

Pet Stock Finds Much Vogue in Omaha Prominent People Who Get Much Pleasure from Them



Mrs. Harry B. Fleharty



Mrs. C. T. Greener



Mrs. Chas Salter

F. H. Jacobs



Mrs. H. A. Doud



Ralph S. Doud



G. P. Wiig

high officials to lowly citizens, from millionaires to office boys and cash girls, the desire to own and pet something alive and interesting is everywhere evident. Nor is the pet fever confined to the commoner varieties of pets. Almost every conceivable kind of animal and bird is included in the list, and many folks own them by the dozens, instead of having just one.

And aren't the pets dearly loved and highly valued? Only recently a man went to court to recover damages because an auto ran over his dog. And, what's more, the jury agreed with him and awarded damages big enough to buy a whole pack of dogs.

A chubby, black bear is on grunting terms with our old pal, Gus Renze, and most of the other benchmen of King Ak-Sar-Ben. Another bruin welcomes the visits of City Commissioner Joe Hummel to Riverview park, and likes to go walking and tree-climbing with Keeper Robinson.

Mr. and Mrs. Gould Dietz has a hobby of picking up odd and curious animals and birds on their world travels, and at present have a regular menagerie in their back yard, including a South American llama, a monkey, a peacock, a giant macaw, a fancy dog and a beautiful Persian cat that boasts seven blue ribbons. They used to have some kangaroos, too, but the latter died. Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Dietz also are lovers of pets and wouldn't part with their intelligent trained dog for any consideration.

Each time Arthur D. Brandeis returns to Omaha he usually has a new pet to display. E. A. Singer of the Brandeis stores and his wife also are pet fanciers. Glen Wharton is another, being particularly fond of dogs.

Omaha, by the way, is distinctly on the dog map. Dogs of various kinds, owned by Omaha people have many times won prizes at bench shows. Low Pixley had a setter that was nationally

known, who was secretary of a kennel club once organized here, and hundreds of others.

Among feathered pets none are as popular as canaries. Mrs. George A. Joslyn takes great delight in her little yellow songsters, and so do Mrs. M. F. Funkhouser, Mrs. George M. Cooper and many others. Parrots also have their champions. Mrs. Charles Salter, wife of the chief of the fire department, has a parrot that carries on a regular conversation with her, and frequently perches on her shoulder to express his friendship. Whenever the fire bell rings this bird lustily yells "Fire."

Although more barnyard decorations and utility creatures than pets, chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys also have been domesticated to such an extent by some Omahans that they eat out of the hand and follow their owners about like dogs.

W. E. Baehr, secretary of the poultry association now holding a chicken show at the Auditorium, finds that geese and turkeys make very interesting pets. The only trouble, he says, is that when Thanksgiving and Christmas come around the owner of a pet fowl is liable to eat beefsteak rather than kill the pet for the holiday table, as the result of becoming so attached to it.

Mrs. H. A. Doud, 144 North Forty-first street, has had a flock of handsome White Leghorns for a number of years. They are so tame that they frequently fly onto her arm or shoulder and sing their thanks for hot mash at noon. Whenever she appears in the yard all the chickens gather at the door of their pen and crane their necks in expectancy, until she offers grain or an apple, which they eat from her hand. Incidentally, she says, several thousand strictly fresh eggs a year come in handy.

Ralph S. Doud raises guinea pigs by the yard and bushel, frequently having several hundred at a time. He is secretary of the new Pet Stock club. President Wiig of the club keeps fancy rabbits as a hobby, and Chicago recently exhibited one that took a blue ribbon.

Other local rabbit and Belgian hare fanciers include M. H. Fowler, 4213 Larimore avenue; Charles R. Fisk, 929 South Fifty-third street; Dr. James Richards, 1202 North Twenty-sixth street; H. G. Vollmer, 4123 North Forty-second street; A. D. Bullock, 4616 North Thirty-sixth street, and Dr. Alfred O. Peterson. Among well known Omahans who keep goldfish as pets are Mrs. T. L. Kimball, Miss Arabella Kimball and Thomas R. Kimball.

Nor are the owners or pets the only ones interested in the hobby. Many an Omahan, without room or facilities for keeping pets at home, finds keen enjoyment in visiting Riverview park and watching the animals there. And, as Commissioner Hummel says, "even animals that are naturally wild will respond to kindness and attention, and eventually become quite tame and like to be petted."

IF PETS in Omaha households were counted by Uncle Sam's men when the census was taken, it is safe to say that Omaha's population would be recorded as many thousand more than the present figures show.

For the home that lacks a pet dog or cat, or doesn't boast a sweet singing canary or a couple of gold fish, or at least a few petted chickens, is certainly hard to find these days. If the grown folks haven't a pet, the "kids" at least have some rabbits or a puppy.

Pets are such commonplace members of our homes—such essential parts of the family organization—that a household with one or more of them is merely considered normal and regular. It is the petless home that is the exception.

But in spite of this fact, Omaha has not had an organization of pet owners until just a few weeks ago. Fanciers of pets finally got together, and now the Omaha Pet Stock club is an active and rapidly growing institution. It was organized in the interests of pet fanciers and their pets, and anybody can belong to it if they are at all interested. It started with curbstone and street car conversations among several people whose thoughts mutually turned to a narrative of a dog's latest cunning trick, an exclamation of pleasure over a

canary's burst of song, or the story of a clucking biddy's familiarity in pecking at an apple held by its owner.

Now the pet fanciers meet regularly at a central location in one of the public buildings to talk over their experiences, benefit by each other's advice and boost for the harmless and educational hobby of keeping pets.

"It's surprising how many of Omaha's people—lots of prominent ones, too—are owners of pets," says G. P. Wiig, 1810 Vinton street, president of the new club.

But it's true. Omaha is a city of pets. From