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PETS of the hollywood stars



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A leading Hollywood motion picture and drama critic for over 25 years, William E. Oliver brings to PET LIFE readers an inside story of the fabulous pet world of Hollywood. In future issues he will tell about motion picture and TV animal award winners, protection of performing animals, training jungle beasts for movies and other fascinating tales from the world's capital of pets and pet performers.

by william e. oliver

HOLLYWOOD'S FLAIR for the fabulous extends to its pets.

Although Hollywood pet shop owners will tell you the stars of screen and TV generally are conservative in their choice of animal companions, when it comes to their adornment, 50 percent of all the money spent on their pets goes for wearing apparel and stylish accessories to match what their owners wear—smart berets, knitted and embroidered sweaters, jeweled necklaces and mink-trimmed coats! This, in addition to the large amounts stars spend on their pets for tonsorial, chiropodist and other services.

Hollywood stars range far and wide in their choice of pets. Besides such conventional types as cats, dogs, birds, fish, hamsters or horses, their pets include skunks, snakes, ocelots and even ant-eaters.

Perhaps it is due to the more or less permanent residence of the glamorous ones of TV and screen in their sumptuous homes adjacent to Hollywood, that many of them, such as James and Pamela Mason and Jayne Mansfield, maintain such large broods of pets that their friends refer to their households as "menageries."

Among the stars' dog pets, French Poodles—white, black, large, medium and toy—have been long time favorites. But now the friendly, relaxed Basset is

coming into favor and the Mexican Chihuahua is pushing his tiny physique and affectionate personality back into the foreground.

Recent acquisitions by the stars give some idea of the current Hollywood interests in the pet line.

Columbia star Felicia Farr gave her daughter a Beagle last Christmas.

Kim Novak now has a Dalmatian (coach) dog.

Victoria Shaw has two Siamese cats and was recently presented with a Collie.

Cliff Robertson has added a Wire haired Terrier to his collection of two domestic short hair cats.

Tab Hunter has bought himself a gift of an Arabian horse.

Jerry Lewis has a Great Dane.

Cornel Wilde lavishes affection on a parrot called Louis.

Natalie Wood, of Warner Brothers studios, has a white toy Poodle called Touché (accent on the final "e").

Alan Ladd keeps a big Boxer named Brandy.

Kim Spalding has a Pit Bull, Woody.

Peter Lawford recently acquired a Wire-haired pup, Asta Jr.

"You Bet Your Life" Groucho Marx owns two French poodles, Soto (1950 model) and Dreamboat ('55).

Johnny Washbrook, star of "My Friend Flicka" has a year-old pure Ger-

man Shepherd named King Kong.

Bill Leyden, M.C. of "It Could Be You," has a miniature French poodle, Liam (Irish for "Bill").

Stuntmaster Art Linkletter of "People Are Funny" supports a French Poodle named Beau, a kitten named Pandora and five parakeets.

Followers of the new style in expensive jeweled sweaters for pets include Joan Crawford, Greer Garson, Liberace and Dinah Shore.

Jayne Mansfield, one of the Hollywood stars whose home swarms with a variety of pets, you will remember seeing in "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?" with a Poodle named Fabulous. It wore a jeweled wardrobe valued at more than \$1000, and participated with Jayne in such antics as taking a bubble bath, dining at a fancy night club and "skiing" at Sun Valley.

Jayne said she developed her love for animals when she worked as a receptionist in the office of a veterinary, long before she started her climb to fame in the movies. Her new husband, Mickey Hargitay, has just built a large kennel for her Great Dane with his own hands. With her seven-year-old daughter, Jaynie, from her previous marriage, she loves to romp in her new Holmby Hills home with five dogs, three cats, a rabbit and their numerous progeny. (Please turn to page 28)

1. "Owwwww! You're pinching!" At least, that's what Universal Pictures star Jeanne Crain appears to be exclaiming, as one of her horses champs playfully on her hand.
2. Jayne Mansfield with her daughter Jaynie and just a few of their pets.
3. Her Afghan hounds are constant behind-the-camera companions of Dorothy Malone, star of Universal-International's "The Tarnished Angels."
4. Pamela Mason (Mrs. James Mason in private life) with one of their 10 cats, this one of the distinguished American breed which Pamela calls "Alleys."
5. Anne Francis, M-G-M star, lends an ear to her pet Parakeet, Sheba.
6. M-G-M's Debbie Reynolds with her two French Poodles, Fannie, the small white one, and "Tour Jété."
7. Bandit, a Pekingese, is one of three dogs owned by Betty White, star of ABC-TV's "Date With the Angels" series. A pet lover extra-ordinaire, she has had as many as 12 pets at one time.
8. Raymond Burr, star of CBS Television Series, "Perry Mason," with his pet burro, "Gia Gia," at his Malibu Beach home.
9. Actress Amanda Blake, who plays Kitty on CBS Television's "Gunsmoke," takes over the doghouse from her mother and son canine pets, Boxer Berdina (left), and offspring Toulouse, half Boxer, half Spaniel.
10. Jimmie Durante takes time off from a busy TV schedule to play with his Parakeet.

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pets of hollywood—continued

The Siamese cats of James and Pamela Mason, are perhaps the most famous pets in Hollywood. Ever since the Masons arrived from England with five of these legendary, austere, silken-furred aristocrats of the feline kingdom, their cats have been talked about. In their Beverly Hills home, the Masons maintain a menagerie of three Siamese cats and seven run-of-the-mill felines which Pamela calls "Alleys." Along with them, this joyous pet household is kept lively by a German Shepherd called Lady, and a delightful little Yorkshire Terrier and Chihuahua cross-breed called Buffalo, gift of June Havoc.

