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Author: Edith Brown Kirkwood

Illustrator: M. T. Ross

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***** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK ANIMAL CHILDREN:
THE FRIENDS OF THE FOREST AND THE PLAIN *****

ANIMAL CHILDREN

THE FRIENDS OF THE
FOREST AND THE PLAIN.



EDITH BROWN KIRKWOOD

ILLUSTRATIONS
M. T. ROSS



Animal Children

The Friends of the Forest and the Plain.



By

Edith Brown Kirkwood

Drawings by
M.T. Ross



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Ninth Edition

*To all children who find
friends in the Forest or on
the Plain, and especially to
Samuel and to Gilbert, this
book is lovingly dedicated.*

FOREWORD

When God made the world He planted the flowers and the grass and the trees to make things beautiful to look upon; He swung the sun and the moon and the stars in the sky to make things bright; He put the birds in the trees to fill the air with music, and when He made the animals we believe that he intended them to be the friends of man.

Why, isn't the dog the best playmate that a boy can have? Did any one ever hear of Towser or Gyp being false friends? And the soft, dainty, cunning bit of a fluffy ball of a kitten who comes rubbing its downy sides against the tiny girl's skirts begging for a return caress, is there a play-fellow more lovable? And the squirrel who comes begging at the window for nuts; the bunny rabbit who snuggles its

delicate nose, trustingly, under the little boy's chin; the horse who has been man's friend in times of trouble and of peace, bearing his burdens or scampering with him over the fields and roads in play; the cow who has sent her good milk to the babies of all time; the sheep and the goats who have given of their wool to keep us warm,—we love them all dearly.

In this volume we have tried to make friends and playmates of all of the animals. You have loved the "Flower Children" and the "Bird Children" whom the publisher already has made your playmates. We feel that you are going to be just as happy to know the "Animal Children." Therefore we add to "The Little Cousins of the Field and Garden" and "The Little Playmates of the Flower Children," this volume—"The Friends of the Forest and the Plain."

EDITH BROWN KIRKWOOD M.T. Ross



ANIMAL CHILDREN



Sometimes I am so sorry that
my papa is a king,
It's really most annoying and
hurts like everything
To have the little girls and
boys all want to run away,
For if I am a Lion prince, I'm
a baby, anyway!

Some jungle boys, by mischief
made quite bold,
Once took the baby Tiger, so
we're told,
And in broad stripes they
smeared his coat so fine,
And 'round his neck they hung
a "Fresh Paint" sign.



**This monkey thought the
Leopard's spots
Were pasted on for polka-dots,
He asked her how much it
would cost
New ones to buy if those were
lost.**



**In her red and white gown
Miss Weasel's so pert
We are very afraid she's a gay
little flirt;
She is fearful of no one—
beast, reptile or man,
Just winks and cries gaily:
"Catch me, if you can."**



**This dapper young chappy is
Dude Ocelot,
With coat trimmed in many a
dash and a spot;
He's graceful and elegant, sly,
too, as well,
Just what he'll do next no one
ever can tell.**



**The cheetah is a great big cat
But very quick, for all of that,
She's cunning but she's gentle,
too,
And if you're good she's good
to you.**



**The little Bobcat and
Canadian Lynx
Just must be related (so
everyone thinks).
Except for their ears they're
alike as two pins,
And look every whit as if they
were twins.**



**A dainty, fastidious man is
Lord Otter
Who can live just as well on
land as in water,
He'll eat but the flakiest part
of a fish,
And this he considers his
favorite dish.**



**"It really is a bother to be
sought by everyone"
The vain young Ermine
boasted. "Why, it keeps me on
the run
To get away from kings and
queens and peers and ladies
great—
It truly gets me all fussed up
and in a dreadful state."**



**Young ferret, detective, said:
"I'll show you where
To track the bold rabbit right
into his lair."
Then he never saw bunny
right under his eyes,
But went swaggering off
looking wondrously wise.**



**"Now, Johnnie, my child,"
said wise Mamma Sable,
"When you see a trap run as
fast as you're able,
Or else, ere you know it, your
skin will be gone
As a beautiful fur for some
lady to don."**



**Mother opossum says she'd
like to ask
Just why other mothers should
find it a task
To care for one baby. Why,
here she has four,
And there's plenty of room on
her tail for some more!**



**Mr. and Mrs. Mongoose are
popular as can be,
The reason being very plain,
as you will all agree,
They are cunning and
affectionate and clean and
very nice,
They kill all snakes and insects
and naughty rats and mice.**



