

Suggested Animal Welfare Storybooks

The following stories explore various animal welfare topics, animal needs, animal care, empathy and compassion. Make your selection from the list and request copies from [Auckland Libraries](#), [National Library](#) or even better - jump onto an online bookstore such as [Amazon](#), [Book Depository](#), [Mighty Ape](#) or [Fishpond](#) and start building a valuable collection for your classroom, school resource room or library.

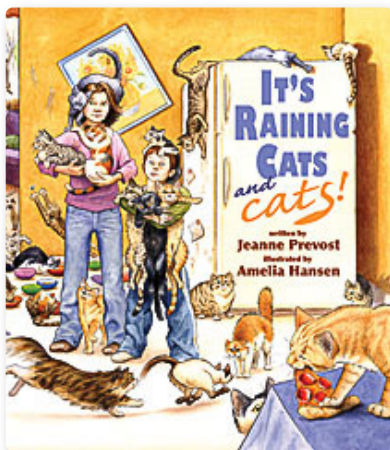
The Forgotten Rabbit By Nancy Furstinger



A baby rabbit, purchased as an impulsive Easter gift, is soon forgotten by the family's children as they pursue other activities. As she grows up, her cage is moved outside, and she is rarely tended. Then, one night a girl called Rosalita takes her out of her cage, telling her that she has a new home, one in which she will never again be forgotten. Enjoying love, care, and a new name—Bella—she takes to the fun of agility lessons. Bella wins first prize in a rabbit agility contest—jumping with joy into the always-loving arms of Rosalita.

Written so that children five and up can immediately grasp the story, this children's picture book offers an insight into the frequent fate of rabbits purchased on impulse, as well as the proper care of a rabbit as a companion animal. The 24 pages of colour illustrations depict Bella's journey with beautiful detail. The story is suspenseful, and, in the end, joyful. The language is active with evocative descriptions. The final page of the book offers information for teachers, parents and other adults and lists online resources.

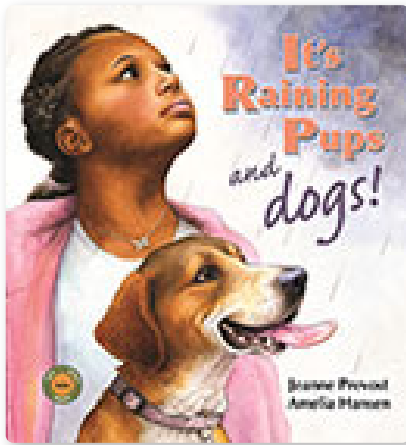
It's Raining Cats and Cats! By Jeanne Prevost



When Jim and his mum return home from the vet with Molly the cat after her surgery, Jim asks, “Why did we keep Molly from having kittens? I like kittens!” In this delightfully illustrated imagined journey into the future, Jim's mum shows the many ways that Molly's (and her kittens') potential for multiplying would change their lives—and not for the better!

It's Raining Cats—and Cats! Will appeal to kids and adults with its delightful, detailed art that encourages looking through the book many times. This is the first children's picture book to show, vividly and humorously, the importance of neutering and spaying. Many animal groups and vets will praise it, since spaying and neutering are at the top of their agenda, not only to keep animal populations in check, but to avoid killing thousands of unwanted, homeless animals every year.

It's Raining Dogs and Pups! By Jeanne Provost



Lauren is angry with her father for having their dog Scout spayed, dashing her hopes of having the fun of raising puppies. To show Lauren why they made the decision not to breed Scout, Lauren's dad takes her to visit a large animal shelter. Seeing the hundreds of dogs waiting for rescue, many with little hope of finding a home, Lauren comes to understand why they spayed Scout: there are too many dogs and too few homes for them. The realistic, captivating art features shelter dogs. The final page of the book offers information for teachers, parents and other adults about pet overpopulation and the importance of spaying and neutering.

Always Blue for Chicu by Karen Dugan



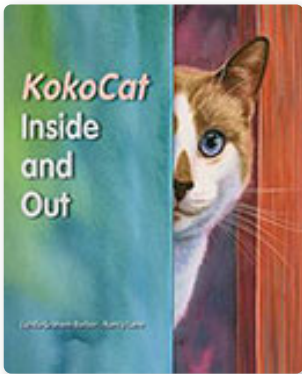
Karen Dugan includes elements of humour to lighten Chicu's story, a tale that might be similar to that of thousands of other exotic birds that are trapped, smuggled, and sold into lives of captivity.

Blue is at the heart of Chicu's life, the blue of sky and of flying free with his flock. Captured by smugglers, Chicu is taken to sea by the kindly sailor he thinks of as Big Blue. When Big Blue must go back to his ship, Chicu is passed casually from one person to another. Neglected and suffering, Chicu finds ways to show his unhappiness until he is rescued and, after many years, reunited with his soul mate, Big Blue. As Chicu's story makes clear, a parrot is a wild animal and a formidable "pet," requiring significant care and attention.

Parrots are long-living birds who flourish in flocks with mates and families, flying freely and happily through the treetops; in their captive existence—which may be fifty or sixty years, or longer—they often endure isolation and a tedious, neglected life without proper care or human attention.

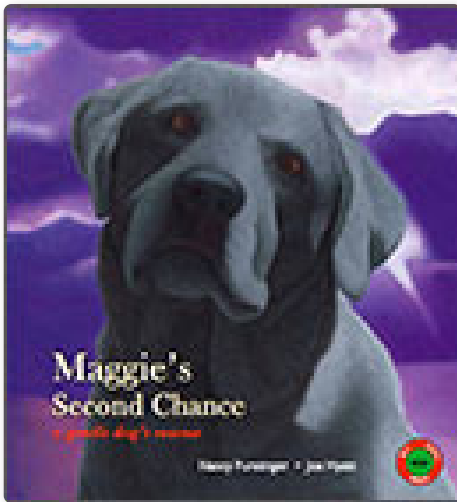
Through more than seventy striking, full-colour illustrations, Chicu's story opens a window into the life of these exotic birds whose very beauty leads to their imprisonment, birds whose unique qualities call out for understanding and care.

KokoCat, Inside and Out by Lynda Graham-Barber



KokoCat, a well-loved housecat, has seen the world only from the safety of her windows. One day, she takes advantage of an open door and runs away to explore. Once outside, she finds that life is more complicated and less enjoyable than she bargained for. Hungry, lost, and alone, KokoCat takes shelter under a trash bin, dreaming of her former life and the people who care about her.

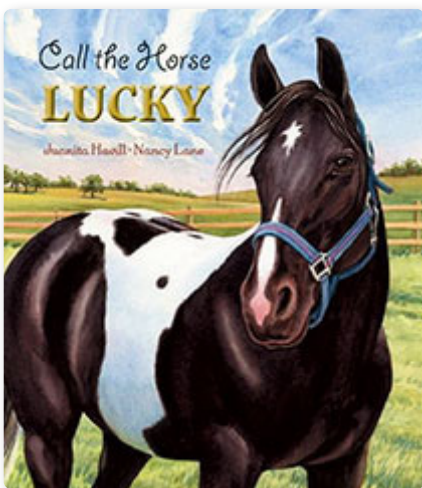
Maggie's Second Chance by Nancy Furstinger



In a compelling story, movingly illustrated, the issue of animal abandonment is brought to life. Maggie, a pregnant lab mix, is left behind in an abandoned house. Discovered by the real-estate agent, Maggie is brought to the pound where her puppies are born.

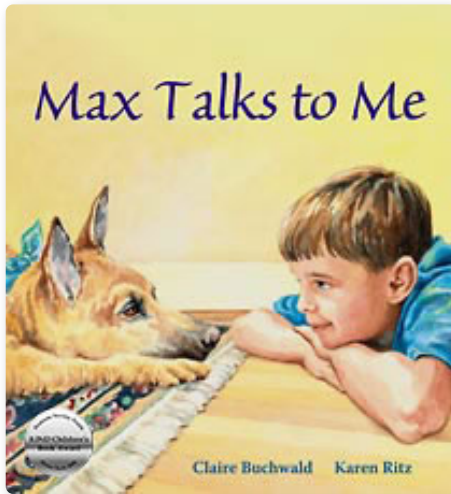
Maggie's Second Chance is based on the true story of Texas students who, with their teacher's assistance, founded an animal shelter in their town. The final page offers factual comprehensive information on how to help abandoned dogs.

