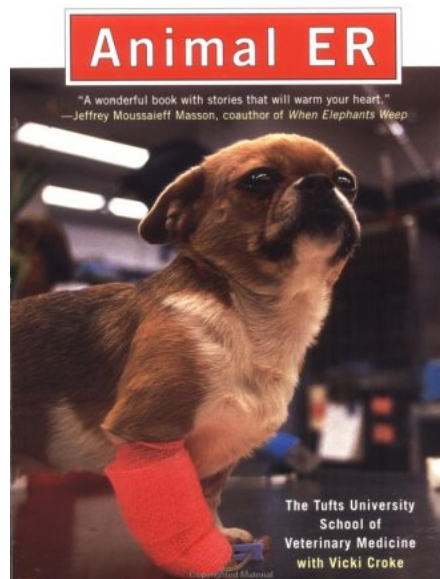


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**Extraordinary Stories of Hope and Healing**  
from One of the World's Leading Veterinary Hospitals



## **Animal E.R.**

*Vicki Constantine Croke*

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# Animal E.R.

*Vicki Constantine Croke*

**Animal E.R.** Vicki Constantine Croke

Written in collaboration with the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine by a **Boston Globe** reporter and author who was granted rare access to their emergency ward, **Animal ER** takes us into the day-to-day drama of life on the front lines of veterinary medicine. In this premier animal facility, experts in the fields of surgery, internal medicine, cardiology, ophthalmology, and oncology provide care for patients of all shapes, sizes, and breeds. Here, operations using state-of-the-art technology go hand in hand with personal counseling for owners and pets in crisis. From a pygmy hedgehog with mites to an elephant with an eye problem to the Dalmatian who must undergo disc surgery for his back...from the close calls to the split-second decisions that can save a life, **Animal ER** is a moving testament to the healing powers of love and medicine-and to the timeless bond between people and their pets.

## Animal E.R. Details

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Author : Vicki Constantine Croke

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## **From Reader Review Animal E.R. for online ebook**

### **Megr says**

Having been a vet tech in specialty practices for many years, I could relate to some of the situations in this book. Not only for vet professionals, interesting (funny & enlightening) for any animal lovers.

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### **Maggie says**

This should be required reading for every veterinary medical and veterinary technology student.

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### **Lea says**

This book is a must read for animal lovers, especially if you are or aspire to be apart of the veterinary field.

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### **Lori Schiele says**

"Animal ER" was a well-written book that well described the ins and outs of a veterinary emergency hospital (at Tufts University): from the varied and often bizarre cases that are seen, to the type of people it takes to do such a stressful, yet rewarding job. The staff of a veterinary ER/ICU is much like one big family.

I would have given the book 5 stars, however, for me, although I greatly enjoyed the book, it also reminded me of how much I still miss my old job. I spent over 15 years working in a veterinary ICU and they were some of the best times of my life. To see a nearly-dead animal arrive and, a week later, watch it leave--once again happy and healthy--with its thankful owners is a feeling like no other. To stay hours after your shift, to go that extra mile, to work hard and pray hard in order to save the life of an animal is simply incredible. As I mentioned above, it was a very stressful job, but more rewarding than anyone could ever imagine. Having to give it up due to health issues was a traumatic experience for me, and I still miss it every single day.

But for anyone who is interested in seeing "inside the ICU", Animal ER is clear and concise and true to life. It can be read by older children and adults alike. There are happy moments and sad moments, but in the end--like the job itself--they all even out and make every single moment worthwhile.

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### **Margaret says**

Amazing! Recommended for any animal lover.

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## **Megalion says**

Really good read as an animal lover and longtime rescue volunteer.

Gives you a good insiders perspective on what the other side is like in the animal ER. Also useful for learning about different disorders and how miracles happen and when things just don't work.

There's a lot of sad stories but I was able to read without getting too emotional.

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## **Dlora says**

I checked out *Animal ER* because I had so enjoyed Vicki Croke's handling of *The Elephant Company*. However, that book followed the life of James Howard Williams and read like a story. *Animal ER* is more a series of anecdotes illustrating the various aspects of an emergency vet hospital. While I enjoy animals and like medical details, this book was less engrossing than *The Elephant Company* (both nonfiction and short stories are usually on my less-liked lists). However, I was fascinated by the similarities and dissimilarities of animal versus human medical procedures. Did you know that very few animals can be resuscitated unlike humans (code blue!)? (A fun tidbit was learning that animals "are particularly drawn to items that smell like their beloved owners," which is why veterinarians are often pulling out underpants and nylons from a dog's innards.) Very few pets carry medical insurance, unlike humans, which makes decisions about medical procedures more complicated. Nor do animals have a voice to explain where they are hurting, when their pain began, or if they want to keep trying or give up. In fact, the chapter that hit me the hardest was "Tough Decisions: When to End the Suffering and When To Keep Trying." I couldn't help comparing these decisions about putting a pet down with end-of-life decisions for a human life. How do you weigh cost versus gain, level of suffering, quality of life, persevering or giving up? How much time remaining to be with loved ones is worth the trade off?

Pet ICU is front-line emotion, where owners frantically rush the very most traumatized animals. "It's not unheard of for an admitting resident to see every patient die within a shift." One doctor said that in explaining a pet's chances, she felt her job was to understand the owners' relationship with their pet and get a sense of how they feel. "The hardest thing is, I think, not saying anything until you get a clue as to where they're leaning. I never want to prematurely push anyone in any direction. But when I hear their leanings, I can encourage them toward that." I think I expected this book to be more like James Herriot's, *All Creatures Great and Small*, the humorous, sweet story of a country vet. This book is more technical, more informational, more high powered, and perhaps better likened to TV's *ER*.

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## **Joanna Casale says**

I loved reading the stories however found this to be a poorly written book with many errors.

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## **Krazeeg says**

Interesting read.

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**Petra X says**

If you buy this book secondhand really cheap and only use it for cleaning up animal messes then maybe its worth while, otherwise, scratch your bum, its less of a waste of time.

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**Lisa says**

Not for the faint of heart and a good primer for those drawn to working with animals, especially in the vet field.

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**Sandie says**

Enjoyed it. Gave you a good understanding of what goes on in an animal ER!

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