

Friends ...

Fun ...



Three Things To Remember

William Blake

A Robin Redbreast in a cage
Puts all Heaven in a rage.

A skylark wounded on the wing
Doth make a cherub cease to sing.

He who shall hurt the little wren
Shall never be beloved by men.

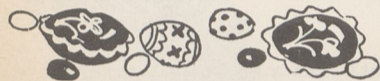


Chick and Duckling Warning

Fuzzy baby chicks, ducklings and bunnies are appealing and seem an appropriate part of the Spring season. However, they are NOT suitable Easter gifts for young children. At least 12 states and many cities now forbid their sale as toys or use as promotional gifts.

There are two major reasons for this prohibition. First to attract public notice was the danger to the small animals themselves. Children can be unintentionally cruel, and the new pets suffered from over-handling, squeezing, or other mistreatment. Those which survived grew out of cute fuzziness and were later neglected. And even with the best of care and intentions, it's hard to fit a full-grown chicken, duck, or rabbit into a modern small house or apartment!

The second reason, even more important, is the health menace to the child himself. Salmonellosis, a relatively unknown disease, has been increasing in recent years with major outbreaks being traced to Easter pet chicks and ducks. Small turtles are also a source of infection. Symptoms of the disease range from slight to extremely severe. Even after recovery, the child may remain a carrier for months afterward, and other household pets may become infected. The danger is especially great with small children, who put almost everything into their mouths.

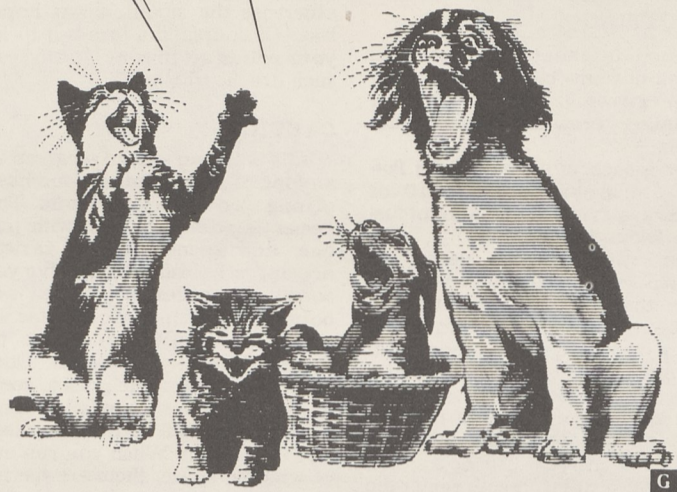


In The Netherlands, children go from door to door during Holy Week, collecting Easter eggs. Young and old alike play games involving eggs on Easter Monday.



Germans color eggs green on "Green Thursday"—the Thursday before Easter—and carry the eggs all day for good luck. On Easter Monday the young people have an egg-rolling contest.

In Bulgaria, on Easter Saturday, people exchange eggs and baked almond cakes. In Hungary, boys sprinkle girls with water on Easter Monday and received Easter eggs in reward.



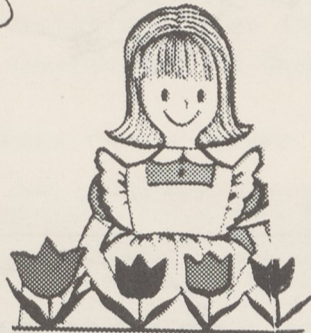
For free pet care leaflets, write to the American Humane Association, P.O. Box 1266X, Denver, Colorado.

One way to make Be Kind To Animals Week a year-round practice is to give your child a pet and help him learn to care for it properly. You'll have to supervise things, of course, but the whole family will benefit from the experience.

Choose your pet with care, with thought for the size, age, interests and activities of the family and the needs of the kind of animal you might choose. Then, whether it's a goldfish, a Great Dane, or a bird in a gilded cage, learn together about its care.

In selecting an animal, you may find just what you want at the SPCA Shelter, where a variety of pets are waiting for adoption.

But whether large or small, pedigreed or mongrel, your pet will become a valued member of the household and increase your understanding and interest in all animals.



Egyptian Rabbit?

The Easter bunny may originally have been an Egyptian rabbit. In ancient Egypt the rabbit symbolized birth and new life, and some ancient peoples considered it a symbol of the moon. The date of Easter is determined by the moon, coming on the first Sunday after the first Monday following the vernal equinox.



Easter Egg Customs

When your children search for colored eggs this Easter, they'll be renewing a custom far older than Christianity.

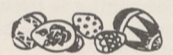
Eggs represent the new life that returns to earth every spring—around the time of Easter. The custom of exchanging eggs as part of the celebration began in ancient times. The ancient Persians often dyed eggs in the colors of spring and gave them to their friends as gifts. Some early peoples believed that the earth had hatched from a giant egg.

Early Christians of Asia exchanged red dyed eggs at Easter.

