



ODD PETS



"MOKE" FINDS A HOME

Just to make sure his buddy got a reception befitting a returning warrior, AMM3/c Fredrick C. Albers of Rockville Center, L. I., came home first. Pa and Ma Albers didn't know quite how to take it when they first learned that "Moke" was coming home to stay and become part of the family.

It didn't take too much persuasion on Fred's part. After all, Moke had been a member of his crew and had twenty-six combat missions and 300 flying hours to his credit and he'd really hit the Japs over China, Korea, Japan; he'd even flown in the big PB4-Y2 when they were providing cover for Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet at Iwo Jima!

Yes, it was finally agreed, Moke could come home.

Meanwhile Moke was "sweating out" the word that was to give him a home and the comforts he deserved, in the custody of Freddy's friend in Oakland, Calif., a long way from his comrade in Rockville Center, New York.

But as good usually comes to those that earn it, one morning Moke, an 18 inch Philippine monkey, was placed in a cage and turned over to the friendly driver sent from the Air Express Division of Railway Express Agency. Moke was placed on an all cargo plane and was flown all the way home.

From LaGuardia Field, Moke was delivered chipper as ever into the arms of his buddy and crewmate little more than twenty-four hours later.

Moke doesn't talk much about himself and his exploits but Sailor Albers has no such reticence when it comes to talking about his pet.

Fred tells the story of when his outfit of land based Navy patrol bombers was stationed on the island of Naha (Okinawa) which was still

being shelled daily by the Japs. Moke was foxhole trained by the crew and became quite adept at it as witness the night of May 25, 1945, when the Japs made their last stand Kamikaze attack on the airdrome with 600 planes.

Moke, wrapped in a pair of pants to keep out the dampness and chill, and chained to a peg, was nowhere to be found when the first air raid siren sang out.

"We didn't have too much time to



"Moke," the monkey with twenty-six combat missions against the Japs, nestles in the arms of his buddy and master, AMM 3/c Frederick C. Albers of Rockville Center, L. I., New York.

hit the dirt 'fore the bombs came, never mind trying to locate Moke—it was each man for himself. But would you believe it, as I jumped into my foxhole I could hear his chatter somewhere close, and sure enough there he was in the hole beside me with his hands over his head for cushioning and his little body cuddling into the earth. That monkey got to the foxhole before I did!"

The last we saw of Moke, he was swinging away in his commodious cage having a try at reorienting himself to the life of a civilian—fact is, he almost said he enjoyed it.

BREEDING FOR NEW COLORS IN DUTCH MICE

In this short article it is not proposed to tell how to breed well marked stock or to suggest how to breed to that end, but rather to tell about some experiences when breeding for color in the Dutch.

The agouti is still to be found, but should you be only able to obtain say one, and that a buck, do not hesitate to bred him to black does. You will have plenty of material from this cross to establish a stud. Many agoutis were produced in this way, and were of reasonably good color.

In blacks there is no difficulty in purchasing stock, although in a variety such as Dutch, where markings are important, is it not surprising that some strains are of a bad color. One should, though, be able to get some of a fair color. Here, it should be mentioned that some of the finest colored blacks were produced when building up the agouti. Dutch the color of self blacks might do some experimenting with agouti and black.

With blues there is not the slightest difficulty in obtaining stock. But it would appear that there is some genetic difference in the blue of blue Dutch and that of self blues. For in spite of the fact that black has been bred into the blues to darken the color, blue Dutch are of a lighter shade than self blues. This is open to correction, for there may be a stud of correctly colored blues.

These remarks on blues apply also to chocolates. And in each of these colors it is necessary if one wishes to keep anything like a decent color, to have blacks playing a large part in the stud.

One of the most attractive colors of Dutch is the cinnamon. If on the other hand you do experience trouble in breeding cinnamons, mating of agouti Dutch to chocolate Dutch may be useful.

Doves are fairly easy to produce. It is usually in the mating of a black (blue bred) to a chocolate or a black (chocolate bred) that they appear. Of course, for a deliberate manufac-

ture, blue to chocolate should produce them in the second generation if not in the first. They are pink or ruby-eyed, and quite attractive.

Red Dutch are favorites of many, but they seem to be getting rarer each year. Why they did not "take" is unexplainable. It would appear that there is now no course left but to remake them. For the information of anyone interested, the following plain is set out for the remaking of the color.

Dutch pattern acts as a simple recessive while red (self) is a dominant. The self red should be mated to a Dutch color of the dilute series, preferably Dove. The mating would produce a miscellaneous collection. These should be mated together, and some of their offspring should be red Dutch of a sort. The self red used would have to be bred from self red parents.

There are many other colors which could be made, including fawns, which should be readily produced by mating self fawn to dove Dutch (thus retaining the pink eye) and following the method advocated for red Dutch.

The Reptile As a Pet

The person desiring to keep reptiles for pets in the home should endeavor to become thoroughly acquainted and familiar with the particular reptile's natural life and habits to facilitate and insure proper handling, care and health at all times.

By studying their natural history both at home from books written on the subject and in the fields by actual observation, there can be very little or no reason for any difficulties arising by keeping them in captivity. There are but very few finer, more beautiful, fascinating and interesting pets than reptiles. They are clean and not at all harmful or dangerous as the average person may think. They are intelligent and soon learn to know

their keeper, showing fond affection for that person and never becoming offensive or annoying. They desire and seem to enjoy being handled and fondled and nothing pleases them more than the intimate association with their keeper.

Of reptilian specimens we have more than a thousand to choose from, but the majority of persons will either select an ophidian or chelonian specimen, usually the former, a serpent. Few people indeed realize the rare and transcendent merits and qualities of the little-known-of tortoise, the last word in chelonian evolution.

There are several species of tortoises in our United States of America, but the finest of them all, from long personal research and study is the desert tortoise from the southwestern part of our country. Scientifically this tortoise is classified as the Testudo Berlandierii. This beautiful reptile is our finest tortoise and not being common, one might consider it rare. It is olive-gray in color and has black eyes. Its carapace is beautifully marked and carved. It is a quiet, slow-moving, seemingly ungainly reptile, but can show surprising speed and agility when the occasion demands it. It grows to about one foot in length and about six and a half inches in height and width. Being a dry land reptile it must be kept in dry and warm quarters and not exposed to drafts and damp places. A herbivorous creature, it thrives on bananas, lettuce, grass, clovers, fruits and seems very fond of black and red strawberries.

A shallow pan of water for drinking and bathing should be provided for it. It shows a tendency for roaming around and should have the run of the house. At times one should include a bit of fresh raw beef that has been finely chopped or minced, a treat in its menu which the tortoise relishes with apparent delight. If possible, one should endeavor to secure from a dealer a full grown specimen and several baby ones, and note the different habits of both young and old. Also the markings and colorings, and the gradual change of the physical form and shape of the little ones, and also the changes in their habits as they grow. Many other features may be discovered by keeping them as pets in the home. Their longevity is surprising indeed, they may reach the age of a hundred years provided proper care is shown them. They make ideal pets for children,

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