

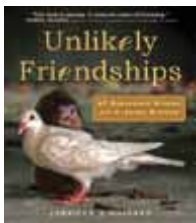
Scribblings and Screenings for the Animal Set



The Movie That Changed His Mind

Director Michael Webber didn't set out to make a film with a message. He was simply intrigued by two characters: Tim Harrison, an Ohio police officer who responds to emergencies involving wild animals kept as pets, and Terry Brumfield, a man who considers two African lions members of his family. By the time Webber finished a documentary about

the pair, he had an agenda: to outlaw ownership of wild animals as pets. "The film changed me," Webber says. *The Elephant in the Living Room*, which was partially funded by The HSUS and won a Genesis award, is now available on DVD, and is all the more relevant following the tragic events in Ohio last autumn.



Interspecies Harmony

Love knows no boundaries—that's the theme of *Unlikely Friendships: 50 Remarkable Stories from the Animal Kingdom* by Jennifer Holland. The thought-provoking tales of interspecies bonds run the gamut—from a pit bull who cozies up with a ferret (both owned by Laurie

Maxwell of The HSUS) to a captive black bear who adopted a stray cat. "It opens your eyes that there's more going on [with animals] neurologically and emotionally than many people might have realized," says Holland, a senior writer for *National Geographic* magazine. "... We can't always apply a strict scientific explanation."



The Ones We Lose

Jon Katz has long written eloquently about the border collies who share his world at Bedlam Farm. In 2008, *Animal Sheltering* interviewed Katz about his book *A Good Dog*, which detailed the difficult choices he faced when his much-loved dog Orson repeatedly bit people. After working unsuccessfully to address the issue, Katz eventually had Orson euthanized, noting that "I chose a child's face over my dog and would do it again." His latest book, *Going Home*,

delves into his grief over Orson's death and, more broadly, the loss he's experienced at the deaths of other animals he's loved. The book provides moments most pet lovers will recognize—"I told myself that Orson was just a dog, an animal. ... Yet my grief could hardly have been worse"—and gives meaningful guidance on everything from dealing with guilt over ending a suffering pet's life to talking to children about an animal's death.



Joy Has Many Faces

A young bull elk lies among the tall grasses, head lifted toward the winter sky, tongue outstretched to catch the falling snowflakes. His curiosity seems obvious. Other photos show a squirrel lounging atop a sun-warmed brick wall and a hooded crow tugging playfully at the wingtip of a herring gull. With

provocative photos and heartwarming stories of animals playing, eating, courting, nursing, and comforting one another, best-selling author and animal ethologist Jonathan Balcombe offers readers a serious yet fun examination of animal pleasure in *The Exultant Ark*. While science tends to explain such behaviors in strictly evolutionary terms, Balcombe takes a broader view: "They do what feels good, and it's rewarding." This ability to savor life's joys, he concludes, is a strong argument against factory farming and other institutionalized abuses. "Animals have interests that go beyond the mere avoidance of pain," he writes. "They desire a good quality of life."



Saving Puppies

In 2005, a Staten Island dental office manager began driving to Pennsylvania's farm country on weekends to rescue spent breeding dogs from the area's numerous puppy mills. The award-winning documentary *Madonna of the Mills* follows Laura Flynn-Amato in her quest to save thousands of dogs from lives of caged misery and death at the hands of

commercial breeders who have no more use for them. Though the subject matter is harsh, there are plenty of bright spots as the film takes viewers through the rescue, rehabilitation, and placement into loving homes of four rescued dogs. In poignant closing scenes, singer Patti Page transforms her 1950s hit "(How Much Is That) Doggie in the Window" to a more humane rendition: "Do You See That Doggie in the Shelter." *Madonna of the Mills* premiered on HBO in August 2011; order the DVD at madonnaofthemills.com. **AS**