

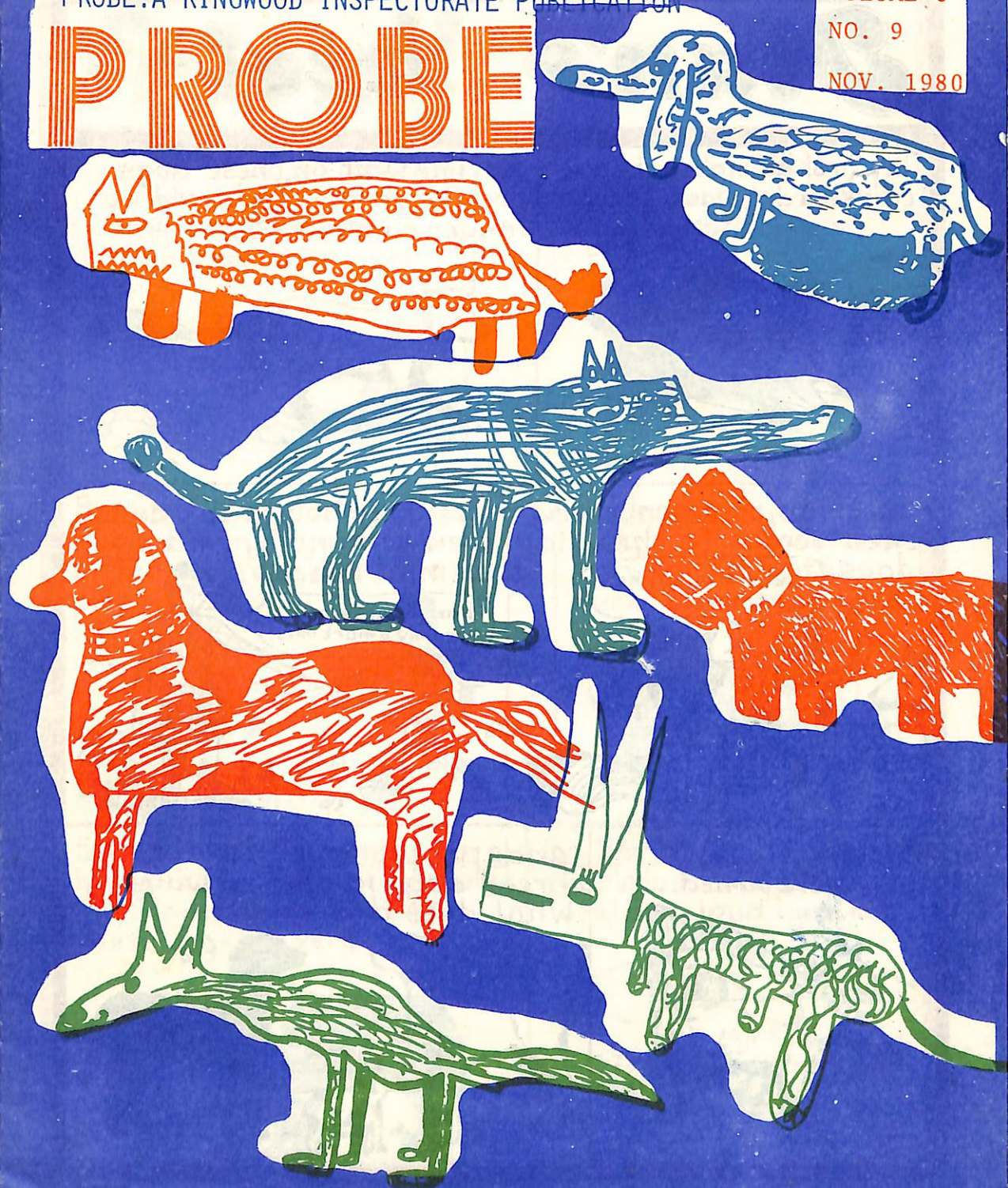
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Man's best

The first animal that looked like a dog was a Miacus.



