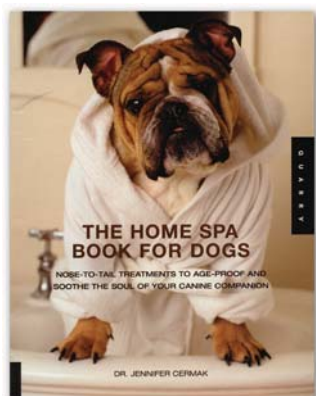


Pet Reads

Compelling books on pets, care and just fun reading

The Home Spa Book For Dogs—Nose-to-tail treatments to age-proof and soothe the soul of your canine companion

By Dr Jennifer Cermak



This is the book for all you folk who want to pamper your pooch—inside and out! There's over 120 pages of tips, recipes and techniques to help improve your dog's quality of life. Dr Cermak believes that taking time out to do a little pooch-pampering will not only improve the health and well-being of your dog, but will also create a stronger human-animal bond.

If you've ever wanted to make your own dog tooth-paste, balm for sore paws or natural dog cologne then this is a great book. Other tips and techniques covered include basic training, exercise, grooming and massage. Cermak also suggests that regular home therapy by a pet

acupuncturist is a very good way of maintaining optimum health.

Available through bookstores - published by Quarry, distributed by Tower Books rrp \$28.95

The Ultimate Dog Treat Cookbook—Homemade Goodies for Man's Best Friend

By Liz Palika



Not just a dog treat cookbook, but apparently the 'ultimate' dog treat cookbook. We're not sure whether this really is

the ultimate, however it is a very smart cookbook for those who want to make homemade treats—mostly cookies and biscuits. There's 50 canine-tested, veterinarian approved recipes and there's sure to be something that can tempt even the fussiest of doggie tastebuds.

We like that Palika includes nutritional information, tips and details on toxic food substances. Allergy prone pups or dogs with special dietary needs are also catered for with wheat and meat-free options and low fat recipes for portly pups.

Available through bookstores - published by Howell, distributed by Wiley Publishers rrp \$23.95

Bring Me Home—Dogs Make Great Pets/Cats Make Great Pets

Both by Margaret H. Bonham

So you want to own a dog or cat? How do you decide what breed and do you really have the time to take on the commitment of a new pet. These two books will help you through the process and answer many questions. Bonham's books include worksheets, checklists and charts to help determine the appropriate breed or temperament that would fit your lifestyle and family. These books are written for the US market so there's specific information about shelters and breeder organisations that don't pertain to us here in Australia. However, there's some really helpful information—we especially like the checklist and questions that you should ask a breeder before picking out a puppy/kitten or finding an adult dog/cat.

Bonham also has tips on making your home a dog/cat safe environment and there are charts at the back of the book to record vaccinations, trips to the vet, flea and tick medication etc. Overall these books would make a great gift to someone contemplating getting a cat or dog. I would also recommend them for children who are hounding for a pet—as it covers all the responsibilities required for a lifetime of care.

Available through bookstores -published by Howell, distributed by Wiley Publishers rrp \$23.95 each



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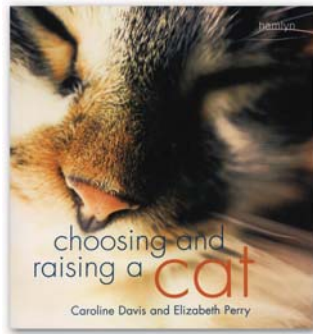
Available from your vet and all good pet stores. Call 1800 032 139 for your nearest stockist.

Choosing and Raising a Cat
By Caroline Davis and Elizabeth Perry

What cat is right for your family or living situation? This colourful book explores common and uncommon breeds of cats, detailing their temperament, behavioural and physical characteristics, all with full colour photos. Information about general care and nutrition is covered and there is a handy chapter on common cat behavioural problems.

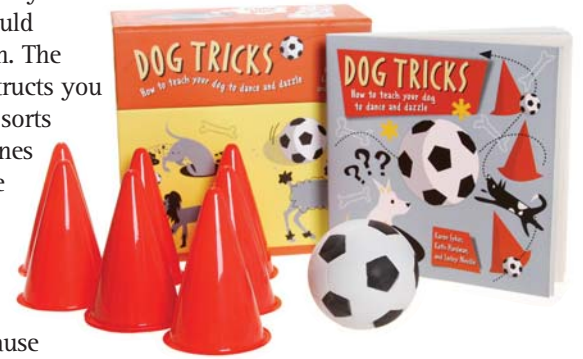
If you're exploring the idea of getting a cat, purebred or moggy, then this is a comprehensive and sensible guide that covers the entire life of your puss—from its early stages right through to the difficult choice of euthanasing a critically ill or elderly cat.

