



TIGERTAIL foods



Tigertail Foods is a wholistic pet food and treat company. We use only human-grade ingredients that come from trusted sources. Your pet's health is our first concern and everything we make is motivated by the principle that healthy food helps make healthy pets.

Sit, Stay, READ!

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July 2, 2010

Once again our two exceptional and talented friends (who just happen to be darned good writers), Leslie and Eva, have given us their best "fiction and fun" summer recommended reading list for your entertainment. Below you will find books to suit every mood, every taste and every occasion. What are you waiting for? Slather on the sunscreen, dig in and ENJOY!

If you have a story you'd like to tell us about, [write me](#). We love hearing about people or animals or groups that make the world a happier, better place to be, and if we use your story you'll get a free pound of cookies!

SUMMER READING - Part 2 - Fiction & Fun

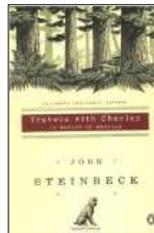
by Leslie Crane Rugg and Eva Saks

In the mood for mystery, adventure, a good laugh? Summer is a perfect time to pick up a pet-friendly book and escape into another world. From literary classics to personal memoirs, these books provide a wonderful way to spend time with beloved animals. Put your pet in your lap and settle down for a great read. (Tough if your pet is a horse or a mastiff, but love will find a way.) That's entertainment!

**EVA'S "TOP TEN" PICKS

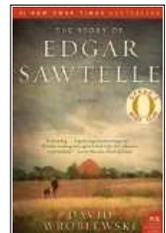
Dogs:

- ▶ [Nutritional Beliefs](#)
- ▶ [Who We Are](#)
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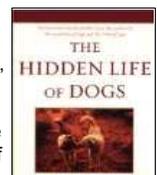
[Travels with Charley: In Search of America](#) by John Steinbeck. The Viking Press. 1962. A charming and hilarious memoir of a cross-country driving trip with his insouciant poodle, written by – of all people – John Steinbeck, author of depressing American milestones *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men*. I am glad that Steinbeck stopped writing of wrath, mice, and men and moved on to dogs. With pooch by his side, Steinbeck crosses the United States in his custom-made proto-Winnebago and creates a sort of "documentary" about America 1962, reflecting in witty detail on everything from plastics to civil rights to veterinarians (of course!). A time capsule that is also surprisingly contemporary, this book really captures how intrinsic a canine companion can be to appreciating life.

[The Story of Edgar Sawtelle: A Novel](#) by David Wroblewski. Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollins. 2008. A spellbinding family saga about a clan that invents its own canine breed, the Sawtelle Dog. Edgar, his mother Trudy, and their dogs get involved in a murder mystery with shades of Hamlet. Protagonist Edgar is mute, and the book is extraordinarily visual. This work has such suspense, scope, and power that you better clear a weekend for it – you won't be putting it down (unless you have to walk your own dog). It may break your heart but you won't forget it. Dog families and human families are seamlessly interwoven in this passionate tale.

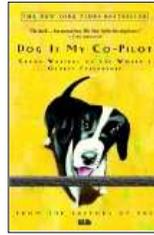


[Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog](#) by John Grogan. William Morrow. 2005. Don't snub this delightful autobiography just because it was a best-seller. Funny and moving, it illuminates the Five Ages of Dog. (It also presents a portrait of a marriage.) Marley and Marley embody the idea that "we like *because of*; we love *in spite of*." For all of us who love our pets – and our people – to distraction, whatever they do.

[The Hidden Life of Dogs](#) by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas. Pocket Books, a division of Simon & Schuster. 1993. Thomas is a novelist and ethologist who has written widely about animals. Gifted as both a scientist and a storyteller, she chronicles the life and loves of her own fur kids. Her respect for animals is total; she grants them their doggy distinctiveness but is not afraid to make claims about canine consciousness and emotion. In fact, my favorite part of the book is the chapter about the tender true love between Huskies, Misha and Maria. (A caveat: you may find her stewardship of

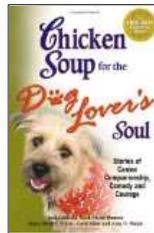
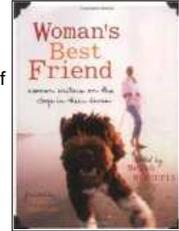


her own dogs negligent, as she allows them to roam freely around Cambridge, MA.) Thomas also wrote a sequel, *The Social Lives of Dogs: The Grace of Canine Company*. 2000. Cat people might enjoy her *The Tribe of the Tiger: Cats and Their Culture*. 1994.



