

ANIMALS HIT HEADLINES

Those woolly aristocrats "merino sheep" - 900 of them came before the judges at the annual Sheep Show at Sydney. The fleece promised to be golden for the big farmers; quality better than ever; a real problem for the judges. When they'd made their decision, it fell to the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Eric Woodward to place the Championship ribbons, on the animals declared to be the best pen of five on show.

None of your synthetic fibre about this lot; they're genuine All Wool.

There was trouble in Australia's well known Ashton Circus. The leopard Sonya was in a rage; wouldn't let anyone touch her three cubs, which were starving to death, because she wasn't feeding them. Lion tamer Captain Schultz tried to get them away from her. No luck.

Under an anaesthetic Sonya was operated on to make sure she could feed the cubs, only for the vet to find that she'd been perfectly capable of doing so all along. If they could be reared they'd be worth £300 each. The tamer's wife tried to put them on the bottle. But it wasn't their value the circus folk were thinking of, but the tragic fate of three baby leopards, unwanted by their own mother.