Available through bookstores—published by Hamlyn, distributed by Bookwise International rrp \$24.95



Dog Tricks – How to teach your dog to dance and dazzle
By Karen Sykes, Kath Hardman and Lesley Neville

Here's a fun little box for you and your budding, pooch protégé that should result in many moments of mirth. The pack contains a booklet that instructs you how to teach your dog to do all sorts of fun tricks. A ball and little cones are also included for some of the more interesting tricks. With the aid of this book you'll learn to teach your dog to dance the shimmy, bark in Morse code, find the treat and once the applause starts, he/she can take a bow (instructions for this trick are included). The only thing missing is a big bag of treats!



Available through bookstores—published by Pan Macmillan Australia rrp \$24.95

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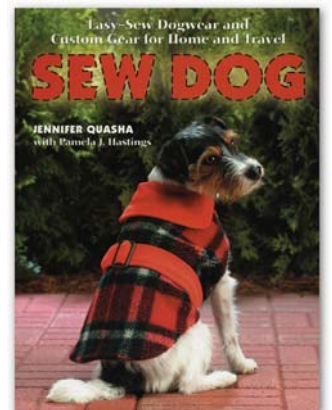


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Sew Dog – Easy-Sew Dogwear and Custom Gear for Home and Travel
By Jennifer Quasha with Pamela J. Hastings

Get cracking and get creative with this book that has 25 tail-wagging projects including coats, mats, seat savers, totes and canine couture. There are easy to understand instructions, colour photographs and illustrations to guide even the most inexperienced sewer. All patterns are included so that you can personalise (or is that pooch-alise?) creative clothes and accessories. With the festive season approaching, this book will give you endless ideas for gifts for your furry loved ones. So go and tap into your inner Martha Stewart and create something cool for your canine.

Available through bookstores – published by Creative Publishing, distributed by Tower Books rrp \$29.95

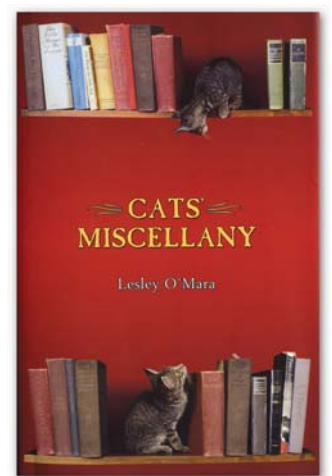


Cats' Miscellany
By Lesley O'Mara

According to the Macquarie Concise Dictionary Miscellany- a miscellaneous collection of articles or entries, as a book. And that's what you get with this fascinating book of weird and wonderful cat facts and trivia. Cat myths are busted, famous cat owners, profiled and lots of cat facts are detailed.

Did you know purring is commonly seen as a display of the contentment on the part of the cat, but it's only half the story. Scientists in America have discovered that the frequency at which cats purr helps their bones and organs mend, creating a distinct evolutionary advantage. It also stimulates the skeletal system, which prevents the bones from weakening. So there you go, just one of the more interesting things a cat fancier should know about these wonderful creatures that can be found in this book.

Available through bookstores—published by Callistemon Books, distributed by Bookwise International rrp \$24.95

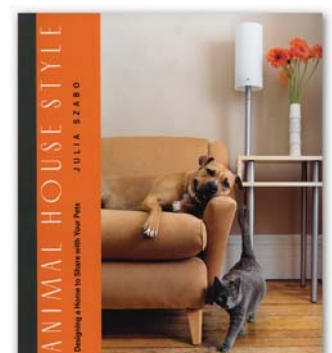


Animal House Style—Designing a Home to Share with Your Pets
By Julia Szabo

This is a great book that's big on style. It's all about creating interesting space in your home for your fur, finned and feathered companions. Each page has photos of real homes where real pets reside with their owners so it's not full of some clever designer's unpractical concepts of what pet interiors should look like. Instead there are living areas that reflect each individual's tastes and design elements for creating shared space. There's some interesting and smart ideas for pet beds, perches and even kitty litter hidey-holes.

