

## Peculiar Pets.

BY ALBERT H. BROADWELL.



HERE are few readers of THE STRAND MAGAZINE who cannot recall to-day the valued friendship of a certain dumb creature into whose ready ears the little troubles and worries of child-life were poured: a little creature that never denied the truth of all we said and that quickly recognised the injustice of all things—with a hasty lick or, maybe, a friendly scratch. Times change, however, and as the little Briton as he was then grows bigger—mostly in his own estimation—he travels, and in his travels he gathers pets for the folks at home. Some thrive exceedingly well, others perish in the attempt; but there are enough outlandish pets that have been the joy of their owners to illustrate an article which is intended to show how easily the most unlikely animals and reptiles will become staunch friends of man when sufficient patience and perseverance, not unmixed with kindness—and sometimes punishment—are called into requisition.

Fancy finding a full-grown leopard sitting in your favourite arm-chair upon your return home—in that very arm-chair where peaceful pussy should be curled up in sleep; yet look at "King"—he is waiting for his master,



From a] "KING," IN HIS MASTER'S ARM-CHAIR. [Photograph.

Mr. J. Arnold Wallinger, of the Bombay District Police, Ahmedabad, India. Speaking on the subject of his pets, Mr. Wallinger very naturally grows enthusiastic. He has an interesting story to tell.

"My pets," he says, "are extraordinarily tame, a fact which is due to an operation performed on them by me. When about twelve months old, first the male and then the female had their canine teeth amputated under chloroform, which was administered with skilled assistance. The operation was of itself a very interesting and novel one, and showed among other

things that the use of a saw was inadvisable, as the outer enamel was too hard. In consequence of this initial error in the choice of a suitable operating instrument the male was under the influence of the drug for a long period, subsequently necessitating artificial respi-



From a] MR. WALLINGER AND HIS PETS.

Original photograph

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN





ALGY: "UM, UM—THAT'S NICE!"  
From a Photograph.

ration and the administration of strong stimulants under obviously difficult conditions. In the case of the female a file was used with far greater ease and less expenditure of time. The animals, even when so young, were very powerful, and had to be bound by slip knots previously arranged and held in position by men specially appointed.

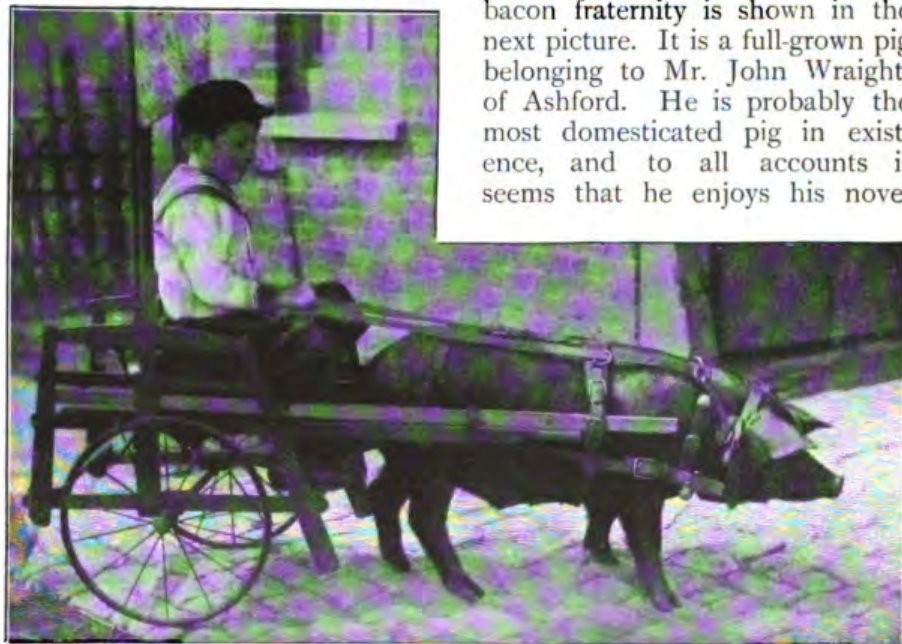
"The men who have constant dealings with these two panthers treat them almost as if they were dogs. Since the operation referred to no accident of any kind has taken place. At first they were extremely timid, and would when frightened scratch and give small wounds. Before the operation, however, King had developed a tendency to stalk animals and boys, of which it was not possible to break him. On one occasion a boy, who came into the garden for the first time as a labourer, seeing the panther, bolted, and, partly in play and partly in earnest, the panther gave chase. The boy fell, and the panther cub, seeing the opportunity, was on top of him like a knife, and had inflicted wounds on the

