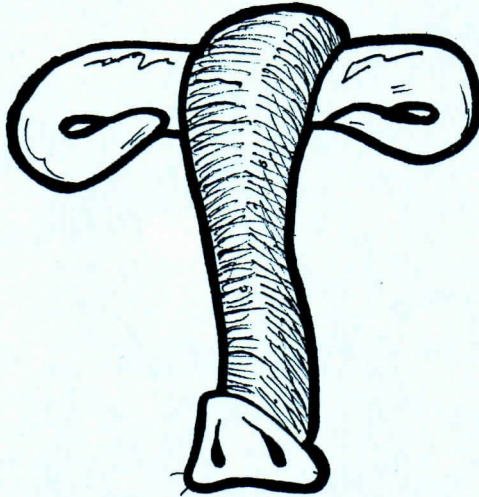
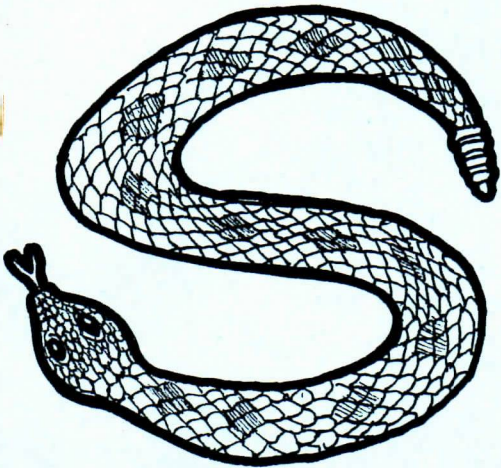
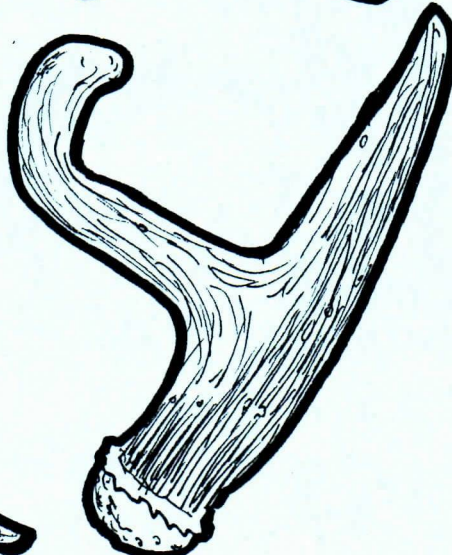
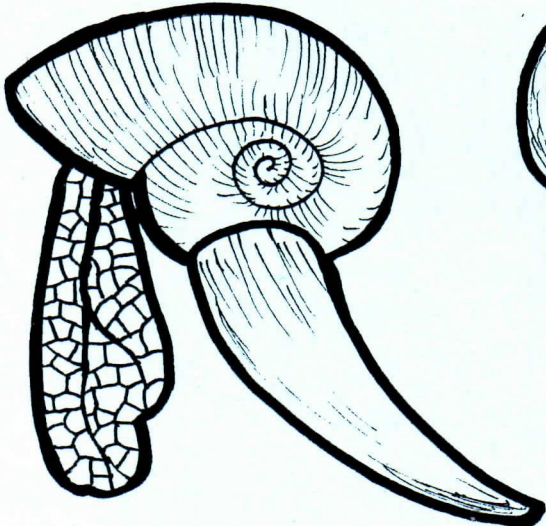
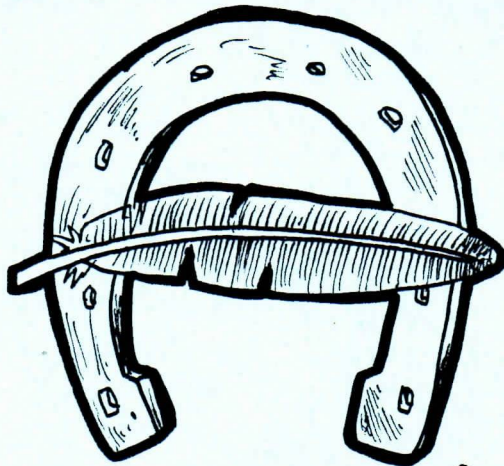
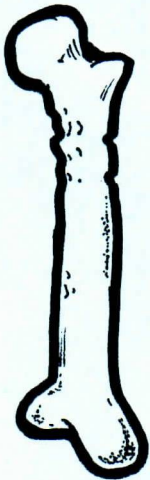


The Fanimals Bestiary



Being an
exhaustive
collection of
exotic creatures,
both wild and
domesticated;
captured,
classified,
catalogued
and
categorized
by
Ian Gunn



August 1994

The *Fanimals* BESTIARY
was
written, illustrated, edited, produced,
copyrighted and distributed by
Ian Gunn
P.O.Box 567, Blackburn, 3130, Australia

Any resemblance to real people, living, dead or moribund is
entirely up to your own interpretation.



