

Two Scotties and a Badger

Natural Enemies Are the Best of Friends, and Live and Play Together in Harmony

By EMMA M. WALK

HISTORY proves that practically all of the great wars were due to the desire of some nation to get more food. And food, I think, is also responsible for what we consider the racial hatreds among all forms of animal life. A cat will attack a bird or a mouse, because that bird or that mouse represents food. But if the cat is well fed, it can be taught to live in harmony with birds; or at least in apparent harmony, for I fancy that the real instinct of the cat—which has come down through the ages—may break out at any time.

Certainly, the veneer of civilization often leaves human beings in the face of a great calamity. We all know of panics that have happened during theater fires or when some vessel is wrecked. Also, I fancy human beings would fight one another for the final bit of food in the world. Anyway, they are willing to fight for much less today.

I may be wrong in the statement that food is the principal cause of enmity



Poco certainly likes his bottle

for fear of missing something. I might add here that the word "poco" is a Mexican word meaning "little," or a "small amount." Whenever we call Poco, no matter where he is, he comes running up and expects something to eat. He knows what's in a name! And, incidentally, he adds by his actions a little more proof that food is one of the dominating forces in the world.

among animals. Still I want to tell of my two Scotties and their little pal, a badger. There is no questioning the fact that a Scottish terrier and a badger are natural enemies. Still they are living in the friendliest relationship, and everything promises that this state of affairs will continue as long as I have the dogs and the badger. I fancy this is because they have all the food they need, and later on I will tell some anecdotes of their minor squabbles over food.

As an introduction let me state that one of my Scotties is Malibu Heather Lassie, A. K. C. 823,530, aged seven months. The other—our male—is Kiltie Boy II, A. K. C. 791,151. The badger kitten is Poco, age unknown. But I think he is about seven weeks old, as he is just getting his milk teeth, and at this writing feeds principally on a nursing bottle.

POCO was captured from his wild habitat in a nearby mountain range, and brought to Tucson, Arizona, early in April. From the very start he showed no fear, either of humans or of my Scotties. He was quite unconcerned about his fate, and merely rolled up in a ball and went to sleep. I carried him around in my hands while he was in ball-formation, and he slept on as though he had never been disturbed. But now he is just as inquisitive as my Scotties, and does not spend much of his time sleeping during the day,

POCO and Heather at once became bosom friends. Whenever Heather goes, Poco tags along behind and when Heather stops, Poco starts right in playing and nipping her. At first, Poco did not quite have Heather figured out. He must have thought she was his mother, as he would search all over Heather looking for the "lunch counter." That was another link in the food chain. Heather stood perfectly still as the search went on, as if curious of what the badger kitten wanted and, seemingly, not minding at all.

Both of my Scotties being just pup-



Three inseparable friends



Where Heather loves to rest

pies, and having a large yard to run in, they play quite wildly and roughly at times, and if Poco is in the way, he usually gets rolled over and over. He then stands up very high, on all four legs, and throws out his fur, looks around for a few seconds, and then starts right after the dogs, wanting again to get in the fun. When the Scotties are running at full speed from one end of the yard to the other, Poco runs after them, and it is quite an amusing sight to see him going his fastest, which is best described as a sort of bouncing, fast trot. Sometimes the dogs hurdle Poco if he is in the way, and it happens so quickly that Poco has to look around a bit to figure out just where his playmates have gone to.

He is so much smaller than the Scotties, that he runs in and out under their bellies, as though they were arches or viaducts for him to travel through. The puppies do not mind this eccentricity in the least.

When I acquired Poco from the little Mexican boy who caught him, he weighed two pounds. Badgers in the southwest attain a weight of approximately thirty-five pounds when fully matured.

THE other day, Heather was digging up some of my flowers in the garden. I caught her in the act and spanked her. Poco was right there, as usual, and saw what happened. He immediately ran up to Heather, put his little nose all over her face, and made a very queer grunting sound, as if he were either sympathizing with her or



A game of follow the leader

chastising her further. My guests, who witnessed this scene, were greatly amused at the badger's interest in Heather's punishment.

