

MASCOTS or PETS ON OUR WARSHIPS

ONE of the most interesting side-lights on American naval life, and one that gives insight as to the kind-heartedness of Uncle Sam's blue jackets, is afforded by the care and affection bestowed upon the mascots or pets of our warships. There is probably not a single craft, big or little, in the whole American navy, that has not its mascot, and in many instances—particularly in the case of big battleships—there are aboard anywhere from two to ten a dozen pets that vie with one another for the homage due a ship's mascot.

The number of pets or mascots aboard ship depends somewhat on the good nature of the captain, for the commander of the warship has the say as to whether or not any prospective pet be allowed to find a home aboard the craft. Indeed, the naval regulations—that bulky blue-bound volume which lays down the law for everything in the navy—designates this subject of pets by devoting a paragraph to it. In this reference to pets in the naval book of etiquette it is set down that the officer of the day (who corresponds to the officer of the deck at a military camp) must not allow any pets to be brought aboard unless the permission of those in authority on the vessel be obtained.

However, it is only an exceptionally grouchy commander who ever makes any objection to the presence on board of any reasonable number of pets. Indeed, many an officer with a natural fondness for pets, has come to have a genuine affection for four-footed friends aboard ship. Moreover, the presence of pets helps to keep the seamen contented. And finally it is just as well for an officer—considering the well-known superstitions of tars—to recognize that ancient tradition of the sea which declares that the presence of certain animals aboard a ship will bring it luck.

Almost any pet having found a domicile on board a floating fortress, speedily advances to the dignity of a "mascot," no matter whether the aforementioned pet belongs to one individual in the ship's company, or is the property of the crew at large. And in this connection it should be mentioned that there are several different ways in which a pet or mascot may find a berth



CHARLES' MASCOT FROM THE TROPICS ON THE CRUISER TANKERS



BEKIMO DOG ON BATTLESHIP MINNESOTA

aboard a naval craft. The most dignified entry is that made by the animal which has been specifically designated in advance as the official mascot of a new warship, and is brought aboard with due ceremony at the time the vessel is placed in commission. Often such a mascot is a native of and a donation from the state or city after which a warship is named, as, for instance, the handsome white goat which was presented to the battleship Kentucky by citizens of the blue grass state when that craft first went into commission.

Another favored manner of introduction for pets aboard warships is by transfer from other craft. This is apt to occur only when one vessel is being placed out of commission and another and newer craft is being placed in commission about the same time, and presumably at the same navy yard. There have been instances when entire crews have been transferred thus from one ship to another, and even when a warship is merely being laid up for repairs and will retain a "skeleton crew" aboard it usually happens that there is quite a contingent of bluejackets to be shifted to some other floating home. These boys naturally like to talk with them their pets or mascots, and the officers of ships to which they are thus transferred can seldom find much fault with mascots thus enlisted, since such veteran pets are experienced in all the ways of life aboard a warship and there is no danger of them making trouble, as do some newcomers until they get their "sea legs."

Many a cat or dog has begun an honorable career as a "mascot" rather ingloriously by wandering aboard as a "stray" or "walf," being allowed to remain on sufrage, and finally winning a place in the affections of a large portion of the ship's company. After all, however, the method most commonly in vogue in the recruiting of mascots is that whereby the individual bluejacket takes aboard ship a pet that has caught his fancy on shore. Under such circumstances the tar who has discovered the mascot is accounted the owner so long as the pet remains aboard ship, and his rights of ownership are recognized, however much the other jacksies may pet the mascot or teach him tricks.

The officers of a warship usually prefer to have every pet thus individually owned, for it makes one individual aboard responsible for the animal; for his feeding, etc., and for his behavior. Indeed, there are on many ships it has become the custom to designate one enlisted man, as the keeper of each pet, even though the mascot has come aboard under circumstances that make it

the common property of the crew. The problem of feeding a mascot is not one that need give anybody any concern for, as may be imagined, the average naval mascot is hopelessly overfed by his indulgent masters, but the responsibility for keeping a pet in his proper place aboard the vessel and seeing to it that he behaves, is a different matter. Especially must a sharp watch be kept on his department if there be several pets aboard, for then the animal jealousy that usually appears under such circumstances is fanned to a fierce flame, and free-for-all fights on deck would be a daily occurrence, save for the vigilance of the bluejackets detailed to keep order.

Many persons who seldom visit United States warships have long been of the impression that dogs and cats constitute almost the sole representatives of the animal kingdom holding positions as naval mascots. This is very far from being the case. To be sure these household favorites do head the roster, numerically, of naval mascots, but they are by no means in a majority in the whole census of pets afloat. On the contrary, we find included in the census of the mascots of Uncle Sam's navy pretty nearly every animal that could be mentioned, except the ones that are too large to find quarters aboard ship and the very wild ones which are too ferocious to be tamed, even by the blandishments of the bluejackets. Furthermore, a wide variety of birds have proven their eligibility to classification as naval mascots.

