



Odd Pets



WHY NOT A MOUSE CLUB?

I read the article, "Live Pets Ideal for Anniversaries," by Frederick Jones in the January issue. I don't think it can be beat. Yes, it is true that most people don't like white mice. But once they have a few, then they tell a different story.

For several years I have raised New Zealand white rabbits for a hobby, not just common rabbits, but all registered stock and have some dandies. I expect to enter about 15 of them in the spring shows around here.

But that is getting away from Mr. Jones story. As a boy I had a pair of white rats given to me and I got lots of fun from them. In no time at all I had several hundred, and I think every kid in school got a pair, but that was many years ago.

A few months ago I told the wife I was going to start with some white mice, and did she have a fit. But, nevertheless, I came home one day with seven does and two bucks and almost got put out. But in the end I won out and today I have about six hundred mice on hand.

My first cost was three dollars, and after the first two months, I sold one of the hospitals here white mice for the nice sum of \$16.80. This money I used for lumber and wire mesh and built breeding units. I expect to produce 500 to 800 monthly from now on.

We have rabbit clubs, cavy clubs, bird, and dog clubs. Why doesn't someone start a mouse club? They have a national mouse club in England. Why not here?

For It 100%

As for me I would be for it 100%. We could have our mice shows the same as rabbit, cavy, bird or dog. I know there are enough mice and rat breeders that would join such a club if it was brought to their attention.

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Would like to hear from anyone interested in white or colored mice. We may help each other in raising more and better mice.

If the lad, Donald Wallace, from Beaumont, Texas will write to me I will send him a pair of black mice, and for the first six other letters, I will send a pair of white mice free. D. E. Nelson, 3840 Westminster., St. Louis, 8, Mo.

Dog, Mouse, Lovebirds Make Friends

An all-black terrier named Spotty rides an all-white mouse named Fluffy on his back. Two blue and gray love birds, Romeo and Juliet, very often sneak a ride on the mouse's back. This odd friendship was started by Hildegard Iranyi, 9 year old, 4th grade pupil at the Arnold School in Chicago. Hildegard trained the dog and the mouse herself. She acquired Fluffy two years ago from a high school science teacher, and the animal immediately made friends with the dog Spotty and the two love birds.

This strange combination is a vertible circus for all the children living around Hildegard's home at 850 Armitage Avenue.

Says Hildegard: "Fluffy is a show-off and loves to ride on Spotty's back, but the birds are shy. They go for a ride only when they think nobody is looking.

"Fluffy behaves very well. Oh yes, once in a while it gets out of its cage in the kitchen and climbs up on the piano keys at night, but after it plays a tune or two it goes back to bed."

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Crickets by the Fireplace

Two or more crickets placed in a large earth and straw filled, wire topped box by the fireplace give a woodsy, pleasant note to the room. The blackish or brownish insect about an inch long repeats a merry re-teat, re-teat that has been characterized in literature as a "rhythmic beat." Hawthorne said: "If moonlight could be heard, it would be like that." The little insect likes a warm home and placed by the hearth or any other warm spot, he is very comfortable.

Male Produces Sound

It is the male cricket that produces sound. A filelike ledge on the wing is rubbed on a rough surface of the other. When it is not calling to its mate in that way, the wings are folded along its flat back. The hearing organs of these insects are located in their legs.

Feed at Night

Crickets have feelers or antennae longer than their own bodies. During the day they remain underground, coming forth at night for their plant food. Crickets have biting mouth parts with which they bite off and chew their food. They live on raw vegetable matter.

In the autumn the crickets lay their eggs in pockets of the ground to be hatched in the spring.

A Pet for Every Child

Every child should own a pet of one kind or another. There should be room for some kind of a pet even in the smallest home for it serves as an asset as well as a pleasure. The feeding and the care necessary for the animal will give a child a very vital training. The teaching of responsibility caused by having a living thing so dependent upon one will always stand in good stead.

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