Most of Poco's food consists of milk from the nursing bottle and bread soaked in milk or water. He is just beginning to learn the art of lapping milk out of a saucer. The first few days after I had given Poco his milk in a saucer, whenever I put a bowl of milk down for the dogs, Poco would come running up, get right in the dish with all four feet, and try to lap the milk up. But his nose is so long, that he spent most of his time sneezing the milk out of his olfactory organ.

THE Scotties would try to get what milk they could, while Poco was in the dish. Now things have changed in that respect. If Poco just comes near Heather while she is eating, Heather snarls at him and he knows enough to keep away. And when Poco is eating some of his bread and Heather comes along, he keeps turning his back to Heather and goes around in a circle in order to prevent her from getting his food, demonstrating that even badger kittens understand the theory of reciprocity.

The dogs are locked up in their own kennel yard a good deal during the day, and Poco is allowed to run in the large back yard at his will. Several times I have come home and found Poco in the kennel with the Scotties. He sits right in front of the gate as though he had been locked in there with them. Of course, the dogs jump against the gate and beg to be let out. Poco gets knocked about a good deal then, as he is right in their way, but he does not mind in the least. He effects his entrance into their kennel by a hole in the wire, by which he could easily get out of the kennel again, but he prefers to be in there with his playmates. Maybe he now believes himself to be a Scottish terrier and not a badger at all!

Being a nocturnal animal, and evidently having had his eyes open for only a few days prior to his capture, Poco was quite a comical sight in his new environment. During the first few days of his existence with humans, Poco followed me all over the house and garden by scent and hearing only. Whenever there was an object in his way as he was following me, he would bump directly into it, stand still a second or so, detour the barrier and then take up his task of trailing me.

IF he was placed on a bed or some high place, Poco would keep right on going, fall over the edge, and land on his nose, which made him very mad. There would then issue forth grunts and hisses from Mr. Poco. However, he is rapidly adjusting himself to his new mode of living. He does most of his sleeping in the night, and during the day he prowls around the yard and eats.

The apparent result is that Poco's eyes are getting accustomed to the light, and he is able to distinguish and recognize objects at a distance. Whenever he is placed on something high, the badger no longer falls off of the edge, but makes a retreat to the center of the platform. He climbs up the back porch steps, pulling himself up by his powerful forelegs, and then goes down them again by jumping from step to step.

Whenever the dogs come leaping up the steps and into the house, Poco is not very far behind them, as he does not intend to miss anything. Like the dogs, he has learned that food comes from the kitchen, and he is always anxious and ready to come into the house. In the mornings, when he hears the household stirring about inside, Poco runs up and down his cage and makes very appealing grunting notes so that he will be let out of his cage in order to be in the midst of the bustle and noise.

An amusing sight is to see Heather licking Poco's chin and whiskers whenever he is being fed from the bottle. Some of the milk spills and collects around Poco's jaw. Heather sees to it



Both are naturally curious



Poco loves crawling over Heather

that Poco looks as though he had been using a napkin after his lunch. However, this cleaning-up process does not keep Poco away from the bottle or interfere in any way with his dinner. Concentration, apparently, is the natural endowment of the badger.

BADGERS being naturally highly qualified when it comes to digging, Poco has started several "oil wells" in the back yard. When Heather sees him digging, she comes right up to him, ears straight up, an inquisitive look on her face, and watches Poco a few seconds. She then helps the cause along, and between them, they manage to dig a nice sized hole.

Kiltie Boy II does not take so kindly an attitude towards Poco as does Heather. Kiltie just tolerates Poco, and keeps out of his way as much as possible. But Kiltie would not harm Poco, as all three animals are together for hours at a time, and if Kiltie had any ill intentions toward the badger, he has had plenty of opportunity to get them out of his system.

