

May 1, 1970

Phyllis Diller, today (Friday, May 1) was named Queen of Be Kind To Animals Week, scheduled May 3-9.

~~Robert I. Rush, General Manager of the Department of Animal Regulation~~

Robert I. Rush, General Manager of the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation, local ~~Chairman~~ chairman of the 56th national observance of Animal Week, presented a scroll to the actress at her home in West Los Angeles.

The comedienne, who is recuperating from recent surgery, ^{was} accepted the honorary title with ~~aplomb and dignity.~~ ^{appreciation, and a spirit}

"My affection for animals is no secret," she said. "They were here long before us, and certainly deserve a little kindness."

Relative to a family affinity for animals, Miss Diller said "my kids have picked up so many stray animals that Sam Yorty ^{may have to} ~~has~~ declared my back yard a game preserve."

The actress admitted she ~~spent~~ was a frequent visitor at the zoo, but said a recent trip proved

somewhat discouraging.

"The ~~last~~ last time I was there," she explained, "an ostrich had one look at me and buried its head in the cement."

The purpose of Be Kind To Animals Week, according to Rush, is to stress the responsibility man has toward the surviving animals on earth.

"They were put here for a reason," he said, "and once every year at this time, a thought in the direction of kindness to animals and their conservation is suggested."

In the area of wildlife conservation, Rush and the Department of Animal Regulation launched a program last year, that involves weekly relocation of wild animals found in the City, to Angeles National Forest.

Rush invited the public to visit Los Angeles' five Animal Shelters during the forthcoming Animal Week.

"Kindness to an animal is a home," he said.