back of the neck with his unamputated canine teeth before assistance could be rendered. After this event it was necessary to thrash the animal unmercifully, and subsequently, as already related, his canine teeth were removed and his claws were burnt down periodically with a hot iron.

"My pets are fed on cooked meat once daily, and starved once a week to keep them in good condition. During the hot months King has displayed a great partiality for the luxuries of a cold bath. With this object he will quietly step into an ordinary zinc tub and remain there until cooled. It is a well-known fact that these feline species object to water, and the exception in King's case is somewhat extraordinary. 'Queen' is no exception to the ordinary rule, and objects to water strongly. The clever photos. of my pets were taken with great difficulty by Mr. A. R. Kavde, of Ahmedabad."

From leopards to pigs seems a big drop. Yet as regards strangeness in the taste for pets there is but little to choose. Algernon, or "Algy," is a pig that weighed a fraction over a pound at the time the photo. was taken. That he takes kindly to the bottle you will observe; his eyes are closed, and it is doubtful whether the discharge of a cannon beside him would have interrupted the succulent meal. Nothing could be more expressive of thorough enjoyment than the little one's actions and position when feeding hard. It shuts its eyes, stands on its toes, and, oh! doesn't its little tail quiver with ecstasy!

Another of the much-despised bacon fraternity is shown in the next picture. It is a full-grown pig belonging to Mr. John Wraight, of Ashford. He is probably the most domesticated pig in existence, and to all accounts it seems that he enjoys his novel



From a Photo. by]

A STRANGE CONVEYANCE.

[Hugh Penfold.



occupation thoroughly well. The strange conveyance shown in the photograph may frequently be seen, driven by its plucky little owner, as proud as any peer of the realm behind his four-in-hand in the park.

I wonder what masters of hounds think of this. Here is their arch-enemy chained like any common dog to a private kennel.



From a] A PET FOX. [Photograph.

Mrs. G. Clarke, of Barley Hill, Chard, the proud owner of this strange pet, says in her interesting letter :—

“Having had a pet fox some time ago, which unfortunately got away and was killed by hounds, I had a great desire for another, and one day last spring a farmer brought me a vixen cub about six weeks old. He took it out of the pocket of his shooting-coat just like a kitten, but it was some time before it would make friends with me. The little rascal snapped and growled and bit my fingers, so that I decided to buy a puppy to rear with it. This idea was a great success. The vixen and puppy played together in the greatest friendship. My pet lives in a dog-kennel in the orchard, and is rarely seen in the daytime, but as soon as it is dusk out she comes and runs round and round her kennel, and plays about and digs in the turf at the end of her chain; she has made a trench 6in. deep, in which she hides when she hears anyone coming. She will allow no one but my husband and myself to touch

her at all, and she can quite distinguish between the sound of our footsteps and those of others.

“We feed her together with the dog on the scraps from the house, bones, bread and milk, and occasionally a small bird or raw meat. Strangely enough, she especially delights in the fried bacon left over from breakfast. She is in grand condition, fat and sleek, with a beautiful coat and brush, and it is wonderful how the ruddy colours of her coat harmonize with the grass and dead leaves, so that she can hide herself on a comparatively bare piece of ground, lying quite flat with her pointed ears laid back, so that she might easily escape being seen by anyone although passing quite close. We do not often venture to let her loose, but have done so occasionally, when she strongly resents being chained up again.”

