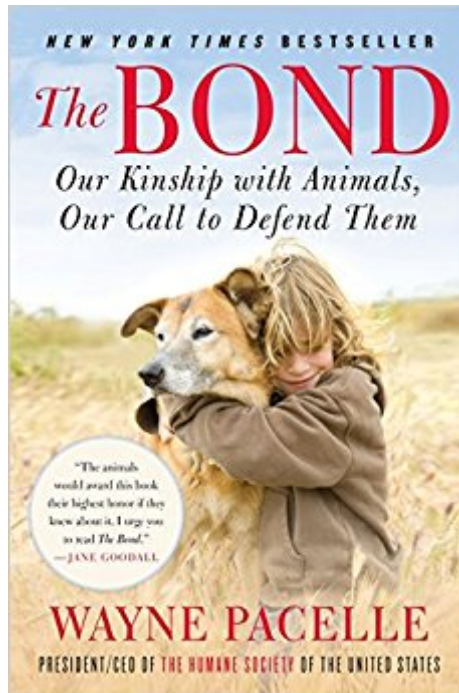


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# The Bond: Our Kinship With Animals, Our Call To Defend Them



## Synopsis

As if the animals knew about this book they would, without doubt, confer on Wayne Pacelle, their highest honor. • "Jane Goodall • The Bond is the best overall book on animals I have ever read. Brilliant and moving. • "John Mackey, CEO and Co-founder of Whole Foods Market • The Bond is at once heart-breaking and heart-warming. No animal escapes Wayne Pacelle's attention; nor should his book escape any human animal's attention. • "Alexandra Horowitz, New York Times Bestselling Author of Inside of a Dog The president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, the world's largest animal protection organization, Wayne Pacelle brings us The Bond, a heartfelt, eye-opening exploration of the special bond between animals and humans. With the poignant insight of Animals Make Us Human and the shocking reality of Fast Food Nation • filled with history, valuable insights, and fascinating stories of the author's experience in the field • The Bond is an important investigation into all the ways we can repair our broken bond with the animal kingdom and a thrilling chronicle of one man's extraordinary contribution to that effort.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am a longtime follower of Wayne Pacelle's blog "A Humane Nation." At first, I thought this book might be a recount of Pacelle's blog entries as president of the Humane Society of the United States. But it's not. The book stands on its own as a grand synthesis of the history and current state of relations between humans and animals. One thing Pacelle covers better than any other writer I've seen is the contradictory nature of our relationship with animals. On the one hand, we love our pets

as family, pamper them, and spare no expense to care for them. On the other hand, we are capable of great cruelty toward animals, whether in intensive confinement of pigs and hens, merciless eradication of wolves and bison, or industrial breeding of dogs in puppy mills. It is hard to understand how humans can be so inconsistent in their actions toward the creatures who share our planet. One part of the book I found particularly relevant was the chapter on "The Mismeasure of Animals." This chapter discusses the shameful history of behaviorists who, tracing their methods back to Aristotle and Descartes, dismissed the possibility or relevance of animal awareness, emotions, and intelligence. But it also shares many recent discoveries about animals that are now impossible to ignore -- Alex the African gray parrot who could identify shapes and colors of objects he had never seen before; New Caledonian crows who make and use tools to gather food; elephants who mourn their dead and experience post-traumatic stress; coyotes who have an innate sense of fair play; dolphins who protect people from sharks; a gorilla who rescues a human child; and a whale who thanks the humans who cut her free from a patch of fishing wire.

The author of *THE BOND: OUR KINSHIP WITH ANIMALS, OUR CALL TO DEFEND THEM* is Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). If you've ever checked his articles on [...] or on his Facebook page, you already know about his passion for animal issues. His concerns on the Internet are obvious, too, in this book with its theme of human responsibility to animals. *THE BOND* begins with description of the bond we have had with animals through the ages. From there, Pacelle covers so much, but always there is this: because of our bond with animals, we have a responsibility to protect them. As anyone who owns a dog or cat knows, animals have feelings, they can be happy and sad. But through the years, says Pacelle, many humans have not believed that and so have justified their mistreatment of animals. So he devotes part of his book to showing us proof that animals do have feelings. And if we know they have feelings, he says, we know that animals aren't just things, and we have a responsibility to protect these defenseless creatures. That goes for all animals, Pacelle says. While many of us think of HSUS as advocates for dogs and cats, in reality, HSUS is just as concerned about other animals, such as chickens, turkeys, cows, and pigs, animals that are big business when they exist for human consumption. Through his first-hand experiences with these animals' circumstances, Pacelle describes the horrid conditions in which they live and die. The point of these stories that are so difficult to read is, we have a bond with these animals, too, and so a responsibility to know they do not live in misery. This is regardless of whether we eat eggs or meat. Of course, it's easiest for us to see and feel our bond with our pets.

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