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Animals and Their People, Nonfiction

These true stories, from inspirational to hilarious, all focus on the relationships people have with their animal companions. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Most titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

The Gift of Jazzy by Cindy Heller Adams

Read by Carol Dines

6 hours, 6 minutes

New York Post columnist Cindy Adams recalls the loneliness she felt after the death of her husband, comedian Joey Adams, in 1999--until a friend sent her a Yorkshire terrier. Adams recounts her first year with Jazzy and describes the ways the puppy helped her love and laugh again. 2003.

[Download from BARD: The Gift of Jazzy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067835

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Also available in braille BR014819

The Elephant Whisperer My Life with the Herd in the African Wild by Lawrence Anthony

Read by Jon Huffman

13 hours, 9 minutes

Conservationist relates his experiences caring for a rogue herd of elephants on his South African game reserve. Describes his misgivings in accepting them, challenges faced with both the herd and local communities, lessons learned from individual elephants, and the joys and sorrows he encountered. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Elephant Whisperer My Life with the Herd in...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB085906

Lessons from Lucy the Simple Joys of an Old, Happy Dog by Dave Barry

Read by Dave Barry

4 hours, 3 minutes

Humorist and author of books including Best. State. Ever (DB 87795) shares lessons on growing old gracefully, some of which he learned from his beloved dog Lucy. Lucy has taught him how to live his best life, let go of daily grievances, and be in the moment. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: Lessons from Lucy the Simple Joys of an Old...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB095148

Encounters with Rikki from Hurricane Katrina Rescue to Exceptional Therapy Dog by Julie S. Bettinger

Read by Kerry Dukin

4 hours, 56 minutes

After Hurricane Katrina, Chuck and Patty Mitchell rescued golden-retriever puppy Rikki. They soon realized she was incredibly attuned to human emotions and would make a great therapy dog. Discusses their experience training Rikki and how she has helped those dealing with trauma. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Encounters with Rikki from Hurricane Katrina...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB087817

A Lion Called Christian by Anthony Bourke

Read by Guy Williams

4 hours, 1 minute

Authors chronicle their relationship with a lion cub they purchased from a London department store in 1969. They recount sharing a flat in Chelsea--where Christian became a celebrity--reintroducing the lion to the African wild under the care of Born Free's George Adamson, and their later, remarkable reunion. Bestseller. 1971

[Download from BARD: A Lion Called Christian](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068855

A Street Cat Named Bob and How He Saved My Life by David Bowan

Read by Alec Volz

6 hours, 25 minutes

A London street musician and recovering drug addict recounts his 2007 discovery of an injured stray cat he named Bob, with whom he became inseparable. Describes the ways the companions have helped each other and become known around the world. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: A Street Cat Named Bob and How He Saved My...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077202

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20196](#)

Also available in braille BR020196

Two Seeing Eye Dogs Take Manhattan! A Love Story by Lloyd Burlingame

Read by A. J. Stetson

7 hours, 23 minutes

Blind Broadway set designer and artist Burlingame adopts the point of view of his dogs, Hickory and Kemp, to recount their adventures in New York City. Describes training at The Seeing Eye guide-dog school, and includes e-mails exchanged between Hickory, near the end of his service, and successor Kemp. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Two Seeing Eye Dogs Take Manhattan! A Love...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075550

Homer's Odyssey a Fearless Feline Tale, or How I Learned About Love and Life with a Blind Wonder Cat by Gwen Cooper

Read by Nicola Daval

9 hours, 12 minutes

Author describes adopting Homer, a small abandoned kitten whose infected eyes were surgically removed. Details the adventures of spunky, active Homer over the next dozen years--living with two other cats in New York apartments, surviving 9/11, and endearing himself to everyone he met including (eventually) the author's future husband. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Homer's Odyssey A Fearless Feline Tale...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069557

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18591](#)

Also available in braille BR018591

Elephant Company the Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him Save Lives in World War II by Vicki Croke

