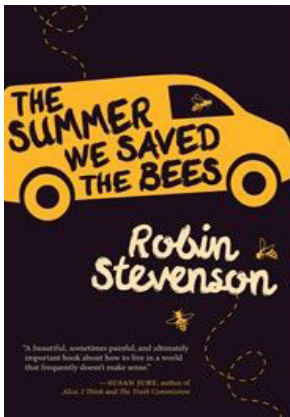




## BOOKS WE LOVE

The team at BC SPCA Kids Club Headquarters has put together a list of animal-themed books for animal-loving kids. There's something for every age and interest: chapter books, non-fiction books and picture books.

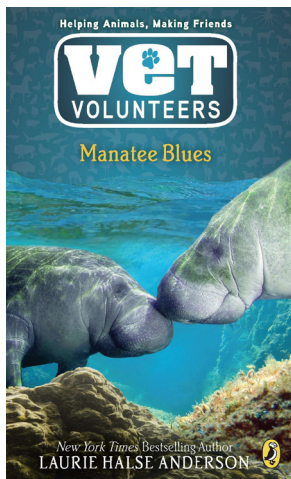
### CHAPTER BOOKS



**The Summer We Saved the Bees** by *Robin Stevenson*

Reading level: Grade 3-6

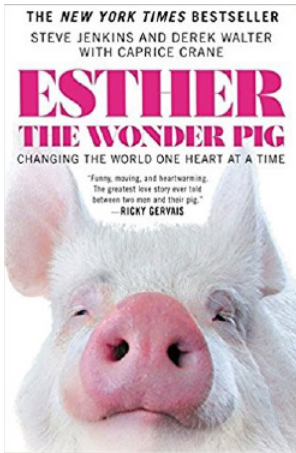
When twelve-year-old Wolf is inspired by a project at school, he and his family embark on a journey to bring awareness to the collapse of honeybee colonies. Donning bee costumes and painting their van to resemble a bee, the family sets off from Vancouver Island to travel across British Columbia, educating people on the importance of pollinators and what they can do locally to prevent bee extinction.



**Manatee Blues** by *Laurie Halse Anderson*

Reading Level: Grade 4+

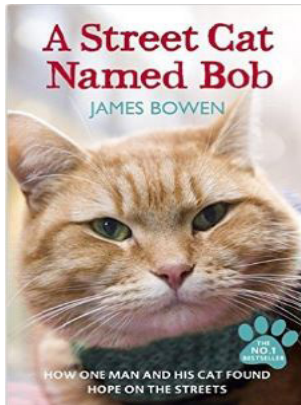
Brenna, a volunteer at the Wild at Heart Animal Clinic, is thrilled when she is invited to Florida by Dr. Mac, where she will get to visit a manatee rescue center. But the visit to the Gold Coast Rescue Center is not all fun and games—Brenna soon learns that manatees are in grave danger, as boat strikes in manatee habitats have been injuring and endangering these curious creatures. On top of this, the Gold Coast Rescue Center is quickly running out of money... if the center is forced to close, who will care for the poor gentle giants, the manatees?



**Esther the Wonder Pig: Changing the world one heart at a time** by Steve Jenkins and Derek Water with Caprice Crane

Reading level: Grade 8+

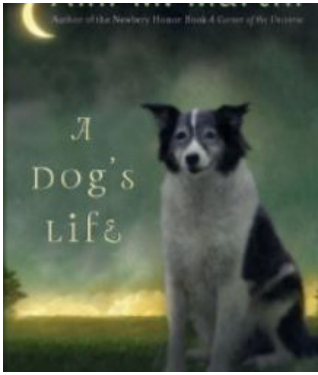
*In Esther the Wonder Pig*, Steve Jenkins and Derek Water recount the trials and tribulations of bringing a farm animal into their home as a pet, discovering their “micro pig” would reach a staggering 600 pounds, and transitioning from their urban Toronto home to a farm where they can legally have Esther. As their story unfolds, readers experience the challenges Jenkins and Water faced when Esther entered their lives. With accompanying photos of Esther growing up, this heartwarming book gives readers get a sense of just how much a piglet can change.



**A Street Cat Named Bob** by James Bowen

Reading Level: Grade 6+

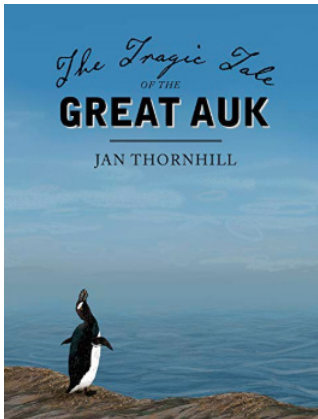
James Bowen is a young man suffering on the streets of London. He is lonely and hopeless, barely surviving on the small amount he makes from busking. When a stray cat comes into his life the last thing he needs is another mouth to feed, but he feels connected to the cat whose run-down condition and life of hardship seems to mirror his own. A strong bond quickly develops between James and the stray, whom he names Bob, as they struggle through life’s obstacles with humour and determination.



### **A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray** by Ann M. Martin

Reading Level: Grades 4-7

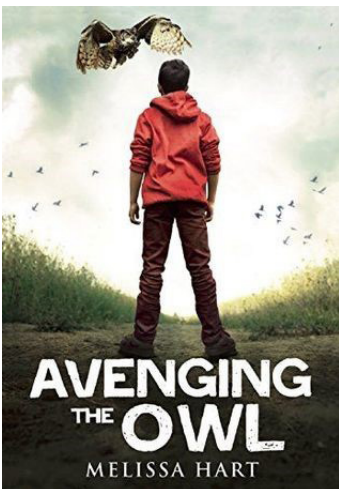
Two young, orphaned pups, Squirrel and Bone, have learned from their mother's experience how to avoid humans and find food, but when she doesn't return to the shed, they set out on their own to explore the world around them. After narrowly escaping being hit by cars, they are taken home by strangers. Since they have never lived indoors their stray dog habits of eating trash and howling to go outside soon land them back on the streets in a mall parking lot. What will happen to Squirrel and Bone now?



### **The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk** by Jan Thornhill

Reading Level: Grades 5-7

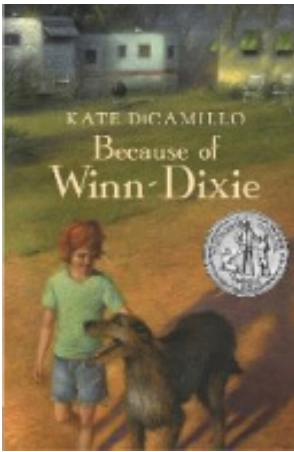
When the Great Auk went extinct in 1844, did anyone make a sound? The answer might surprise you. Canadian author Jan Thornhill explores the fascinating history of this flightless Arctic bird, from its physiology, natural behaviors and habits to its eventual extinction. A non-fiction read, this book touches on Inuit perspectives of sustainable land management, and delves into the ethics of using and collecting wild animals for human purposes.



### **Avenging the Owl** by Melissa Hart

Reading Level: Grades 7+

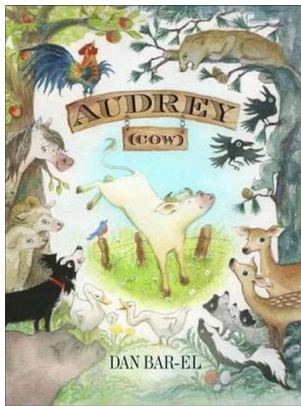
Knowing right from wrong isn't always easy, and 13 year-old Solo is about to find that out when he is sentenced to community service at a raptor sanctuary after he tries to shoot the owl that killed his kitten. Solo works closely with a Great Horned Owl, named Artemis, and is forced to confront his dislike and prejudice, as well as his own grief. The bond they form is one of understanding, forgiveness, and ultimate redemption.



**Because of Winn-Dixie** by *Kate DiCamillo*

Reading Level: Grade 3-4

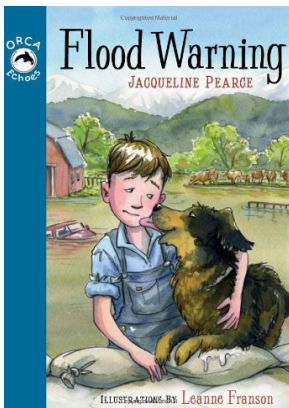
When India Opal Buloni sees an ugly, skinny dog getting in trouble she comes to his aid by claiming ownership. She just moved to Naomi, Florida with her father who has taught her about helping those in need. Since Winn-Dixie was in need of a home, food and love he quickly becomes part of the family. This new companion is just what India needs to help her meet new friends in town. Her new friends aren't typical friends for a 10 year old but they all share one thing in common, they miss someone. India manages to get her unique groups of friends together for a party but during the party Winn-Dixie is scared by a crack of thunder and runs away.



**Audrey (cow)** by *Dan Bar-el* with B&W illustrations by *Tatjana Mai-Wyss*

Reading Level: Grades 6+

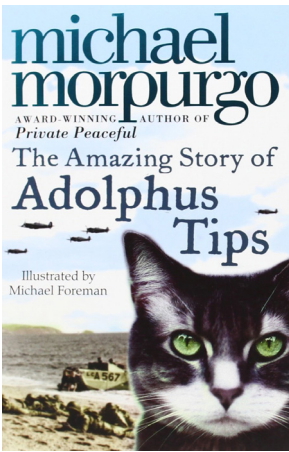
Audrey the cow has a zest for life, and she doesn't want to end up in the meat aisle of a grocery store. The story of Audrey's escape from the farm is told with humour and charm through short "interviews" with various animals and people, showing different perspectives of the same event. The author doesn't shy from the reality that farms raise food animals, and that some animals will be killed, but he does it with a gentle touch.



**Flood Warning** by *Jacqueline Pearce* with B&W illustrations by *Leanne Franson*

Reading Level: grades 3+

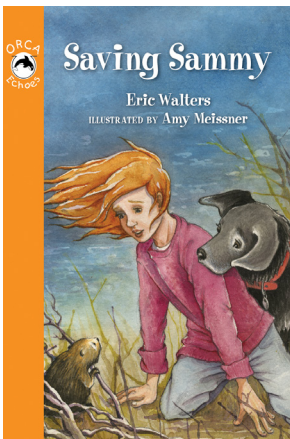
A young boy saves his family's dairy herd from a flood with the help of his dog, Amos. This is an exciting, easy-to-read chapter book based on a real situation that happened when British Columbia's Fraser River flooded in 1948.



**The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips** by Michael Morpurgo, illustrated by Michael Foreman

Reading Level: Grades 4-7

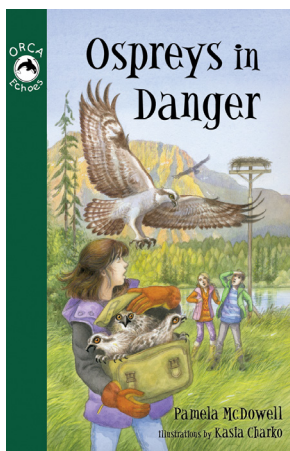
In the south of England during World War II, Lily's family and 750 others are told they must leave their homes behind so soldiers can use the land to practice for the upcoming D-Day invasion. But when evacuation day comes, Lily's beloved cat, Tips, runs away. With barbed wire surrounding her village, will Lily be able to sneak back in and find Tips?



