

# Animal Stories List

## Term One, 2004

Contributors to this booklist are- Helen Beckingsale, Anne Coppell, Julie Harper, Lois Huston, Susan McIntosh, Sandra Morris, Frances Plumpton, Colleen Taylor.

# booklist

### **Fancy That!**

Pamela Allen

Puffin,

Pb, ISBN 0140509712

Toddlers just delight in joining in the actions of this story of a little red hen hatching out a clutch of eggs and proudly parading her new chickens in the farmyard. Pamela Allen never underestimates the ability of her audience to embrace language. Her meticulous illustrations too encourage everyone to chorus the fowl yard sounds with gusto. FP

### **Goodnight Baxter**

Nicola Edwards

David Bennett, 2002

Hb, 1856024334

Pb, Chrysalis, ISBN 1856025063

Charlie decides to call his new puppy Baxter, and boy and puppy have a wonderful time playing together. But when night time comes, Baxter just can not settle into his new home. This simple story accompanied by bold clear illustrations explores with gentle humour a situation that will not only resonate with many puppy owners, but also with children staying overnight in unfamiliar surroundings. Great for preschoolers. FP

### **Oliver in the Garden**

Margaret Beames

Illustrated by Sue Hitchcock

Scholastic

Pb, ISBN 1869434668

Oliver would much rather be exploring Mrs Bundy's garden at night time than be shut up indoors, but sometimes the animals he discovers can be just too scary! Sue Hitchcock's computer generated illustrations add atmosphere to this curious cat's explorations. Check out Oliver's Party (Scholastic, 2003, HB, ISBN 1869435796; PB, ISBN 1869436105) for more adventures of this inquisitive cat. FP

### **Webster J. Duck**

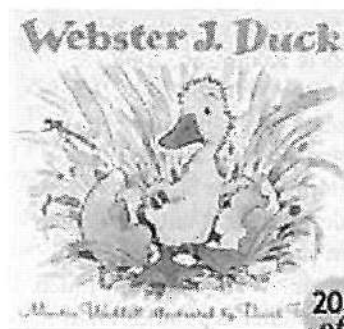
Martin Waddell

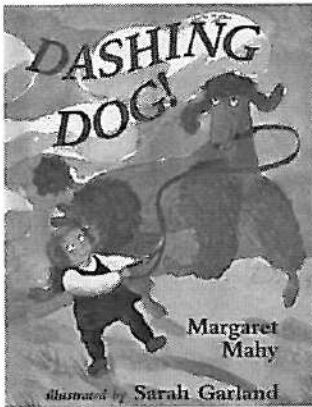
Illustrated by David Parkins,

Walker Books, 2001

Hb, ISBN 0744575273; Pb, ISBN 074458924X

A young duckling uncurls and cracks open his egg shell, but no matter how loudly he quacks his mother does not appear. Webster J Duck sets out to find his mother but the strange animals he sees are definitely not ducks! This may be a familiar storyline but this comfortable pairing of writer and illustrator make this book a delight. Toddlers will love this. FP

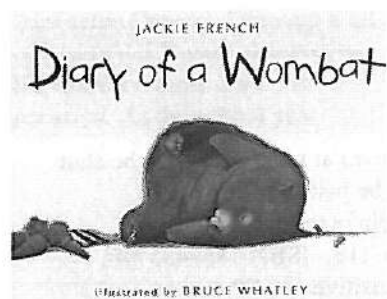




### **Dashing Dog**

Margaret Mahy  
Illustrated by Sarah Garland  
HarperCollins, 2002  
Pb, ISBN 0732275202

'Dashing dog! Dashing dog! Oh, what a sight to see! Cleaned up and curlicued! What a delight to be Greeting a dog that is brushed-up-and-downery, Dare-devil-daring, and dog about townery.' Well, the family's walk along the beach starts out wonderfully, but before long there is disaster! Margaret's experiences with her own beloved standard poodle and her mastery of language, make this chaotic adventure sheer fun to read aloud. Sarah Garland's illustrations are quite unlike those in her earlier books (Going Shopping, Having a Picnic etc), but capture the chaos perfectly. For two year olds onwards. FP



### **Diary of a Wombat**

Jackie French  
Illustrated by Bruce Whatley  
Angus & Robertson, 2002  
Hb, ISBN 0-20719995-7