Call the Horse Lucky by Juanita Havill



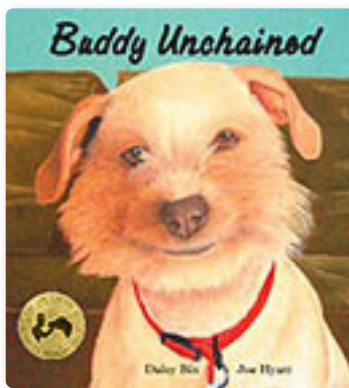
While visiting her grandmother in the country, Mel discovers a neglected horse. Moved by the sight of the rib-thin pinto with the sad, glazed eyes and eager to help him, Mel starts a rescue process that results in the pinto's being moved to a horse rescue ranch to revive him and treat his problems. At the ranch, Mel learns about horse care and continues to bond with the horse she has named Lucky.

Max Talks to Me by Claire Buchwald



Alex and his dog Max are true friends--the kind that share each other's excitement, comfort each other when they are sad, wait together when parents are away, and have fun wherever they are. Alex is learning that every good relationship is a two-way street. By observing and listening to his dog, by sharing good times and bad, he and Max are earning each other's love and devotion.

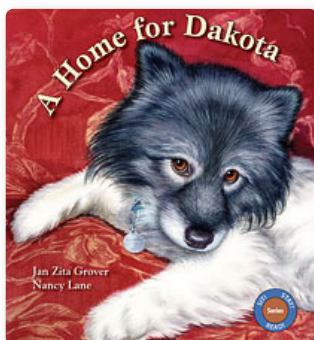
Buddy Unchained by Daisy Bix



What is life like, day after day, for a dog kept outdoors in all weather on a chain or a rope, alone all day - a dog whose owners, for the most part, forget that he's alive? Buddy, a lovable mixed-breed dog, has had such an existence.

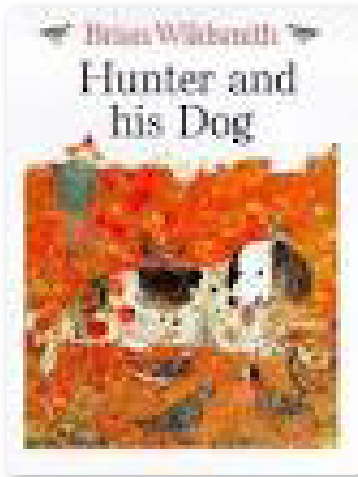
Happy in a new home, Buddy tells the story of his former life of neglect, abuse, and finally, rescue, to live a good life with a family that cares about him.

A Home for Dakota by Jan Zita Grove



Dog No. 241 lives in a crate in a cold, dark barn that is stacked with hundreds of other caged dogs in a puppy mill breeding operation. She has never known human companionship, exercise, or decent care. One night, rescuers arrive and take her and the other dogs away to lead new and happier lives. Soon, despite her fears, she finds herself in a warm, secure foster home, being bathed and groomed and loved by a young woman named Emma. At first, she is too frightened to respond; all she wants is to return to the familiar dark. Eventually renamed Dakota, she learns to love and trust Emma, and her foster home becomes a friendly haven. But then a new challenge arrives in the person of a young girl, Sweetie, who is recovering from a misfortune as deep as Dakota's own. Sweetie and her parents come to look at Dakota as a possible pet. Initially, Sweetie rejects hairless little Dakota, but later she returns to offer Dakota a home, and Emma recommends her for adoption. With Emma's reassurances, Dakota goes to her forever home to become Sweetie's true partner in recovery.

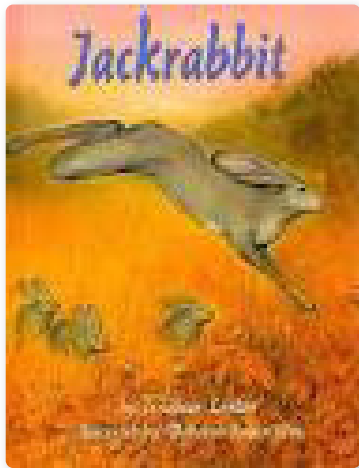
Hunter and His Dog By Brian Wildsmith



A hunter teaches his new duck-hunting partner to retrieve sticks and carry eggs gently in his mouth without breaking them. But from their first hunting trip, the dog cannot bear to retrieve the wounded birds for his master. Instead, he brings sticks back to the hunter and takes the ducks to an island where they can heal. One night, the hunter discovers the secret after he follows his dog to the island where he delivers daily bread to the ducks. The hunter is ashamed. He follows the example of his tender-hearted dog and nurses the birds back to health before setting them free.

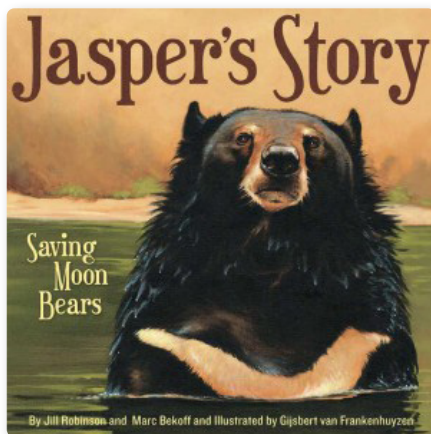
The reissue of this story of compassion is brightly illustrated with his characteristically colourful paintings. Readers will note that the hunter is dressed like a clown and may infer that the dog is wiser than his master.

Jackrabbit by Jonathan London



When baby Jackrabbit is accidentally left behind when her family flees their home destroyed by developers, a human family cares for “Jackie” until she’s old enough to return to the wild and start her own.

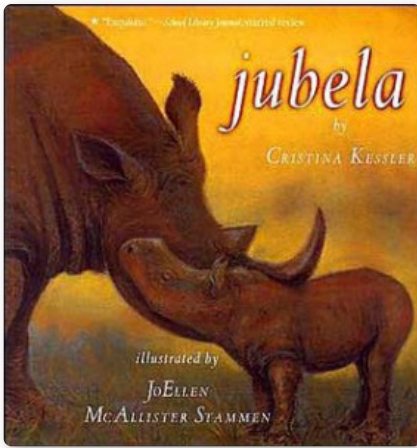
Jasper’s Story: Saving Moon Bears By Jill Robinson and Marc Bekoff



This book tells the story of Jasper, a moon bear who was kidnapped and held immobilized in captivity for 15 years while his bile was extracted for herbal use, and his rescue and recovery thanks to Jill Robinson of Animals Asia and the Moon Bear Rescue Centre in Chendu, China. Having overcome brutal treatment, Jasper becomes a symbol of courage and forgiveness and an ambassador for other rescued moon bears.

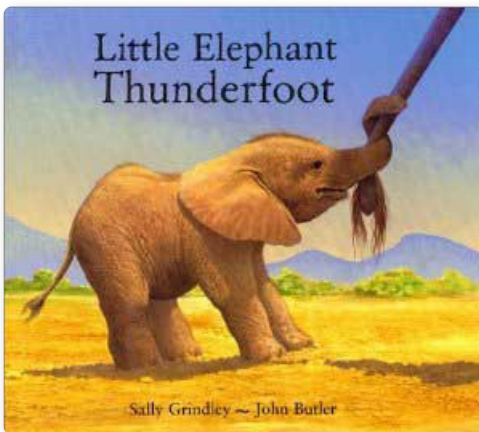
Although Jasper’s Story addresses a difficult subject, the issue in both the story and illustrations is handled in a way that will inform and inspire, rather than traumatize.

Jubela By Cristina Kessler



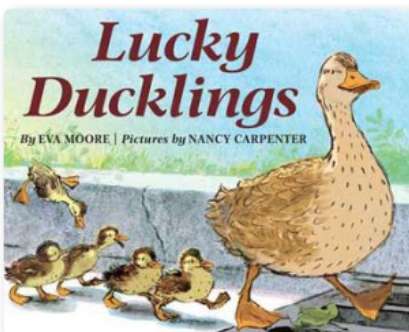
When a baby rhino's mother is killed by a poacher, little Jubela struggles to survive on his own.

Little Elephant Thunderfoot By Sally Grindley



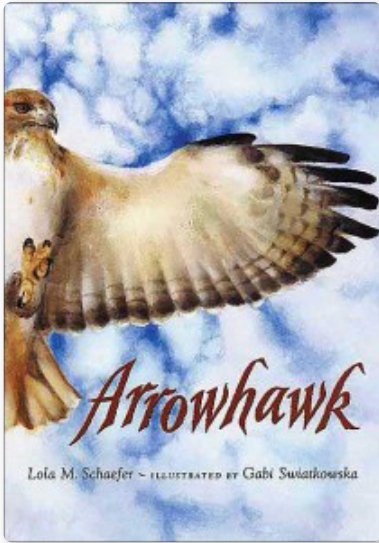
A little elephant learns to feel secure in his herd, until one day shots ring out and his grandmother, the matriarch, falls to a poacher's gun. What will Little Elephant and the rest of his herd do without Wise Old One to guide them?

