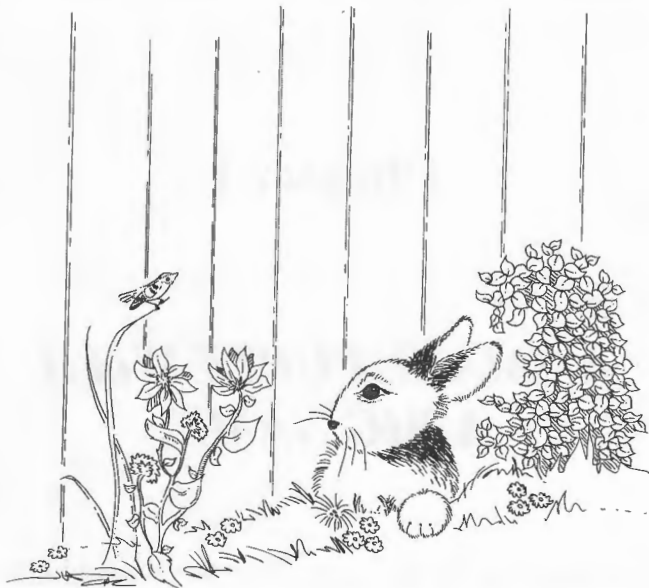


This is the way it went every spring at the Duncans' house. Mrs. Duncan planted the flower beds along the fence, and Mr. Duncan kept the bird bath filled with fresh clean water. They often sat on a swing in their back yard to watch all the small creatures that visited their



place—mostly squirrels and many different kinds of birds. Once in awhile, a brown bunny with a white cotton tail would come to eat berries off the bushes.

One afternoon, while they were watching the wild creatures come and go around them, Mrs. Duncan suddenly said, "Let's get a new puppy!"

"A *what?*" exclaimed Mr. Duncan loudly.