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From the Selected Works of Harold Herzog, Ph.D.

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New Books for Intelligent Animal Lovers

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Hal Herzog Ph.D., Animals and Us

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New books for animal lovers.

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A gazillion books about animals are published each year, and a lot of them focus on the ways we relate to the non-human creatures in our lives. Here are some new books that will appeal to your brainy animal loving friends.

Beauty and The Beast: Human-Animal Relationships as Revealed in Real Photo Postcards, 1905-1935. Reading this book by Arnold Arluke and Robert Bogdan is like going for a ride in a time machine. With the appearance of the Eastman Brownie camera in 1900, Americans went nuts taking pictures of the important things in their lives - including their animals. This extraordinary book uses 350 beautifully reproduced photo-postcards to illustrate the gamut of our relationships with other species. I was not surprised that people would purchase photos of pet dogs and cats. But who knew they would send their friends postcards of veterinary anatomy classes, flayed whale carcasses, and copulating horses? The book is a triumph of art and anthrozoology, and it reveals that, when it comes to human-animal relationships, how much things have changed over the last 100 years....and how much they have stayed the same.

The Exultant Ark: A Pictorial View of Animal Pleasure. Books by animal activists are usually depressing chronicles of the litany of ways humans inflict suffering on other species. But in *The Exultant Ark*, Jonathan Balcombe rests his case for animal rights on the notion that they experience the good things in life. Each chapter is devoted to a particular type of pleasure including play, eating, companionship, and sex. The chapters begin with a brief summary of the research on the topic, followed by stunning pictures by some of the world's best nature photographers. (My favorite is a photograph of a tiny beetle reaching for a droplet of nectar.) This is one of those rare volumes that will look good on your coffee table but might also change the way you think.

Dog Sense: How The New Science of Dog Behavior Can Make You a Better Friend to Your Pet. For the dog lovers in your life, you can't beat this terrific book by John Bradshaw. Bradshaw is one of the few anthrozoologists whose research focuses largely on the animal-side of the human-animal bond. Unlike celebrity dog training guru Cesar Millan, Bradshaw's approach to understanding canine psychology is based on 30 years of solid scientific studies. This book covers the gamut - from our understanding (and misunderstanding) of dog evolution, to the emotional lives and perceptual worlds of dogs, to practical advice on socializing a puppy. Your friends will be happy you bought them this book. So will their dogs.

Loving Animals: Toward A New Animal Advocacy. This controversial book by Duke University's Kathy Rudy will appeal to your friends who like the challenge of thinking deeply about ethical issues.

Rudy comes at animal protection from an approach that I normally dislike, critical theory - a field which is often characterized (in my view) by impenetrable prose and academic posturing coupled with a smattering of bullshit. Rudy is an exception. *Loving Animals* is a refreshingly accessible combination of scholarship and Rudy's personal experiences with thorny problems such as what to do with unadoptable shelter dogs, the private ownership of exotic animals, and the ethics of eating humanely raised farm animals. Sometimes funny, sometimes poignant, Rudy takes on some of the sacred cows in the animal protection movement, and her call for a spirituality-based approach to animal ethics has infuriated some animal rights purists. Though you may not agree with Rudy on all the issues, this book is a treat for head and heart.

Feel Better Little Buddy: Animals With Casts. What could be cuter than a puppy? A puppy with a broken leg, of course. This slim picture book by Julia Segal features tug-the-heart-strings photos of adorable creatures in casts. They range from kittens and puppies to a gopher tortoise and a three-toed sloth. This book may not be the ticket for all of your animal-loving pals, but your more sentimental friends might find it irresistible. It might also be the purrrr-fect gift for your buddies whose sense of humor leans towards *South Park* and *The Onion*. The author writes in the introduction, "Most people see the words 'animal with casts' and think 'How cute' and 'How awful' at the same time." She is right. This book both moving and funny - in sick sort of way.

Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard To Think Straight About Animals. Lest I forget - consider giving all your friends my book on human-animal relationships. Recently out in paperback, it has the advantage of being the cheapest book on this list. Rather than toot my own horn, see what these reviewers (and these) have to say about it:

"Read this book, read it again, and share it widely. It is that important."

--Marc Bekof

"A fascinating, thoughtful, and thoroughly enjoyable exploration of a major dimension of human experience."

--Steven Pinker

*"Hal Herzog does for our relationship with animals what Michael Pollan in *The Omnivores Dilemma* did for our relationship with food."*

--Sam Gosling

"Everyone who is interested in the ethics of the relationships between humans and animals should read this book"

--Temple Grandin