**Saving Sammy** by Eric Walters B&W illustrations by Amy Meissner (

Reading Level: Grades 3+

After Morgan's backyard is flooded by a nearby river, her dog finds a baby beaver unable to survive on his own. Morgan and her family care for the beaver kit (with guidance from a wildlife expert) until he can be returned to the wild.



**Ospreys in Danger** by Pamela McDowell B&W illustrations by Kasia Charko

Reading Level: Grades 3+

When an osprey nest atop an electrical pole catches fire, Shilo and her friend find three osprey chicks on the ground. With the help of Shilo's park warden father, the girls look after the chicks, hoping to reunite the chicks with their parents.



**To Be a Cat** by Matt Haig, illustrated by Stacy Curtis (Atheneum, 2013).

Reading Level: Grades 4-7

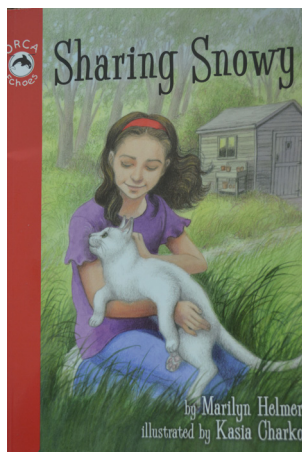
When facing difficult challenges at school and tough times in his family life at home, 12-year-old Barney Willow figures life would be a lot easier if he could live as a cat. When his wish unexpectedly comes true, Barney quickly discovers that life as a cat is anything but simple.



**Kit: The Adventures of a Raccoon** by Shirley Woods

Reading level: Grades 2-5

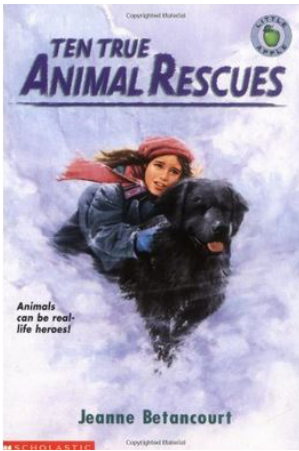
*Kit* chronicles the first few years in the life of a young raccoon. Though he starts life with two siblings, Kit soon finds himself the only survivor of his litter when his sisters are subjected to predators and human activity. Later, when he is old enough and on his own, Kit's adventures include encounters with other wildlife, track hounds, traps and humans.



**Sharing Snowy** by Marilyn Helmer, illustrated by Kasia Charko

Reading level: Grade 2-4

Ali loves cats and dreams of having one of her own, but unfortunately her brother Jay is allergic. Unable to have a feline friend at home, Ali is thrilled when she discovers a white cat hanging out in her backyard clubhouse. She names her Snowy, and quickly becomes all-consumed with being a good guardian. She brings her leftovers to eat, makes her a comfortable bed and even leaves her beloved teddy bear with Snowy at night to keep her company. Everything seems to be going well until Ali sees a "Lost Cat" sign at the store with a picture of Snowy. Ali doesn't want to give Snowy up but can she keep a cat she knows is missed by someone else?



### **Ten True Animal Rescues** by Jeanne Betancourt

Reading level: Grade 3-5

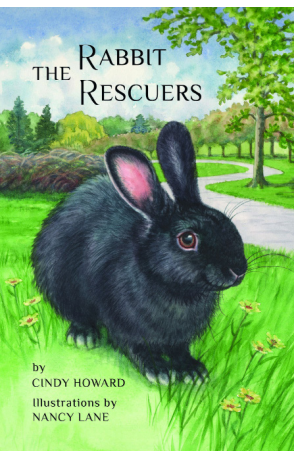
A hamster hero and a gentle gorilla are just two of the stars of *Ten True Animal Rescues* that will surprise you. Read about a pup who digs a young girl out of a snow bank, a family dog that saves his human family from a fire, and a cat who alerts a mom to her suffocating baby. These are just some of the stories that will delight and amaze young readers.



### **One Unhappy Horse** by C.S. Adler

Reading level: Grades 4-6

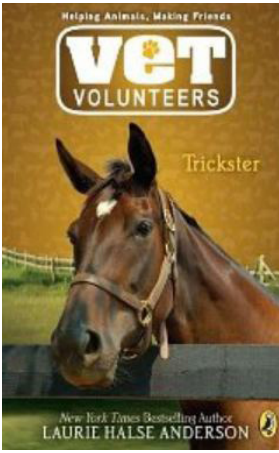
Jan could talk to her father. But when he dies in a car accident, Jan is left with many changes in her life. She finds comfort spending time with her horse Dove. When Dove needs expensive surgery and mom is already finding it difficult to pay the bills, Jan finds true friendship in an unlikely source.



### **The Rabbit Rescuers** by Cindy Howard

Reading level: Grades 3-5

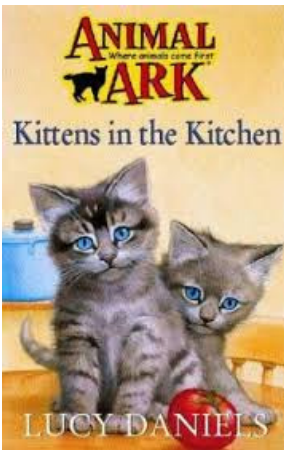
When twins Kate and Zack reluctantly move to the suburbs, they feel certain the change is for the worse. All seems hopeless until they meet Paityn and Marijane, the quirky cousins who live next door. Happily for the twins, the girls share their love of animals and sense of adventure. Together, they are drawn into the secretive world of abandoned rabbits in the park across the street. Seeing firsthand just how dangerous this world can be convinces the new friends to form a club to help the rabbits.



**Trickster** by Laurie Halse Anderson

Reading level: Grade 3-5

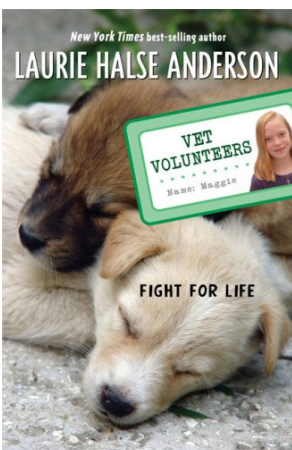
David, who loves horses, is a volunteer at the Wild at Heart veterinary clinic. When he sees Trickster, a horse from Quinn's Stables, he immediately knows that this is the horse he wants to ride. But David's gotten into trouble at the stables before, and he must regain Mr. Quinn's trust through hard work before his dream of riding Trickster can come true.



**Kittens in the Kitchen** by Lucy Daniels

Reading level: Grades 3-5

*Kittens in the Kitchen* follows Mandy Hope as she races to find homes for four newborn kittens. Mandy is told she has just a week to adopt out the kittens before Mr. Williams the custodian will "deal with them" himself. With the help of her friends, family and neighbours, Mandy sets out to not just find homes for the kittens, but to find responsible, loving guardians.



**Fight for Life** by Laurie Halse Anderson

Reading level: Grade 4+

Maggie thinks that living at the Wild at Heart Animal Clinic is pretty cool but her grandma, the vet who owns the clinic, wants Maggie to make school work her first priority, not the animals. When the clinic takes in several very sick puppies, all of whom came from the same local farmers market, Maggie decides she has to put a stop to this. Even though her grandma has cut Maggie's time in the clinic dramatically until her grades improve Maggie makes finding the puppy mill owner a priority.





### **Little Joe** by Sandra Neil Wallace

Reading level: Grades 3-5

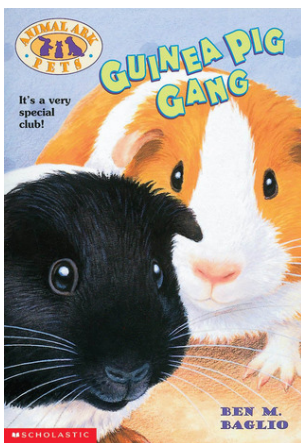
*Little Joe* is a heart-warming story that explores family relationships and the bond between humans and animals. Eli, a young boy, raises his first show calf, Little Joe. With this comes the responsibility of caring for another living thing which brings with it some hard lessons.



### **A Treasury of Pet Stories** by Suzanne Carnell

Reading level: Grades 3-4

Featuring 16 short stories by noted children's authors including Beverly Cleary and Judy Blume, *A Treasury of Pet Stories* touches on many aspects of the human-animal bond. In "Henry's Canine Teeth," a boy enlists his dog's help to impress his friends. In "Dribble," a child's pet turtle goes missing in the most unexpected way. And in "Posy Bates Goes Green," a young environmentalist holds a pet show to raise money to plant trees – with chaotic results.

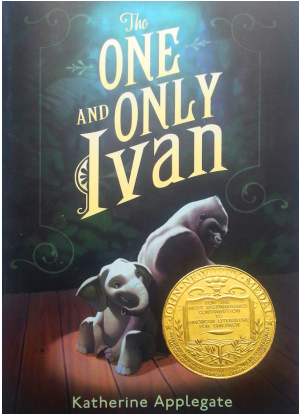


### **Guinea-pig Gang** by Lucy Daniels

Reading level: Grades 3-5

In this installment of the Animal Ark Pets series, protagonist Mandy Hope and her friends are gaga for guinea pigs – so much so that they form a "Guinea-pig Gang" to bring their pets together and to talk about proper care. When one of the girls, Lisa refuses to bring her guinea pig, Carla to the group, Mandy knows that something's up. As Mandy soon discovers, Lisa would love to take part, but her big sister poses a big problem. When Lisa must prove herself as a responsible pet guardian or risk losing Carla forever, Mandy helps her hatch a plan to become the blue ribbon winner at the local pet show.

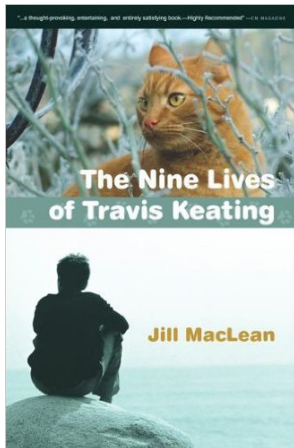
### **The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate**



Reading level: Grades 3-5 (content is suitable for young adults as well)

*The One and Only Ivan* is the Newbery Medal-winning story of Ivan, a wild-born gorilla who now lives, and works, at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade. Ivan spends his time watching TV, drawing pictures for the gift shop to sell and pondering the ways of humans. Though he has an elephant friend named Stella, a dog friend named Bob and a young human friend named Julia, Ivan lives alone in his cage. He is the only gorilla he knows. One day, a baby elephant named Ruby is brought to the Big Top Mall. Other changes happen, too. Ivan starts to see his world differently, developing a new purpose – and a plan – to fulfill a very important promise.

