

Small Animals



Unusual Pet (!)

Every now and then someone comes along and insists that we do a piece on the tarantula. We politely refuse, pointing out a tarantula is no pet. Then comes evidence that certain people DO have them as pets.

All right then. We'll say a few words on it. This hairy fellow, which occurs in dry places like Texas, Mexico and other warm climes, is really dangerous looking. His bite can do not more harm than that of most insects—unless to cause an infection. He has eight eyes, yet can barely see. He can hardly tell night from day, but has a remarkable instinct of sensing nearby insects. His families run up into the hundreds, and he has a hard time feeding the youngsters. It takes quite a bit of teasing to get him to bite—which he will not do unless very frightened. So there!

Mouse Names

By S. P. HOLMAN, Florida

There seems to be some difference of opinion as to the proper name to apply to many of the varieties of fancy mice offered by various breeders throughout the country. For the benefit of the fancy at large, I am listing the following terms, which are generally accepted as correct.

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Fancier's Term | Scientific Term |
| Gray (Agouti) | Gray agouti, wild |
| Fawn, pink eyes | Pink-eyed agouti |
| Black | Non-agouti |
| Blue, maltese | Dilute non-agouti |
| Lilac | Pink-eyed non-agouti |
| Pearl | Pink-eyed dilute non-agouti |
| Cinnamon | Brown agouti |
| Clear fawn, pink eyes | Pink-eyed brown agouti |
| Chocolate | Non-agouti brown |
| Silver-fawn | Dilute non-agouti brown |
| Champagne | Pink-eye non-agouti brown |
| Silver-champagne | Pink-eye dilute non-agouti brown |
| Yellow | Yellow, lethal yellow |
| Cream | Dilute yellow |
| Sooty yellow, sable | Sooty, sable. |

One of the types of yellow, often carrying non-agouti

Piebald, Dutch spotted — Recessive spotting

Variegated—Dominant spotting

White (pink eyes)—Albino

Black-eyed white—Black-eyed white

Short ears—Short ears

Mexican—Recessive hairless

Japanese Waltzer—Non-agouti piebald waltzer

Tri-color (Any three color animal)—

May apply to any three colored animal. Example: Yellow-belly non-agouti spotted

Yellow - belly gray — Yellow - belly agouti

Blue and buff — Yellow-belly dilute non-agouti

Chocolate and buff or Brown and tan — Yellow - belly non-agouti brown

Black and Tan — Yellow-belly non-agouti or black backed yellow.

For a Better Understanding of Reptiles as Pets

By EDWARD JONES

TO a great many people, snakes are at once the most despised and most feared creatures on the face of the earth. It makes no difference to them whether a snake is poisonous or harmless; a snake is a snake, always hated and condemned to an ignominious death whenever encountered. They despise snakes because they fear them. Yet there is no need for this fear; in the United States we have only four poisonous genuses, all the rest making wonderful, fascinating pets. Thousands of Americans are interested in herpetology either as a hobby or professionally.

One does not walk into the ordinary pet shop in quest of serpentine pets, for the demand is not yet great enough to make it profitable to the small dealer to keep them in stock. If one is so unfortunate as to live in the city, he can make his source of supply any one of the several firms advertising in this magazine. These concerns deal only in the finest specimens and are generally reasonable as regards price.

Feeding

When in good health snakes feed about once a week. Varying in their epicurean tastes, some species prefer warm-blooded prey, while others refuse to eat anything but batrachians,

fish, etc. It is worse than useless to try to feed frogs to a snake which nature intended to eat mice, and vice versa. The writer has prepared a list of the commonest North American snakes together with the gastro-nomic taste of each species, in the hope that such a tabulation will save (Turn to page 61)

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Howard Jones

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