**It must be very easy for the
busy Beaver mother
To feed the Beaver sister and
her little Beaver brother,
For when they beg: "We're
hungry, give us something to
eat, please!"
She sends them off to nibble at
the bark of the big trees.**



**The puma is a bandit who'll
not meet you face to face
But waits to spring upon you
from some well-hidden place.
He'll strike you when your
back is turned, but away he's
sure to fly
If you should turn to look him
right squarely in the eye.**



**Lemur stays in bed all day
And waits until the night to
play;
That's why his soft feet make
no sound
And why his eyes are big and
round.**



**The bowery boy of the woods
is young Mink,
His coat is so lovely one never
would think
That'd he do naughty things,
but we've often been told
He is tricky and wicked and
saucy and bold.**



**"I'm not so very big around
and not great as to length,
But one thing Peccaries have
learned—in numbers there is
strength.
Now, if you do not bother me I
will not bother you,
But all my friends and family
will help me if you do."**



who is this boy in clothes so
neat?
Young Spring-bok, Africa's
athlete.
He lives up in the mountains
tall,
And as a jumper beats them
all.



**The Long-Eared Bat and the
Flying Fox and the Flying
Squirrel, too,
Decided to give an aero-meet
just to show what they could
do.
So they formed a club and
went around and invited
everyone,
Then up they flew and did
their stunts, and had a lot of
fun.**



**She is dainty as snowdrops
that fall from the skies,
Is this dear little Kitten with
bright, shiny eyes
And velvety ears and pretty
pink nose
And lovely white suit of soft,
furry clothes.**



**Baby raccoon takes all his
food and goes straight to the
pool,
He eats not one small bite of it
until it's wet and cool.
Now, although you may think
this strange and stop to
wonder why,
He, no doubt, thinks it just as
queer for you to like yours
dry.**



**The greatest of travelers that
one can meet
Is the little Deer-mouse with
the pretty white feet;
North, south, east or west she
will go at her will,
And never, no never, is known
to keep still.**



**The baby zebra ne'er should
roam
So very far away from home,
Lest someone, thinking her
striped gown
Was candy-stick, might eat her
down.**



**"I'm stopping for a moment
just to say 'How-do-you-do?'
I've just been decorated with
this ribbon of deep blue
Because of all the gracefulness
with which I trot and prance**

**No wonder that you give Sir
Horse your most admiring
glance!"**



**This tale is not so very new,
And, no doubt, has been told
to you,
But Donkey went to school to
play,
And now he sits dressed up
this way.**



**Here is the only baby who
never makes a noise
(Which must be very puzzling
to little girls and boys).
Yet the Giraffe is happy
'though he cannot shout or
sing,
For with that great long neck
of his he can reach anything.**



**The tapir feeds on leaves and
fruit
He's very, very hard to suit,
For boys who don't like bread
and meat
Have to find other things to
eat.**



**He has climbed to the top of a
rocky throne
To look down on a land once
so proudly his own,
His people are scattered, he
has no place to go,
He is weary and sad, poor
King Buffalo.**



**"Lemonade, lemonade," the
bold monkey cried,
"It's only five cents, and it's
cooling beside."
Miss Camel just sniffed and
tossed high her head,—
"I drink only every nine days,
sir," she said.**



**Milk or meat or leather for
shoes,—
Almost anything that we
choose,—
We'll find the good Cow gives
with joy
To every nice little girl and
boy.**



