

# "Born Without a Tail" Is a Tale Worth Reading

By Karen Uthe Semancik

Her last name might be Wulff, but she has wild coyotes in her backyard. Pretty appropriate for a devoted animal lover who has recently had her first book published. Cayr Ariel Wulff's *Born Without A Tail* is an autobiographical reflection of the animals she has rescued over the last 22 years.

An artist by trade, Ariel makes her home with her life partner, Dalene, and five dogs, three cats and 12 mice—all rescued—in a log cabin deep in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. A site that many would think would be the perfect place to pen a book. But Ariel admits she did most of the writing indoors. (Maybe because of the coyotes?)

The book's title comes from her fascination with animals at a young age, wishing she too had a tail. She admits to pinning cloth tails on the back of her pants to be more like the animals she loved. And although the title comes from a little girl with an active imagination, the content of the book is very real.

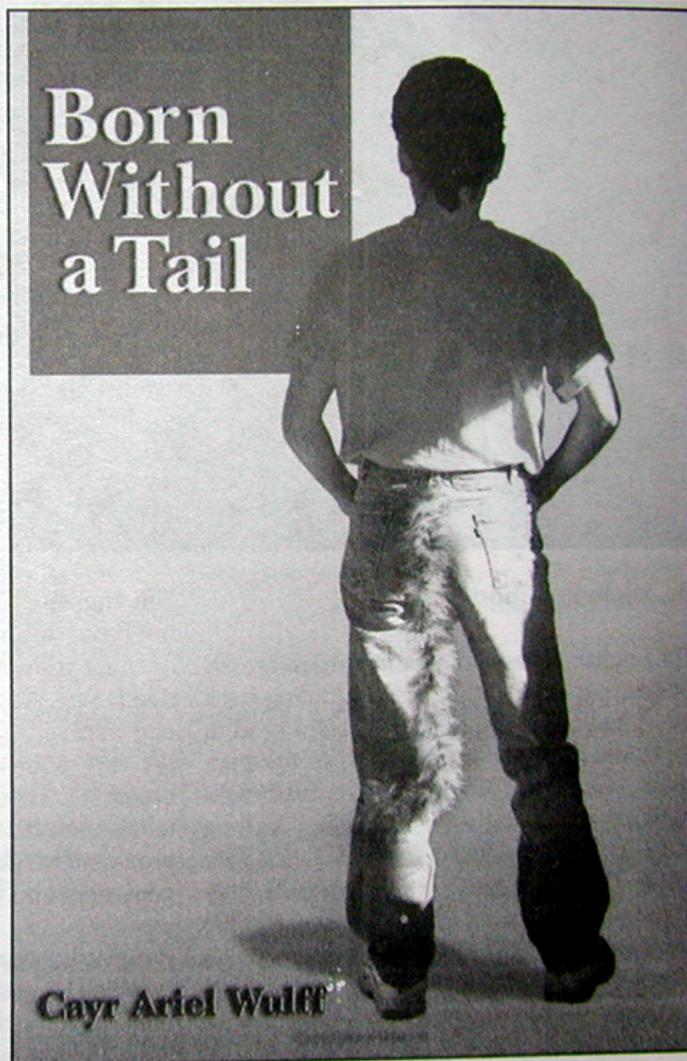
"All of the stories in the book except one involve a pet that shared our home," says Ariel. "Our home is like a revolving door, and a lot of the animals we have rescued have stayed," she adds.

The Shaker Heights native was inspired by her then 17-year-old poodle/beagle mix named Dillon. She thought her time with him was coming to an end, and she was trying to prepare herself. Three years later, Dillon is still around, and now so is *Born Without A Tail*. Ariel admits the writing of the book was cathartic.

"Everybody who reads it likes it, even those that aren't 'pet people'," says Ariel. "I have had some close friends tell me it's too emotional for them to read, and I understand that," she adds.

Ariel admits there are more and more animal books out there now with the popularity of titles such as *Marley & Me*, but her book has a more specific focus. She reflects on how each pet brought into their house changes the dynamic within the home, and how each of them behaves differently accordingly.

Although she is now a published author, Ariel is a painter by day with her company called Yelodoggie Art. Her media of choice are watercolor and liquid acrylic. She had a dream about a yellow dog, so that's what she paints. The yellow dog is put in crazy situations in each painting, according to Ariel. She labels her artistic style as "outsider art." She has been in graphics for 20 years, also, and once worked for a comic book.



So is Ariel thinking about that second book? She says she's doing a little bit of writing now, and is contemplating a book of "wildlife anecdotes" about their experiences living in the park. The book would be humorous and informative. (Think the coyotes will make an appearance?)

When Ariel isn't writing or painting, she says she reads and cleans up after the dogs. And with five dogs, that must keep her pretty busy!

Partial proceeds of *Born Without A Tail* will benefit Valley Save-A-Pet, a non-profit humane society based in Solon.

To learn more about Cayr Ariel Wulff and her work, log on to her website at: [www.angelfire.com/oh2/YellowDog](http://www.angelfire.com/oh2/YellowDog), or email her at: [yelodoggie@yahoo.com](mailto:yelodoggie@yahoo.com). Her book, *Born Without A Tail*, is published by BookSurge Publishing, and can be purchased for \$12.95 online at the Target, Borders and Amazon websites. It is also available at the Purr-fect Place in Bedford (Valley Save-A-Pet's thrift store), and Blue Heron bookstore in Peninsula.