

ECLECTIC EDUCATION SERIES

# McGuffey's Familiar Animals

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*McGUFFEY'S NATURAL HISTORY READERS*

# FAMILIAR ANIMALS

AND THEIR

## WILD KINDRED

*FOR THE THIRD READER GRADE*

BY

JOHN MONTEITH, M.A.



VAN ANTWERP, BRAGG & CO.

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# PREFACE.

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McGUFFEY'S NATURAL HISTORY READERS are intended to furnish supplementary reading within a field which is always fresh, interesting, and instructive to children.

By dispensing with lists of words for spelling, diacriticals, definitions, and paragraph numbers, and by developing a real and apparent unity in the subjects treated, they introduce the child at once into the form, style, and method of the literature of books.

By a natural link of association, they conduct the reader from the more familiar to the less familiar facts about animals, thus awakening his attention, stimulating his powers of observation, and leading him to discern, compare, and think for himself.

The publishers have spared no expense in presenting to the eye accurate pictures of the more prominent subjects of the text. With a single exception, the illustrations have been designed specially for this work.

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The Puma.

# FAMILIAR ANIMALS.

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Finette.

Hamlet.

Maida.

## I. SIR WALTER SCOTT AND HIS DOGS.

WHEN Washington Irving visited Sir Walter Scott at Abbotsford, he found him surrounded by dogs, which formed as much a part of his family as did his children.

In the morning, when they started for a ramble, the dogs would be on the alert to join them.

There was, first, a tall old staghound named Maida, that considered himself the particular friend of his master, walked by his side, and looked into his eyes. Then there was a black greyhound named Hamlet, that gamboled and cut capers with the wildest glee.

And there was a beautiful setter named Finette, with large, mild eyes, soft, silken hair, and long, curly ears. She was the favorite of the parlor. Then a venerable old greyhound, wagging his tail, came out to join the party as he saw them going by his quarters. He was cheered by Scott with a hearty, kind word, as an old friend and comrade.

In his walks, Scott would often stop to talk to one or another of his four-footed friends, as if they were in fact rational companions; and from being talked to, and treated in this way, they really seemed to acquire more intelligence than other dogs.

Scott's four-footed friends made a respectful part of the company at family meals. Old Maida took his seat gravely at his master's elbow, looking up wistfully into his eyes, while Finette, the pet spaniel, took her seat by Mrs. Scott. Besides the dogs in attendance, a large gray cat also took her seat near her master, and was presented, from time to time, with bits from the table.

Puss, it appears, was a great favorite both with master and mistress, and slept in their room at night. She was a sort of queen among the quadrupeds, sitting in Scott's arm-chair beside the door, as if to review her subjects as they passed, giving each dog a cuff on the ears as he went by. This clapper-clawing was always amiably taken. Perfect harmony prevailed between Puss and her subjects, and they would all sleep contentedly in the sunshine.

Scott once said that the only trouble about having a dog was, that he must die; but he said it was better to have dogs die in eight or nine years, than to go on loving them for twenty or thirty, and then have them die.

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## 2. DOGS GREAT AND SMALL.

THERE was a great din and clatter, as if all the dogs in the country were together, when Mrs. Perry and her three children approached the Madison Square Garden to visit the dog-show.

“I'm afraid to go in, mamma,” said little Ruth, “the dogs will surely bite when they bark so loud.”

“I'm not afraid of them,” blustered her brother Joel, as if he were very brave. “Don't be such a little coward, Ruth.”

“Of course you’re not afraid of them,” cried Dora, coming to the defense of her little sister. Why should you be? Brave boy! You know the dogs are all chained, and couldn’t bite you if they wanted to. But if they were let loose you would be as much of a coward as Ruth.”

“Dora is right,” said Mrs. Perry, holding fast the hand of the little girl. “You need not fear, Ruth. The dogs are all confined; and if they were not, they would not hurt you. They are well-bred dogs. Besides, barking dogs never bite, you know. They are barking, not because they are cross, but because they are happy. Barking is the way dogs talk and sing. Come, let us hurry on.”

As they passed into the garden they saw two dogs, each being led to his cage. One was a huge Newfoundland, weighing a hundred and fifty pounds, and the other was a toy-terrier, of not more than four pounds’ weight. The two met. The giant kissed the dwarf, as dogs do, on his tiny nose, and wagged his great curled tail in delight, as much as to say: “You are a wonderfully insignificant fellow, but I like you all the same, because you are my cousin.”

“There!” exclaimed Mrs. Perry, “it is just as Mrs. Miller says in her book. The dogs, great and small, all know one another as dogs, and love each other.”

They proceeded along the rows of benches upon which were the noisy pets, all arranged according to their general likenesses. And these are some of the different kinds of dogs they saw:

First, there were the wolf-dogs, including the Newfoundland, the Esquimo, the Collie, and the Spitz.