**I wonder where the names
come from (I'm sure that you
do, too).**

**For instance, there's the
animal that has been called
the Gnu.**

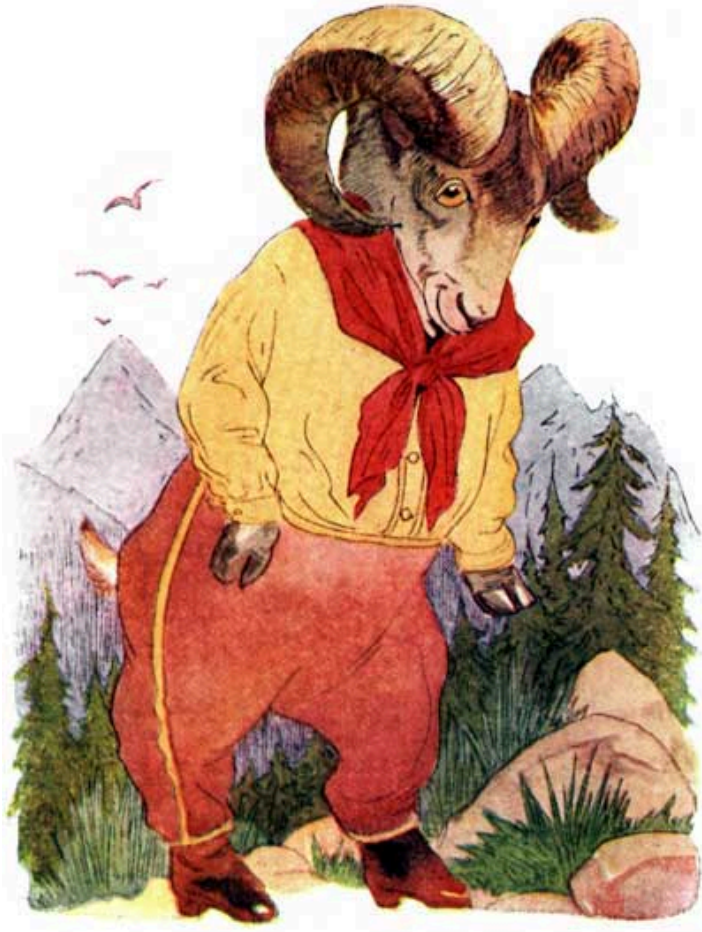
**His race is just as strange, too,
for no one seems to know
Just what he is—an antelope,
horse, bull or buffalo.**



**Big moose came boldly from
behind the tall trees,
And said in loud voice: "Who
called, if you please?
I'm ready to meet any one who
says 'Fight,'
But we'll come in the open and
do the thing right."**



**I am not sure I'd care to meet
This Big Horn Goat upon the
street.
Not when his eyes and smile
and air
Just seem to shout: "Come, if
you dare!"**



**Brave soldier ibex stalks
before the mountain fortress
high,
And watches eagerly to note a
stranger passing by.
"Who's there?" he calls, and
to his friends he whistles the
alarm,
And off they go to mountain
tops where they are safe from
harm.**



**The chamois lives in the
mountains high,
He's ever and ever and ever so
spry;
He leaps and he plays with
never a fall—
I'm sure that you never could
do that at all.**



**Billy Goat and Nanny Goat
went out one day to tea.
They promised Mother Goat
they'd be good as they could
be,
But on the way they passed
some goats who cried: "Oh,
see the dude!"
And then they had to go back
home for Billy got real rude.**



**Her coat is soft as velvet, of a
lovely yellow-brown,
With a bit of fawn for
trimming and a lining white as
down.**

**Her eyes are large and kindly,
she is gentle, too, as well,
You would love a little
playmate as sweet as Miss
Gazelle.**



**A sturdy young American is
Rocky Mountain Goat
With big, strong horns upon
his head, and shaggy, furry
coat;
He loves to scramble over
rocks or leap a mountain
brook,
And should you chase him he
will fly into his hidden nook.**



**"We reindeer come straight
from your own Santa Claus,
In our gallop of joy we never
will pause;
We eat from the mountain-
tops, drink from the dells,
And use for our skipping-
ropes merry sleigh-bells."**



**A large and handsome
personage is the Most Noble
Yak,
His mantle is a fringe of hair
that drapes his sides and back;
He's very, very grand, indeed,
when he stands up, you see—
In fact, he's just as noble as a
noble ought to be.**



**When young Mrs. Kangaroo
goes for a hop,
To call or to market or,
perhaps, out to shop,
She has no nice carriage where
baby can ride,
So he creeps in a pocket that
hangs at her side.**



**He does not care when the
sleet comes down, or the chilly
wind blows strong,
For he wears a hat that is
made of horn and a fur coat,
warm and long.
He never gets frostbitten toes
'though in snow and ice he
plays;
Now being a MuskoX can't be
bad in the long, cold winter
days!**



**"The very best I have, sir, fine
and a whole yard wide,
It wears, and has no bother of
a right and wrong side;
I'm sure she'd like a dress of it
—it will not spot or pull."
Then Miss Alpaca added: "I
know—it's my own wool."**



**This dear little Sheep has lost
Bo-Peep,
She wandered away as he lay
asleep,
He has found her bonnet and
shepherd's crook,
But for little Bo-Peep in vain
does he look.**



**Young Miss Rhinoceros gave a
beach party;
She greeted her friends with a
welcome most hearty.
They laughed and they joked
and they swam in the sea,
And the party was gay, as a
party should be.**



**She comes from Spain, this
proud, proud Dame,
Mistress Merino is her name.
Her wool weaves into dress
goods rare,
Her skin makes gloves the
ladies wear.**



**Merry guinea pigs one day
Went out in the fields to play.
Daisy smiled and wished that
they
Would never, never go away.**



**Here is a Sister Piggy and a
Brother Piggy, too,
The story they are telling here
would not apply to you,
For selfish little sisters who
make their brothers cry
Do not belong in houses but
with piggies in the sty.**



Now here's a little lady who
seems a wee bit shy,
Or is it that a teardrop is
trembling in her eye?
Well, I am sure that you or I
would make an awful fuss
If we should have to have her
name—"Miss
Hippopotamus."



