

WASHING DOGS.

Though to wash a dog requires no great amount of skill, there are a few simple directions which it is well to bear in mind. First, have ready, if the dog is a medium-sized animal, a tub about three feet across the top, sixteen or eighteen inches high at the sides, with a cork fitted to a hole in the bottom, so that the water can be run off without trouble; a piece of soap for this purpose (white curd soap is the best); a large sponge; a tin with handle to hold half a gallon; and some good rough towels. Let the tub be filled three-parts full of water heated to 105 deg., or just as hot as the hand can comfortably bear, in which a piece of soda has been dissolved. Now stand the dog in the water, and thoroughly wet his coat all through by baling the water over him with the can. As soon as this is done soap his head and ears, and thoroughly wash that part first, following with the body, legs, and feet in order named. The lather thus made should be well rubbed into the coat, taking care to cleanse the skin, but avoiding the eyes, as soap causes great pain to these tender organs. When well lathered and rubbed, as much of the soap should be removed from the coat as possible by again baling water over him, but it will be necessary to douche him with cold water. In the case of large dogs the best way is to take him out of the tub and use a small hose pipe with cold water. The effect of this is not merely to remove the soap, but it is also a preventative against his taking cold. As much as possible of the water in his coat should now be removed by the sponge, completing the operation with the towels. In fine weather, when there is no fear of his catching cold, the dog can be at once sent to his kennel, which must be provided with plenty of clean straw in which he can roll; but if the atmosphere be cold or damp, he should be

thoroughly dried in a warm room before being kennelled. To improve the purity of the colour some dog-owners put a little blue in the water, but it must be very little. Many dogs object to be washed, and in order that they can be safely held it is always desirable to have a clean leather collar on the neck — *Fancier's Gazette*.

BRANT.

Editor Kennel Gazette:

I beg to contradict through your columns a report that I have parted with Champ. Brant. He is still in my kennel and is likely to remain there. The mistake arose through the sale of a pup sired by the old dog and called Brant II. I am also glad to say that the blindness with which one of his eyes was threatened has proved to be only constitutional, and he is fast recovering. As a sire he is fast coming to the front, and look out for some of his "get" at the fall shows, they will make some of them hustle.

Success to your welcome paper.

CHAS. M. NELLES,

Brant Cocker Kennels.

Brantford, May 22, 1889.

THE MASTIFF.

In general appearance the Mastiff is noble and dignified; his strength is shown in his immense bone, large, square and well-knit frame, whilst the majesty of his carriage, his grand head, and the magnanimous expression of his countenance, bespeak consciousness of power governed by a noble and courageous nature. There are Mastiffs with sinister and scowling faces, exhibiting the ferocity of a coward and bully, but these will rarely be found to possess the grandeur of form that distinguishes the breed, and are often cross-bred. In some instances a surly and dangerous disposition will show itself in otherwise good and pure dogs, and when it does, they become a positive danger

even to their owners, and a terror and a nuisance to their neighborhood in which they may be kept. Their natural disposition, nowever, is gentle, with an intuitive desire to afford protection, so that a well-trained Mastiff is at once the best of companions—not given to quarrel, solicitous of notice from those he serves—and proves, with his intelligence and high mettle, the best of guards for persons and property. These good qualities characterise the modern Mastiff, and show the power of man in taming down the fierce nature of the fighting dogs of Britain; for in this, as in outward form, it is impossible to doubt that the animal has been greatly modified and improved since he was mainly kept in order to display his prowess in the bull-ring and the bear-garden.

As to his modern uses, he is still *par excellence* the watch-dog of England:

Whose honest bark,

Bays deep-mouthed welcome as we draw near home.

He is the gamekeeper's best companion and preserver from night marauders—and for this purpose a dark brindled dog is preferable to a fallow, not being so easily seen at night—and to these arduous duties have been added the lighter ones of companions to ladies and gentlemen, and the occasional display of his regal canine magnificence on the show-bench.

I have mentioned the faults of temper in dealing with the general character. I will now point out the faults in outward appearance most often met with. These are, first, I think, the ungainliness of motion caused by weak legs, particularly shown in the knee-joints, and the development of cow-hocks; with this there are generally flat, lean, wasted hams, and sometimes light, weak loins, and all these, or the cow-hocks alone, give a shambling gait that is most objectionable. These defects are often caused by bad rearing, inferior or insufficient food, or want of room or dampness in the kennel. The faults