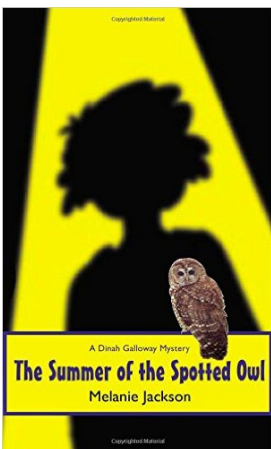
### **The Nine Lives of Travis Keating by Jill MacLean**



Reading level: Grades 4-6

Travis feels more alone than ever when he and his father move to a small town after his mother dies of cancer. 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.

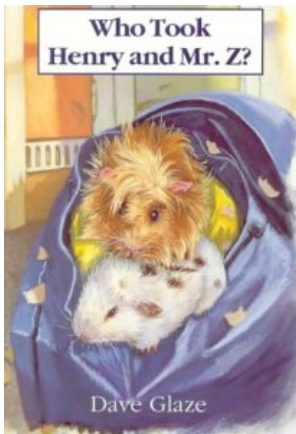
### **The Summer of the Spotted Owl by Melanie Jackson**



Reading Level: Grade 4-6

Dinah Galloway, a young sleuth, always seems to find intrigue and adventure and this time it involves the endangered spotted owl.

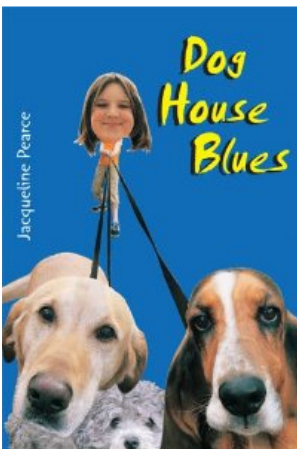
A strange sequence of events peaks Dinah's inquisitive mind. Her inflatable turtle is stolen by a inept hang glider that crashes into the backyard pool. Rownea is acting very secretive about the contents of an old trunk. A reporter for the local newspaper shows up just minutes after these things happen and the city councilor has a quick change of heart about protecting the spotted owl in North Vancouver. Are these things all connected or just coincidence? Dinah and her friends set out on a hilarious adventure to put the puzzle pieces together during their summer vacation.



### **Who Took Henry and Mr. Z?** by David Glaze

Reading level: Grades 3-4

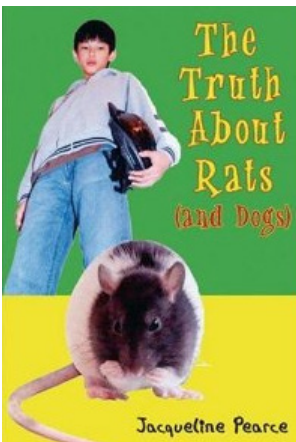
This story is about how two young sleuths who set out to solve the mystery of the missing guinea pigs. Henry and Mr. Z are classroom pets of Mrs. Whitestar's grade five class. When the two are missing one morning everyone is anxious to find them. The next day it is discovered that not only were the guinea pigs stolen but so was money from the teacher's desk. Are the two crimes connected?



### **Dog House Blues** by Jacqueline Pearce

Reading Level: Grade 3-5

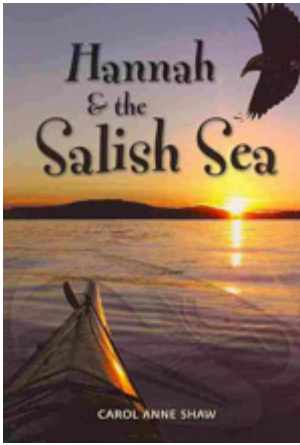
*Dog House Blues* is the first in a series of books written especially for the BC SPCA Kids Club. The story is about Erika who finds it difficult living in a house with 3 dogs. Smelling of dog cologne is not a good thing when you're trying to make a good impression at school and the class bully doesn't 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 Truth about Rats (and Dogs)** by Jacqueline Pearce

Reading Level: Grade 3-5

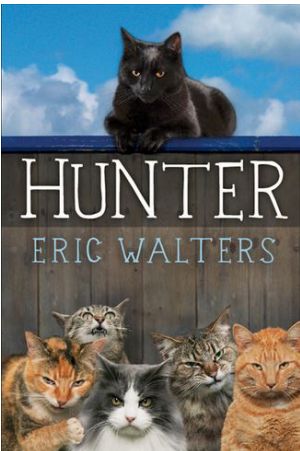
Rats are dirty, sneaky and scary, right? Wrong! Conner knows what it's like to have people decide something about you without even knowing the facts. He is expected to be good at school and music because he looks Chinese and his big sister Jenna is great at both. Conner is good at doing stunts on his BMX bike, and he loves animals, but his parents have a no-pets rule. The last animal Connor ever wanted for a pet was a rat, that was until he meets Oscar, a rat at his local animal shelter. Conner finds himself offering to foster Oscar - even if it means hiding him from his mom and dad. Connor soon realizes he will have to stand up for Oscar and for himself, even if that means confronting his parents head on.



**Hannah and the Salish Sea** by Carol Anne Shaw

Reading level: Grades 6+

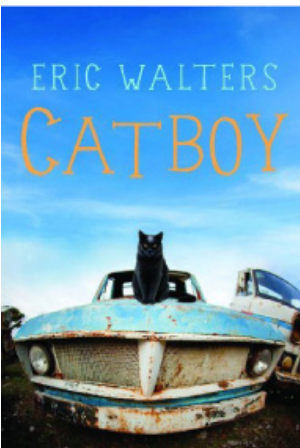
Hannah plans on enjoying her summer vacation hanging out with her friend Max and working part-time at the Salish Sea Studios. Her plans are upturned, however, when her curiosity about unexplained events turns into suspicion of criminal activity. Along the way, Hannah meets Izzy, a reluctant summer resident who is sent to work with her mother's friend Ramona at the Salish Sea Studios to get in touch with her First Nation's roots. The three teenagers put clues together – and themselves in danger – to explain how an accidental eagle death, the grisly discovery of a dead bear cub and some strange new people in town are all connected. This quest culminates in a midnight kayak paddle to an abandoned tuna boat where they soon have to fight for their lives and the lives of the animals being hunted for their body parts.



**Hunter** by Eric Walters

Reading level: Grades 4+

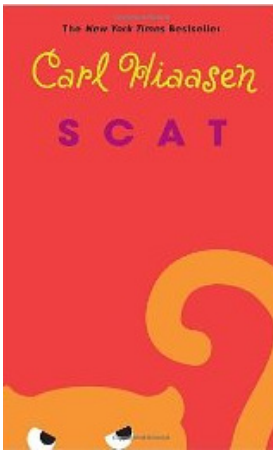
In this follow-up to his young adult novel, *Catboy*, about a boy named Taylor trying to save a feral cat colony at a junkyard, Eric Walters tells the same story, this time from the point of view of one of the feral cats, Hunter. Based on previous experiences, Hunter distrusts humans. How will he react when Taylor and his friends start showing up at the junkyard? Will he grow to trust them?



**Catboy** by Eric Walters

Reading level: Grades 4+

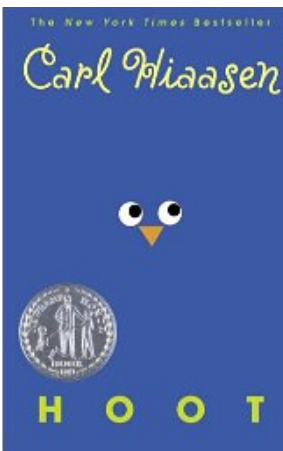
*Catboy* tells the story of Taylor, who has recently moved from a small northern town to the diverse metropolis of Toronto. Everything in the city is new to Taylor, including a feral cat colony that he discovers with his friend, Simon. Taylor, called Catboy by an older bully, quickly takes an interest in the cat colony. When a new condominium development threatens the cats' survival, he vows to come up with a solution.



**Scat** by Carl Hiaasen

Reading level: Grade 5+

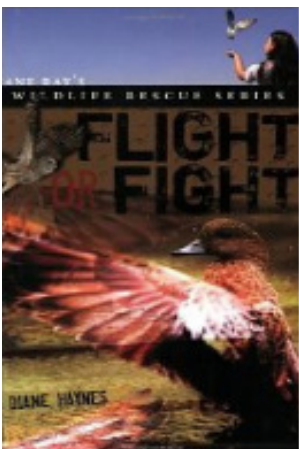
During a science field trip to Black Vine swamp, the much feared teacher, Mrs. Starch goes missing after a wild fire breaks out. Even though the students welcome the break from their teacher, something just doesn't feel right so Nick and Marta start to investigate. They suspect "bad boy" Duane as having something to do with their teacher's disappearance but once they find clues they soon discover they have misjudged him and their teacher. As they start to unravel the mystery they stumble upon a scam by an oil company and an endangered puma. All of this makes for an exciting adventure young readers are sure to enjoy.



**Hoot** by Carl Hiaasen

Reading level: Grades 5+

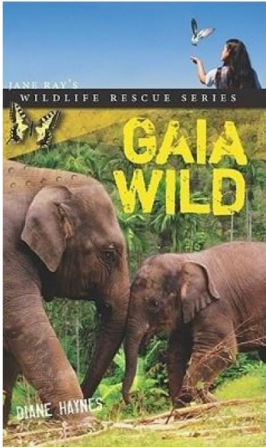
Roy just moved from Montana to Florida and he quickly becomes the target of the school bus bully. But when Roy gets his head squished up against the school bus window he is intrigued by a barefooted boy running down the street. Roy sprints off on a mission to find out more about this "wild" boy. Soon he gets involved in this boy's creative tactics to stop the building of a restaurant in order to save the endangered burrowing owls (also endangered in BC) that live underground on the land about to be bulldozed.



**Flight or Fight** by Diane Haynes

Reading Level: Grade 6+

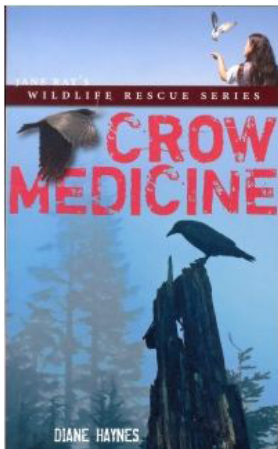
When Jane rescues a drowning seabird from an oil spill, she doesn't realize this will change her life. After taking the bird to the Urban Wildlife Rescue Centre she gets interviewed by a TV crew and speaks out against the company responsible for the spill. This grabs the attention of both the Sea King Shipping Pacific executives and the star football player at school. Jane commits herself to working with and for the animals at the Urban Wildlife Rescue Centre. She volunteers her time and makes a plan to get Sea King to do the right thing.



**Gaia Wild** by *Diane Haynes*

Reading Level: Grade 6+

This time Jane and her friends are working on a movie set. Everyone in town seems to be star struck with the exception of Jane. She can't prove it but senses something isn't right with the animals on set. Gaia, the elephant, is performing on command and has spent her whole life in captivity. Jane finds out the Gaia's life is on the line and intends to do something about it, with the help of her best friends Amy and Flory.



