

# ANIMALS I'VE LOVED

## by David

I can still remember the day I got my very first dog! I don't really think I'll ever forget it because it meant so much to me.

Up until that day, the only pets I'd ever had were two goldfish that we kept at my grandmother's house, and once I found a sparrow with a broken wing. I took it home and named it "Tweety"—after the comic characters "Tweety and Sylvester."

I kept the bird in a little matchbox that I had lined with cotton to keep him warm and I only left his side that first day to eat lunch! At night my Mom put the box on the nightstand by my bed and I fell asleep with one hand around the box!

Morning brought heartache with it for Tweety died during the night,

and me—I was all of four years old—I broke down and cried! My Mom helped me bury him in the garden in the back yard and for a few days afterwards, I used to sprinkle bread crumbs on his grave! I guess I thought he might wake up and get hungry!

### VERY FIRST DOG!

Then one afternoon shortly after that, my Dad came home with a big bulge under his coat—and, it moved and wiggled! I was about five then and about to have my very first dog! He was just a puppy and he had a white tip at the end of his long tail. I named him Tippy and I remember how when I took him in my arms for the first time, that little tail wouldn't stop wagging and his soft

pink tongue covered my face with a dozen kisses!

Then when Tippy was about five months old—I almost lost him! I used to tie him up in the front yard when I went out in the street to play ball or tag with the guys on the block.

But one afternoon as Tippy sat on the grass watching me play across the street, he must have decided he wanted to be with me. He tugged and tugged at the nylon leash he was tied with and when that didn't work he started chewing on it!

Of course, I didn't know what he was doing or I would have stopped him but I happened to look up just as Tippy chewed through the leash and dashed across the street in my direction straight into the path of an oncoming car!



HERE'S ME AND MY TWO SPECIAL animals—Sam and Sheesh. They're wonderful dogs and I love them!