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I love animals. Some people even tease me about my relationship to my cat; but she really is the loveliest, friendliest cat you can imagine, purring and snuggling up to anyone if she gets half a chance.

I like other animals, too. I look after the local penguin sanctuary; I love to watch a seal or dolphins in the harbour, and the kereru feasting on karaka berries make me smile.

The other day a friend gave me a big, beautiful cauliflower from his garden. I love cauliflower, and I know that my friend doesn't use chemicals in his garden, so it was a very good and very healthy meal I was looking forward to. The outer leaves were still on my cauliflower. They had a few holes, but I didn't think any further. I cut them off - and out fell half a slug; the other half was still in the cauliflower. Are slugs animals, too? In German they are, in English they are not. The word animal doesn't cover all "Tiere", but since my brain is organised along German lines, even slugs are animals to me. This is interesting from a linguist's point of view, but doesn't help me much. Do I like animals? Definitely not in the cauliflower. The slugs (yes, I found his siblings, too) were not the only Tiere in the cauliflower. A bit closer to the cauliflower's heart I came across fat green caterpillars. They would turn into pupae and then into the white butterflies dancing in my garden. Well, these caterpillars won't.

But then: There must be a place for slugs and caterpillars in nature. So I offered them to the blackbirds (remember: I like animals, and in my German brain birds are animals, too) - very nice for the blackbirds, not so nice for the caterpillars and slugs. So I love blackbirds, but not slugs? Cauliflowers from the supermarket, without slugs and caterpillars, suddenly seemed attractive; isn't it tempting to eliminate fundamental questions? However, life is complicated, and I like it rich - even if this means slugs in the cauliflower. *Inde*

We wish all our members

Frohe Ostern Happy Easter

and hope you celebrate it the Swiss way,
with decorated hardboiled eggs.

We'd love to publish a few photos of the most
beautiful Easter eggs in the next Helvetia.

Please send your digital photos to Trudi Bruhlmann
before 15th April (don't send the eggs!)

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