

THE CARE OF PETS

"THERE is a great deal more to the successful keeping of pets than seems apparent to many people when in the first flush of emotion or enthusiasm they dash off and acquire some hapless animal," says R. W. Roach, Director of the Auckland Zoo. Mr. Roach has recorded six ten-minute talks on *The Care of Pets*, and these will be broadcast from 1YA on Wednesdays in

Feminine Viewpoint, beginning on July 7; and from 2YA on Saturdays, in *Business Women's Session*, the first on July 10 at 10.30 a.m.

"At first glance the subject appears to have highly exciting possibilities, dealing with all sorts of exotic out-of-the-way creatures," Mr. Roach told *The Listener*. "But in New Zealand there are so many regulations that we are pretty well restricted to dogs and cats. Many of the animals regarded as highly fashionable pets overseas, Golden Hamsters and Marmoset monkeys, for example are specifically forbidden here. There are many popular misconceptions about the variety of creatures available as pets—and a great many more about the proper way to treat those that are available."

Mr. Roach will try to dispel some of these misconceptions, keeping to fundamental problems. His first talk will be about the scope for pet keeping here—what you can and can not keep in New Zealand—and subsequent subjects will be "Choosing Pets," "Feeding," "Training," "Hygiene," including housing, grooming and principal diseases, and

This blue penguin, seen at the Auckland Zoo with Anne Roach, daughter of the Director, looks as though he would make an attractive pet—but he's definitely not available

finally "A Glimpse of Pets Less Frequently Kept."

"Speaking of fundamentals," said Mr. Roach, "it is surprising, and distressing, to count up the letters received at the Zoo from both adults and children, who bought a pet first, and afterwards set about finding out how to look after it. Then there are the cases one hears about of people who, having acquired a pet thoughtlessly, find out what they've let themselves in for—and can't get rid of it quickly enough. To be happy a pet needs proper care, affection and firmness. It absorbs a good deal of its owner's time, and it has a right to responsible, thoughtful treatment."

"Many people believe in having pets to grow up with their children, and it is a very good thing that there should be pets in homes where there are children. But it must be the adult's pet. The child himself should not have ownership until he is 10 or more, old enough to be responsible, and capable of attending to all the animal's needs. There should be one person in the house who is clearly and definitely the animal's master, and this person should be the one to train, feed and reprimand it, at least, in the early stages of its training. Later other members of the family may do their share."

"It is important, too, that a pet should be suitable for the person concerned. There have been cases of people impressed by a lovely dog, well trained, majestic and dignified, saying to themselves, 'My word. Isn't that magnificent. We must get a dog like that.' So they buy themselves a Great Dane puppy. Then the pup proceeds to get bigger, and bigger, and bigger, and its owners more and more scared until the animal has the upper hand. You might think this point of compatibility of pet and owner a very obvious one, but it is often overlooked, with unfortunate results to both parties."

The Care of Pets is intended for adult listeners, and will include mainly fundamental advice about the more commonly kept animals.



SOLOMON SAYS . . .

"OH, Mr. Solomon, your playing of the Beethoven sonata in your programme tonight was just as Beethoven would have wanted it." Dozens of times this remark, or something like it, has been made to him after a concert, says Solomon, the world-famous pianist who recently toured New Zealand, and each time he has wanted to reply: "And how on earth do you know?"

When Solomon was in New Zealand he recorded a brief illustrated talk for the programme *Music Magazine* on "Some Aspects of Interpretation of Beethoven's Piano Works," and it will be broadcast at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 6, from a link of the YC stations. His talk should be of great interest to all pianists.

As one who has studied Beethoven's music for a lifetime, Solomon says, he is now just on the fringe of interpreting Beethoven as he would have wished. In contrast to Mozart, who put little or no indication of tempi and dynamics in his scores, Beethoven took enormous care in marking his score. "It is absolutely essential," Solomon says, "to pay the greatest possible attention to the lesson of the master."

In some editions of Beethoven's piano works, however, editors have taken

liberties with the text and have added their own dynamics and tempi marks which, in Solomon's opinion, completely destroy the composer's intention. To illustrate what he means he plays extracts from the Appassionata Sonata.



RIGHT: Solomon shares a joke with his efficient secretary, Gwendoline Byrne—a photograph taken during the pianist's recent visit

N.Z. LISTENER, JULY 2, 1954.



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