**Crow Medicine** by *Diane Haynes*

Reading Level: Grade 6+

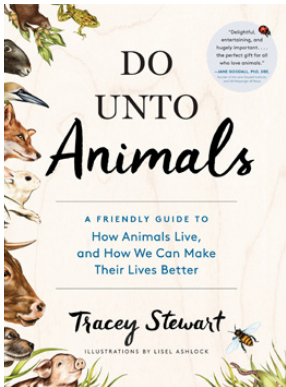
Jane, a young volunteer at the Urban Wildlife Rescue Centre in the Fraser Valley, loves animals and has a particular interest in crows. The threat of West Nile Virus puts the wildlife centre in a difficult position. Since crows are the messengers of the disease and could pass on the virus to humans the controversial decision is made to euthanize all crows that come into the wildlife centre for the safety of staff and volunteers. This sets off protests and threats by animal rights groups and donors who don't agree with the decision. A timely donation allows Jane and her two best friends to embark on a road trip adventure to the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Hospital to get an expensive vaccine to save the crows.



## BOOKS WE LOVE

The team at the BC SPCA Kids Club Headquarters has put together a list of animal-themed books for animal-loving kids. There's something for every age and interest: chapter books, non-fiction books and picture books.

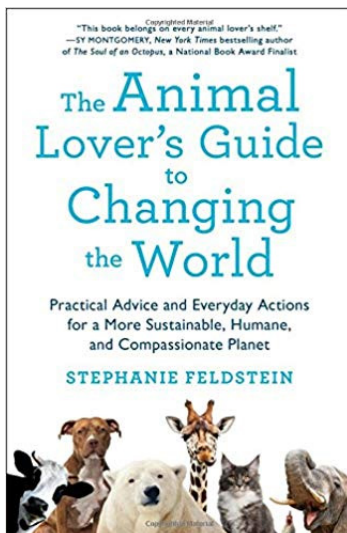
### NON-FICTION BOOKS



**Do Unto Animals: A friendly guide to how animals live and how we can make their lives better** by Tracey Stewart

Reading Level: Grades 5+

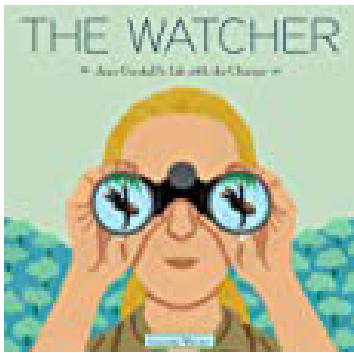
With beautiful pictures, this book is full of fascinating information and food for thought to really inspire adults and youth alike to think more deeply about the creatures around us. Readers will find inspiration in this book which includes project ideas such as building bee houses, crafting cat and dog toys, and baking healthy treats. They will also find information about animal shelters, animal welfare issues, the importance of spaying and neutering and so much more.



**The Animal Lover's Guide to Changing the World: Practical Advice and Everyday Actions for a More Sustainable, Humane, and Compassionate Planet** by Stephanie Feldstein

Reading Level: Grade 9 to Adult

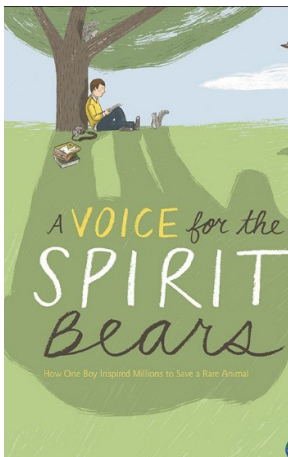
Any book that has “changing the world” in the title has big boots to fill, but in the case of *The Animal Lover's Guide to Changing the World*, those boots fit just fine. Stephanie Feldstein's book is an accessible read not just for adults but for older students as well, providing empowering advice on how each human can use their day to day actions to make a difference for all of the other animals with which we share the earth.



**The Watcher** by Jeanette Winter

Reading Level: Grades K-3+

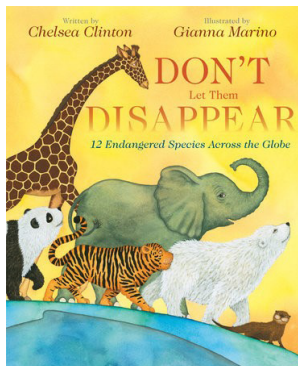
Every child who is fascinated by watching animals around them will be inspired by reading *The Watcher* by Jeanette Winter. This beautifully illustrated picture book biography tells the story of a young Jane Goodall and how she went from a “watcher” to a world-renowned primatologist who has dedicated her life to learning from and protecting primates.



**A Voice for the Spirit Bears** by Carmen Oliver, illustrated by Katy Dockrill

Reading Level: Grades 1-4

This is the inspiring true story of Vancouver native, Simon Jackson, and his perseverance in his quest to save the Spirit Bears. Struggling with a debilitating stutter and bullying by other kids in school, Simon starts to find his voice and confidence through advocating for animals. At 13, Simon learns about the rare white Kermode, or “spirit bear”, found only in B.C., and the threats to their rain-forest habitat. He knows he must do something to help them and rallies those around him to action. Simon goes on to create the Spirit Bear Youth Coalition and see his favourite animal in the wild.

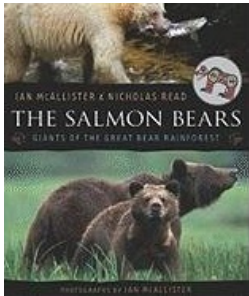


**Don't Let Them Disappear** by Chelsea Clinton

Reading Level: Grades 1-4

Did you know that tigers can jump over fifteen feet in one pounce? Or that a group of Polar Bears is called a celebration? We share the world with millions of unique animal species, but what can we do to ensure they don't disappear? Focusing on 12 endangered animals, and the causes of these animals' endangerment, including pollution and climate change, this book encourages readers to take action by providing tips on how they can help.

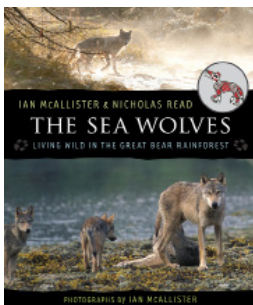




**The Salmon Bears: Giants of the Great Bear Rainforest** by Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read

Reading level: Grades 3+

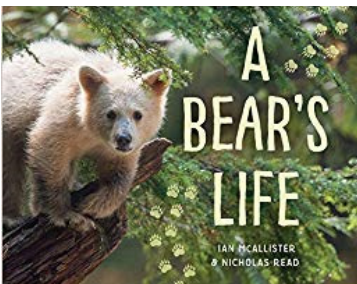
Through magnificent photos and descriptions of the interconnectedness of bears, salmon and the rainforest, McAllister and Read bring readers closer to these amazing creatures. The journey of the bears through the seasons is informative and fascinating.



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

Reading level: Grades 3+

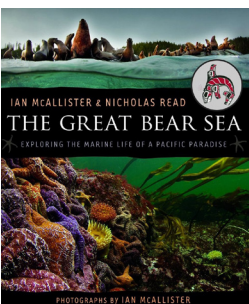
Take a journey into a little-known world where wolves can swim like otters and fish like bears. The world of the coastal wolf is unique. Unlike any other wolves on the planet, coastal wolves have adapted to a life on land and at sea. But this world is also fragile. Coastal wolves are only found in the Great Bear Rainforest. When the rainforest comes under threat, the wolves are put in danger too since all life in the forest is connected.



**A Bear's Life** by Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read

Reading Level: Grades 3+

The Great Bear Rainforest has everything black bears, grizzly bears and spirit bears need to live rich, full lives. This book 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 mysteries of the rare spirit bear, it dives into the details of how bears live.



**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.



### **Trash Talk** by Michelle Mulder

Reading level: Grades 4-5

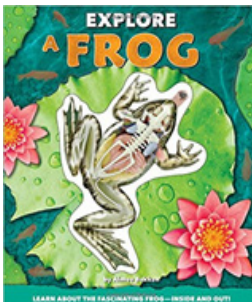
Most of us recycle but, unfortunately, that alone won't solve the world's pollution problem. Finding ways to use less and to make something useful from what others consider trash is a better means of helping the planet. *Trash Talk* is all about people from around the world who are doing just this in surprisingly easy, creative and artistic ways.



### **What's the Buzz? Keeping Bees in Flight** by Merrie-Ellen Wilcox

Reading level: Grades 4-7

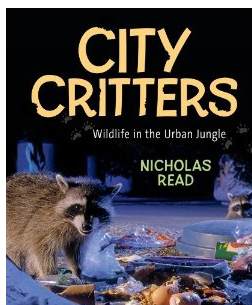
Not all buzzing yellow and black insects are bees and not all bees sting. These are just a couple of the myths dispelled in this thorough introduction to bees. This book that is filled with bee facts and tips on how to help bees survive.



### **Explore a Frog** by Aimee Bakken

Reading level: Ages 8 and up

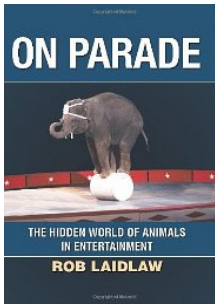
Layer by layer, *Explore a Frog* reveals how a frog's anatomy allows it to leap, swim, catch food, and more. This wonderfully illustrated, full colour book and model, explores the skeletal, nervous, respiratory, digestive, circulatory, reproductive, muscular and integumentary (skin) systems of the frog, peeling away each system with each page. Start with the skeletal system or jump right to the frogs that eat bats and the poison dart frogs of South America!



### **City Critters** by Nicholas Read

Reading level: Grades 4+

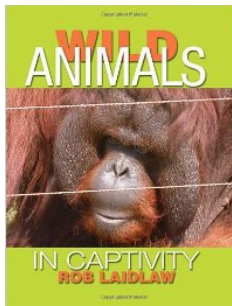
When we think of wildlife we think of forests, oceans and rural areas but if we take a closer look there are many critters we share spaces with in urban centres too. Discover why these animals choose to live in urban spaces and how they survive in areas we consider inhospitable to their wild behaviours and needs.



## **On Parade: The Hidden World of Animals in Entertainment** by *Rob Laidlaw*

Reading level: Grade 5+

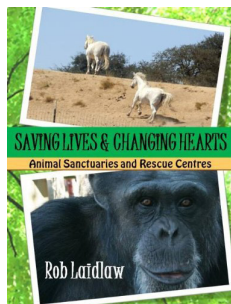
*On Parade* explains the many troubling aspects of using animals for entertainment. This intelligent book talks about the welfare needs of animals and delves into different types of entertainment in which animals are often harmed, including circuses, film and television, zoos, rodeos, magic shows, animal racing, animal fighting and more.



## **Wild Animals in Captivity** by *Rob Laidlaw*

Reading level: Grades 6+

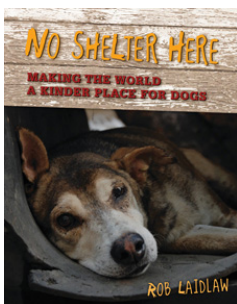
This book provides information on the welfare of animals in zoos. It looks at a wide range of animals that are kept in captivity and examines what happens when wild animals live in unnatural spaces. The photos are compelling and will leave the reader asking, Should these animals be here at all? What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



## **Saving Lives & Changing Hearts: Animal Sanctuaries & Rescue Centers** by *Rob Laidlaw*

Reading level: Grades 4+

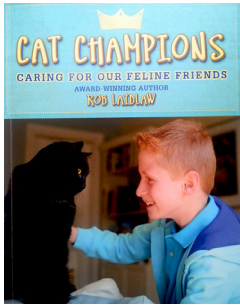
This book asks the question, “What is an animal sanctuary?” and shares the differences between sanctuaries and rescues. Each chapter features the personal story of an animal or animals’ journey from suffering to sanctuary or rescue, with specific details about the individuals and organizations that have saved them.



