

# They're smarter than you think

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROLAND PATTERSON FROM BLACK STAR

**K**eller Breland, a Ph.D. who mixes science with funny business, owns a 200-acre farm near Hot Springs, Arkansas. There, ever since the day in 1947 when he sold several trained chickens to a feed company for advertising stunts, he's taught about 2,000 animals to do some highly unlikely

tricks. Some of his "educated" pets are shown in action here. While training them, Dr. Breland never punishes his animals for their mistakes.

"They learn faster and perform better," he says, "if you simply reward them with food whenever they do the trick right."

Charades! Two "hypnotized" chicks and a cup help Breland act out that well-known delicacy, chicken in a basket. When Breland claps his hands, the chicks will leap up and scurry around as if nothing had happened to them.

Attention, crime writers! Waldo, the duck, shows how an innocent-looking bird can commit murder. It's just an act, though. The popgun's loaded with flour.



Shurshot, the rabbit, plays basketball with a tennis ball. He's adept at releasing a catapult which tosses the ball through the hoop every time. Breland has trained other rodents, such as hamsters, to roll balls uphill, climb poles and do trapeze stunts.

