

## FRIENDS INSTEAD OF FURS



He who kills has robbed himself of that which he has slain.  
Trapped animals can never bring the trapper joy again.  
How wonderful to trap them in a harmless camera's eye  
And have them on a picture print where they need never die.

—Helen Ward Gall

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Imagination is the power to put yourself in someone else's place — to feel as he would feel. Imagine that you are a rabbit, or a fox, or a beaver. You come outside to look for food. You also like to play, and to meet your friends.

What if some monster studied how you live and then set traps and snares right where you have to go—to get food, to play, to visit your friends? Or right outside your door so you couldn't come out without stepping in them?

What if he knew a lot more than you do, and what if YOU got caught? Imagine how you would feel. Now you know how an animal feels when he gets caught in a trap or snare. Someone smarter and stronger than he came and spoiled his life.



A Living or a Life?

Some people make a living by trapping. But many have given up this way because it caused suffering and death to other creatures.

Mr. C. A. Morehouse of Canada writes: "Through early childhood to middle age, I had to trap fur-bearing animals to help out in making a livelihood, but my heart was against the pain, suffering and killing."

One day when Mr. Morehouse was taking a young bobcat from a snare he suddenly looked up to the sky and said, "Oh God, I'm so tired of killing!" Shortly after that he took up all his traps and snares and quit trapping for good.

Although he needed money, he learned to live on less and found his life much more worth living. Staying in a woodland cabin, he studied the wild animals who came around him. He got a great deal of fun out of watching them and making friends with them.

### Grey Owl



The world-famous Canadian naturalist Grey Owl trapped animals until he learned better. Things like the following broke his heart, and he decided to get along with less money rather than go on hurting helpless animals:

A mother beaver nursing one of her kittens, held fast by one foot in a trap. She was moaning with pain.

A crippled beaver with only one hind leg and three stumps, doing his best to carry on.

Said Grey Owl, "Now I no longer wished to kill. To see them so abused awake in me a kind of loyalty . . . They seemed to me like little folks from some other planet, whose language we could not yet quite understand."

### As for Seals . . .

Infinitely soft, the white coat of the baby seal is used for fashionable fur trimming of ladies' garments. A thoughtful woman will never wear this fur, and will do all she can to entreat pity for the helpless seals.

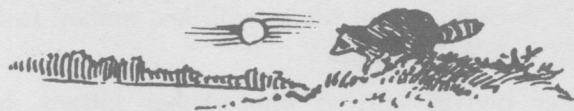




### Friends Instead of Furs

Grey Owl began to study beavers, and he and his wife adopted a pair of orphan beavers and raised them. These youngsters were clean, affectionate, intelligent and amusing. When Grey Owl and his wife came home after being away, the little beavers ran to meet them, crying and begging for candy. They loved pancakes, and apples, and they liked to play games. Through them Grey Owl learned to love the Beaver People—small furred brothers who loved and trusted him.

Another famous woodsman, Mr. Carl Marty Jr. of Wisconsin, U.S.A., says: "As I walk in the forest in the darkness of the night, and the bear, deer, fox and raccoons walk up to me in friendship and lick my hand; when the porcupine climbs up my arm and gently nuzzles my ear; when the beaver swims in from the lake, stands up and grasps my leg crying like a human child to be held in my arms; and when the fox jumps through my open window to lie on my bed; I feel that they are asking me to help their misunderstood brothers in the woods to a better understanding between their kind and man."



### How You Can Help

If you are a boy, determine to make a living without hurting any living thing. Many boys with know-how, cameras and patience, begin early to photograph wild animals and eventually find that they can write and illustrate articles and books which are in great demand.

If you are a girl, vow never to wear fur. If you love the soft look of fur, admire it on the animal himself, where it belongs. And for yourself there are synthetic "furs" which look and feel lovely, yet have not caused pain and death to animals.

Where there's a will, there's a way . . .

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