©CUL 16840 THE CIVET CAT-V

The civet cat, which nests in hollow trees or among rocks, lives on rats, mice, and small birds. It is a carnivorous quadruped having well developed glands secreting civet, a product of considerable commercial value in the manufacture of perfumery. The little animal is found chiefly on the Pacific Coast, but larger species are found in Canada and Northern Africa.

To capture the civet cat, the boys use only a crude box trap. The box is carried deep into the wilderness and a piece of beef, dipped in honey, is used for bait. Then the boys camouflage the trap with twigs and bits of foliage. Returning to their camp, Bill and Bob set busily to work curing skins of animals they have trapped. The freshly skinned pelts are stretched on boards and covered with common salt. The skin is dried in a cool shady place, sheltered from the sun and rain. Knowing that the civet cat is a night forager, the boys do not return to the trap until the next morning, and two prisoners are the reward for their efforts.

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