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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR HANIEL LONG:
Lawrence's friends are disgusted and grieved at the last series of your editorial page—purporting to relate a history of Lawrence and the little dog he had for a while.

Lawrence was never cruel or uncontrolled with animals.

We are all, also, sure that your author, Knud Merrild, has falsified his encounter with the real owner of Pipsy (not Bibsy) just as much as he did his description of Lawrence's treatment of the small dog. It would seem that Mr. Merrild was anxious to sacrifice all the actors (including Pipsy) of this saga in order to insure himself a beau role.

Please print this letter—if you think it will in the least clear D. H. L. of a hateful accusation.

Sincerely,
Mabel Dodge Luhan

Taos, New Mexico,
September 11th, 1937

Dear Haniel,

I wish to add my word to Mabel's protest concerning the Merrild articles. Naturally I could not say with complete assurance that Lawrence was "never cruel or uncontrolled with animals," but I can and do say with a good deal of conviction that I never saw him anything but gentle and affectionate with them, nor yet even speak of them with anything but kindness; and that the picture Merrild presents seems to me a false one—an impression that is strengthened by the fact that other things he says I know to be untrue.

Lawrence's fits of rage were phenomenal and I witnessed many of them—always against people. We attended our first (and last) bull-fight together and Lawrence left after the first five minutes. He never recovered from his rage at the picadors and matadors because of their silly abuse of the horses and bulls. Does this sound like a man who would abuse a bull-pup—except perhaps with words? I think the very poem which Merrild quotes is more or less proof that all of his annoyance went into those bitter words—as it always did, even in his rage with men.

As for Merrild, he reveals himself as a little too anxious to display himself as a he-man at the expense of others, to warrant taking his story seriously. I'm surprised that you apparently did so.

Yours,
Spud (Johnson)

The Tower Beyond Tragedy
San Cristobal, N. M.
September 11, 1937

Dear Mr. Long:

I am very much surprised at Merrild's description of Lawrence and Pipsy. In all the time I was with Lawrence and Frieda I never saw him do more than jerk the bridle of a balking horse and slap its nose—or slap the male spaniel pups that Mabel gave him when I was on the ranch—he slapped them when they angered him terribly by misbehaving with each other. But I never saw him abuse any animal or any human being—as a matter of fact, never. He always told me that however angry one got with an animal one should never punish it unless the animal knew one well. If the animal knew one it would not resent it—if it didn't know one, then it would resent it FOREVER. For Lawrence to lose control of himself and deliberately ill-treat an animal was impossible. I witnessed many a flare-up and

never saw him ill-treat anything except a tea-pot and some cups. His temper was sudden, swift and short lived.

A man of Lawrence's caliber does not do such things—could not—which should be obvious to anyone who has read his books without any personal contact with him. But for those who knew him personally. For his real friends such a conception of him is unpardonable and revolting.

What poverty of spirit that tries to pull down to their own level a delicate soaring spirit like Lawrence.

Sincerely,
D. E. Brett

Santa Fe, N. M.
Sept. 11, 1937

Dear Haniel Long:

Thanks for printing the series on D. H. Lawrence: in some respects the most penetrating chapter I have seen written about him except by his wife. Others have reported here and there his apparently petty or disproportioned tempers but without pointing as well as Mr. Merrild does the passion for rightness which underlay them. Much as one may deplore any man's kicking a dog, one may well understand Lawrence's wrath toward the general wriggling infidelity of Pips, especially since it reflected, symbolized and vivified for him, as your editorial observes, the similar duplicities and debasements which he felt surrounding him in the world of people. He was a jealous man in the sense of wanting honest, unscattered, uncheapered adherence. The two "Danes," of whom Merrild was one, lived close to him for a comparatively long time, both to his house and to his heart, and must have proven themselves in his eyes to be possessed of better qualities than reside in most human beings. I do not know the Danes but have often heard Lawrence mention them, always with clear friendliness, never with the ruffle of impatience or perplexity which came to his face at mention of most people:—and though there may have been natural momentary antagonisms among the three, I feel certain that Merrild can not have belonged to the breed of faithless fawners Lawrence would have liked to kick. In other words I regard Merrild's account of Lawrence and Pips as a notably respectable, valid and important document and again thank you for giving it to us.

Very sincerely yours,
Witter Bynner

DEAR HANIEL LONG:

Knud Merrild's fight over the small dog happened when I was not there

I only remember how one night Lawrence sat by the fire; it was cold, and Pipsy had eaten some filth. She was wrapped up in a flannel and he held a little short hotwater bottle to her tummy, because she was sick. If Lawrence could lose his temper, he could also be patient and tender. I think that after all the story (Mr. Merrild's) shows how much Lawrence cared for that small dog.

With kind regards, Yours
Frieda Lawrence

Because of lack of space it will be impossible to print other letters dealing with Mr. Merrild's article, and we are therefore considering the matter closed. [Ed.]