Lucky Ducklings by Eva Moore



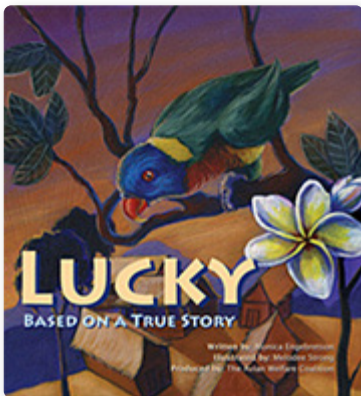
Lucky Ducklings tells the true story of five little ducklings that were rescued when they fell into a storm drain.

Arrowhawk by Lola M. Schaefer



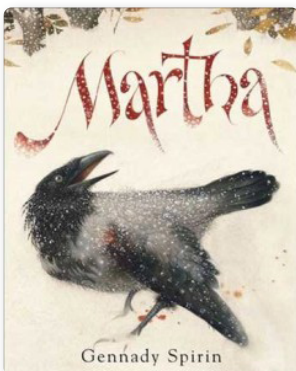
Based on a true story, a Red-tailed Hawk is shot with a poacher's arrow. He struggles to survive the next several weeks with an arrow lodged in his thigh and tail. Eventually, on the verge of starving, he is captured by wildlife rehabilitators and nursed back to health, until he can once again be released into the wild.

Lucky the Lorikeet by Monica Engbretson



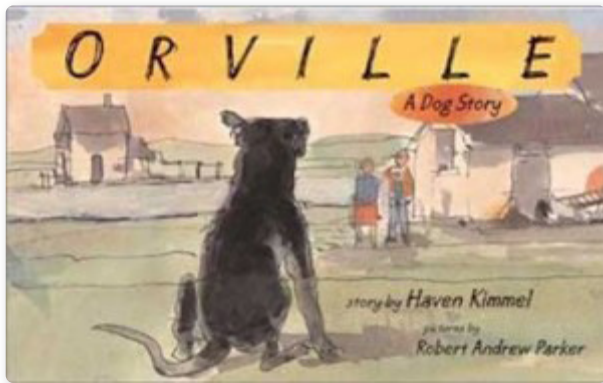
Lucky is captured for the pet trade and sold as a pet to a little boy. But the Kersens realizes how much Lucky wants freedom and helps him achieve it.

Martha by Gennady



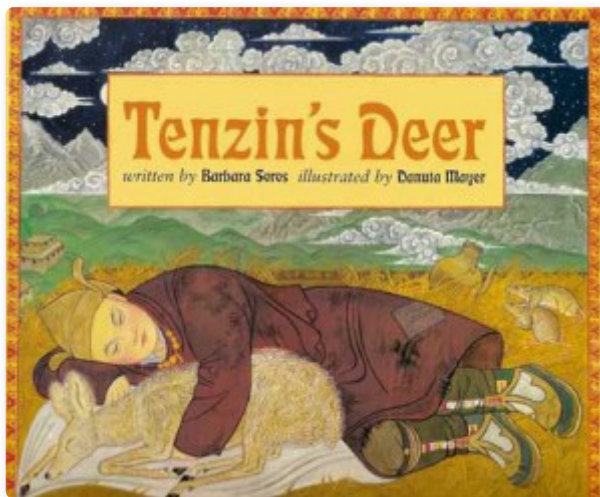
A family in Moscow rescues a crow with a broken wing and makes her part of the family until she's healed enough to return to the wild.

Orville: A Dog Story by Haven Kimmel



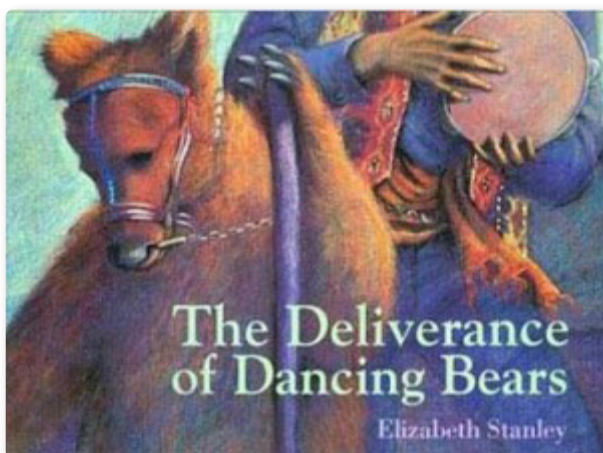
Orville, a homeless dog, is about to give up on life when he is taken in by a farm family. His neglect at their hands is almost as bad as his previous life, and he becomes angry and frustrated. And then a new neighbour moves in next door and Orville feels hope again.

Tenzin's Deer by Barbara Soros



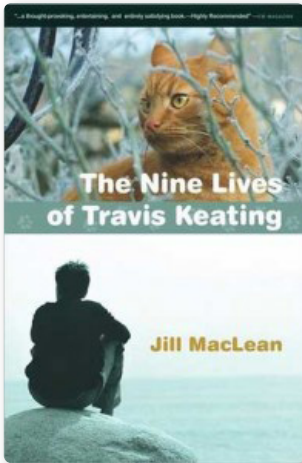
Tenzin is well-known in his village for his compassion for other beings. When Tenzin encounters a wounded deer, his compassion and his dreams tell him how to care for her until it's time to let her go.

The Deliverance of Dancing Bears by Elizabeth Stanley



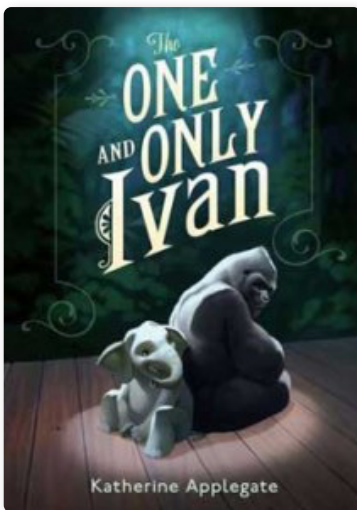
A poor man spends all his money to free two mistreated dancing bears, and in doing so reminds the onlookers that the dignity of all living creatures must be respected.

The Nine Lives of Travis Keating by Jill MacLean



After moving to Newfoundland to start a new life after his mum's death, Travis discovers a colony of feral cats in desperate need of help.

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

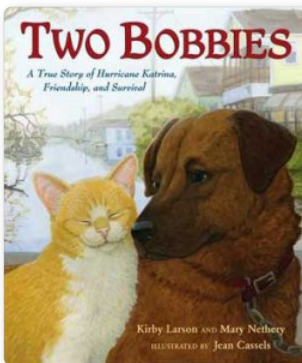


This book is narrated by Ivan, a gorilla who was captured as a baby in Africa and has lived much of his life in a mall, a living exhibit for humans to gape at through glass walls. Ivan pretty much accepts his lot in life, until he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family (as he was taken from his).

The book is fiction, but is inspired by a real-life gorilla who spent nearly 30 years without seeing another of his kind. And although the book was written for middle-grade students, it has gotten rave reviews by older kids and adults as well.

The One and Only Ivan addresses a variety of issues, from animals in captivity, to compassion, to what makes us human, to the inconsistent relationships we have with other animals.

Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship and Survival by Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery



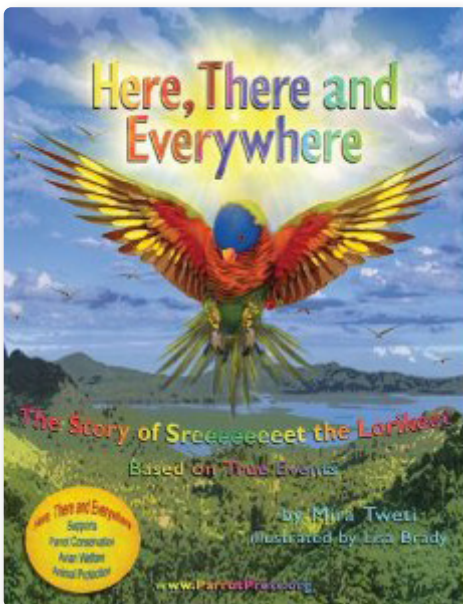
A dog and a blind cat abandoned during the Hurricane Katrina evacuations manage to find each other and stick together until they realize a happy ending.

The Story of Lilly and Lou by Doriane Lucia



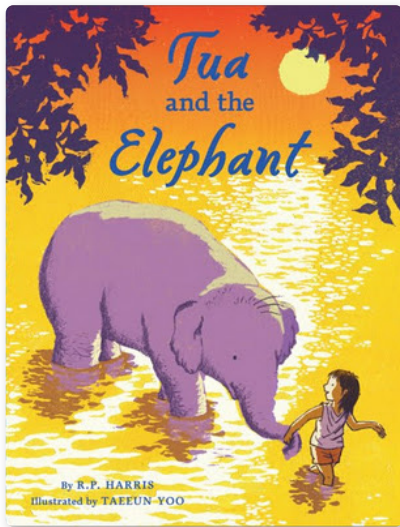
When Alicia discovers two stray dogs in the park, her determination to rescue them will forever change her life & the lives of those around her.

