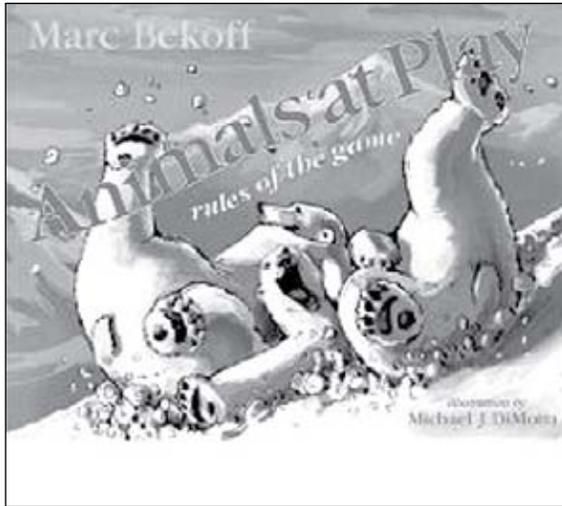




Media Reviews



Animals at Play: Rules of the Game

By Marc Bekoff

Reviewed by Barbara R Saunders

Every child knows that play is important – more important than adults often seem to understand. In *Animals at Play: Rules of the Game*, ethologist Marc Bekoff makes the case that the lessons of play enable animals, including people, to participate in communities. Bekoff's latest book, from Temple University Press, layers several messages for its intended audience, ages 9-11.

Children who are academically inclined will probably enjoy the book more than those who prefer to be captivated by a good story, as it is not structured as a narrative. Some parents and teachers may be more comfortable than others with the degree to which the author anthropomorphizes animals.

The text lends itself to teaching critical thinking skills by providing information such as the notion of ethology as a discipline and some of the field's terms. The author begins with simple scientific ideas, establishing that play is exercise and practice, in addition to being fun. Animals' "play is for exercise," he writes, "gaining strength and developing muscles" so that predators can chase prey and prey animals can run fast to "avoid being a meal." He adds that, in play, the young learn the social rules of fighting, hunting and mating. Definitions of common scientific words, such as "predator", "species", and "pheromone" run along the pages as footers. Dr. Bekoff, a professor emeritus who works with Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots youth program, explicitly welcomes young readers into his intellectual community and invites them to observe animals in their local parks and the behavior of people as well.

Animals at Play also elicits empathy for animals: those with whom we share our homes, those that occupy our backyards, and the more exotic ones that live on faraway parts of the globe. Michael J. DiMotta's illustrations convey the same sense of intimacy, with cats gently teasing one another near a bookshelf and red-necked wallabies boxing in the shade of tall grasses. The connections are

made gracefully in the text. Introducing dolphins, Bekoff writes, "Imagine a dog in the water. Take away the legs and give her flippers and a strong tail."

The most delicate aim of the book is teaching moral ideas without judging or preaching. The strategy is suggesting that rules for positive social contact have a scientific basis. We will be better accepted if we abide by rules, communicate our desires clearly so that others understand, tell the truth, and respect other people's limits. We must know the difference between play-fighting and real-fighting. If we lie and cheat, others may avoid and reject us.

The title belongs to an *Animals and Ethics* series, which will explore the connections between animal behavior, human beings' impact on the natural world, and the ethical concerns that arise in our encounters with the planet's other inhabitants.

The next two titles are both for adults. Bekoff, the series' editor says, "A new one will be out this spring by animal advocate Leslie Irvine, who teaches in the sociology department at the University of Colorado, titled *Filling the Ark: Animal Welfare in Disasters*, and the well-known bioethicist Bernard Rollin will contribute one about ethics, science, and animals."

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Animals at Play: Rules of the Game

Author: Marc Bekoff

Illustrations by Michael J. DiMotta

32 pages, 24 color illustrations

Temple University Press

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The Manadoob Secret Connection Kit

A co-creation of June A. Salin and Susan. R. Cooper

Extensive research studies conclude that the natural bond between humans and animals contributes to a healthier quality of life for both species.

Following the success of her award-winning documentary about the positive benefits of animal assisted therapy for children, June A. Salin created The Manadoob, a team of ancient mystical animals who appear on Earth to befriend children – and help them discover how humans and animals can work together to make the world a better place.

