

Humane Society Youth Tells Kids: Polar Bears Need You

Help support the Polar Bear Protection Act

(Oct. 25, 2007) — As shrinking Arctic ice threatens polar bears' habitat and trophy hunters threaten their lives, Humane Society Youth is asking kids to lend a helping hand.

The November 2007 issue of *KIND News*, Humane Society Youth's award-winning newspaper for grades K-6, features the plight of the polar bear and gives students the resources to effect change. They are asked to write their lawmakers in support of the Polar Bear Protection Act and are encouraged to fight global warming by taking simple steps such as walking or riding a bike instead of asking for rides and turning off electronic devices when not in use. The November issue will be in 35,000 classrooms nationwide by November 1.

"If these students learn now to raise their voices when they see an injustice, they will create a better world not just for polar bears but for all of us," said Dorothy Weller, executive director for Humane Society Youth.

If enacted, The Polar Bear Protection Act would protect polar bears from trophy hunting by closing a loophole in the Marine Mammal Protection Act. In 1994, at the request of trophy hunting groups, the law was changed to allow American sport hunters to import the heads and skins of polar bears killed in Canada. Since then, hunters have brought more than 800 polar bear trophies into the United States.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended that polar bears be listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act, largely due to global warming. Polar bears are dependent on the sea ice for their survival and shrinking polar ice is costing bears their precious habitat.

Humane Society Youth works to involve children of all ages and their teachers in taking action for animals:

- Elementary-school-age children are encouraged to visit the "How to Help" section of humanesociety.org/kids.
- Teens can visit the "Get Involved" section of humanesociety.org/teens to take action.
- Teachers can sign up for e-updates and find out how to receive *KIND News* for their classrooms by visiting humanesociety.org/youth or calling (860) 434-8666.

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Humane Society Youth is a division of The Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest animal protection organization – backed by 10 million Americans, or one of every 30. For more than a half-century, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education, and hands-on programs. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty -- On the web at humanesociety.org.