Although we do not have wombats in New Zealand this delightful picture book gives a wonderful insight into the habits of one particular wombat called Mothball. Written and illustrated from Mothball's point of view, this hilarious account of a week in which she goes about her normal

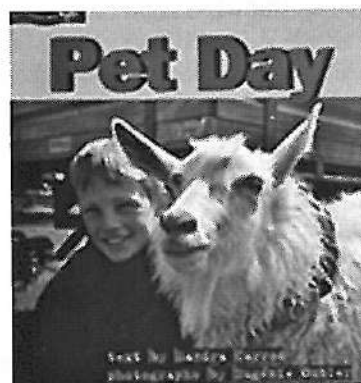
routine, including training the humans she lives with to care for her.

Daily entries with minimal text and captivating illustrations of Mothball's antics portray a determined little creature who knows how to get what she wants. Highly recommended for children and adults alike.  
CT

### **Dr. White**

Jane Goodall  
Ill. Julie Litty  
North-South Books 2003  
Pb, ISBN 0735818681

A gorgeous picture book based on a true story. Dr White was a little dog who spent hours visiting children in hospital, sometimes just curling up beside them, licking their hand. Children improve under his care, until a health inspector bans his visits. But when the inspector's own child is ill, Dr White is brought into the case. The illustrations are soft and heart-warming, the perfect accompaniment to the message of the text. Ages 3 and over. AC.



### **Pet Day**

Sandra Carrod and Eugénie Ombler  
Reed 2000  
Pb, ISBN 1869488512

Pet Day is a feature for many rural New Zealand children. In this book, Sam's school prepare for, and enjoy, their Pet Day. Many children and their various pets – including ants – are introduced. The day is followed by the local A & P (Agricultural & Pastoral) Show. Lavishly illustrated by colour photographs, this is a must have for an insight into an aspect of New Zealand life. Ages 4 and over. AC.

### **Foster Dog**

Joy Watson  
Ill. Annabel Craighead  
Scholastic NZ, 1999  
Pb, ISBN 1869434366

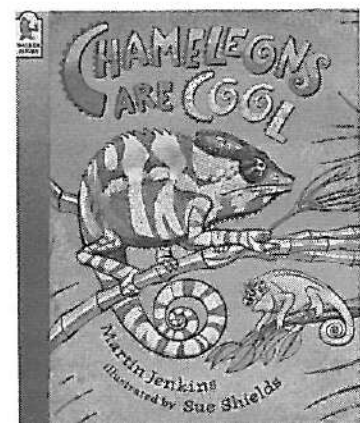
The story of Grandad and Molly was based on Joy's own dog, Coda. When Grandad's dog, Molly, dies Grandad's upset and lonely, but doesn't want a new dog. Instead his family ask him to foster a dog for them, until they have a big enough house. At a visit to the SPCA Grandad chooses Foster. But what will happen they find they're new big house? This title was included in Storylines: CLFNZ's Notable Book List 2000. Ages 4 and over. AC.

### **Read and Wonder Series**

Published by Walker Books

This wonderful series of natural history books has particular appeal with the enthusiastic and beautiful writing styles by such authors as Vivian French, Dick King-Smith, Karen Wallace, Nicola Davies and Martin Jenkins.

Each author has their own distinctive style but the author that really appealed to me is Martin Jenkins with his chatty, enthusiasm for the animals he is writing about. Although all these books are non-fiction they are written as picture books and have extra fact lines in a different font placed creatively on the page.



### **Chameleons are Cool**

Martin Jenkins  
Illustrated by Sue Shields  
Walker Books 1997  
Pb, ISBN 0-7445-6333-X

The book starts off explaining the difference between chameleons

and other lizards and moves on to some fascinating features that make chameleons so appealing-particularly their noses!

The book finishes off with-

“How could you possibly resist a pocket-sized bad-tempered, colour changing, swivel-eyed, snail-paced long-tongued sharp-shooter? If chameleons aren’t cool Then I don’t know what is!” Ages 4-7 years. SM

### **The Emperor’s Egg**

Martin Jenkins

Illustrated by Jane Chapman

Walker Books 1999

Hb, ISBN 0-7445-6237-6

Pb, ISBN 0-7445-7259-2

The main point of this story is the role of the father penguin- for two whole months he looks after the egg without food while mum is off feeding at sea- a wonderful story of the world’s most devoted dad.

