

Animal Stories

In choosing these animal stories our criteria were that the animals must be central to the story and must behave like animals. There are many stories centring on animals in which the animals habitually behave like people, for example Brian Jacques' popular Redwall series and the perennially popular Wind in the Willows, and these have not been included.

Some stories might be properly categorised as animal fantasy in that the animals talk to each other and co-operate with or attempt to deceive each other. However they act as animals in that they live in places wild animals would live, eat the food wild animals would eat and are threatened by the dangers that animals rather than people would encounter. There may be many other titles which could be included but these are some of our favourites.

Reviewed by Betty Gilderdale

Ahlberg, Alan

Woof.

London: Viking 1986.

"There was once a boy who turned into a dog". This arresting first sentence recounts how 10-year-old Eric became a Norfolk terrier. A hilarious book which sees life from a dog's point-of-view and, yes, Eric does resume his human shape eventually!

Daniels, Lucy.

Panda in the Park.

London: Hodder Headline 1999.

This is one of the enormously successful Animal Ark series, all of them ideal reading for 7- 10 - year-olds. Here Mandy and James are with their conservation officer mother in China when an endangered panda cub escapes from a research park. Can they find it to reunite it with its mother?

George, Jean Craighead

Julie of the Wolves

London: Hamish Hamilton 1973.

This classic story describes how Inuit Julie tries to make her way across Alaska. When she is lost she realizes that her only hope of survival is to become adopted by a wolf pack. A wonderful picture of the social life of wolves but with added human interest. Ages 12+.

King-Smith, Dick.

The Sheep Pig.

The book from which the film *Babe* was made. King-Smith's animals are always unusual but stay within the bounds of their own species. Here a young pig, raised by a farm dog, wants to herd sheep like his foster mother... Funny, warm and memorable for ages 8-12.

Martin's Mice.

Another unusual animal. Martin is a farm kitten who does not want to eat mice. He rather likes them and this leads to all sorts of amusing complications. For ages 8-12.

Happy Mouseday.

London: Doubleday 1994.

For Beginner readers. Pete wants a pet mouse but his parents say "NO!" how can he achieve his ambition?

Horse Pie

London: Doubleday 1993.

Captain, Ladybird and Herbert are Shire horses and a Suffolk Punch. They are not pleased when Jenny, a retired seaside donkey, joins them in the paddock. But they find that even a donkey can be useful... large print, suitable for 7-9s.

All Because of Jackson

London: Doubleday 1995.

Rabbits became a plague in Australia, all because of Jackson, a pioneering rabbit who managed to smuggle himself and a lady friend onto a sailing ship in 1842. Easy reading for 7-9s.

Godhanger

London: Doubleday 1996.

A much darker book than King-Smith's usually humorous ones and for a much older age group. The great tyrant of Godhanger Wood is the gamekeeper. The animals there need protection and this arrives in the form of a huge and mysterious bird. The book is an allegory about sacrifice and redemption. Poetically and memorably written it is arguably King-Smith's finest work. For 13+.

Morpurgo, Michael

The Nine Lives of Montezuma
Surrey: Kaye & Ward 1980,
Mammoth 1992.

Montezuma is a farm cat and this absorbing account of his life takes him from birth to death. 8-12 years.

War Horse

Surrey: Kaye & Ward 1982,
Mammoth 1990.

A rare book about World War I seen through the eyes of Joey, a farm horse taken to the Western Front. Morpurgo reveals both the heroism and the futility of war. 10-13.

Little Foxes

Surrey: Kaye & Ward 1984,
Mammoth 1990.

A lonely boy discovers a ruined church taken over by wild animals including a family of foxes. 8-12.

Oldfield, Jenny

Scruffy the Scamp

London: Hodder Headline 1997.

