



Reading with Rex

Here's a fun way for you and your favourite pet to spend some quality time together. Celebrate **Be Kind to Animals Month** by curling up with one of the books below and read it out loud to your pet. If you don't have a pet to read to, pick your favourite stuffy!

NOVELS

The Nine Lives of Travis Keating

By Jill MacLean (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2009)
Ages 11+



Travis feels more alone than ever when he and his father move to a small town after his mother passes

away. But his discovery of a colony of abandoned cats gives Travis a chance to put aside his grief and anger to care for them, a decision that results in more satisfaction – and more danger – than he could have ever imagined.

Flood Warning

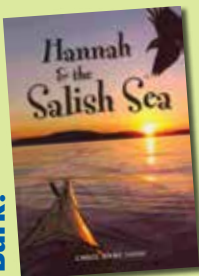
By Jacqueline Pearce (Orca, 2012), with illustrations by Leanne Franson
Ages 7 to 10



It's spring thaw and the Fraser River is over-spilling its banks. Tom and his dog Amos leap into action to help save his family's herd of dairy cows. But will they reach high ground in time?

Hannah and the Salish Sea

By Carol Anne Shaw (Ronsdale, 2013)
Ages 11+



Hannah and her friends get

involved in a dangerous mystery surrounding the death of an eagle and a bear cub. The group uncovers a criminal ring killing animals for their body parts but their snooping soon gets them in a fight for survival.

PICTURE BOOKS

The Forgotten Rabbit

By Nancy Furstinger (Gryphon, 2014), with illustrations by Nancy Lane
Ages 5 to 7



All too often, rabbits purchased as Easter gifts end up being neglected once the excitement of a new pet has worn off. Will Bunny's story be any different? This forgotten rabbit might just get the happy ending she deserves when she meets a little girl named Rosalita one night.

Yoda: The Story of a Cat and His Kittens

By Beth Stern (Aladdin, 2014), with illustrations by Devin Crane
Ages 5 to 7



Although Yoda has just been adopted by a very kind woman named Beth, something in his life isn't quite right. He still feels sad and lonely. Beth starts to foster some kittens and, before long, Yoda discovers his true calling.

The Lucky Tale of Two Dogs

By Cathy M. Rosenthal (Pet Pundit, 2012), with illustrations by Jessica Warrick
Ages 5 to 7



Two dogs live on the very same street but have very different lives. One has a loving family who provides for all his needs, while the other spends most of his time alone in a backyard. One day, the unlucky dog escapes. When no one comes looking for him, will he be lucky enough to find safety, friendship and love with a new family?



NON-FICTION BOOKS

Get the Scoop on Animal Puke! and *Get the Scoop on Animal Poop!*

By Dawn Cusick (Imagine, 2014, 2012)
Ages 8+

Get ready to be en-GROSS-ed in these books! Did you know that sharks can vomit up their stomachs to clean them? Or that caterpillars can shoot poop to throw predators off their trail? You'll discover these and other surprising strategies animals use to survive.



The Case of the Vanishing Golden Frogs: A Scientific Mystery

By Sandra Markle
(Millbrook, 2011)
Ages 8+



Golden frogs, like many other frog species around the

world, are dying off at an alarming rate. Can scientists find the culprit in time to save them? A fascinating mix of science and mystery, this book might just inspire you to become a friend to frogs where you live.

Trash Talk: Moving Toward a Zero-Waste World

By Michelle Mulder (Orca, 2015)
Ages 8+

The planet is becoming one huge trash can! *Trash Talk* is packed with ideas on how we can reduce the amount of garbage we produce. It also gives examples of



creative and artistic ways to re-purpose “trash” into new items.

Time for a catnap!



Silvie and Jingles the rabbit agree:
'everybunny' should read *The Rabbit Rescuers*!

