

# The Noble Case for Mercy

Tourniquet

Animals - they call out to us.  
Not in words, but in a universal  
language we all understand.  
They call out for mercy.  
They call out for compassion.  
Are we too callous to appreciate their struggles,  
as they try to adapt to a land, and sea -  
we all too often degrade  
and exploit to suit only our own kind?

Have we seen enough of noble animals,  
like the wolf, the ultimate symbol of courage and resolve,  
reduced to pest status,  
victims of a one-sided war -  
to be eliminated by any means possible?

Have we seen enough of wild animals  
languishing in boredom and depravity  
behind bars or in chains,  
trotted out only to perform silly tricks -  
waiting for a freedom that may never come?

Will we passively stand by as our majestic wild bison  
are roughly corralled into holding pens  
and sent to slaughter -  
wrongly convicted of a crime they did not commit?

As we are coming to realize  
that our oceans are brimming with intelligent,  
social creatures - there are those with bloody hands  
who continue to make a profit  
from their confinement, misery, and murder.

The ever increasing pulse of humanity awakened,  
who refuse to turn a blind eye to their suffering,  
who are angered by the cruelties inflicted  
upon any creature great or small, wild or domestic -  
it is the noble side of us that rises up  
to fight for those who cannot.

Defenders - guardians - warriors against cruelty.  
The caring human hearts for millions of sentient beings,  
a tidal wave of awareness that cannot,  
that will not - be silenced.