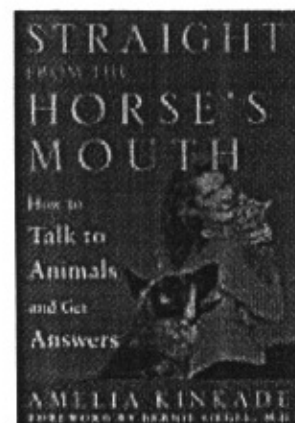


STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Amelia Kinkade

Thorsons (Australia) softcover A\$19.95
Crown (U.S.A.) hardcover \$22.00 US



This comprehensive book is a 'must' for anyone who lives and/or works with animals and who cares deeply about their well being and feels a strong need to understand them better. It is a book about relationships and communication. It is a fairly long book, nearly 300 pages, and though enlivened by the author's ready wit and sense of humour which includes her ability to laugh at herself, it is a serious book. This being so I think it is a great pity that the Australian publishers, Thorsons, chose to put a distorted photograph of an open-mouthed horse on the cover instead of the very lovely picture of Amelia herself with a lovely ginger cat in her arms and a handsome German Shepherd looking up at them both that appears on the cover of the American edition. Particularly so as at one point in the book she actually refers to the dog on the cover, a totally meaningless reference if you are reading the Australian edition. Thorson's absurd cover is belittling to the book, to the author and the animals she is writing about and to the Australian public. It is also misleading for this is a very deep book. Readers of "Broomtail" will be all too aware of this tendency of the Australian media to make animals appear ridiculous.

Amelia Kinkade is a professional animal communicator and a gifted psychic. But she is not into keeping the secret of her success to herself, a great deal of this book is devoted to explaining, just how you can develop the same gifts and in doing so enrich beyond measure your relationship with the animals you share your life with.

This is a very practical book for all its spirituality; she uses Gestalt allied with her own caring intuition to discover what worries and distresses animals, what they enjoy and where their pain is. She does not claim to be a healer but her ability to communicate with an animal enables her to help veterinary surgeons diagnose and treat correctly.

She also relates stories of missing animals successfully located, and more important tells us how to 'tune in' and do this for ourselves. One of the more entertaining stories is about one of her own cats sending a message to her as she was driving along the freeway. "Come home, Amelia, they are in the house." This was the sudden and urgent summons she received, and obeyed, to find when she go back that the intruders were ants in the cat's dish!

Bernie Siegel, MD, the American oncologist renowned for his holistic and spiritual approach to his patients and internationally for his books and tapes, most famous, Love, Medicine & Miracles, writes the foreword to the book.. He describes how Amelia successfully located a missing cat and saved its life, even though she was many miles away.

This, I feel, is not a book to take out of the library and flip through, this is one to buy, keep, read and re-read and constantly refer back to. As well as the many enchanting stories about the animals she has helped there are exercises and guided meditations to help us all develop our own abilities. One of the things that surprised her, it will surprise you too, is just how much animals do understand and how much they know about us.

At the back of the book are several resource lists, which would be a great deal more helpful if the publishers of the Australian edition had taken the trouble to 'Australianise'. As it is the list of healthy pet foods only gives American brands, the extensive list of organizations that exist to help and protect animals is 90% American with a few British & Canadian addresses and only one Australian, The Australian Association for Humane Research. Of more help is an extensive list of companies that do NOT use animals for research and the less extensive list of those who DO leaving us with no excuse to use cosmetics or toiletries developed by cruel and unethical experiments on animals.

'Australianise'. As it is the list of healthy pet foods only gives American brands, the extensive list of organizations that exist to help and protect animals is 90% American with a few British & Canadian addresses and only one Australian, *The Australian Association for Humane Research*. Of more help is an extensive list of companies that do NOT use animals for research and the less extensive list of those who DO leaving us with no excuse to use cosmetics or toiletries developed by cruel and unethical experiments on animals.

Reviewed by ANN WALKER author of *YOUR TALKING PET – And How To Answer Back* and several other animal books.