Newfoundland and Toy-Terrier.

The most human of all the dog-kind is the Newfoundland. He is large, and is two and a half feet high. He is the favorite of the children, for he loves them. Some dogs hunt birds; others chase the fox; still others dig for vermin

and catch rats; but the strong passion of the Newfoundland is to guard and to save human life. If he runs long on the ground his feet become sore. He is a good swimmer, and his feet, like those of the duck, are slightly webbed. Frequently, through the rough waves, he has carried ropes from a sinking ship to the shore; and in this way has saved many lives.

The collie is the most intelligent of all dogs. He shows what human cultivation can do to improve a brute. He can not easily learn a trick. He will not hunt wild game. One thing only can he do well, and that is to care for sheep. Through so many generations has his kind been kept with sheep, that the collie has lost his scent for other animals. His abundant coat, of mixed yellow and black hair, with some patches of white, protects him against cold and storm.

When the collie is a pup, it is separated by the Scottish shepherd from its mother, and is kept in the sheep-pen, where it is suckled by a ewe. Brought up in this way, it loves only its master and the friendly sheep. When grown, it comes home, occasionally, for food, and then at once returns to the flock. In this country the collie is used for herding cattle as well as sheep.

The spitz dog is from Pomerania, though originally, perhaps, from Spitzbergen. In form he resembles the collie. He wears a long, white

coat with a ruffle about his neck. He is sometimes snappish and subject to unpleasant fits.

The Esquimo dog, nearly as large as the Newfoundland, strongly resembles the spitz, and is quite like the wolf of his native country. He howls but does not bark. Sometimes he hunts the bear; but his chief employment is to draw the sledge of his master. Dr. Kane tells of a team of six of these Northern dogs which drew him, on a loaded sledge, nearly eight hundred miles in a fortnight, or about sixty miles a day.

The greyhound, as we see him, stands alone, and represents the oldest distinct breed of dogs known. His graceful form was carved on Egyptian monuments three thousand years ago. So long trained to chase the hare and the deer by sight, the greyhound has lost his scent. He is the swiftest of all dogs.

The small Italian greyhound is his little cousin, and is one of the prettiest of house pets.

## PART 2.

THE next group met in the dog-show was the spaniels, including the retrievers and setters. It is many hundred years since the spaniel brought his silky, curly, liver-colored coat, and his large, drooping ears from Spain to England.

All spaniels are docile, love their human friends,

and are fond of the water. The pets of King Charles II of England were toy-spaniels, and weighed only five pounds each. Poodles belong to the spaniel group. With their bright eyes buried under thick, curly hair, they follow the baby-carriage, or dance, tell cards, climb ladders, and ride ponies in the side show.



Cocker and King Charles Spaniels.

Most animals that catch other animals, pause for a moment before springing upon their prey. The setter has been trained to make this pause long enough to allow the sportsman to come up and get ready to shoot, before the birds are started, or "flushed." This act, so picturesque, is called "pointing." English setters are nearly white, or are spotted; Irish setters are red; and Scotch setters are black and tan.

The Perry children thought the bloodhounds

bore a ferocious name, but a very intelligent face. Their scent is so keen that they can track a particular man through any number of tracks of other men or animals. The staghound, or deer-hound, has a rough coat. The fox-hound is the aristocratic dog of England. Of the fox-hounds, family records have been kept during more than a hundred and fifty years.

The beagle is smaller than the fox-hound, and is used for hunting the hare. The spotted hound, or coach-dog that comes from Dalmatia is not inclined to hunt, but prefers the company of horses and carriages. The pointer is a beautiful, smooth-haired bird-hound, originally from Spain. He points his game as the setter does.

The mastiff group includes the bull-dog, who shows his character in his head. There was formerly in England a barbarous and cruel sport called "bull-baiting," in which dogs were trained to attack a fierce bull and hold him by the nose. This practice gave the bull-dog his name. Once having got his grip, it is hard to make him let go.



Bull-dog.

A very different disposition has the rough-coated St. Bernard. Though much like the New-

foundland in form, he is regarded as a mastiff. When he is adorned with a robe of long, curly, buff-colored hair, he is much admired. When, in the Alps, his friends the monks go out in search of the bewildered and lost traveler, the dog runs before them, clearing away the snow, and raising a deep, loud bark, which is pleasant music to the perishing.

The Romans, when they conquered the island of Britain, were so highly pleased with the dogs they found there, that they appointed an officer whose business it was to collect these fine mastiffs and send them to Rome. Here they were made to fight wild animals in the amphitheater.