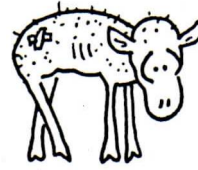
Hen.



Toad.



Duck.



Shorn.

Many moons ago, back beyond the dawn of time, long, long ago in 1991, Greg Hills, the newly incumbent (later to be even more incumbent) editor of *THYME*, the Australian Science Fiction News Magazine, came unto me in a vision of light and said "Gunny," he said, "can you knock us up a political cartoon strip for the 'zine? Something about the politics and scandals of fandom... make it topical and make it funny."

Now there's nothing funny about fandom and its little machinations. Ask anybody. Fandom is serious stuff, that's why we do it. We're not here to enjoy ourselves. And there's nobody in fandom who's pompous, stupid, arrogant, dishonest, backstabbing, pushy, wankerous, sly, selfish, pedantic or annoying enough to warrant having the mickey taken out of them in a cartoon strip, now is there?

So I said "No, I'd rather do something with cute, furry animals in it."

So I did.

I called it "*Fanimals*".

But, the trouble was, people were expecting a topical, satirical, political parody and began to misinterpret my innocent jottings. They began to read things into it that just weren't there. On many occasions the strip was embroiled in controversy. Some people were honestly convinced that I was using *Fanimals* as a soapbox to comment on fandom and air my opinions. As if I would!

There were even some deluded souls who sincerely believed that the cartoon characters represented people in fandom! They actually thought that these pompous, stupid, arrogant, dishonest, backstabbing, pushy, wankerous, sly, selfish, pedantic and annoying animals were in some way descriptive of real, living fans. How could this be? Surely there's no-one like that in fandom. At least, no-one I'd want to associate with.

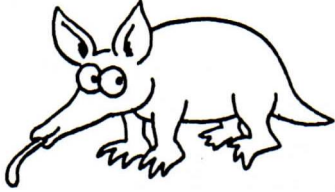
Yes, I'll admit that in some cases, people have pointed out similarities between certain characters and certain people, and I've eventually conceded that there could indeed be a slight, unintentional connection (usually some tenuous pun on the person's name or a reference to his or her hobbies or behaviour patterns) - but, really, would I do such a thing?

There are now over 120 fanimals in the fanagerie (not all of them have seen print until now) and their adventures have appeared in *Thyme*, *Ethel The Aardvark*, *The Constantinople International Fannish Cook Book* and even the AIDS Quilt Project. This *Bestiary* is your guide to the fanagerie. Have fun exploring. Please don't feed them. And be careful; some of them bite. Mostly, though they're pretty harmless, a pat on the head and they'll be your friend.

After all, they're just cute, furry animals...

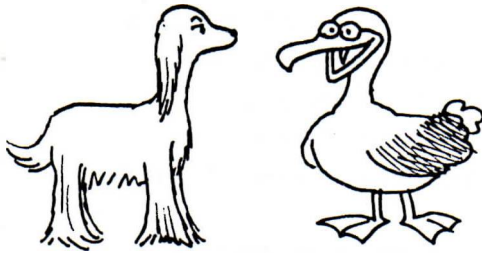
Trust me...

A



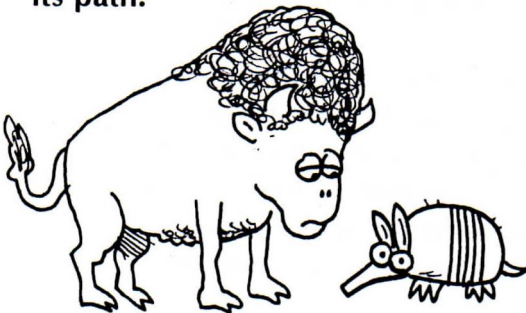
THE AARDVARK. A strange creature. Shy but bigger than it looks. Has powerful claws and a long tongue that can reach the most elusive prey.

THE AFGHAN HOUND. A graceful, aristocratic animal. Quiet, but noble.



THE ALBATROSS. A large intercontinental bird with a distinctive cry.

