

# Small Animals

## The Exhibition Mouse

By R. W. FERRIER

IN breeding animals for exhibition, certain standards of perfection have been either deliberately formulated, or gradually evolved through experience, which give the end to be aimed at in size, shape, color, fur, etc. In my former article I pointed out that it is essential that mouse breeders have some standard, in order to produce the finest mice possible, from every point of view. As, at present, we have none of our own, I give that of the National Mouse Club, of England; and seeing that much thought has been expended on it, I doubt if we can improve on it. This is the general standard for all varieties, though for each variety there is a standard which gives details for such points as color, markings, etc. Here it is:

"The Mouse must be in length from seven to eight inches from tip of nose to end of tail, with long, clean head, not too fine or pointed at the nose,

the eyes should be large, bold and prominent, the ears large and tulip shaped, free from creases, carried erect, with plenty of width between them. The body should be long and slim, trifle arched over loin, and racy in appearance, the tail (which should be free from kinks) should come well out of the back, and be thick at the root or set-on, gradually tapering like a whip-lash to a fine end, the length of same being about equal to that of Mouse's body. The coat should be short, perfectly smooth, glossy, and sleek to the hand. The Mouse should be perfectly tractable, and free from any vice, and should not be subject to fits or other similar ailments. Sunken eyes, kinked tails, or fits, to be penalized by 20 points in judging."

There, I think, is the description of the perfect mouse; but if any one feels it can be improved on, let him, by all means, write and say how or where. Bear in mind, however, that absolute perfection is seldom, if ever attained, particularly in the marked varieties. Read this standard carefully, then glance over your own mice, and weed out those that fail badly. Kill those that lack size or energy; those that are humped up, with hind legs like those of a kangaroo; and in the case of solid or self colors, weed out those with pied tails, feet of another color, etc., since faults are more easily bred in than got rid of, once established.

I believe, as I said before, the real hope of the Mouse Fancy lies in exhibiting; and now is the time to improve your stock, as I am certain that before long we shall have classes for mice and rats at some of the live stock shows. If you are, as I hope, interested in seeing the fancy go right ahead, or are considering the breeding of real fancy mice, a booklet which I advertise this month, written by Mrs. E. D. Blowers, the Hon. Sec., and Official Judge of the Na-

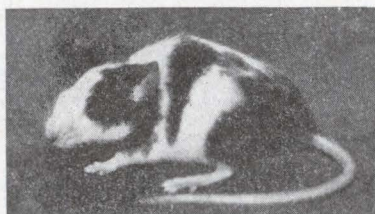
tional Mouse Club will be found very interesting and helpful. Mrs. Blowers is a breeder, exhibitor, and prize winner of many years' experience, and deals with standards for the different varieties, housing, breeding, feeding, and exhibiting. I had a letter from her the other day wishing us very success, but it all rests with ourselves whether we succeed in establishing the Mouse and Rat Fancy on an exhibition basis. Once more, I appeal to show secretaries to give us at least two classes for mice. Remember, we supply our own "pens", and all we need is a little table room, and not very much of that. Any cavy judge, for example, could take over the classes, as the standards are much the same; and I will supply the judge with a copy of the standards, books on the exhibition mouse, by experts; and will, if requested, send some of my best mice for examination. Since I have only just received these from the finest strains in England, I am not very anxious to send them away just at present, but am willing to do this if it will be a help to a judge. I will also guarantee to send a dozen or more mice to any show which gives classes for them, and I am sure other fanciers will do their best. I think we should all be willing to accept the decision of the judge, without quibbling, and a 25c entry fee most of our us could stand.

Now, as even ALL-PETS, in spite of its size, has space limits, I will conclude by asking again for the co-operation of every Mouse and Rat fancier in a determined effort to put on a show basis the most interesting of live stock hobbies. May the New Year see our mice and rats on their way to exhibit their fascinating qualities to a public which, as yet, hardly realizes how beautiful these animals can be, or how entralling a thing is the breeding of Fancy Mice—a hobby well within reach of the leanest purse.