Dog is My Co-Pilot: Great Writers on the World's Oldest Friendship, from the Editors of The Bark. Crown Publishers. 2003. A sophisticated anthology of recent essays on the human-canine bond collected by Claudia Kawczynska and Cameron Woo, editors of *The Bark*, considered "the *New Yorker* of dog magazines." As one would expect from this source, pooches herein include urban dogs. Authors range from luminaries not generally linked to pups – e.g., Alice Walker (*Beloved*), Erica Jong (*Fear of Flying*), Rick Bass (*Rain Man*), Margaret Cho (*I'm the One that I Want*) – to those whose work is firmly inscribed in the canine canon – e.g., Jon Katz (*Katz on Dogs*), Pam Houston (*Sighthound*), Caroline Knapp (*Pack of Two*), Patricia McConnell (*At the Other End of the Leash*). There's even a canine cartoon by Lynda Barry! I would call this classy selection "the HBO of dog anthologies."

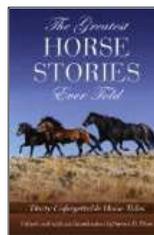
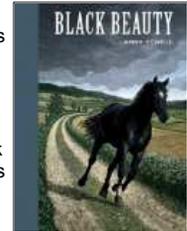
Woman's Best Friend: Women Writers on the Dogs in their Lives edited by Megan Morris with a forward by Pam Houston. Seal Press. 2006. Intimate and often sentimental, these contemporary essays tend to be more personal than the ones above. Some are amusing, but the emphasis is on emotion and connection. Each essay is graced by a photo of the real dog who inspired the essay, which adds a lovely dimension. Many of the essays are quite short, which I love for summer reading as you get the feeling that you're getting a lot done when you finish several in each sitting. This is a beach book! It's okay if you're interrupted during this one, and it's always fun to pick up. I was thrilled to discover a piece written by a dear friend from college, Julia Fulton, called "Sage the Hollywood Dog." It may also be the best essay in the book. I'd call this collection "the Lifetime of dog anthologies."



Chicken Soup for the Dog Lover's Soul: Stories of Canine Companionship, Comedy and Courage by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Marty Becker D.V.M., and Carol Kline. Health Communications, Inc. 2005. There's no denying it: this one is "the Hallmark of dog anthologies." But so what? The stories are touching, even when they have an O. Henry-like brevity. And I must confess that I cried at tale after tale! Nothing is better than chicken soup, after all. The range of breeds and cultures represented here is refreshing, too. Another great one for reading in fits and starts, between barbecues and grooming, on trains and planes.

Horses:

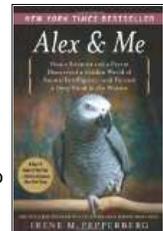
Black Beauty by Anna Sewall. F.M. Lupton Publishing Company. 1877. A masterpiece of empathy, Sewall's novel is told from the point of view of a well-born horse, Black Beauty. As Beauty shares the ups and downs of his life in Victorian England, he'll make you forget that he and you are different species. You'll identify entirely with Beauty; his vicissitudes and victimization at the hands of men will haunt you forever. Re-reading this classic, I was shocked by the extraordinary amount of violence in the book: in the first ten pages, a rabbit is killed, a horse is killed, and a person is killed. Sewall's vision of the world is indeed a dark one. On the bright side, this book – which was never intended for children – succeeded in its mission of raising consciousness about animal cruelty and led to reforms improving the welfare of horses, especially London's working horses. If you are an animal rescuer, as I am, this book is a must-read...or a must re-read. Perhaps it influenced you more than you know. It stands for a proposition that is all too timely: every homeless animal has a rich and complex history and deserves our love. Such animals are not only our responsibility but our redemption.



