

How we assess for humane content

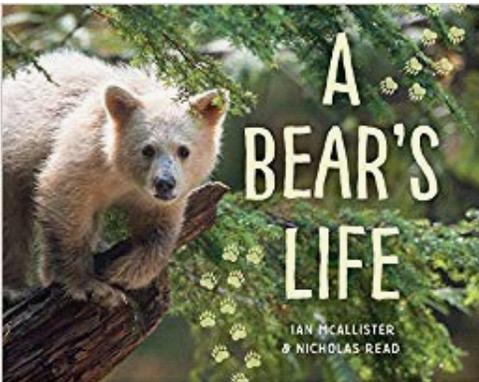
There is a wide range of children and young adult books that deal with animals. Animals take different roles in books. Books that show the human-animal bond and the intrinsic value of animals are the types of books we would like to recommend.

In order to promote animal welfare we ask ourselves these questions when assessing books to recommend.

1. Are the animals anthropomorphized (given human characteristics) or are they realistic?
2. Does the book promote positive or negative attitudes towards animals? (pets as family members)
3. Are the animals well cared for? (kept indoors, positive training methods, etc.)
4. Are animals stereotyped? (i.e. are rottweilers portrayed as mean and vicious)
5. Are the facts about the animals correct?
6. What lessons can be learned from the book to improve animal welfare?

Classroom Activity: Have students answer the above questions about books they read or books you ask them to review.

NON-FICTION



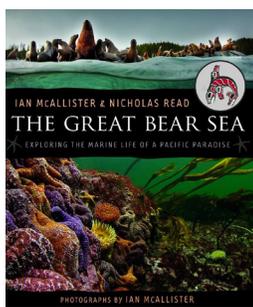
A Bears Life by Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read

Reading Level: Grades 3+

Located on the west coast of Canada, The Great Bear Rainforest has everything black bears, grizzly bears and spirit bears need to live rich, full lives.

This educational book by Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read combines stunning real-life footage with informative information on the life of bears. From the important bond between mother bears and cubs, the beach buffet that fulfills many dietary needs, and the mysterious of the

rare spirit bear, each page dives into fascinating details of how bears live. Classes will get an inside perspective to the majestic creatures that share our home region. Discussion questions to have with your class may include how we as humans effect bears, their habitat, food sources and population numbers, as well as ways to build awareness for these issues.

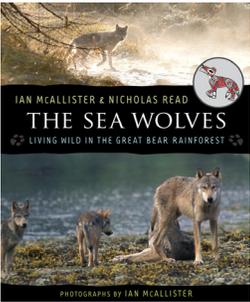


The Great Bear Sea: Exploring the Marine Life of a Pacific Paradise by Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read

Reading level: Grades 3+

Prepare for an expedition into an often mysterious but always breathtaking underwater world!

The Great Bear Sea is an informative and inspirational look at life within the ocean off the coast of the Great Bear Rainforest. This book is an excellent resource for class discussions on life cycles, food webs and human impacts on wildlife and the environment. For students eager to see the spectacular images from *The Great Bear Sea* in motion, check out the accompanying video at greatbear-sea.com.



The Sea Wolves: Living Wild in the Great Bear Rainforest
by Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read

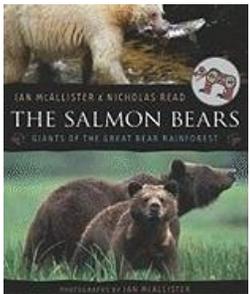
Reading level: Grades 3+

The Sea Wolves takes readers on a journey into a little-known world where wolves can swim like otters and fish like bears.

The world of the coastal wolf is unique. Unlike any other wolves on the planet, coastal wolves have adapted to a life on land and at sea. They hunt the beaches for crabs, clams and mussels, and wade out into the rivers to catch salmon. They even brave the ocean waves to paddle from one island to another in search of food.

But the world of the coastal wolf is also fragile. Coastal wolves are only found in the Great Bear Rainforest. When the rainforest comes under threat, the wolves are put in danger too since all life in the forest is connected.

The Sea Wolves is ideal for class discussions on life cycles, food webs and human impacts on wildlife and the environment. With breathtaking photos and page-turning facts, the world of the coastal wolf is brought to life.