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

Reading level: Grades 3-6

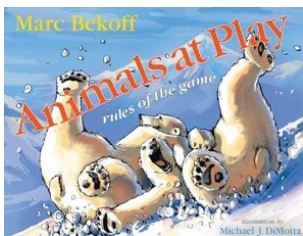
Learn about dog welfare and find a starting point to create positive change. Topics include puppy mills, street dogs, cosmetic surgeries, inbreeding, dog racing, dog fighting and scientific testing, to name a few. Perhaps best of all, this book tells the stories of dozens of young “Dog Champions” who work to make the world a more humane place for dogs.



**Cat Champions: Caring for our Feline Friends** by Rob Laidlaw

Reading level: Grades 3-6

This book talks about cat welfare concerns, such as overpopulation and spay/neuter, indoor vs. outdoor cats and the importance of identification. It also provides information about adopting and caring for cats, explains the role of animal shelters and tells some amazing cat stories. Most importantly, it inspires readers by sharing the stories of “Cat Champions” – kids who are making a difference.



**Animals at Play** by Marc Bekoff

Reading level: Grades 3-5

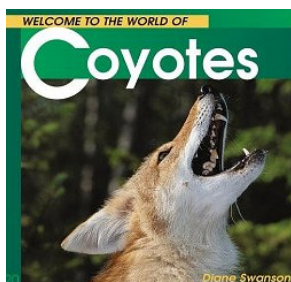
Animals play, wrestle and sometimes fight, but they learn the rules of the game in the process. Biologist and ethologist (expert in animal behaviour), Marc Bekoff has written his first children’s book to help kids understand animal communication and pique their interest in animal observation.



**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.



**Welcome to the World of Coyotes** by Diane Swanson

Reading level: Grades 3-5

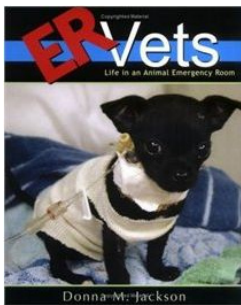
Welcome to the world of coyotes! From their eating habits and their communication methods to the ways they play and raise their young, there’s a lot more to these smart, spirited, sensory-driven animals than many of us realize.



## **Every Human Has Rights** by *National Geographic*

Reading level: Grade 4+

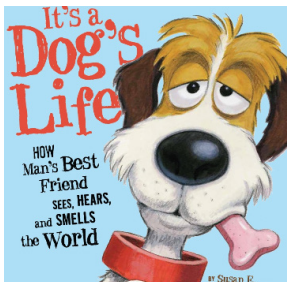
When a group of elder statesman (including Nelson Mandela, Jimmy Carter, Aung San Suu Kyi, and Kofi Annan), celebrated the 60th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the National Geographic for Kids made a book on the declaration for kids. They held a contest asking students to choose a human right and write about it. The book includes 16 entries.



## **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.



## **It's a Dog's Life: How man's best friend sees, hears and smells the world** by *Susan E. Goodman*

Reading Level: Grades 2-5

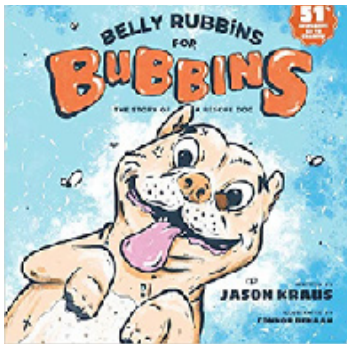
Learn about the history and behavior of our doggy friends, like the domestication of dogs over time and how exactly that happened, the emergence of breeds and dog "jobs." This humorous picture book is packed with information, fun facts included. There is even a Woof/English Dictionary so kids can try to interpret what their dog is saying with a woof or just with body language.



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### PICTURE BOOKS



**Belly Rubbins for Bubbins: The Story of a Rescue Dog** by Jason Kraus, illustrated by Connor Dehaan

Reading Level: Kindergarten to Grade 3

*Belly Rubbins for Bubbins* is the beautiful true story of a senior pit bull whose life was full of hardship and neglect. Bubbins spent nearly a year in the shelter after spending the previous 10 years of his life living outdoors with little human interaction. The scars all over his body tell the story of hardships he endured. But Bubbins never gave up hope.

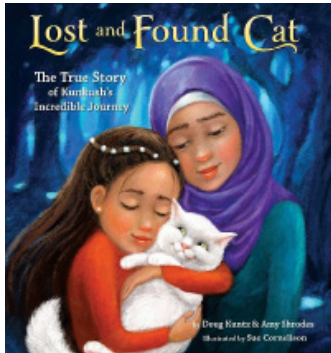


**Gwen the Rescue Hen** by Leslie Crawford, illustrated by Sonja Stangl

Reading Level: Grade 3+

Gwen the Hen has spent her whole life in an egg-laying hen house, unable to even spread her wings. One day, a tornado comes along and displaces the hens and their small cage outside. Breaking out of the cage, she dodges danger at every turn, until she finds safety with a boy named Mateo, and can finally behave like a chicken is supposed to.

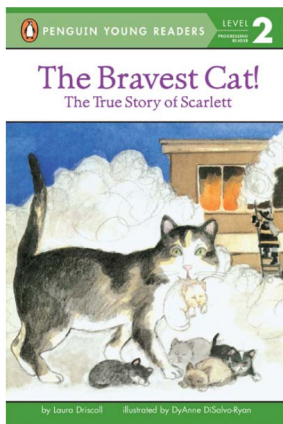
This book includes a bonus section, entitled “More about Chickens”, where readers can learn about chickens’ extraordinary eyesight, complex language of 24 sounds, good sense of time, and other fun facts.



**Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey**  
by Doug Kuntz and Amy Shrodes

Reading Level: Grade 3 and up

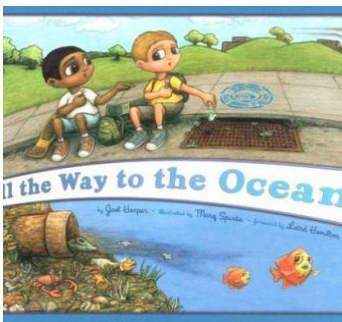
Forced to leave their home in Iraq, a family has to make a perilous journey to safety in Norway, bringing only basic possessions and their cat, Kunkush. During the long journey, Kunkush escapes his carrier and spends days wandering the streets of Greece before he is picked up by a caring stranger and brought to a vet. But will he find his way back to his family?



**The Bravest Cat!** by Laura Driscoll, illustrated by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan

Reading Level: Grades 2-3

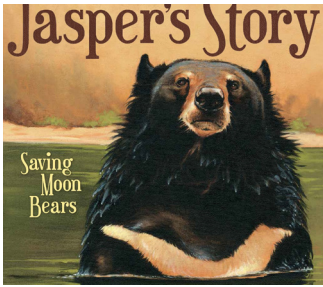
There's a fire in an abandoned building! The structure, however, isn't as empty as it initially seems. A mother cat runs out of the flames, holding her tiny kitten! To the surprise of the firemen, the cat then runs back into the fire. But why is this courageous mom braving the heat and danger?



**All the Way to the Ocean** by Joel Harper, illustrated by Marg Spusta, forward by Laird Hamilton

Reading Level: Beginner (Grade K-2)

When James throws away a wrapper into a storm drain, his best friend Isaac points out something important: drains lead all the way to the ocean. Illustrated entirely in environmentally-friendly soy ink, this book tells the tale of two friends learning about the importance of the ocean ecosystem, and how our trash can affect the beautiful undersea world.



**Jasper's Story** by Jill Robinson and Marc Bekoff

Reading Level: Grades 5+

Endangered Asiatic black bears, known as moon bears, are the species of bear most commonly used on bear bile farms in China and Vietnam. *Jasper's Story* tells the true story of a moon bear, rescued from a bear bile farm and brought to the Moon Bear Rescue Centre in Chengdu, China.



SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A FOX

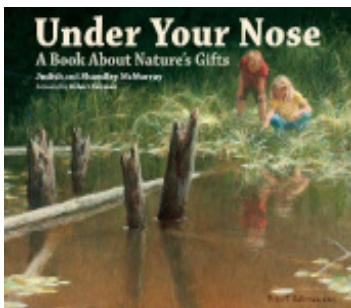
Danielle Daniel



**Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox** by Danielle Daniel

Reading Level: Grades K-1

In this book, inspired by the Anishinaabe tradition of totem animals, children put on different animal masks in order to illustrate and explain why they feel like different animals. By identifying personality traits, emotions, and positive descriptors associated with different species, this book fosters connection and compassion between humans and animals.

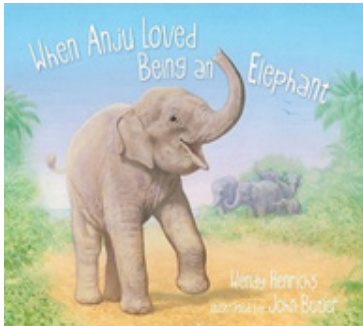


**Under Your Nose: A Book About Nature's Gifts** by Judith and Shandley McMurray, forward by Robert Bateman

Reading level: Grades K-3

Siblings Chloe and Zachary face seven days at their grandparents' cottage in the forest, without technology. But when they decide to head outside, they discover new creatures, new environments and new kinds of fun.



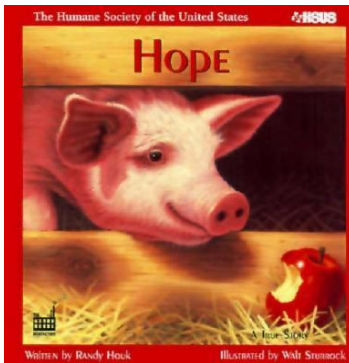


**When Anju Loved Being an Elephant** by Wendy Henrichs

Reading Level: Grades 3+

This story follows a fictional elephant, Anju, who was taken from Sumatra as a calf and sold to a circus. The book begins with Anju being loaded into a truck, wondering where she is being taken. Throughout the journey, Anju reflects on her childhood in Indonesia with her friends and family and her unhappy experiences in the circus world. Will she ever love being an elephant again?

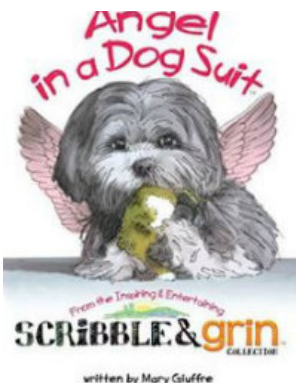
This book includes a section on facts about elephants and advice on how to help them.