Above all animals, one would hardly expect to find amiableness in a kangaroo. Yet Mrs. Elitch, who, it may be remarked, owns a remarkable collection of wild and curious animals in Denver, Col., U.S.A., has found it possible to make a pet of this animal. Her private zoo boasted of two of these quadrupeds, and everything went on well until one of them suddenly died. It is a known fact that they rarely thrive alone, and Mrs. Elitch feared that her kangaroo would grieve himself to death through the loss of his mate. To distract his attention as much as possible she



From a Photo. by]

GREAT FRIENDS. [Original from Jones & Lehman, Denver, Col.





A PET OSTRICH.  
From a Photo. by Jones & Lehman, Denver, Col.

used to give him some dainty morsels in the nature of candy, etc., and talk to him for hours at a time. After a long time she succeeded in making quite a pet of the sorrow-stricken kangaroo, and, strange to say, the animal is never so happy as when he hears his mistress's voice, for he at once realizes that he will shortly be the recipient of some tasty tit-bit, as well as come in for a good share of petting. That this extraordinary pet has got over the loss of its mate is well evidenced in our photograph, and it is undoubtedly a fine specimen of this strange yet interesting animal.

Our next illustration depicts another peculiar pet—an ostrich. Not only is this bird very tame and tractable in the hands of its owner, but it also deserves our attention as being the only pacing ostrich owned by a woman. Its mistress, the owner of the kangaroo, is seen in the photograph with her pet. She frequently uses the animal for driving about her grounds. It is hitched on to a very light fancy trotting cart fitted with pneumatic tyres. To be successful in driving such a queer steed no little amount of tact and patience is required. In the first place one cannot use ordinary reins, for were they pulled too tightly they would probably break the animal's neck, and the only way

to guide him is to hit him with a long whip on the opposite side to that which you want him to go. Unfortunately, too, one blow is not always sufficient, and as the animal goes like the wind, you cannot depend upon this kind of "horse" to turn at a moment's notice. Then there is the possibility of his catching sight of a piece of orange peel, or something equally attractive. If he does he will stop in his fastest gait and dive sideways for it, often giving the driver a very unpleasant jerk. Mrs. Elitch has had the animal in her possession since it was quite a baby, which explains to a large extent its tractable nature. It is regarded as a fine specimen of the ostrich, is very powerful, and never seems to get tired.

In the Berlin Zoological Gardens there are many instances of the affection that exists so frequently between the animal and man, or rather, perhaps we might say in this instance, between the animal and woman. The orang is not usually

considered to be a creature overflowing with the milk of human kindness, but even he



INSEPARABLES.  
From a Photo. by Zander & Lubish, Berlin.

is apt to fall under Una's gentle influence, and to suffer himself to be led by the silken thread. Our friend in the photograph has taken a great fancy to his companion, a pretty German widow, and, if the remark may be permitted, he is an animal of taste. As soon as the lady pays her usual visit to the gardens, Mr. Orang runs to meet her, tenderly embraces the fair visitor, and tries his best to overcome the difficulties presented by the difference of tongues. When with her he is always amiable, gentle, and loving, an example much to be commended. Visitors to the gardens should certainly pay their respects to this representative of an ancient and honourable race, and they will find the courteous Herr Direktor always ready to place his store of knowledge at their disposal.

far it has resisted the change of climate, and takes its warm bath three times a day with evident enjoyment. It is fed on small pieces of raw meat every two days. When not intimidated by the presence of strangers it will croak gently in answer to its name. The little creature knows its master quite well, and habitually travels snugly enconced in his coat-pocket.



