

NATURAL HISTORY
OF
ANIMALS.

WITH BEAUTIFUL ENGRAVINGS.



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HISTORY OF ANIMALS.
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CAMEL.

This useful beast is a native of Asia, and Africa, and is generally of a lightish brown color. His height at the shoulders is from five to six feet, and his length is from six to eight feet. He has long, slender legs, and two hunches on his back. The hair is soft, woolly, and unequal, being longer about the head, throat, and haunches, than other parts of the body. The tough and spongy feet of these animals are peculiarly adapted to hot climates, for in the most fatiguing journeys they are never found to crack. The sand, indeed, seems to be their chief element, for no sooner do they leave it and touch the mud, than they can scarcely keep upon their feet; and their continual stumbling in such



places is very dangerous to the rider. They can travel over the sandy desert, without drinking, for several days together; and they can smell water at the distance of more than a mile; and after long abstinence will hasten towards it, long before their drivers can perceive where it is. Their patience under hunger is also very great, as they will go for many days with only a small quantity of food. They will lie down to rest on the sand, without showing the slightest discontent.

A large Camel is able to carry a load of a thousand or twelve hundred pounds weight. When about to be loaded, these animals, at the command of their drivers, bend their knees, put their bellies down to the earth, and remain in that posture till they are loaded and ordered to rise.

In eastern countries, but particularly in Arabia, there is no mode of traveling so cheap, convenient, and expeditious, as that by Camels. The merchants and other passengers, to prevent the insults and robberies of the Arabs, unite together with their Camels sometimes to the number of ten thousand, and form what is called a caravan. The Camels are not hurried; they only walk about thirty miles a day; and at night are unloaded and allowed to pasture at freedom, though they seldom find any thing to eat. The Arabians consider the Camel as a gift sent from heaven, a sacred animal, without whose assistance they could neither subsist, traffic, or travel. They drink the milk of the Camel, eat its flesh, and make garments of its



hair. In possession of their Camels the Arabians have nothing to fear from other persons ; they avoid their enemies by hastily proceeding into the desert, at any rate, if necessary, of more than a hundred miles in a day. All the armies in the world would perish in the pursuit of a troop of Arabs.

The pace of the Camel being a high trot, M. Demon says, that when he first mounted one of

the beasts, he was greatly alarmed lest this swinging motion should throw him over his head. He, however, being once fixed on the saddle, found that he had only to give way to the motion of the animal, and that it was impossible to be more pleasantly seated for a long journey, especially as it did not require much guiding. "It was entertaining enough," he says, "to see us mounting our beasts : as soon as the rider is seated on his saddle, the Camel rises very briskly, first on his hind, than on his fore legs ; thus throwing the rider first forward and then backward ; and it is not till the fourth motion that the animal is entirely erect and the rider finds himself firm in his seat."

Camel's hair is an important article of trade, as it serves for making tents, carpets, the small painting brushes, &c. and strong leather is made of his skin.

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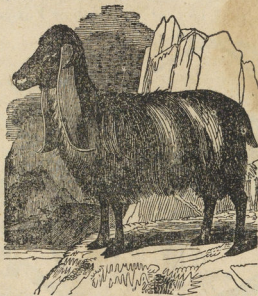
GOAT.

The Goat is an animal found either in the wild, or domestic state, in most parts of the



world. In some parts it is a very useful animal, yielding milk, meat and clothing. It is playful and capricious; it delights in mountainous regions, and springs fearlessly from cliff to cliff with surprising dexterity. It feeds on mountain herbs, leaves, buds, and the bark of trees. In gardens it is mischievous. The flesh of the Goat is wholesome food, and that of the kid a dainty. Her milk is sweet, nourishing, and in a measure medicinal, and is much used

in Wales, and some other places, with good effect, by consumptive people.



The Long-Eared, or Syrian Goat, is remarkable for the length of its ears, which are sometimes more than a foot long, and broad in proportion. The shepherds sometimes find it necessary to cut off a piece of one of the ears, to

enable the animal to graze more conveniently. It is rather larger than the common Goat, and has long, silky hair, of a reddish or Fox-color.