As time went on, these dogs grew longer legs and could no longer climb trees.



Later on, cavemen threw their scraps to the wild dogs.



The dogs helped the cavemen to hunt by finding animal tracks.



Slowly, the wild dogs were tamed.....



and people started to breed dogs in special ways. What does this mean?

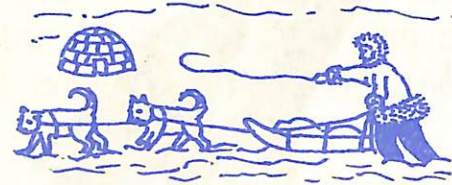


friend ...

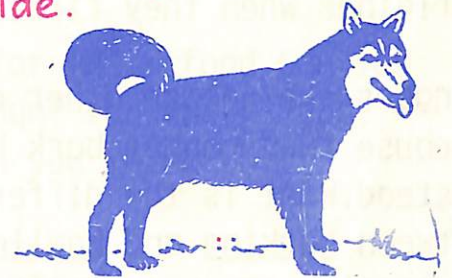
by D. Brydon

Artist: Wilma Prohasky

Huskies have big chests and helped Eskimos by pulling heavy sleds in freezing weather over snow.



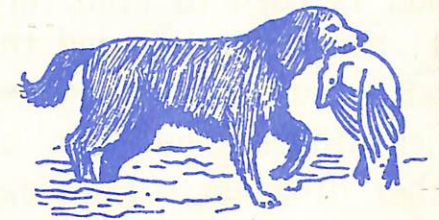
They have a long, thick fur coat on the outside as well as a soft, oily coat on the inside.



Bloodhounds can smell better than other dogs and help police to track down escaped prisoners.



Golden retrievers have soft, floppy mouths so they can't hurt the ducks they bring back.



Sheep dogs (like German Shepherds and Corgis) must know what the farmer wants him to do. These dogs are very clever.



St. Bernards help rescue people lost in the snow. How does their loud bark help?



Australia's wild dog...the Dingo

by D.BRYDON

Did you know that "PROBE" is mailed to many different places in Australia? Some "PROBE" readers live in the Victorian town of Warragul. Warragul is the aboriginal word for dingo-Australia's wild dog. There are some people who say that the dingo is not a true Australian animal, like the wombat or the kangaroo. This is because dingoes were probably brought to Australia many thousands of years ago by the aborigines when they first came.

Dingoes are unlike other dogs because they cannot bark but howl instead. What is the difference between barking and howling? Also, a dingo's ears keep stiff all the time and can't flop around.

Sometimes, dingoes live together if food is hard to find. Three or four may all howl together and then wait for another group of dingoes to answer them. When dingoes howl, they are telling other dingoes to keep away from the part of land they want to hunt and live in. This is the same reason your pet dog at home barks at strange people and dogs when they come too close.

Dingoes come in two different colors. Some are yellow while others are black and tan.

Dingoes hunt down other animals for their food. Can you think of any animals who do not hunt for their food? Not many farmers like dingoes. Can you think why?



Artist: W. PROHASKY

TANGLED

Can a fish sit down, swish flies away or hang from the branch of a tree? Does a fish need to do these things? Of course, the answer to both these questions is no. Many animals have tails specially made to help them live the special sort of life they lead. Ernie Echidna (our artist) has a bad memory and could not remember which tails belonged to which animals. Can you sort them out for him?



TAILS

SCREECH ROAR SQUEAK
ROAR

Keep! This tail is much too heavy for me. If I wanted to brush the flies away, I'd get something smaller.