Among the more or less dumb companions selected by Yankee tars to help enliven life aboard our warships there might be mentioned bears, Shetland ponies, monkeys, pigs, geese, deer, ducks, mice, burros, kangaroos, raccoons, canaries, parrots, an endless variety of tropical birds, and almost all the small fur-bearing animals. A warship spending most of her time along the coastlines of the United States may have a small and circumspect lot of pets aboard, but let a vessel go on a cruise to the tropics or around the world, and she is likely to come home with a veritable menagerie aboard. Once home ports are reached, however, such a collection is rapidly thinned out, for many of the sailors send to their homes on shore or bestow upon friends the living trophies they have brought home, particularly the birds and monkeys and the quaint little dogs that are brought from China and Japan.

It is no more than is to be expected that the pets aboard our warships are as a rule possessed of a wonderful line of accomplishments. When a warship is engaged in an extensive cruise, the majority of the men aboard have, at one time or another, plenty of leisure at their disposal, and they devote a considerable portion of it to teaching tricks to the pets aboard. Many persons who have witnessed the really wonderful "stunts" done by naval mascots or have noticed four-footed messengers marching in parade with a naval battalion, and conforming to all the military orders given, have gained the impression that the

bluejackets possess an especial and almost unique knack for instructing dumb animals. The secret of their success, however, lies in the devotion of much time to the task, combined with the circumstances that the tars have a seemingly inexhaustible supply of patience and an almost unflinching fund of good humor, which, when reinforced by plentiful supplies of sweets, will ultimately win over the most stubborn furred or feathered "captive."

One of the most remarkable tricks to the credit of any naval mascot is that of a famous cat that was domiciled aboard the cruiser Chicago a few years ago. This cat would sit on its hind legs and "salute" with one front paw when the band played "The Star-Spangled Banner," and any person who knows how difficult it is to teach tricks to cats can appreciate what this performance meant. The battleship Vermont has a goat that will smoke a pipe with evident relish and one of the ships has as a mascot a bear that will engage in wrestling matches with members of the crew to the delight of audiences of cheering tars. Of course, the parrots on our warships have fearful and wonderful vocabularies, and the monkeys are adepts in clever tricks. Especially is this the case with a small red monkey on board the cruiser Chester. In some instances a naval pet will evince a fancy for some certain part of the ship, and will not be induced to leave it under any circumstances. A striking case in point is that of an Eskimo dog on the battleship Minnesota. He selected a home, high up on the bridge of the vessel (possibly because it is cool and airy, and reminiscent of his home in the far north), and he remains constantly on this lofty platform, eating and sleeping here, no matter whether the vessel be anchored in port or cruising in a heavy sea.

DEMONSTRATION IN METZ

Great stress is being laid in France upon an agitation that has prevailed in Metz lately, the New York Sun says. It started one Sunday evening when a local association called La Lorraine Sportive attempted to give a concert in a room in a hotel which it had hired for the purpose. No sooner had M. Samain, the president, arisen to make an address of welcome in French than an inspector of police and eight constables took possession of the stage and announced that the concert could not be held because it was a public meeting and contrary to law.

There were loud protests, but in vain. Samain and the leader of the orchestra were arrested but the musicians went on playing. They played the "Marche Sambre et Meuse," which is a French air. The trumpets sounded French fanfares. The police ordered the audience to disperse; instead it booed the police and shouted "Vive la Lorraine!" Finally it marched out singing the "Marseillaise," the trumpets still playing.

Samain was held prisoner for more than a week. The police endeavored to get a full list of members of La Lorraine Sportive, but failed. One of its committeemen, M. Sehl, was arrested, however. Samain was interrogated in court every day on charges of inciting rebellion. Public opinion remained at high tension and in the middle of it all M. Furet, a member of an old family of Metz, was elected mayor, or as the Germans prefer to say, burgomaster.

It is said the order for the police action came from the central authorities of the annexed province of Strassburg. Some are of the opinion that it was designed to provoke demonstrations which would cause postponement of the new constitutional scheme for Alsace-Lorraine. In the long run the government seems to have become alarmed at the violence of the pro-French sentiment revealed by the incident. Of a sudden Samain and Sehl were released without bid and no one seemed to know whether they will ever be prosecuted any further.



WELL POSTED.
Rhodie—Say, Joe, dere's one of de best places dat I've got on me route.
Joe—You don't say!
Rhodie—Yep, dem people always buys dere wood sawed and split.