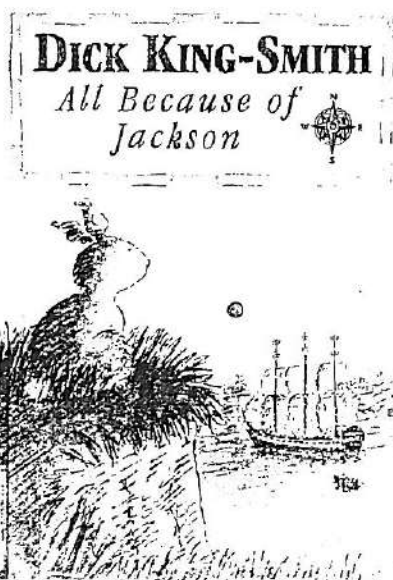
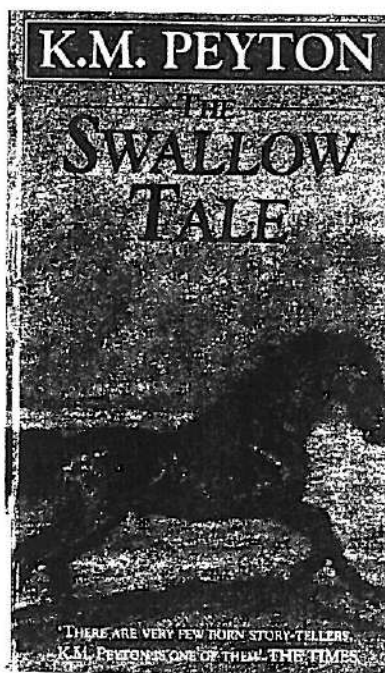
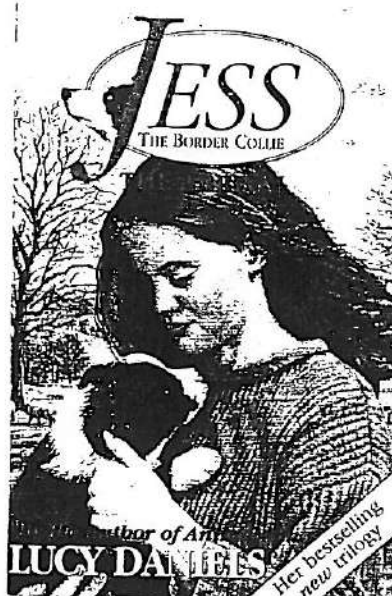
This is one in a series of books about the Home Farm Twins who cannot resist animals. The scruffy Scamp is one among many. Very readable, large print, the series is much loved by 7-10 year olds.

The Animal Alert Books.

These are stories based on the Beech Hill Veterinary Clinic where Carly's father is one of the vets. She becomes involved with many of the animals he treats. Hugely popular and very informative, these books have large readable print and are especially suitable for 7-10 year olds. Typical is;

Blind Alley. London: Hodder Headline 1998.

What happens if a Labrador Guide Dog for the Blind is itself losing its sight because of an infection- can it be saved?



Peyton, K.M

The Swallow Tale

London: Doubleday 1995.

Rowan's father accidentally hits a pony when driving at night. Rowan persuades her parents to let her keep it, but "Swallow" as she names him, is wild and high-spirited. Can she tame him for Pony Club outings? The result is seen in-

The Swallow Summer. London: Doubleday 1996.

These books are 'must reads' for horse-crazy girls and others who would like a horse but do not have one!

Potter, Beatrix

The Tale of Peter Rabbit; The Tale of Tom Kitten; The Tale of Jemima Puddleduck etc

London: Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd.

Although Beatrix Potter is sometimes criticised for clothing her animals they do nevertheless behave as animals. She does not fudge the precarious existence that many animals have - Peter Rabbit is nearly put in a pie, Jemima Puddleduck only just escapes being a fox's dinner. Potter always wanted to keep her books small enough for a child to hold in its hand, and these small books are ideal for reading one-to-one. There are now larger editions suitable for class reading. Potter is never condescending, her language is extending but the meaning is always clear from the context. Ages 3-6.

Sheldon, Dyan and Blythe, Gary

The Whales' Song

London: Hutchinson 1990.

A beautiful and poetic picture book in which a small girl learns the story of whales and is finally rewarded. Ages 5-7.

Thomas, Frances and Brown, Ruth

Mr. Bear and the Bear

London: Andersen Press 1996.

The story of a dancing bear who became adopted by the eccentric Mr. Bear. Superb pictures in a book specially written to draw attention to the plight of bears worldwide. Ages 6-9.

Reviewed by Bev Barnes

Stimoon, Joan, illustrated by Meg Rutherford

BraveLion, Scared Lion

Scholastic 1997.

Jake, the brave lion cub, shows off but his brother Jasper is timid. Their mothers warn them to stay away from the river where they meet a crocodile. A delightful tale with colourful illustrations.

Carle, Eric

The Bad-Tempered Ladybird

Puffin 2000.

A bad-tempered ladybird picks fights with every animal it meets, but soon learns the importance of friends. A humorous story in which Carle explores the concepts of size and time through brightly coloured pictures. Ages 3-6.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar.
Puffin 1970.

This classic is a much loved story. There are lots of holes for little fingers to explore. An interactive book about numbers, days of the week and time. Ages 3-6.

Dodd, Lynley

Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy

Puffin 1985.

A well known classic which all young children love reading and re-reading because of its rich, repetitive, rhyming language.

Hairy Maclary's Bone

Puffin 1986.

All Hairy Maclary's friends want to share his tasty new bone- but he has other ideas. Rhythmical text and mischievous illustrations.

