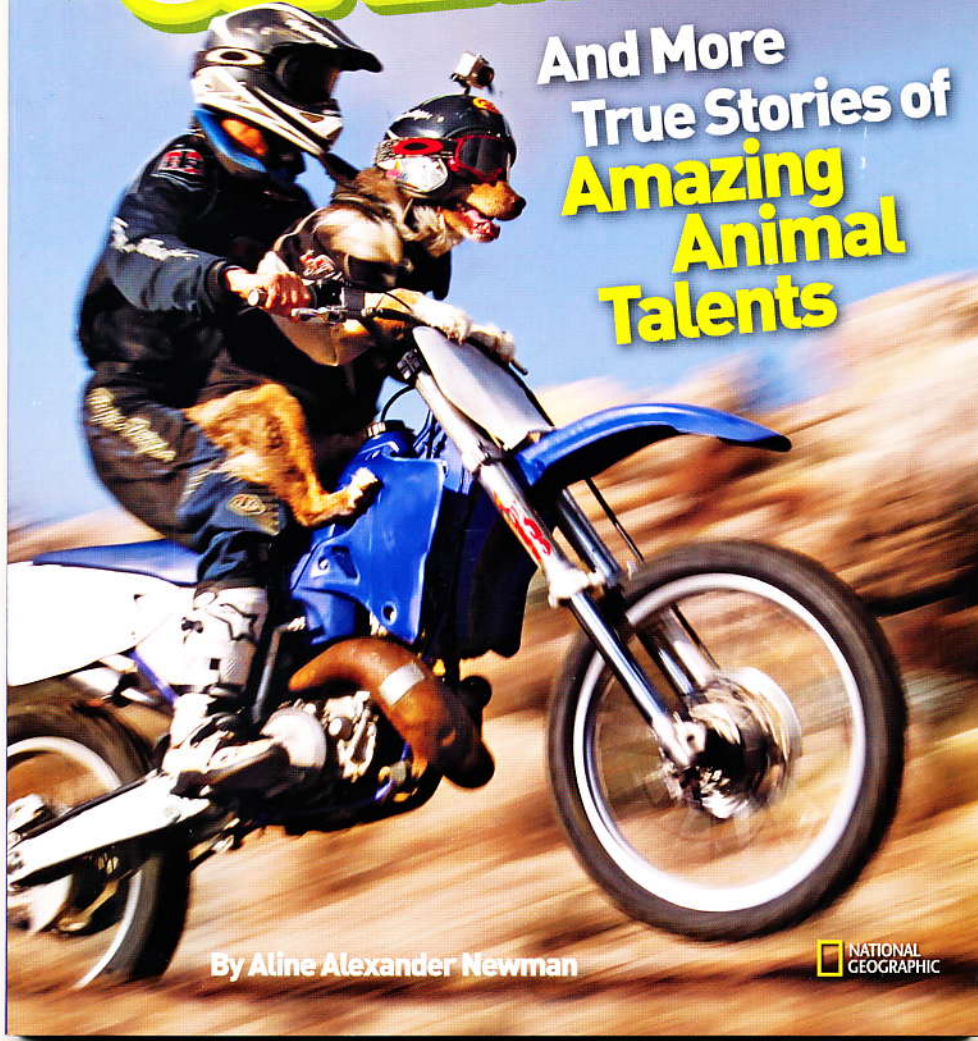


NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC  
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# ANIMAL SUPERSTARS

And More  
True Stories of  
**Amazing  
Animal  
Talents**



By Aline Alexander Newman

NATIONAL  
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YEARS

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Ready to ride, Opee pants with excitement. His helmet has a camera on top.

# EAS R

April 2006, S

O pee t  
like A  
sheph  
and listens. F  
garage? The  
his feet and r  
Barking excit  
gas tank of M  
Opee's pink t  
front paws re

# EASY RIDER

**April 2006, San Diego, California**

Opee the Australian (sounds like AH-STRALE-YAN) shepherd cocks his head and listens. Has Mike entered the garage? The devoted dog jumps to his feet and runs toward the sound. Barking excitedly, he leaps onto the gas tank of Mike Schelin's dirt bike. Opee's pink tongue hangs out. His front paws rest on the handlebars.