Helpful advice is provided on choosing hardware furniture and fabrics plus there are solutions to making cleaning pet areas easier. Szabo has interviewed a variety of pet owners who reside in apartments and homes across the US and there are many design solutions for pet owners—living with pets doesn't have to mean living with mess. Szabo currently writes a pet column for the New York Post and wrote the 'Truth in Decorating' for Elle Decore magazine for three years.

Available through bookstores – published by Bulfinch Press, distributed by Tower Books rrp \$40.00



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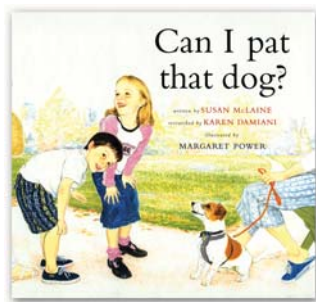
Can I Pat That Dog?

Written by Susan McLaine, researched by Karen Damiani, illustrations by Margaret Power

Reading this you may have a sense of déjà vu as we reviewed this fabulous book in our first edition of Urban Animal. We're including it again as it has now been re-released in paperback and therefore more affordable.

Author, Susan McLaine is an education officer for the Dromkeen Children's Literature Centre in Victoria. She worked closely with dog trainer, Karen Damiani, to create this book so that parents and teachers can help children interpret a dog's body language. With bright, colourful illustrations and simply written, this book looks at the range of situations where children should not approach a dog—including eating, sleeping or if it looks frightened. Teaching children to ask permission to pat a dog and the best way to approach dogs is included. What to look for if an angry dog approaches you and to safely and quietly walk away is also covered. This is a great little book for dog and non-dog households—often parents with dogs don't pass on basic approach methods to their children because of the trust they have with their own family dog. Children will enjoy the attractive illustrations and simplicity of the text. We're happy to include this very responsible book to highlight the need for children to be educated in how and when they should approach a dog.

Available through bookstores – published by Harper Collins rrp \$14.95

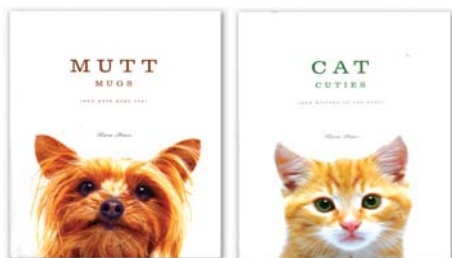


Mutt Mugs (and posh pups too) and Cat Cuties (and kittens to coo over)

Both by Karen Prince

Looking for a stocking-filler for a friend who loves dogs or cats, here's an idea. Both of these colourful little books have cute photos and quotes throughout. These books don't have much in the way of substance but dog and cat lovers will ohh and ahh over the pages within.

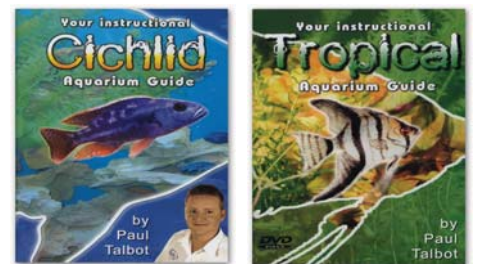
Available through bookstores—published by Haylas Publishing rrp \$16.95



Pet Views

Your Instructional Tropical Aquarium Guide—DVD
By Paul Talbot

This instructional guide is available for novice, tropical aquarium hobbyists. Paul Talbot runs Majestic Aquariums in Taren Point and has worked in the aquarium industry for all his working life. He's produced three DVDs—this one, the Cichlid Aquarium Guide and the Marine Aquarium Guide—so people wanting to set up an aquarium can view the set-up process, step by step.



Paul believes that many people don't really remember all the helpful advice that they would receive in a specialist aquarium shop or gained through books, so this can be played at home and folk can refer back through any of the chapters. Topics covered include selecting the right fish for the size of your aquarium and compatibility between species; setting up all the vital equipment to ensure a healthy tank; positioning of the tank; health and disease, right through to breeding.

The DVDs are very informative and a practical guide for potential fish fanatics. Lots of helpful tips and advice are crammed into this DVD which runs for over 60 minutes. Overall this is an excellent starting point for anyone thinking of setting up an aquarium and Paul's expertise will ensure you can start and maintain a happy, healthy and enjoyable aquarium.

Available through pet stores and various retail outlets rrp \$19.95 (Tropical and Cichlid) \$49.95 (Marine double DVD) also through www.majesticaquariums.com.au

"It's funny how dogs and cats know the inside of folks better than other folks do, isn't it?"

– Eleanor H. Porter

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