The Greatest Horse Stories Ever Told: Thirty Unforgettable Horse Tales edited and introduced by Steven D. Price. The anthologies above are good; this one is great. To put it in equine terms, they're all thoroughbreds but this one is Secretariat. Fiction, essays, and articles are all included. Writers cross eras and nations: Jane Smiley, Anthony Trollope, Dick Francis, Esther Forbes, Red Smith, Beryl Markham, Damon Runyon, Ring Lardner. This anthology is a treasure. You can almost smell horse when you read it – and I mean that in a good way. Even people not into horses – poor souls! – will be swept away by the writing.

Birds (Actually, Bird):

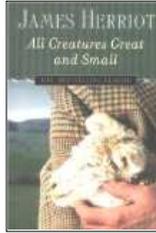
Alex & Me: How a Scientist and a Parrot Discovered a Hidden World of Animal Intelligence – and Formed a Deep Bond in the Process by Irene M. Pepperberg. Harper Collins. 2008. Scientist Irene Pepperberg spent thirty years studying animal cognition and communication with a loquacious African Gray parrot named Alex. Alex – whose name was an acronym for Animal Language Experiment – learned more than anyone (besides Pepperberg) had believed possible: labels, addition, colors, comparison. Constantly battling scientific arrogance that insisted only humans (or at least primates) could possibly acquire language, Alex and Irene proved to the world that birds have the potential for language with intent...not to mention personality and humor. The author says with pride that Alex "changed our perception of what we mean by a 'bird brain.'" This deeply felt memoir vindicates our suspicions that animals possess great untapped intelligence. This slim volume is so suffused with Pepperberg's love for Alex that what I ultimately found most striking is the irony at the book's core: Pepperberg looked to Alex to teach her about the brain, and instead he taught her about the heart.



****LESLIE'S PICKS:**

Fiction:

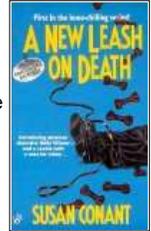
[The Hound of the Baskervilles](#) by [Sir Arthur Conan Doyle](#). Who doesn't love a mystery! Go back to this classic from the turn of the last century and rediscover a mysterious dog at the center of a crime solved by the inimitable Sherlock Holmes.



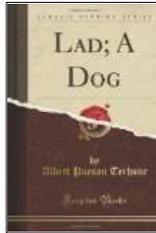
[All Creatures Great And Small](#) series by [James Herriot](#). Here in the U.S., six short novels were published in three double volumes, all taking their titles from lines of the hymn, *All Things Bright And Beautiful*. The stories are a combination of autobiography and fiction based on places, people, animals, and events Herriot knew from his veterinary practice in Yorkshire, England. If you love rural life, English eccentrics, and livestock as well as pets, the loving good humor with which Herriot treats all his clients and patients makes you wish you could have been his vet tech.

The [Sneaky Pie/Mrs. Murphy](#) cat series (18 books) and the [Jane Arnold/Virginia fox hunt club](#) hound series (7 books) by [Rita Mae Brown](#). Brown has helped expand the mystery genre to include cats and dogs as essential partners in crime solving.

The [Dog Lover's Holly Winter and Malamute](#) series (18 books) by [Susan Conant](#). Finally! A dog trainer who uses her special skills to solve mischievous puzzles. And when she can't figure it out, her Malamutes blaze a trail for her.



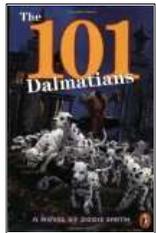
The [Bones series](#) by [Suzette Hill](#). This new author has chosen 1950's English village life in three mysteries – *A Load of Old Bones*, *Bones in the Belfry*, and *Bone Idle* – that present unfolding plot twists from the viewpoints of Maurice the cat, Bouncer the dog, and F.O. the vicar who always finds himself in the thick of it. Through the wiles of his attentive pets, F.O. is saved from several fates worse than death. If you're an Anglophile as well as a pet lover, you'll never stop smirking.



