



THERE was once a small brown and white guinea-pig called Tuppy. He led quite a happy life in a hutch and was well looked after by his young master. One night, however, he escaped . . . and how pleased he was to be free!

"Now I'm out in the big world!" he said. "I can go wherever I like! What fine adventures I shall have!"

He ran across the garden and then suddenly bumped into something large and soft. It was Sally the cat, who was carefully watching a mouse-hole in a green grassy bank.

"Clumsy! Why don't you watch where you're going!" she hissed at Tuppy, at the same time swinging her long bushy tail about in anger.

"What a fine tail!" exclaimed Tuppy, when he had recovered from his sudden fright. He tried to wave his own tail but couldn't . . . because he didn't have one.

Sally the cat looked at him and laughed. "My goodness! You've come out without your tail!" she said. "I shouldn't feel dressed without mine! What on earth have you done with it?"



"I don't know," said Tuppy, looking puzzled and searching the ground all around. "I must have dropped it somewhere."

"Well, here's Prickles the hedgehog. We'll ask him if he's seen it anywhere," said Sally with a wide grin. "Hi! Prickles! This poor little guinea-pig has lost his tail. Have you seen it anywhere?"

"I have just passed a bit of old rag in the ditch," said Prickles. "Would that be his tail?"

"Of course not!" cried Tuppy angrily. "Don't be so stupid!"

"Well, what is your tail like, then?" asked the hedgehog in a serious voice.

"I don't know," answered Tuppy. "I never noticed it till Sally told me that I must have lost it."

"Here's Jinks the brownie," said Sally, blinking at a little dark figure peeping out of the hedge. "Hi! Jinks! Have you seen Tuppy's tail? It's disappeared and we don't know where to find it."

"Dear me!" said Jinks, with a sly wink to Sally. "Now let me see . . . yes . . . I did see a tail somewhere. I'll fetch it! I expect it belongs to Tuppy!"

Off he ran, and soon returned with . . . what do you think . . . a piece of string! "Here it is!" he cried with delight. "Your worries are over. I'll put it on again for you, Tuppy, and I'll make sure you won't lose it a second time."

"That's not *my* tail," said Tuppy, looking at the old bit of string in disgust.

"Well, if you don't know what your tail is like, how do you know that it isn't yours?" asked Sally. "Of course it's yours! Prickles! Give Jinks one of your spines to use as a needle. He can make a tiny hole in it for an eye, and then thread it with a long thin blade of grass. The tail can be sewn on very quickly and easily."



"He shan't! I won't let him!" cried poor Tuppy in alarm. "That isn't my tail . . . and it will hurt me dreadfully to have it sewn on. I'm going back at once to my nice comfortable home. I hate this adventure!"

With these words he fled . . . and how the other three naughty creatures laughed! Tuppy soon reached the door of his hutch and jumped quickly inside. He pushed the door with his nose until it clicked shut. At last he was safe and free from his tormentors. No more escapes for him, and he would try hard to forget about his lost tail.

Sally, who always delighted in teasing, wouldn't let him forget. Every time the tabby-cat saw him, she would approach the hutch and say, "Have you not found your tail yet, Tuppy? Too bad! What a pity! Now what could you have done with it?"

Poor Tuppy would pretend he was deaf and make no reply.

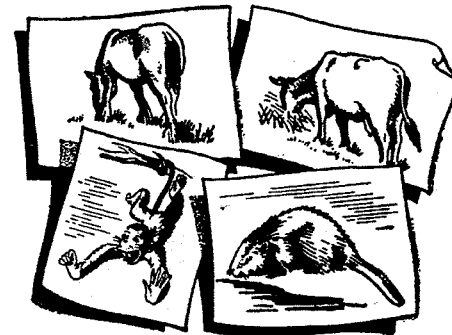
Enid Blyton



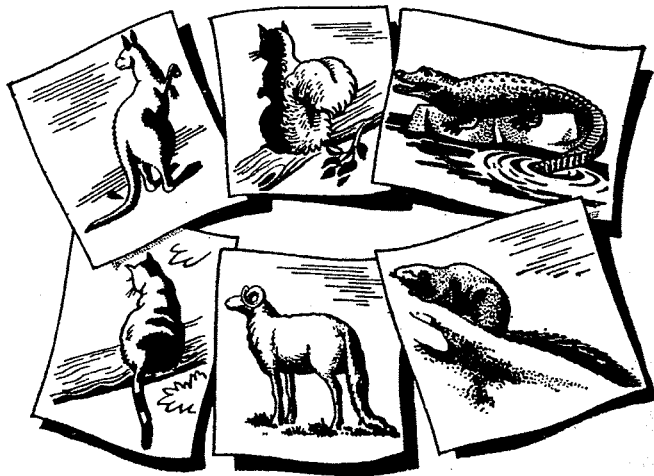
INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT TAILS

Most animals have been provided by nature with the kinds of tails best suited to their ways of living, and the following animals show the different uses to which tails are put.

