



The Puppies Test.

(The first of a series of children's stories written specially for "The Farmer's Advocate.")

THEY were five pointer puppies. This was their birthday. A puppy has a birthday once a month, you know, and this day they were three months old.

"Now children," said Mrs. Pointer, the puppies' kind old mother, "Line up until I look you over."

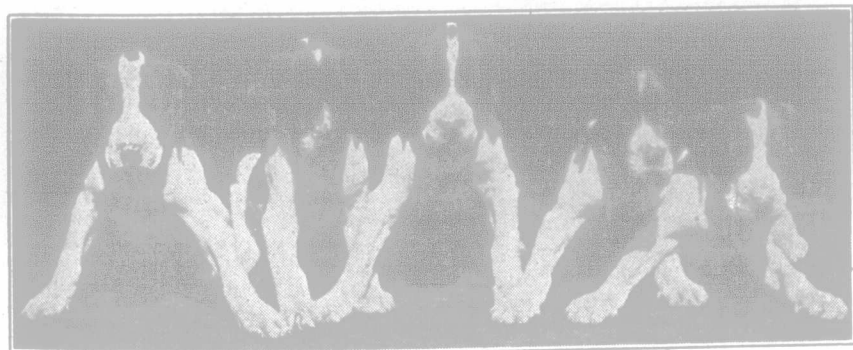
The puppies lined up in a row and their mother looked them over carefully. There was Spot, with the round white spot right in the centre of his head. Beside him was Black Face, with an all black face; black ears and just the tiniest white spot on the top of his head. Then came Long Legs whose legs were the longest of all the legs in the little family; next to Long Legs was Tiny Long Ears, the smallest of Mrs. Pointer's puppies, but the one with the longest ears. Last but not least was Fatty, the greedy member of the household, whose fat little sides said plainer than words that he was a great glutton.

"You are growing into fine puppies," Mrs. Pointer said approvingly. "It is time you came down out of the loft and were educated in the ways of the world."

How eager the puppies were to get out of the loft. One by one Mrs. Pointer carried them by the backs of their necks down the ladder, and she did not stop until the last puppy was safe on the ground outside the barn. What fun they had

smaller than the others and such a delicate little fellow, it is a wonder his mother hadn't cautioned him to stay at home. He didn't know what he could do to prove his usefulness, in fact in the face of such great dogs he felt his brothers were, he felt very useless indeed. He would do his best and trust to luck for something to turn up, he thought, and off he started. Alas for Poor Tiny Long Ears! Misfortune was to happen right at the beginning, for he just had his front paw through the barnyard gate when a gust of wind slammed the heavy gate shut and his poor little front paw was badly jammed. How he did cry with the pain. He tried his best to walk on all four legs but he couldn't and the pain was so bad he felt too weak to go on. He limped back to the barn and threw himself down in a sunny spot to lick his sore paw. It was such a nice, sunny spot it was not long before the paw stopped hurting but by this time Tiny Long Ears had become tired and went sound asleep. He was awakened suddenly by a shrill cry. Up he got just in time to see Mrs. Speckled Hen squat down and her tiny chickens running for shelter under her wings. A big shadow appeared over the barnyard, and Tiny Long Ears looked up just in time to see a cruel hawk just about to pounce down on one of Mrs. Speckled Hen's tiny chicks.

"Bow, wow, roof!" Tiny Long Ears barked at the top of his shrill little voice. The cruel hawk quite startled by such a bark, flew high up in the air. A hawk is not so easily fooled, however, and when it looked down Tiny looked quite a small puppy and so the hawk started down toward Mrs. Speckled Hen again. But Mrs. Speckled Hen had gathered her family to safety in the



Spot, Black Face, Long Legs, Tiny Long Ears, and Fatty.

then, chasing about the farmyard and stealing into the meadows when their mother was not looking.

