History of Animals.



SOLD BY J. METCALF, WENDELL, Mass.



HISTORY

OF

ANIMALS.



J. METCALF....PRINTER. WENDELL, MASS. 1828.

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History of Animals.

RABBIT.



This is a common animal in our country, and very timorous. It is much hunted, the flesh being excellent food, and the fur is used in the manufacture of hats. The Rabbit makes for itself a hole or burrow, where it continues a great part of the day. It is sometimes seen sitting in bushes, or under a fence, chewing its cud like a sheep, and when started, it will, to elude its pursuers, take a long circuitous rout and make for the place from whence it started. The domestic rabbit is of various colours, white, brown, black and variegated, and somewhat larger than the wild rabbit.



GOAT.



The Goat is lively, playful, and capricious, it does not easily submit to be confined, but chooses its own pastures, delights in climbing precipices, and is often seen reposing in peaceful security, upon an eminence overhanging the roaring ocean. The milk of the Goat is sweet, nourishing, and healthful, and not so apt to curdle upon the stomach as that of the cow. The goat is capable of supporting immoderate heat, and is neither terrified by the storm, nor put to any inconvenience by the rain.

MONKEY.



Of these animals there is a great variety of kinds; and

they make nearer approaches to the human species, both in form and action, than any other class of quadrupeds. They are found only in warm climates, and chiefly in the torrid zone. They are remarkably lively and active, full of chatter, grimace, and mischief; they leap with great activity from tree to tree, even when loaded with their young ones, which cling to them.



IREX.



The Ibex is clothed with a thick warm coat of brown hair; a streak of black runs along the top of the back. It is very strong, and when closely pressed, will turn upon the incautious hunter, and tumble him down the rocks, unless he has time to lie down, and let the creature hound over him. And if the

pursuit be continued, this animal will throw himself down the steepest hills, and fall on his horns in such a manner as to remain unhurt. It is principally found on the Alps, the Pyrenees, and the highest mountains of Greece.

OX.



The Ox is a creature of great strength, yet so very gentle in his disposition, as

to be of infinite service in affairs of husbandry and agriculture, by drawing the plough, cart, &c. He is rendered more inclinable to fat, and in rich pastures he grows to an enormous size. His flesh is excellent and wholesome food, and his hide when tanned, furnishes leather for various purposes.



HORSE.



The Horse is the most excellent of all quadrupeds; and, next to the dog and the elephant, the most docile and affectionate. His noble form, his graceful ease, his strength, and above all, his activity and usefulness to man, render him a principal object of our attachment, curiosity, and care; and teach

us to regard him as an animal whose welfare is, in some measure, connected with our own. Yet, though he is often pampered with food, and flattered by attendance, he is much more commonly ill treated, even while in youth and vigour, and when too old for service, is criminally neglected.



ELK.



The Elk is about as large as a common horse. It is rather of the buck than of the stag kind, as its horns are flatted towards the top; and its common pace is a quick shambling trot, during which the hoofs clatter, like those of the rein-deer. It inhabits only the colder countries, and is generally found much larger in Asia and America

than in Europe. It is timorous and gentle; content with its pasture, and never inclined to disturb any other animal, when supplied itself. They subsist principally upon grass in summer, and the bark of trees in winter. When the whole country is covered with snow, they herd together under the tall pine trees, strip off the bark, and stay in that part of the forest while it affords them a supply.



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HOG.



The Hog is the most filthy of animals, delighting to wallow in the most dirty places, and feeding upon the refuse of the garden, the barn, the kitchen, or even the dead carcasses of other animals. It is commonly remarked of this animal, that it is useless during life, and may therefore be compared to a miser,

whose hoarded treasures are of no service, till death has consigned them to a better master.

The male is called a boar, the female a sow, and the young ones pigs. Their flesh is pork, which, when salted and dried is bacon.





