CAP^m. xx.—HOW þE KENEL FOR þE HOUNDIS AND HOW þE COUPLES FOR þE RATCHES AND þE ROPIS FOR THE LYMERE SHULD BE MAKYD

THE houndes kenel shuld be of x fadmys of lengthe and v. of brede, if þere be many houndes, and þer shuld be oon door bifore and anoþer behynde, a faire grene where the sonn shyneþ al þe day from þe morn to þe Evyn, and þat grene shuld be closed about with a pale, or wiþ a walle of erthe or ston, of þe same lengthe and brede þat þe houndes kenel is of. And þe hidre door of þi kenel shuld alway be opyn by cause þat þe houndes may go with oute to play hem whan hem likeþ for it is a grete likyng for þe houndes whan þei may goon in and out at here lust, for þe mamewe commeþ to hem þe lattere.[1] And in þe kenel shuld be picched small stonys[2] iwrapped about with strawe of þe houndes litere in to þe nombre of vi stonys þat þe houndes myght pisse þeraȝenst also a kenel shuld have a gootere or ii wherby al þe pisse of þe houndes and alle of waters may renne out þat noon abide in þe kenel. The kenel shuld also be a lowe hous and nouȝt in a solere but þer shuld be a loft aboue by cause that it myȝt be more warme in wynter and coldere in somer. And alway bi nyght, and bi day I wil þat some childe lye or be in þe kenel wiþ þe houndes for to kepe hem from fyghteng. Also in þe kenel shuld be a Chymene for to warme þe houndis, whan þei ben a cold or whan þei ben wete or for reyne or for passyng and swymmyng of Reuers. Also he shuld be taught for to spynne heere of hors for to take couples for þe houndes þe whiche shuld be made of þe heere of an hors taille or of a mares taile for þei ben best and lasten bettir þan if þei were of hempe or of wolle, and þe houndes couples shuld be of length bitwen the houndes a foot and þe Rope of þe limer iii fadom and an half and be he neuer so wise a lymer it suffiseþ, *þe which rope shulde be maked of leder of an hors skyn wel itawed.*

CHAP. 20.—HOW THE KENNEL FOR THE HOUNDS AND THE COUPLES FOR THE RACHES AND THE ROPES FOR THE LYMER SHOULD BE MADE

THE hounds' kennel should be ten fathoms in length and five in breadth, if there be many hounds. And there should be one door in front and one behind, and a fair green, where the sun shines all day from morning till eve, and that green should be closed about with a paling or with a wall of earth or of stone of the same length and breadth as the hounds' kennel is. And the hinder door of the kennel should always be open so that the hounds may go out to play when they like, for it is a great liking to the hounds when they may go in and out at their pleasure, for the mange comes to them later.[1] In the kennel should be pitched small stones[2] wrapped about with straw of the hounds' litter, unto the number of six stones, that the hounds might piss against them. Also a kennel should have a gutter or two whereby all the piss of the hounds and all the other water may run out that none remains in the kennel. The kennel should also be in a low house, and not in an upper chamber, but there should be a loft above, so that it might be warmer in winter and cooler in summer, and always by night and by day I would that some child lie or be in the kennel with the hounds to keep them from fighting. Also in the kennel should be a chimney to warm the hounds when they are cold or when they are wet with rain or from passing and swimming over rivers. And also he should be taught to spin horse hair to make couples for the hounds, which should be made of a horse tail or a mare's tail, for they are best and last longer than if they were of hemp or wool. And the length of the hounds' couples between the hounds should be a foot, and the rope of a limer three fathoms and a half, be he ever so wise a limer it suffices. The which rope should be made of leather of a horse skin well tawed.

[1] For they are not likely to get the mange so soon.
[2] G. de F. says "sticks," p. 118.

THE KENNEL AND KENNELMEN