Calling animals by name

ADAM'S TASK
By Vicki Hearne
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By V. MICHAEL BOYE

It's true to hear older advisors urging younger ones about working with cats. It seems that in certain circumstances, if you give a cat or cats a problem to solve or a task to perform in order to find food, they work it out pretty quickly, and the graph of their comparative intelligence curves sharply rising line. But, as I heard, "the trouble is that as soon as they figure out that the researcher or technician wants them to push the lever, they stop doing it; some of them will start to die rather than do it..." when human beings behave that way, we come up with a pretty fancy catalogue of virtues in order to account for it. But, of course, I was stupidly supposing that the point of these efforts was to understand animals, it wasn't at all. The point was simply to Do Science, but to understand animals. The author, a Yale English professor as well as professional dog trainer, moves equally comfortably in the academicians' and animal-trainers' worlds. Hearne is unsure just how to consider chimps or to dleath rather than do it.".

Conversely, the point of these efforts was to understand animals, the researcher or technician wants them to starve to death rather than do it. This collection of philosophical essays examines many paradoxes in addition to the above dichotomies. Hearne is unsure just how to consider chimpanzees who can converse with humans via sign language but still remain dangerous, unpredictable wild animals who understand less about biting, loyal mining, and other domestic niceties than the family dog. More provocative are discussions of the pit bull, for hundreds of years one of America's best loved dogs but recently lowered to criminal status by none-too-accurate wire-service stories, and ofatical children whose parents actually seem to see their children as indicative of detachment from reality. It takes twenty-first century technology to graph with those foes, it takes people like you to "mind" the technology.

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