

No. 3.

A

HISTORY

OF

ANIMALS.

FOR THE USE OF CHILDREN.



CONCORD, N. H.

RUFUS MERRILL, & CO.

1843.

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The Alphabet.

A B C D E F G

H I J K L M N

O P Q R S T U

V W X Y Z

a b c d e f g

h i j k l m n

o p q r s t u

v w x y z

ANIMALS.



Moose.



This animal has a large head, a very short neck, and prodigious long legs. He is the largest animal of the deer kind. In summer the flies bite him, and make him very uncomfortable. To get out of their reach, he will go into a pond or river, and there he will stay for a long time, with only his nose above the water. He is found in the state of Maine, and in Canada.

Camel.



This is an ill-shaped creature, with two humps on his back. But he is a very excellent animal for all that. He is mild, strong, and patient, and is even more useful than the cow or the horse. He is very common in Asia and Africa, where the people have large flocks of them. They make use of them in traveling across the desert, make butter and cheese of their milk, and eat their flesh. These deserts are barren, sandy grounds, which produce no trees and no grass, and where

there is no water for many miles. The patient camel travels day after day over these vast deserts, and will sometimes go more than a hundred miles without food and without water. It would be impossible for the people to cross these deserts, were it not for the camel.

The dromedary is another kind of camel, with only one hump on his back. He is generally used by the Arabs. He is swifter than the camel, and is better suited to hot countries.



Opossum.

The opossum is an American animal, having a head like the fox, and large eyes. The head is mostly white, and the body is covered with long black-and-white hairs. He walks awkwardly, and seldom runs; a man can easily overtake him without hastening his steps. He climbs up trees with great facility, hides himself in the leaves to catch birds, or hangs himself by

the tail from a branch. It seeks its food in the night, and lives on fruit, insects, and birds' eggs. Its teeth are fifty in number. He is neither wild nor ferocious, and may be rendered domestic. The most remarkable circumstance in the natural history of this animal is the pouch which is formed under the belly, of the female, it which it carries its young ones, when they are small. The little creatures sometimes leave their mother, and play around at a little distance; but if they are frightened, they scamper home, and get into their asylum as quick as possible. The mother, when she flies, carries them all with her.



Ichneumon.

The ichneumon is one of the most useful animals of the weasel kind, and is held in high estimation in Egypt, because it destroys the eggs of the crocodile. Its hair is of a grizzly black; others vary from this color as much as our common house cats differ in their color. Rats, mice, birds, serpents, and lizards make food for the ichneumon.

Kangaroo.

This singular creature is a native of New Holland, and is sometimes found six feet high. Its fore legs are short and weak, while its hind ones are long and stout. It never runs like other animals, but, aided by its tail, leaps like a frog, by which means it gets along very fast. The dam carries her young in a natural pouch which grows a little below her breast.

Raccoon.

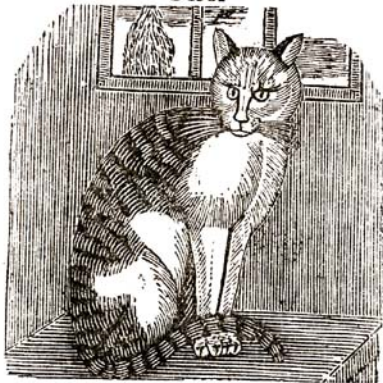


This fellow seems to be between a bear and a monkey. His fore paws are shaped a good deal like hands. He is very fond of looking about him. He will take up a thing in his paws, and look at it, and examine it as carefully as a watchmaker does a watch, which he is going to mend. He may be tamed without difficulty, and then is very good natured and sportive; but he is mischievous as a monkey, and seldom remains at rest.

While eating, the raccoon usually supports himself on his hind legs, and uses his fore paws to hold his food. If water be near, he dips his food into it. By his pointed claws he is able to climb trees with great facility. He runs up the trunk with the same swiftness that he moves over the plains, and frolics about the extremity of the branches with security and ease.

The raccoon is said to have a queer method of catching crabs. He goes to the water and sits down upon the bank, letting his tail dip into the water. By and by, a crab comes along, and thinks he has found something to eat. So he opens his claw, and takes hold of the raccoon's tail. The raccoon feels the bite, and suddenly twitches his tail out of the water, of course bringing the crab with it.

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Cat.

Here is a picture of a cat. She has soft fur. She catches mice, and little birds, and rats. Puss is very gentle, and in winter will get into your lap, so that she may be warm; but you must be very careful; for if you tread on her tail she will bite you.

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Dog.

Here is a dog. He is a very handsome animal. He is very lively, and loves his master. He is very different from Puss. Puss goes skulking about upon her soft feet, making no noise. The dog, on the contrary, jumps, and scampers, and bounds, and barks. Puss always goes alone; the dog loves company, and delights to be with

his master. It is very pleasant to go with a dog into the woods, on a bright summer morning. Then he is all life and animation. His tail and ears are erect, his eye is very bright, and his countenance full of pleasure and sagacity. At one moment he stops and listens, then he dashes forward into the bushes, makes a sweep through the woods, and then returns to his master. By and by, he gets upon the track of a squirrel or a rabbit. Then he begins to bark, and away he goes, in pursuit of the animal.

He will sometimes lead his blind master about from place to place, as shown in the picture.



Porcupine.



The porcupine is about two feet long, and rising of fifteen inches high, with short legs, and small eyes. He will eat plants, fruits, bread and milk, and meat. His body is covered with hard quills, sharp at each end, and about a foot long. When he is angry, he raises them up, and as they are sharp, it is then dangerous to attack him. He kills snakes by rolling himself up into a ball, with his quills sticking out in every direction, then tumbles over the serpents, and pricks them to death.

Rabbit.

The rabbit is a very pretty animal, and loves to live about the house and barn, in a state of friendship with all around it. It has no defence but to run away, and so harmless and innocent is it, that no one can have the heart to do it injury. It feeds upon clover, apples, and other fruits, and will often sit for hours in some snug covered place, quietly chewing its cud, with the greatest satisfaction. There is another kind which runs wild in the woods and fields.

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