

'FIFTY-EIGHT GIRL' REJECTED MUSK OX BABY



FIFTY-EIGHT GIRL studies the world with a weary eye. Below she tries to make friends with the herd but they'll have none of her. The best

she gets is a cold, hard look from a matron musk ox.

It's a bewildering world for a lonesome little musk ox. "Fifty-eight Girl", born a couple of weeks ago at the University of Alaska Musk Ox Farm, was abandoned by her mother to be brought up by humans.

She was a difficult baby and once delivered, her mother decided to have nothing to do with her. Herd manager, Dee McConnell, adopted her to save her life, moving her into a small trailer where he and his wife tended her round the clock like any new baby.

But Fifty-eight Girl weighed 22 pounds at birth and gains half a pound daily. She's too young to house break and can outrun a man. That made for monumental housekeeping pro-

blems so last week they moved her out by the front steps.

She doesn't mind so much except she has to be tied up and that's something no musk ox will tolerate for long.

To take the fuss off, they walk her often. When anyone goes up to visit the herd, Fifty-eight Girl always tags along.

She wants to join the family but every time she tries, some 500 pound matron musk ox makes a dash at her.

"She's getting leary," McConnell notes. "She's had better treatment from humans than from musk ox and she's learning to be cautious."

But she'd still rather be a musk ox, thank you. And she just keeps on trying.



A HAPPY MUSH OX FAMILY is quite exclusive, the little misfit discovers. For comfort she goes

to Dee McConnell, herd manager, who is bringing her up.

