fond of dog biscuit, and it is excellent for them.

Have a supply of fresh water always accessible. It is our opinion that many a dog called "mad" was crazed for water which he was unable to get.

If properly fed, your dog will not suffer from constipation, the underlying cause of so many other troubles. Milk of magnesia or olive oil in small doses are corrective.

OTHER HINTS

If the out-of-doors is inaccessible, as in apartment houses, dogs can be trained to use a large, shallow pan lined with newspaper, located always in the same place, preferably the bathroom.

If your dog is thoroughly brushed frequently he will not need, if he is a house dog, very frequent bathing, not more than once in two weeks, generally speaking.

Peetan insect powder can be depended upon to destroy fleas. It should be sifted into the coat, allowed to remain for about half an hour and then combed out. The torpid fleas can thus be removed.

The American Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Animals says: "Never experiment in doctoring a sick dog. He is the best friend you have, and deserves the best and most intelligent care you can possibly give him. Your friends may pity you in misfortune, but your dog, never."

A FEW DON'TS

Don't keep your dog chained all the time. Landseer tells us that a dog so treated does not live more than two years. If you must occasionally chain him, have an arrangement made similar to the picture. See that the bar permits the dog to get shade, and that he licks at no time for water.

Don't punish your dog when you are angry. First conquer yourself. That is far more important than anything your dog has done.

Don't administer violent punishment to a dog. Often an authoritative word is enough to make a dog understand. If he is sensitive he will develop under harsh treatment a clinging attitude which will advertise to a critical world the kind of a human being his master is. A dog loves approbation just as we all do. A kind word makes him beam with happiness, and a cross word makes him supremely unhappy.

Don't own a dog unless you can depend upon your own amiability and patience. Dogs, like children, are often very trying.

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THE CARE OF YOUR CAT

EDITH LATHAM

From the earliest history of the human race cats have been intimate associates of man. They are known to have come from the world's oldest country, Egypt, where monuments abound showing their relation to man as pets and helpers. We are told they were objects of worship in some of the temples. Their present-day usefulness in the home, the granary and the field is well established in keeping away mice and rats, to whom the cat odor is as terrifying as the smell of a human being to bears in the forest.

To the sympathetic and painstaking animal student the cat is most interesting in the qualities and faculties it exhibits, which are entirely different from other animals. Less popular than the dog, because the cat never flattens a human being with fawning lavishments, it is by far the worst treated animal today, and the least understood.

Many people dislike cats because they have such an undisguised love of luxury, but we have never seen a man or woman who was not equally so, for this is a weakness common to the universal physical instinct of wanting to be comfortable. Others hate them because they like birds. We have met but few people who don't greatly relish a partridge, a duck, goose, turkey and other birds, big and small. It is always profitable to analyze our aversions carefully, and they will usually disappear in the light of common logic. Give your cat the normal indulgence of a place in the house, where she can sleep at ease, a cushion covered with a washable material in a chair placed in the kitchen or other warm spot.

If she is going to have kittens, make comfortable provision for her. It is always a problem to know what to do with the offspring. It is not humane to allow them to multiply if you cannot provide for them, and if nobody wants them. Cats adore their young with ferocity, and will forget their natural timidity and go through fire and water to save them. We have pathetic instances of such devotion. But if they are removed instantly after birth, BEFORE THE MOTHER SEES THEM, she does not grieve, and her breasts rubbed with camphorated oil twice a day will prevent caking.

Directions for the proper chloroforming of small animals will be supplied by the Foundation upon request.

If you keep her kittens, leave her alone until she signifies that she wants them noticed. DON'T HANDLE THEM.

Kittens should not be taken from the mother under four weeks. When they are weaned warm milk should first be given them. If their noses are gently forced into the saucer they very soon learn to lap. Feeding times should be frequent when they are very young. Beginning with six times a day, gradually lessen. When they are six months old three meals a day will be sufficient. Remember that milk alone is not a fit dietary for a grown cat. They languish without solid food, become very thin and weak. Fish is their staple food, but
it should be divested of bones if your cat is to escape the danger of strangulation.

Says the Washington Bureau on the care of cats: "Cats that are kept in a city flat and seldom get out should be fed upon stale bread, crackers, water biscuit, oatmeal and similar food to which Good, fresh milk is added. Sour milk produces digestive troubles. Vegetables should be fed freely, especially asparagus and celery."

Don't abandon your cat. This is punishable in Massachusetts as a misdemeanor, and should be in every state.

Don't drive a cat away from your door. The sufferings of a homeless animal are very great.

Don't throw out tin cans without beating in the sides. Many hungry cats have gotten their heads caught and been terribly cut by the sharp edges.

Don't leave a kitten unprotected out of doors. If it wanders it can't find its way home, and is exposed to danger from dogs and boys who may be cruel.

Don't allow children to handle and carry kittens about when they are very young. Many are made sick and die from internal bruises which children unwittingly inflict, for the organs of these little creatures are exceedingly tender, and are most easily damaged by outside pressure.

Says the Animal Rescue League, Boston: "Don't put a ribbon or a collar on your cat's neck. Cats have been caught on fences, bushes and limbs of trees by these collars, and have not been able to free themselves."

Abandoned or lost animals have been slowly starved to death by outgrowing the bands about their necks.