The English mastiff is very large. His coat of smooth, yellow hair trimmed with black makes him attractive. He is kind to the children and the household to which he belongs, but severe to the trespasser. His cousin, the bull-dog, seizes his victim in silence. The mastiff gives one deep bark, as if to say, "Look out, I am here!" The monstrous little pug is a mastiff, and is regarded as most beautiful when he is ugliest.

The restless, pattering, jumping, dancing, digging little terrier shows how each kind of dog is born to its work.

The spaniel and the hound scent the duck and the fox, but care nothing for the rat. The terrier rejoices even in a rat-hole; likes nothing



Mastiff and Pug.

better than to fasten his teeth in the body of a frightened rat; and bounds at the mention of the word "rats."

The color of the English terrier is black and tan. His tail is much like that of a rat. The Scotch terrier has a short, rough, dirt-colored coat. The Skye terrier has short legs, a long body, and is covered with long, light-brown hair, which often entirely covers his eyes. If the hair is cut away, the eyes become weak.

All terriers, as their name indicates, are earth-diggers. The fox terrier, nearly all white, is the most desperate digger of all. Wherever he is allowed to roam, not a rat, nor a rabbit, nor a woodchuck can hope to have any peace.

## 3. REMARKABLE DOINGS OF DOGS.

Dogs often bury bones or other food for future use. In performing this act, a common dog in West Virginia proved either that he was tender-hearted, or that he was cunning and liked a little fun.



Fox Terrier and Fox-hound.

One day he was holding a living rabbit in his mouth, while with his feet he dug a pit. When he had finished the hole, he pressed the unwilling victim into it, covered it as quickly as he could, and, patting the dirt with his paws, went away a short distance, and lay down to watch the result.

Presently, bunny thinking that it was both improper for him to be buried alive and safe to make his escape, jumped up and started off on a run. Towser soon caught him, and buried him again. Three times did the poor little fellow res-

urrect himself, and each time the dog caught and buried him. On the fourth trial, however, the dog thought bunny would lie more quietly if he were dead. He then shook the life out of him, and buried him with success.

“One morning,” says a writer in the *Animal World*, “I was surprised to find that my dog had five pups, three of which were nearly exhausted from cold. I carried them into the house, and the mother followed me, evidently wondering what I was about to do with her offspring. By the aid of warm flannel, two of the little creatures soon showed signs of active life; but the third died, and I threw it out on a heap of rubbish.

“Two days afterward, I gave the mother-dog a run, when, on passing the heap of rubbish, she stood still for a moment, scented the air, and bounded to the ash-heap.

“Little thinking what she was after, I called her several times, but to no purpose. Finally she came, bringing the dead pup in her mouth. After allowing me a sight of it, she started off in the direction of the house, where she went to the hearth, and laid the pup carefully by the fire.

“Then she tugged at my trouser-leg, ran to her lifeless young, and taking it in her mouth, held it up and looked at it, as if she would say,

‘You took the others and brought them to life; please do the same to this.’”

A Skye terrier, owned by a gentleman in Baltimore, proved one day that it could feel ashamed of a dishonest act. The master had always treated the terrier well; in fact, it had never been punished.

On the occasion referred to, the gentleman was at his table. Near the edge of the table the Skye saw a cutlet, and yielded to the tempta-



Skye Terrier.

tion to steal the meat. The cutlet was slyly seized and taken under the sofa. The gentleman pretended not to see the theft. But the conscience of the lit-

tle dog soon got the better of its hunger. It brought the cutlet back, laid it at the feet of its master, hung its head in shame, and slunk away.

## PART 2.

A SMALL terrier fell from the wharf in San Francisco into the bay. He could not get up the high wall of the wharf, neither could any one of the crowd that gathered reach him, and he swam about in despair. Just at the moment

when all hopes of saving him were given up, the bark of a dog attracted attention, when there appeared a large Newfoundland.

He saw the little fellow in the water, and, with a low wail, ran to and fro along the wharf. Then, to the surprise of every one present, he sprang into the water and at once swam to the terrier, seizing him by the neck with his teeth. After swimming about for some time, he discovered a low place where he could land, about a hundred yards distant. For this point he headed.

When he reached his destination, the admiring crowd started on a run toward the rescuer. Upon landing his precious burden on the shore, the Newfoundland gave two or three sharp barks, and seemed to be proud of what he had done.

It was some time before the terrier was able to walk away. One of those who saw the strange sight took a handkerchief from his pocket, and tied it about the neck of the Newfoundland, saying: "This dog is mine, and I would not take a thousand dollars for him at this moment."

Carlo belonged to a farmer in Connecticut. It was a common practice for the farmer's wife to send dinner by him to the men who were at work about a mile from the house. On one occasion two of the men, after cutting wood on one side of the mountain, went over to the other side. Carlo found an ax, which he seemed to think they had