

HOME PETS.

DOGS IN GENERAL.

During the past fifty years dogs have increased greatly in value and beauty, as many as sixty breeds now being known in and exhibited at the principal dog shows in the United Kingdom, the more recent importations being schipperkes, natives of Belgium, Holland and Flanders; chow-chows, the edible dog of the Celestial Empire; Japanese spaniels, or muff dogs, so called from their small size and ability to nestle into a good-sized muff; Mexican hairless dogs and African sand dogs, decidedly more curious than pretty.

In all cases, which ever breed is chosen, they must be kept clean and be properly fed. The rule should be one moist meal and one dry one daily, the former to consist of house scraps of all kinds, such as meat cut into small pieces, vegetables, rice, bread, and gravy, bearing in mind that variety in diet is beneficial to all home pets. Avoid salt meat and bones; the former is apt to produce skin complaints, and the latter are extremely dangerous, for splinters frequently penetrate the internal organs and cause much pain, finally ending in premature death from inflammation of the intestines. The dry meal may consist of dog biscuits, either cod liver oil biscuits, pet dog biscuits, or larger kinds according to the breed kept. These two meals, and a bowl of fresh water, should be the only food allowed.

There is no greater mistake than the practice, far too frequently indulged in, of giving pet dogs tit-bits, sugar, sweet biscuits, bread and butter, slices of chicken, spoonfuls of cream, and other dainties. These rich foods tend to upset the liver, keeping up a constant irritation of the body, instead of permitting the digestive organs a rest as nature intended. Dogs are carnivorous animals, consequently their organization is constituted for the reception of large and rare meats, rather than small scanty ones, and all dogs require a certain portion of cooked (not overdone) meat daily, in order to prevent diseases, of which anaemia is the chief, caused by deprivation of their natural food.

Exercise falling short of fatigue is necessary for all dogs, and tends to prevent obesity, if joined to rational and judicious feeding. Dogs should be brushed daily, and very rarely washed, unless absolutely necessary, for the rules of strict cleanliness. Alternatives ought to be given only when needful, and either a couple of compound rhubarb pills, a tablespoonful of

castor oil, or twelve grains of jalap, answers the purpose very well.

Internal parasites are very common in dogs, and are often the unsuspected cause of mysterious deaths, as the creatures, if unchecked, find their way into the victim's heart or brain, and then prove rapidly fatal. To cure these, a fast of eighteen hours must be insisted upon, and at the end of the time a dose of worm powder may be given in butter or dripping, varying in quantity thus. For dogs under eight pounds weight, a quarter of a powder; half a powder for dogs up to twelve pounds; over that size up to thirty pounds, three-quarters of a powder; and a whole powder may be allowed to dogs of the larger breeds, such as collies, mastiffs, St. Bernards, etc.

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