



George and a pathetic Tyke.

area punctured by the tip to swell. The opinion of the esthetic appearance of a lion fish varies from ugly to beautiful. One person even remarked once that Lacrechia was so ugly she was beautiful. Lacrechia is seven years old but not all of Steve's fish are blessed with as long a life as Lacrechia. He related a story of a puffer he had that was a little mentally deficient. It swam against the glass of the aquarium for hours, causing its lips to deform. To add to their menagerie they keep two salamanders, Sally and Mander, who eat better than most humans, living on shrimp, scallops, and worms.

Though Steve and George think of their animals as children, the don't go to the extremes that some people do. Jerry and Tim, who live in Seattle, have an entire wardrobe of clothes for their whippet. Louise is often dressed better than other kids on the block sporting a jogging suit for her morning jaunts, a Sesame St. T-shirt to lounge about the house in, and pajamas or a sweatshirt to sleep in. Louise is Jerry's dog, but Tim adopted her as his own when they got together. He's one to be found in the children's departments of local shops in search of the ideal outfit for his "snookums."

Just as some pets are surrogate children, some are merely friends. Rhoda Fleishman, a Portland potter, considers her horse Marbles a good friend and a luxury pet. Not being able to keep her in the city, Rhoda boards her at a

woman-owned farm near Estacada and visits her once a week. Marbles was given to Rhoda when she was just three months old and while Rhoda was living on a farm near Olympia, Washington.

Most of us are ignorant of the work and time necessary to train a horse. For the past year and a half Rhoda has been teaching Marbles to stand while being brushed, accept a lead, a bridle, be led, and to turn and stop. After Marbles is three years old, she will begin to saddle break her.

A spirited little filly, Marbles is going through the "terrible twos," a time when it is difficult for her to concentrate sometimes on what Rhoda may be trying to teach her. Quick to learn, Marbles remembers lessons Rhoda teaches after only ten minutes of instruction. Marbles is independent-minded and behaves only when it is required of her by Rhoda, unlike other animals, who generally mind anyone giving them orders.

People enjoy the company of pets for many reasons. They love you regardless of your mood. They are always happy to see you. They lick your tears when you cry. They never demand attention, yet are always there when you need to give it. They never talk back and they always listen even though they don't understand anything you say.

If by some chance this article has inspired any of you to adopt pets of your own, I have two of the cutest kittens . . .



Kids these days.



Rhoda and her horse, Marbles.