

Can't we all just get along? Which is better: dogs or cats?

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It seems it's all-out war between the cat

lovers and their canine counterparts, the dog people. Folks, can't we all just get along?

Over the summer the American Kennel Club and the Cat Fanciers' Association decided to end the debate over which pet is most beloved — your devoted dog or your cuddly cat.

During a period of eight weeks, more than 9,000 pet lovers cast their ballots in the Pet Preference poll that was hosted on www.meetthebreeds.com.

It could have been a massacre — cat owners outnumber dog owners by 13 million, according to the poll. But the canine pack ran away with the poll with 65 percent over the 35 percent who voted for cats.

But there were some interesting results. Dog were most popular in Chicago, Seattle and Detroit while cats were tops in Baltimore, Philadelphia and Houston.

Then this week, a new book called "Why Dogs are Better Than Cats" arrives.

Written by Bradley Trevor Greive, who has sold more than 18 million copies of his Blue Day Books, the book is a hoot.

Published by Andrews McMeel Publishing, the book has beautiful photos of both cats and dogs — of course the cats are usually sneering or wearing devil horns or a black cape.

But it's the text that makes the book. Like this:

"To dogs, you are the great love of their lives. To cats, you are the courtesan of the moment.

"Dogs see you as a parent, partner, best friend and soul mate. Cats see you as a source of warmth and food.

"If you care for dogs long enough, they become members of the family. Cats become destructive housemates with bad breath."

It's a great gift for anyone who has a dog, er, or a cat, in the fight. It sells for \$19.99.

Dog fights

A couple weeks ago, I wrote about breaking up dog fights. Some helpful tips have come in since then. Christina Massie, of Club K-9 Doggy Daycare Inc., offers "I have a couple of other things that I tell my clients to have with them on walks in case loose dogs come running up. The first is to carry an umbrella. It's pretty easy to carry with you and can be opened and used as a shield to distract an approaching dog. The other is a product called Spray Shield (formally Direct Stop), which looks like mace but is actually citronella. The great thing is if

it blows around and gets on you or your own dog it will not harm them."

Visit www.premier.com to buy the spray, which costs about \$15.

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