THE AMERICAN BISON. A large herd animal. Normally quiet and harmless, but dangerous if provoked. Can trample anything in its path.

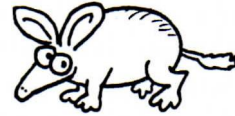


THE ARMADILLO. A thick-skinned desert dwelling animal. Harmless.

THE AXOLOTL. A rarely seen creature, at home in any environment.

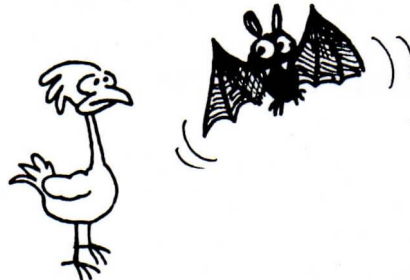


B



THE BANDICOOT. A marsupial of indeterminate habits.

THE BANTAM. A small chicken that runs around clucking and squawking.



THE BAT. A nocturnal animal noted for its habit of flapping around and squeaking because it is incapable of seeing where it's going.

THE BLUEBIRD. A blue bird.



THE BUG. A creature so small it is often overlooked. Has a life-cycle different to most other animals.

THE BOWER-BIRD. A creature fascinated by bright, shiny objects which it collects to adorn its home.



THE BULL. A large cud-chewing farm animal that isn't as dangerous as its dulcet bellowing might imply.

THE BUNNY. A timid creature. Easily befriended, but with very little in the way of self-defence. Often sought after for its skin.

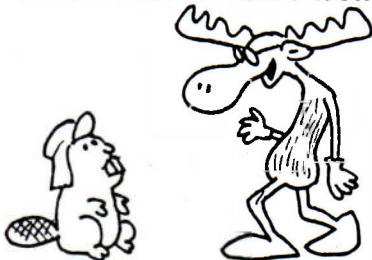


C



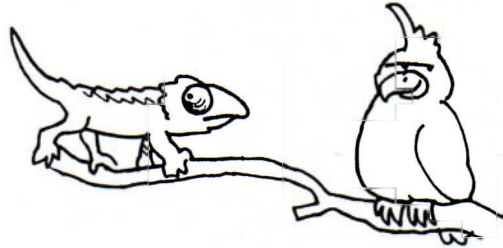
THE CAMEL. A stubborn and lugubrious beast noted for its loud rumbling growls and unpleasant demeanour.

THE CANADIAN BEAVER. An industrious creature from Canada.



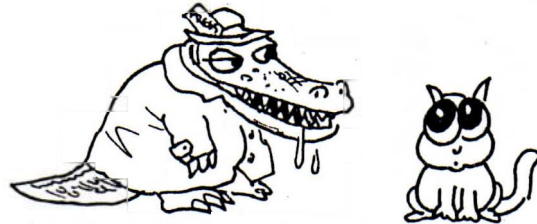
THE CANADIAN MOOSE. A large, magnificent beast which, despite its intimidating appearance has a quiet and pleasant nature. Lives in a cool climate.

THE CHAMELEON. An animal that can change its colour to blend in with the surrounding area, no matter what environment it is placed in.



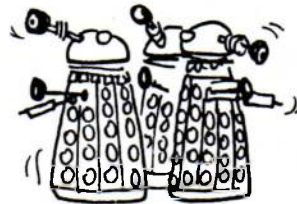
THE COCKATOO. A large bird which can sometimes be persuaded to talk.

THE CROCODILE. A rapacious carnivore capable of lurking in wait for its prey for days on end. Known to be partial to Canadian Moose and other creatures. Avoid.



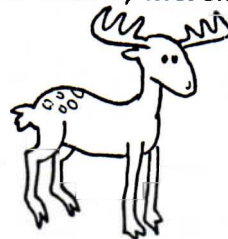
THE CUTE CAT. A small cuddly creature whose appearance belies the razor sharp claws it possesses.

D

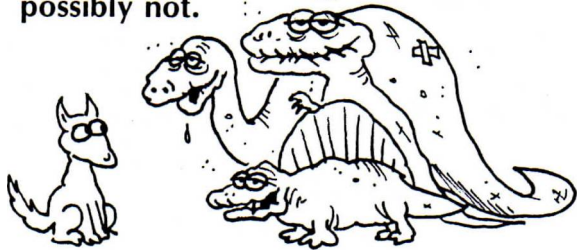


DALEKS. Strange alien creatures that come from outer space and cluster together in groups.

