

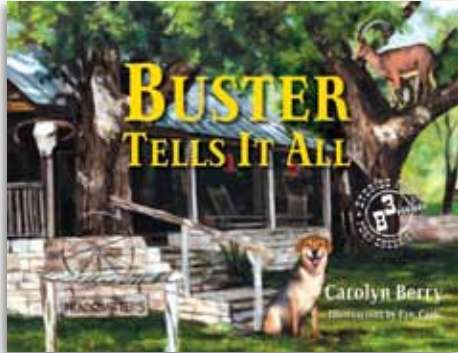


BUSTER TELLS IT ALL



For Immediate Release

“Buster Tells It All”: Stories From Pony Creek Ranch



DALLAS, TEXAS – Howdy and welcome to Pony Creek Ranch! My name is Buster, head dog and foreman of the ranch, located in Paluxy, Texas, just outside the Big D — as in Dallas. I’ve been appointed to be your official spokesman and tour guide by Carolyn Berry, who owns the ranch with her husband, Jim, and is the official author of “Buster Tells It All” the first in a new children’s book series (**Brown Books Publishing Group**), written to educate young readers about the importance of compassion, loyalty, trustworthiness and honesty.

Can you imagine living on a thousand acre-ranch in the state of Texas as one of a menagerie of rescued, abandoned or orphaned animals and wildlife from all around the world? Can you visualize being surrounded by breathtaking landscape, log cabins, waterfalls and game-trodden hiking trails?

Without fences or fear, these protected animals live together as a family in the safety of Pony Creek Ranch, and it is my job to watch over and care for our animal pals. We think of the ranch as a kind of “Out of Africa in Texas” — a private animal reserve where humans and animals come together as one, helping each another regardless of race, color or species.

In the first of the *Stories From Pony Creek Ranch* series, Mrs. Berry introduces young readers to a story of the love, friendship and support that can exist between animals and people. Imagine a dog (that would be me) aiding a distressed newborn Nubian ibex named April, who has been abandoned by her mother, and a human (that would be Mrs. Berry) taking on the responsibility of mom, teaching April how to drink goat’s milk from a bottle to ensure she receives the proper nutrition.

“Animals living out in the wild have a tough life challenged by disease, fights with other animals and finding food,” says my pal Jack Hanna, director emeritus of the Columbus Zoo. “To the rescue comes Pony Creek Ranch!”

“The honesty given by an animal shows us who they are. Their trust, when earned, stirs our compassion and reminds us of our own humanity,” adds Mrs. Berry.

Pony Creek Ranch is an exceptional place where people are invited to experience things they otherwise would never know. For example, children living in dire conditions who are fortunate enough to be in the Teach For America educational program: when they come to the ranch for a visit it’s truly amazing to watch them experience things for the first time! They go home with a different sense of what life is all about.

So many lives have been touched or changed because of my animal friends, and their impact has made quite a difference. I hope you enjoyed your visit. Please join us again on our next big adventure!

See you soon,

Buster 🐾

*A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Teach For America program and the SPCA

To learn more visit: www.teachforamerica.com; or www.sPCA.com

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BUSTER TELLS IT ALL



About Carolyn Berry

Carolyn Berry was born in Dallas and is a life-long Texan. Her blended family — including four sons, one daughter and two daughters-in-law — has given her the true blessing of being called “Mom.” Her husband, Jim, is the “love of her life and the light of her night.”

He has shared his dream at Pony Creek Ranch and opened the door for her to share her love of animals. Her involvement with zoos, schools, humane societies, Operation Kindness and other organizations has given Carolyn the opportunity to experience the deep respect that can be forged between man and animal, which can make the world a better place.



About Pony Creek Ranch

Pony Creek Ranch is an animal reserve located near Glen Rose, Texas. Rescuing and taking in abandoned or orphaned animals is the most important aspect of the ranch. The Berry family keeps and cares for all of these abandoned or rescued animals. Without fences or fear, these protected animals live together as a family in the safety of Pony Creek Ranch.