From a] A POISONOUS PET. [Photograph

The next photograph shows "Sam," a pet swan, taking his breakfast from his little master's hand. Sam was brought up in a garden at the back of an hotel in Reading, Berks, where he was the pet of the proprietor. This gentleman being a great lover of wild creatures had many of his pets running loose in the garden, and Sam's chief delight seemed to consist in chasing them around the garden should

Trooper E. J. Cullen, C.M.B., of Colesburg, Cape Colony, has a pet with fangs, and poisonous fangs, too. He makes a speciality of snakes, and tames his pets by kindness. Nor does he seem to fare badly. Trooper Cullen's pet is a night adder, and it seems a terrible risk for a

they dare to approach near his own particular retreat under a tree at the edge of a small piece of ornamental water. He would also sit for hours under a fountain in his little lake taking shower baths.

Living with other tame pets, Sam soon



From a Photo. by]

A BABY CROCODILE.

[Miss R. Atkinson, Rockfairie, Pitlochry.

man to thus fondle a deadly snake, be it even in broad daylight.

Fancy carrying about with you a baby alligator. Yet Baron de Longueil brought this strange pet with him from Florida. So

learnt to follow his master and mistress round the garden for a piece of cake or some other delicacy, which he would take quite gently from their hands. At every meal-time Sam comes round to the back door and





From a Photo. by]

"SAM."

[Watson, Stonehaven.

knocks with his bill till his youthful master brings him his food. Sam is also very particular how his food is given to him: he seems to consider it quite *infra dig.* to stoop to pick up anything from the ground, and unless his master is there to give him food from his own hand, he takes his meals as though he were conferring a great favour.

Mr. G. W. Mathieson, of Chicago, the owner of the curious pet that follows, says: "This is probably the only domesticated wild cat in the world. He has perfect liberty of my suite of offices, where he is kept as a pet, and he goes the round of my rooms very much the same as any other domestic cat. We run a little printing establishment here, and he lies on the imposing-table, desk, and chairs, purrs, and rubs himself joyfully against us just as any other common or garden cat would do. He took the first prize gold medal at the Chicago Cat Show, and won a handsome Japanese vase, being voted the most popular cat at the show! There is something distinctly humorous in a wild cat being voted the most

popular cat in a show. A wild cat —B-r-r!

Perhaps one of the most interesting photographs of our series is that of the genet which is in the possession of a Bedford lady. It was brought from Africa by her son when two or three months old. It is now a little over seven months. When he first had it, it was very wild and seemed untamable, biting viciously with teeth like pins, that drew blood immediately. However, patience and a little chastisement now and then worked wonders. It is now almost as tame as a cat, and will allow most people to touch it gently, but strangers have to beware of its teeth. It has many of the peculiarities of the cat, but at the same time resembles in some respects the kangaroo as regards its



From a]

A PET WILD CAT.

[Photograph.

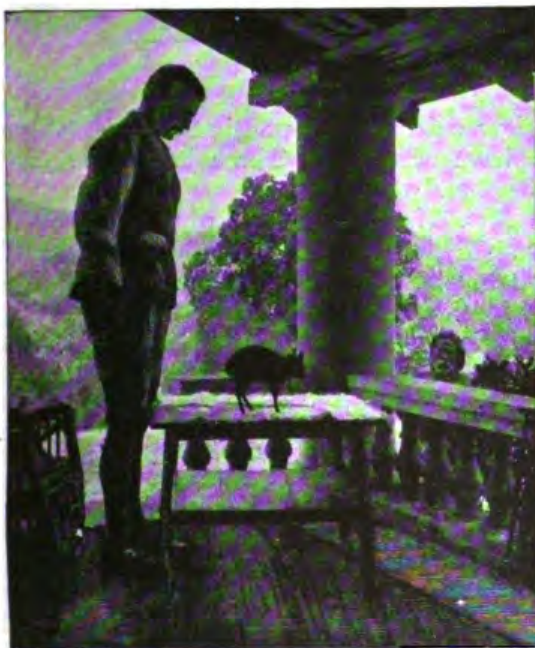




From a Photo. by] A GENET. [J. A. Reid, Bedford.

front and hind legs, the former being far shorter than the latter. It stands and runs also in a similar manner. Another peculiarity is the different sounds it makes, quite unlike any cat, one being a kind of cluck, cluck, but difficult to imitate. The quaint little beast is pathetically fond of its affectionate mistress.