\* \* \*

I have just received word that the Winnebago County & Fur Breeders Association are willing to give Mouse

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# The Ticklish Process of Civilizing Monkeys

By EDWARD JONES  
*Jersey City, N. J.*

WHEN I first entered the "monkey business", all the simians I bought were freshly caught, as in this condition they were much cheaper than those which had become "acclimated", as it were. Figuring on the amount of time and care given by its keeper, a monkey which has spent several months in a pet shop is reasonably worth from \$20 to \$25; that same animal, fresh from the jungle, may be purchased for \$10. Monkeys can be obtained for three or four dollars in their native land, but shipping, customs duties, feeding, etc., produce an overhead charge which the retail buyer must meet.

Let us say you have decided to buy a monkey from a wholesale animal clearing-house. The breed you are most likely to find in these houses is the rhesus monkey (*Macacus rhesus*) of India. These animals are kept in barred crates in lots of twenty to thirty, and the close confinement, coupled with the enervating sea-voyage which they have endured, makes them rather jumpy and cross. You select your animal, which is then netted and boxed, ready to be taken home. So far, so good. But, the problem now arises: how to get the monkey out of his traveling case? Remember, the animal is naturally panicky in its strange surroundings,

fanciers two or three classes at their show on Feb. 29th, and March 1 and 2nd. This is good news for us, and I do hope you can squeeze a sort of stop press notice in ALL-PETS for January stating this, and also that the entry fee will be 25c per a certain percentage of entry fees for 1st and 2nd prize in each class, prize money amounting to \$7.50 are already guaranteed, and I would like all mouse fanciers to write the Secretary, Mr. H. F. Heiser, 128 Burbank Ave., Rochford, Ill., telling him they will give their support, giving if possible the number of mice they hope to send, and any special prizes from 25c up. Specials may be for any variety; and if enough of these and entries are received, there will probably be three classes and three prizes or specials I may win myself will go to other winners, as my own contribution to the success of the Mouse classes.

and your least suspicious move elicits all sorts of irate gyrations, snarls, and baring of fangs.

The civilizing process now sets in. Put on a pair of very heavy canvas or leather gloves, rip off a few slats from the crate, and bravely seize the biting, scratching, struggling simian. Above all, do not let the future pet see any sign of fear or nervousness on your part; anyway, there's nothing to be afraid of, for, if you have been wise in your selection of gloves, you will emerge unscathed from the conflict. After you have obtained a gentle but firm hold on the monk with your left hand, stroke his back softly with the right for about five minutes. Then place the infuriated creature in his cage for the night.

The next day repeat this process, being careful to shield the face while attempting to catch the animal. Repeat the stroking process of the day before. Each day the length of the handling period should be increased, until the animal is thoroughly accustomed to it. Always try to be casual, and, when possible, do not look directly at the monkey, for much of the so-called viciousness of wild animals is pure nervousness.

After the monkey is used to handling, the gloves may be removed. If you are bitten continue stroking the animal as if nothing had happened, being careful not to let the monkey see the blood. (Monkey bites are of no consequence; a daub of iodine is quite sufficient treatment for the usually trivial wound. The writer has been bitten by many simians under many circumstances without incurring any ill-effects). This biting is simply a nervous manifestation, and once the pet sees that his biting is of no avail he will become docile and tractable. Six weeks of such training, coupled with sympathetic care and proper feeding will make the average monkey as tame as the family cat, with one difference: the animal has been "civilized" in this manner will be strictly "one-man", not to be trusted with other people.

You will notice that the writer has never once suggested the use of the whip; corporal punishment must never be administered. If it were, the animal's extremely high-strung nerves would be shattered, and all of

your laborious work in acquiring your pet's confidence would be irreparably lost. Speak to him sharply, yes, but never strike.

Of course, the prospective pet-owner can easily avoid all these preliminaries by obtaining his pet at a retail shop, but it seems to me that half the fun of keeping a pet lies in the rearing and training. What I have said as regards "civilizing" monkeys can be applied to any wild animal. Never brand an animal as "nasty" or "vicious" until you have given it a fair trial.

Let me repeat; most viciousness is

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## Mickey Mouse and the Pet Shops

By ALFRED O. PHILIPP

**F**ANCY mice are all the rage in England. Thousands of boys and girls have white mice for pets, women breed colored mice in various hues to match their wardrobe, and among the serious fanciers there are men from every walk of life. And the man to whom great credit belongs for this popular hobby is an American—our own Walt Disney.