THE DEER. A beautiful and graceful creature, mercilessly hunted.

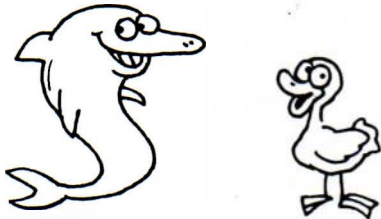


THE DINGO. A type of wild dog which does not bark. Has a very bad reputation, possibly deserved, possibly not.



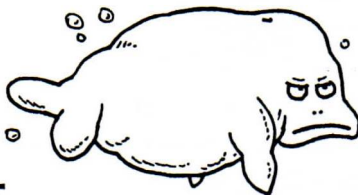
DINOSAURS. Large, cumbersome creatures that lived millions of years ago. Now believed to be extinct, their fossil remains can sometimes be found gathered together in pits and sinkholes, stuck in the mud.

THE DOLPHIN. A playful and friendly sea creature which can be taught to perform tricks.



THE DUCK. An amusing and popular bird, noted for its migratory habits. Now, alas, extinct.

THE DUGONG. A blubbery ocean-going mammal. Rarely sighted.



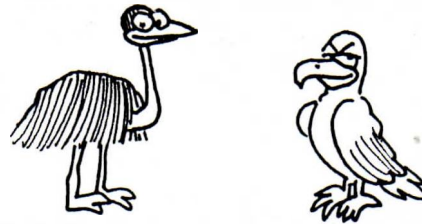
E



THE ECHIDNA. A small but prickly creature that curls into a ball if attacked.

THE EMU. A large bird which picks up all manner of things. Known to

peck if at all provoked.



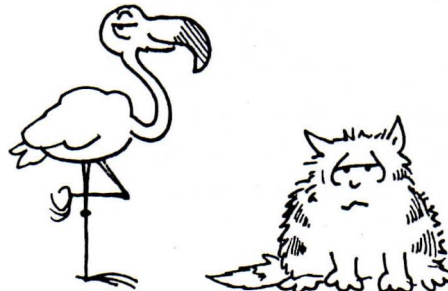
THE EAGLE. A majestic high-flying bird with sharp talons and a dangerous beak.

F



THE FERRET. A cunning, active animal that sniffs around burrows, usually emerging at night. Sometimes hibernates for short periods.

THE FLAMINGO. A tall and strangely graceful bird.



THE FLUFFY CAT. A pampered puss who enjoys the good things in life.

THE FLUFFY DOG. A big, bouncy, enthusiastic and very silly beast.



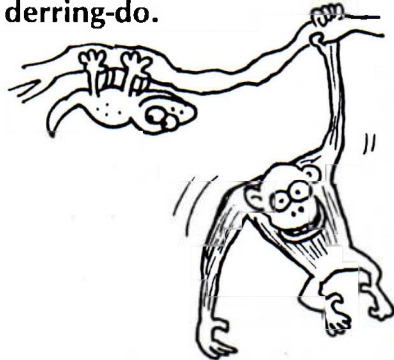
THE FLY. A small insect that buzzes around annoying people.

THE FROG. Looks like a Toad, but smaller and slimier.



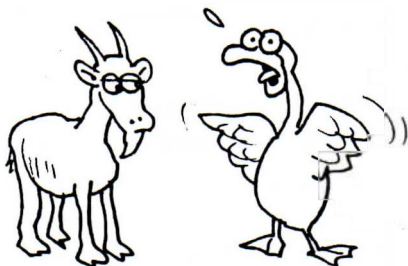
THE GALAH. A small parrot with a loud screeching voice. They congregate in flocks and terrorise the countryside.

THE GECKO. A small, fleet-footed lizard from tropical climes, noted for its unique ability to climb sheer walls, hang upsidedown from ceilings and perform other stunts of derring-do.



THE GIBBON. A hairy, capering beast with a hooting cry and a mischievous nature.

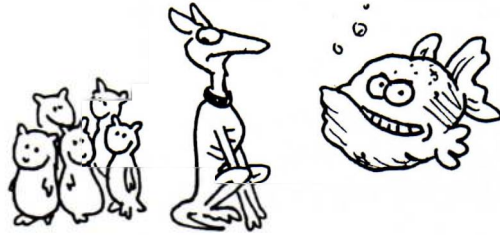
THE GOAT. A capricious ruminant.



THE GOOSE. A very silly bird indeed.

GOPHERS. Small, furry creatures that pop out of the ground all over North America.