Jim and Carolyn Berry run the one thousand-acre ranch filled with endangered and protected wildlife — plus a few other better-known animals. The ranch provides a sanctuary and safe home for them.

This book grew from the love of animals and the desire to help children understand the importance of properly treating animals of all kinds. The honesty given by an animal shows us who they are. Their trust, when earned, stirs our compassion and reminds us of our own humanity. Nature is God’s masterpiece, and we can each make a difference in how we treat our animal friends. It is up to us to work together to get along — all of us.



Brown Books Publishing Group • www.brownbooks.com
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BUSTER TELLS IT ALL



Excerpt from “Buster Tells It All”



Baby grew up surrounded by the Pony Creek family. She’s friends with everyone here on the ranch. But she especially likes Cody and Sugarbec. They aren’t even white-tailed deer. Cody is a Dama gazelle, and Sugarbec is a blackbuck antelope. Those three go everywhere together. But Baby was the one to figure out how to get inside by herself.



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BUSTER TELLS IT ALL



Q and A

With Carolyn Berry



What inspired you to write a children's book?

The loss of my niece Becca inspired me. My niece loved animals, and when she was young she worked at Operation Kindness. She always loved her dogs and her bird, Mo. Becca would spend a week each summer at Pony Creek Ranch with us and really get to have the hands-on experience of loving, feeding, raising and caring for all the animals. I would always bring animals back and forth with me to Dallas from the ranch when they were on the bottle and the minute I would drive up to our home, Becca would be waiting at the door wanting to meet and feed the new baby!

Is "Buster Tells It All" a true story?

The stories I have written are all experiences I have had while raising animals at Pony Creek. So many of the stories I have scratched on paper occurred while Becca was living — particularly the two that I wrote in this book. She was able to know and raise both Baby and April with me.

Where is Pony Creek Ranch located?

It is located in North Texas 17 miles from Glen Rose or 17 miles from Granbury.

What motivated your family to turn the ranch into an animal preserve for endangered animals and wildlife?

Just the love for animals — you start to help and the next thing you know, you're trying to save everything. Initially my husband Jim and his father raised a small section of cattle at the ranch, then Jim dedicated a small area to African game — only zebra and ostrich. With time, especially in the last fifteen years, the exotics became our sole stock.



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Can you describe some of the animals who live at the ranch? For example, what is a Nubian ibex and where did they originate?

As the book states, Nubians are from Afghanistan, but we have several species. We have sable antelope, roan antelope, wildebeest, axis deer, kudu, Arabian oryx, Watusi, addax and several more.

With such a variety of endangered animals and wildlife living on the ranch, are there ever close call moments? Do they somehow manage to get along for the most part?

That's what's so fascinating! I would be crazy to say they get along perfectly; there will always be a "pecking order" with animals, as with people. For the most part what I find really interesting are the ones that don't quite "fit in" to their group. They all seem to jell together and get along so incredibly well. In a sense they don't look at each other as to who or what they are — they are just a group of friends. They really don't care if one is a zebra, a pigmy donkey or a gazelle; they just know for some reason they get along, no matter the size, shape, personality or food choice.

How did Buster become the spokesman for Pony Creek?

We had seven dogs: Riley the ranch dog — a caretaker, but he was nobody's friend, just strictly the police — Luke, Homer, Buck, Sweetie Pie, Honey and Buster. Buster came to live with Jim and me when one of our kids left for New Zealand after graduating from college. Buster just had this way with the babies. When they didn't take to the bottle at first, he would lick them and try to act like their mom would. He would play with them and let them lie next to him and feel safe. It was very interesting to watch the way he had such a genuine interest in each animal.

Have you always had a love of animals?

When I was little I used to hand out flyers on the block saying that I would take care of people's animals. One day my mom was watching me roll out chicken wire in the backyard — I was going to make dog runs so I could take care of everyone's dogs. She said that it was all of about 18 inches high with no start and no finish, but I was determined to make it work. As I got older I used to love going to the zoo and watching Suzette Shelmire run the children's part. I wanted to be just like her; back then everything was hands-on. I read every book about animals and watched every "National Geographic" show I could.