**Hope** by Randy Houk, illustrated by Walt Sturrock

Reading level: Grades 1-3

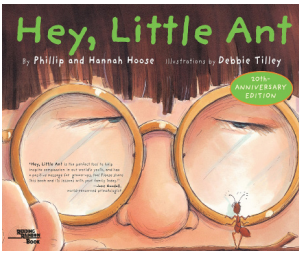
Hope is an ordinary pig who lives on a factory farm. All she wants is to be comfortable, and to be free to act like a pig! Instead, when she is three weeks old, she is taken away from her mother and littermates, and put inside an uncomfortable cage. It is dark, cramped, and painful, and when Hope injures herself, she is not cared for or given proper vet treatment. What will happen to Hope? Will she ever be able to be happy and comfortable again?



**Angel in a Dog Suit** by Mary Giuffre

Reading level: Grade 3-5

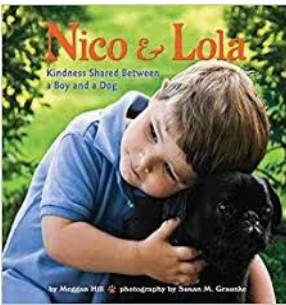
*Angel in a Dog Suit* tells the story of Ruby, a dog rescued from a puppy mill. Told in rhyme, this ultimately uplifting tale follows Ruby through her first six years in a cage, to her rescue and time at the animal shelter, followed by her adoption and adjustment to her new home, family and life.



**Hey, Little Ant** by Phillip and Hannah Hoose

Reading Level: K-5

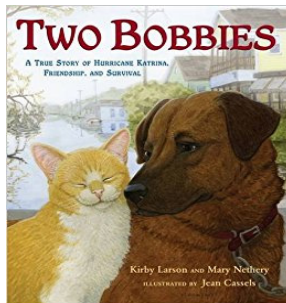
A little boy comes across an ant outside and threatens to squish him. The ant pleads with him not to and asks the boy to think about life from an insect's point of view. Readers are left to ponder the question: To squish or not to squish?



**Nico & Lola: Kindness Shared Between a Boy and a Dog** by Meggan Hill, photography by Susan M. Graunke

Reading Level: Pre-school-grade 2

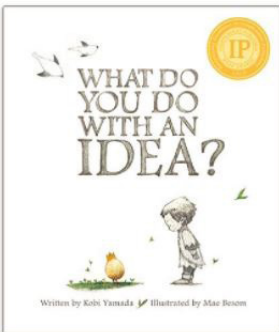
When Nico's aunt is going away for the weekend, she asks Nico if he will help look after her dog, Lola. Nico is up for the challenge. All weekend long, he finds different ways to be kind to Lola – while Lola also shows kindness to him. Young readers are invited to follow these two friends on their adventures and learn different ways they can be kind, too.



**Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival** by Kirby Larson & Mary Nethery, illustrated by Jean Cassels

Reading Level: Grade K-2

When Hurricane Katrina strikes New Orleans, many people are forced to leave their pets behind – pets like Bobbi and Bob Cat. For months these best friends roam the devastated city, hungry and with only each other as company. The animals are eventually rescued and brought to an animal shelter, where volunteers discover the remarkable bond between this cat and dog. Bobbi and Bob Cat need to stay together – but can their original guardians be found, or will an adoptive family step forward?

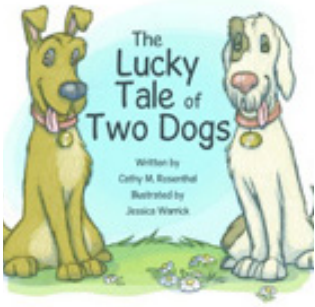


**What Do You Do With an Idea?** by Kobi Yamada, illustrated by Mae Besom

Reading level: Kindergarten-Grade 3

*What Do You Do With an Idea?* follows the journey of a child who has an idea. Written in the first person, the child confides their discomfort and insecurity of having an idea that may be different and ridiculed by some. The child grows more confident throughout the story, working with their idea to make the world a better place.

This book encourages readers to play with, grow and implement their ideas despite being afraid of what others may think. Acting on ideas without fear, is what changes the world.

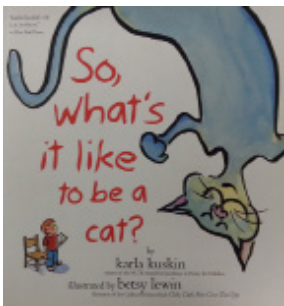


### **The Lucky Tale of Two Dogs** by Cathy M. Rosenthal

Reading level: Grades K-3

It is only when the unlucky dog escapes from his yard and is picked up by animal control that his life turns around and he becomes a happy dog. From the backyard to the streets, to the animal shelter and eventually to his forever home, he finds safety, friendship and love.

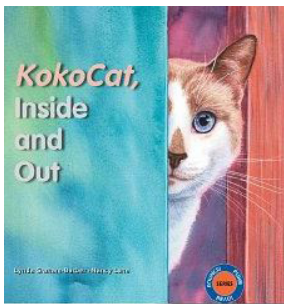
*The Lucky Tale of Two Dogs* shares the importance of social interaction for dogs as well as caring their physical needs, and the responsibility of being a pet guardian.



### **So, what's it like to be a cat?** by Karla Kuskin

Reading level: Grade K-3

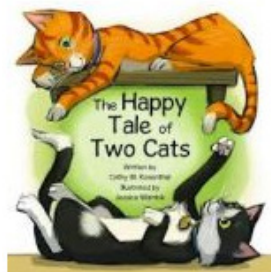
With great style, award-winning children's poet Karla Kuskin uses an interview format – between an inquisitive boy and a witty cat – to ask and answer questions about the feline way of life. Do cats like dark hallways? Getting up for breakfast? Dancing? The responses from this cat might surprise readers – and cause them to think differently about their own cats.



### **KokoCat, Inside and Out** by Lynda Graham-Barber

Reading level: Grade K-2

In *KokoCat, Inside and Out*, Lynda Graham-Barber tells the story of KokoCat, an indoor cat who lives a comfortable life with a nice family. So what happens when one day the door opens and KokoCat's curiosity takes her outside to explore? Quickly lost, KokoCat experiences the life of an outdoor cat. Cold, hungry and alone, she must fend for herself for the very first time. Will KokoCat get back home again?

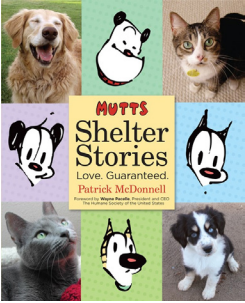


### **The Happy Tale of Two Cats** by Cathy M. Rosenthal

Reading level: Grade K+

It is only when an unhappy cat's guardians move away and leave her that she begins to transition – slowly, and with the help of kind people – into a happy cat herself. From the abandoned house to the animal shelter and eventually her forever home, she finds safety, friendship and love.

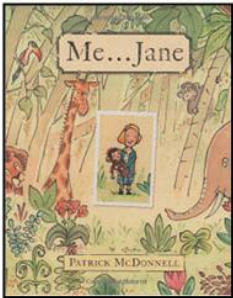
*The Happy Tale of Two Cats* tells a sweet and memorable story of what can happen when caring people in the community all take a part in turning an animal's life around.



**MUTTS Shelter Stories: Love Guaranteed by Patrick McDonnell**

Reading level: Grades 3+ (ages up to adult)

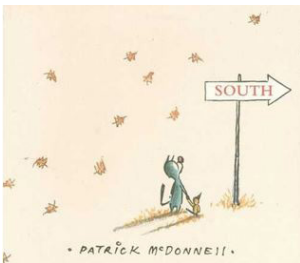
*MUTTS Shelter Stories Love Guaranteed* is a heartwarming collection of “MUTTS” comic strips by Patrick McDonnell. The collection of comic strips is dispersed with real stories of adopted pets from guardians throughout the world.



**Me...Jane by Patrick McDonnell**

Reading level: Grade K-3

In *Me...Jane*, writer and illustrator Patrick McDonnell goes back in time to tell the true story of a young Dr. Jane Goodall, a child intensely curious about and connected to nature. The story follows Jane, and her toy chimpanzee, as she teaches herself about the world by reading books and studying her own backyard. She pays close attention to wildlife and understands that she is part of the natural world – a “magical world full of joy and wonder.” Young Jane dreams of a life living with, and helping, animals... until one day, her dream comes true.



**South by Patrick McDonnell**

Reading level: Preschool-Grade 1, but may be enjoyed by all ages.

*South*, by writer and artist Patrick McDonnell, does not include any words – but it says a lot. Through a series of simple and very effective illustrations, *South* tells the story of a little bird whose flock migrates for the winter, leaving him behind. An unlikely friend, Mooch the cat, notices the little bird’s sorrow and helps him. Together they set out on a journey to catch up with the flock – they travel until they hear the familiar music of the little bird’s family.

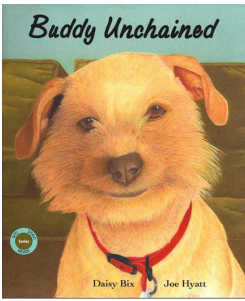
*The Gift of Nothing*

**The Gift of Nothing by Patrick McDonnell**

Reading level: Preschool-Grade 1



What do you give a friend who has everything? That’s what Mooch the cat asks himself. Mooch wants to give his friend Earl a special gift, but Earl already has a bowl, a bed, a chew toy – and everything a dog needs. After a lot of thought, Mooch decides that “nothing” is the best gift for Earl... but “in a world filled with so many somethings, where could he find nothing?”



### **Buddy Unchained** by Daisy Bix

Reading level: Grades K-3

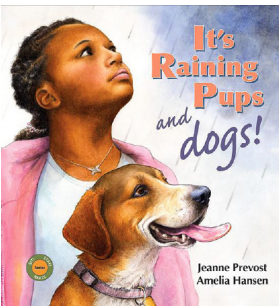
Before being rescued, Buddy lived his life on the end of a chain no matter what the weather, rain, shine or snow. Now that he has been adopted into a loving home, he shares his story of neglect and rescue. The illustrations capture the expression of a dog who has lost hope and then has his trust in humans restored.



### **Are You Ready for Me?** by Claire Buchwald

Reading Level: Grade K-3

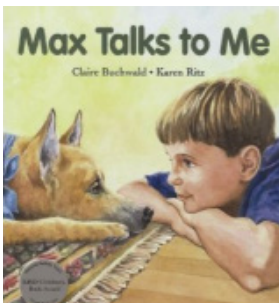
Written from a dog's point of view, *Are You Ready for Me?* illustrates the responsibilities and joys of adopting a dog into your family. Many children ask their parents for a pet without having any reference or understanding of the commitment it takes to care for another living creature. This book covers the important topics that must be discussed before adopting a dog. There is even a contract at the back of the book that families can sign together to show their commitment to their new family member.



### **It's Raining Pups and Dogs!** by Joanne Prevost

Reading level: Grade K-3

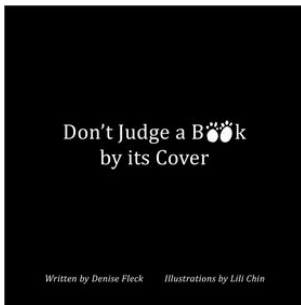
For many children the thought of having a house full of puppies sounds like a dream. In this book a young girl named Lauren is disappointed that her dog is spayed, taking away the chance to ever have a litter of puppies. But Lauren's dad knows that spaying was the right thing to do as responsible pet guardians. He helps Lauren come to the same conclusion by visiting the animal shelter.