Heather at times is rather rough with Poco. But the latter seems to like it, and comes right back for more rough play. The only place where Heather can get a good solid hold on Poco is his head. But the badger ducks that underneath his legs and curls up in a sort of ball, which perplexes Heather for a minute. Yet she soon decides that it is lots of fun picking Poco up by his fur and dragging him about in that manner. But not very far, as Poco uncurls and starts to claw Heather. After which, of course, the grand free-for-all is renewed momentarily.

Poco is about nine inches long from nose to tail. He weighs three pounds. His fur is a sort of tan and gray color, with the coarser hairs being tipped in black. His belly is all tan and his legs are black. He has a white stripe running from his nose to his tail

and he has black spots on his cheeks and head. Whenever he is frightened, he stands very high on his legs and hisses. Sometimes, when the dogs bark, he assumes the defensive position, looks around a few minutes, "charges" the dogs, and then plays with them.

He has his own little green and white painted cage in the back yard near the dogs' kennel. And he wanders in and out of his cage all day. Sometimes, he disappears underneath the house and stays there until we call him out. When he appears, answering promptly to his name, his nose, eyes, and ears are covered with dirt, and I suspect him of excavating. He is locked up in his cage at night, although I feel that if he were left free in the back yard over night, he certainly would be there when I called him in the morning.

When Poco is a few months older, he will be taken to a veterinary and castrated. His claws are adorned with long sharp nails, which will be filed down when he is older. It is hoped that the gelding operation will make it possible to keep Poco as a pet for years in urban surroundings.

IT must always be remembered, however, in making a household pet of a wild animal, that the would-be pet is anything but a domesticated animal. To a certain extent, he will adapt himself and conform to man's laws. But only to a certain extent.

Of course, my pet will not be forced to fight for his livelihood in the wilds. He will always receive his "three squares a day." And this, in itself, will be the greatest factor in keeping him out of trouble. The act of keeping his great foreclaws clipped short will be simply a precaution against his exercising his natural predilection for dig-



Heather's gaily wagging tail has a certain fascination for Poco



But at times Heather reprimands Poco

ging, and a badger is the greatest excavating machine ever designed.

Also, if Poco should decide to use his claws when Heather or Kiltie provoke him a few months hence, he could rip them to pieces before they would know what had happened. Of course, I am fairly certain that Poco will always be kindly towards the dogs, but it is best to insure against ill effects which might in the future be too late to remedy.

Taking everything into consideration, I believe that Poco is just as satisfied and happy being with us, in his bounded surroundings, as we are to have him. He now knows the various members of the family. When a stranger comes in the yard, he is shy at first, and runs off and hides. But soon his curiosity becomes master of him, and Poco comes out with his funny little nose poking around the stranger.

He can tell at a distance whenever there are any other dogs except his pals in the yard. Sometimes, my friends comes over and bring their Scotties with them. Poco makes an awful fuss at first, and he hisses and swells up whenever they come near him. Heather, which likes to fight anything on the slightest provocation, usually runs up to Poco, and when the latter again hisses at her guests, she starts fighting with Poco.

Sometimes, I need gloves to separate them, as Heather and Poco both revert back to type and hold onto each other with a dead-grip, and if Poco doesn't bite me while I am trying to separate them, Heather usually manages to nip me.

A BADGER has a sort of groove in his upper jaw and the teeth of the lower jaw fit into that, and cowboys around Arizona can tell of the many times they have lassoed a badger, and
(Please turn to page 101)

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 Hitofa First Thought (770,332).

TWO SCOTTIES AND A BADGER

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an instant later, have the liariat cut in two.

Of course, these little differences are very rare, as I do not like to have Poco angered, and usually avoid anything which I know will upset him.

It is very amusing to see my three pets running to me when I call them. Of course, the dogs come running along at full speed, tails gaily wagging. Poco sort of comes along in leaps and gallops, and he also holds his tail up. I do not know whether it is natural for badgers to hold their tails straight up or not; at any rate, I believe Poco is just assuming a Scottish characteristic when he does it.

Heather seems to enjoy having a little mascot at her heels constantly. She is always following Kiltie around. The latter displays an attitude of being much superior to Heather, as he is a few months older than she. And now that she has something to follow *her* around, she can show superiority to Poco, which, in turn, is perfectly happy if Heather stands still a minute so that he can crawl all over her, and gently claw her.