Read by David Cutler

11 hours, 33 minutes

Tells the story of British WW I veteran James Howard "Billy" Williams, who found his calling working with logging elephants in Burma. When WW II broke out, Williams used his strong bond with the animals to lead the Elephant Company, which was instrumental in defeating the Japanese who invaded Burma. 2014

[Download from BARD: Elephant Company the Inspiring Story of an...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080616

Finding Gobi a Little Dog with a Very Big Heart by Leonard Dion

Read by Michael Scherer

6 hours, 39 minutes

An Australian marathon runner tells the story of finding a stray dog while on a race across the Gobi desert. After keeping him company for many of the 155 miles of his ultramarathon in China, the dog disappeared, leaving the author determined to find her again. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Finding Gobi a Little Dog with a Very Big Heart](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089278

The Intimate Bond How Animals Shaped Human History by Brian M. Fagan

Read by Ken Kliban

10 hours, 4 minutes

Through an in-depth analysis of six human-animal relationships, Fagan examines how the human way of life has been irreversibly altered by bonding with animals. He discusses the effects of herding, the role of animals in globalization, and the general history of human interaction with the animal kingdom. 2015

[Download from BARD: The Intimate Bond How Animals Shaped Human...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082464

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20874](#)

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The Big New Yorker Book of Dogs by Malcolm Gladwell (editor)

Read by Barry Bernson

18 hours, 3 minutes

Anthology of short fiction, non-fiction, and poetry sorted into the categories of good dogs, bad dogs, top dogs, and underdogs. Each section begins with a James Thurber entry. Other contributors include E.B. White, John Updike, Arthur Miller, Anne Sexton, and Roald Dahl. Foreword by Malcolm Gladwell. Some strong language. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Big New Yorker Book of Dogs](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075868

Marley & Me Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog by John Grogan

Read by Gregory Gorton

9 hours, 16 minutes

A columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer reminisces about the untrainable Labrador retriever that he and his wife acquired as Florida newlyweds. Recalls Marley's hilarious escapades and his capacity for love as the Grogans become the parents of three kids. Bestseller. 2005.

[Download from BARD: Marley & Me Life and Love with the World's...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB061561

Zamba the True Story of the Greatest Lion that Ever Lived by Ralph Helfer

Read by Alec Volz

9 hours

Hollywood animal behaviorist fondly recalls his eighteen-year relationship with Zamba, an African lion that came to live on his California ranch in the mid-1950s. Helfer recounts adventures with Zamba, including movie productions, and he describes his development of affection training, which uses methods based on love instead of fear. 2005.

[Download from BARD: Zamba the True Story of the Greatest...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067900

All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot

Read by Bob Askey

16 hours 56 minutes.

An English veterinarian reminisces about his work in Yorkshire that began in 1937 when he was fresh out of school. He recalls tending to the farm and house animals and comforting people whose pets died. James Herriot autobiography series, book

[Download from BARD: All Creatures Great and Small](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB053926

Esther the Wonder Pig Changing the World One Heart At a Time by Steve Jenkins

Read by Steve Jenkins

4 hours, 46 minutes

The journey of two animal activists began when Steve and Derek adopted a tiny piglet they named Esther, not realizing she would eventually grow to over six hundred pounds. To give Esther more space, they bought a farm that now serves as an animal sanctuary. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Esther the Wonder Pig Changing the World One...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB087834

Merle's Door Lessons From a Freethinking Dog by Ted Kerasote

Read by Bill Wallace

14 hours, 18 minutes

Award-winning outdoor writer relates his adventures with a mixed-breed Labrador dog, Merle, which he found wandering in the Utah desert and adopted. Describes how Kerasote allowed Merle to come and go freely to promote self-reliance and intelligence. Discusses canine psychology and the lessons they exchanged about partnership. Bestseller. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Merle's Door Lessons From a Freethinking Dog](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065346

Rescuing Sprite a Dog Lover's Story of Joy and Anguish by Mark R. Levin

Read by Guy Williams

5 hours, 2 minutes

Syndicated talk-radio host and author of Men in Black (RC 59952) shares his adoption of a second dog, Sprite, from the Maryland Humane Society.

