

Animals and Birds Find Plenty of Use for Tails

Certain species of mice have extraordinary long tails which are used as balancing organs while making long leaps. In another species of mice the tail seems to have no purpose at all as it is only a remnant. Among the larger mammals the bear and elephant have about the smallest tails in relation to their size, although the elephant had his compensated for by a proboscis on the other end. We may think the common cottontail was slighted in this respect, writes a correspondent in the Detroit News, but it has a tail nearly as long as a bear and furthermore it serves as a signal of danger much the same as the tail of the deer.

The Gila monster finds his tail an excellent place for food storage. The alligator uses its tail as a weapon and as a powerful lever in turning its body over and over after seizing its prey. In this way the alligator tears its food or victim as the case may be. The great order of insects show a wide diversity in structure and function of tails or tail-like appendages.

If one is expert enough to read the signals of the skunk's tail he can tell when to retreat to a safety zone. Some people claim they can pick up a skunk by the tail with perfect impunity, but some skunks are too clever for persons to take this advantage of them. Others claim they can pick up a porcupine by the tail without danger; however, unless you are an expert you will probably find it a very effective war club worthy of considerable respect. The beaver's tail is used to spank out on the water a warning of approaching danger.

Some tails serve chiefly as ornaments as in the peacock, the lark and pheasants. The ruffed grouse is a famous dandy which, during the drumming period, struts about vainly displaying the coloration of his tail feathers. Of course, we all know that the horse's tail is not only an ornament but also a fly swatter. The question still remains of what use is a pig's tail?

Field Mouse Makes Home In Network of Runways

The small mammal, known scientifically as *Microtus pennsylvanicus*, is a common species of field mouse. It makes its home usually in damp fields where there is an abundance of grass. It is a very active creature, both by day as well as by night, observes a writer in the Montreal Herald.

It lives in burrows, making a network of runways among the vegetation which are connected with their feeding grounds. The burrows may be in meadows or under logs, rocks, tussocks of grass or roots of trees, and lead to underground chambers filled with nests of dry grass which provide a home in winter and often in summer. Other nests are located in damp meadows or marshes in depressions on the surface or among clumps of grass.

The common meadow mouse is most prolific. Estimating the normal increase at six young, with four litters in a season, and assuming that there are no checks upon the increase, the results are appalling. A single pair and their progeny in five seasons would amount to nearly 1,000,000 individuals.

Field mice, also known as moles, have stout bodies, blunt, rounded muzzles, small eyes and short ears—often completely concealed by the fur. The tail is short and hairy; the soles of the feet are naked, or clothed with short hairs, and have five or six foot pads (plantar tubercles). The incisors are broad and not grooved.

Word 'Ginseng' From Chinese

Practically all of the American production of ginseng is exported to China, where it is in great demand for medical and domestic purposes. Branched roots resembling the human form are especially prized for their supposed occult virtues. The word "ginseng" is derived from Chinese words meaning "likeness of man." It is considered a cure for many diseases in China. The roots are marketable in about the fifth or sixth year from planting of seed. They are washed and cured in a well ventilated room with temperature not exceeding 90 degrees Fahrenheit. This takes about a month for the larger roots. They are then stored in a dry, airy place in sacks or boxes for shipment.

Did Not Like Buttons

Once, a gentleman would rather have been shot than have any buttons on his coat. In England, about 700 years ago, the fasteners were only "scandalous ornament on men of low degree." A bit later whole sleeves might be buttoned, from wrist to above the elbow. Buttons have not always been used as fasteners, says the Washington Post. The rank of a Chinese mandarin was distinguished by the color button he wore on his hat.

Highest Sea Mountain

Even though Mauna Kea in Hawaii is the highest island mountain in the world, the visible portion is only a small part of it. The mountain begins on a great plain 18,000 feet below sea level. It rises 14,000 feet above sea level, so high that it is topped with snow. The snow gives it the name Mauna Kea, which is translated "White Mountain."

UNCHAINED DOGS ARE HAPPY DOGS

By R. O'Dare
It is surprising to find, even in our enlightened days, how many people there are who still misuse their dogs. The animals are not given nearly enough freedom, and are frequently kept on chains until life becomes positive torture to them. It simply is not fair. And yet, the offenders carry out these injustices more in ignorance than from any direct desire to inflict cruelty.

