



I saw a donkey one day old.
His head was too big
for his neck to hold;
His legs were shaky
and long and loose,
They rocketed and staggered
and weren't much use.

He tried to gambol
and frisk a bit,
but he wasn't quite sure
of the trick of it.
His queer little coat
was soft and grey
and curled at his neck
in a lovely way.

His face was wistful
and left no doubt
that he felt life needed
some thinking about.
So he blundered round
in venturesome quest,
and then lay flat on the ground
to rest.

He looked so little
and weak and slim,
I prayed the world
might be good to him.

- Anonymous

- **rocketed** : moved suddenly
- **staggered** : tottered, moved unsteadily
- **gambol** : leap, move playfully

- **wistful** : full of hope, longing for something
- **venturesome** : daring, adventurous
- **quest** : search, the act of looking for something

POINTERS

1. Rewrite the poem in the form of a prose passage.
2. List the pairs of rhyming words from the poem.
3. What does the poet pray for? Why?
4. Have you seen a newborn young one of an animal?
5. Talk to your parents and family members and write what you could do when –
 - you were a day old • you were one month old
 - you were six months old • you were one year old.
6. Form groups and hold debates on the following topics. Make bulleted lists of points in favour (pros) and those against (cons) the given statement. Let the whole class vote on who won the debate.
 - (a) Man should use animals for his own needs.
 - (b) Contact with man has helped animals to survive.
7. Find what the young ones of the following animals are called :

• donkey -	• sheep -	• owl -
• horse -	• lamb -	• swan -
• lion -	• cow -	• eagle -
• tiger -	• pig -	• duck -
• elephant -	• whale -	• peacock -
8. Complete the following using your own ideas :
 - (a) His head was **too big to** hold his neck.
 - (b) He was **too shy to**
 - (c) She was **too proud to**
 - (d) They were **too tired to**
 - (e) We are **too busy to**
 - (f) He was **too lazy to**
9. Write a conversation between :
 - (a) A donkey and a dog
 - (b) A donkey and a horse
 - (c) A donkey and a school boy.
10. If you saw someone abusing an animal, what would you do? Write about it in 5 lines.
11. Visit a library : Find poems about animals. Copy them and recite them to your friends.