Describes the tight bond between humans and pets and discusses his family's anguish when Sprite's health gradually deteriorated and he passed away.

Bestseller. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Rescuing Sprite a Dog Lover's Story of Joy and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065714

The Education of Will a Mutual Memoir of a Woman and Her Dog by Patricia B. McConnell

Read by Maggy Stacy

7 hours, 53 minutes

An animal behaviorist describes her experiences training her eight-week-old border collie puppy, Will. In dealing with Will's fears and anxieties, she realizes he is in part reflecting her own. Training Will helps her to confront the traumas of her own past. Violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. 2017.

[Download from BARD: The Education of Will a Mutual Memoir of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089606

Running with Sherman: the Donkey with the Heart of a Hero by Christopher McDougall

Read by Christopher McDougall

12 hours, 15 minutes

The author rescued Sherman, a donkey who had been abused by his former owner. As a way of rehabilitating the animal, he trained Sherman for the World Championship of burro racing, with the help of friends, neighbors, and family.

Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: Running with Sherman: the Donkey with the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB097259

Woof! Writers on Dogs by Lee B. Montgomery

Read by Laura Giannarelli

9 hours 33 minutes

Essays exploring the bond between people and pets. Selections range from light-hearted--Abigail Thomas's "Sleeping with Dogs on a King-Size Bed"--to emotional, such as Rick Bass's "Sick Dog." Features National Book Award winner Denis Johnson, whose essay is written from the perspective of his military-minded bullmastiff, Colonel. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Woof! Writers on Dogs](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068414

Birdology Adventures with a Pack of Hens, a Peck of Pigeons, Cantankerous Crows, Fierce Falcons, Hip Hop Parrots, Baby Hummingbirds, and One Murderously Big Living Dinosaur by Sy Montgomery

Read by Kerry Dukin

11 hours, 59 minutes

Author of The Good Good Pig (DB0 63822) relates her experiences with a variety of birds through personal anecdotes and observations about their behavior. Each chapter features a different species. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Birdology Adventures with a Pack of Hen, a...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072861

A Dog Called Hope a Wounded Warrior and the Service Dog who Saved Him by Jason Morgan

Read by Richard Davidson

14 hours, 41 minutes

The memoir of a former Special Forces soldier. Wounded badly and told he would never walk again, Morgan's recovery was long, and his wife left him with their three young sons. At this lowest point, a special service dog named Napal entered his life. Some violence and some strong language. 2016.

[Download from BARD: A Dog Called Hope a Wounded Warrior and the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB088872

Afterglow (a Dog Memoir) by Eileen Myles

Read by Erin Jones

5 hours, 45 minutes

A poet's memoir of losing her beloved pit bull, Rosie. She shares her favorite memories of Rosie, some from the dog's point of view, and uses the experience of watching Rosie's illness and decline to explore the grieving process. Some strong language. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Afterglow \(a Dog Memoir\)](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089917

Dewey the Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World_by Vicki Myron

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

8 hours, 27 minutes

Spencer, Iowa, public library director Vicki Myron describes finding a kitten in the book drop in 1988. Named Dewey Readmore Books by library staff, the feline became an increasingly famous mascot over the next nineteen years. Myron also discusses her divorce, single parenthood, breast cancer scare, and love of librarianship. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Dewey the Small-Town Library Cat Who...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067516

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17821](#)

Also available in braille BR017821

Secretariat by William Nack

Read By Jack Fox

14 hours, 52 minutes

Account of Secretariat, the "horse of the century," who won the 1973 Triple Crown--the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness, and the Belmont Stakes races. Describes the roles of owner Penny Chenery, trainer Lucien Laurin, jockey Ron Turcotte, and groom Eddie Sweat. Includes author's 2010 preface. Basis for motion picture. Bestseller. 1975.

