

CARE AND TREATMENT OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS

There is a legend to the effect that on the night before Christmas the dumb animals of man are given the power of speech. This is because some of these lowly animals were in the stables when on the first Christmas Eve our Lord was born in a manger. So for the sake of this belief let us give a kind thought to our domestic animals this month. Ever since animals have been captured and domesticated to help man, they have been subjected to other forms of torment even worse than what they encountered from their former enemies when they were wild. In their domesticated state they have no way of defending themselves against the cruelties of man. Man may be either a friend or an enemy of animals.

It is to man's best interest to take good care of his animals, as they represent a value either in service performed for him, or in actual sales value if he sells animals.

There is another good reason for treating animals properly, which every good citizen should keep in mind. This is the feeling which teaches man to be kind to other men and to animals. This feeling is something more effective than laws made by man.

The abuse of animals is not confined to any particular people, nationality, or country. There are guilty people in all countries. It is our duty individually and collectively to lessen the cruelties to our own animals first by taking proper care of them and thereby obtaining greater benefit from them.

The animal that is most subject to abuse, from the very nature of its use, is the horse. Carabaos and cattle on the whole are treated with more consideration. People who raise hogs would get much better results if they would provide hogs and their other animals with dry, cool and sanitary quarters and give them appropriate feed.

Dogs are not maltreated but they are often homeless and starved. It would be a credit to any community to get rid of these dogs completely as they are neither useful nor ornamental and sometimes are a menace. If dogs are killed the killing should be done without undue suf-

✓ OUR MINOR FOREST PRODUCTS

PALMS OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

Our forests can be considered as storehouses of Mother Nature. Almost everything that we use in daily life can come from them—from the gogo bark to wash our hair with, to the "kaong" that helps you relish your afternoon refreshments at a Japanese ice-cream parlor.

The latter comes from a valuable palm known as "kaong" or cabo negro. This palm grows in low and medium altitudes in the forests and some are found in cultivation. Among the products of kaong may be mentioned kaong sweatmeat from young fruits; sugar and vinegar from sap obtained from young flowers, "lulug" a flossy fiber obtained from the lowest parts of the petioles, for kindling fires; brushes, doormats, broom sticks, ropes, flooring and carrying stick from the stiff trunk, delicious salads and pickles from the bud, and thatching materials from the leaves. The most important product of cabo negro, or kaong, however, is its black fiber used for roofing materials and rain capes. Properly laid thatch roofs of the fiber last for a long time.

Another palm of high economic value is the buri. The fibro-vascular bundles of the petioles furnish the buntal fiber for the famous Lukban and buntal hats and for other woven articles. The leaves of the plant are woven into bags and mats. They also furnish the raffia which is woven into bags, hats, mats, and many fancy articles. Sugar, vinegar and buri wine are fermented from the sap which flows out when the tree is tapped. The young fruits are used in the preparation of sweetmeats, and starch is extracted from the pith. It is an interesting palm in that it flowers only once, producing the largest inflorescence of any plant.

A palm which is beginning to attract attention due to its suitability in the manufacture of fishing rods is anahaw known as "Palm brava."
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fering to the dog.

When your animals are sick or you want special advice as their case, consult a veterinarian. Remember these animals can plead only with eyes and not with their tongues.