Here, There and Everywhere: The Story of Sreeeeeeet the Lorikeet by Mira Tweti



A young Lorikeet is snatched away from his family and brought to America where he is sold in a pet shop. The Lorikeet's guardians, a boy and his parents, soon realize the bird does not belong in captivity so they return him to his native New Guinea where he is reunited with his family. This captivating story, based on actual events, will help bring much needed awareness to the plight of caged/imprisoned birds.

Tua and the Elephant by R.P. Harris



During an exploration of the night market, while her mother is working as a waitress, 10-year-old Tua finds a small hole in the wall that leads her to a bustling city street where she encounters an elephant. This elephant instantly connects with Tua, who soon discovers that the elephant's mahouts are abusing and mistreating her. Determined to save the elephant, Tua follows the mahouts back to their camp and under the cover of darkness runs away with the elephant at her side. Now, what does a young girl do with a very large elephant? Put the elephant in her Aunt Orchid's kitchen, of course!

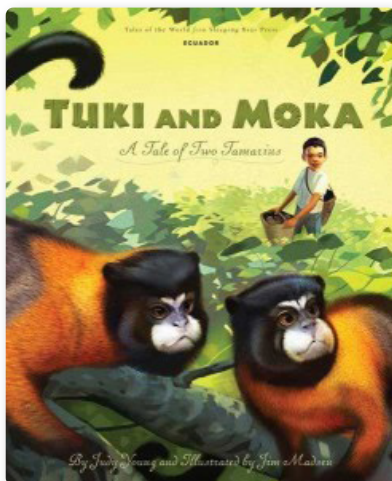
Tua has named the elephant Pohn-Pohn (Happy-Happy) and their connection is strong. After many close calls with the mahouts, who try to steal the elephant back, Pohn-Pohn and Tua make it to an elephant sanctuary deep in the jungle. Tua finds that she does not want to leave

Pohn-Pohn or the sanctuary and decides that her calling may be to become Pohn-Pohn's true mahout.

This is a lovely book full of action and compassionate acts. Tua is a very compelling character whom you root for throughout the book. The story is easy to follow and gives a glimpse into a region and issue (elephant exploitation) with which many young children may be unfamiliar. Since the story is aimed at younger audiences, there is not a lot of detail about the atrocities that occur.

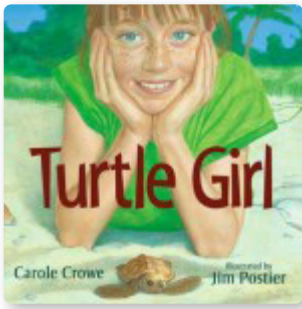
This book is a good starting point for young people to begin learning about sanctuaries, elephants and compassionate care for animals, as well as for exploring issues related to animal abuse and captivity.

Tuki and Moka: A Tale of Two Tamarins by Judy Young



Eduardo and his father regularly make trips into the Amazonian rainforest to collect Brazil nuts to sell. Eduardo enjoys these trips, including seeing his Tamarin friends, Tuki and Moka, and the other wildlife. One night animal traffickers kidnap the Tamarins and other animals to sell. When Eduardo discovers his friends have been stolen, he attempts a dangerous rescue.

Turtle Girl by Carole Crowe



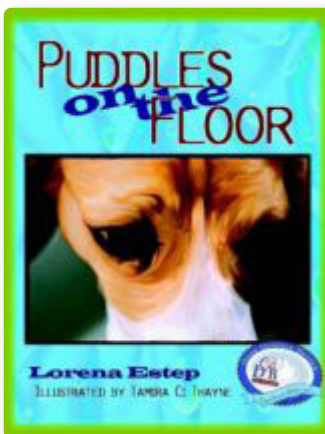
Magdalena's grandmother has taught her all about helping to protect baby sea turtles. They watch over the eggs, pick up litter on the beach so that the turtles don't become entangled, and help the hatchlings find their way to the sea. But when her grandmother dies, Magdalena feels hurt and angry and doesn't want to help the turtles anymore. Will the "turtle-time love" they shared help Magdalena remember her compassion for the turtles?

Angelica's Wish by Annette Menniti Campbell



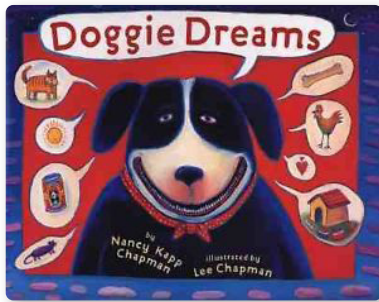
A modern day fairy tale about the many hardships experienced by stray cats and one mother cat's wish. Fantasy picture book. Interest level: Gr. 2-6

Puddles on the Floor by Lorena Estep



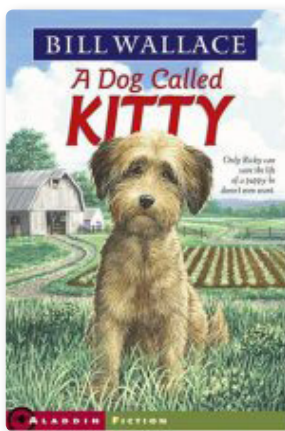
A poignant story based on actual events, about a sweet beagle pup who leads a tough, lonely life, chained to a doghouse, until he is rescued and placed with a loving family.

Doggie Dreams by Nancy Kapp



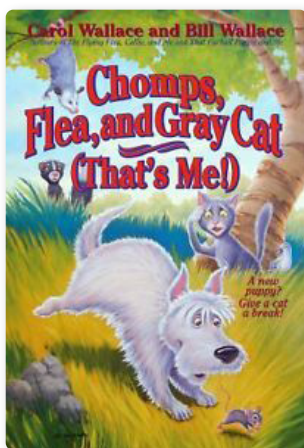
In fun, rhyming couplets and striking artwork, the Chapmans present hilarious pictures of what dogs might dream of being and doing. Chewing on bones? Sleeping all day? No, these dogs dream of dancing on stage, running for president, flying to the moon, going to school, and yes, eating steak in a diner while the people wait outside on the street. Most dogs have been denied these “people only” experiences...until now!

A Dog Called Kitty by Bill Wallace



The puppy was small and fuzzy, with a friendly, wagging tail – and Ricky was afraid of him! No wonder, since he was attacked by a dog when he was just a baby. So when a stray puppy comes sniffing around the farm, Ricky tells it to get lost. But the puppy keeps trying to play with Ricky. And every time Ricky’s mum feeds the cats, the little dog comes running. The cats aren’t sharing their food, however, and the poor pup is slowly starving. If Ricky doesn’t overcome his fear, the little puppy may die – but if he lets himself get close enough to feed it, he may find the best friend he’s ever had!

Chomps, Flea and Gray Cat by Bill Wallace



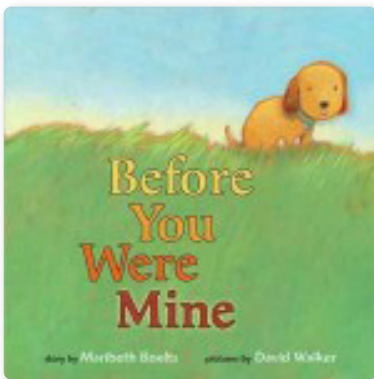
Jealous? Me? Well...maybe a little. My people got a new white puppy named Chomps. That’s because he bites at everything, especially flies. What could a gray cat -- me -- want with a Scottish terrier, anyway? The little nipper got into some trouble with the big rats in the barn. It was partly my fault. So...I had to save him. Problem is, now I can’t get rid of him. What am I supposed to do with a dog who’s determined to get himself into trouble?

The Big Little Book of Happy Sadness by Colin Thompson



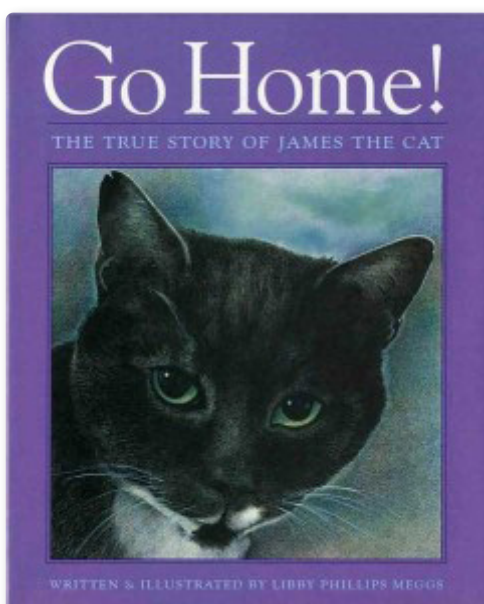
One Friday on his way home from school, George visits the animal shelter. There, in the very last cage, is Jeremy, a sad dog who looks as lost and lonely as George feels. When Jeremy comes home to live with George and his granny, their whole lives change, and they learn that when it comes to love, it's quality not quantity that counts . . .