**In animal land, as everywhere,
there lives a Mr. Boar
Who never is contented unless
he holds the floor;
His fellows all may frown at
him but he cannot refrain
From pushing into everything
—he's so selfish and so vain.**



**Mother and father and little
Miss Bear
Went out for a walk and a bit
of fresh air,
Not through the dark woods
(the old tale to repeat)
But in their best clothes, right
down the front street.**



**When little Miss Polar Bear
goes out to skate,
She never is bothered by
having to wait
Until mother wraps her all
snugly in fur,
For those are the clothes that
she carries with her!**



**Just look about and see if you
Can find a friend who's quite
as true
As this old Doggie that you see
A-smiling here at you and me.**



**I'm just a little Puppy and
good as good can be,
And why they call me naughty,
I'm sure I cannot see,
I've only carried off one shoe
and torn the baby's hat
And chased the ducks and
spilled the milk—there's
nothing bad in that!**



**The mandrill looks so very
queer
I'm glad he lives way off from
here;
He's purple, blue, red, black
and brown,
I'm sure he is the jungle
clown.**



**The baby gorilla, of the family
called Ape,
Is very like you in size and in
shape,
But he lives in the jungle with
black hair for clothes
And he gets very naughty the
older he grows.**



**This cute little brother and
sister you see
Seated cosily high on the limb
of a tree
Are the Marmoset twins,
whose appealing round eyes
Look from flower-like faces in
wond'ring surprise.**



**"I've climbed up here to smile
at you and, oh, what do you
think?"**

**I've scattered master's papers
and upset all of his ink,
But then if little Monkeys
always were so very good
They'd not be little monkeys
who just can't act as they
should."**



**He is so very lazy that he is
even loath
To walk upon his own feet—
this funny boy named Sloth.
He swings upon the branches
from morning until night,
And eats the leaves about him
with laziest delight.**



**He works on tunnels night and
day,
This Marmot boy from far
away.
When winter comes then in he
creeps,
And there until the spring he
sleeps.**



**The woodchuck resides in a
hole in the ground,
He is surly and cross, and he
never is found
Out in the bright sunlight
unless it's to see
If he can't make more winter
for you and for me.**



**This naughty boy just eats and
eats until he is a sight,
He eats until he cannot hold
another tiny bite.
Of course, he's just an animal
—they call him Wolverine—
But does he make you think of
boys that you have ever seen?**



**Old Mr. Walrus climbs out of
the deep
For a breath of air and an
hour of sleep.
You will note that he isn't
much on looks
But his skin we make into
pocket-books.**



**He sits on the top of a gay
wooden stand,
He stands on his head or he
shakes your hand,
He dances a jig or he trumps a
chant—
This jolly old circus Elephant.**



**Naughty, naughty Squirrel
baby, just as mother has you
dressed
In your ribbons and your laces
and your go-to-meeting best,
Then to run and grab an apple
and get yourself all mussed!
Are you not afraid that
mother will be very, very
fussed?**



**To market, to market, with
baskets of eggs,
Jack Rabbit goes hurrying on
his long legs;
He'll buy him some colors—
red, green, yellow, blue,
And when Easter comes
'round you know what he'll
do.**



**Chipmunk is a jolly lad,
Always friendly—never sad,
Shares with friends his wheat
grains yellow,
He's a genuine good fellow.**



**The coney lives in Palestine
But he is very seldom seen.
You see he is so small and shy
He hides when folks are
passing by.**



**They call this boy the Coati,
His name is strange, and so is
he.
He laps to drink, digs with his
snout.
On ground or trees he runs
about.**



**The cute little dogs that live on
the prairie
Were having a party and
making quite merry,
When Big Dog, on watch,
heard a noise and called
"Hush!"
And into their holes went the
guests in a rush!**



**What do you suppose is in
Gray Wolf's pack
He carries so stealthily over
his back?
Some chickens, a lamb and an
old mother hen
He has stolen to hide away in
his den.**



**His manners are so charming
and his eyes so very bright,
I do believe that we might call
young Fox a gallant knight;
But then when he is cunning
and just a little pert,
I'm not so sure but we should
call this same young fox a flirt.**



**We just want to ask if you ever
have seen a
Much dirtier boy than this
little Hyena?
He has played in the street at
making mud pies
Till nothing is clean save the
whites of his eyes.**