Mouse deer would seem ideal pets, and the one shown here is by far the smallest of its tribe. The specimen, a photograph of which we give here, weighed  $13\frac{1}{2}$  oz. when



From a] A MOUSE DEER. [Photograph.

caught, and belongs to Mrs. Maxwell Maynard, of Mysore, India. She fed it on milk and water, and petted it constantly. Mrs. Maynard says: "My strange friend is now perfectly tame, and is not in captivity in any way. It goes out in the jungle as soon as it gets dark, and remains out all night, but never fails to put in an appearance at my bedside for early tea in the morning, and usually spends most of the remainder of the day in the bungalow. When this photo. was taken the pretty little creature weighed only  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lb. and was about three-quarters grown.

"Macacca," the beautiful little "Marikina"



From a Photo. by] "MACACCA." [Geo. Newnes, Ltd.

monkey here reproduced, belongs to Mr. H. Neville Davis. She is a little lady, and so highly civilized has she become that she would not think of getting out of her bed in the morning without her usual cup of hot tea, well sweetened, after which she will whistle for some sponge-cake and jam, and should anyone substitute marmalade she will immediately throw it at the offender.

Macacca thinks nothing of going through a dinner of six courses, with a little Madeira to finish up with. Her head is no



larger than a walnut, but she easily finds room for the whole of a large hothouse grape in her mouth at a time, carefully throwing away the skin and pips. This tiny creature has not the slightest fear of anything canine, and on several occasions when a small toy bull-terrier was placed on a table with her she simply stood up and gently pushed the dog away. Macacca weighs only  $14\frac{1}{2}$  oz., and her tail is nearly three times the length of her body. Her coat, which is of the finest hair, varies in colour according to season. In the summer months it is a bright golden colour which might be envied by many a woman, the tail being silvery and as bushy as a squirrel's.

Mr. Hoggan writes a most interesting letter, which we quote in full :—

"While out tiger hunting last March near Chota Nagpur, my shikari discovered three tiger cubs in a cave. Their fond parent fled on my approach with a rifle. I sat near the cave all day, in a burning sun, waiting her return, but she failed to put in an appearance. Fearing the tigress would carry off her precious darlings at night—there was no moon to enable me to sit up—I took away the cubs, which were successfully reared by three goats, shown in the photograph. The unwilling foster-mothers were very much frightened of their strange children at first, but latterly got quite attached to them.



From a]

GREEDY PETS.

[Photograph.

She will often sit in the sunshine making a peculiar singing noise, not unlike the song of the thrush, and appears to be talking to the birds around her. This remarkable little animal displays a gentleness towards babies and little children which is extraordinary. Any little baby might caress and fondle her as though she were a doll, but let an adult attempt to do the same in the child's presence, and she will swear in the most comical manner.

Many of our readers will no doubt have seen tiger cubs in menageries and other places, but only a very few have had an opportunity of seeing anything so pathetic as is shown in the picture which follows. They are the newly acquired pets of Lieutenant S. P. Hoggan, of the Welsh Regiment.

Tiger cubs are the prettiest and nicest pets I have ever had. Three jolly little chaps they are."

Mrs. Herbert Vivian, whose photograph we are privileged in reproducing, possesses what appears to us to be the most desirable pet of all. It is a gazelle, and one of the prettiest creatures imaginable. Mrs. Vivian is, of course, extremely fond of her charming pet. She calls it her "dear gazelle," and has very kindly given us the following interesting particulars.