THE GREYHOUND. A bony dog that runs fast before expiring.



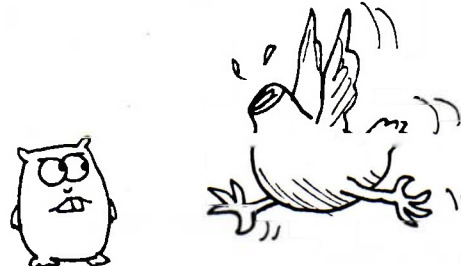
THE GROPER. A dangerous fish that lurks in dark corners waiting for passing prey. Avoid.

H



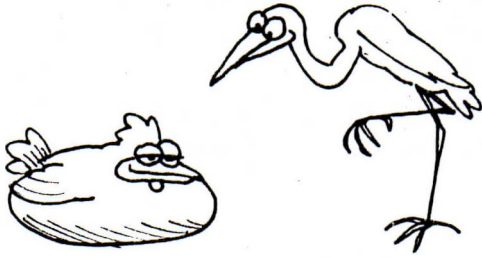
THE HAIRY DOG. A rough and ready hound. Affectionate but messy.

THE HAMSTER. A small, quiet, solitary creature with sharp teeth.



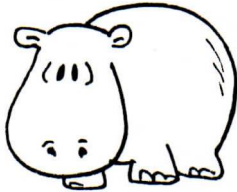
THE HEADLESS CHICKEN. A creature that runs around in a blind panic with no idea where it's going and no knowledge of what to do when it gets there. Not a pretty sight, but fortunately these animals expire rapidly.

THE HEN. A largish, maternal fowl that sits still.



THE HERON. A tall, thin wading bird with slow, deliberate and exaggerated movements.

THE HIPPO. An odd beast with strange habits.

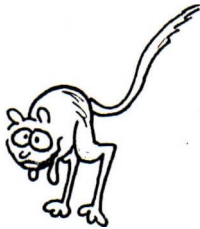


I



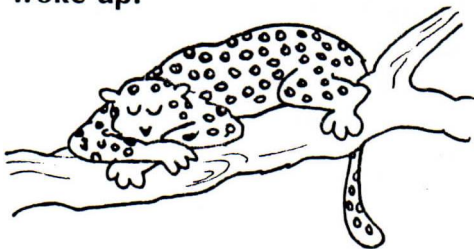
THE IGUANA. A slow-moving, cold-blooded reptile. Can be ignored.

J



THE JERBOA. A small hopping thing. Harmless.

THE JAGUAR. A ferocious cat that would rip you to pieces if it ever woke up.



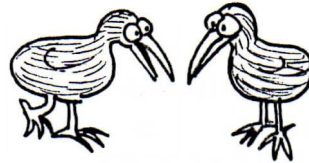
VIII

K



THE KOALA. A little, cute, cuddy creature that dozes in trees.

KIWIS. Shortsighted birds from New Zealand. Despite the popular belief that they are flightless, they do actually visit our shores on occasion.

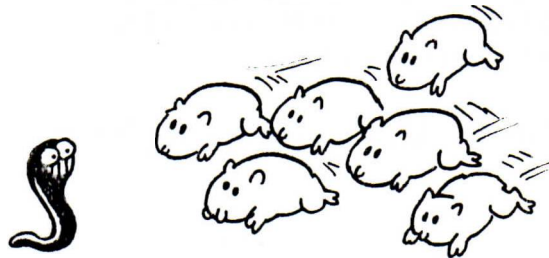


L



THE LAMB. A small, woolly creature that bleats.

THE LEECH. A bloodsucking creepy crawly that feeds off other animals until it becomes bloated.



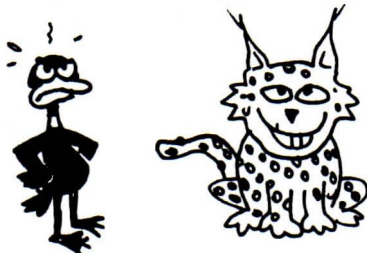
LEMMINGS. A large group of creatures with a great sense of team spirit and fellowship. They follow the crowd secure in the knowledge that they are all heading in the same direction.

THE LIMPET. A small shellfish with tenacious gripping power.



THE LION. A regal beast distinguished by its glorious mane and long-suffering expression of patience.

THE LITTLE BLACK DUCK. A feisty, short-tempered fowl who is always in a flurry.



