

Editorial Reviews: From [Booklist](#)

The format of fun and factual tidbits that National Geographic Kids is known for is presented here in an accessible and user-friendly chapter-book approach that reads much like fiction. Newman outlines the story of three incredible animals: a daredevil Australian shepherd, an infamous soothsaying groundhog, and a cat who loves the limelight. Each talented animal's real-life story is told in a narrative style that encompasses three chapters of equal length, a perfect formula for fostering fluency and comprehension skills. These three tales serve as the scaffold for additional information about the species at hand, from interesting trivia to practical advice for pet owners. Full-color photographs highlight each animal's story, while sidebars about interesting factoids and web resources for additional information are included. Not only do the stories recount anecdotes about talented pets but they also remind readers of the undeniably strong bond between animals and humans. Animal lovers and reluctant readers alike will approve. Grades 2-4. --Erin Anderson

Review

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More about the Author

Biography

Aline Alexander Newman has been writing for National Geographic Kids magazine (formerly NG World) since 1998. More than 50 of her stories have appeared on the cover. Her first National Geographic Children's book, *Ape Escapes*, came out in 2012. Since then, she has written two more Nat Geo chapter books: "Animal Superstars" and "Lucky Leopards." Her young adult book, called "How to Speak Dog," and co-authored with veterinarian Gary Weitzman, is popular with both kids and adults. And a similar guide to understanding cats, called "How to Speak Cat," is scheduled for release, in February 2015.

Writing for children comes naturally to Aline, since she is a certified teacher with an MS in Education from Syracuse University. But she doesn't only write for kids. Her work also appears in *Guideposts*, an inspirational magazine for adults.

Aline is a wife, mother, grandmother, and animal lover. She began life in Utica, New York, but now divides her time between an old farmhouse in the northern part of the state and a seasonal camp in the Adirondacks. Long-time pet owners, Aline and her husband Neil recently adopted an abandoned dog they found running scared on a country road. His name is Moose.