

lives for many hours—in cases I have known, for more than a day and night—under the pressure of a heavy log, sufficient to hold it like a vice, and when the middle of the body was pressed perfectly flat. Nay, under one such circumstance which I recall, the animal showed good fight on approach. When caught by the leg in a steel trap, the mink usually gnaws and tears the captive member, sometimes lacerating it in a manner painful to witness; but, singular to say, it bites the part beyond the jaws of the trap . . . The violence and persistence of the poor, tortured animal endeavouring to escape are witnessed in the frequent breaking of its teeth against the iron—this is the rule rather than the exception. One who has not taken the mink in a steel trap can scarcely form an idea of the terrible expression the animal's face assumes as the captor approaches. It has always struck me as the most nearly diabolical of anything in animal physiognomy. A sullen stare from the crouched, motionless form gives way to a new look of surprise and fear accompanied by the most violent contortions of the body, with renewed champing of the iron, till, breathless, with heaving flanks, and open mouth dribbling saliva, the animal settles again, and watches with a look of concentrated hatred, mingled with impotent rage and frightful despair."

When it is remembered that millions of animals are captured yearly in traps the sum total of their sufferings must be so great that the cruelty practiced on dumb domestic creatures, which so greatly concerns the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, must seem slight in comparison. The methods of killing domestic animals are humane and painless, and it would seem that humane considerations alone present a sufficient argument for the domestication of fur-bearing animals.

**Domestic
Fur-bearers**

The first step towards raising animals for their fur was taken years ago when karakule sheep—a domestic animal from which the Persian lamb and broadtail are obtained—began to be bred for its pelt. Up to recent years this animal was the only example of a valuable fur-bearer in captivity. It is a domestic animal merely, but, because of the difficulties in travelling, in language, in religious prejudices of the people who breed them, in knowledge of good stock, in quarantine laws and in remoteness of the district in which they flourish, it has been very difficult to secure specimens for breeding purposes. Latterly, exceedingly optimistic reports of success in karakule 'crosses' in the United States have been reported. If the Persian lamb can be economically produced in America, millions of dollars will be saved annually, as the use of this lasting and handsome fur is increasing steadily. That the business is regarded in