

Animal News And Notes

Keeping Animal Stars Safe

(NAPSA)—Since the dawn of Hollywood, animal stars have played some of the most unforgettable characters ever seen on the silver screen. Their characters have charmed and delighted moviegoers and television audiences for generations. From legendary characters of a bygone era including Lassie, Mr. Ed and Flipper to such modern classics as Uggie, Mr. Jinx and Crystal the capuchin, animal stars have played and continue to play important roles, entertaining people while also teaching new generations to love and cherish animals.

To keep these beloved stars safe, the country's first national humane organization, American Humane Association, has been working to protect animal actors since 1940 through its well-known "No Animals Were Harmed"™ program. Working on thousands of movie and television productions, the group makes sure that some 100,000 animals are treated humanely each year, and has overseen the protection of millions of animal actors over the past seven decades.

Now, during the program's 75th year, the organization has put out a new book to celebrate these often unsung heroes of the small and silver screens and spread the word about the importance of the furred, finned and feathered actors who have taught millions to fall in love with animals and care for them.

"Animal Stars: Behind the Scenes With Your Favorite Animal Actors" offers a sneak peek behind the curtain at America's favorite stars. From Joey in "War Horse" to the wolves in "Game of Thrones," what we see on screen is only a small part of the story. The heartwarming profiles in "Animal Stars" put a spotlight on the trainers, actors, directors and, of course, the dogs, cats, horses and birds who work to capture hearts through their skill and movie magic. Readers will discover that certain animal stars have diva tendencies, while others have rags-to-riches backstories—in fact, nearly 80 percent of the dogs and cats in filmed entertainment have been rescue animals, proving that given a second chance, whether in a home or on



Movie star Crystal the capuchin with Dr. Robin Ganzert.

the screen, shelter adoption animals can really shine.

From penguins to horses to mixed-breed rescue dogs to lynx, the animals on set are as lovable, personality filled and, at times, as frustrating as their human stars. Film icons Steven Spielberg, Julia Roberts, Ewan McGregor and Hailee Steinfeld share personal recollections about working with the animal stars who stole their hearts. As a bonus, at the end of each chapter, world-class Hollywood animal trainers offer tips for training the animals who star in your life.

"Animal actors have been delighting audiences for more than a century and I know that some of my earliest and fondest memories from when I was a kid have to do with those animals I saw in movies and watched on TV," said American Humane Association President and CEO Dr. Robin Ganzert, who authored the book with Allen and Linda Anderson. "This book is a love letter to Hollywood's beloved animal stars, and I know readers will have a newfound admiration and sense of caring for the hard work these animals and their trainers do to bring their spectacular roles to life on screen."

"Animal Stars" is published by New World Library and is available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble and bookstores. To learn more about the book and to see videos with a selection of the animal stars featured in it, visit www.animalstarsbook.com.