

## BOOKS

# For the love of dogs

## Compilation tells stories of animal friendships

**ALLISON DRENNAN**

**W**e all know those pictures and videos that have gone viral on Facebook ... the cat and the bird, the man and the lion and the deer and the dog all becoming best friends. We see them, and it automatically elicits an 'aww' response.

Jennifer S. Holland, a science journalist and fellow animal lover, loved these relationships so much, she compiled a whole book on them, called "Unlikely Friendships: Dogs: 37 Stories of Canine Compassion and Courage." The book, which focuses on the relationships between dogs and other animals, tells stories of companionship and love, and reminds us all why dogs really are man's best friend.

You'll meet Rex, a German shepherd who learned to love and trust again through the improbably friendship of a goose. Popeye the Mastiff, who ran into a burning stable to save 17 terrified horses. And a temperamental husky named Lilo, who saved a kitten from near death. These are just a few of the heart-warming stories you can find in "Unlikely Friendships: Dogs."

As a dog lover, you can imagine how excited I was to read this book. It made me laugh, and — yes, I'll admit it — I even teared up a few times. The book reminded me of one of my favorite quotes by humor writer Josh Bill-

ings. He once said, "A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself."

This book shares 37 stories of dogs doing what they do best: loving. I don't know about you, but I think that's something we could all learn from.

—*Dog lover and lifestyle reporter Allison Drennan can be reached at 704-869-1840 or [adrennan@gastongazette.com](mailto:adrennan@gastongazette.com). You can follow her on Twitter at [www.Twitter.com/GazetteAllison](http://www.Twitter.com/GazetteAllison).*

Road Books, 4139 Park Road, Charlotte. For more information, call the book store at 704-525-9239.

**SEE HOLLAND, C4**

### Meet Ingo and Poldi

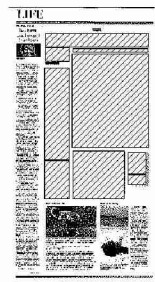
Ingo, the Belgian Malinois, isn't always a nice dog according to his owner Tanja Brandt. He's temperamental "especially toward other dogs or cats," Brandt said. The exception comes in the form of a pygmy owl named Poldi.

The story of friendship comes from Dusseldorf, Germany, where Brandt works with birds of prey and dogs. When Poldi was injured by a hawk, Brandt found Ingo carefully licking the bird's injured foot. The two have been inseparable ever since.

**Jennifer S. Holland will be traveling across the nation promoting "Unlikely Friendships"**

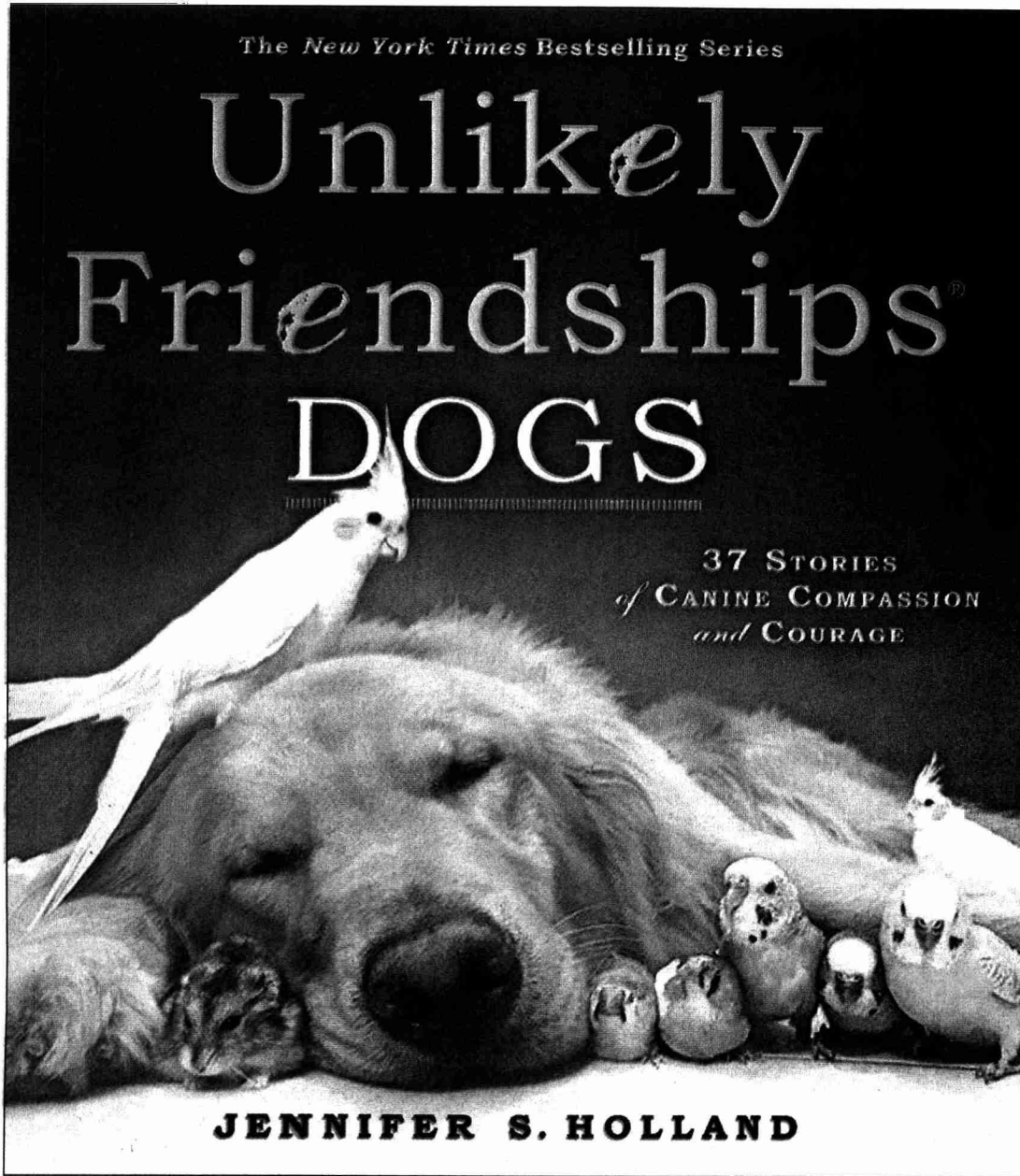
**Dogs: 37 Stories of Canine Compassion and Courage."**

She will be appearing on Sept. 19 at Park





**Jennifer S. Holland, a science journalist, researched and compiled the book of stories.**



**"Unlikely Friendships: Dogs: 37 Stories of Canine Compassion and Courage," by Jennifer S. Holland, focuses on the relationships between dogs and other animals, tells stories of companionship and love, and reminds us all why dogs really are man's best friend. PHOTOS COURTESY OF WORKMAN PUBLISHING.**



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PHOTO BY TANJA BRANDT/  
FROM UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIPS: DOGS — WORKMAN PUBLISHING