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Picture Books Teach Children to Appreciate Animals

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (October 2, 2006) – The PALS Foundation, a guiding entity in humane advocacy, has designated October “National Animal Safety and Protection Month,” and children’s author and animal enthusiast Jean Heilprin Diehl has several suggestions on how to teach children animal appreciation.

Diehl, an award-winning author and adoptive mother to springer spaniel Miles, explains, “I have always loved animals—especially loons—and I think it’s very important that children learn to care for and love animals at an early age.” Her picture book, “Loon Chase,” is illustrated by Kathryn Freeman and tells the story of a boy and his mother’s peaceful canoe ride with their dog. Their trip is interrupted when their dog, exhibiting instincts similar to animals in the wild, begins chasing a family of loons. But the dog quickly learns that he is no match for the mother loon as she aggressively protects her young chicks.

“I know that as a child I was fascinated by animals—and I hope that children today continue to be so,” Diehl continues. “I would also recommend ‘Christmas Eve Blizzard’ by Andrea Vlahakis, ‘Carolina’s Story: Sea Turtles Get Sick Too!’ by Donna Rathmell and ‘Turtles In My Sandbox’ by Jennifer Keats Curtis to any parent or teacher who would like to instill a love and appreciation for animals in their children.”

“Loon Chase” is an Accelerated Reader title and has been vetted for scientific accuracy by the Maine Audubon Society. In addition, the book includes an educational section that contains loon fun facts, facts about loons in Native American culture and a “Make-a-Loon-Mask” craft. The picture book has been featured in The Washington Post and Karen MacPherson’s book reviews column for the Scripps-Howard News Service. It has also received complimentary reviews from *School Library Journal*, *Midwest Book Review* and the *Horn Book Guide*.

Sylvan Dell Publishing is on a mission to create picture books that excite children’s imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. “Christmas Eve Blizzard,” “Carolina’s Story: Sea Turtles Get Sick Too!” and “Turtles In My Sandbox” are also scientifically accurate Sylvan Dell titles and contain a “For Creative Minds” educational section like “Loon Chase.” Readers can ask for Sylvan Dell titles at their favorite local or online bookstore. For more information, visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com or call Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600.