

Dogs

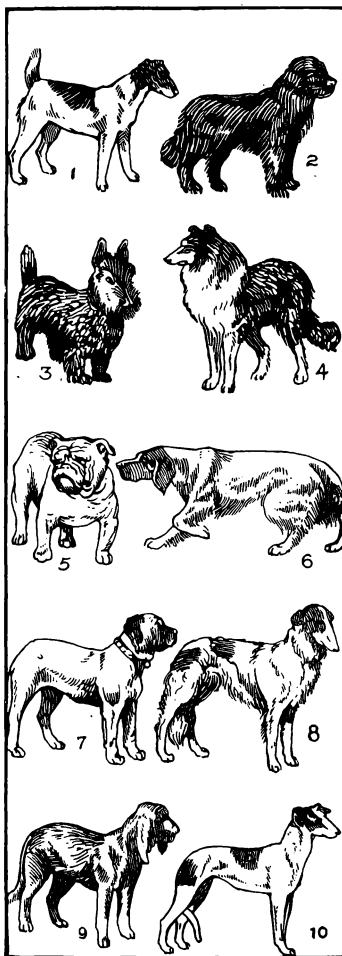
A DOG is man's oldest and most faithful friend. A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer. When all other friends desert, he remains. Of no other animals can this be said.

Among the many animals which man uses, the dog stands first of all. Long before there were any pictured records of man's history, the dog was his tamed companion; his bones have even been found with those of Stone Age man.

Scientists say that early men developed dogs for hunting purposes from the wild wolves of their particular regions. These were wolf-like dogs such as the Eskimos use today, or such as are shown in Egyptian pictures more than 5,000 years old. Most of dogs that we know, however, have been developed within the last few centuries to meet man's needs or his whims.

But our dog friends of today still have many queer little ways of reminding us of their wolfish ancestors. The hunting dog bays—a reminder of hunting wolves baying to keep the pack together. The dog howls at night—the habit of his forefathers of calling the pack. He turns around before lying down because his ancestors had to do so in tramping down a flat sheltered bed of grass or leaves. And he still buries bones just as his wild forefathers buried theirs in the wilderness in order to prevent their enemies from sharing them.

The dog has to thank his ancestors, too, for his wonderful sense of smell, his keen hearing, his marvellous eyes, sharp teeth,



his great endurance, his courage in the face of danger, his strong legs for running, his lean muscular body covered with coarse protective hair—all of which fit him for the active life of a hunter.

In the World War dogs were used as rat killers, as Red Cross dogs for feeding and aiding the wounded, as sentinels, and as messengers. About 10,000 of these dogs were "doing their bit" when the armistice was signed.

During the Great War, dogs were sent out with first-aid kits strapped to their collars to hunt out the wounded; they carried cans of soup through front line trenches to cheer and strengthen the fighting men. They mounted guard at dangerous listening posts because their keen sense of hearing was better than that of man; they carried messages through barbed wire and showers of bullets.

Some dogs were heroes, and received medals for bravery. There was a little black and white setter, who, when his master was buried by a shell explosion, partially dug the soldier out of the earth, and then faithfully remained by his side for three days and nights, until finally the

man and his dog were rescued.

Another dog, without any help, dragged his master—left for dead—back to the trenches. A great sheep dog from time to time saved the lives of a hundred French soldiers lying wounded. Many other stories could be told of how dogs helped in the Great World War.

In times of peace the dog proves himself a useful friend in many ways. The Scotch collie sometimes has charge of a flock of sheep. Then he lives with them, gathers them from the distant pastures, brings them to the fold when they are needed, and will let no prowler meddle with them.

It is a wonderful sight to see one of these dogs going over hill and valley getting his flock together, separating a sheep from other sheep, guarding the flock, keeping them from running away, and finally bringing them home. Because of his remarkable sense of smell, the collie and other shepherd dogs can trace and find lost sheep in snow storms.

Some very useful dogs are those which draw the sledges which furnish transportation in the frozen parts of North America—

Canada and Alaska. The sleds and the dogs to draw them make possible an expedition in the interior in the dead of winter.

Many of our barking four-footed friends serve as sentinels or guards of honor for their masters. Mastiffs, those large, brave fellows, were once used in warfare and hunting, and in Roman times, for fighting in the amphitheater. The great Dane dogs are used in Northern Europe for hunting. Bulldogs are remarkable for their courage and their ability to "hold on." Today mastiff, dane, and bulldog are all excellent watch dogs.