[Download from BARD: Secretariat](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071943

Giant George: Life with the World's Biggest Dog by Dave Nasser

Read by Gregory Maupin

6 hours, 7 minutes

Nasser chronicles life with his family's Great Dane, Giant George. Describes getting George, a runt, in 2005; George's rapid growth; Nasser almost giving the puppy away; and Guinness World Records in 2010 citing George--at nearly four feet tall and seven feet long--as the tallest dog ever. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Giant George: Life with the World's Biggest Dog](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074533

Wesley the Owl the Remarkable Love Story of an Owl and His Girl_by Stacey O'Brien

Read by Kristin Allison

6 hours, 23 minutes

The author, an assistant in the Caltech owl department in 1985, recounts adopting Wesley, a four-day-old barn owl with a nerve-damaged wing. She portrays the strong bond they developed over nineteen years, manifested by the owl's efforts to feed her mice, build her nests, and make her his mate. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Wesley the Owl the Remarkable Love Story of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068258

Rin Tin Tin the Life and the Legend by Susan Orlean

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee

12 hours, 12 minutes

Relates the 1918 discovery of an abandoned German shepherd puppy on a French World War I battlefield by American soldier Lee Duncan. Describes Rin Tin Tin and his descendants' acting roles from early silent movies to the 1950s television show. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Rin-Tin Tin the Life and the Legend](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073776

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18754](#)

Also available in braille BR018754

Alex & Me: How a Scientist and a Parrot Discovered a Hidden World of Animal Intelligence--and Formed a Deep Bond in the Process by Irene M. Pepperbeg

Read by Annie Wauters

5 hours, 16 minutes

Researcher describes her thirty-year relationship with the African Grey parrot Alex and relates the personality of and emotional connections made by the bird who told her "You be good. I love you," each night. Expands on observations of Alex's groundbreaking cognitive achievements detailed in The Alex Studies (RC0 51983). 2008.

[Download from BARD: Alex & Me: How a Scientist and a Parrot...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068344

Trusting Calvin How a Dog Helped Heal a Holocaust Survivor's Heart by Sharon L. Peters

Read by Kurt Elftmann

6 hours, 33 minutes

Biography of Holocaust survivor Max Edelman. Describes Max being blinded by two Nazi guards and witnessing a German Shepherd kill another prisoner. Discusses Max's difficulty bonding with Calvin--the Labrador guide dog he received after retiring in America--because of his fear of canines, and Calvin saving Max's life. Violence. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Trusting Calvin How a Dog Helped Heal ...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077282

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20220](#)

Also available in braille BR020220

Wild Horse Country: the History, Myth, and Future of the Mustang by David Philipps

Read by David Colacci

12 hours, 1 minutes

A New York Times reporter traces the history of wild horses, known as mustangs, in America. He looks at their introduction by Spanish conquistadors, their role in the clashes between Native Americans and settlers, and their place in American self-mythology. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Wild Horse Country: the History, Myth, and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB093851

Katie Up and Down the Hall the True Story of How One Dog Turned Five Neighbors into a Family by Glenn Plaskin

Read by Glenn Plaskin

7 hours, 31 minutes

Memoir by a celebrity journalist who found a family after adopting a cocker spaniel puppy. Plaskin credits his dog Katie's vivacious personality with allowing him to make connections with several of the neighbors on his floor in their Battery Park City high-rise in Lower Manhattan. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Katie Up and Down the Hall the True Story of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078600

Catching Murphy by Wilson Ring

Read by Patrick Downer

1 hour, 46 minutes

A reporter tells the story of the period over two winters when people throughout the state of Vermont were united in the hunt for a missing golden retriever named Murphy. 2019.

[Download from BARD: Catching Murphy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB096315

Following Atticus Forty-Eight High Peaks, One Little Dog, and an Extraordinary Friendship by Tom Ryan

Read by Gary Tipton

9 hours, 31 minutes

Newspaperman examines his unique relationship with his hiking partner, miniature schnauzer Atticus M. Finch. Explains how a fund-raising effort after a friend's death started man and dog's years of climbing in New Hampshire's White Mountains--188 peaks over three winters. Some strong language. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Following Atticus Forty-Eight High Peaks, One...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074367