Before you were mine by Maribeth Boelts



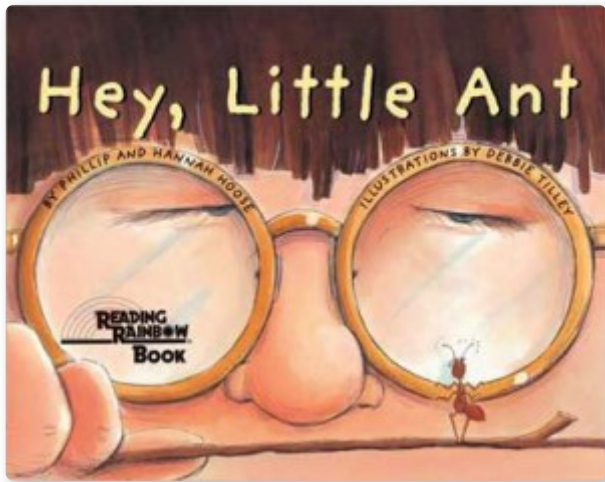
A boy who has just adopted a dog from a shelter wonders what his life was like “before you were mine.”

Go Home! The True Story of James the Cat by Libby Phillips Meggs



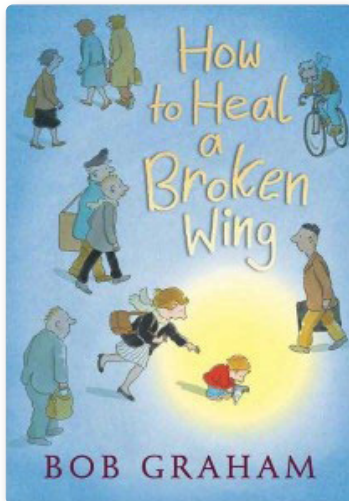
Cat has been lost for a long time. His collar has grown too tight, and he's always hungry and thirsty. One day he finds a house with a kind family, but they think because he has a collar, he has a home, so they shoo him away. It's not until he's badly injured that the family realizes just how much the cat needs them.

Hey, Little Ant by Philip M. and Hannah Hoose



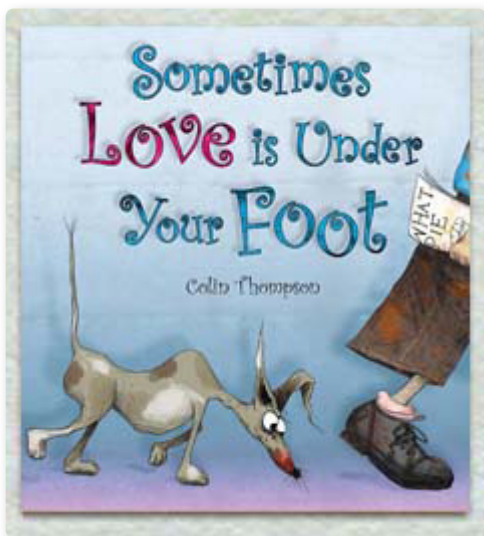
A rhyming story in which boy about to step on an ant listens as the ant pleads his case for why he (and all creatures) should be allowed to live.

How to Heal a Broken Wing Bob Graham



“No one saw the bird fall.” In a busy city, a pigeon breaks her wing and tumbles to the pavement. No one notices ... except Will. Will and his family take the bird home, care for her until she heals, and then release her to fly again. The words are spare, but the illustrations and the message of compassion are captivating and beautiful.

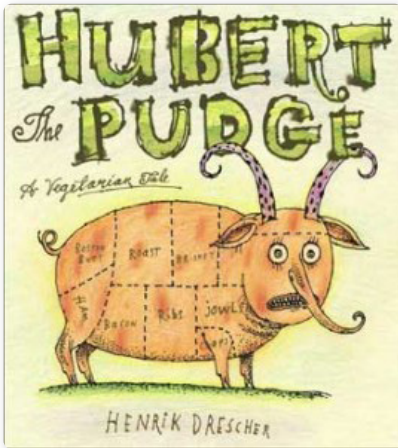
Sometimes Love is Under your Foot by Colin Thompson



In Brian’s family, everyone loves each other, but they don’t tell each other so. Kevin, the dog, loves Brian above all the other members of the family. He dreams of curling up on Brian’s lap and watching the soccer, but the most attention he gets is when Brian occasionally steps on his tail.

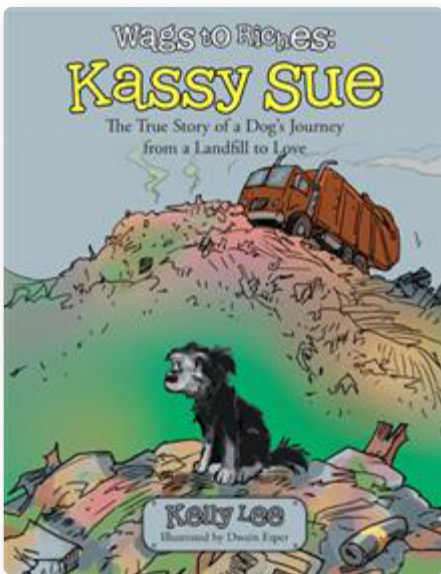
All this changes when Brian becomes terribly ill. Suddenly he needs the love of his loyal dog. He comes to appreciate the love that has been right there under his feet all along.

Hubert the Pudge by Henrik Drescher



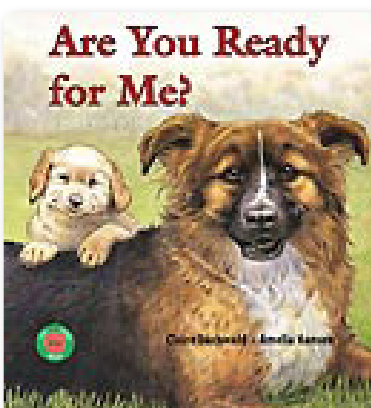
Hubert escapes the meat factory, discovers his true self in the jungle, and returns to rescue his fellow pudges and to convince the farmer to change careers.

Wags to Riches Kassy Sue: The True Story of a Dog's Journey from a Landfill to Love by Kelly Lee



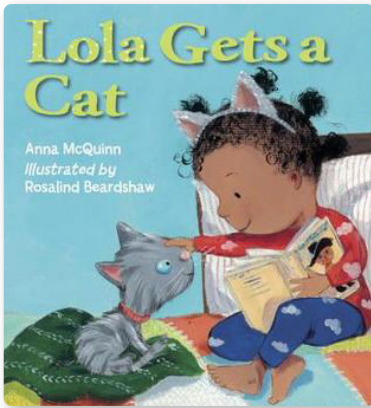
Wags to Riches is the true story of Kassy Sue, the author's first rescue dog. This heart-warming tale follows Kassy as she is abandoned in a landfill, and then adopted into a loving home, where she happily lives out the rest of her days. Readers of all ages will enjoy this uplifting story of a true underdog coming out on top

Are You Ready for Me? By Claire Buchwald



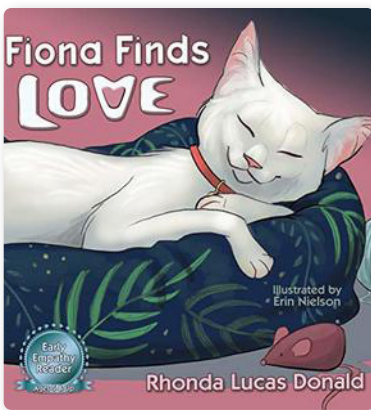
Almost every parent has heard: "Please, can we get a dog?" Now there is a book that helps families answer that question, a book that supports either answer. Are You Ready for Me? Shows what life will be like with a dog, both the responsibilities and the joys....

Lola Gets A Cat by Anna McQuinn



Lola wants to get a cat but knows that getting an animal is a big responsibility. She goes to the library to research cats and pretends that her toy cat is real to practise what she will need to do to care for a real cat. Lola's family decide that they will get a cat and they go to the animal shelter to choose one to adopt. Before they can bring their new cat home, they have to buy supplies and get everything ready so that she will be able to settle in. Once they bring her home, they do what they can to make her feel comfortable and she is soon happy in her new home.