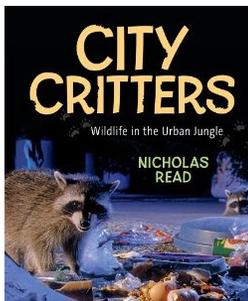


The Salmon Bears: Giants of the Great Bear Rainforest
by Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read

Reading level: Grades 3+

Through magnificent photos and descriptions of the interconnectedness of bears, salmon and the rainforest, McAllister and Read bring readers closer to these amazing creatures. The journey of the bears through the seasons is informative and fascinating.

In the last chapter, the authors encourage readers to consider the future of the bears. Even though a large section of land has been preserved, it represents only 30 per cent of the bears' range. The other 70 per cent remains open to logging and other industrial pursuits. Much of the protected area is inhabitable for bears and therefore much more needs to be done if the bears are to survive for future generations to admire.



City Critters by Nicholas Read

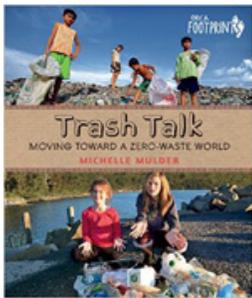
Reading level: Grades 4+

When we think of wildlife we think of forests, oceans and rural areas but if we take a closer look there are many critters we share spaces with in urban centres too.

Discover why these animals choose to live in urban spaces and how they survive in areas we consider inhospitable to their wild behaviours and needs.

This book is full of amazing, colourful pictures of mammals, birds, aquatic animals, reptiles and insects as well as informative facts.

It makes one ponder what responsibilities humans must accept since we must share our space with these animals whose ancestors once ruled the wild space our cities used to be.



Trash Talk by Michelle Mulder

Reading level: Grades 4-5

Most of us recycle but, unfortunately, that alone won't solve the world's pollution problem. Finding ways to use less and to make something useful from what others consider trash is a better means of helping the planet. *Trash Talk* is all about people from around the world who are doing just this in surprisingly easy, creative and artistic ways. This book takes the phrase "One man's junk is another man's treasure" seriously! From composting, reusing or fixing items other people are finished with to using "trash" to build new houses or musical instruments, there are so many ways to reduce waste. The result will be friendlier communities, cost savings and – most importantly – a healthier Mother Earth. There is a take-away lesson for everyone in this book.

Use *Trash Talk* as an introduction to study the environmental impact of trash and to spark creative solutions to overconsumption and our 'trashy' habits.

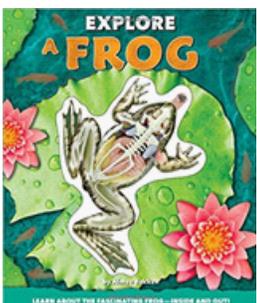


What's the Buzz? Keeping Bees in Flight by Merrie-ElLEN Wilcox

Reading level: Grades 4-7

Not all buzzing yellow and black insects are bees and not all bees sting. These are just a couple of the myths dispelled in this thorough introduction to bees.

What's the Buzz? author Merrie-ElLEN Wilcox is an experienced B.C. apiculturist (bee-keeper). She shares her knowledge and passion for bees in this informative, accessible book that is filled with bee facts and tips on how to help bees survive. The photos and diagrams throughout the book add visual appeal and will engage students to read on and take action for the planet.



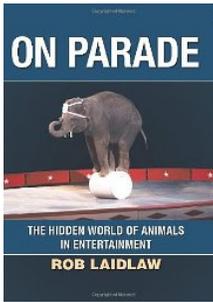
Explore a Frog by Aimee Bakken

Reading level: Ages 8 and up

Layer by layer, *Explore a Frog* reveals how a frog's anatomy allows it to leap, swim, catch food, and more. This wonderfully illustrated, full colour book and model, explores the skeletal, nervous, respiratory, digestive, circulatory, reproductive, muscular and integumentary (skin) systems of the frog, peeling away each system with each page. It's clear and structured layout allow it to be read in any order that most interest the reader.

Start with the skeletal system or jump right to the frogs that eat bats and the poison dart frogs of South America!

No frogs were harmed in the reading of this book! The plastic model at the center of this books allows readers to turn over, touch, and peel away the different parts of the frog to see how it does all of it's amazing feats, while keeping the real frogs hopping happily along.



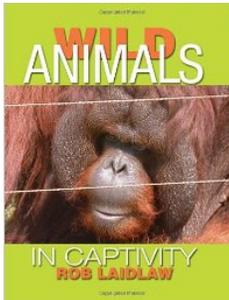
On Parade: The Hidden World of Animals in Entertainment

by Rob Laidlaw

Reading level: Grade 5+

Using compelling non-fiction narratives and first person accounts from the author, *On Parade* shows young readers the many troubling aspects of using animals for entertainment. This intelligent book explains the welfare needs of animals and delves into different types of entertainment in which animals are often harmed, including circuses, film and television, zoos, rodeos, magic shows, animal racing, animal fighting and more.

