

## Packing some bite

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Even if marveling at "Marley & Me" on the big screen is still on your to-do list, here is a roundup of animal-centric books to curl up with during the holiday season:

### "Izzy & Lenore: Two Dogs, an Unexpected Journey, and Me."

Author [Jon Katz](#) returns with another powerful memoir that chronicles his life on his upstate Bedlam Farm. He introduces us to an unruly border collie named Izzy, whose owners moved away. Izzy's metamorphosis into a service dog that helps hospice patients is deeply moving.

"Old Dogs: Are the Best Dogs," by [Gene Weingarten](#), with photographs by [Michael S. Williamson](#). This is a heartfelt, upbeat tribute to the wisdom and joy of senior dogs. Each photo is accompanied by a story that captures the essence of each subject.

### "Happy Cat Happy You: Quick Tips for Building a Bond with Your Feline Friend."

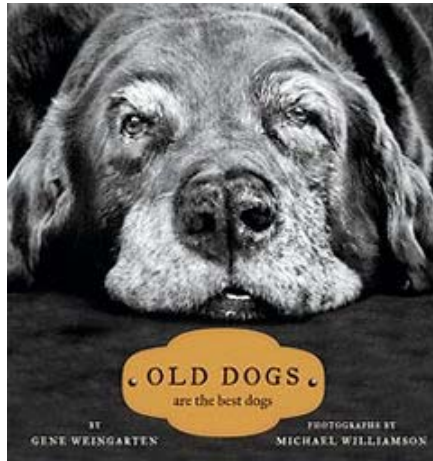
Many owners find themselves confounded by common feline behaviors, like scratching, biting, stalking or yowling for attention at 3 a.m. Author and pet expert [Arden Moore](#) offers hundreds of playful tips and practical advice for living harmoniously with your cat.

"Wild Horses: Endangered Beauty." Photographer [Traer Scott](#) turns our attention to the current plight of wild horses in the [U.S.](#) and [Puerto Rico](#). For centuries, the wild horses of [North America](#) have figured prominently in art, history and folklore as symbols of beauty, strength and freedom. But today many of these creatures are fighting for survival.

"Bird Brain Teasers: Puzzles, Games & Avian Trivia." Does the early bird really get the worm? Find out from [The New York Times](#) crossword puzzle creator [Patrick Merrell](#)'s 324-page book filled with bird-themed crosswords, visual puzzles, and the first-ever Birdoku challenges.

"Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World," by [Vicki Myron](#) with [Bret Witter](#). On a bitter-cold night, someone stuffed a kitten into the book dropoff box at the Spencer, [Iowa](#), public library. He was rescued and raised by Myron, the library director, and stayed for 19 years.

"Eco Dog: Healthy Living For Your Pet," by [Corbett Marshall](#) and [Jim Deskevich](#), is packed with do-it-yourself projects and natural alternatives to conventional pet



Book: Old Dogs: Are the Best Dogs by Gene Weingarten, Michael S. Williamson (Photographer)

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### Today's top picks



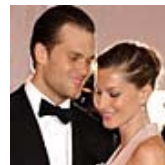
#### Photo surfaces of Bush and Isaac Toussie's dad

A photo of President Bush with the father of pardoned - then unpardoned - scammer Isaac Toussie emerged.



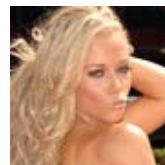
#### Israel launches strikes

Israeli warplanes retaliating for rocket fire from the Gaza Strip pounded compounds across the Hamas-ruled territory.



#### Brady, Gisele engaged

In a private plane bursting with white roses and champagne, Brady reportedly popped the question to his longtime girlfriend on Christmas Eve.



#### All-star sports wives

Gisele Bündchen is reportedly set to join the sports wives Hall of Fame - joining the likes of Kendra Wilkinson, Halle Berry and Marilyn.



#### Brett goodbye may be short & bittersweet

The Jets might yet wriggle their way out of the bad ending the franchise has penned for itself, but there's more to the story.



#### Screenwriter sues over Madoff losses

A hit screenwriter sued his investment manager for losing a bundle in Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme.

food, grooming products, household products and toys.

**"Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life."** [Dr. Nancy Kay](#) offers guides to selecting the right veterinarian, when to ask for a second opinion and tips on choosing the right treatment option. Much of the information can pertain to cats, too.

**"Bliss to You: Trixie's Guide to a Happy Life,"** as told to [Dean Koontz](#). The best-selling author says his 68-pound dog changed his life and made him a better, happier person. Trixie shares her secrets on how to achieve not merely happiness, but bliss.

**"Heritage of Care: The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,"** by [Marion S. Lane](#) and [Stephen L. Zawistowski](#) chronicles 142 years of the ASPCA and its commitment to companion animals.

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The man who dressed as Santa Claus and killed nine people was planning to fly to Canada hours later, police said.



### Busted beauty queen will remain in jail

The Mexican beauty queen busted with a heavily armed drug gang will stay in jail for another 40 days.



### The biggest sports stories of 2008

The Daily News takes you back through 2008 by unveiling our picks for the top sports stories of the year.



### Stars' holiday spirit

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