

Hildred of the Perfect Tail

By WID

THIS then is the tale of Hildred M. K. II., Hench-hound of Bon Echo and the joy of all folks who have youth in their souls. It is of little moment that Hillery, as she is popularly known—for Hildred is a difficult word to shout a score of times rapidly,—is neither a hound nor has she the qualities of henchery developed to any alarming extent.

The blue blood of the Bull family of Boston flows through her veins and her proud lineage shows in face, ears and tail; in the white collar that girdles her neck and the brindle star planted in the center of the white streak on her forehead. She is a thorobred from her pushed-in snout to the tip of her perfect screw tail.

When you meet a Boston with a tail that turns and twists and looks altogether as if it were an amusing mistake, you may be sure that its owner is one of the true aristocrats of the breed. Hillery's tail is the bon mot of her whole figure and whether it be held in repose or wig-wagging her satisfaction, it is as Shakespeare said about somep'm, a thing of beauty and a joy forever. It is a short tail and very chic and fits like the justly famous tailor-made article.

A technical or even an esthetic discussion of a tail may easily lead one into embarrassing situations and since Hillery is a modest pup let us get up to her ears at once.

The bat and the Boston must have come like the ant and the bee from Venus or some other distant spot. Their ears show a strong family resemblance and as far as a very amateur biologist can determine are for the purpose of hearing. Since Hillery's ears serve her in good stead in this way and Old Mother Nature has shaped them so beautifully and so that they might catch the faintest chirp of the wee-est chipmunk, it seemed a crime to clip them. So Hillery goes merrily about her important affairs, two big, brown, bat's ears carried with nothing less than elan, eclat, and pep.

The clipping of dog's ears is a malicious and evil practice and can have no excuse. To take a young pup and shave off his ears is bad enough but then to call Art to the side of the mutilator