Fiona Finds Love by Rhonda Lucas Donald



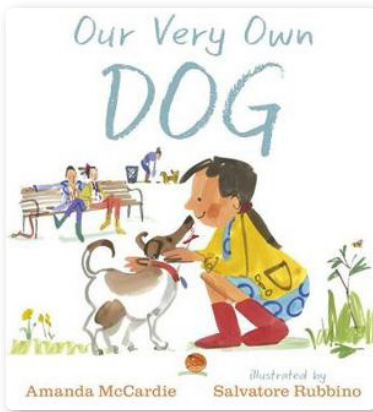
When Fiona's owners moved away they left Fiona behind thinking that she would be fine to look after herself. Fiona's life is challenging without guardians to take care of her; she struggles to find food for her and her kittens, people don't treat her kindly, it is very cold and Fiona and her kittens are ill. Eventually, Fiona gets caught. The people who catch Fiona give her and her kittens the medical attention they need. They are put up for adoption and, although Fiona feels scared at first, she gets a second chance at having a happy life. Fiona's new guardian gives her food and keeps her warm, safe and healthy.

Junebug No Life Too Small by Nicole Daniels



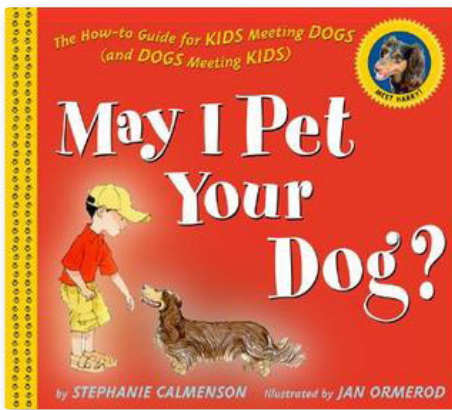
June loves bugs. The story follows June as she shares what she knows about bugs with her friends. June shows them how they can consider the bugs and show them compassion and kindness.

Our Very Own Dog: Taking Care of Your First Pet by Amanda McCardie



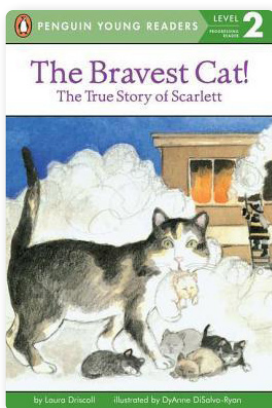
A little girl and her family adopt a new dog, Sophie. There is lots to do to prepare for welcoming a new dog into your family and lots of ways to help them settle into their new home. This book helps children to understand the responsibilities associated with dog guardianship. Each page of the story also includes extra facts and tips to help further children's understanding of the dog care messages in the story about Sophie.

May I Pet Your Dog? by Stephanie Calmenson



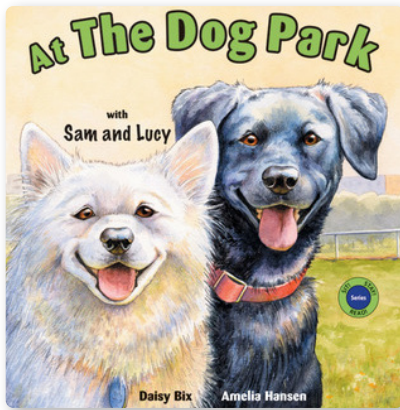
This story helps children understand how to safely approach dogs they have not met before. It goes through a number of scenarios where a boy asks different dogs' guardians if he can pet their dog and then, if they give permission, how to safely allow the dog to approach him if they feel comfortable before he pets them.

The Bravest Cat! The True Story of Scarlett by Laura Driscoll



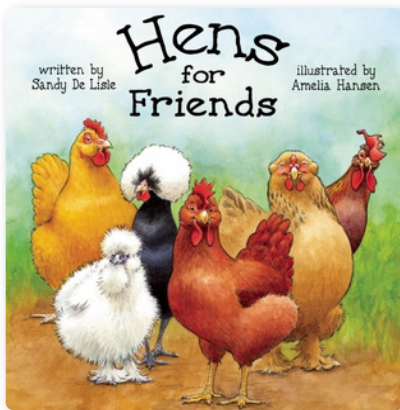
A retelling of the true story of Scarlett the cat who rescued her kittens from a garage that was on fire in New York, 1996, and was recognised around the world for her bravery. Scarlett, a stray cat, and her kittens are living inside a garage which catches on fire. They are injured in the fire and need medical care. Sadly, one of the kittens does not survive. Scarlett and her kittens go on to be adopted into loving homes. This story demonstrates the sentience of animals as Scarlett rescues her kittens from the danger they are facing.

At The Dog Park with Sam and Lucy by Daisy Bix



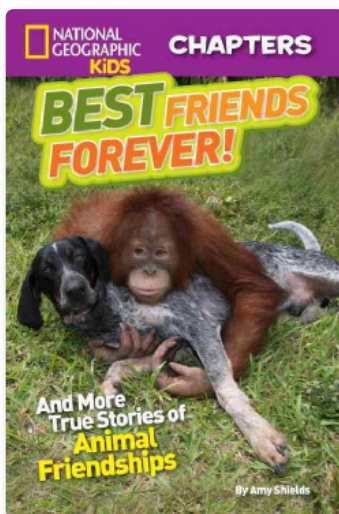
Told from the perspective of the dogs, this book helps students to consider the happiness and joy that dogs, as sentient beings, can feel when they have the opportunity to experience going to the dog park, exercising, running around and socialising with other dogs.

Hens for Friends by Sandy De Lisle



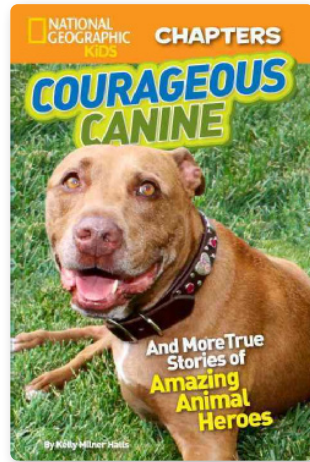
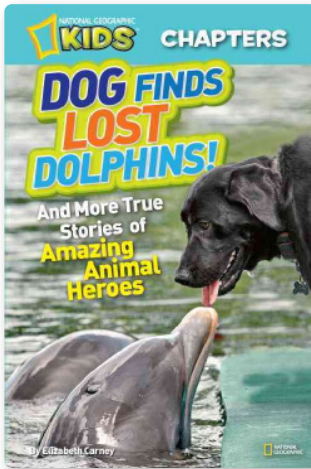
Aaron's family adopt some hens from a chicken rescue. Aaron enjoys caring for the hens and spending time with them. The story shares some of the responsibilities the family has to look after the hens to make sure they are healthy and happy. The story also refers to the farming of layer hens in cage farming systems to briefly highlight the difference between the life of backyard chickens and layer hens on large scale farms.

Best Friends Forever! And More True Stories of Animal Friendships (National Geographic Kids Chapters) By Amy Shields



A series of four books that explore unexpected animal bonds. In each book you'll meet four unlikely pairings, including Billy and Lilly. Billy the boxer adopted Lilly the goat when she was abandoned by her mother. Billy and Lilly are rarely apart since Billy has taken on the role of Lilly's protector, caretaker, and constant companion. This and the other stories in these books will enchant readers and empower them to devour the more text-heavy "grown up" style of the book, while still keeping the story easily digestible for a hesitant reader.

Courageous Canine! And More True Stories of Amazing Animal Heroes (National Geographic Kids Chapters) By Kelly Milner Halls



A series of books, each containing a trio of true stories about incredible acts of animal heroism. “Courageous Canine” features an amazing pup named Lilly who sacrifices her own life to save her owner, a brave pod of dolphins who face a great white shark to save a stranger, and a mother gorilla, who in mourning her own baby, saves a 3-year-old boy who falls into her zoo enclosure. Filled with gorgeous photographs, sidebars, and fun facts, “Courageous Canine” will leave young readers hungry for more.

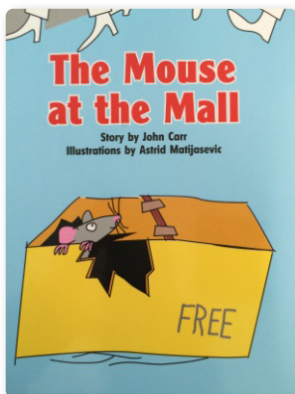
SPCA Instructional Readers (Series 1, 2 and 3)

Levelled in alignment with the Ministry of Education's colour wheel, schools can integrate SPCA's instructional readers seamlessly into their reader collections and their classroom literacy programmes. The focus of each original story is to teach core animal care and wellbeing lessons, through engaging, emotive and thought-provoking stories, while increasing children's reading mileage and supporting the development of their reading skills and strategies.

