

{ Games  
{ Animals. Butaritari.

42.

82

When cats were new to Butaritari (they seem to have first been brought by whalers in the '40s) they were much prized. They were treated as human beings and were adopted as children and grandchildren. Land was given to the person who adopted a cat, under the title of te ba-n-wai, exactly as in the case of human beings. When two cats were mated, the full ritual of the marriage ceremony, as described in J.R.A.I., was performed over them.

ANIMALS.

Butaritari. Cats

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## ANIMALS

### Cats

### Butaritari

When cats were new to Butaritari (they seem to have first been brought by whalers in the 1840s) they were much prized. They were treated as human beings and were adopted as children and grandchildren. Land was given to the person who adopted a cat, under the title of te ban uri, exactly as in the case of human beings. When two cats were mated, the full ritual of the marriage ceremony was performed over them.<sup>x</sup>

*Erm* <sup>x</sup>

For a description of Gilbertese marriage ritual see Grimble 1921:29-34.

## Dogs

The dog (te kiri) was considered a great delicacy, but under the influence of European ideas it is no longer eaten, the Gilbertese being now almost ashamed when reminded that dog-flesh once formed part of his diet.

It is commonly believed ~~among Europeans~~ that dogs were first introduced into the Gilberts by Europeans, but this is an error as island tradition speaks of a dog being <sup>owned by</sup> a Beruan called Teikake when Towatu of Matang landed there 20 or more generations ago.

The warrior Uakeia is also reported to have owned a dog, which he fed exclusively on fish; for this reason, when he had conquered an island, he always seized the islets and the extremities of the land where fish were plentiful.

Six generations ago a Tarawan named Tokitoba is said to have owned a dog, and there are still old men living who as children remember hearing of dogs before the first re-introduction of the species by Europeans.

But it seems that native dogs were becoming scarcer and scarcer during the generations preceding the coming of the Flag, so that at the arrival of the British Government in 1892 it is doubtful if there were any animals of the indigenous bro<sup>e e</sup>od in the Group.<sup>x</sup>

Fm<sup>x</sup>

For other animals used as food in the Gilberts see Grimble 1933:28.

Food.Animal.For fair pellets see  
Gould 1933: 28

The baru (lizard, Saurois sp) was often cooked and eaten. After being killed it was wrapped, without gutting, in a piece of pandanus leaf, in which it was laid in the steam oven beside any other food that was being cooked. It was allowed to remain in the oven for about half an hour. The natives say that it was fatty and delicious, having a taste rather like that of porpoise flesh.

P28 The gecko lizard (Stikunci) was never eaten.

P28 The rat (Kimoa, prob. Mus exulans) was never eaten in the Northern islands.

NOT USED  
The dog (Kari) was considered a great delicacy, but under the influence of European ideas it is no longer eaten, the native being now almost ashamed to <sup>be reminded</sup> remember that dog-flesh once formed part of his diet.

It is commonly believed among Europeans that dogs were first introduced into the Gilberts by Europeans, but this is an

reason, which is demonstrated by native tradition.

A dog is mentioned in the legend of Towatu-of-Matang (which see) which describes his landing on Bern 20-odd generations ago. Again, in the traditions connected with the Bernian conquest of the Group, ten generations back, the warrior Kākeia is reported to have owned a dog which he fed exclusively on fish: for this reason, when he had victoriously invaded an island, he always seized the islets and the extremities of the land, where fish was plentiful.

Six generations ago, a Tarawa man named Tokitoba is said to have owned a dog, and there are still old men living who as children remember to have heard of dogs before the first animal of this species was introduced from Europe.

But it seems that <sup>native</sup> dogs were growing scarce & scarce during the generations that preceded the coming of the Flag, so that at the arrival of British Government in 1892, it is doubtful if there were any animals of the indigenous breed in the Group.