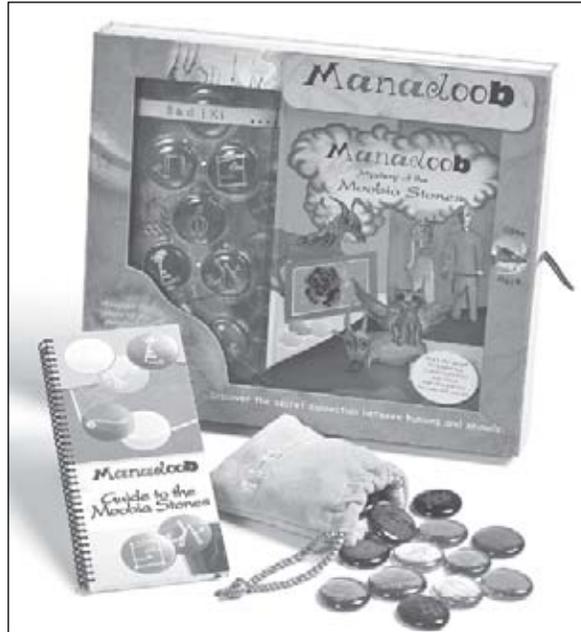
The world of The Manadoob comes alive for children through an illustrated novel and game, together with an interactive website, that invites children to join these mystical creatures on their adventures.

The Manadoob Secret Connection Kit includes the illustrated novel, *Manadoob, Mystery of the Moobia Stones*; 16 multi-colored Moobia Stones, uniquely hand-engraved with a special symbol imparting messages of wisdom from the Manadoob; *The Moobia Stone Guide Book*; a fully-lined drawstring Moob-It pouch to hold the stones; and a faux leather “Sadiki” wristband.

“The Manadoob are a wondrous creation of odd looking animals that are very wise and very loving. These ancient animals nurtured and created magical Moobia Stones to help with some of those tough questions we face every day. This is a wonderful tool for growth and education.”

Faith Maloney

An original founder and animal care consultant with Best Friends



“Enchanted and enchanting! ... *Manadoob* gives voice to the very real feelings and behaviors of children (and adults) and offers wonderfully creative problem-solving approaches with hope and confidence that we can do and feel better. The stories are appealing and colorful, but not sugar-

coated, in recognizing human frailties and problems and embracing all creatures.”

Barbara W. Boat, Ph.D.

Associate Professor,
Department of Psychiatry, University of Cincinnati
College of Medicine Director, The Childhood Trust,
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Salin is the creator, writer and producer of the award-winning documentary, *Kids & Animals – A Healing Partnership*, which explores the reciprocal healing benefits of the human-animal bond. The documentary aired domestically on Discovery Channel’s Animal Planet and was distributed and released independently in television markets throughout the world.

The Manadoob Secret Connection Kit (SRP: \$39.95) and the **Manadoob/Best Friends Celebration Charm** (SRP: \$9.95) are available through the Manadoob website (www.mandoob.com) and the Best Friends Animal Society website (www.bestfriends.org). Also, check there later this Spring for information about their new activity-based learning curriculum. The Manadoob will donate to Best Friends Animal Society up to 50% of gross profits on all purchases.

Jane Goodall A Biography

By Meg Greene

In this insightful biography, Meg Greene tells the story of Goodall's life from her early days growing up in England and under the influence of her mother, through her experiences as a young protégé of anthropologist Louis Leakey with whom she pioneered new techniques of investigating chimpanzee behavior in Africa, to her mature career as an expert on chimpanzee social life and her ongoing efforts today to promote the conservation of wildlife.

Green describes how Goodall's work challenged and changed perceptions of the relations between the primate and human worlds. Contrary to accepted scientific opinion of the time, which viewed chimpanzees as brutish, Goodall found chimps to be capable of a wide range of emotions, including affection, compassion, and love. She also showed that chimps could reason, think, and solve problems. Perhaps most startling, Goodall discovered that chimpanzees could fashion primitive implements from grass, twigs, and leaves, dispelling the notion that humans are the only species that can make tools.

On the personal side, Greene reveals that Goodall found solace in her home at Gombe from the trials of life that included a divorce, the death

of her second husband, criticisms from fellow scientists, and a deep spiritual crisis.

This is a fascinating story of a naïve young woman who started her work without even a college degree and eventually developed into a dedicated scientist and a world-famous conservationist and humanitarian. For more than 45 years, Jane Goodall has reached out to the world to join in her efforts to aid those who cannot speak for themselves, and to promote respect for all living creatures.

Jane Goodall: A Biography

Author: Meg Greene

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