[Lad: A Dog](#) by [Albert Payson Terhune](#) was the first Collie breed book I read, purchasing it with my own money from a school book fair when I was in first grade. I already had my Collie, Bruce, at home. I would read the book and then cry and hug my dog, and then start the cycle all over again. Terhune wrote dozens – scores – of archetypal Collie stories, each one brimming with plots and twists that highlight the versatility of the breed and the personality of each special eponymous dog. Terhune wrote these books in the decade or so prior to and all through the Depression; he was not politically correct by current standards, so readers will have to overlook some wince-able moments. But for the breed, Terhune books still ring true.

[Lassie-Come-Home](#) by [Eric Knight](#) is the other major Collie classic.

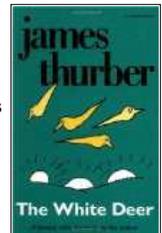
Did I mention that I'm imprinted to this breed!?! This book is a paean to the British spirit just before World War II started. As much as we have a visual sense of Knight's Collie through the MGM movie (and its many sequels), the novel's Lassie was not a sable and white but a tricolor. What other differences can you find between the novel and the movie? One thing is the same: I cry buckets at the end of both. Collie lovers have an embarrassment of riches when it comes to fiction. My own personal breed book collection numbers more than 150!



[101 Dalmatians](#) by [Dodie Smith](#). For those of us who have the Disney cartoon plot memorized, reading the original story will present different characters and different plot twists. For those who can't get enough spots, look for Smith's sequel, *The Starlight Barking*. You see?!?! Other breeds have their own classic models too!

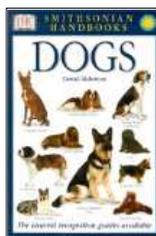
[Walter, The Improbable Hound](#) by [Fred Ayer, Jr.](#) Another childhood favorite of mine, this book made me fall in love with Bassetts. I read this book for a school book report when I was in 7th grade. The book is less than 130 pages; my report was over 20 pages! Can you spell the word e-n-t-h-u-s-i-a-s-m?

[The White Deer](#) by [James Thurber](#). A fairy tale/fable/allegory/fantasy that also captured my imagination and my heart when I was a very young girl. This story is just as magical for adult readers with the immensely clever Thurber at his satirical best.



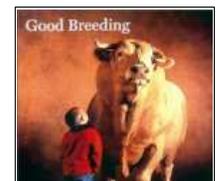
[Mewingham Manor: Observations of a Curious New Species](#) by [Edwina Von Stetina](#). This book is just plain adorable. In the style and design of Gnomes, Trolls, Fairies, etc.

Fun:



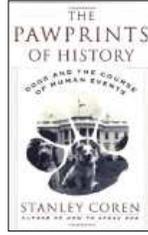
[Dogs, edited by David Alderton](#); *The New Encyclopedia Of The Dog*, edited by [Bruce Fogle, DVM](#); *Encyclopedia of Dog Breeds*, edited by [Caroline Coile](#); and *Simon & Schuster's Guide To Dogs*, edited by [E. M. Schuler](#). Like all other children of early school age, I learned all the names and descriptions of dogs. But my real fascination revolved around the names and descriptions of dinosaurs. I recall my first dog breed encyclopedia was a Golden Book. Some of my favorites now focus on AKC breeds while others encompass breeds all across the world.

[Good Breeding](#) photographed by [Yann Arthus-Bertrand](#). All I can say is that this book may be the most eccentric I have ever come across.



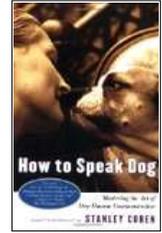
[The Whole Hog: Exploring the Extraordinary Potential of Pigs](#) by [Lyll Watson](#). "Extraordinary" is in the title; I would add "Incredible".

[Barkitecture](#) by Fred Albert. Yes, you guessed it. Architecture takes on another dimension beyond blue prints and skyscrapers when applied to dogs. Marvel at the inventiveness of the actual dog houses designed, built, and captured photographically in this book.