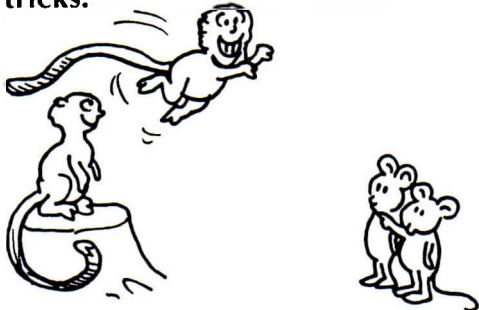
THE LYNX. A small wild cat.

M



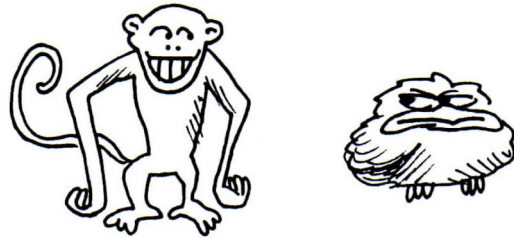
THE MAGPIE. A fierce, territorial bird with a sharp beak.

MARMOSETS. Agile, busy little monkeys who get up to all sorts of tricks.



MICE. Small but inquisitive creatures.

THE MONKEY. An agile, capering creature that gets up to all sorts of mischief.



THE MORPORK. A lugubrious bird with a facial expression of abject misery.

THE MOTH. A nocturnal creature attracted by bright lights.



THE MOVING SPOTLIGHT. Not an animal at all, but rather a natural phenomenon. The Moving Spotlight flits around at random and brings fame and fortune to all it shines upon.

THE MUSKRAT. A small, hairy, territorial creature of fearsome countenance.



N



THE NUMBAT. A small marsupial.

O



THE ORANGE TABBY. A large cartoon cat.

THE ORANG-UTAN. A large, gentle, slow-moving ape.

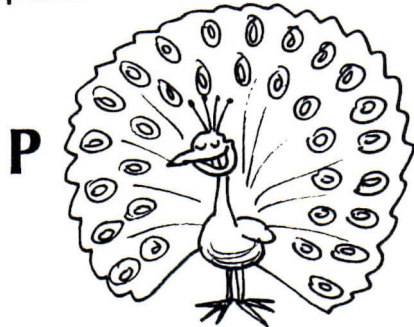


THE ORCA. A large sea-mammal. Harmless despite its fearsome appearance.

THE OWL. A wise old bird.



THE OYSTER. A small bivalve which on rare occasions produces a pearl.



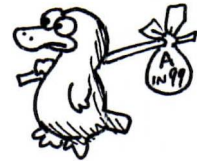
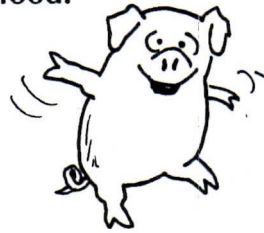
THE PEACOCK. A beautiful bird that struts around displaying its magnificent plumage.

PEANUTS. Small, sub-tropical nuts that spend most of their lives with their heads buried in the ground.



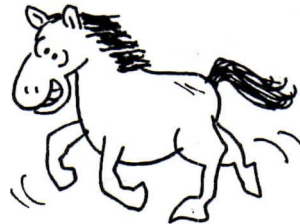
THE PENGUIN. A flightless, antarctic bird.

THE PIG. A largish animal that grunts with pleasure and enjoys its food.



THE PLATYPUS. A strange animal that looks as if it was put together by a committee.

THE PONY. A frisky filly.



THE POSSUM. A cuddly creature that spends much of its life asleep.

Q



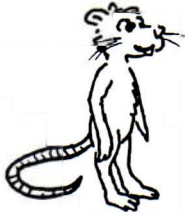
THE QUOKKA. A small, hopping animal from Western Australia.

R



THE RABID DOG. A frighteningly dangerous mad cur that is completely unpredictable and afraid of water. Avoid.

THE RAT. A cunningly clever critter, usually very quiet but able to squeak when encouraged.



THE RED HERRING. A rosy-coloured fish.

THE RHINOCEROS. A large, thick-skinned beast of some power.



THE ROOSTER. A self-important, strutting fowl with a loud crowing call. Likes to rule the roost.

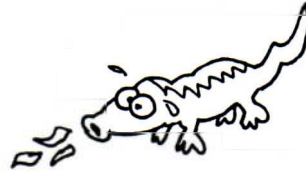
RUMOUR PARROTS. Travelling in flocks, these colourful birds will repeat anything they hear, though it usually comes out in a somewhat garbled form.