Book Review

The Rabbit Rescuers



PHOTO: KARLA WAKEFIELD PHOTOGRAPHY

The Rabbit Rescuers

By Cindy Howard

Illustrated by Nancy Lane

Published by No Rabbit Left Behind

Ages 8 and up

New city. New school. New friends. Sometimes moving can seem like the end of the world.

Ten-year-old twins Kate and Zack certainly think so – until they meet Paityn and Marijane, the quirky cousins who live next door. Luckily for the twins, the girls love animals and adventures just as much as they do. The four quickly team up to explore the local park, which is home to dozens of abandoned rabbits.

At first, visiting the rabbits together is just a fun way to spend an afternoon. Then, one day, the group comes face-to-face with the dangers lurking in the park when they find Huey, a badly injured rabbit. Determined to stop the suffering, the friends now have a new mission: to rescue the park rabbits. Can they save them in time?



"The park rabbits really need us! They don't have anyone who cares about them."

Rabbits on the Run

Sadly, the dangers faced by the rabbits in *The Rabbit Rescuers* are real ones.

Sometimes, when people decide having a pet rabbit is too much work, they let their rabbit loose outside. Pet rabbits left to fend for themselves in the wild live short, scary lives.



Danger is all around. Dogs, cats, hawks, eagles, owls, coyotes, foxes and mink all hunt rabbits. Once in a while, even heartless people hurt them on purpose. Rabbits also face other threats such as diseases, parasites, freezing temperatures, starvation and cars.

Did you know it is against the law to abandon rabbits? People caught releasing a rabbit can be charged with cruelty to animals.

So what can you do? The BC SPCA needs people to know that taking proper care of a rabbit is at least as much work as a cat or a dog. Then fewer rabbits will be abandoned because people will be ready for the commitment. Tell family and friends to visit spca.bc.ca/kidspetcare to learn more about what it takes to look after a rabbit.

Find out even more ways to help end rabbit suffering at spca.bc.ca/rabbits.

"A secret club and rabbits for friends. Can things get any better than this?"



For more on *The Rabbit Rescuers*, including puzzles, colouring sheets and – **bonus!** – real-life pictures of the rabbits in the book, visit therabbitrescuers.com.

Author Goes to the Dogs

Dogs can't read books, but they're great at reading smells. Just ask author Jacqueline Pearce, who learned a lot about dogs when she was writing her new novel for kids, *Dog House Blues*, published this Fall by Orca Books.

"Dogs 'read' smells to find out information about other dogs or things around them," explains Pearce. "They also have a kind of sign language that they use to communicate." *Dog House Blues* contains lots of interesting facts about dogs, as well as three dog characters modeled after her own dog, Dylan, and three dog friends, Sara, Basil and Teddy, but it is also a book about people.

"I wanted to write a story about a girl and her dog, but with a twist," says the Burnaby-based author. "The girl lives in a house full of dogs and wishes she didn't."

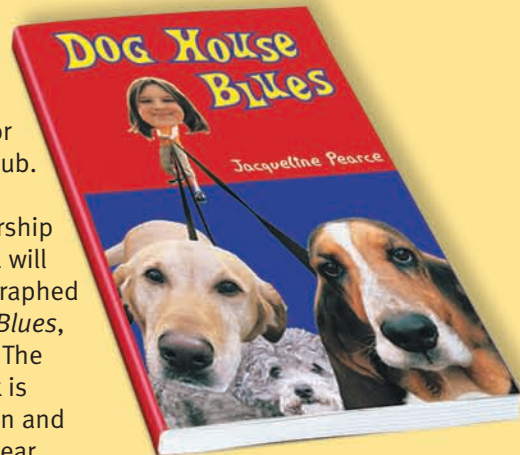
In the story, the main character, Erika, finds it difficult living in a house with three dogs. Smelling of dog cologne is not a good thing when you're trying to make a good impression at school and the class bully doesn't like dogs. Worrying about making new human friends causes Erika to forget what her dog friends mean to her – until a crisis opens her eyes.