“Can you imagine it?

Standing around in the freezing cold

With an egg on your feet for two whole months?

What’s more, there’s nothing for the father penguin to eat on land.

And because he’s egg-sitting, he can’t go off to the sea to feed.

So that means two whole months with an egg on your feet

And no supper

Or breakfast

or lunch

or tea

I don’t know about you

but I’d be very very miserable...”

Ages 4-7 years. SM



### **Sophie’s Tom**

Dick King-Smith

Illustrated by David Parkins

Walker Books 2000

Pb, ISBN 0-7445-7726-8

Five-year-old Sophie is determined to be a lady farmer when she grows up. Her family all give her farm related presents for her birthday and Christmas, including a tractor with a trailer and a model farmyard with lots of animals. But the thing Sophie wants most is a pet of her own. When she finds a large black cat sitting on the wall she decides to look after him and calls him ‘Tom’. Under Sophie’s care Tom becomes more friendly and a lot fatter, and fatter...until one morning when Sophie discovers that ‘Tom’ has had kittens! Suitable for 4-8 year olds. JH

### **The truth about Toffee**

Janet Slater Bottin

illustrated by Alice Bell

Scholastic, 2003

Pb, ISBN 1869435508

This delightful little story is told through the letters, emails and photos sent by Skye to her Grandmother. Skye is very distressed to learn that her favourite horse, Toffee, is to be sold and replaced by a stronger and younger horse. By following the guidance of her Grandmother Skye learns that she can make a difference in her community.

Though there are hints within the emails, it is not until later in the story the reader learns just how important this lesson has been for Skye.

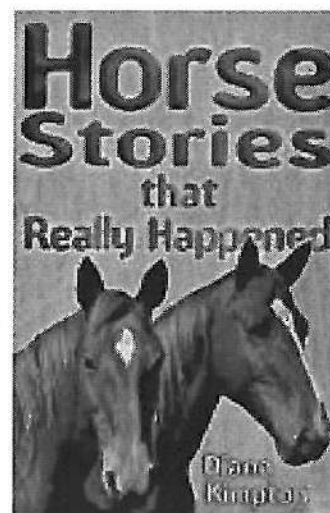
### **The Adventures of Monty, The Dog Who Wears Glasses**

Colin West

Harper Collins 1993

ISBN 0006748198

Three books in one, this is part of a popular easy read collection by Colin West. Monty the dog has many funny adventures because he is short sighted and accident prone. (The glasses only help the short sighted problem!) The book is set out as a chapter book, and would be very useful for children moving on from school readers. It is liberally sprinkled with black and white illustrations. Ages 6 and up. LH



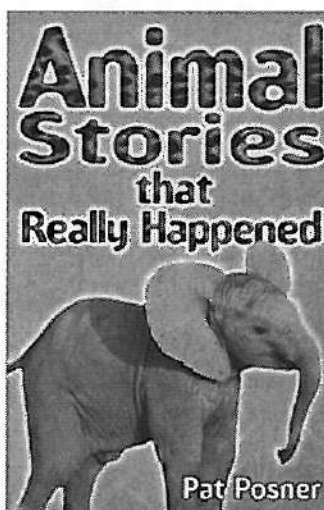
### **Horse Stories that Really Happened**

Diana Kimpton

Scholastic, 1999

Pb, ISBN 0590111027

A collection of six stories featuring real horses doing horse things. There’s the story of Bucephalus and Alexander the Great; the rescue of Savanna – a horse who almost didn’t survive; and Foinavon’s running of the Grand National. In between each story are facts about horses. A great collection to read aloud, or to give the horse fan. Note: this title is not in print, but should be available from most libraries. Ages 7 and over. AC.



