Please Ma-Lemme Have a Dog

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Recommended Citation
Tomlinson, Prudence (1931) "Please Ma-Lemme Have a Dog," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 11 : No. 1 , Article 8.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol11/iss1/8

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"MARY had a little lamb," but I was tagged to school by a big German Police dog. And maybe you have a decided preference for pussy cats, but we all have one thing in common; at some time or other we've had our own particular pets.

It's funny how we all have an innate desire to adopt some animal for our special property to keep and look after and love. Whether your own fondness is for a chummy dog with understanding eyes, or a cuddly kitten's comfortable purr, or a gay canary's cheerful song—deny that you like pets if you can!

All through history, the pets that men have loved and cared for have figured prominently with their masters, and many are the tales of devotion and heroism that are handed down to us. Famous men and women are always identified with their pets. There is Mrs. Coolidge and her White House collies, always a favorite figure for the cameras, and Queen Marie and her Russian wolfhounds. Publicity directors know that there is one appeal that is sure to reach the heart of every reader, and they've only to pose a movie actor as devoted master with his 'adored' pet to popularize the star.

Of all pets, dogs, cats and horses are probably the most popular and most famous. Their loyalty, devotion and understanding make them particularly adaptable to man, and domestication seems to agree with them.

But did you ever stop to think that animals have their own particular personality types just like people? Years of careful and selective breeding have resulted in definite characteristic behavior patterns as well as significant physical traits.

It is well to consider this in selecting pets. Consider the type of animal you want, what you want him for, analyze yourself, and figure out just which particular breed you think will best suit your needs and adjust to your own personality, then go shopping.

The little Scotch or Wire-Haired Terrier, for instance, is an expansive little individual. He is the type that likes to be up and about, on the alert, and into everything that's going on. Together with this trait he is amiable, well adjusted, keen, and can be trained without difficulty. The collie and the shepherd, on the other hand, are more exclusive, and rarely project much of their personality without provocation. They are steady, dependable, balanced and devoted for the most unusual types of animals. And strange pets they may be!

Why, even our own psychology professor was telling us the other day about the snakes that used to live more or less in and out of his pockets when he was a boy! And you should have seen the wistful look on his face as told of Jim and Jack of childhood associations. Snakes are more popular pets than some of us would like to believe. And one of the professors in the Zoology Department is famous for his particular attachment to the big bull snake and king snake that reside in his laboratory.

"Pets" always had the conventional connotation in my mind, until I found myself a nature counselor in a girls' summer camp and saw the queer little things some of the girls took a fancy to.

The very first day a little eleven-year-old came to me with a shiny look of wonder and ecstasy in her eyes, and a smile a yard long across her face, telling me she had a thrilling surprise for me. I beamed with a professional interest, and stretched out my hand to receive the offering, and an antiquated, warty, little old brown toad made a dash up my sleeve! In time I got so I could stifte that first expression of repugnance which I invariably felt—for toads are such jumpy creatures! Once it was a huge, green, fuzzy caterpillar which turned into a beautiful luna moth. Once it was a new litter of baby mice, tiny and pink, their eyes not yet opened. Sometimes it was a baby bird with a broken wing, or a big, black bug, or a little sand lizard, that they brought into our nature museum.

The object itself didn't matter much, it was something to observe and care for and cherish.

Pets are one of the most popular features of the summer camp. Dr. Harold Vinal, naturalist and educator, has stated that pets are a necessary part of the camp equipment, and the observation and care of pets may be of untold value in the child's development.

Girls of Camp Harlesea all love Molly, their little gray burrow. Small, sure-footed and amiable, she is an ideal animal for riding; and with her basket packs she goes on every hike over the hills and the most precarious cliff paths.

One morning an unexpected visitor arrived in camp. On investigating a can of garbage that had been mysteriously over-turned in the night, the girls found a 'dead animal' of grayish fur. The 'animal!' proved to be an opossum, not dead at all, of course, but only having fun with the girls. They nearly went wild in their excitement at seeing the original demonstration of "playing possum." In short order we had a fairly good-sized cage constructed, and 'Uncle Joe,' as he was immediately christened, was introduced to his new home. We kept him for several days, and after the girls had all got acquainted with him and 'knew' an opossum, we let him go. They don't adjust well to captivity.

Rabbits endear themselves to young children more, perhaps, than any other animal. They make splendid pets for younger children, and if well cared for, are very satisfactory.

Perhaps most children feel like our instructor's nephew. In spite of his aunt's desire to get the boy a goat, his parents couldn't quite agree to the idea. His mother brought forth an alternative—gold fish. To this suggestion, the small boy disdainfully replied, "Gold fish! Who wants them? You can't hold a gold fish."

At any rate, he was expressing the desire of the little girl who went up to her mother's coat, stroked the big fox collar lovingly, and said, "Oh, mother! Isn't this nice alligator fur?"

Care is important with any animal. And animals have their behavior problems as well as physical disorders, and (Continued on page 14)
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Lemme Have a Dog
(Continued from page 7) need careful, scientific training and correction if they are to afford any pleasure to their masters. It's only a matter of spelling to make "pets" into "posts," and, as in all things, good judgment is the criterion for action.

Our This Year's Plans
(Continued from page 8) the American Home Economics Association. At present, the American Home Economics Association is asking the state legislative chairmen to inform our representative in Congress that we are advocating the passage of the Jones bill for the promotion of the health and welfare of mothers and infants. This bill passed the Senate on January 10, 1931.
Eighth—As much effective publicity as possible should be secured through the Publicity Committee, through the Association page, daily papers, parent-teacher groups, radio talks. Publicity for the meeting of the American Home Economics Association, which is to be held the last week of June in Detroit, as well as publicity for the state meeting, should be promoted through the Publicity Committee.

Golden Summer Hours
(Continued from page 5) a snow bank with the bulbs you planted last fall, now is the time to shake them awake. Soon frozen patches of lawn will thaw into welcome green, and gummy-sack cowls will be stripped from rose bushes. Soon red and yellow sparks of tulips will burst into flame under a May sun.
There is now a decided tendency toward enclosing the garden in trellises and screens of bushes and hedges. With privacy thus insured, the porch furniture, covered with some of the attractive new water and sun-proof materials, may be moved en masse to the garden and a delightful outdoor living room established.
A hedge of Japanese Barberry and a rock garden or a small pool will add much to the interest, beauty and utility of the home gardening project this year. Next to the flowers themselves, water is the element which contributes most to the enjoyment of the garden. Fortunately for the small home owner, a garden pool need not be an elaborate or expensive thing. A pool of small size can be constructed for as little as $25.00, and most of the labor can be done by the owner of the garden.
A life without love in it is like a heap of ashes upon a deserted hearth—with the fire dead, the laughter stilled, and the light extinguished.