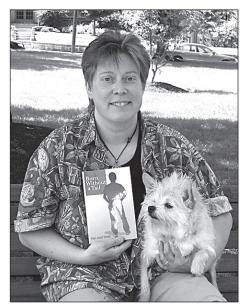
LOOKING AT BOOKS

Born Without A Tail Is for Animal Lovers



Ariel Wulff holds her rescued dog, Taco, and her book about rescuing pets. Photo by D. Jansik

by Peggy Russell

Cayr Ariel Wulff cleverly attributes her love for animals to "having been raised by Wulffs."

Her devotion to animals certainly shows in the 167 pages of her first autobiographical book, Born Without A Tail. The title came from the fact that even as a child she was chagrined by her lack of a tail like the animals she loved, and often pinned pieces of material on the back of her pants or wore a jump rope tied around her waist with the long end hanging down behind her. Even before she had real animals, she used her vivid imagination to conjure up a whole zoo full of them that surrounded her. As an adult, the animals were no longer imaginary, but real, living, breathing (and sometimes biting) critters that filled her home and her life.

If a person does not like animals, there is no need to even pick up *Born Without A Tail*. However, anyone who enjoys animals in the least, will appreciate Wulff's adventures with these four-legged creatures, primarily cats and dogs, with emphasis squarely on the dogs.

Published by BookSurge Publishing, an Amazon.com company, *Born Without A Tail* captures the real scenario of those people who simply find it impossible

to turn away, or say no to, a stray or an animal in need of human intervention and love. Wulff, who is a native Ohioan and has worked as an artist all her life, makes no bones about her devout love for all animals.

She lives in a log cabin deep in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park with her lifemate, Dalene, four dogs and three cats, a number that often increases and decreases, depending on the situation.

Wulff said that all the accounts in the book are based on her personal recollections of actual events and of encounters others have told her.

Someone once told her she was a "natural writer," and that appears to be accurate. She writes with an imagery that is easily visualized by the reader, a "must" for a good writer. In one place she refers to herself as an "urban shepherd" because of her constant encounters with animals looking for a place (and a person) to call their own.

People who have had any encounters with cats and dogs will identify with some of her stories and descriptions. In fact, one paragraph truly sums up the personality of most cats. "If one's own boundary is that cats should not walk on the kitchen table," she wrote. "A cat interprets that message as, 'I may not walk on the kitchen table right now, while anyone is looking, but that doesn't mean that I won't walk on the table later or tomorrow, and by the way, I most certainly will." Wulff proves by that simple statement that she knows cats well.

Some proceeds from the sale of this book benefit Valley Save-A-Pet, an all-volunteer, nonprofit humane organization that has been in business for almost 30 years, and was established to alleviate the unnecessary suffering of all animals. They subscribe to the principal that euthanasia will not be practiced unless it is medically indicated.

Born Without A Tail can be found for sale at amazon.com, Borders and other bookstores.



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