If these people would only stop to think, they would perhaps realize how much progressive good they are undoing. They are, by their very thoughtlessness, driving domestic canines back into the wild state from which they emerged after a long process of civilized care and patience.

A dog which does not have enough liberty and exercise, will never be a happy one. Malformation may not be apparent but, inwardly, the dog will undergo a growing resentment which will make him both unreliable and savage, both to his owners and to others. Also, he will become less than useless in the capacity for which he has presumably been purchased.

Fet dogs, poodles and the like, excepted, a dog's chief duty is as guardian. But if he is constantly kept on a chain, he will never be able to fulfill the duties expected of him, should necessity arise, however much he may wish to. If he is kept with the idea of discouraging burglars, and other intruders, his owners are defeating their own ends by keeping him so helpless a captive. In that case, he is a defenseless target for poisoned meat and other dangers. If he is properly trained, the chain should not be necessary.

In days gone by dogs were wild animals, savage and uncontrollable. They would attack human beings with fang and claw. It was hard to say who first realized their potential usefulness, and began to make them tame. But it was long before the Romans, for "Beware of the Dog" is one of the oldest signs in the world. The Romans used it. Civilization in very early times, recognized the immense possibilities in horses' strength and prowess, and gradually came to train and use them for useful purposes. In just such a way was the dog's ferocity utilized in guarding the property of man. For just as soon as man began to have houses and valuables, he simultaneously began to feel the need of some adequate protection. Surely, no more worthy guardian could have been found than the dog.

Through long and careful training, breeding and inter-breeding from generation to generation, the wildness of the dog gave place to faithfulness, docility, and understanding. Yet today man is so perverse in his nature that by his very treatment of the dog he runs the risk of refostering the old treachery and ferocity of earlier days. Having taught the animal to depend on him, and trust him, he chains him up by day and night, so that the appellation "guardian" becomes a useless mockery. All the best feelings in a dog's nature are brought to the surface, only to be ignored and overwhelmed. No wonder he yelps and whines for freedom, when treated so. His very frenzy and unbounded joy on being released should effectively prove his gratitude and appreciation.

It is just as cruel to fasten up a dog for long periods as it is to shut up a human being in a room, deprived of friendship and creature comforts. Malefactors are imprisoned as a punishment—but why should our canine friends be submitted to such rigor? True, it is not done with any intention of punishment, but merely

in senseless disregard of the dog's needs and feelings. Both in mind and body the dog has been created to enjoy a free and active existence. To deprive him of that right is to undermine his health, quite apart from the damage done to his nature. His temper will naturally suffer so that he will gradually come to regard humans as his enemies and tormentors instead of as his friends and benefactors. Alas! When he speaks in the only language he knows and pleads for his liberty, he receives, not sympathy, but even harsher treatment, perhaps. No wonder he grows discontented.

A dog who has been fastened up too long is far more likely to attack people than is one who has had a more normal upbringing. A kennel should be provided for him, certainly—but he will not appreciate it nearly so much if he is chained to it out of all sense and reason. To be any use at all, the dog must be free to do his job—assuming that he is "on guard."

For those who are afraid of burglars, there can be no finer safeguard than a good house dog—particularly a fox terrier. And to be a house dog, he should be set on guard in the house—preferably in the hall. If he is properly trained, he will do no harm and will utilize the special little niche prepared for him to lie down. At the slightest indication of anything wrong, he will be immediately alert, and will arouse the household. But fastened to his kennel in the yard, of what good is he? For he barks and yelps so often for his freedom that notice is not taken of him when real trouble is afoot. Dog lovers worthy of the name will never treat their canine friends this way, and will take steps to dissuade or prevent other dog owners from doing so.

DEANNA DURBIN AND "TIPPY"

Four years ago a twelve-year-old girl in ankle socks and pig-tails walked into a Los Angeles pet shop. "I want a dog," she announced, clutching her precious two dollars and a bag of peanuts.

"Any particular kind?" the shopkeeper smiled.
The little girl's eyes roamed over the rows of cages. "Could I just kind of look around awhile?"