A week later Mrs. Pointer called all the puppies around her again. "Come children," she said, "It is time you set to work and did something. Now I am going away with my master for a hunt, and I will be gone all afternoon. While I am gone you can wander all about the farm. Each puppy must go by himself. By the time I come home I want you to show me something you have done to be useful. To the one that has the best proof of his usefulness I will give as a reward a large meaty bone that I have hidden for just such an occasion as this." Without any further instructions Mrs. Pointer departed, and the puppies were left to think it over by themselves.

"I know," said Spot, "our mother wants us to learn to hunt by ourselves. I shall go and look for birds." "And so shall I," agreed Black Face. They departed in opposite directions.

"Our mother wants us to show how far we can run," said Long Legs. "I shall be back with the proof of how much better I can run than any of my brothers," and he was off.

Fatty sat still thinking the matter over for a while, and then with a lazy groan and a sly look at Tiny Long Ears he started away too. Poor wee Tiny Ears was left all by himself. He was so much

barn, and the cruel hawk was cheated of his prey.

"Well done Tiny Long Ears," cried an approving voice close by. It was Mrs. Pointer. She had been in hiding and had watched it all. When Tiny Long Ears' brothers all came home, they told their stories one by one.

Spot and Black Face had failed in their attempt to find a bird. Long Legs had run so far he had tired himself out, but he had nothing to show for all his work. Fatty, the naughty fellow that he was, confessed that he had spent the afternoon hunting for the meaty bone his mother had promised as a reward.

"The prize goes to Tiny Long Ears," Mrs. Pointer announced. "By guarding his master's hen yard he has done the most useful thing of all. A dog doesn't have to go to look for things to do to be useful. He can make himself of use right at home;" and so saying she went to get the promised bone, that had not been hidden in a hard place to find at all, so Fatty was doubly fooled.

Tiny Long Ears was not a selfish dog, and after he had eaten all he could of the bone, he divided the rest up among his brothers—all except Fatty, for that naughty fellow had been sent to bed without his supper because he hadn't played fair—and he deserved the punishment, didn't you think?

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Christmas Gifts That Boys and Girls Can Make.

HAVE you ever thought of it?—that the gift you make means twice as much as the one you buy? Any one who has the cash can go to a store and buy something, but the gift you make takes care and kindly thought with every moment of the time.

So if you want to give gifts to brothers and sisters, father and mother, grandfather and grandmother, "cousins and aunts," why not make them? It's good practice, too, for you can't make one thing, and make it well, without being being more capable for the next one.

Gifts Girls Can Make.

Girls first.—isn't that right boys? You know if you want to be chivalrous you always put the less sturdy first. So now, girls, we shall talk for a while just to you.

Candy.—Among the gifts you can make, what about candy? Almost every girl can make candy of some sort, but here are three kinds that perhaps you don't know. (1) *Dandy Potato Candy*—Put a cupful of mashed potato into a bowl, add gradually $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar, then stir in a teaspoonful of lemon extract, 1 cup cornflakes, and 1 cup chopped peanuts. Press into a greased tin and leave in a cool place 24 hours, then cut into squares.

Another way is to mix together 3 tablespoons mashed potatoes, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, and enough powdered sugar to make a stiff dough. You may add some chopped figs or dates if you like. Make into balls and press a nutmeat into the top of each. (2) *Carrot Delight*—Mix $2\frac{1}{4}$ tablespoons powdered gelatine with 4 tablespoons water. Pour 1 cup corn syrup into a saucepan, add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar and 1 cup milk, let boil until a little dropped in cold water makes a soft ball. Remove from the fire, add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cooked and mashed carrots, 1 cup coconut, the soaked gelatin, $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon butter, 1 teaspoon lemon extract. Beat stiff and turn into a well-greased pan; keep in a cool place over night. (3) *Bean Yum-yums*—Boil $\frac{1}{2}$ cup corn syrup, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup maple syrup, 1 cup cooked and mashed beans, 1 cup sugar, and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water for 5 minutes. Add $2\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons powdered gelatin dissolved in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup lukewarm water and cook, stirring all the time, until it threads from the spoon. Take at once from the fire and flavor with peppermint extract. Pour into wet tins, leave in a cool place over night, then cut in squares and roll in sugar.

