

A LIFETIME OF LOVING ANIMALS

By Carol

There were the rabbits on the lawn
Seen through the window early morn
The mice that strayed in from the field
One in the wardrobe mother squealed
Moles leaving little hills on the lawn
Father unamused he felt such scorn
Dougal, my fox terrier barking so loudly
Tried to pick up a ball and dropped it soundly
It was a hedgehog defending himself
Dougal shocked, left the scene with stealth
In class aged 10 we set traps with the teacher
So we could study and care for each creature
Voles, shrews and mice to tend for a few days
While we studied their habits and funny ways
Getting older moving on was not so much fun
The only creature encountered in grammar school
Was a frog to dissect in the lab, I found it cruel
Adulthood arrived and my time with animals grew less
Until I started travelling and then I felt blessed
On my travels overtime I've encountered many a beast
Living wild and free these were sights on which to feast
Chipmunks, a racoon, a large elk and a smelly skunk
A pair of playful dassies behaving like they were drunk
Quite a few lizards or geckos and tortoises too
Just ambling along the road with not much to do
In the sea a large turtle very close to the shore

So cleverly camouflaged I mistook him for the floor
I have seen many other creatures caged in zoos
To see them in the wild is what I prefer to choose!