The bloodhound has a most astonishing keen scent. Like their wild ancestors they learned the trick of following the scent of one animal through the confusion of many other smells, and learned, too, even to pick up a trail on the farther shore of running water. Bloodhounds are used by police in tracking down criminals. So remarkable is their scent, it is said, that they can follow a trail 30 hours after it is made.

One of the swiftest running dogs is the slender greyhound. He hardly seems to touch the ground as he darts along.

(Turn to page 220.)

CATS

(Continued from page 206)

Scientists do not agree on the question of the origin of domestic cats. The earliest records on the subject are found in Egypt. We know that Egyptian cats were tame more than 3,000 years ago. The ancient Egyptians regarded the cat with superstitious awe, and treated it as a member of their families. When a cat died in ancient Egypt, it was embalmed and buried like a human being, and the members of the family went into mourning. In ancient Egypt if any one purposely killed a cat, he was punished by death. The mummies of cats are often found among the ruins of ancient Egypt. The bodies have been well preserved for centuries.

The cat was seldom, if at all, kept by the ancient Greeks and Romans, and until long after the Christian era, cats were not common in some parts of Europe. The early Christians associated cats with witches, and the devil was often depicted in the form of a black cat. Superstitions about cats survive among many peoples even in civilized countries.

The domestic cat will eat many kinds of food, but prefers meat or fish. Sometimes a cat will actually catch a fish, but usually it does not like to get wet. Its fur is easily injured by water, because there is no oil in the hair.

The cat is a good companion and is liked almost as well as the dog. It is a pretty, graceful animal. It is very cleanly and does not like to step in any kind of filth. It always keeps its fur neat and clean.

Cats like to be petted, and with gentle treatment a cat becomes greatly attached to its keeper, dis-

playing its affection in many ways.

Cats are very intelligent animals, and are useful in destroying rats and mice. They have the bad habit, however, of destroying birds.

The cats that we commonly see and own today are divided into two general classes, the short-haired and the long-haired species. The various kinds of short-haired cats differ chiefly in their colors.

The long-haired cats came originally from Asia, and the best known varieties are Angora and Persian cats. They are closely related. The Angora cat comes from the province of Angora in Western Asia.

Many owners of a long-haired cat cannot tell whether it is an Angora or a Persian. The head and body of a Persian cat are usually larger than the head and body of the Angora.

Everyone knows, of course, that kittens are blind when they are born, and are quite helpless. It is bad for them to be handled until they are old enough to walk.

Cats should not be kept in the house too much. They need fresh air, and grass and other green things that they find growing form part of their necessary diet.

Cats are very independent by nature, and do not like to obey; when they do they take their own time about it. It is much harder to teach them tricks than dogs.

A curious cat comes from the Isle of Man, an island located in the Irish Sea between England and Ireland. This is the Manx cat which is always born without a tail. It is shown in illustration No. 1 on page 206. Illustration No. 2 is the picture of a shaded silver Persian cat. No. 3 is a "smoked" Persian. No. 4 is a blue

DOGS

(Continued from page 208)

Greyhounds are often used as racing dogs. Another graceful runner is the beautiful Russian wolf-hound, which also is tall and thin, and is noted for his wonderfully silky coat—usually white with tan markings. Such a dog is a very valuable animal.

The affectionate setter, with his plummy tail and long silky coat, is also useful in setting birds. There are many other kinds of dogs used in hunting, such as the fox-hound, the beagle, and the pointer.

The rat terrier is useful in killing rats. A single rat terrier was once let loose in a room where a hundred rats had been collected. Like a streak of lightning he worked, and in seven minutes had killed every one of them. Each was killed with one hasty bite.

There are many different breeds of dogs, but whatever the breed, the dog is a smart, plucky playfellow and protector.

In the illustration on page 207 ten different kinds of dogs are shown. The list includes some of the breeds best known. No. 1 in the illustration is a picture of the smart little dog known as a fox terrier. No. 2 is a Newfoundland dog. No. 3 is a Scotch terrier. No. 4 is a Scotch collie. No. 5 is a bulldog. No. 6 is a setter. No. 7 is a mastiff. No. 8 is a Russian wolf-hound. No. 9 is a bloodhound. No. 10 is a greyhound.—Adapted.

Persian. No. 5 is a Siamese cat. No. 6 is the common domestic cat. No. 7 is an orange Persian. No. 8 is a chinchilla. No. 9 is a black Persian. No. 10 is a long-haired Angora.—Adapted.