The SPCA wants to eliminate as many barriers as possible to children accessing these valuable learning resources, so with thanks to the incredible financial assistance of our supporters and community grants, the SPCA has provided six copies of each of the following eighteen titles free to every New Zealand primary school. Have a look for them in your school's reading resource room now!

Additional copies are available for purchase from: <https://spca-shop.mystorbie.com/shop/spca-learn-to-read-storybooks>

The Mouse at the Mall by John Carr



Level: Light Blue (Turquoise)

Level 17 – 18

7yrs – 7.5yrs

Overview: This text is based on a true story. In this realistic first person narrative, the narrator and her mother go shoe shopping at the mall. While in the shoe shop an abandoned pet mouse gnaws his way out of the cardboard box he was left in. He scuttles across the shop floor and into the hands of his rescuer.

The Problem with Sione's and Spaghetti by John Carr



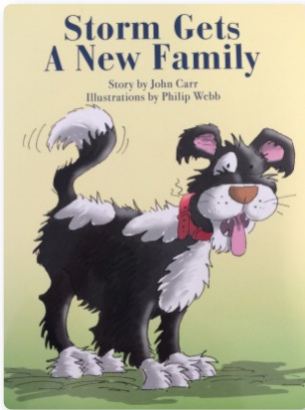
Level: Purple

Level 19 – 20

7.5yrs – 8yrs

Overview: This realistic narrative follows Sione's realisation that his beloved pet rabbit 'Spaghetti' is unhappy, "her ears had gone floppy and her hop had lost its hippety". With the help of Aunty Masina, the Raging Rhinos rugby team and SPCA, Sione finds the reason and solution for Spaghetti's unhappiness.

Storm Gets a New Family by John Carr



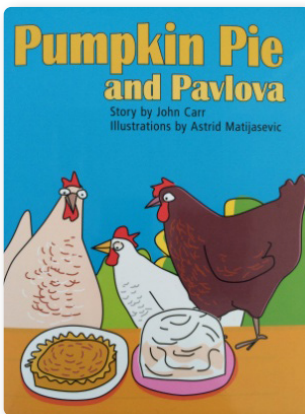
Level: Purple

Level 19 – 20

7.5yrs – 8yrs

Overview: This realistic narrative follows Storm’s journey from a life of loneliness, hunger and neglect, chained outside to a leaking kennel, to him finding an entirely new life as a much loved family member.

Pumpkin Pie and Pavlova by John Carr



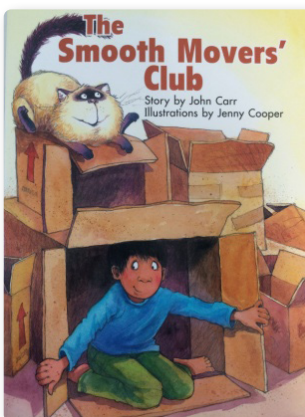
Level: Gold

Level 21-22

8yrs – 8.5yrs

Overview: Mr Watkins loved hens, he had three of them in his backyard that had been rescued from a cage farm. The trend of keeping backyard chickens has been on the rise over the past few years and it’s easy to see why. Not only do people like Mr Watkins get nutritious, free range eggs from happy hens, but hens also make wonderful companions. Pumpkin Pie and Pavlova is a light hearted story that uses humour and engaging illustrations to create more awareness of hens and their needs in relation to the Five Domains. We are optimistic that as more and more people learn about the realities of caged egg production and its impact on the welfare of hens, they’ll choose more humane options like cage-free eggs. We hope reading and discussing ‘Pumpkin Pie and Pavlova’ will stimulate conversations that encourage students to think and talk about hens from a different perspective than they may have before.

The Smooth Movers’ Club by John Carr



Level: Gold

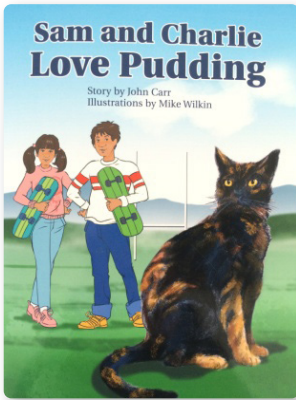
Level 21-22

8yrs – 8.5yrs

Overview: Written in first person, this realistic narrative explores what is unfortunately a very common scenario. SPCA regularly receives phone calls and visits from distraught cat owners whose beloved cats have gone missing after they have recently moved house. Because cats are territorial by nature,

unless the correct steps have been taken to settle them into the new home, they are not likely to perceive the new house as their territory and will often try to get back to their previous home. The Smooth Movers' Club introduces this concept through the humorous journey of a father, his son and their cat Noah, as they move from a small country town, to the hustle and bustle of the city.

Sam and Charlie Love Pudding by John Carr



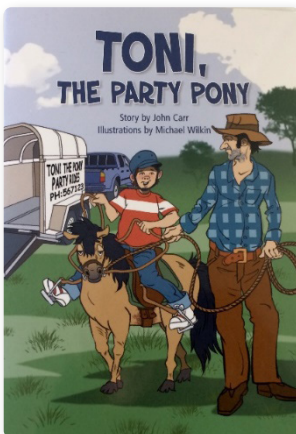
Level: Silver

Level 23 – 24

8.5yrs – 9yrs

Overview: This realistic narrative tells the story of Pudding, an abandoned cat who has made her home underneath the sports shed at Sam and Charlie's school. The story offers students insight into the struggles faced by homeless animals like Pudding, and how the quality of their lives can be greatly improved by the intervention of caring humans.

Toni, the Party Pony by John Carr



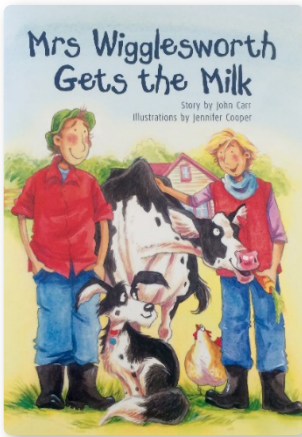
Level: Light Blue (Turquoise)

Level 17 – 18

7yrs – 7.5yrs

Overview: Toni the Pony was exhausted. Her hooves hurt, her legs ached and the tight saddle strap had rubbed a raw patch at the top of her foreleg that hurt every time she moved. Week after week, Toni travelled from party to party and fair to fair, plodding in circles while excited, happy children bounced up and down on her tired back. That was up until Sammy and her Dad met Toni. They noticed that Toni was in pain and not being looked after properly and decided to do something about it!

Mrs Wigglesworth Gets the Milk by John Carr



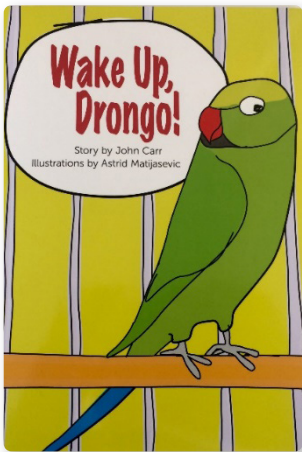
Level: Purple

Level 19 – 20

7.5yrs – 8yrs

Overview: Mr and Mrs Wigglesworth are great examples of the wonderfully kind and compassionate people that the SPCA have supporting and helping them, to do the work that they do. Whilst Dulcie's story is an example of the awful situations that the SPCA unfortunately find many animals in. 'Mrs Wigglesworth Gets the Milk' illustrates the difference people can make to the lives of animals in these situations, through a heart-warming story about compassion, friendship and new beginnings.

Wake up Drongo by John Carr



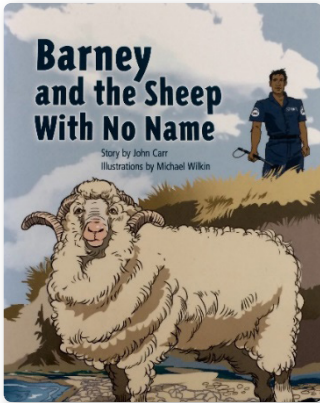
Level: Purple

Level 19 – 20

7.5yrs – 8yrs

Overview: Pirate the parakeet lived a lonely, boring life in a small cage. He had one perch, a water container and a seed dispenser. Pirate had no toys to play with, nothing to climb, nothing to chew, nowhere to bathe, no bird friends to keep him company and most definitely nowhere to fly. Everyday Pirate would watch the wild birds flittering and fluttering, chirping and chattering, together, free in the garden. One day Pirate's wish to join them comes true. However, life outside isn't as fun, easy or safe as Pirate had first thought! 'Wake up Drongo' is a light hearted story that uses humour and engaging illustrations that encourage students to think critically and talk about captive birds from a different perspective than they may have had before.

