



Dog Days and Dandelions: A Lively Guide to the Animal Meanings Behind Everyday Words

Martha Barnette

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From *apian* (like a bee) to *zodiac* (little-animals circle), a word book that spots the animal origins of words and names

There are mice in your *muscles*, and blackbirds in your *merlot*. Behind adulation is a dog's wagging tail. *Peculiar* houses a herd of cattle. *Grubby* is crawling with bugs. Wordhound Martha Barnette collects more than 300 common (and a few not-so-common) words that have surprising animal roots. Tracing word origins back to ancient Greek and Latin as well as to European roots and American slang, the entries offer a guided tour through literature, science, folklore, politics, and more--with a wilderness of animal meanings at every turn.

For *fledgling* word *sleuths* as well as those who *fawn* over etymologies, this is a delightful smorgasbord for writers, students, and word lovers.

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