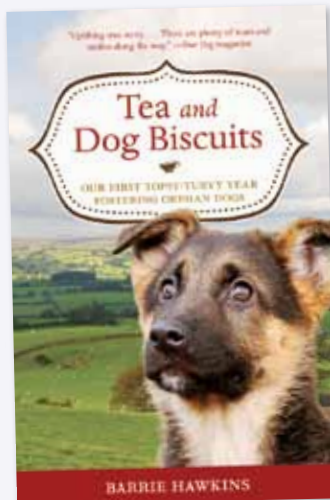


Recent and recommended

By Sally Rosenthal



***Tea and Dog Biscuits: Our First Topsy-Turvy Year Fostering Orphan Dogs* by Barrie Hawkins. Chicago Review Press, 2010. Softcover, 256 pages, \$14.95.**

Most people who make the decision to become involved in animal rescue realize, given the number of animals in need, what a daunting task they face. When Englishman Barrie Hawkins, the author of *Tea and Dog Biscuits*, and his wife, Dorothy, opened their home and hearts to canines needing a second chance, the couple thought they would focus on rehoming one dog at a time.

However, they soon learned what most rescue workers know: One dog is quickly followed by another. As word spread in their Cambridgeshire village that the Hawkinses were offering a temporary haven to large dogs, mainly German shepherds, one large dog after another began appearing at their door. These unwanted, ill or abused dogs, accompanied by other rescue workers, had fallen on hard times and had often experienced the worst of human nature. They had one thing in common: the Hawkinses were their last hope.

How Barrie and Dorothy cope with the dogs in their care, nurturing them back to health or restoring character and confidence, makes for fascinating and often hilarious reading. *Tea and Dog Biscuits* is an absolutely wonderful book that shows just how much of a difference small acts of kindness can make in the lives of animals who desperately require them. I only hope Hawkins can find enough time between dispensing dog biscuits and interviewing potential adopters to write a sequel.

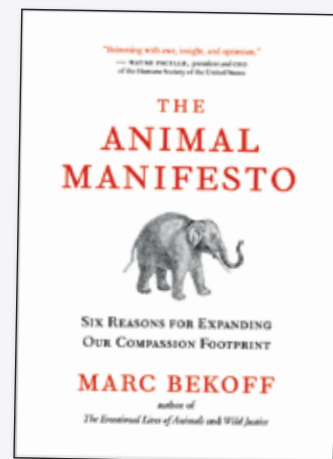
***The Animal Manifesto: Six Reasons for Expanding Our Compassion Footprint* by Marc Bekoff. New World Library, 2010. Softcover, 272 pages, \$14.95.**

When faced with a seemingly insurmountable task requiring difficult choices, we as human beings often think we have two options: Turn our backs and walk away in despair or throw all our energy into solving the problem as quickly and efficiently as possible. In the case of animal welfare and rights, however, renowned animal advocate and ethologist Marc Bekoff points out that we actually have a third, more workable, solution.

In his latest book expounding compassion toward our fellow creatures, *The Animal Manifesto*, Bekoff speaks to the value of each choice, be it small or large, that individuals make every day on behalf of animals. Following the themes of his recent books, including *The Emotional Lives of Animals* and *Wild Justice*, Bekoff, in this work aimed at giving voice to animals' needs and wants as sentient beings, offers readers ways to increase our "compassion footprint" as we choose what to eat and wear or what household or cosmetic products to purchase.

While other writers and groups have spoken about these issues, few do it as eloquently as Bekoff, who encourages us to make kind choices and see the ways our individual actions can have a synergistic effect for all the creatures who inhabit our common planet.

Read more about Marc Bekoff's point of view in this issue's "The Final Word," page 72.



***Love Is the Best Medicine: What Two Dogs Taught One Veterinarian About Hope, Humility, and Everyday Miracles* by Dr. Nick Trout. Broadway Books, 2010. Hardcover, 252 pages, \$23.99.**

A few years ago, I picked up *Tell Me Where It Hurts*, Nick Trout's first book about his work as a surgeon in a large, fast-paced animal hospital, and found it to be one of the best veterinary memoirs I had come across in years. So, imagine my delight when I discovered the author's new book, *Love Is the Best Medicine*, waiting to be reviewed.

It wasn't without a little trepidation, however, that I began reading Trout's account of how the lives of two dogs in need intertwined with him and the hospital; follow-ups to excellent books can often fall short. However, I am happy to report, not in this case, because *Love Is the Best Medicine* is every bit as perfect as Trout's initial effort.

Without giving away too much of what occurs in Trout's moving and poignant narrative, which explores the human/animal bond as much as it provides readers with a fascinating glimpse of current veterinary care, I will say that Trout is at his best when delving into why animals mean so much to us and the lengths to which those of us who love them will go to enrich or save their lives.

Read Nick Trout's essay, "Endless Love," in our March/April 2010 issue. 🐾