Barney and the Sheep with no Name by John Carr



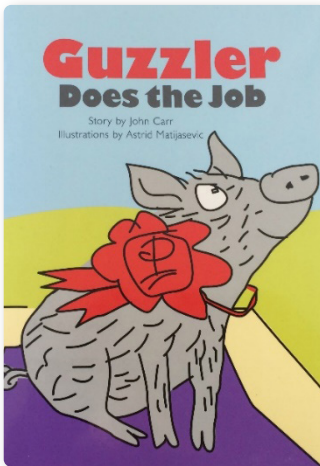
Level: Gold

Level 21-22

8yrs – 8.5yrs

Overview: Barney and the Sheep with no Name is based on an email from an SPCA Inspector. After experiencing such an adventure filled sheep rescue, the inspector recounted the details in an email to the rest of the SPCA team. The dramatic recount is a great example of the lengths SPCA inspectors will go, to rescue an animal in need of help.

Guzzler Does the Job by John Carr



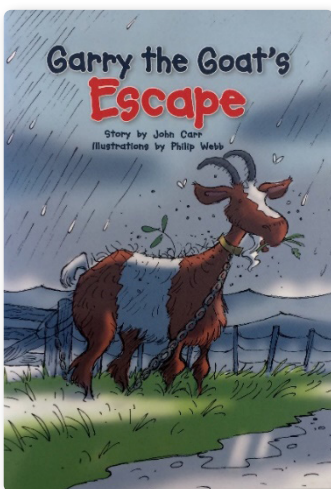
Level: Gold

Level 21-22

8yrs – 8.5yrs

Overview: Based on a true story, this emotive and thought provoking first person narrative recounts the rescue of an orphaned piglet and his adoption into a kind and caring family.

Garry the Goat's Escape by John Carr



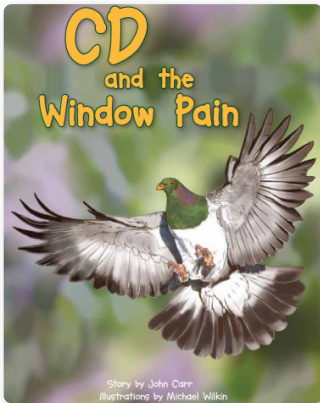
Level: Silver

Level 23 – 24

8.5yrs – 9yrs

Overview: This fun and thought provoking narrative follows Garry the Goat's escape from a life of loneliness and neglect, chained to a fence beside a dusty country road, to a wonderful new life with the marvellously creative and solution focused Mr Baxter!

CD and the Window Pain by John Carr



Level: Silver

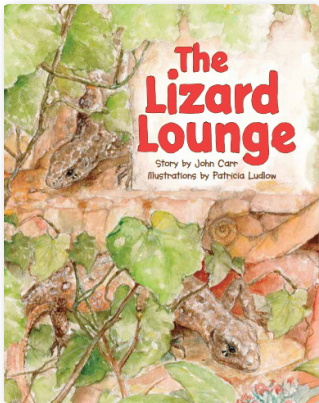
Level 23-24

8.5yrs - 9yrs

Overview: Each year thousands of wild birds in New Zealand are killed or suffer terrible injuries after colliding with windows. Young birds learning to fly are especially vulnerable. Kererū, tūī, ruru, and tarāpuka are common victims of window strike.

The children in Ms Pipiri's class have discovered that their classroom's windows are proving to be a severe hazard for their feathered friends, in particular a kererū named CD. Worried that more birds will suffer the painful fate, the children decide to do some research and come up with some very innovative solutions for this terrible problem.

The Lizard Lounge by John Carr



Level: Silver

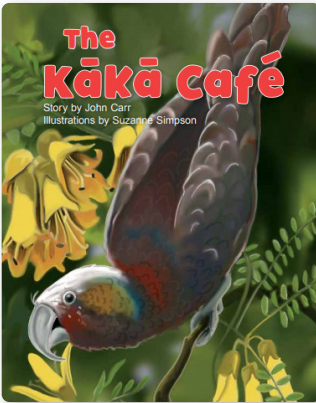
Level 23-24

8.5yrs - 9yrs

Overview: A brother and sister unable to adopt a companion animal, decide instead to be the guardians of a small creature they suspect is living in their backyard. After some investigation, the children are able to confirm that the creature residing in their back garden is in fact a native lizard, also known as ngārara, karara or mokomoko. The brother and sister duo get to work researching how they can make their backyard more lizard friendly and the

best possible habitat for their "adopted" lizard, and secretly hope to attract more. With the help of their mum and dad, the children convert their backyard into a lizard lounge!

The Kākā Cafe by John Carr



Level: Silver

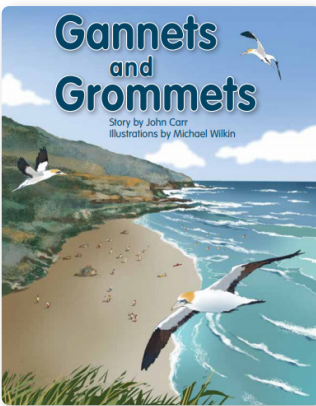
Level 23-24

8.5yrs - 9yrs

Overview: Many people enjoy feeding wild birds. However, an unfortunate consequence of this behaviour is that wild birds, like the kākā featured in this story, can develop nutrient deficiencies and associated health problems due to having an unnatural and unbalanced diet. Their young chicks can also suffer when regularly fed human foods collected by their parents, during a critical time of growth and development.

The Kākā Café retells the story of a class of children who design and create a school wildlife garden called the Kākā Café to provide wild birds living in their community a natural nutritious diet. Part of their garden design process is researching and creating “menus” consisting of different fruits, seeds, nectar, insects, and foliage (which are actually planting plans) for the different birds that they hope will visit their “café”.

Gannets and Grommets by John Carr



Level: Emerald

Level 25-26

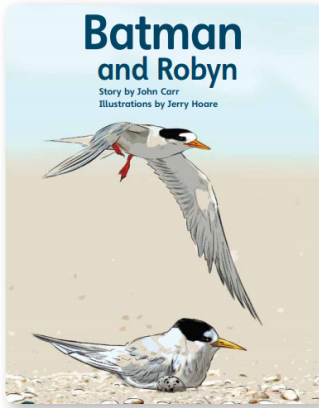
9yrs - 10yrs

Overview: Plastic debris, including fishing lines, lures, and nets entangle countless sea birds every year leading to injury and even death. Sea birds may encounter plastics while feeding as they plunge dive into the ocean to catch fish, squid, and other food. Other seabird species feed by skimming the water surface using their beaks as scoops, unknowingly gathering plastic waste along the way. Whether they mistake plastic waste for food, or find

themselves entangled as they dive or fish beneath the surface, seabirds’ encounters with plastic can cause prolonged suffering and is often fatal.

While spending the school holidays with his Pop, Josh experiences first-hand the consequences of people not disposing of their fishing equipment safely. While surfing, Josh encounters a gannet struggling in the surf, tangled in fishing line and a weight, that he recognises as his own!

Batman and Robyn by John Carr



Level: Ruby

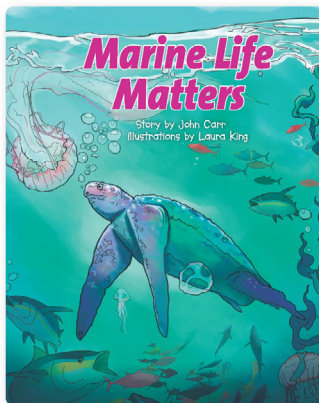
Level 27-28

10yrs - 11yrs

Overview: Tara iti, otherwise known as New Zealand fairy tern, were once widespread around the North Island coast and the river mouths of the east of the South Island. They are now the most endangered of New Zealand's endemic breeding birds. Predation, habitat depletion, human recreational activities, and extreme environmental events are considered the most likely causes of the New Zealand fairy terns' population decline.

The story of "Batman and Robyn" retells Aroha's experience learning about the conservation efforts at a fairy tern breeding site, followed by her exciting rescue of two precious fairy tern eggs. This engaging story encourages students to consider significant future-focused issues such as sustainability, conservation, biodiversity and animal welfare.

Marine Life Matters by John Carr



Level: Ruby

Level 27-28

10yrs - 11yrs

Overview: An overwhelming number of animals die as a result of plastic pollution in marine environments every day. Thousands of small fish and crustaceans, turtles, seals and whales, die terrible deaths from eating, becoming entangled, and even breathing minute particles of plastic debris into their gills. Plastic pollution accumulating in our oceans and on our beaches has become a global crisis.

Shocked after discovering one of the balloons she released on her 9th birthday had contributed to the death of an endangered turtle, hundreds of kilometers away, and learning about the deadly effect plastic pollution has on wildlife, Briar is determined to do something positive for the environment. She sets about organising the clean-up of her local beach and invites her whole community to help her.