

The Objects of Dogs' Affection

Authors Cheryl and Jeffrey Katz turn a spotlight on dogs and their playthings.

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Every dog has a special toy. It may be a ratty old rope, sock, pillow, tennis ball, or Frisbee, but one thing is for sure: It is a treasured object. In the book "Dirty Bow Wow: A Tribute to Dogs and the Objects of Their Affection," authors Cheryl and Jeffrey Katz celebrate the unique relationship between dog and toy.

Indulgent owners who like to shower their dogs with toy gifts may be frustrated that their dog only pays attention to one particular item, but this attachment is a comfort to our canines. This is evident in the book's collection of photographs of 50 dogs and their favorite items. Each portrait captures the dogs' love and devotion to the well-played and well-worn toys.

From Beagle mix Belle and her comforting quilt to Boston Terrier Henry and his plush elephant, the book is full of sweet stories. Each photo is accompanied by a description of the dog and toy's history like Malibu, an American Pit Bull Terrier rescued from Hurricane Katrina, whose owner welcomed her home with a pink pig toy that has been Malibu's constant companion ever since.

With its beautiful portraits and touching stories, the book is a feel-good read that is certain to give loving owners a fresh perspective on their dogs' favorite toys.

"Dirty Bow Wow: A Tribute to Dogs and the Objects of Their Affection" by Cheryl and Jeffrey Katz is on sale now.