The Bad-Tempered Ladybird

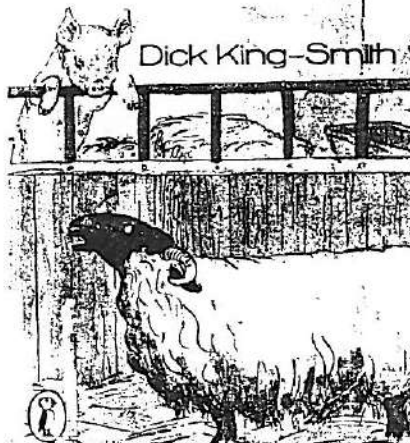
Eric Carle



The Sheep-Pig

Winner of the Guardian Children's Fiction Award

Dick King-Smith



BOXER



Wake Up Bear.

Puffin 1986.

Bear's friends have difficulty waking him after his long hibernation until they discover something he loves as much as sleeping. A well loved, beautifully illustrated story.

McDonnell, Flora

Splash!

Walker Books.

The animals are hot but baby elephant has the answer. Pop-Up book with large bright illustrations. 6 months up.

Kirause, Zoe, illustrated by Tony Oliver

Cuddly Cub

Book Club International Pty. Ltd. 1999.

Cuddly Cub's mother tells her stories about the many animals which live in the grasslands.

Pledger, Maurice

In the Forest. Book Club

International Pty. Ltd. 1999.

A native trail book- a touch-and feel adventure.

Reviewed by Helen Beckingsale

Branford, Henrietta

Fire, Bed and Bone

Walker Books 1997.

Set in 1381 this book tells the story of one family's experiences in the Peasant's Revolt seen through the eyes of their loyal old hunting dog. 10+

Corbett, W.H.

Song of Pentecost

London: Methuen 1982.

A family of mice in need of a new home are led by an untrustworthy frog and a snake. Whitbread Children's Book Award 1982. 9+ Sequel- *Pentecost and the Chosen One.* London: Methuen 1987.

Gleitzman, Morris

Toad Rage
Puffin 2000.

Limpy is a cane toad who cannot accept that humans hate him and his kind and embarks on a journey across Australia to try and change the minds of the whole human race. 9+

Kipling, Rudyard

The Jungle Book

First published 1894. Puffin 1994.

The first of the two Jungle Books includes the well-known story of Mowgli, a man cub adopted by a family of wolves and Rikki-tikki-tavi the mongoose who saves the life of a child by killing a snake. Unlike Walt Disney's light-hearted depiction of Mowgli's story his animal guardians are true to their natures, and the law of the jungle is kill or be killed.

A good story to read aloud to 8+.

Oppel, Kenneth

Silverwing

Toronto: Harper Collins 1997,
London: Hodder Silver 1999.

Shade, a young Silverwing bat, is the runt of his colony who is separated from his migrating colony by a storm. His story, based on Oppel's factual knowledge of bat behaviour, migration and communication combines with all the elements necessary for an exciting adventure story. 10+

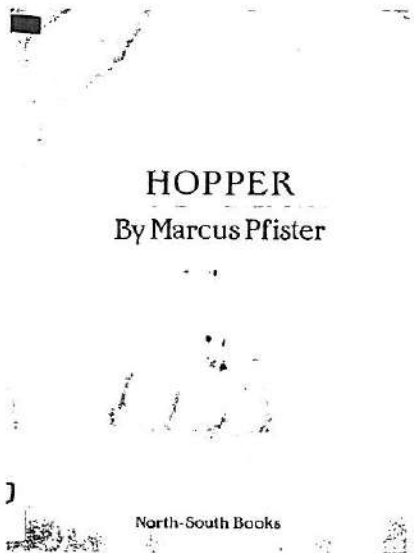
Paiba, Helen, editor

Animal Stories for Five Year Olds

London; Macmillan Children's Books 2000.

Animal stories from the past and present from all around the world chosen by Helen Paiba, a recipient of the Farjeon Award for her contribution to children's books.

HOPPER
By Marcus Pfister



Reviewed by Rosemary Tisdall

Pfister, Marcus

Hopper

North-South Books, 1991

Hopper, a little hare, learns about the snow and winter as he plays with his friend and looks for food with his mother. Beautiful watercolour illustrations by the author, capture the loving relationship between mother and son and the winter landscape. Preschool

Sutton, Eve, illustrated by Lynley Dodd

My Cat Likes to Hide in Boxes,
Mallinson Rendel, 1984

A delightful rhyming story of cats around the world and what they like doing! Preschool

Charlton, Ian

Boxer

Mallinson Rendel, 1999

Dad leaves Dot in charge of Boxer, a large, nasty, greedy, rude pig, when he goes away to Africa. 6-8 years

