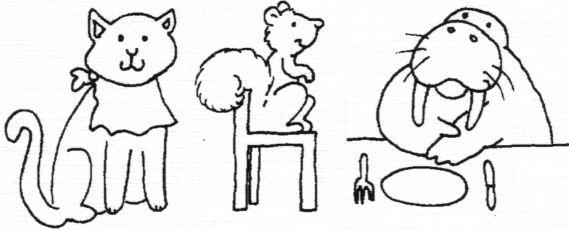


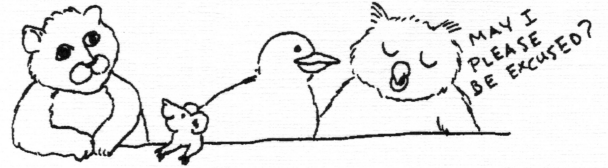
**Snakes Never Slurp Their Soup:  
a time for table manners**

by Amy Houts

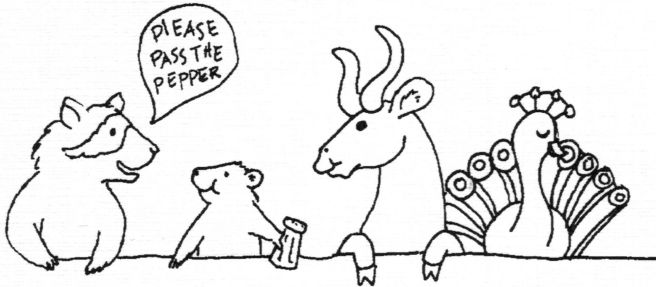
Illustrations by Susan Eaddy



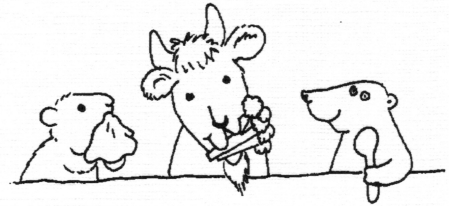
Cats come washed and ready to dine.  
Squirrels sit straight in their chairs.  
Walruses wait before they eat  
'Til everyone has his fare.



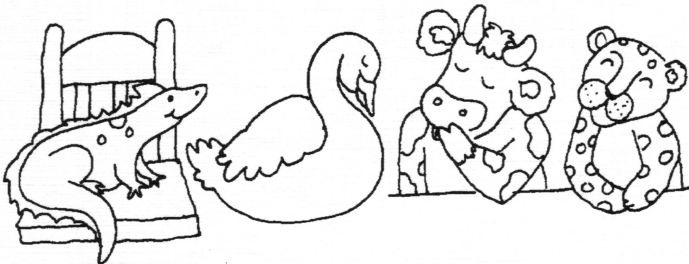
Cougars converse in polite conversation.  
Mice don't let loud voices be used.  
Sea Gulls don't squawk, so others can talk.  
Owls ask to be "excused."



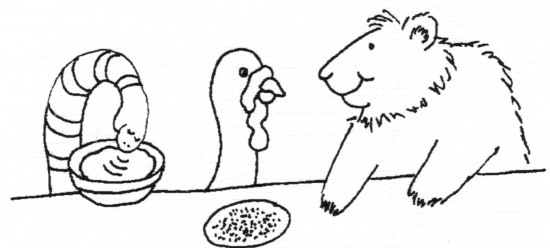
Raccoons remember the "magic word."  
Muskrats munch very small bites.  
Courteous Gnus don't make noise when they chew  
And Peacocks don't pick fights.



Hamsters use handkerchiefs, when they are needed.  
Billy Goats taste new foods.  
Possums will pick up a fork or a spoon.  
What about you? Will fingers do?



Lizards don't leap, they stay in their seat.  
Swans don't shovel their food.  
A Cow coughs politely, and covers her mouth.  
Cheetahs share their good mood.



Snakes never ever slurp their soup.  
Turkey's don't gobble their grain.  
Grizzlies don't chew with their mouths askew  
Do you? Is your mouth closed, too?