All of the above candies should be very fresh when eaten, so do not make them until the day before Christmas.

A little gift that any girl can make is an *embroidered handkerchief*. Buy those with narrow hems, and work an initial in one corner, surrounding it with a little vine in the form of a circle. The embroidery may be white, pale pink, or pale blue. . . . A *crocheted face cloth* makes a gift that anyone will like. An easy way is to make it in plain file. The center square is made first a thick row of blue is crocheted all around it, then the border is put on. If liked the whole square may be done in plain file, with a blue edge all around the outside. . . . Your girl friends will be delighted with a set of pretty suspenders made of gathered ribbon casing with elastic between and safety pins at each end. Finish the lower ends with rosettes. . . . For grandpa nothing can be nicer than a slipper case, and for grandma a bag to hold her yarn when she is knitting. It is made of flowered ribbon of cretonne tucked and featherstitched to form a "handle," and she will like it all the better if you write out very neatly on a card (pinned to the bag) the following verse, or some other one which you "make up" yourself.

Dear grandma, when at work you're sitting
With your fine darning or your knitting,
This little bag will hold your ball,
And keep it from full many a fall.
Just hang the bag upon your arm;
This keeps the ball from any harm
And when with knitting you are through
The bag will hold your needles too.

Lastly, what could please little sister better than a raffia hat for her doll? You can get the raffia for a few cents at Woolworth's. First make a little wire frame for the hat, then braid the raffia and sew it together to fit, trimming the hat with anything you like.

Gifts Boys Can Make.

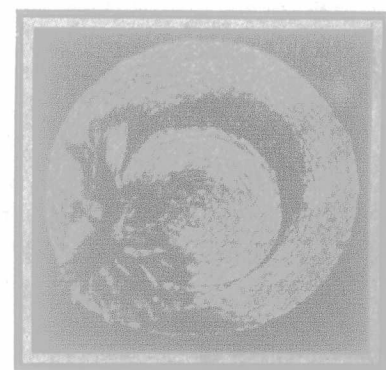
Spool Rack.—Take three small shelves of the same size (the sides of small wooden boxes will do) and bore holes at each corner. Also hammer wire nails right through near the front edges to slip the spools of thread on when the rack is completed. Through the holes run very stout cords upon which empty spools are strung to keep the shelves apart. Fasten the cords firmly underneath the lowest shelf and let them be knotted at the top at each hole, then produced to hang the rack up by. Last of all enamel the whole with black or brown Jap-a-lac or other shiny paint.



A Bag to Hang on Grandchild's Arm to Carry Her Knitting.

Kitchen Rack.—Take a piece of planed board about 3 feet long and a foot or more wide. Near the upper edge fasten two small bits of board for brackets, hollowed out at the top to receive the handles of the rolling pin, and just the right distance apart. Beneath screw hooks and pegs at intervals upon which to hang baking-spoons, egg-beater, grater, etc. This rack hung above the baking table is a great convenience for baking day. A small cotton slip should be made to slip over the rolling pin when not in use.

Ottoman.—Take a large round old cheese-box. Strengthen it with slats of wood. Pad the top very thickly and cover with cretonne or chintz. Also cover the outside of the box with the



A Little Raffia Doll's Hat.

Braided tissue paper will do if you haven't any raffia.

same, neatly pleated on and fastened with brass-headed tacks. This "ottoman," besides serving for a seat if strong enough, may be used for holding stockings or shoes. If you give it to your mother she will likely use it for a patch-box.

Footstools.—(1) Paid the outside of a stout wooden box of the right size thickly with old cloth, tacking it on smoothly. Cover with thick cretonne, or with a clean bit, of carpet, fastening all down smoothly and neatly. Wherever an edge needs covering tack a row of braid along with brass-headed tacks. (2) Make square solid legs and about the top of them nail slats of wood through which a row of holes have been bored near the upper edge (about an inch apart). Lace fine rope back and forth to form a basket-work top, and, when done, enamel the whole black or dark brown.