Eight years ago Walt Disney was an obscure artist who had a five dollar a month studio over a garage in Chicago. While working over his drawings at night he often amused himself by watching the antics of a pair of ordinary mice. After weeks of persuasion, he tamed them so that they would climb upon his drawing board. There they sat up and daintily nibbled bits of cheese in their paws, or even ate from his hand.

But it was Disney's brother's daughter, age six, who was chiefly responsible for "Mickey Mouse". While watching his little studio pets Disney occasionally wrote letters to his niece. The letters described the activities of the mice and sometimes were illustrated with drawings of them doing funny fantastic human things. These drawings so pleased the little girl that Disney finally hit upon his great idea—and this is the true origin of the famous Mickey Mouse.

Walt Disney's subsequent rise to fame and Hollywood riches is now a matter of history. But of all his grotesque creations Mickey Mouse still remains the most universally beloved.

Recent news items in ALL-PETS denote the extent of the mouse fancy in England. One item related the amazing sum of \$125.00 paid for one trained mouse at a London pet show, another item quoted a large wholesale pet dealer in London advertising for 10,000 fancy mice! And all the while American dealers and pet shop managers are sound asleep. During the recent holiday season pet dealers in this country could have sold literally thousands of fancy mice—had they been awake to a heaven-sent opportunity.

For six weeks prior to Christmas every large department store in Chicago staged a special exclusive holiday feature. The Fair had Colleen

Moore's wonderful Fairy Castle, Marshall Field's had the Christmas Carol singers, while the Boston Store widely advertised their Mickey Mouse's Magic Carpet exhibit. The department stores in America advertised and sold many thousands of dollars worth of Mickey Mouse toys and gifts in every conceivable shape or form during the holidays, and they are still selling them. Why didn't the American pet dealers cash in on all this free advertising, as the English dealers did when Mickey Mouse became so popular over there?

Now, my own experience in dealing with pet shops is quite recent, dating from the time Mr. S. P. Holman started me as a breeder of fancy mice. For 25 years of my misspent life I was on the stage, annoying vaudeville patrons, and during this period herpetology was my chief hobby. I did considerable field work, collecting for museums, zoos, private collectors, etc. But after a few dismal and futile attempts to contact pet shops I decided to leave them strictly alone. However, since quitting the stage (or, rather, since the stage quit me) I've been in closer contact with them. And the wonder to me is, not that business isn't flourishing as it might, but that some of them manage to stay in business at all.

First, the average pet shop impressario is in a rut. To him "pets" simply mean dogs, canaries, parrots, goldfish; and little else. Now, I'm not knocking the foregoing species, for I love 'em all, but am squawking about the limitation and the unjustified discrimination against the many other species of animals, birds and reptiles that should be an essential part of every first class general pet shop.

In recent issues of ALL-PETS the armadillo breeder pleads for recognition, and the baby turtle man wonders why pet shops shy at his chelonian infants. The most flagrant was the case of a Chicago fancier with a gang of real fancy and high class mice, who was compelled to leave town, and couldn't find a pet shop that would handle his mice. His neighborhood pet shop (suggested to him by ALL-PETS) "actually refused to take the mice as a gift." On being

phoned from ALL-PETS office this dealer offered the silly excuse that he didn't know how to take care of them.

We all know the real reason, so let's quit beating about the bush. There isn't enough profit in a four-bit mouse for this dealer; he would rather buy canaries at \$35.00 a dozen and sell them for \$9.98 each. Yet Woolworth's went to considerable expense installing equipment to peddle 5 and 10 cent goldfish.

"But," says you, "Woolworth deals in such quantity—"

Well, isn't that just what I've been telling you about the British lads, and the London dealer who's looking for a herd of 10,000 mice.

Many American enterprises, from show business to retail stores, have profited from the Mickey Mouse craze. Only the pet shop owner has failed to take advantage of the greatest volume of mass advertising ever bestowed upon a potential pet stock item. Wake up and give Mickey—and yourself—a break.

### Selling Book

William Daustin has written an attractive and useful booklet entitled "Selling Pets by Bail". Mr. Daustin has had much success in this line, and is well qualified to write on the subject.

A long-legged sheep in the Himalays is able to run forty miles an hour. That's the kind of little lamb to follow Mary nowadays.

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