### **Animal Stories that Really Happened**

Pat Posner

Scholastic 1999

Pb, ISBN 0590111027

A collection of stories featuring various animals. Included is the story of Faith, the Vicar’s cat, who survived a bombing attack on the vicarage; Old Dog who saved his

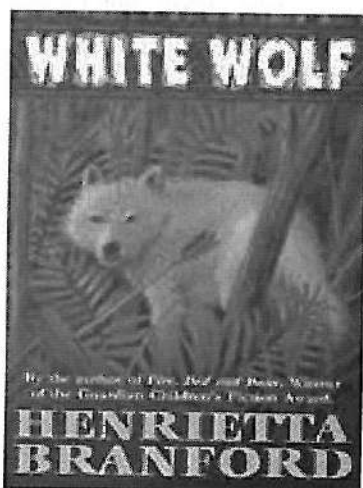
owner; and the story behind Marguerite Henry's book *Misty of Chincoteague*. There's also facts and snippets of other stories, making this perfect for the animal fan. Note: this title is not in print, but should be available from most libraries. Ages 7 and over. AC.

**Babe** (formerly published as **The Sheep-Pig**)

Dick King-Smith  
Puffin, 1995

ISBN 0140381430

This is a re-issue of the original book that led to the popular movie, *Babe*. **Babe** is the story of an orphan pig, brought up with a family of sheep dogs. Because of his environment, he too believes he is a dog, and confounds the farmer by rounding up the sheep. The book is very closely allied to the movie, and would be very suitable for reluctant readers, building on the familiar. Ages 8 and up. LH

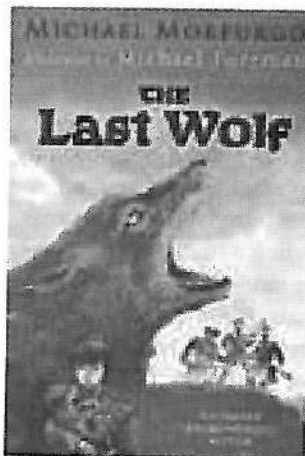


**White Wolf**

Henrietta Branford  
Walker 1999

Pb, ISBN 074456395X

This is the story of Snowy, a white wolf, told from his point of view. Snowy was captured by Jesse's father and kept to, eventually, protect them against Indian attack. Except the attack comes before Snowy has fully grown. His white fur is meaningful to the local Indian tribe and Jesse sacrifices his own freedom to save Snowy's life. Snowy becomes part of a pack and grows to have cubs of his own. An insight into wolf culture, with a historical flavour. Ages 8 and over. AC.



**The Last Wolf**

Michael Morpurgo  
Corgi 2003

Pb, ISBN 0440865077

Morpurgo has drawn together many threads in this fictional speculation of the fate of the last wolf in Scotland. Young fleeing Jacobite, Robbie, cares for the cub of the last wolf and names him Charlie (after the Prince). Together they make their way to America and freedom, where both grow and become fathers. This deceptively simple historic tale is framed by a grandfather's interest in genealogy. Foreman's illustrations are also deceptively simple, yet are atmospheric and emotional. Smarties Book Prize Bronze in 6-8 Years category 2002. Ages 8 and over. AC.



**The Nine Lives of Montezuma**

Michael Morpurgo  
Egmont Books 2002

Pb, ISBN 1405201894

Montezuma – Monty – is a farmyard cat who really lives his nine lives. This is just a simple story of slightly extraordinary cat, but it is wonderful in its simplicity. Ages 8 and over. AC.

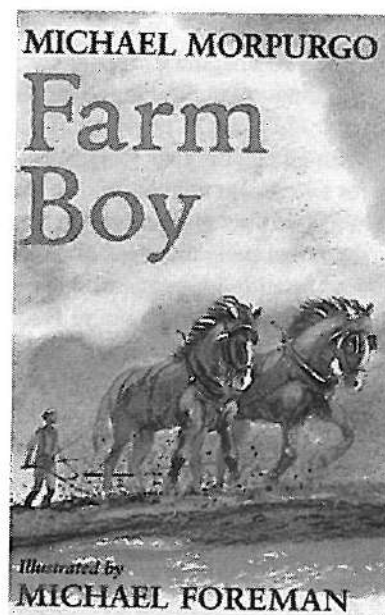


**War Horse**

Michael Morpurgo  
Egmont Books 2002  
Pb, ISBN 0749748508

Joey's purchased by Albert's father in a fit of pique, and it is only Albert's determination that keeps Joey at the farm, until World War I comes and Joey is sold to the cavalry. Early in the War Joey is captured and becomes a German ambulance horse, a French farm horse and a German gun horse and until he is eventually reunited with his Albert.

