

**FOUR-FOOTED
FAVOURITES; OR,
STORIES ABOUT PETS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649587346

Four-Footed Favourites; Or, Stories About Pets by Various

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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VARIOUS

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FOUR-FOOTED FAVOURITES;

OR,

Stories about Pets.

FOUR-FOOTED FAVOURITES;

OR,

STORIES ABOUT PETS.

— Learn we might, if not too proud to stoop
To quadruped instructors, many a good
And useful quality, and virtue too :—
Attachment none to be wooed or changed ;
Fidelity that neither torts nor threats
Can move or warp ; and gratitude for small
And special favours, lasting as the life,
And glistening even in the dying eye.”

— Cowper.

LONDON:
T. NELSON AND SONS, PATERNOSTER ROW;
EDINBURGH; AND NEW YORK.

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Fond of Play

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FOUR-FOOTED FAVOURITES.

Introduction.

A MERRY party of children had assembled at Merton Hall at Christmas. Several families of cousins of all ages had met to enjoy the holidays together in their grandfather's large old-fashioned house. They had hoped for frosty weather and out-door amusements, and what was their disappointment when the day after their arrival was one of these dark, dreary, hopelessly rainy days so common in December. The sky was all of a dull dark grey,—not a break in the clouds to give the least hope of anything but constant rain. The children amused themselves at first with games in the house, and ran up and down stairs and round the old hall till they were weary.

I had established myself in my quiet study to answer a number of letters that had been accumulating for some time in my writing-desk, when the door was softly opened, and my favourite niece, little Rose, came quietly in, leading her pet dog by a ribbon which she had tied round its neck. Dear little Rose knew that

she was always a welcome visitor, she was so quiet and so gentle, and could keep as still as a little mouse when she saw I did not wish to be disturbed. She said she was "tired of play;" and she established herself comfortably in the large arm-chair by my bright fire, while her little pet rested at her feet.

Rose and I, however, were not allowed to remain long undisturbed. The rest of the party, "tired of play," too, and anxious for some quieter kind of amusement, soon came to ask for "a story." I looked in dismay at the letters still unanswered; and the sight of Rose and her pet suggested an expedient for giving occupation to all the children. I proposed that, instead of my telling them one story, each should furnish a story for the amusement of all. I gave them, as a subject, "Stories about Pets," and advised them to go to the library, and try if every one of them could find an amusing story about some pet animal. The stories were then to be written out, rolled up and put into a vase, from which, when all were finished, we might draw one at random and read it aloud. Each was to exert his or her ingenuity in finding the most interesting story, or the most singular pet.

The plan succeeded admirably, and furnished occupation and amusement not only for that dreary day of rain, but for many a day afterwards. The stories were as various as the ages and tastes of the party assembled. In offering the collection for the amusement of other children, we are sure that the variety is so great that there will be something to suit the taste of every one.

J. G. V. M.