

Mary Engelbreit's

CELEBRATING

10

ARTFUL YEARS

Home Companion

our **10th anniversary** issue
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creatures comfort

caring for our animal companions

◦ TONGUE-IN-BEAK ARTWORK ◦



Artist Judy Paul is doing her part to “keep Austin weird” (as the locals in the Texas state capital like to say). “Birds Watching,” one of her collages, is a sly look at black birds on telephone wires observing the world below. The 16-by-20-inch work of vintage paper, acrylic paint, and gold leaf on a birch panel sells for \$375. Other new works include “Feeling Sheepish” and “Feeling Twice as Sheepish,” featuring—yep—sheep. If you can’t afford a full-size original, you can buy signed greeting cards based on her works for a mere \$2.50 each.

Peck out judypaul.com on your computer for ordering information and to see more of Judy’s recent offerings.

saying good-bye

The pain felt by those who have lived with and then lost an animal companion is very real and often devastating. To help people cope, Diane Pomerance, a certified grief recovery expert, has written a new book, *Finding Peace After the Loss of a Loved Animal Companion* (2006, Polaire Publications). The book affirms the feelings experienced by grieving family members and offers suggestions for working through them.

“Loss is inevitable and grief is cumulative,” Diane says. “Don’t be ashamed or embarrassed to feel grief over the loss of a beloved animal.”

Younger readers might find the following books comforting: *Dog Heaven* (1995, Blue Sky Press) and *Cat Heaven* (1997, Blue Sky Press), with text and illustrations by Cynthia Rylant.



Good and Good for You

Researchers in Australia say young children growing up with cats or dogs are **30% less likely** to get stomach flu than children in non-pet households.



HELP FOR STRESSED-OUT CRITTERS

If Spot or Snowball panics during storms or when left alone, a snug coat may provide relief.

The Anxiety Wrap, created by Indiana animal trainer Susan Sharpe, is a stretchy wrap that tightly hugs the animal. According to the *Whole Dog Journal*, it has a soothing effect, much like swaddling calms an upset infant. The wrap is available in nine sizes for dogs at selected pet stores. Custom sizes for dogs and cats are available by calling (877) 652-1266.

To read more, visit anxietywrap.com. More information on the *Whole Dog Journal* is available at whole-dog-journal.com or by calling (800) 829-9165.

Legal Eagles or Legal Beagles?

The more pets become part of the family in this country, the more government has become involved in matters relating to animal rights, custody issues, pet trusts, and malpractice suits. This has led to more lawyers specializing in animal law. Even institutions like Harvard and Columbia universities now offer animal law classes. 🐾

Visit thepetguardian.com to learn more.