Followed by a sequel:

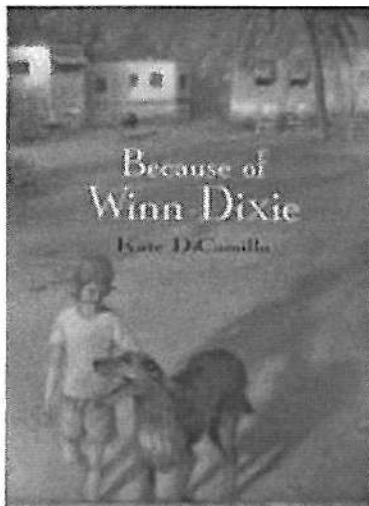


**Farm Boy**

Michael Morpurgo  
Ill. Michael Foreman  
Collins 2000

Pb, ISBN 0006754120

In this, the story of Joey continues after the War, and culminates in a ploughing competition with one of the new tractors. Joey's story is entwined around that of the narrator's grandfather – son of Joey's owner, and his illiteracy. Ages 8 and over. AC.



### **Because of Winn-Dixie**

Kate DiCamillo  
Walker 2001  
Pb, ISBN 0744578299

India Opal is new in town and without any friends. That is, until she saves a stray dog – Winn-Dixie – and brings him home. Because of Winn-Dixie India Opal learns more about her absent mother from her father. Because of Winn-Dixie India Opal finds friends and a job. Because of Winn-Dixie India Opal becomes closer to her father. A wonderful, heart-warming read. Ages 9 and over. AC.

### **Call of the Cruins**

Elizabeth Pulford  
Scholastic 2000  
ISBN 1869434714

Twelve –year –old Emeline is stunned when she finds an injured seal pup. She is torn between two worlds, hers and her father's more practical one. He was part of a whaling crew. He needed to feed his family. Should she try to save the pup? This book is thought provoking, and evocative of life in early New Zealand. Suitable for ages 9 and up. LH

### **Agnes the Sheep**

William Taylor  
Ashton Scholastic 1990  
ISBN 0908643896

Old Mrs Carpenter didn't have a pet cat or dog. She had a sheep. So when she died, it fell to Belinda and Joe to look after Agnes the sheep for the rest of her natural life. Unfortunately for Belinda and Joe, Agnes is a sheep with an Attitude. A very funny book, suitable for ages 9 and up. LH



### **Greyfriars Bobby**

Eleanor Atkinson  
Puffin 1994 (reissue)  
Pb, ISBN 014036742X

A classic tale of animal devotion. Bobby, a Skye terrier, stays at his master's grave for 14 years supported by friends and the love of the children in the surrounding tenements. This original and unabridged edition may be difficult for the modern reader, with its heavy use of Scots English dialect. However, once you get past this, it's still a wonderful and touching read. Ages 10 and over. AC.

### **Harriet Huxtable & the Purpose of Rats**

Louise Pike  
Scholastic 2001  
ISBN 1862914885

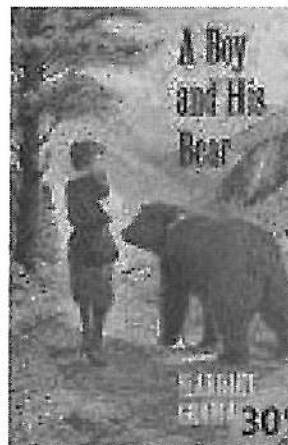
Harriet is devastated when her Boris, her pet tortoise, dies. Then she is doubly devastated to realise that the A+ project she was intending to base on Boris is now dead too. Where can she find an interesting pet to write about. Then she made the acquaintance of the rat, Wenzel. But what will her clean fiend Mum say? A hilarious novel for upper primary, intermediate age. Enjoy. LH.

### **The Song of Pentecost**

W. J. Corbett  
Methuen Children's Books Ltd ,  
1982  
Hb, ISBN 0-416-24730-X

A tribe of fieldmice, lead by Pentecost, abandon their polluted riverside and undertake a dangerous journey to reach a new, safe homeland. This book is funny and moving, with a great cast of memorable animal characters. **The Song of Pentecost** won the Whitbread

award, and would be enjoyed by anyone over 12yrs old. It is available in libraries, and there are two sequels; **Pentecost and the Chosen One**, and **Pentecost of Lickey Top**. SM.



