



Ranch of Dreams: The Country's Most Unusual Sanctuary, Where Every Animal Has a Story

Cleveland Amory

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After reading "Black Beauty" as a child, Cleveland Amory dreamed that one day he would have a ranch where animals would not be abused, but would spend their days roaming proud and free. Now, the author of "The Cat Who Came for Christmas" shares the remarkable stories of the countless animals who have been saved from death's door at the Black Beauty Ranch in East Texas, a sanctuary Amory himself founded.

Ranch of Dreams: The Country's Most Unusual Sanctuary, Where Every Animal Has a Story Details

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From Reader Review Ranch of Dreams: The Country's Most Unusual Sanctuary, Where Every Animal Has a Story for online ebook

Tricia says

This book made we want to take my love for animals and open a place to take in abandoned and abused animals

Linda says

More than a bit over-done with the rescue efforts and animal cruelty, but definitely some interesting information and anecdotes. Can't help but admire the dedication that goes into such an enterprise.

Alfredo says

Very small fast reading book (finished it in 3 sets).

More than a "book", it's a conversation and a bit of a rant from Cleveland Amory, the author to his readers. If you love animals, care for them and consider them sentient beings, you will definitely shed a tear at some horrendous mistreatment and neglect stories of rescue that Amory writes about.

I liked the tone of the book, but is not a piece of art.

But if fulfills its objective: makes you feel more conscious about all the atrocities our four legged friends have to suffer at the hands of stupid humans, and also
You feel the need to visit Black Beauty ranch to see how the animals are thriving.

Seems like a book to give your teen-preteen kids so they can know more about how animals should be respected and treated.

Jane Greene says

Ranch of Dreams is a sanctuary for abused and rescued animals. Cleveland Amory does a very nice job of balancing the sadness and cruelty of each animal's life with the animals subsequent rescue, protection and tranquil life they lead when they come to the Ranch of Dreams. I did have a difficult time reading about the cruelty these animals endured and often was moved to tears. Mr. Amory's description of events and steps taken to change laws, initiate and orchestrate rescues lets his readers know that good people with compassionate kind hearts can make a difference. I would love to visit his Ranch someday and applaud all those who work hard each day to maintain the Ranch and provide safety and love to the animals that live there.

Mander Pander says

I remember reading "Black Beauty" (innumerable times) as a little kid and having the biggest of relief that the horse finally gets to relax and enjoy a piece of the good life at the end...sorry for the spoiler alert, anyone who hasn't read this beloved piece of classic literature.

Even though I want to cry 1,000 oceans when I read about animal cruelty and neglect, it gives my cold heart a sliver of hope to know that Black Beauty Ranch is REAL. It's a REAL PLACE. Just.... fifteen hundred acres of rescued animals of all varieties and backgrounds, finally able to hang out in the sunshine. Shut up and take my money, Black Beauty Ranch.

Taking a tour is now added to my bucket list.

PS to the people who did these things to animals: Karma is a real thing.

Cynthia says

It is a super short read. Once you read it you will never go to the circus or zoo again.

Amy Bailey says

This book was a worth-while read. I have to say, however, I didn't expect how depressing it would be. I thought it would be more about the ranch and the great things they do, rather than the sad sob-stories of all the horrible things we people have done over the centuries to any and all kind of animals with which we share our world. It is an important things for people to see and to know. Most individuals close their eyes to the suffering we've always put up with, and even condoned through our practices as consumers. I love Cleveland Amory, but I think I prefer the tears I get from his Polar Bear series as opposed to the tears of actual heart break that this book inspired.

Laura says

read it I finally did, and in one sitting. I have to say, though, that this is one of the sadder animals books I've read. Yes, of course, it is about the Black Beauty Ranch which does truly amazingly wonderful things for animals and which I am very, very grateful is in existance. And yes, there are happy endings to a lot of the animal stories presented, but Amory also gives the horrible beginnings to these stories (and to some that don't end as well). I found myself alterating between very upset and very angry at the way animals have been treated in the past. (I suppose it doesn't help that I so recently read a book all about the mistreatment to and injustices done to animals.) I know from other sanctuary books that it is possible to make them much more uplifting, and I suppose I was hoping for that here as well. Nonetheless, a good read if only to make me more familiar with the Ranch. It's too bad they aren't open to the public as much as they used to be - in 2005 they shut down public access except for special occassions. This book did make me want to go and check the place out, especially the burros! I'll have to see when their next event is.