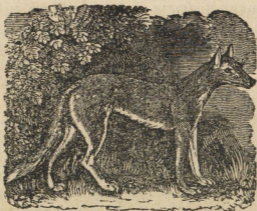
The Rock Goat, or Ibex, is found on the Carpathian mountains, the Pyrenees, the Alps

and in many districts of Asia. Their agility in bounding from rock to rock is surprising; and the hunting of them is difficult and dangerous. They are expert in eluding the chase of men, dogs, and beasts of prey; and when closely pursued, will throw themselves down steep precipices, and by falling on their horns escape unhurt. The general color of the Ibex is brown, mingled with a little grey; its beard is black, and it has a black stripe running the length of its back; its belly and thighs are light colored, like the common deer. Its horns are from two to three feet in length, falling backwards in a curve towards the rump, and are almost all their length surrounded with prominent rings.



WOLF.

THIS animal, in appearance has some resemblance, both in size and shape to a large common dog. The usual height of a full grown Wolf is from a foot and a half to two feet; and its length from the nose to the end of its back is



from two feet and a half to three feet. Its thick bushy tail is nearly a foot and a half long. It has sparkling eyes, a sharp nose, large pointed teeth, firm limbs, and coarse hair. In color it varies from pale grey to brown; and some Wolves are nearly black, but when old their hair turns quite gray.

The Wolf, for his size, possesses considerable strength particularly in his mouth and head; and can with ease carry away a sheep of middling size, with such swiftness that the shepherd cannot overtake him, and the pursuit of dogs

only can oblige him to quit his prey. He is a very fierce and yet artful creature, and inhabits the forests and woods; from whence he comes forth, and cunningly goes against the wind, that he may the more readily smell his enemies or his prey, which he can easily distinguish even before he sees them, as his sense of smelling at a considerable distance is remarkably quick.

He wanders about for days and nights together in search of prey, and is naturally the terror of the sheep and lambs: when hungry he will in a most daring manner attack a whole flock at once, to satisfy the cravings of his ravenous appetite. On some occasions he has been known to attack mankind with the utmost fury. He is violently greedy, and bites cruelly, and always with the greatest force where he meets with the least resistance; but whenever he is resolutely opposed, he becomes cautious, and seldom fights except compelled by absolute necessity; and whenever he suspects danger, he turns coward and runs away.

There is nothing valuable about Wolves ex-

cept their skins, which make a warm and durable covering. They are such ferocious and useless creatures that all other animals detest them, yea they even hate each other, and therefore scarcely ever live together, but each one has his own hole. They are altogether offensive, having a savage look, a frightful howl, an insupportable smell, a perversive disposition, and brutal manners. Perhaps, of all other animals, Wolves are the most hateful while living, and most useless when dead. They become full grown in two or three years, and they usually live from fifteen to twenty years. The continual agitations of this restless animal renders him so furious, that he frequently ends his life in madness.

WILD BOAR.

Swine may be considered as holding an intermediate rank between those animals that feed on flesh, and those that feed on grass; like the latter they are cloven footed, and feed chiefly on grass and vegetables; like the former they



feed readily on animal substances, and do not chew the cud. They are diffused over almost all parts of the earth, except what lies within the polar circles. The common parent of them is supposed to be the Wild Boar; this animal is smaller than most of the varieties of the common hog, and his color is uniformly of a dark gray; his ears are short and black, his hair long, and about the neck and shoulders rather bushy. His snout is longer than that of the common hog; and he is armed with two tusks in each jaw; those in the upper jaw turn backwards, and then upwards; those in the lower jaw turn up-

wards and then backwards, and are sometimes eight or ten inches long; and frequently give mortal wounds to the enemies that attack him; they serve him also for tearing up roots, which are no small part of his chosen food. The wild Boar in his full strength will turn out of his way for no single enemy, not even for man. He is hunted by being pursued by heavy dogs, till wearied down, and is then slain by the spears of the hunters. His flesh is esteemed as agreeable food.

It is said of the Swine, that it is the only beast that will drink fermented liquors, and get drunk. Gay, in his Fable of the Gardner and the Hog, says,—

“The Hog, by chance, one morning roamed,
Where with new Ale the vessels foam'd;
He munches now the steaming grains,
Now with full swill the liquor drains;
Intoxicating fumes arise;
He reels, he rolls his winking eyes.”



ROE.

