

HELP FOR PET OWNERS

*Books for the animal
lovers in your life*

Here are new books perfect for animal lovers this holiday season. Several are inspirational, others are funny, and still others just plain useful.



Steve Dale

“Unlikely Heroes: 37 Inspiring Stories of Courage and Heart from the Animal Kingdom,”

by Jennifer S. Holland (Workman Publishing, New York, N.Y., 2014; \$13.95).

Holland excels at these sorts of books — touching without being melodramatic. The stories will inspire you to think differently about how

animals think and feel. Why would a pod of wild dolphins protect a lifeguard instructor and his students from a great white shark? What about the pet parrot that called “Ma-ma baby!” repeatedly to get his owner’s attention when her baby started choking on some food? The parrot’s plea likely saved the infant’s life.

“The Good Luck Cat: How a Cat Saved a Family and a Family Saved a Cat,” by Lissa Warren (Lyons Press, Guilford, Conn., 2014; \$21.95).

The author’s dad adopted Ting to keep him company during retirement. When Dad had a heart attack and died, Ting became more special, as family members associated the cat with their father. Wouldn’t you know it, the cat was then diagnosed with heart disease, but possibly could be saved by implanting a human pacemaker, a procedure not previously done in cats. It’s a story from the heart in many ways.

“The Story of Fester Cat: How One Remarkable Cat Changed Two Men’s Lives,” by Paul Magrs (Berkley Books, New York, N.Y., 2014; \$16).

If you don’t believe a cat can change a life, this is the tale of TWO lives being touched by one cat. A vintage Burt Bacharach/Hal David song talks about turning a house into a home, but you don’t need a song to do that

— just a cat named Fester.

“The Original Cat Fancy Cat Bible: The Definitive Source for All Things Cat,” by Sandy Robbins, Dr. Arnold Plotnick, Loraine Shelton and Sarah Hartwell (I-5 Press, Irvine, Calif., 2014; \$29.95).

There isn’t a thing about cats missing from this book. Check out 544 pages of fun facts, along with dozens of color photos. The authors, all experts, cover lots of new info, such as the latest on the genetic ancestries of our pet cats. Learn about feline folklore, cat breeds you’ve likely never heard of, feline jargon (like “moggie,” a mixed-breed) and info on feline health. There’s a section on cats at work (such as those in animal-assisted therapy programs to help sick children).

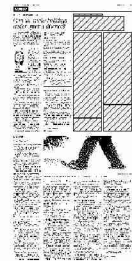
“Tricks and Games to Teach Your Dog: A Dog Fancy Book,” by Sophie Collins with Suellen Dainty (I-5 Press, Irvine, Calif., 2014; \$19.95).

What a great way to impress Aunt Gloria and Uncle Jay when they visit, as your pup demonstrates all 75 tricks in the book, from spinning in a circle to carrying a grocery bag and finding your car keys. Learning is healthy for dogs (as long as it’s fun) and helps build a stronger pet-owner bond. All tricks are broken down so they can be easily understood and taught. Most importantly, the teaching method is positive reinforcement.

“Tell Your Dog You’re Pregnant: An Essential Guide for Dog Owners Who Are Expecting a Baby,” by Dr. Lewis Kirkham (Little Creatures Publishing, Melbourne, Australia, 2014; \$39.44).

New babies don’t automatically grow up to be like Timmy, and not all dogs mimic Lassie, but developing a relationship like theirs is a worthy goal. The author advises not to depend on chance or good luck. He supports advance preparation. The book includes a CD with 13 baby and toy sounds you can use to desensitize and condition your dog before the baby arrives. The advice in this book should be taken seriously, as most dog bites are inflicted on children by a family pet. Most could be avoided with preparation.

“Off the Leash: The Secret Life of



Dogs,” by Rupert Fawcett (St. Martin’s Griffin, New York, N.Y., 2014; \$13.99).

Dog lovers will certainly relate to the cartoons in this stocking stuffer; they guarantee smiles and laughter.

“Dogface,” by Barbara O’Brien (Viking Studio, New York, N.Y., 2014; \$16).

If a dog smile makes you smile, you’ll relish leafing through this breezy stocking stuffer. The book features portraits of 100 dogs, many smiling.

Steve Dale is a pet expert and certified dog and cat behavior consultant. Send questions/comments to petworld@stevedale.tv.