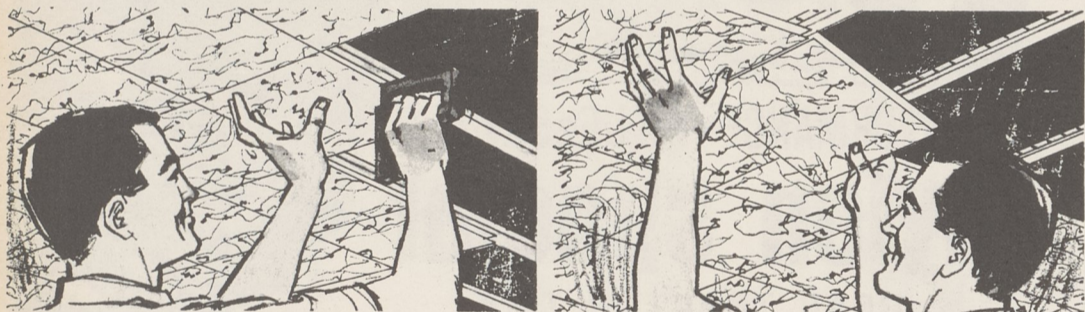
Elaborate decoration became the rule in some eastern European lands. Ukrainians are famous for their beautifully decorated Easter eggs. Each village makes its own design—fir trees, horses, priests' robes, flowers, bell towers, crosses, chapels, etc. Czechoslovakia, Poland, Lithuania, and other lands also are known for their highly decorated Easter eggs.

In England, friends often exchanged eggs at Easter, although nowadays these usually are chocolate eggs. The Irish break the long Lenten fast by eating eggs at dawn on Easter.

Customs vary from land to land, but colored eggs have been associated with springtime since the dawn of history.



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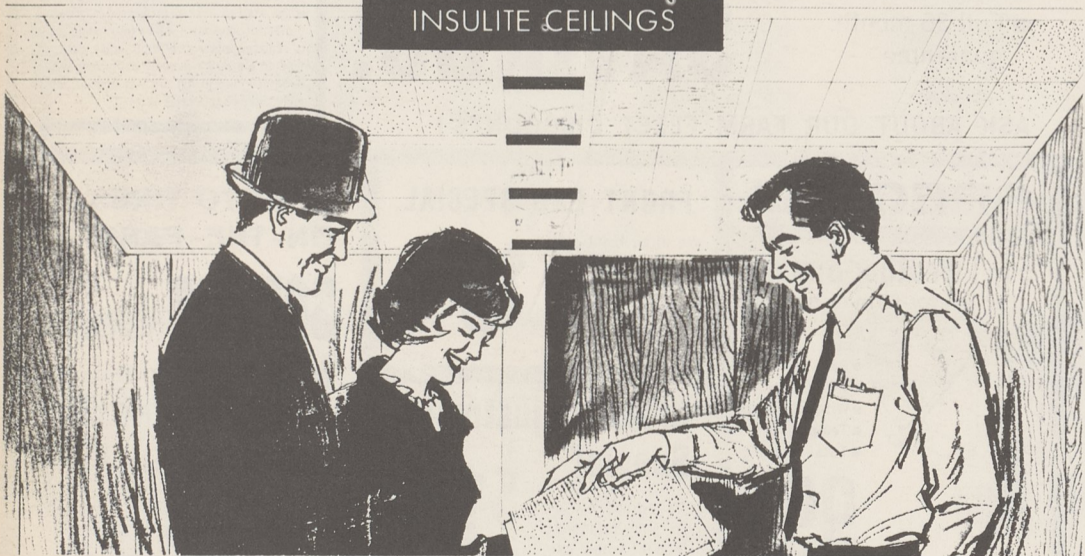


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The Little Black Hen

A. A. Milne

Berryman and Baxter,
Prettiboy and Penn
And old Farmer Middleton
Are five big men . . .
And all of them were after
The Little Black Hen.



The Little Black Hen said,
"What will you pay,
If I lay you an egg
For Easter Day?"

She ran quickly,
They ran fast;
Baxter was first, and
Berryman was last.
I sat and watched
By the old plum-tree . . .
She squawked through the hedge
And she came to me

"I'll give you a Please
And a How-do-you-do,
I'll show you the Bear
Who lives in the Zoo,
I'll show you the nettle-place
On my leg,
If you'll lay me a great big
Eastery egg."

The Little Black Hen
Said "Oh, it's you!"
I said "Thank you,
How do you do?
And please will you tell me,
Little Black Hen,
What did they want,
Those five big men?"

The Little Black Hen
Said "I don't care
For a How-do-you-do
Or a Big-brown-bear,
But I'll lay you a beautiful
Eastery egg,
If you'll show me the nettle-place
On your leg."

The Little Black Hen
She said to me:
"They want me to lay them
An egg for tea.
If they were Emperors,
If they were Kings,
I'm much too busy
To lay them things."

I showed her the place
Where I had my sting.
She touched it gently
With one black wing
"Nettles don't hurt
If you count to ten.
And now for the egg,"
Said the Little Black Hen.

"I'm not a King
And I haven't a crown;
I climb up trees,
And I tumble down.
I can shut one eye,
I can count to ten,
So lay me an egg, please,
Little Black Hen."

When I wake up
On Easter Day,
I shall see my egg
She's promised to lay.
If I were Emperors,
If I were Kings,
It couldn't be fuller
Of wonderful things.



Berryman and Baxter,
Prettiboy and Penn,
And Old Farmer Middleton
Are five big men.
All of them are wanting
An egg for their tea,
But the Little Black Hen is much too busy,
The Little Black Hen is much too busy,
The Little Black Hen is MUCH too busy . . .
She's laying my egg for me!

