

# BOOKRAPT™

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## **What's Your Favourite Animal? by Eric Carle and friends**

**Publisher: Walker Books**

**RRP \$27.99**

An amazing array of animals fills the pages of this colourful picture book. The large-size format allows the creatures plenty of room to strut their stuff.

Fourteen award-winning children's picture book artists focus on their favourite animals. The resulting text and art work displays their wide range of styles and choices of animal. It's a marvellous mix of art and personal commentary.

Some of the favourites are imaginative beings while others are real life animals. The text can be quite revealing about the artists' fondness for their pets. For example, Peter McCarty talks about his soft-eyed rabbit, "We have a bunny. I can't believe this bunny. He eats out of his favourite ceramic bowl, drinks from a water dispenser and poops and pees in a litter box!"

A personal favourite is Rosemary Wells 'A Dog on My Bed' which shows a child and a small dog in various positions - with the dog eventually getting the prime spot. Susan Jeffers wild horses are glorious animals. While Steven Kellog wonders if his love of cows comes from his grandmother talking about the 'cowlick' on the top of his head.

A nice touch on the final pages is childhood photos of the artists alongside a brief biography. The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art is also featured at the back of the book. All the royalties for this outstanding hardback go to the non-profit Carle Museum of Picture Book Art set up to inspire a love of art and reading through picture books.

The Carle Museum is creating a [special exhibition](#) to celebrate the book *What's Your Favourite Animal?* The original work of the fourteen published artists will be showcased as well as a digital exhibition from friends around the world.

People of all ages are invited to submit a digital image of an original work of art depicting their own favourite animal. Submissions will be seen on a digital screen in the gallery from April 8-August 31 and will be included in an online exhibition that will live on the museum's blog. Submissions will be accepted until 1 August 2014.

For more information see the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art:

[www.carlemuseum.org](http://www.carlemuseum.org)

**Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett**

