

Why Possum's Tail is Bare

Long ago Possum had a beautiful fluffy tail. He bragged about it everywhere he went. All the animals hated to see him coming for they were sick of hearing about his tail!

Rabbit was especially tired of it for he had once had a lovely tail as well, until Bear had yanked it off! How he wanted to teach that possum a lesson!

Finally the day came that he had the opportunity to do so. There was to be a big dance and Rabbit came up with a wonderful plan.

He would send Cricket over to Possum's house to groom his tail and have Cricket wrap a red cloth around it so that Possum would not see that Cricket had shaved every hair off of the tail, leaving it pink, bald, and ugly!

And that is just what he did and Possum never knew. Rabbit told Possum that they wanted his tail to look nice for the dance, as they would let him do a special dance in honor of his tail. The dance began, and they removed the cloth from Possum's tail.

Possum still did not see what had become of his pride and joy. The musicians began to play and Possum got up and began to dance. Each time he got up to dance, the other animals laughed! With each turn, his dance became more and more elaborate and special. The laughter grew louder so Possum turned and saw what had become of his beautiful, fluffy tail. Now it was ugly and bald. The shock of seeing it made the poor animal faint!

And to this day, possum tails are pink, ugly, and bare and when a possum is shocked or afraid, he will faint.