Gordon, Gaelyn

Fuss Finds Out/Fuss, the Farm Dog/Fuss, the Collector
HarperCollins 1993/1994

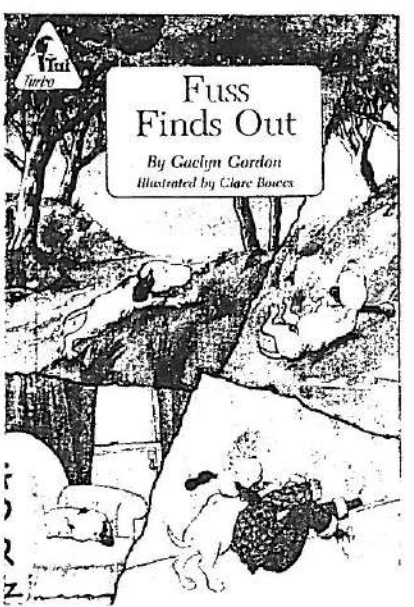
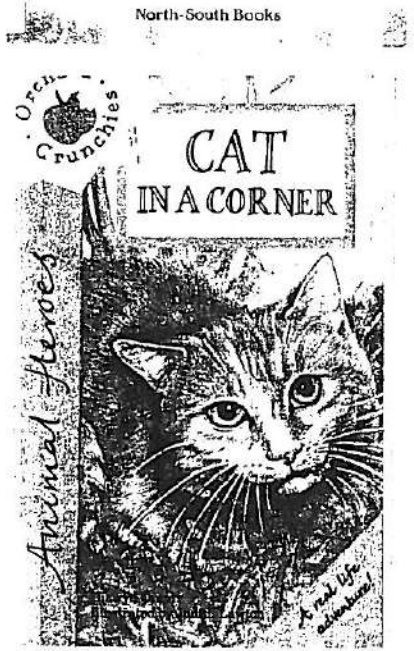
Three books about Fuss, a small brown and white dog who moves from the city to live in the country. He learns a lot about what it takes to live on a farm; fortunately he has a sense of humour! The illustrations are cartoon-like, and the use of speech bubbles in conjunction with the text would help a beginner reader of chapter books. 6-8 years

Oram, Hiawyn

Cat in a Corner

Orchard Books, 1997.

Robertson, the cat, loves to be petted and adored. He also loves catching birds. The more birds he catches, however, the less fuss he receives. He has a hard lesson to learn about how to earn back the



love and attention he feels he deserves. 6-9 years.

Others in the series: *Monkey in Space*, *Dolphin SOS*, *Dog in Danger*

Daniels, Lucy

Jess, the Border Collie series

Hodder Children's Books 1998

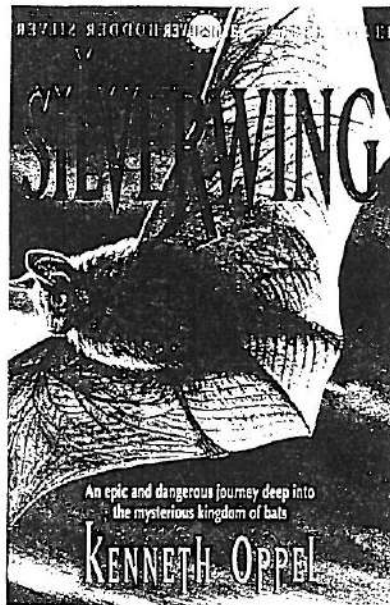
The series is about Jess, a Border Collie dog, who was born with a crippled leg. Jenny's love helps to keep the puppy alive and they have many adventures together. 7-11 years

Dann, Colin

The Animals of Farthing Wood

Mammoth 1989

The animals of Farthing Wood go on a perilous cross-country journey together to find a new life and home in a nature reserve, safe from the destruction of man and his bulldozers. Fox, their brave and intelligent leader, takes Badger, Toad, Owl and the others through dangers they were not prepared for. 9-13 years



MARTIN'S



HORSE PIE



DICK KING-SMITH

AGM UPDATE

At the AGM the following motions were passed clearing the way for the proposed merger of the Children's Literature Association with the Children's Book Foundation.

1. That this AGM of the CLA amend Clause 13 of the constitution to read as follows:

"In the event of the Society being wound up, the surplus assets after payment of the Society's liabilities and the expenses of the winding up shall be paid to a charitable organisation with similar aims and objectives."

2. That this AGM of the CLA endorses in principle the intention to form a new Society to be known as the Children's Literature Foundation of New Zealand Inc.

3. That this AGM agrees to the proposed merger of the CLA into the Society to be known as the Children's Literature Foundation of NZ Inc.

Our guest speaker was Christine Dale, Publishing Manager of Scholastic New Zealand, who gave a very interesting and informative Power Point presentation entitled "Polishing the Diamond" the diamonds being the manuscripts submitted to Scholastic for publication. It was good to see our numbers swelled by a number of people who had seen the talk advertised on writers and illustrators websites. Christine distributed a handout on "What Scholastic NZ looks for in a Manuscript".

