

Book Reviews for Merigal Dingoes

A marvellous anthology of stories which reveal, among other insights, what it is like to live with a dingo and the challenges that and the running of a dingo sanctuary hold. Those who are not from Australia or have no links with the country, may not appreciate for generations dingoes were designated as vermin to be 'legally' 'disposed' of as and when encountered. This is the fundamental situation and attitude underlying these revealing tales.

Intertwined with the dingo tales are some elemental accounts of the decades long battles Berenice Walters, *founder of the Merigal Dingo Sanctuary*, had with Australian authorities to have the dingo recognised as a breed of dog rather than vermin to be exterminated without thought.

A long standing debate, *among some*, regards the question of whether animals have spirits, souls, etc. in the same manner as humans. Whatever a reader's opinion it cannot be denied they certainly have personalities with some even displaying evident character traits. This book assuredly proves the point. Within these anecdotal stories there is a mixture of humour; sorrow; love; dedication; commitment; challenges; battles; and achievement (success). No more will be said so as not to spoil the enjoyment for prospective readers.

A couple of points readers should be aware of:

Though Pamela King is shown as the primary author, the book is actually a collection of stories or accounts written by numerous individuals, including Pamela King. Some go back decades. Readers will note some would benefit from a little editing nevertheless, to have done so may have ruined authenticity.

Though the chapters are generally short most include a lot of information (*interesting and educational*). This can result in it being slight tiring to read too many in one go. It is suggested the best approach would be to read in short bursts to enable the details to be assimilated properly.

The book also includes an excellent range of photographs.

TR Robinson (Author and Blogger) - Four stars (4*).

I enjoyed reading "Merigal Dingoes: An Anthology of Dingo Stories from Merigal Dingo Sanctuary" by Pamela King which is a wonderful collection of dingo stories. This anthology includes stories by Berenice Walters, the founder of the Australian Native Dog Training Society later renamed the Australian Native Dog Conservation Society and Pamela King and others (even one by "Harry Dingo aka Harry Houdini" Haha!). An excerpt from one of the stories by Berenice,

"The Dingo is the embodiment of a free and natural spirit; independent, noble and aloof, dignified and graceful, quiet and reflective; an animal of tremendous loyalty and compassion for members of their family group or the human fortunate enough to have the trust and love of this most intriguing native Australian. There are countless tales of the devotion of the Dingo to a mate caught in a trap, poisoned, or incapacitated in some way; of a bitch deliberately making a target of herself to decoy a would-be enemy from her helpless pups; not aggressive enough to attack, but courageous enough to die for

those she loves.”

Filled with intriguing, humorous, moving, thought-provoking, heart-breaking and heart-warming stories of this amazing breed of dog, I felt humbled reading about the instinctive traits of the Dingo such as a trust, loyalty, heroic acts, and unbending devotion.

Berenice Walters studied dingoes for over 40 years. The noble traits of this breed made Bernice better understand herself and she steadfastly promoted the breed, so humankind would likewise better understand themselves and the sometimes-forgotten noble qualities that every human possesses.

Pamela King, a very close friend of Berenice and herself a board member with the Australian Native Dog Conservation Society, has included some of her stories and inserted intriguing pictures throughout the book bringing the stories more to life and engaging me even more as I read this wonderful book.

I finished this anthology sooner than expected and felt gratified with the new knowledge and warm feelings from this anthology.

Another excerpt about Berenice’s much loved and special house dingo, Sheila,

“During the night she (Sheila) would regularly check to make sure Berenice (who was suffering from motor neuron disease) was there. Berenice would hear her claws clicking on the tile floor, then feel breathing close to her face. If she appeared asleep, Sheila would return to her bed; if she opened her eyes, Sheila slowly wagged her tail in greeting.”

This anthology is refreshing for all ages. It reminds the reader the higher qualities of life especially and shows a young adult reader the greater good in us all. Highly recommended!

Team Golfwell, Authors and Publishers ★★★★★