The Roe is among the smallest of the deer kind; but little more than three feet long, and hardly two and a half feet high. It is a very good looking animal, very swift, and very grace-

ful in its motions. Their hair is generally long; each hair ash-colored towards the root, but towards the end barred with black, and the end itself yellow. The hairs on the face are black, tipped with ash-color; the breast, belly, and legs are yellowish white, the rump clear white. They do not go in herds, but live in families, the male, female, and their young ones; and their attachment to each other appears to be strong. When the young are able to provide for themselves, they are driven off to other families. When they range in their native wilderness, their flesh is pleasant, especially when they are about eighteen months old. When kept in park, it is rather insipid, for they refuse to be domesticated. The Roe when hunted, runs in circles, repeatedly coming into the same track, and then leaps aside from it into some thicket, and lies still, while the hounds pass by, and miss him. They shed their horns in autumn and renew them in winter; the first year they have no antlers. They are found in various parts of Europe and Asia, and in some parts of America.

Formerly they were found in Wales, and in the North of England, but of late have disappeared from the island, except in Scotland.



SHEEP.

This animal is found in all parts of the world. It is of different species in different climes and countries, and of different varieties in the same country. It appears from scripture that they

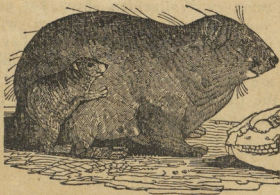
were a domestic animal from the creation, even Abel was a keeper of sheep. They were kept in large flocks in ancient times in Judea, and in the neighboring countries.

Among the different sorts we may reckon the common sheep, the Guinea or African Sheep, and the Cretan, or Wallachian Sheep. Among the varieties, the broad-tailed sheep; its tail sometimes a foot broad, and so long, that the shepherds have occasion to put under it a little board with wheels to keep it from the ground; it is found in Persia, Syria, and in the North of Africa. The many horned sheep, having from three to eight horns, their wool long, and resembling hair; found in Ireland, and other cold, northern regions. The fat-rumped sheep; the male light brown, mixed with white, the female black and white, their wool long and thick; instead of a tail they have a large protuberance of fat, covering the rump, which is esteemed a dainty, and eaten with the lean of mutton.—The Guinea sheep is large, strong and swift, with coarse wool, short horns, and pendulous ears.—

The Cretan or Wallachian sheep, has curious spiral horns, growing upright, and winding much in the form of a cork-screw; they have long shaggy wool.—The Spanish or Merino sheep are remarkable for the fineness of their wool, the thickness of their fleeces, and for retaining their wool longer than the common sheep.

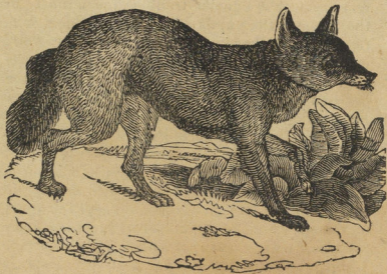
CONY.

The animal called in scripture the Cony, is very probably what is sometimes called the Ashkoko. The length of this animal is seventeen inches; he has no tail; his color is grey, mixed with reddish brown; his belly is white. Scattered over his body are strong, shining hairs, somewhat more than two inches in length, rising above his fur; his ears are round, his toes fleshy and soft, projecting beyond the nails, which are rather flat, than round and sharp. They are found in Ethopia, and also about Mount Lebanon. They live in families, or flocks, in natural, holes, or caverns among the



rocks. Numbers of them are seen sitting together upon rocks, at the mouths of caverns; here they sun themselves and enjoy the fresh air. In moving they steel along with their belly near the ground; they proceed a few steps, stop and proceed again. They are timid and gentle, and are easily tamed.





THE JACKAL

Is one of the commonest wild animals in the east, there is scarcely any one less known in Europe, or more confusedly described by naturalists. It inhabits the warmer parts of the old continent, and seems to occupy the place of the wolf, which is not there so common. In size

he is about equal to the common fox, but he differs from that equally troublesome animal in the form of the pupils of his eyes, which correspond with those of the dog and of the wolf; in the comparative shortness of his legs and muzzle; in his less tufted and bushy tail; and in the peculiar marking of his coat. The coloring of his back and sides consists of a mixture of gray and black, which is abruptly and strikingly distinguished from the deep and uniform tawny of his shoulders, haunches, and legs; his head is nearly of the same mixed shade with the upper surface of his body, as is also the greater part of his tail, which latter, however, becomes black towards its extremity; his neck and throat are whitish, and the under surface of his body is distinguished by a paler hue.

