

ENGLISH SHORT-HAIR CAVIES.

A TINY CHAT ABOUT CAVIES.

BY A. RUSDEN.

I THINK I hear somebody say, "What are cavies?" Well, Cavies (a pronounced the same as a in Cave) are nothing more or less than guinea-pigs; but as they are not pigs, and do not come from Guinea, they are now called Cavies at all the leading shows.

There are at present three distinct varieties of the Cavy—namely, Peruvians, Abyssinians, and English Short Hair.

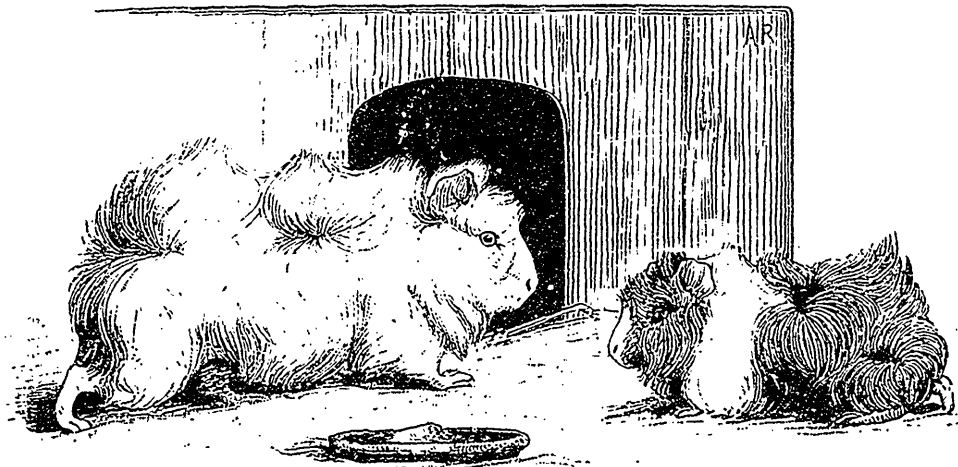
Peruvians have long, straight, silky hair, falling well over the nose in front, and straight down the sides, without any curl or twist.

Abyssinians have moderately long hair, but it is twisted and wiry and distinctly rosetted on the sides and head. The difference between the two varieties will be seen at once on referring to our illustrations.

English Short Hair is the ordinary smooth "guinea-pig." The colours of each variety vary considerably.

Cavies are specially to be recommended as pets for very little folks, as they do not often bite, as rabbits sometimes will, and they are not so heavy and strong to carry about. When lifting a Cavy take it up round the neck. This will not hurt it. And do not be tempted to lift it up by the tail, because if you do—well—you will soon see what will happen. The male and female and young can be left together all the year round with no risk of their fighting or quarrelling, so that one hutch will do for all the family. The young are very precocious. They learn to walk when a few hours old, and can take care of themselves after the first day or two.

I have been told by those who have Cavies that they do best when kept on the ground, and this saves a lot of cleaning out; but the run should have a roof to keep it dry. They are very hardy little things, and will thrive anywhere and eat



ABYSSINIAN CAVIES.