RUNNING DOGS. Media hounds

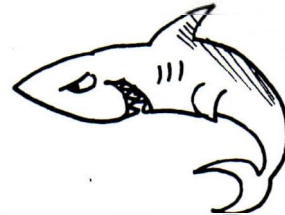
that follow on the heels of their chosen target, sometimes turning on them for no apparent reason.

S



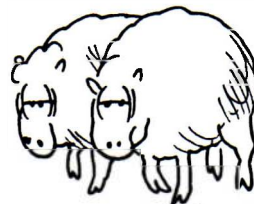
THE SALAMANDER. Some like it hot. This fire-lizard is no exception.

THE SCOTTISH GROUSE. A denizen of the highland heather.



THE SHARK. A rapacious carnivore that never sleeps.

SHEEP. A species of herd animal of little brain. Easily led.



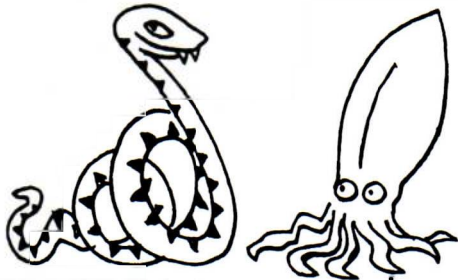
THE SLOTH. A shy, rarely seen, slow moving creature which does not remain active for long.

THE SMALL DOG. A small yappy dog.



THE SNAIL. A tough-shelled, slow mollusc.

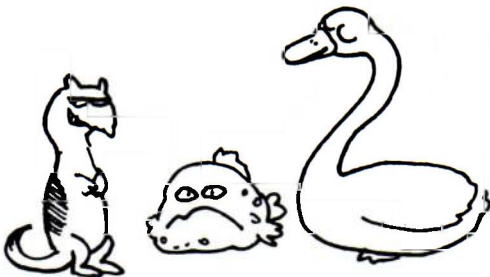
THE SNAKE. A sneaky crawler. Not to be trusted at all. Venomous and deadly.



THE SQUID. A many-armed sea-creature.

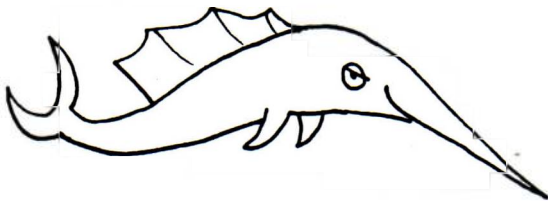
THE STOAT. Looks like the Ferret, but much more vicious.

THE STONEFISH. A rarely seen fish that blends into the background.



THE SWAN. A graceful bird.

THE SWORDFISH. A large and dangerous fish.



T



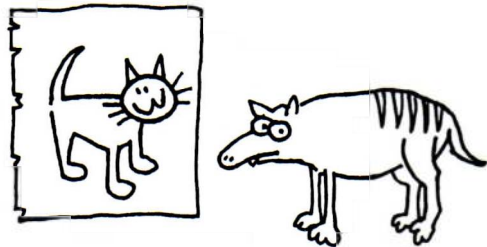
THE TADPOLE. A small, slimy thing that does nothing but swim around in circles in a very small pond and hopes to become a frog one day.

THE TEDDY BEAR. Despite the outward appearance of a fearsome carnivore, this is really cuddly and harmless. Completely hand-stitched and machine washable.



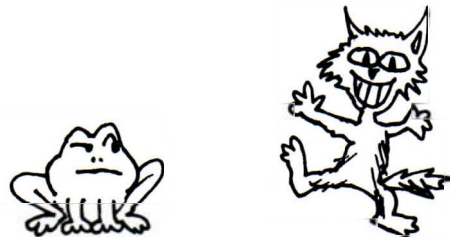
THE TERRIER. A small but vociferous dog. Friendly if treated with kindness.

THE THREE-LEGGED CAT. Don't ask me, I didn't invent this one.



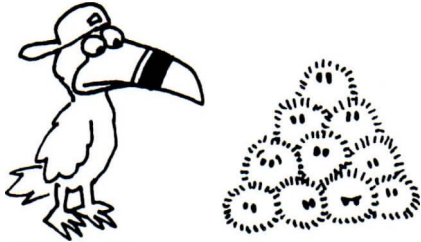
THE THYLACINE. A Tasmanian beast widely believed to be extinct.

THE TOAD. Something that looks like a frog but isn't. Has its own schemes and agendas and is known to be migratory.