### **Max Talks to Me** by Claire Buchwald

Reading level: Grades K - 3

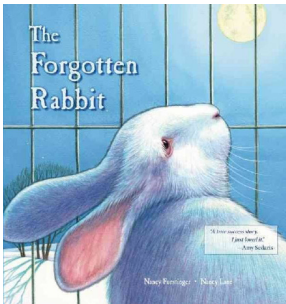
The bond between a human and an animal can be quite amazing. *Max Talks to Me* explores how a boy and his dog communicate with each other and the bond that is created. Max does not speak but, through observation and the relationship that is established, the young narrator can predict Max's behaviour and appreciate his companion as a real friend.



## **Don't Judge a Book by its Cover** by Denise Fleck

Reading level: Grade 1+

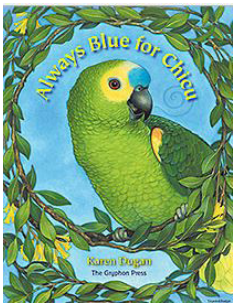
Young Mary-Alice likes things to look “pretty,” whether they are the books she reads or the friends she makes. When told she can get a dog, Mary-Alice says she wants the fluffy puppy with pink bow from the pet store. But instead, with the guidance of her parents and a shelter worker, she gives Rico, an adult black Labrador from the shelter, a chance.



## **The Forgotten Rabbit** by Nancy Furstinger

Reading level: Grade K+

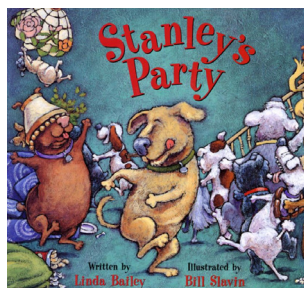
What happens when rabbits are bought as gifts, impulsively and without thought to their future care? This is the question addressed in *The Forgotten Rabbit*. Born on a farm to a loving mother, the rabbit who narrates this tale is purchased as an Easter gift for children. Initially, the rabbit – called Bunny – receives plenty of care and attention. But soon the kids turn their interest to other things, and Bunny’s cage is moved to the backyard. As the seasons change and winter eventually sets in, the reader sees how Bunny suffers. Until a girl named Rosalita comes along....



## **Always Blue for Chicu** by Karen Dugan

Reading level: Grade K-3

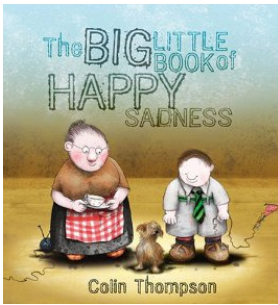
For a parrot named Chicu, the colour blue symbolizes both safety and freedom. Born in Argentina, young Chicu spends time discovering the world around him and learning to fly. One day, Chicu is trapped and taken away to be sold in the exotic pet trade. After initially living on a boat with a sailor named Big Blue, Chicu is passed around for 30 years. From long stretches all alone in his cage to being fed peanuts in a smoky bar and then kissed, cuddled and dressed up, Chicu is often frustrated that he is not able to behave like a real parrot. Eventually, he is taken to a parrot sanctuary where he is reunited with an old friend.



## **Stanley's Party** by Linda Bailey

Reading level: Grades 2-3

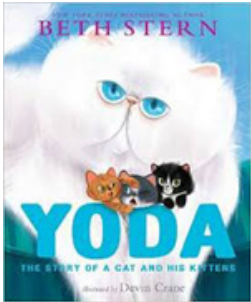
“Stanley knew he wasn’t supposed to sit on the couch. But his people went out a lot. And they never came home before midnight.” So begins *Stanley’s Party*. With exuberant illustrations this picture book for primary-aged students follows Stanley, a usually obedient dog who decides to push his luck. First, Stanley ventures onto the couch. When his action finds no consequence, he quickly discovers new ways to misbehave, until he’s hosting the entire canine community for a raucous party at his place.



**The Big Little Book of Happy Sadness** by Colin Thompson

Reading level: Grades K-3

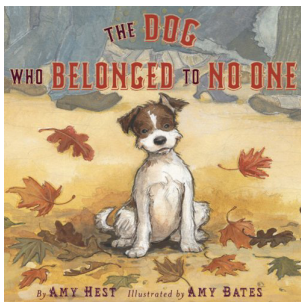
*The Big Little Book of Happy Sadness* is a story about the importance of family and the role that animals can play in our everyday happiness. George is a lonely little boy who finds a three-legged friend in “the last cage in the last aisle” of the animal shelter. Along with George’s grandmother, they embark on a fun-filled life together.



**Yoda The Story of a Cat and His Kittens** by Beth Stern

Reading level: Grades K-3

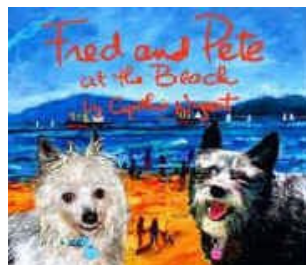
*Yoda: The Story of a Cat and His Kittens* is a heartwarming tale of a long overlooked shelter cat who finds his calling as a foster mom/dad. Yoda spent months waiting for his forever home, watching other cat pals get adopted and dreaming of becoming a supercat. Little did he know what fate had in store for him. When Beth (wife of Howard Stern and avid kitten foster mom) chose Yoda as her newest furry family member, Yoda thought he was dreaming. But something wasn’t quite right. Yoda’s heart was sad until he discovered the room full of foster kittens down the hall....



**The Dog Who Belonged to No One** by Amy Hest

Reading level: Grades 1-3

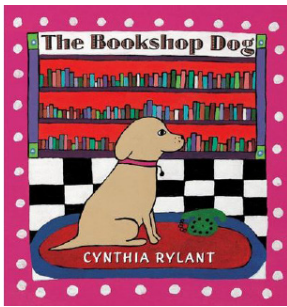
*The Dog Who Belonged to No One*, weaves the separate stories of a stray dog with crooked ears and a “wisp of a girl” named Lia, each in need of a friend. Using soft watercolour illustrations, this sweet book paints a world filled with baseballs, bicycles, and a bakery on the edge of town. With lovely parallels drawn between the little dog and the little girl, the story reaches its climax with a terrific storm that sends them both running for the safety and comfort of home.



**Fred and Pete at the Beach** by Cynthia Nugent

Reading level: Grades K - 2

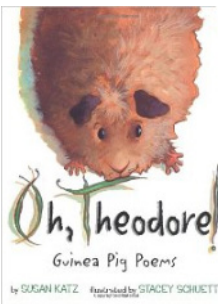
Fred and Pete are pals but Fred is much more cautious and reserved than his adventurous, fun-loving buddy Pete. When their human Ron leaves them behind to go the beach, Pete is determined he and Fred can find their way there on their own. Pete spots a postal truck and quickly hops a ride with Fred scrambling right behind him. This is just the first of several rides they hitch until they finally start to smell the sea air and know they are getting close to the beach.



### **The Bookshop Dog** by Cynthia Rylant

Reading level: Grade K-2

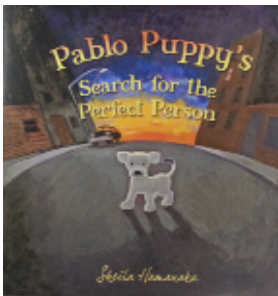
*The Bookshop Dog*, is a colourful story about Martha Jane, a bookshop dog who is loved by everyone she meets. When Martha Jane's guardian becomes ill, she must find someone to care for her pet for a week. This doesn't prove difficult. Everyone in town clamours to become Martha Jane's sitter, with some over-the-top results!



### **Oh, Theodore!** by Susan Katz

Reading level: Grades 2-4

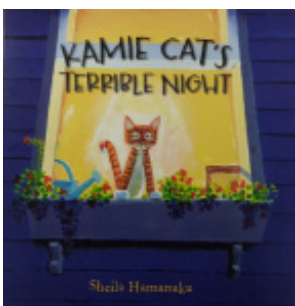
*Oh, Theodore!* is a vibrantly illustrated poetic story about patience, care and bonding with a new pet. The story is told from a young boy's perspective on getting a guinea pig as a pet. He knows it will take patience and time for Theodore to trust him so he does everything slowly and gently. His reward is a new fuzzy friend that will squeak, nibble and entertain him for years.



### **Pablo Puppy's Search for the Perfect Person** by Sheila Hamanaka

Reading level: Grades 1-3

Published by the Animal Welfare Institute, *Pablo Puppy's Search for the Perfect Person* tells the story of a stray puppy, Pablo, who ends up at the animal shelter. There, he meets Natasha, an wise older dog who tells him what it means to find the perfect person – someone who will provide everything Pablo needs to be healthy and happy and train him using love, not fear.

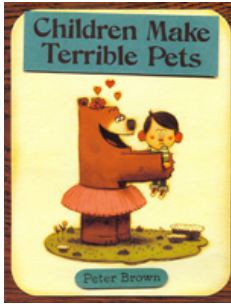


### **Kamie Cat's Terrible Night** by Sheila Hamanaka

Reading level: Grades 1-3

In *Kamie Cat's Terrible Night*, writer and illustrator Sheila Hamanaka tells the fast-paced story of Kamie's accidental escape from her cozy house with Mr. Wong. Dodging barking dogs and speeding cars, Kamie runs from house to house trying to get back home, but all she finds are strangers. Finally, a kind person sees Kamie and takes her to the animal shelter – but without an ID tag, how will she get back to her friend Mr. Wong?

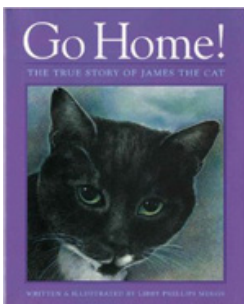




**Children Make Terrible Pets** by Peter Brown

Reading level: Kindergarten-Grade1

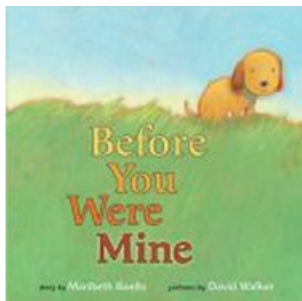
When Lucy first sees Squeaker in the forest, she can't wait to get him home and ask her Mom if she can keep him. While Lucy and Squeaker have a lot of fun, Lucy also learns that having a pet is a lot of work. Squeaker can be messy, destructive and ill-behaved. Is he really meant to be a pet?



**Go Home!** by Libby Phillips Meggs

Reading level: Grades K-3

*Go Home!* is the true story of a cat surviving on his own. He used to have a home but, for the past year or so, he has been forced to scavenge and find place to sleep. When he encounters a friendly family, they mistakenly think he has a home because of his collar, and tell him to go home. Will he ever be able to really “go home” again?



