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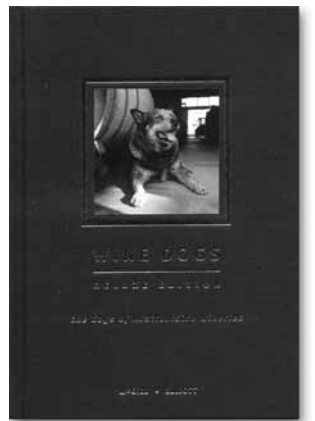


Pet Reads

Wine Dogs - Deluxe Edition 'The dogs of Australasian wineries'

Written by Craig McGill; Design Susan Elliott

Some kind soul gave me a copy of the first Wine Dogs book last year for Christmas and I enjoyed the stunning colour photos of some very handsome breeds and mutts. Combining two of my loves - wineries and dogs, how could they have failed in finding a perfect present for me to enjoy over a blizzardly cold glass of Chardonnay. Following the surprise success of the first Wine Dogs book, the self-published author and designer duo have followed up and expanded this edition by one hundred pages. The forward is written by leading Australian wine writer, Huon Hooke, who questions whether dogs are the real palate-power behind the skilled business of making wine. There's Fox Creek Wine's, Shadow, who has the obsession of chasing the vibrations of the pruners secateurs hitting the wire, up and down the vineyard rows. Or there's Coco, the Labrador from Oberon Kant Estate, whose pet hate is possum, favourite toy is possum and fastest meal consumed was possum. This is a fabulous book for the dog lovers coffee (wine?) table.



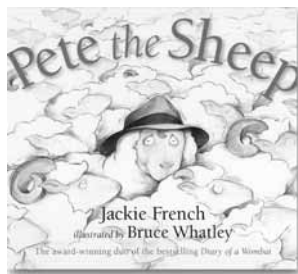
Available through good bookstores - published by McGill Design Group
RRP \$34.95

Pete The Sheep

Written by Jackie French; illustrated by Bruce Whatley

This award winning team have joined up again to deliver this delightful book for little readers. Shaun is a shearer who instead of having a sheepdog like his contemporaries has Pete who is a sheep-sheep. Pete is a very articulate sheep who has the ability to interpret how other sheep want to be shorn-a little more of the ears, a bouffant here, a quiff there and a faux-hawk for good measure. Soon Shaun and Pete's hair-stylistic talents are the talk of the town and in high demand. See what happens when a good Aussie shearer and his sheep start getting creative.

Available through good bookstores - published by Harper Collins RRP \$24.95



Cat Massage Dog Massage

Written by Nicola Routledge;

illustrated by Bo Lundberg

I expected these two books to be light on serious substance and big on 'little-book' style. However I was pleasantly surprised to read the informative details of real techniques for massage therapy for your dog or cat. There's very sensible advice in determining the massage techniques for both species. Included are dos and don'ts for when to massage and tips on reading the signals for when your animal will be most responsive. Case studies are also given from Routledge who is Director of the London College of Massage and editor of Massage Worldwide Magazine. Each area of the animal's body has specific techniques and there are cautionary instructions for each.

Smart, classy and colourful illustrations by Swedish designer, Bo Lundberg contribute nicely to the text. Overall I find this a very responsible, informative and enjoyable guide to pampering your puss or pooch in a holistic way.

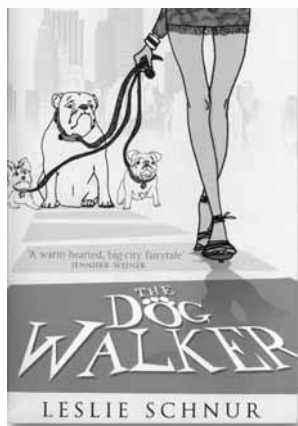
Both available through good bookstores - MQ Publications, distributed by Bookwise International RRP \$19.95



The Dog Walker

Written by Leslie Schnur

"On an ice-cold day in December, Nina found herself at a pound over on East Ninety-third. On that day she fell in love, unconditionally and permanently, with an eleven-month-old mutt of questionable heritage, though she thought he was of the lab and spaniel persuasion. With Sam it was love at first sight, and it's only been up from there. Okay so he is a dog. But after loving anything that way, you are spoiled forever. How full and deep human-to-human love must be in order to stand up to it."