### **A Boy and His Bear**

Harriet Graham  
Margaret K McElderry Books,  
1996

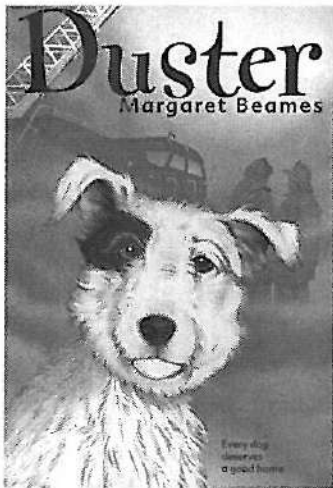
Hb, ISBN 0-689-80943-3  
When Dickon protects a bear cub from cruelty at the London Bear Garden, a strong bond is forged between boy and animal. This bond however, arouses jealousy and superstition and puts both Dickon and the cub in danger. Helped by a group of tumblers, they flee into France, seeking freedom from captivity for the cub and freedom from his hated Tannery apprenticeship for Dickon. Now and again the events in the story are told from the bear's point of view. For age 10+ S.M

### **Ride the Wild Wind: the Golden Pony and other stories.**

Jackie French  
Angus & Robertson 2002  
Pb, ISBN 0207198306

This is a fascinating collection of stories set in different times and places but centred on the special relationship between men and horses. The settings range from 6000 years ago in the Ukraine where a child rescues a foal whose mother has been killed for food, and which in turn saves her life, to ancient China where the inhabitants of a small village wall themselves up to escape the marauding army of Genghis Khan

and move through to 19th and 20th Century Australia. Each story is an absorbing snapshot of its time and gives a different glimpse of the importance of horses to human society over the ages. 9+ HB



### **Duster**

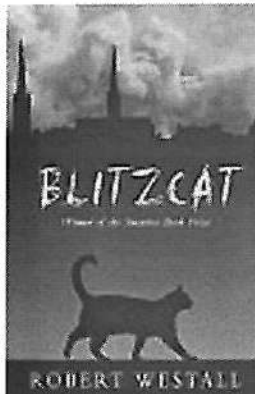
Margaret Beames

Illustrated by Kelvin Hawley  
Scholastic, 2002

Pb, ISBN 1-86943-527-3

Fliiss has always wanted a pet of her own. When she discovers a tired and grubby little dog in the school grounds she hopes she will be able to find a home for him rather than sending him to the animal shelter. With assistance from the school caretaker, Fliiss and her friends are allowed to look after the little dog, which they name Duster. Although a bit of a mischief Duster also proves his worth on more than one occasion. As the school year

draws to a close though it looks likely that Duster will have to be sent to the SPCA after all. A great story for 7-11 year olds. JH



### **Blitzcat**

Robert Westall

Macmillan 2002

Pb, ISBN 033039861X

Lord Gort, a cat, journeys through war-torn England to find her human. Along the way she encounters friends, and the occasional enemy, including Ollie and, together, they survive the bombing of Coventry. Lord Gort becomes part of a bomber crew, which results in her brief visit to France and Portugal. The occasional adult reference and some very adult emotions makes this more suitable for the teen reader. AC.

### **Forest**

Sonya Hartnett

Penguin Viking, 2001

ISBN 0670899208

On the death of his master a

tomcat from the city is taken to the forest and abandoned, along with two young kittens. The story is told from a cat's point of view as the three cats try to survive and find their way home. To do this they must be accepted by territorial and aggressive wild cats whose home is the forest. Although the reader cannot help feeling empathy for the cats the story also makes clear what a threat they are to the native fauna of Australian forests, along with other introduced animals such as rabbits and foxes. This is a beautifully written book which won the Australian Book of the Year for Older Readers 2002 12+ HB

### **Hunted**

N. M. Browne

Bloomsbury 2001

ISBN 0747555192

A curious juxtaposition begins this novel as the read is introduced to two storylines – one of the girl Karen, her body critically injured in hospital, and the other of Fox, a wild animal but with Karen's mind and memories. Two lives in parallel worlds, two fates but one spirit. Karen must decide to which world she can fully belong, because triumph in one world will mean death in the other. An excellent fantasy. Suitable for 13 years and up. LH