**Before You Were Mine** by Maribeth Boelts, illustrated by David Walker

Reading level: Grade K-2

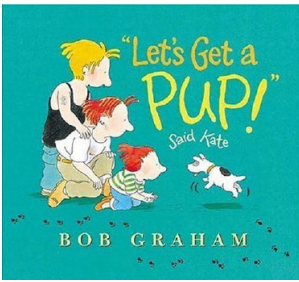
*Before You Were Mine* follows a young boy as he speculates on his adopted dog's previous life. He imagines that his lovable companion's last guardians had to move and couldn't take their dog with them, or left him tied up on a chain outside, or didn't look for him when he was lost. After all his speculation, the boy remembers finding his dog at the animal shelter – and thinks that it doesn't matter what happened in the past, because now his friend has a loving, permanent home.



**Soapstone Porcupine** by Jeff Pinkney, illustrations by Darlene Gait

Age Range: Grade 2-5

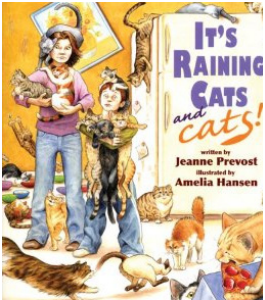
Atim the dog arrives suddenly one day at the home of a Cree boy and his family. Almost instantly, she becomes part of the family. But trouble arises when Atim come across a porcupine in the woods. The porcupine defends itself against Atim, leaving the poor dog in pain. The Cree boy's brother wants to punish the porcupine for the damage inflicted by her quills—but the whole family soon learns why it is important to respect the tough, prickly creature.



**“Let’s Get a Pup!” said Kate** by Bob Graham

Reading level: Grades K-2

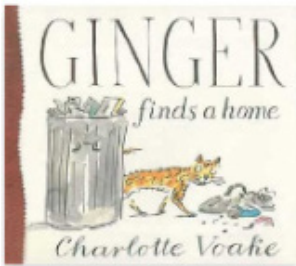
Karen and her parents are ready to welcome a dog into their family. But what kind of dog will they get? This story follows the family on their visit to The Rescue Center. Which dog will they choose? A big dog? A small dog? A sniffer or sleeper? A cute, brand-new pup named Dave? Or an old, gray dog named Rosy?



**It’s Raining Cats and Cats** by Jeanne Prevost

Reading level: Grades 2-4 (ages 7-10)

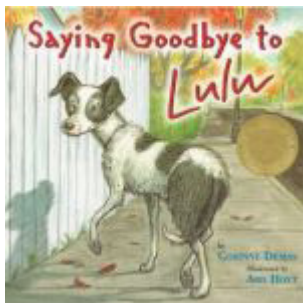
*It’s Raining Cats and Cats* is a wonderfully illustrated book that deals with the serious topic of the importance of spaying and neutering a pet – but it does so in a humorous, delightful way. When Jim asks his mother why they had to prevent their cat from having kittens, she takes him into an imaginary future that depicts the potential number of kittens that would result from not having his cat spayed and all of the headaches that go with it.



**Ginger finds a home** by Charlotte Voake

Reading level: Preschool to grade 2

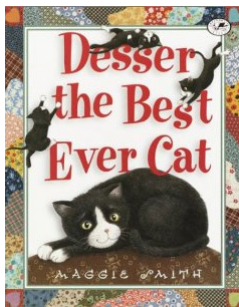
In *Ginger finds a home*, the author paints a heart-wrenching picture of a scraggly little cat who lives in a patch of weeds and spends his days searching for scraps of food and drinking out of puddles – that is, until a compassionate little girl takes it upon herself to give him a better life.



**Saying Goodbye to Lulu** by Corinne Demas

Reading Level: Grades 1+ (best read with an adult for younger children)

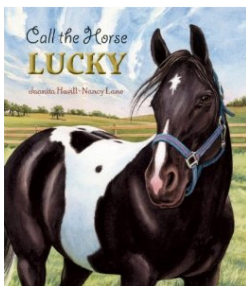
*Saying Goodbye to Lulu* follows a young girl who comes to realize her childhood dog Lulu is very old and will soon pass away. She recounts the good times the pair spent together and goes through an emotional journey from distress to acceptance once Lulu passes. Author Corinne Demas handles pet bereavement in a sensitive and realistic way.



**Desser, the Best Ever Cat by Maggie Smith**

Reading level: Grades K-3

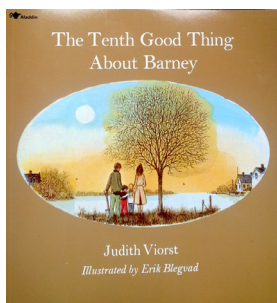
*Desser, the Best Ever Cat* is a story about the relationship that a young girl has with her cat as she grows. It is written from a child's perspective and illustrates the care and respect that evolves in a good human-animal relationship. The story deals with the loss of Desser in a very gentle, realistic way that portrays the grief one feels as well as the acceptance and ability to move on to give another animal a loving home.



**Call the Horse Lucky by Juanita Havill and Nancy Lane**

Reading level: Grades 1-3

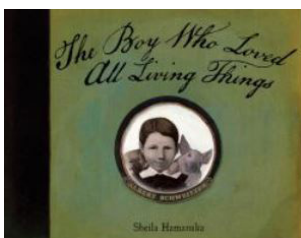
*Call the Horse Lucky*, is the heartwarming story of a girl named Mel who notices a sick and neglected horse. She takes action by telling her grandmother, who in turn contacts the local humane society. When the horse is taken to a rescue ranch, Mel decides to name him Lucky. And later, when Lucky goes to live at a horse therapy ranch, Mel learns that while she realistically cannot keep him as her pet, she can still help him in another important way.



**The Tenth Good Thing About Barney by Judith Viorst**

Reading level: Grades 1-3

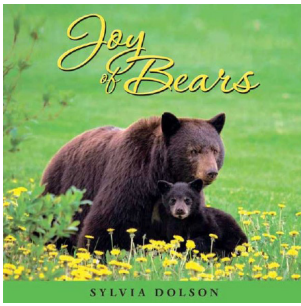
*The Tenth Good Thing About Barney* captures the emotions and many of the questions children might have after losing a pet. At a funeral held for Barney, the family cat, the family sings a song and shares good things about him. The child only shares nine good things about Barney but discovers the tenth good thing after he helps his dad plant seeds in the garden.



**The Boy Who Loved All Living Things by Sheila Hamanaka**

Reading level: Grades 2-4

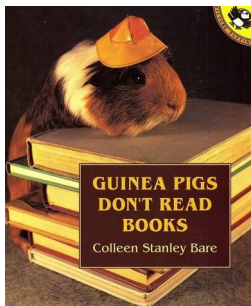
*The Boy Who Loved All Living Things* is an imagined childhood journal inspired by events in the young life of Albert Schweitzer. Ashamed of some of his own cruel actions towards animals and those of others, Albert reflects, realizes why he acted out and goes out of his way to protect animals that his friends want to harm. In doing so, Albert gains confidence in himself and his beliefs and becomes an animal advocate.



**Joy of Bears** by Sylvia Dolson

Reading level: Grades 3+

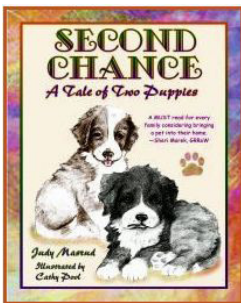
A book by British Columbia's Get Bear Smart Society Executive Director Sylvia Dolson, *Joy of Bears* is a stunning collection of photographs of bears in their natural habitat alongside inspirational quotes about respect for these magnificent creatures and compassion towards all animals.



**Guinea Pigs Don't Read Books** by Colleen Stanley Bare

Reading level: Grades K-1

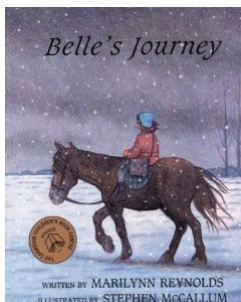
This is a good book to learn about guinea pigs! These small animals are not toys and shouldn't be dressed up but they can be gentle, calm animals that can be a great companion if treated kindly. The pictures are of real guinea pigs and are very cute. So cute, in fact, you may be tempted to adopt one.



**Second Chance: A Tale of Two Puppies** by Judy Masrud

Reading level: Grades 3 - 5

*Second Chance* tells the parallel stories of two dogs from the same litter who end up in very different homes. Andrew and Matt, boys from separate families, both want a dog. Before Andrew's parents allow him to adopt a puppy, he proves that he is ready for the responsibility by dog walking and dog sitting for neighbours. Matt, on the other hand, learns nothing about caring for or training a dog before adopting; his parents simply give in to his pleading for a pet. What will happen to each of their dogs?



**Belle's Journey** by Marilyn Reynolds

Reading level: Grades 1-3

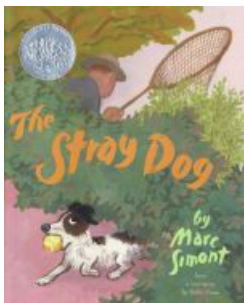
The only job Belle does is carry Molly back and forth from her piano lessons once a week. When Father considers getting a new horse, Molly is excited at the thought of a young horse. Then one winter day on the way home from piano lessons, Belle and Molly are caught in a blizzard. Will Molly and Belle get home safely?



**Norman, Speak!** by Caroline Adderson

Reading Level: Grades 1-5

A young boy and his family adopt a scruffy little dog called Norman from a local animal shelter. Norman has lots of energy but appears to lack any training, leading the family to think Norman isn't very bright. It turns out Norman was trained using Chinese commands. Once the family learns the Chinese equivalent commands they discover Norman is a smart, well-behaved dog after all. The story illustrates the importance of not judging someone until you really get to know them.



**The Stray Dog** by Marc Simont

Reading Level: Grades K-3

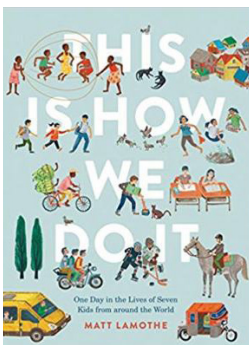
*The Stray Dog* by Marc Simont is a Caldecott Honor Book about a family that encounters a stray dog at a park. After playing with a dog, whom they fondly name Willy, all day at a park, the family leaves him behind thinking he must belong to someone. But as the days go by they can't stop thinking about him. The next week they see Willy at the park but he is being chased by the dog catcher. Quick thinking and talking convinces the dog catcher that Willy is their dog. Will he join the family for real?



**Unknown** by Colin Thompson

Reading level: Grades K-3

*Unknown* is the story of an unlikely hero – a shelter dog called, for lack of a name, Unknown. Though she's always blended into the shadows of her kennel, when a fire threatens her and her fellow shelter residents, this normally nervous little dog takes action.



**This How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the World** by Matt Lamothe

Reading Level: Grade K-5

This amazing book chronicles an average day in the life of seven children from seven different countries across the world, giving a window into other people's lifestyles and traditions. Join these seven kids and learn how, although their appearances, cultures, and customs may differ from Japan to Russia to Peru, they all are connected in their common humanity. Although this book does not feature animals heavily, it is a wonderful book that teaches kids to respect each other's differences and appreciate their similarities as well.