**Beau coyote sings a nightly
tune
To his lady fair in the big,
round moon.
She smiles and throws
moonbeams to him
And he serenades till her light
is dim.**



**Tommie and Tillie Badger
went out in the field to play.
Said Tommie: "Here, I'll teach
you—put down your head this
way,
Then toss your heels into the
air and give a little twirl—
You can't help turning
somersaults although you are
a girl."**



**Miss Leopard Spermophilus,
with her high-sounding name,
Says just to be called
"Gopher" is really a shame,
And she's right here to tell you
—if this knowledge you should
lack—
She's the only one who wears
the stars and stripes upon her
back.**



**Doggy barked and said:
"What fun
To make that Porcupine girl
run;
Girls for boys to tease were
meant."—
But girls with pins are
different.**



**Sir Knight Armadillo, from
tail tip to nose
In armor that's sure to bring
terror to foes,
Goes forth with his weapons to
his battle ground,
And looks like a pineapple
walking around.**



**Away in Australia the Echidna
stays.**

**He is noted because of his
strange little ways;
His claws are so sharp that in
manner quite tragic,
When frightened he sinks in
the ground as by magic.**



**Miss Ant Eater's mouth is so
dreadfully small
It scarce seems it could be a
real mouth at all,
And her long, furry tail is her
blanket at night,
It covers and tucks her in all
snug and tight.**



**This queer little Mole has a
star for a nose
Just the shade of the pink in a
dew-wet rose.
He lives down in the ground
where 'tis always like night,
So perhaps his star nose is to
twinkle for light.**



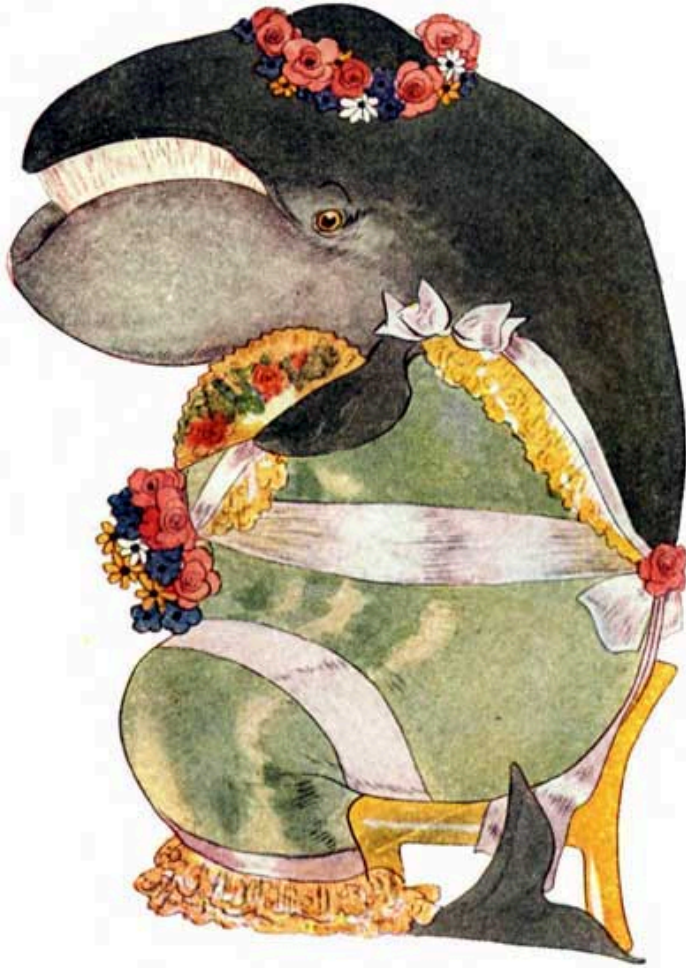
**Here we have Mr. Duckbill of
no little fame;
His mouth, you will see, is
what gives him his name.
He can walk, swim or burrow
and (so we have heard)
His wife, Mrs. Duckbill, lays
eggs like a bird.**



**Such a dainty little person in
her coat of pale, clear gray,
Is this maiden, Miss
Chinchilla, and the hunter-
folks all say
She is so clean she's exquisite
and never dreams of harm
When they go to take her
silken fur which helps to keep
her warm.**



**The circus fat lady is big Mrs.
Whale
With her very large head and
her very long tail,
And her ears and her eyes
almost covered from sight
In the folds of thick skin that
wraps her up tight.**



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CHILDREN: THE FRIENDS OF THE FOREST AND THE PLAIN ***

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