

READ UP ON PETS

Wigged cats and blissful dogs are among the entertaining offerings

By **LANA BERKOWITZ**
STAFF WRITER

These new titles are treats for humans who beg for books about pets.

Kinky's Celebrity Pet Files

- By Kinky Friedman
- Simon & Schuster, 224 pp., \$24.95

To go with trivia about historical figures such as Winston Churchill and Mark Twain, the animal advocate and wannabe politician has gathered pet anecdotes from his celebrity pals.

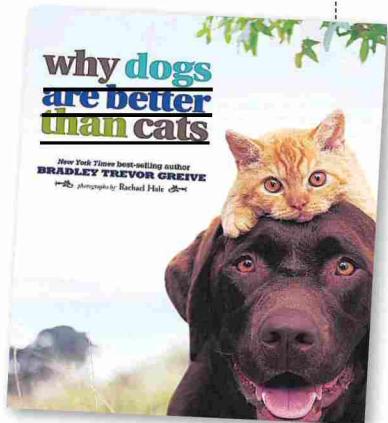
Jerry Jeff Walker talks about his Maltese, Coco. Walker also remembers being homeless in Austin and adopting dogs that would run away from him.

In the Jim Nabors chapter, readers learn that the actor took off in a plane with his four Staffordshire terriers on July Fourth so they won't be bothered by the sound of fireworks. And, reports Friedman's book, Fats Domino was looking for his beloved *bichon frisé*, Winnie the Pooh, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina when the singer was taken to safety.

Among the animal lovers in the easy reader are Joseph Heller, Jimmy Buffett, Billy Bob Thornton and Larry Dierker.

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Why Dogs Are Better Than Cats

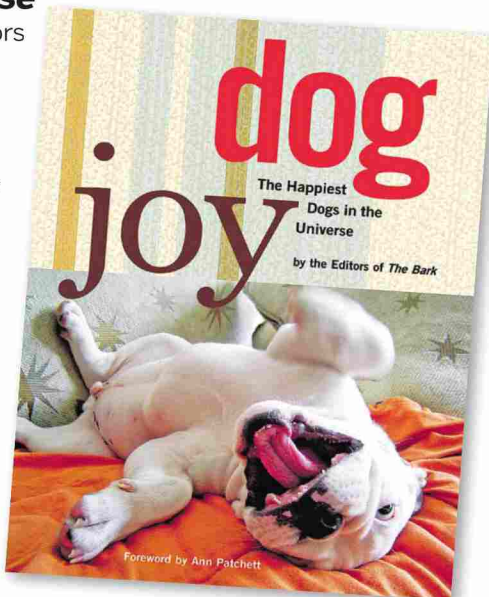
DogJoy: The Happiest Dogs in the Universe

■ By the editors of The Bark
■ Rodale, 192 pp., \$16.99

There's a smile on every page thanks to the readers and editors of The Bark magazine. Its smiling-dogs feature was a hit when it started seven years ago, and since then the bimonthly magazine has published about 40 photos in each issue and hundreds more online.

This book is a collection of the best 300 laughers, grinners and jokers.

The dogs' names are indexed in the back. That's Titan on the cover.



Simon's Cat

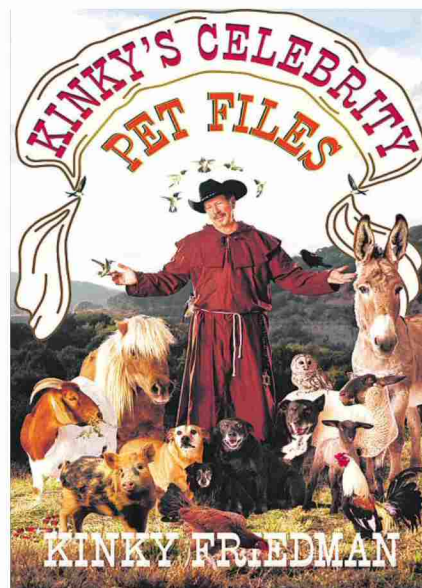
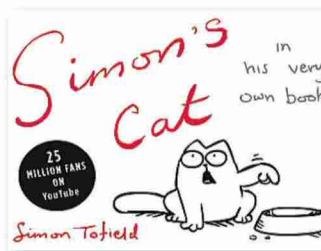
■ By Simon Tofield
■ Grand Central Publishing, 240 pp., \$12.99

Tofield's short films about his life among cats became a hit online.

For this paperback, the English animator uses his familiar black-and-white line drawings to depict a cat's need to eat, chase birds, humiliate dogs and

outsmart humans.

Tofield's kitten Hugh inspired the first drawing. Hugh is now a full-grown cat who meows and meanders around Tofield's house with Maisie, Jess and new kitty Teddy.



■ By Bradley Trevor Grieve, photographs by Rachael Hale
■ Andrews McMeel Publishing, 224 pp., \$19.99

Grieve's text gives dogs-versus-cat debaters something to gnaw after drooling over Hale's awesome photos of the two species.

Consider Grieve's musings on Page 20:

"Dogs aren't the only ones shortchanged by fraudulent feline favoritism. Kittens are as cute as anything that ever fell into a bowl of milk and blew bubbles out its nose before vomiting into a sneaker.

"However, as companion animals, cats are ultimately disappointing — much like a cheap haircut that makes you look younger, but only from the back. You wanted a pet, but what you got was a plush toy with an attitude."