All in all, this is a most unusual friendship, and one which proves that racial characteristics may be submerged if the question of self-preservation is of no moment. But I wonder what would happen if my Scotties and my badger did not get enough food each day from me?

DOGS ARE LIKE CHILDREN

(Continued from page 29)

form right habits. You can mould their dispositions just as a potter moulds clay.

To me, my dog is one of the finest things that has ever come my way. He not only affords me pleasure as a dog of good breeding, but he also is my pal. And he seems to understand.

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"They do," I replied. "My father passed away suddenly. My little dog was very fond of him. For days after the funeral he would run back into my father's room

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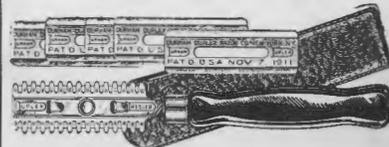
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Breed	June 1932	June 1931
Airedale Terriers	42	43
Basset Hounds	2	3
Beagles	270	223
Bedlington Terriers	2	1
Bloodhounds	14	6
Boston Terriers	932	1,021
Boxers	5	2
Briards	2	-
Bulldogs	108	88
Bullterriers	19	17
Cairn Terriers	29	25
Chesapeake Bays	3	1
Chihuahuas	11	7
Chow Chows	304	299
Collies	109	122
Dachshunde	45	46
Dachshunde (Long-haired)	7	1
Dachshunde (Wire-haired)	7	9
Dalmatians	7	1
Dandie Dinmont Terriers	1	1
Deerhounds (Scottish)	1	1
English Toy Spaniels	2	5
Foxhounds (American)	1	2
Foxterriers	23	22
Foxterriers (Wire)	522	447
French Bulldogs	22	24
German Shepherd Dogs	130	250
Great Danes	58	44
Griffons (Brussels)	1	4
Griffons (Wire-haired Pointing)	-	3
Irish Terriers	64	62
Japanese Spaniels	9	11
Keeshonden	-	1
Kerry Blue Terriers	10	10
Kuvasz	-	1
Mastiffs	2	1
Newfoundlands	9	12
Norwegian Elkhounds	4	1
Old English Sheepdogs	5	2
Papillons	-	2
Pekingese	320	302
Pinschers (Doberman)	73	51
Pinschers (Miniature)	2	2
Pointers	14	17
Pomeranians	106	135
Poodles	8	1
Pugs	7	8
Retrievers	2	5
Retrievers (Golden)	1	-
Retrievers (Labrador)	3	22
St. Bernards (Rough)	17	-
Salukis	1	3
Samoyedes	5	12
Schipperkes	11	6
Schnauzers	23	17
Schnauzers (Giant)	3	6
Schnauzers (Miniature)	5	1
Scottish Terriers	286	244
Sealyham Terriers	47	21
Setters (English)	54	35
Setters (Gordon)	3	5
Setters (Irish)	76	45
Shetland Sheepdogs	2	6
Siberian Huskies	1	-
Skye Terriers	2	-
Spaniels (Cocker)	297	271
Spaniels (English Springer)	118	114
Spaniels (Irish Water)	5	4
Toy Black and Tan Terriers	22	10
Welsh Terriers	7	8
West Highland White Terriers	4	2
Whippets	2	1
Wolfhounds (Irish)	2	8
Wolfhounds (Russian)	5	13
Yorkshire Terriers	4	4
Total	4,312	4,200
GRAND TOTAL		
January 1 to June 30	23,312	23,000

CHAMPIONS OF RECORD

July, 1932
AIREDALE TERRIER
 Authority's Commander (809,530).
BEAGLES
 Penman's Trueboy (686,370).
 Trestlebrook Prompter (675,088).
BOSTON TERRIERS
 Cermak's Betty Coed (792,178).
 Introduce Me's Rockabye Baby (690,986).
 Snappy Bud (781,954).
 (Please turn to page 100)