The proud Siamese and the "Alleys" don't fraternize too well, Pamela explains, so they have cleverly arranged the house so that each breed can have its run without the two getting together in a sudden donnybrook on the stairway just as some guest enters the house.

One of the problems created by the appearance of several litters of kittens each year, has been nicely solved by Pamela Mason. She appears nightly with Tom Duggan on his TV KPOC show in Hollywood. A mention to the TV audiences that a new brood of little strangers has arrived at the Mason domicile usually finds homes for them in short order.

The Masons' living room walls are lined with pictures of animals, paintings of lions, tigers and household cats, including several painted by James Mason himself, and their two young children. In a place of honor are six prints of Japanese cats by the famed artist, Foujita.

From her long experience with pets, Pamela Mason has derived some very definite ideas concerning personal relations with them. She believes the friendship of pets, especially cats, must be earned by assiduous cultivation. She likes her pets to maintain dignity and independence of spirit in their dealings with human beings, which is why she and her husband prefer Siamese cats. Asked about the common notion that cats are attached more to a place than they are to people, she says, "Cats are definitely fond of human beings, providing human beings take as much trouble in understanding a cat and making themselves agreeable to it as they would do with their human friends."

"Siamese cats are bright and very witty," Pamela says, "although we have known some dumb ones. They can be every bit as intelligent as a monkey. Some day, I rather think I'd like to have a monkey for a pet!"

Siamese cats have a great sense of humor, the Masons explain. "They often talk back to you, taking the tone of your voice, teasing you, and provoking you

if you are lax in giving them enough attention."

Pamela describes how the Siamese pet of a friend would jump on the mantlepiece if he became too long absorbed in conversation with a visitor, knocking an object d'art to the floor, and then sitting up to stare innocently into space when its startled master broke out of his pre-occupation with the friend.

"Sometimes when I hang on to the phone too long," Pamela tells, "one of our Siamese cats will jump onto the bed, pretend it is scratching a hole in the coverlet and then sit on the spot as though it were up to some naughty antic!"

The Masons' fondness for animals has brought some unusual pets to their home. One of them was a baby opossum, which they tried to raise on a bottle, only to discover that these night prowling mammals can be successfully raised only on their mother's milk, which contains some mysterious vitamin not found in animals that live in the sunlight.

Another unusual pet of the Masons was the skunk which Joan Bennett brought them, carefully de-skunked, of course. It was a Valentine Day gift to Joan from Hedda Hopper. Properly disarmed, Mrs. Mason says, skunks can make beautiful pets. Their own skunk never got along with the cats. It would express its disapproval of the feline aristocrats by stamping its feet and continually scolding them.

Among the past inhabitants of the Mason menagerie have been rabbits, parrots, guinea pigs, ducks and geese. The ducks didn't stay long. "I think ducks are unintelligent," says Pamela, unlike one Hollywood star who bought a flock of ducks to decorate her swimming pool until the cleaning bill rose to alarming heights. On the other hand, Pamela thinks geese are very intelligent and make fine pets. Their geese became very attached to her husband. One of them would waddle over to him and do a love dance to show its affection, she says.

As to the inevitable parting with loved pets, the star has this to say. "Always keep several pets. In that way, you can bridge the sorrow over the loss of any particular one. I would never have a solitary pet!"

Living with a household of pets has been a familiar experience to Pamela Mason since childhood. Her mother, who lives in London, has 12 cats to this day, which she takes out, two at a time in a perambulator, for their daily airing in Hyde Park.

Betty White, who appears on ABC-TV in the "Date With the Angels" show, always has at least three dogs around the house, the current trio being a young, elderly Pekingese named Betty's pet

miniature Poodle called Dancer, and Stormy, a St. Bernard.

"Every child should have at least one pet," says this star. "An ideal pet for a young child is a dog. It is a parent's duty to teach a child very carefully in the proper care of a puppy. Dogs are a lot like children themselves, and they like to be commended for things well done, and they dote on rules."

Her advice is patient concentration on the job of training, and consistency in their treatment, or they will become confused. For chastizing them, she uses a folded newspaper, which, she says, does the trick without inflicting pain. She used this method to train her St. Bernard not to stand up on its hind feet and put its paws on the shoulders of her Hollywood friends when they come visiting. Now, whenever the front doorbell rings twice, Stormy, the St. Bernard, heads for the bedroom and stays there until invited out.

The ideal apartment house dog she considers to be the Pug, which is now coming back into favor after languishing too long among the memories of the Gay Nineties. The Boxer she considers among her top favorites, because these dogs are gentle with children and good protection for them, although the Collie also makes a wonderful child's pet.

On the subject of pure breeding, she doesn't believe it is necessary for pet animals. "Some of the most adorable and most intelligent pets I know of are mixed breeds." ▶

BABY LIZARDS

BY BOB KENDALL AGE 13 YEARS

One evening when I was walking down our alley, a large female plated lizard ran in front of me. It ran under a piece of old lumber. When I looked under the board, she was lying in a depression in the dirt.

I caught her and dug in the dirt and found 17 eggs buried at different levels.

When I brought them home I put them in a bowl with wet paper towels over and under them. Then I put this bowl in a larger bowl with a small amount of water in the bottom. Over the top of these bowls I put a piece of glass. I kept the papers damp and changed them when needed. The papers were changed every two days in order to keep the eggs from spoiling.

The morning of the 29th day I noticed the eggs had started to hatch. They all hatched within two days. The lizards had a beautiful golden color on their backs. They make wonderful pets. Their main diet is small spiders. ▶

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