

HOW THE ANIMALS GOT THEIR TAILS



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An Estonian Fairy Tale

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Once upon a time, the Guardian of the Animals decided that all animals should have tails. Until then, animals did not have tails; horses or cows could not swish off flies; squirrels were not able to jump nimbly from tree to tree or branch to branch.

So the Guardian of the Animals called to the crows and said, "You, the crows, fly over the mountains, over the woods, over the swamps; call together all the animals. On such-and-such a day, as long as the sun shines, tails will be given to all the animals at that-and-that a place."

The crows flew everywhere, and with loud voices called out: "You, the animals in the mountains, in the fields, in the woods, and in the swamps; come at sunup on such-and-such a day to that-and-that a place, and get a tail."