The novel, aimed at kids ages eight to 12, shows some of the less glamorous aspects of being a dog guardian (such as picking up dog doo!), but it also highlights the close bond that develops between a girl and dog who have grown up together.



Big Kid Member Jacqueline Pearce is surrounded by Dylan (back), the author's own dog, Basset Hound Basil (left), cuddly Teddy and part Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Sara (right). All are rescued dogs that inspired the dog characters in *Dog House Blues*.

Dog House Blues is Jacqueline Pearce's fifth book for kids and the first one written especially for the BC SPCA Kids Club. Club members who renew their membership before December 31 will receive a free autographed copy of *Dog House Blues*, hot off the presses. The next Kids Club book is already being written and will come out next year.



Book Launch Party!

You're invited to a special *Dog House Blues* book launch at the Vancouver SPCA shelter Saturday, November 5. Meet the author and the dogs that inspired the story!

Jacqueline Pearce will also be on hand for a special Dog Days celebration at the Surrey SPCA on Saturday November 19. Details are on our website at www.spca.bc.ca/kids.

Dog House Blues on SHOP SPCA
You can get your very own copy of *Dog House Blues* signed by the author from the SHOP SPCA section of our website at www.spca.bc.ca. Hurry, supplies are limited!

Pick of the litter-ature!



Animals touch our hearts. What better way to celebrate **Be Kind to Animals Month** than curling up with a great animal book? Here are a few “pick of the litter” books.

Animal tales (up to grade 3)



Are You Ready for Me?
by Claire Buchwald
Written from a dog's point of view, *Are You Ready for Me?* walks you through all the responsibilities and joys of adopting a dog into your family.



Ginger Finds a Home
by Charlotte Voake
A patient girl befriends an abandoned cat and brings him into her family.



Buddy Unchained by Daisy Bix
What would it be like to live your life on the end of a chain? Share in Buddy's joy when rescued and adopted into a new home.



Max Talks to Me by Claire Buchwald
A boy and his dog communicate with each other to form a special bond.

The Big Little Book of Happy Sadness
by Colin Thompson
Discover how animals play an important role in a family's everyday happiness.

- + Moving Movies: *March of the Penguins* (2005) • *Fly Away Home* (1996) • *Free Willy* (1993) • *Hachi: A Dog's Tale* (2009) • *Chicken Run* (2000) • *Shiloh* (1996) and *Saving Shiloh* (2006)

Purr-fiction (grades 4 and up)

The Truth About Rats (and Dogs)

by Jacqueline Pearce
Conner's family has a “no pets” rule. Conner has to make a tough decision when he offers to help the SPCA by fostering Oscar, a pet rat.



Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
Opal is uprooted to a new town, finding herself suddenly friendless. At least until a trip to the supermarket helps her meet a scruffy dog. Discover how two lost souls make new friends. Also a great movie!



Flight or Fight by Diane Haynes
The first in the Jane Ray book series explores the devastation and cover-up around an oil spill that endangers the lives of seabirds.



The Summer of the Spotted Owl

by Melanie Jackson
Dinah Galloway, a young sleuth, tracks the endangered spotted owl. Does she get in over her head?



Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
Roy's life changes when he takes on the fight to save the endangered burrowing owl. Also a movie!



ER Vets by Donna M. Jackson
ER Vets takes you on a behind-the-scenes look at what goes on in an animal emergency room.



One Unhappy Horse by C.S. Adler
An unlikely friendship between a young girl and an elderly woman evolves through their mutual love of horses.



Fact-filled non-fiction

No Shelter Here by Rob Laidlaw
Learn the threats facing dogs all across the world and the ways people are making life better for abandoned and unwanted dogs.



The Salmon Bears by Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read
Magnificent photos and descriptions of the interconnectedness of bears, salmon and the rainforest brings you closer to these amazing creatures.

