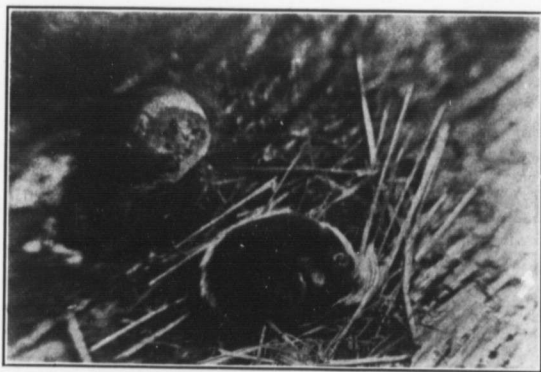


into print with capital letters. When Taffy brought in a mouse, sparrow, chicken head, or a sweet corn cob, he always beat his little brothers and sisters to it. In this way he rapidly increased in size and in the course of his first summer he achieved a length of over twenty-four inches and a girth, of over six inches around his greatest common denominator.

He gained his liberty in early September. For many days he returned regularly each evening for his dish of

giant elm, he spied an inviting hole. His attitude now, was that of one not lightly to be daunted. Carefully extending his whiskers to their extreme range he pushed his head back and forth to see if his whiskers tickled. He sniffed and it smelled "woodchucky." He entered unannounced. Suddenly there was a riot, odor, dust and woodchuck were ejected from the burrow and without so much as casting one longing, lingering look behind, the woodchuck set out at a blind stag-



About One-Seventh Life Size, at Four Months.

bran-bread-and-milk. It was in a cedar swamp that he began his first acquaintance with life in the wild. This for the most part was one grand sweet song. There is no tragedy in life when you have all the rest of the world buffaloed, and O-Me-O-Mi was not a year old before he discovered that his most hated enemy side-tracked when he came down the way. It was in this old swamp he learned to hunt hares, mice, grouse, and large insects.

After a lengthy journey one evening, he found himself far from his accustomed haunts. Under the roots of a

gering delirious pace. O-Me-O-Mi re-entered, explored it, and there and then pre-empted it as his homestead. Then he came out, groomed his coat, yawned, stretched, and feeling intensely the loneliness and mystery of life stood up on his hind legs and gnawed a small bit of bark out of the giant elm. After erecting that sign no other member of his tribe could take possession.

He now had a home of his own; and, for the sake of proving that animals have far better reasoning than human beings, it may be pointed out that he secured his home before he