Nina Shepherd is a thirty-five year old dog walker living and working in New York City. She's abandoned both her loveless marriage and her stressful career in publishing and now makes her living walking a mix of dogs from large to small and sleek to shaggy. She muses that how can you arrive in your early thirties and suddenly realise you love dogs. Who would have thought that her husband could so easily be replaced with a much more sensitive, human creature - just by going to the ASPCA and adopting rescue mutt, Sam.

Nina's got a penchant for snooping around the homes of her clients and it's through this addictive curiosity that she falls for lawyer, Daniel. Except that Daniel's not exactly the guy she thinks he is. Daniel's also very interested in another of her clients, wealthy travel writer, Mrs Chandler. What path of twists and turns at the end of many dog-leads will Nina finally unravel truth and true romance?

This is a light, romantic read for lolling back in your hammock on a summer day. Interesting characters both human and doggy abound and author Leslie Schnur's conversational writing style will keep some readers fascinated.

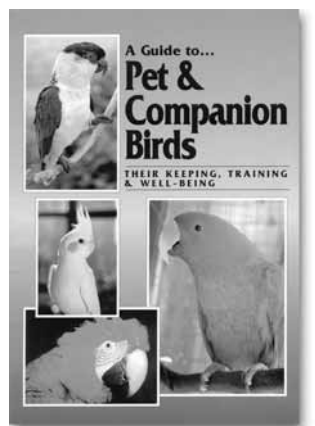
Available through good bookstores - Simon & Schuster
RRP \$21.95

A Guide to... Pet & Companion Birds - Their keeping, training and well-being

This is a must have, practical guide to keeping companion birds. It covers everything a new or experienced bird owner needs to know about basic bird care. From choosing the right breed for your environment, setting up its cage, feeding and nutrition to basic training and behavioural tips. The aim of this book is to provide the reader essential information on the care of your bird to ensure your feathered pal will live a longer, healthier and happier life. Practical information on cage selection and placement is given plus suitable toys and accessory choices are explored along with dangers and hazards to avoid. Other subjects include grooming, exercise, signs of illness and training techniques. Lots of glossy, colour photos are through the book to illustrate the many subjects covered. This is one of many informative and 'Guide to...' series from publishers of Australian Bird Keeper magazine.

Available through larger bookstore chains and specialist pet stores - RRP \$28.55

To order direct, freecall: 1800 633 493 web: www.birdkeeper.com.au

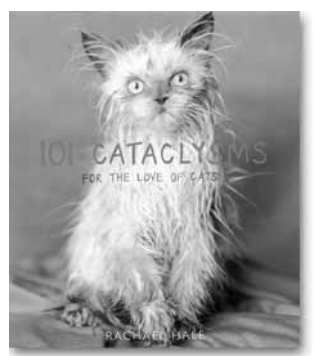


101 Cataclysms : For The Love Of Cats

Rachael Hale

From New Zealand based photographer, Rachael Hale, comes a collection of captivating cat photos. Hale's last book 101 Salvations: For The Love Of Dogs was an instant success and this latest is surely going to even more successful, given the many feline lovers around the globe. To photograph dogs takes patience and perseverance; to photograph as many cats must take some magic and medication. As Hale states "In my endeavours I have been enlightened and thoroughly captivated by clever, nimble, impish, loveable cats - and everyone was different from the last. While to the untrained eye most cats look alike but for the shape of their eyes or the rich hues of their fur, every cat I have met is a unique individual." This is a beautiful book for the cat lovers coffee table.

Available through good bookstores - PQ Publishing RRP \$35.00




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