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## Chasing Doctor Dolittle: Learning the Language of Animals

By Slobodchikoff, Con.

St. Martin's. 1 Cloth(s), 2012. hard. Book Condition: New. Not unlike the book and film Doctor Dolittle, in which the veterinarian spoke to his animal friends in their own languages of grunts, whistles, and body movements, biologist Con Slobodchikoff and his team at the Animal Language Institute have spent decades learning the language of prairie dogs. They have amassed considerable data showing that these social rodents have a lot to say to each other, and are even able to convey physical descriptions of researchers. Other studies show that lizards, squid, monkeys, and birds are talking to each other, communicating information about food, predators, squabbles, and petty jealousies."Con Slobodchikoff has done some fantastic work on animal communication. His research on prairie dog language is mind-blowing."Temple Grandin"[Slobodchikoff] seamlessly intersperses wry, fascinating animal examples of language use and style with examples of human interaction that illuminate the complexity of animal communication. [He] puts the world of animal communication into a realm that readers can readily understand, appreciate, and marvel at."Library Journal 308.



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