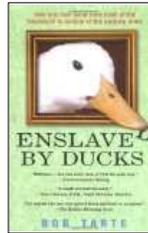
[The Pawprints Of History](#) by Stanley Coren. The author reveals tale after tale – and tail after tail – about the influence that dogs have had on royalty, politicians, military leaders, inventors, artists and composers, scientists, etc. Who needs to humanize history when you can canineize it instead! History is not dry as dust when interpreted through the impact of pets.

[How to Speak Dog](#) by Stanley Coren. Coren can be commended for breaking down the barriers of communication between “us” and “them”. Our pets do a masterful job at understanding us, but we’re a little dim on the uptake when it comes to differentiating between whines and whimpers, tails up and down, ears forward and backward. Coren interprets “Doggish” in a way that will translate directly to your experience.



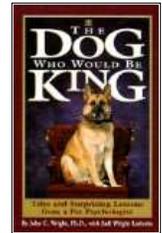
[Conversations With Animals](#) by Lydia Hiby. If you prefer mental communication, here is another page-turner. Hiby is an animal communicator who explains not only about her gift but how she initially didn’t understand it and even fought it. Anyone who has consulted with her and had her interface with animals – from dogs and cats to horses and snakes – will attest to the incredible details she divulges, known only to your pet and recognized by you.

[Cool Cats, Top Dogs, and Other Beastly Expressions](#) by Christine Ammer. I love books that bring to light the convergence of the animal world on our language. This book covers every beast from domestic pet to livestock, from the wild kingdom to the creatures of air and water.



[Enslaved By Ducks](#) by Bob Tarte. Sharing one’s experience of life with animals presents a unique kind of memoir. Often these books tell the story of an unsuspecting human who has no idea what he or she is getting into with the single decision to get a fill in the blank with any animal. In the genre, this book is one of my favorites. As usual, the city guy buys rural property, and the fun begins.

[The Dog Who Would Be King](#) by John C. Wright. The case study approach to pet psychology can offer intriguing insights into odd behavior. If you’re an amateur diagnostician, keep your brain churning and reach your own conclusions while reading this book. Often, the non-human is simply acting out and on cues unconsciously prompted by the dim-witted human!



Columns coming later this year: “Books for Kids who Love Animals” and “The Great Animal Movies.”

Leslie Crane Rugg and Eva Saks met when Eva wrote and directed two public service announcements supporting the No-Kill animal shelter movement. The star of the PSAs was “Laddie,” the 9th generation descendent of the original Lassie, who – along with his trainer, Bob Weatherwax – was managed by Leslie.

Finding that they shared many interests, Leslie and Eva became writing partners. Their recent magazine credits include AKC Gazette, The Bark, Fido Friendly, and Animal Wellness. Their articles have ranged from canine genetics to dogs in travel advertisements to book reviews to consumer advocacy/dog food regulation. They are currently working on book projects including The Dog Ate My Cookbook! Tasty Meals You and Your Dog Can Share; The Name Game: The 21st Century Guide To Naming Your Pet; Etiquette: A Manners Guide For The Discerning Dog Owner; and Men Are Dogs / Women Are Bitches: How to Find a Mate as Nice as Your Dog.

Previously, Leslie edited and/or wrote for several animal magazines including AKC Gazette, AKC Family Dog, Dog & Kennel, Cat & Kitten, Bird Times, Rare Insight and The Collie Review. She has appeared on television and internet/radio as an expert on dogs and canine nutrition. She has five published novels to her credit.

Eva’s writing and/or directing credits include IFC, Disney, Nickelodeon, Sesame Street, ComedyNet.com, PBS, Discovery UK, BSkyB, TV Tokyo, Mediaset Italy, and the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. A Student Academy Award winner, she has had award-winning films in festivals from Sundance to Telluride to Tribeca. She was editor-in-chief of Casting Call and has written for everything from Playboy to Raritan. She is a graduate of Yale Law School and NYU Film School.