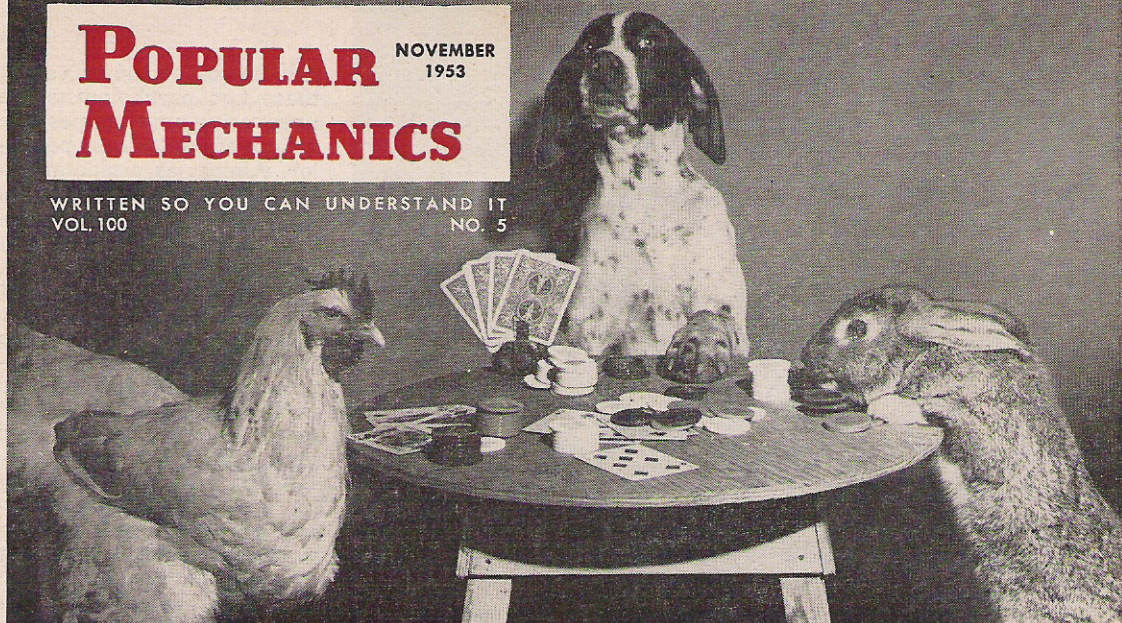


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A quiet poker game in the firehouse. Animals learn to take their positions, then remain absolutely motionless

WHO SAYS ANIMALS ARE DUMB?

You can teach any animal—hen or cat, pig or rat. Take a lesson from the Brelands, who teach hens to play baseball and pigs to vacuum the floors. Their educated animals are wowing audiences from coast to coast

By Clifford B. Hicks—Part I

AT A LITTLE FARM near Hot Springs, Ark., I saw a chicken do arithmetic problems and a rooster knock out a tune on a piano. I played a pinball game against a turkey, and invariably lost. I watched a hamster imitate Tarzan on a trapeze, a rabbit play basketball and a dozen chickens swing baseball bats.

After spending a few days in the society

of these incredible creatures, I came away completely convinced that anyone can train an animal or bird, and that most animals can be taught spectacular tricks. You just have to be smarter than the animal.

The Arkansas farm is the research laboratory of Mr. and Mrs. Keller Breland, a pair of graduate psychologists who train animals and birds as a means of studying behavior patterns. By teaching a 10-day-old chick to run up a ramp and ring a bell, a turkey to operate an electric train and a

In 25 minutes, using Brelands' methods, author taught chicken to turn the pages of *Popular Mechanics*. Fowl is rewarded with grain from "reinforcer" at right