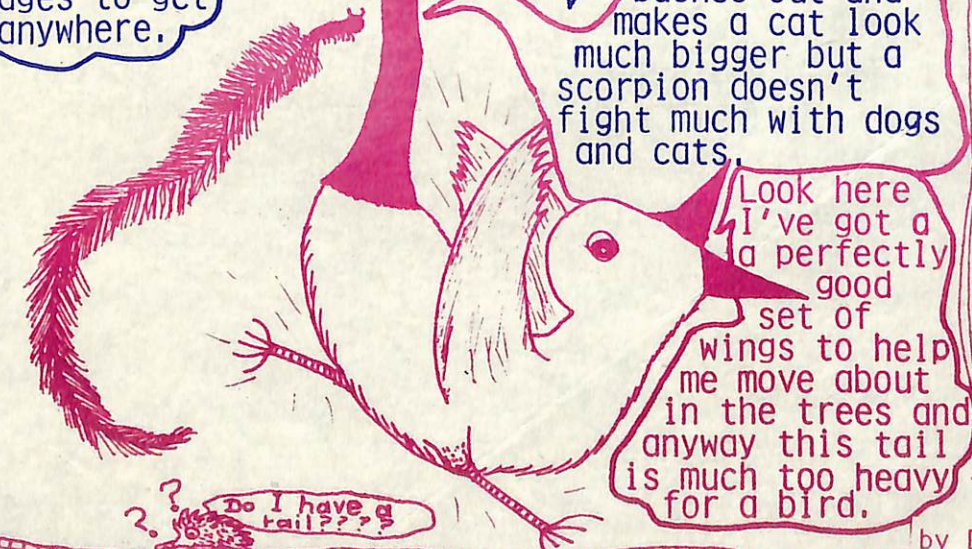
Mum's new tail is good for swimming but there's not much water near here and it's going to take ages to get anywhere.



This tail is great for stinging my enemies but it just doesn't suit me.



This tail bushes out and makes a cat look much bigger but a scorpion doesn't fight much with dogs and cats.



Do I have a tail???

Looking at dogs

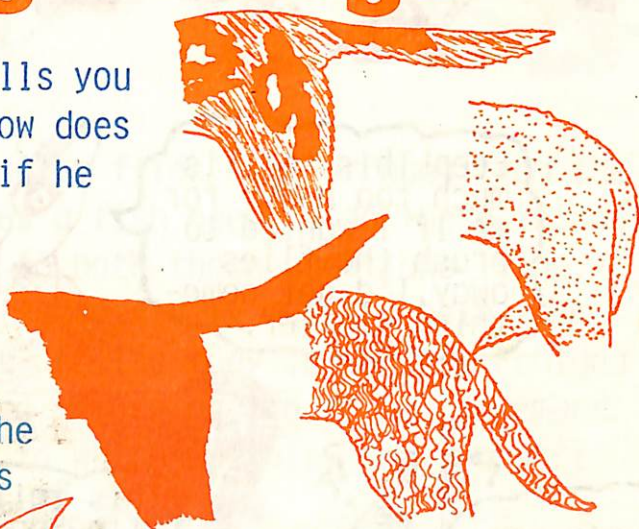
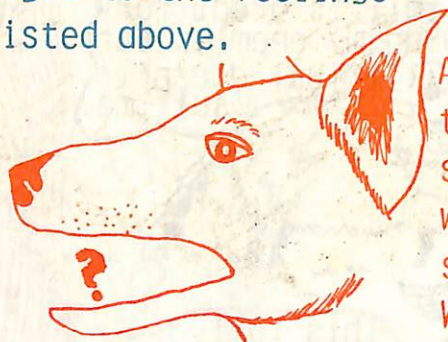
The tail of a dog tells you what he is feeling. How does a dog hold his tail if he is trusting?

angry?

normal?

sad?

Match the tails on the right to the feelings listed above.



A dog knows how to do many things even though no-one has shown him how to do them. Watch what a dog does before he settles down to sleep anywhere. What else has your dog learnt to do by himself?

Look at a dog's teeth. Are they all the same? In what way are they different to your teeth? Why do you think dogs need teeth like this?

Some of you may have owned mother dogs. How many puppies were in the litter? Tell your grade about how the young puppies grew up.

FOR THE GREAT DRAWINGS
ON THE FRONT COVER
THANKS TO: Lorrae Smith,
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