Despite its saddening subject matter, *On Parade* allows all readers – youth and adult – to come away with hopeful ideas for alternatives to animals in entertainment and ways that they can start making a difference right away. Featuring a list of ten ways to help animals in entertainment, *On Parade* offers opportunity for student action both in the classroom and at home.



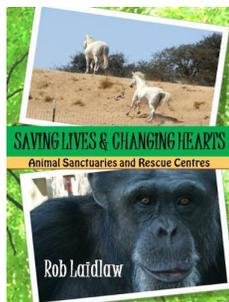
Wild Animals in Captivity *by Rob Laidlaw*

Reading level: Grades 6+

Rob Laidlaw is a chartered biologist and the founder of the wildlife protection organization Zoocheck Canada.

Wild Animals in Captivity provides information on the welfare of animals in zoos. It looks at a wide range of animals that are kept in captivity and examines what happens when wild animals live in unnatural spaces. The photos are compelling and will leave the reader asking, Should these animals be here at all? What is it like for the animals who live in the same enclosures day after day?

Laidlaw also includes questions to think about if you do go to a zoo and a list of ways to help animals in captivity.



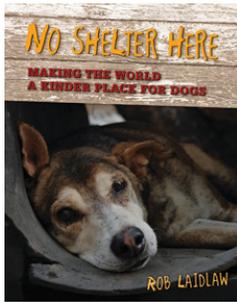
Saving Lives & Changing Hearts: Animal Sanctuaries & Rescue Centers

by Rob Laidlaw

Reading level: Grades 4+

This moving and informative book begins by addressing the question, “What is an animal sanctuary?” and establishing the differences between sanctuaries and rescues. Each subsequent chapter features the personal story of an animal or animals’ journey from suffering to sanctuary or rescue, with specific details about the individuals and organizations that have saved them. The book touches on potential animal welfare concerns when a facility isn’t set up properly and also offers readers eight action steps they can take to help animals in need of sanctuary.

Featuring plenty of colour photographs and an engaging design, *Saving Lives & Changing Hearts* can be used effectively in the classroom for independent student reading, research projects and group discussion.



No Shelter Here: Making the World a Kinder Place for Dogs
by Rob Laidlaw

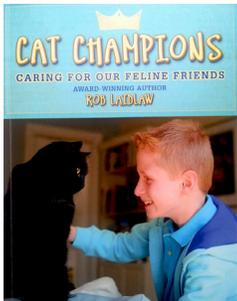
Reading level: Grades 3-6

No Shelter Here: Making the World a Kinder Place for Dogs offers a well-rounded look at dog welfare at home and in countries across the globe and gives youth a starting point to create positive change for our canine friends.

Topics include welfare issues such as puppy mills, street dogs, cosmetic surgeries, in-breeding, dog racing, dog fighting and scientific testing, to name a few. *No Shelter Here* features a strong focus on dogs as companions and encourages adoption from animal shelters. Readers learn about dogs' needs as well as the process of adopting a new furry family member.

Perhaps best of all, *No Shelter Here* tells the stories of dozens of young "Dog Champions" who work to make the world a more humane place for dogs. From a 10-year-old who formed a charity to protect police dogs to a 15-year-old whose efforts changed the laws on devocalization surgery in Massachusetts, the youth featured in *No Shelter Here* are an inspiration to animal lovers of all ages.

Readers of *No Shelter Here* will have a deeper knowledge of the challenges dogs face and how they can help. Teachers can encourage students to take the Dog Lover's Pledge, at the end of the book, and get started today on making a difference for dogs.



Cat Champions: Caring for our Feline Friends by Rob Laidlaw

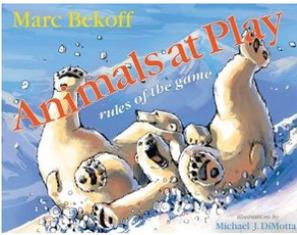
Reading level: Grades 3-6

In *Cat Champions*, award-winning author and activist Rob Laidlaw once again informs and inspires young readers to make a difference for animals, this time with a focus on cats.