Paws & Effect the Healing Power of Dogs by Sharon R. Sakson

Read by Jill Ferris

8 hours, 26 minutes

American Kennel Club dog-show judge reflects on the emotional and spiritual support dogs provide to their human companions in times of ill health and other crises. Recounts instances of dogs calming autistic children, evoking memories for Alzheimer's patients, assisting in physical therapy, and alerting epileptics to impending seizures. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Paws & Effect the Healing Power of Dogs](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066954

Elle & Coach Diabetes, the Fight for My Daughter's Life, and the Dog Who Changed Everything by Stefany Shaheen

Read by Elle Shaheen

5 hours, 2 minutes

Author describes her endless attempts to manage her daughter Elle's deadly and unpredictable Type 1 diabetes. Finally, the family finds peace and reassurance through canine Coach's abilities as a medical alert dog, specially trained to detect dangerous changes in blood sugar levels. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Elle & Coach Diabetes, the Fight for My...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082331

Love, Life, and Elephants an African Love Story by Daphne Jenkins Sheldrick

Read by Kerry Dukin

14 hours, 53 minutes

Conservationist details her family's history in Kenya and her first marriage, divorce, and subsequent marriage to David Sheldrick, founding warden of Tsavo East National Park. Reminisces about orphaned animals she cared for over the years, especially the elephants of the park, and recounts her activities since David's 1977 death. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Love, Life, and Elephants an African Love Story](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075020

Rescuing Penny Jane One Shelter Volunteer, Countless Dogs, and the Quest to Find Them All Homes by Amy Sutherland

Read by Laura Adducci

9 hours, 38 minutes

Newspaper columnist examines the problem of homeless dogs and animal shelters in America. Topics include the bond between humans and dogs, the pit-bull population, and the challenges of adopting shelter pets. Discusses her experience working at a shelter and dogs she met there. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Rescuing Penny Jane One Shelter Volunteer...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB088729

Conversations with Amber by Gladys Bagg Taber

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

5 hours, 46 minutes

Intimate, affectionate thoughts the author has had with her companionate apricot Abyssinian cat over their years together. Voices her opinions on feminism, the personalities of pets, friendship, and aging. Gently depicts her Cape Cod country home, the seasons, and the wildlife.

[Download from BARD: Conversations with Amber](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB012871

Tell Me Where it Hurts: a Day of Humor, Healing, and Hope in My Life as an Animal Surgeon by Nick Trout

Read by Joe Peck

10 hours, 25 minutes

Boston veterinary surgeon Trout describes his typical work day, recounting anecdotes about his patients and their owners. Discusses interpreting animal behavior and symptoms to determine a diagnosis, the impact of technology on his practice, human-pet bonds, and the emotional effects of euthanizing companion animals on all involved. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Tell me Where it Huts a Day of Humor, Healing...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066505

White House Pets by Margaret Truman

Read by Kerry Cundiff

4 hours 33 minutes

President Truman's daughter provides anecdotes about the domestic and wild animals kept by first families. Discusses dogs, cats, horses, and sheep as well as pigmy hippos and lion cubs received as gifts from foreign officials. Covers Washington's horses and hounds, Teddy Roosevelt's zoo, FDR's dog Fala, and Kennedy's menagerie. 1969.

[Download from BARD White House Pets](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB061550

No Better Friend One Man, One Dog, and Their Extraordinary Story of Courage and Survival in WWII by Robert Weintraub

Read by Dan Woren

14 hours 44 minutes

Flight technician Frank Williams and purebred pointer Judy met in a World War II internment camp. Judy repeatedly risked her life for the prisoners, forming a particular bond with Frank. After being rescued, Frank brought Judy home, and she became the war's only official canine POW. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

[Download from BARD: No Better Friend One Man, One Dog, and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB087733

Corvus a Life with Birds by Esther Woolfson

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

10 hours, 25 minutes

Nature writer reflects on the years she and her family have cared for wild, captive-bred, and rescued birds at their Scotland home. Describes bonds with a rook named Chicken and other birds, many from the corvid or crow family. Discusses avian history, behavior, and depiction in poetry and literature. 2008.

[Download from BARD Corvus a Life with Birds](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069278