THE ALARMING PREVALENCE OF ECZEMA

Finds Victims Among Every Race, Age and Condition.

Of all the diseases of the skin and scalp which torture and disfigure mankind, three-fourths are eczematous. Millions are born with eczema, and it is the only thing other millions have left when they die. Neglect in infancy and childhood, irritating conditions affecting the skin, ignorance of its real nature, improper remedies and many other causes that might be mentioned have created an eczema which, with varying severity, has afflicted countless numbers during their entire lives. Eczema is a skin disease. It is not regarded as hereditary, nor contagious, and is impartially distributed among the rich and poor, the high and low. The agonizing itching and burning of the skin, causing loss of sleep, is usually the most distressing symptom and is caused by the bursting of little vesicles filled with an acid fluid, which burns as with fire the denuded skin. New vesicles form, fill and burst, scales form upon scales, and crusts upon crusts until disfigurement is added to torture.

One of the most successful treatments for eczema, whether applied to the youngest infant or the oldest person, is hot baths with Cuticura Soap and gentle anointments of Cuticura ointment. For more than a generation, these pure, sweet and gentle emollients have proved the most efficient agents in the speedy and permanent relief of all forms of eczemas, rashes, itchings and irritations of the skin and scalp. Although Cuticura soap and ointment are sold by druggists and dealers everywhere, in order that those who have suffered long and hopelessly and who have lost faith in everything may make trial of them without charge, a liberal sample of each will be mailed free to any address, together with a 32-page pamphlet, giving a description and treatment of the various forms of eczema, as well as other affections of the skin, scalp, hair and hands—send to "Cuticura," Dept. W, Boston.

Triumph of Courage.
Courage and the power of the human eye," saved Walter Sargent, a prosperous rancher, in the Redwood district, San Jose, when he was confronted by a hungry mountain lion the other evening. Sargent was driving a herd of cows to his home in the foothills, when he noticed the big cat stalking him. As it crouched for a spring Sargent turned and fixed the beast with his eye. Man and lion remained as immovable as statues for a few seconds and then the animal turned and trotted away.

Of Course.
"Why are hotel bellboys called 'Buttons'?"
"Because they're always off when you need 'em most."

IN OBEDIENCE TO ORDERS

French Boy Caused Merriment by Taking the Order of the Court Too Literally.

A droll incident is reported as having taken place in one of the provincial appeal courts in France. A boy, about fourteen, was summoned to give evidence, and his appearance was such as to move the whole court to laughter. He wore a long redingote, peculiar to the Basque country, and immense boots. His trousers, collar and hat were unquestionably those of a man. The court was convulsed, and the president asked the boy how he dared to treat the court in such a manner. The boy seemed surprised as the president, and taking out the citation from his pocket, read the formula inviting him, "Comparetre dans les affaires de son pere." (To appear in his father's suit.)

His Destiny.
"I wish Willie had been born a girl!"
"Why?"
"Oh, he is such a cry baby! I wish I could do something to stop his snivelling at everything that comes up."
"To stop it? Encourage it you mean! Nature evidently intended that boy for a United States senator."

Safe Throat is no trifling ailment. It may carry disease germs to any part of the body through the food you eat. When you feel sore throat coming on, use Hamlin's Wizard Oil.

Preliminary Suspension.
"How did Jobbie's wife manage to hang up lace curtains?"
"I think by making Jobbie hang up his watch."

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cure constipation. Constipation is the cause of many diseases. Cure the cause and you cure the disease. Easy to take.

I am a man, and nothing that concerns a man do I deem a matter of indifference to me.—Terence.

DON'T SPOIL YOUR CLOTHES. Use Red Cross Ball Blue and keep them white as snow. All grocers, 5c a package.

It is not the quality of the meat but the cheerfulness of the guests which makes the feast.—Lord Clarendon.

Garfield Tea contains no harmful drugs. Composed of Herbs, it is an ideal laxative.

To do two things at once is to do neither.—Publius Syrus.

For Better Health
— TRY —
Hostetter's Stomach Bitters

If you have lost your good health let the Bitters help you to regain it. A 58 years' record backs up its merit in cases of Stomach, Liver and Bowel Ills and Malarial Disorders. Try it today. All Druggists.

CASTORIA
For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of *Wm. A. Ritchie* In Use For Over Thirty Years **CASTORIA**

900 DROPS
ALCOHOL—3 PER CENT
Vegetable Preparation for Assuaging the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of INFANTS, CHILDREN
Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral NOT NARCOTIC
Beware of cheap imitations.
Perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and LOSS OF SLEEP.
The Sincere Signature of *Wm. A. Ritchie*
THE CENTRAL COMPANY, NEW YORK.