Karen says

Good book. Cleveland Amory founded the Fund for Animals when almost no animal rights groups were in existence. One of his staff eventually left and went to Greenpeace and now operates Sea Shepard- the marine conservation ship that uses very aggressive direct sabotage tactics to protect whales etc. Interesting, if you're interested.

Karen

LibraryCin says

Cleveland Amory started an animal sanctuary in Texas, the Black Beauty Ranch. They've had cats, burros, horses, chimpanzees (including Nim Chimpsky), elephants, foxes, prairie dogs, goats and probably others that aren't coming to my head at this moment. This book tells how the sanctuary got started and many stories of the animals that have come to live there.

I really enjoyed this! It was very fast to read and there were separate chapters devoted to each species. He does also tell of some of the sad stories that led to the various critters coming to live there.

Peacegal says

If you know an animal lover, particularly one in their golden years, who adores pets but doesn't really "get" animal welfare issues, *Ranch of Dreams* is the perfect book to recommend.

Beloved writer and proud "curmudgeon" Cleveland Amory writes about Black Beauty Ranch, the pioneering animal sanctuary he founded, and its many special residents, who range from feral burros to rescued circus elephants.

The heartwarming stories are the proverbial spoonful of sugar that is matched with the "medicine"--facts about the treatment of animals in a variety of situations that caused the Ranch's charges to require rescue in the first place.

Megalion says

A good book for any animal lover. However, I was shocked at the revelations about the San Diego zoo elephant. I visited the wild animal park many time starting in mid 90s and from what I saw, they treated all the animals in a similar fashion to black beauty ranch, excepting the breeding programs which is vital to the survival of many species even if mr armory doesn't believe in it (he's quite scornful actually).

Also, he speaks as though no one ever looked out for Nim until he did which isn't true. I've read other books that show that there were people who tried to keep Nim from the labs as well. It's an interesting contrast to his earlier complaint that the park service claims all the credit for saving the grand canyon burros.

Regardless, it's still a very good book to read even if you have to take some of what he says with a grain of salt. Sad and heartwarming stories, wonderful animals to wish to meet!

Rachel says

The Black Beauty Ranch in Texas is a sanctuary for abused and otherwise unwanted animals. Over a thousand acres today, it started as 85 acres whose first resident was a kitten who dragged herself to the front gates with one leg caught in a leghold trap. Run by the Fund for Animals, the first major rescue undertaken was of the 577 burros living in the Grand Canyon, whom the Grand Canyon National Park Service had decided to shoot. The Ranch now has a variety of animals from orphaned kinkajous to retired circus elephants.

Amory is a life-long animal activist and former TV critic. He was nearly 80 when he wrote this book, but I remember reading his TV reviews from 40 years ago and he was always curmudgeonly. Some people might find this grating; I rather enjoy it. Mainly, it shows in that he's not afraid to call out the people and agencies who have the reputation for protecting and caring for animals but who are, at best, indifferent. In recounting the Fund's fight to save wild mustangs in Nevada, he describes the National Park Service as "cowardly and cruel," and the Bureau of Land Management as "crooked and cruel." In the case of an elephant who was beaten with axe handles by several keepers at the revered San Diego Zoo for several hours (in order to discipline her for swinging her head around at a keeper), Amory names all of the people involved in the cover-up, including Joan Embry, who had been one of the Tonight Show's most popular regular guests.

Because of stories like this, *Ranch of Dreams* isn't a particularly happy book. It looks like it's going to be a heartwarming tale of rescued animals -- and in parts it is -- but it's primarily about the abuses that take place by government agencies, some zoos, and circuses. It's a very good book, but also a distressing one.

Sue says

I am so glad that there are people like Cleveland Amory and places of refuge for animals for sanctuary. So proud of that man and his supporters. A very remarkable history of animals who received Sanctuary when they needed it the most. I will definitely pass this book on for others to read.

Debbie Nowak says

Animal lovers unite!
