

"There, Little Purp, Don't Cry"

By J. P. McEVoy

IT SEEMS evident enough to the critical observer that animals were made before babies. At least dogs and cats were. Their frail architecture; their precarious joints and fastenings; and their general vulnerability to childish attacks point to an earlier appearance in evolution.

Otherwise I am sure dogs and cats would be so designed and executed that association with the young of the human race would not be so painful and distressing.

For instance, instead of having ears that lean away out and literally beg to be yanked, dogs would be equipped with telescopic ears which could be drawn in and kept out of the baby's reach.

And most assuredly cats would not have tails if it were planned from the beginning that cats and babies should some day be playing together on the same floor.

of encouragement for him. But even then it was too late.

There, little purp, don't cry: The baby is tough I know, And he pulls your tail Till your face turns pale And your buzzum is full of woe— For a two-year-old he's a hard-boiled guy.

But there, little purp, don't cry. There, little purp, don't cry: He steals all your bones, I know, And he chews your ears Till you cry big tears, But he won't in a day or so, I'm going to muzzle the tough little guy. There, little purp, don't cry, don't cry.

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I SPEAK of these things out of the fullness of a parental heart, after a careful, if somewhat agonized observation of my small but costly son as he fraternizes with the family dog and the community cat.

There is the cat, for instance. Not much of a cat, to be sure, but still, a pretty fair, serviceable, every-day, all-around cat.

Or rather, she was until Junior began to take her out walking with him. His method of persuading her was simple and direct. He believed in open covenants openly arrived at. Briefly, when he wished to take kitty for a walk he would walk up to her and say, "Come, pussy cat, we go for a half on the best." (Trans. "Come, pussy cat, we will go for a walk on the street") and absently taking her by the tail he would start off, much to pussy cat's embarrassment and general dismay.

I need not tell you that after several months of this pussy cat is but a shadow of her former self, and her tail, which she once carried like a banner on high, now droops with a most woe begone and baffled air.

AS FOR the dog, I choke up when I think of his dog. Such a brave dog. Such a forgiving, patient dog. Such an enduring dog.

I remember some time before the end I sat down and with tears streaming from my eyes I wrote these few words

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