A telephone buzzed, and the man disappeared behind a stack of bird cages. "Go ahead," he called. "I'll be right back."
Around the room the little girl walked, offering peanuts to poodles and pekes, dachshunds and Doberman-mans, collies and chows. But they all refused her offerings. Finally she reached a silky black pup that didn't look quite like a spaniel—or yet like a shepherd. But he gobbled up the peanut with relish and his brown eyes pleaded for more.

It didn't take the little girl long to make up her mind. "This is the dog I want!" she called gleefully to the approaching shopkeeper.

As the man later showed his happy customer to the door, he never dreamed that this youngster holding so lightly to her new-found friend would soon be a great singing star, adored by the world. For she was Deanna Durbin, the girl whose golden voice thrills all who hear her over the radio or on the screen.

Yet, in spite of all the fame and fortune the last few years have brought her, Deanna remains the simple, unspoiled girl of the pet shop. Ask her what is her greatest interest in life, and she will say, "Why, 'Tippy' is my greatest interest in life."

Creamed Chicken for Eight

By Frances Lee Barton

RIGHT at the table! A 'Toddy' Roosevelt family or one of the 1939 type with guests as "fillers."

What could be more appetizing this time of year than creamed chicken as the main course? Light enough for the season, substantial enough for health and economical enough for the purse—a perfect combination.

Flaky Chicken Shortcake
(Pie crust mixture)

3 cups sifted cake flour; 1/2 teaspoon salt; 1/4 cup cold shortening; 1/4 to 3/4 cup cold water.
Sift flour once, measure, add salt, and sift again. Cut in shortening until pieces are about the size of a small pea. Add water, sprinkling a small amount over portion of flour mixture and mixing with fork only enough to make flour hold together. Continue until all flour is mixed. Wrap in waxed paper and chill. Roll out on slightly floured board 1/4 inch thick. Cut with floured cutter into 3 1/2 inch circles. Brush 1/2 of circles with melted butter and place remaining ones on top of them. Put 1 pair of pastry circles in each section of hot waffle iron. Bake 2 minutes, turn off heat, and bake 1 minute longer. Cover each circle with creamed chicken and place another one on top. Serves 8 (3 circles to a serving).

A Scottish teacher set his class writing an essay on armistice, and one little girl produced this sentence: "The armistice was signed on 11th November, 1918, and since then we have had two minutes' peace every year."



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The SNAPSHOT GUILD

YOUR CAMERA LENS



A camera with an anastigmat lens, f.6.3 or faster, is a great help in obtaining clear, sharp indoor pictures such as this.

TAKING first-rate snapshots requires good eyes. One is your "eye for pictures," your ability to recognize a picture when you see it. The other is your camera's "eye"—its lens.

You can train your "eye for pictures." The more snapshots you take, the better you learn to see a picture chance when it confronts you. But, once you have chosen a subject, it is up to your camera's "eye" to record it clearly and sharply.

Lenses on most box type or fixed-focus cameras are remarkably good, at the price. But the finest camera lenses are known as "anastigmats." They are fast—let in a greater amount of light than the ordinary lens—enabling you to take pictures under adverse conditions, on dull days and at night. And they produce negatives with needle-sharp detail over the entire picture area. Negatives made with anastigmat lenses yield splendid enlargements.

The word "anastigmat" is usually stamped on the mounting of these lenses. It is something like the "Sterling" mark on silver. Actually it means "free from astigmatism." The speed of the lens is also indicated, in the form of an "f-number," such as f.6.3, f.4.5 or f.2. This speed is important. An f.6.3 anastigmat lens is four or five times as fast as the average box-camera lens. This extra speed makes snapshots possible in dull weather, and with small photo bulbs at night. Again, an f.4.5 anastigmat lens is twice as fast as the f.6.3. And on the better-grade miniature cameras, one finds fast lenses rated at f.3.5 or f.2—so fast that they take snapshots at night by ordinary room light, when the camera is loaded with high speed film.

The smaller the "f-number," the faster the lens. Always remember this, when you examine a camera. And when you get a finer camera, with fast lens, treat the lens as carefully as you would a jewel. Don't smear it with fingerprints; clean it occasionally with a soft lintless cloth. If you treat your camera's lens well, it will repay you with many better pictures.
John van Gulder



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