

like them longer if they have a rock pool. As soon as you are tired of them around the house it is easy to give them a home, whereas the rabbits and their young, and the little chickens, soon present a problem.—*Washington (D. C.) Star.*

Animal World

Some species of elephant seals crow like roosters.

A Peruvian chinchilla recently sold for the record price of \$15,000. This is the most precious of fur bearers.

Indians were considered as expert skin dressers, and even today there isn't a great deal of advancement in betting skins.

When weather is extremely cold, the fur of animals becomes white. The colder, the whiter.

Old trading companies considered beaver's tail a delicacy.

Mink can remain under water 15 minutes without harm.

Fur farming is 6,000 years old as a profession. The ancient Assyrians were the first.

Germans call raccoons wash bears because of their habit of dropping food in water and washing it before eating.

Breeding Fancy Mice Requires Skill and Patience

By B. A. LANG

EDITOR'S NOTE—Mr. Lang has established himself as a cartoonist and humorist. His work has appeared in such publications as Ballyhoo, Judge, etc. He has had many year's experience as a breeder and fancier of fancy mice and other animals.

PIERCING SCREAMS. "LOOK! LOOK! THERE'S A MOUSE!" Why do some people act this way? If anyone knows I will be glad to hear from them, for I have never been able to figure it out.

One of the most interesting and instructive hobbies that anyone could have is the raising of Fancy Mice. I am not saying this superficially, but from a long and intimate experience which began when I was twelve years old and has continued through the years—I am now thirty-five and still inbreeding.

There are many people who would enjoy raising dogs or fine horses if they had the money and the necessary space to do so, who never real-

ize that all the factors which go into the making of a great race-horse or a prize winning dog are similar and equal for a prize winning mouse.

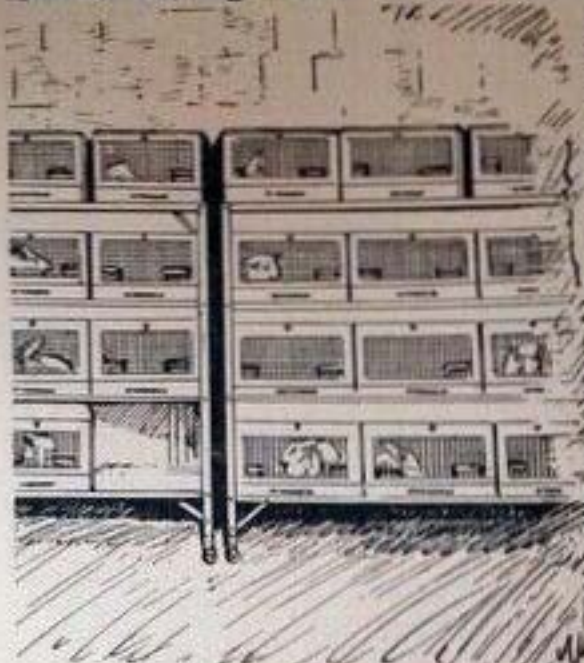
In other words it is just as difficult to breed a Man O'War as it is to breed a perfect specimen of 'Dutch' mouse, or attain the greatest perfection in your own particular breed of Blues, Reds, Tans, etc., and when one of your Does come back from the show bringing a 'First' you will understand just what I mean.

Naturally most of your friends will be amazed at anyone keeping mice, "Whatever has gotten into him." "Horrible." "Well of all things—"

What? No Mice!

When I arrived on these shores back in 1919 I began to hear such dreadful utterances—over in Scotland and England there are shows devoted to mice alone, and the mouse clubs keep the 'pot boiling' with interesting doings and the pet magazines with lots of news—so most people

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admire a well-bred mouse when they see one.

But here there was no Mouse Club and no shows to enter, and I could find no Fanciers, so I was looked upon as a little strange and solemnly advised by my friends to raise dogs, cats, canaries, or pigeons, but to forget about mice.