A well-balanced book, *Cat Champions* addresses some of the most important cat welfare concerns, such as overpopulation and spay/neuter, indoor vs. outdoor cats and the importance of identification. It also provides straightforward information about adopting and caring for cats, explains the role of animal shelters and tells the stories of fantastic felines like Tuxedo Stan, a former stray who became a spokescat for animal issues.

Most importantly, though, *Cat Champions* introduces readers to the cat champions themselves – ordinary youth who are taking action in a variety of ways, including volunteering, fostering, adopting, fundraising and educating others about the cat welfare issues that matter to them. The profiles of these young animal advocates can serve as inspiration for other kids to be the change they want to see in the world.

Featuring a special Cat Lover's Pledge and extra resource listings, *Cat Champions* is an excellent book to ignite and enhance classroom discussions around animal issues and social responsibility.



Animals at Play by Marc Bekoff

Reading level: Grades 3-5

Animals play, wrestle and sometimes fight, but they learn the rules of the game in the process. Biologist and ethologist (expert in animal behaviour), Marc Bekoff has written his first children's book to help kids understand animal communication and pique their interest in animal observation. We can learn about ourselves by observing animal behaviour and it is a great way to build empathy skills.

Dr. Jane Goodall wholeheartedly endorses this book. She writes, "Marc Bekoff's ideas about fair play stress the significance of cooperation and justice, aspects of behaviour desperately needed in the world today. Read this book, share it with the children in your life and incorporate its lessons into your classroom, family room or board room."

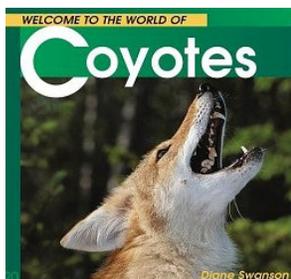


The Case of the Vanishing Honeybees: A Scientific Mystery by Sandra Markle

Reading level: Grades 4-7

Honeybees are dying in vast numbers around the world. Can scientists find the culprit in time to save them?

An intriguing combination of science and mystery, *The Case of the Vanishing Honeybees* manages to make a complex issue both accessible and relevant to a young audience. Students are bound to come away with a new appreciation for bees. This book is a great source for student reports, and can spur children on to further research and action with recommended readings and ways to help honeybees.

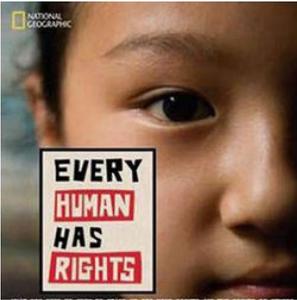


Welcome to the World of Coyotes by Diane Swanson

Reading level: Grades 3-5

Welcome to the world of coyotes! When students delve into this engaging non-fiction book, they will be amazed at what they didn't know about coyotes. From their eating habits and their communication methods to the ways they play and raise their young, there's a lot more to these smart, spirited, sensory-driven animals than many of us realize.

With colour photographs on every page and interesting complementary anecdotes, *Welcome to the World of Coyotes* makes a great resource for teachers looking to educate their students about the nature of coyotes, and can lead to further learning about human-coyote conflict and what kids need to know if they come across a coyote.



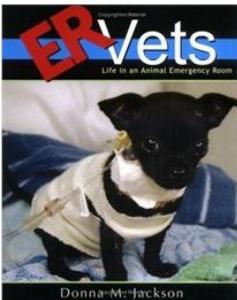
Every Human Has Rights by *National Geographic*

Reading level: Grade 4+

When a group of elder statesman (including Nelson Mandela, Jimmy Carter, Aung San Suu Kyi, and Kofi Annan), decided to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the National Geographic for Kids decided to support this by creating a book on the declaration for kids.

They held a contest through ePals (a pen pal site for kids). The contest consisted of a classroom lesson on the declaration (rewritten for kids) and student submissions responding to one of the rights. Sixteen of those entries are included in the book.

This book is accessible and intelligently designed for children.



ER Vets by *Donna M. Jackson*

Reading level: Grades 5-8

From saving a tiny foal in a coma to untwisting a German shepherd's stomach, life in an animal emergency hospital can be dramatic and exciting. *ER Vets* gives you a behind-the-scenes look at what goes on in the animal ER.

Filled with stories and graphic photos which provide enough detail to give the reader insight without being overwhelming, this book will give budding young vets and vet techs a taste of what it takes to work in this fast-paced career.

The book includes a fairly comprehensive glossary and is suitable for grades 5-8.