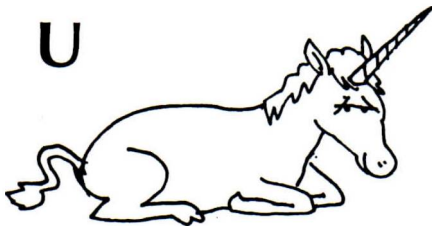
THE TOM CAT. A sexual dynamo with the morals of a... well, you know. Despite its unsavoury habits it's a friendly and much loved creature.

THE TOUCAN. A pretty bird which makes funny noises. That's about it really. Gets picked on by the other birds in the pecking order because it's so pretty and makes funny noises.



TRIBBLES. Strange alien creatures that come from outer space and cluster together in large groups.

U



THE UNICORN. A mysterious creature that sometimes seems invisible. Only those who seek it can see it.

V



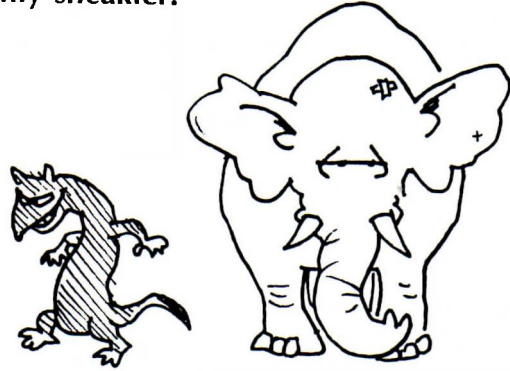
THE VIXEN. A cunning, but feisty creature much prized for its attractive pelt.

W



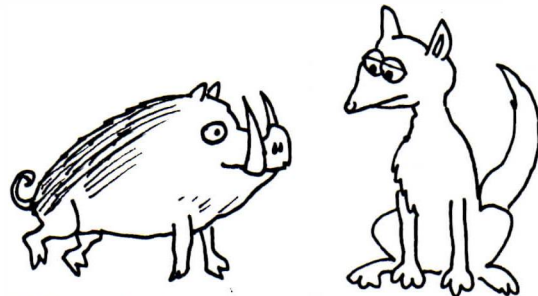
THE WALLABY. A somewhat cynical marsupial who seems to be everywhere. Take note of what he says, it could be important.

THE WEASEL. A lot like the Stoat, only sneakier.



THE WHITE ELEPHANT. A huge animal which is extremely expensive to catch, costs a hell of a lot to feed, requires rather pricey specialised housing and is utterly useless. Rarely seen, but that doesn't mean there aren't any around: this creature often stays hidden away where nobody can see it.

THE WILD BOAR. A big fat bush pig. Despite its vicious tusks it is still just a large boar.

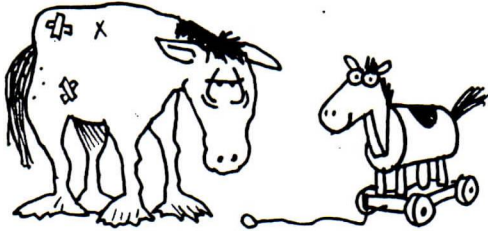


THE WOLF. A noble beast, feared by some, admired by others. Has a wolfish grin.



THE WOMBAT. There are two species of Wombat. The Hairy Nosed and the Common. One has a hairy nose, the other is common.

THE WORKHORSE. This hard-working beast can carry almost any load and perform a variety of tasks, especially if you whip it. Some people whip it anyway, just in case.



THE WOODEN HORSE. Not a real horse at all, it has to be led around.

X



THE XENECANTHUS. An extinct fish. Actually, it's not a fanimal at all, but it did allow me to have at least one entry for each letter of the alphabet.

Y



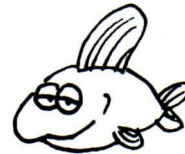
THE YAK. A large, hairy bovine with a distinctive cry.

Z



THE ZEBRA. A striped horse that can run fast, but sometimes not fast enough.

So there, nature lovers, is the *Fanimals* BESTIARY. On behalf of the beasts, I hope you've enjoyed your tour of the fanagerie. Please take your litter with you as you leave. The fanagerie is a non-profit collection of beasties and they cost a lot to feed. Their favourite foods are fanzines, egoboo, gossip and cash, so all donations are gratefully accepted by the management. It should be pointed out that the fanagerie is an ever growing and changing phenomenon, there are new additions all the time...



Fin.