I love a dog around, and a cat makes a home homier, and the canary singing in the early morning sun finishes the picture, but I simply must have a batch of mice out in the garage, or down in the cellar to experiment with. These mice may all look alike to a stranger, but to me they are as individual in their likes and dislikes as human beings and as interesting. Failing to recognize this important Law has caused endless breeders to give up in disgust. The average layman thinks all that is necessary to raise Fish, Flesh, or Fowl is a division of the sexes, a wire cage, and a little time. All he has to do is come along and pick up the young and sell them. Last summer a man purchased about fifty mice from someone in Chicago. He told me there was nothing to it—just fling them into a big cage and they would be 'all over the place' in a few weeks. I met him in the Fall a

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he had saved one litter by removing the mother into a separate box. Most of his males were dead and the females were all thin and scrawny and were going 'light' (T.B. to you). There are plenty more just like him—there's nothing to it. It's a cinch.

Practically No Upkeep Cost

The cost of upkeep for a fair sized Mousery is almost negligible, and the space required is but a few feet. Within this small space you can breed and inbreed for color, size and type many times within the course of a year, destroying the poorly marked, and raising only the finest specimens—sooner or later you will throw a show winner and from then you will really be a mouse fancier.

Try and do this with any of the larger animals. The original cost is high, and the time required for the young to arrive, mature and mate often runs into years.

Now take "Old Jean" who was the mother of sixty husky offspring during her lifetime. (She became so tame in her declining years that I let her live behind the kitchen range in a cigar box, she had the run of the house but always came home during the day.) All she ever ate was a little rolled oats and some millet, and I learned a lot about heredity and human nature from observing her. She was a living emblem of patience and resignation, for what mice do—we do. All you need is an observing eye and an analytical mind—then apply the rule.

Here is an example—put a strange male into a cage with three or four females who know one another. In the majority of cases he will start to chase and bite the females until even when he just passes they will squeak. This is his way of showing them who is boss.

So what? Nothing but that a man should be master in his own home. Strip us of our much vaunted civilization and we would act the same—it is a fundamental truth. No I do not beat and bite my wife, but civilize the mouse and he would embarrass many a man.

Solving Sex Problem

I may mention here the sex problem that so many parents seem to avoid. It is solved to a great extent by having the child grow up naturally with living things. My own children from their earliest years have seen and handled small animals, and when it is simply explained that all living things reproduce just as the mice do, it is accepted just as naturally, and very few questions are ever asked.

I will close with the sincere wish that the American Mouse Fancier's Club, now in formation, will soon be an active success; its founder, Mr. Ferrier and his co-workers certainly deserve credit, all who can should join. But without such a splendid magazine as ALL-PETS they would surely fail. I tried it years ago. I know.

Mouse Show

I was glad to see the report of the Mouse classes at the Winnebago show, but should like you to correct the results in the May issue. According to the Judge's grade cards, and ribbons I received, I won 2nd, and 4th, with black does, these being credited to Sunshine Mousery through error, and 5th, with a blue doe. Mr. Keiser, the show secretary, can confirm this, and I am asking you to make the correction, not that I care very much about it personally, but for the sake of accuracy.—Rev. R. W. Ferrier.

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Amateur Zoos

It is significant that amateur zoos are springing up all around the country. The reptile has been sadly neglected by persons other than those connected with the show business or city zoos. Certainly the owner of an amateur zoo has "something different" and is the envy of the neighborhood.

Reptiles have been misunderstood. You read of a snake biting its "master" now and then, but usually the pet had good cause. For instance, a chap in Pennsylvania, flushed with his success at handling a pet rattlesnake, resorted to teasing the snake. The reptile protected himself the only way he knew—with fangs. Whether the owner is still living, we can't say. If not, he asked for an exit.

There is a certain psychology in handling snakes and other reptiles. Experts tell us they are not at all dangerous, even through of poisonous species, if handled properly. There are cases of even children owning them.

Common sense seems to me the main prerequisite.

Next Month

In the June issue this department will present the conclusion of Bill Daust's marmoset article, the first part of which was printed in April; an article on the newly organized mouse club by the Rev. R. W. Ferrier; a cavy article by William Dietrich; and a Chinchilla article by Bruno Schoemann.

Silver Fox and Mink Ranching

will pay well for the time spent in taking care of them as well as good returns on the money invested.

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