BUSTER TELLS IT ALL



What lessons do you hope young readers will learn by reading “Buster Tells It All”?

Compassion, taking care of one another, treating each other with kindness and loyalty — so many wonderful characteristics come with caring for animals. The overarching message is to love one another. What has been most impactful through the years is watching a child take care of an animal. Once that happens they become compassionate to all mankind overnight.

Trust plays a significant role in your book. Can you explain?

It's very simple: if I can't trust the animal and they can't trust me, then I would have no possible way to treat, care for or feed the animals.

How did your mother's influence impact you?

Mom was kind, and never spoke a bad word about anyone. She gave solely out of love, never expecting anything in return.

Do you have plans to open Pony Creek Ranch to the public so others can experience this magical paradise while learning important life lessons?

Yes, I want children to experience what I am writing about. I would love to have a contest for all children to write a short essay: “Why do you want to come to Pony Creek?” I would love to host twenty kids at a time for an overnight. It's not about the correct grammar used; it's about writing from the heart!

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Teach For America and the SPCA. Can you tell us about Teach For America, how it works and whom it benefits?

Teach For America benefits children who aren't necessarily given the extras in life. The education leaders with Teach For America work to ensure that kids growing up in poverty get an excellent education so they can be given wings to fly. I hope the money donated will give more children the opportunity to be taught by these very educated, fine people who want to give so much of their time. So many children deserve a spot at Teach For America, but like everything else, it all takes money to grow.

“Buster Tells It All” captures the essence of many real-life adventures that have taken place at Pony Creek Ranch. I'm sure there are many more stories to tell. Do you have plans to write another book?

Oh, have I got the stories! Yes, another book would be a real treat!





BUSTER TELLS IT ALL



What People Are Saying

“Animals living out in the wild have a tough life challenged by disease, fights with other animals and finding food. To the rescue comes Pony Creek Ranch! Meet Buster and the rest of his real-life animal friends from around the world. See how they come to each other’s aid in times of need and learn important life lessons along the way.”

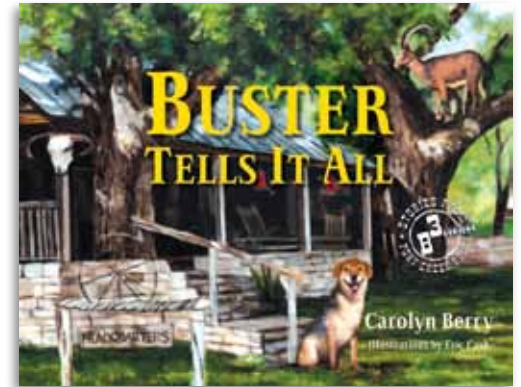
—**Jack Hanna**

Director Emeritus, Columbus Zoo
Host, “Jack Hanna’s Into the Wild”

“An engaging educational story based on a love of animals that captures the essence of what compassion and kindness toward others is all about.”

—**Wendy Kopp**

CEO and founder, Teach For America
CEO and cofounder, Teach For All

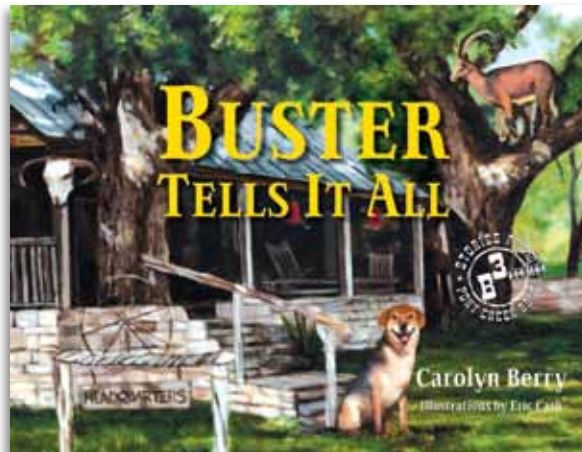


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