"One of the favourite games of my wicked little friend is to come behind a very solemn parlourmaid and suddenly tug at the streamers of her cap when she is most rigidly upon her dignity. He has much curiosity about new forms of food, and





THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PET.  
From a Photo. by Henry Spink, Brighton.

when I am at breakfast he thinks it a great joke to creep up suddenly behind me and stuff his nose into my plate or both forelegs into my tea-cup. If there is a great upset he is vastly amused, and trots about the room with his head in the air, convinced that he has done an exceedingly clever thing.

"Another of his diversions is to go under the table at meal-times and quietly bite all my bootlaces in two. He will often leave them hanging by a thread, so that when I get into the street they will all burst simultaneously. He will also lick all the blacking off, so that the boots appear as if one had been walking through a river. When he is affectionately disposed he puts up his nose and sniffs my face with great diligence—this is his idea of kissing; whilst he cannot bear to be left alone for an instant, and directly I get up to leave the room he makes a point of trotting out after me.

"However sleepy he may be in the evening he is always averse from being taken off to his rug in the scullery, and directly he is let out in the morning he rushes off and scratches at my bedroom

door imploring admission. As he has taken so extremely well to his life in England, and is adored by everyone who sees him, I can only wonder how it is that people in this country do not more often import gazelles as pets. No doubt they require a great deal of patience, but their inexhaustible charms afford an ample return for the expenditure entailed."

Here is yet a third specimen of the bacon fraternity. This extraordinary animal belonged to the Misses Wilder, of Braemar, Tunbridge Wells. Miss L. Wilder has been kind enough to supply us with particulars of this affectionate creature, and her letter makes interesting reading. We are sorry that owing to piggy's death this interesting record has to be moulded now in the past tense: "'Bijou' was given to us three years ago when only seven days old; she was brought up by hand, and lived for the first twelve months in the house; she would follow us about, up and down stairs, came for long walks, and often enjoyed a drive, when she would sit on my lap. No one looked after Bijou but myself; she was very clean and most intelligent, and understood almost everything; her coat was very long and curly, and of a gold-yellow colour, with black about the legs; she



From a)

THE UGLIEST PET.

(Photograph.





A WILD MOUNTAIN GOAT.  
From a Photo. by George P. Wells, Palliser, B.C.

was groomed daily, and when young was also washed every day, her food consisting of bread and milk, or cake and sweets. The last few months she was given a little meal and water, but she was quite thin. Bijou went in harness also, and often would draw my second brother about the lanes. Poor Bijou died this autumn. She was three and a half years old."

The next pet under consideration is a wild mountain goat. At least it was wild once, but is fairly tame now, as can be seen from its extraordinary position — archly perched on the back of its owner, Mr. J. Lalloutagne, of Golden, B.C. This affectionate Billy was captured when a few days old, and brought up with the assistance of a bottle, and is now about six months old. It is so clever that it might almost become a circus goat, for we understand that its accomplish-

ments are nothing short of marvellous, so much so, in fact, that its owner has over and over again refused an offer of 1000s. (£20) for this remarkable little rascal.

Last, but not least, comes a pretty picture of a little girl driving her pet bear cubs across the snows of Arctic Russia. We are indebted to Mr. A. Montifiore Brice for the photo. of this unique team. These pretty pets are brown Russian bears, which had been caught young and trained in the manner shown. By using arguments of many kinds the owner trains them to pull a small sledge, and he frequently drove in it over the great mantle of unbroken snow which for six months and more covers the land in those parts. So tame, indeed, did the bears become that he was at last able to allow a little friend, the daughter of a Russian lady, to drive them about the country, and even across the great River Dwina, which flows into the tempestuous and icy White Sea in the summer, and in the winter forms a temporary high road and a bridge between one half of the country and the other. It is a pretty picture, and one of the most original illustrations of what may be done with peculiar pets, if sufficient patience and good will are called into play.



From a

MY LADY OF THE SNOWS.

[Photograph.]