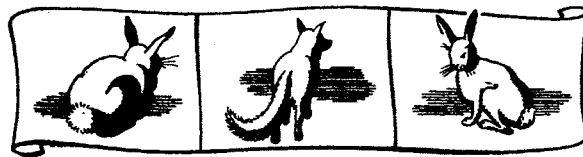
1. The **Cow** has a long tail with a small bush at the end, and this helps the creature to flick away the flies which worry it in the summer-time.
2. The **Horse** finds its bushy tail very useful as it is constantly fly-chasing in hot weather. Have you ever noticed that horses stand head to tail with each other so that they can swish away flies from each other's head.
3. The busy little **Beaver** makes good use of his flat powerful tail when he is building, and his tail also acts as a paddle when he is swimming.
4. The quick **Monkey** has a long thin tail which it uses as an extra hand when leaping from branch to branch.



5. The jumping **Kangaroo** has a long, thick, powerful tail which acts as a third leg when bounding along in huge hops, and it also helps to support the heavy body when the animal is sitting upright.
6. The **Squirrel** uses his tail like a plane in helping to guide his flight in very long and high jumps.
7. The long heavy tail of the **Crocodile** not only acts as a rudder when swimming but is a dangerous weapon of attack and defence.
8. A **Cat**, when walking along a high narrow ledge, uses its tail as a kind of balancing pole, by switching it from side to side.
9. Certain kinds of desert **Sheep** and **Mice** have very fat tails which they use as a food storehouse in the same way as a camel uses its hump.



10. The **Rabbit's** little white bob-tail, known as a *Scut*, is sometimes used as a warning signal to its companions when it is chased by an enemy, or used as a guide post by other rabbits following it to safety. This also can be said of the **Fox**, whose tail is called a *Brush*, and of the **Hare**, whose tail is named a *Fud*.



QUESTIONS ON THE STORY

1. What is the title of the story ?
2. Give the name of the little guinea-pig.
3. What colour was he ?
4. Where did he live ?
5. How did he meet Sally the cat ?
6. What was she doing at the time ?
7. What did Sally say to him ?
8. How did the cat show her anger ?
9. What did poor Tuppy try to do ?
10. Why was it impossible ?
11. Who was Prickles ?
12. What was the brownie's name ?
13. What was he doing when Sally saw him ?
14. What kind of tail did Jinks fetch for Tuppy ?
15. How did Sally say it could be sewn on ?
16. What did the frightened Tuppy do ?
17. What did the other three naughty creatures do ?
18. The guinea-pig tried hard to forget about his
19. What did Sally say to tease him ?
20. Poor Tuppy pretended that he was

QUESTIONS ON THE INTERESTING FACTS

1. Describe a cow's tail.
2. What kind of tail has a horse ?
3. What use does a beaver make of his tail ?
4. How does a monkey make use of his tail ?
5. How does the kangaroo's tail help him ?
6. The squirrel uses his tail
7. How does a crocodile make use of his tail ?
8. For what does a cat make special use of his tail ?
9. Which creatures use their tails to store food ?
10. (a) What is the name given to a rabbit's tail ?
(b) What is a fox's tail called ?
(c) What is the name given to a hare's tail ?

DEVELOPMENT EXERCISES

1. The following are animals but the letters in their names have been mixed up. Can you tell what they are ?
OGD, SAS, REHSO, ATC, SOMEU, MELCA, TOGA
PESEH.
2. The guinea-pig squeals and the cat purrs. What sounds do the following creatures make ?
(a) The pig (b) The dog
(c) The cock (d) The duck
(e) The mouse (f) The owl
(g) The wolf (h) The donkey
3. Make a list of animals which have horns.
4. Here are eight words:
prickly, spotted, tall, burrowing, gentle, blind, striped, tiny.
Which of the following animals does each word describe:
mole, leopard, lamb, zebra, hedgehog, mouse, giraffe, bat ?

5. Man has tamed many animals to help him.
Which animals help:
(a) by working for him,
(b) by supplying him with food ?
6. Which creatures are said to be:
(a) slow, (b) fast,
(c) clever, (d) stupid,
(e) brave, (f) timid,
(g) strong, (h) hard-working,
(i) lazy ?
7. Which creatures may be said to be:
(a) weavers, (b) hunters,
(c) fishermen, (d) miners,
(e) woodcutters ?

- Here are footprints of a human being, a hen, an elephant, a cow, a duck, a horse. Can you place them ?

