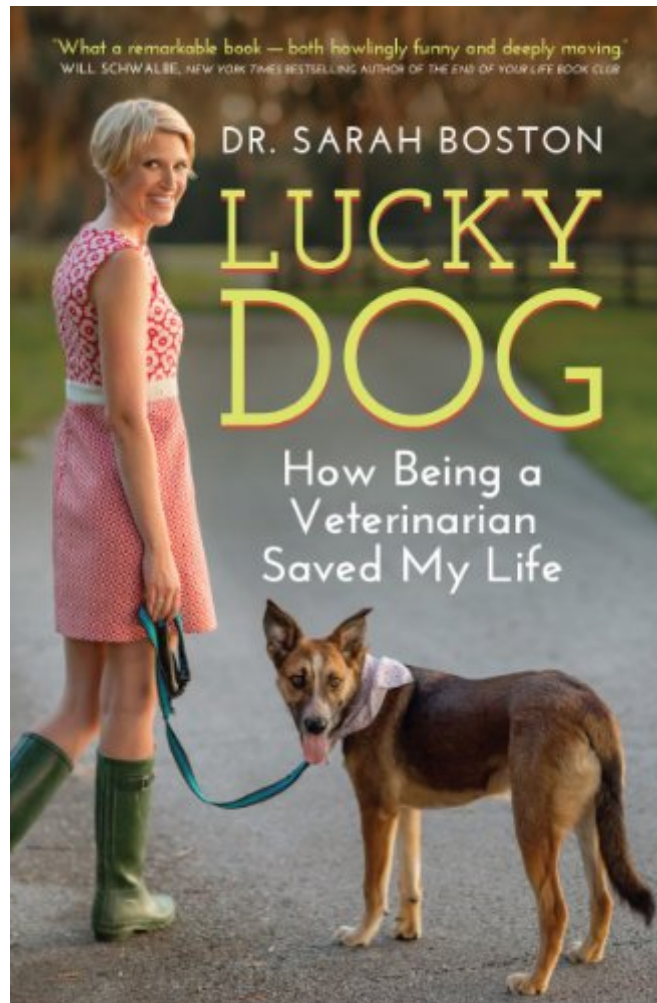




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Lucky Dog: How Being A Veterinarian Saved My Life



Synopsis

Lucky Dog is a hilarious and heartwarming memoir by a renowned veterinary oncologist who tells us what we can learn about health care and ourselves from our most beloved pets. What happens when a veterinary surgical oncologist (laymen's term: cancer surgery doctor) thinks she has cancer herself? Enter Sarah Boston: a vet who suspects a suspicious growth in her neck is thyroid cancer. From the moment she uses her husband's portable ultrasound machine to investigate her lump — she's a vet, too — it's clear this will not be your typical cancer memoir. She takes us on a hysterical and thought-provoking journey through the human health care system from the perspective of an animal doctor. Weaving funny and poignant stories of dogs she's treated along the way, this is an insightful memoir about what the human medical world can learn from the way we treat our canine counterparts. Lucky Dog teaches us to trust our instincts, be our own advocates, and laugh while we're doing it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reading this as a specialist veterinary surgical oncologist (trained by the same "legend" as Dr

Boston) and as a cancer patient I can take a focussed perspective on this publication. She nailed it. However, the health care system I experience in Australia is not as sloth like as the Canadian system was for Sarah. Like her, my health care team is fantastic. Also like her I can see that were I a dog the whole process would be barely punctuated by any waiting periods. The families of my patients wait an average of 48 hours for histopathology (biopsy) results for instance. Work ups and surgery can be on the same day in many circumstances. Although cancer is a chronic disease, suspicion of a cancer diagnosis or seeking treatment for a diagnosed cancer is an emergency for the patient and their families. Veterinary oncologists treat cancer this way. We do this because we can and I realise this is not always possible with the constraints imposed on human health care. Sarah's book is not a whinge about the human health care system, it is not a description of one persons cancer battle, it is so much more. Like so many of us in this profession, Sarah knows the importance of translational research. This means the knowledge gained by treating pets with cancer translates to knowledge about human cancer and vice versa. She is part of this "one-cancer" approach. Her language in the book is fresh, funny and tangible. There is passion in the paragraphs and it is not "over-the-top". As others have commented, you will laugh and cry. Sarah is an advocate for her own health, her patients, their owners and by writing this book, she has supported all of us who fight daily to help pets with cancer all over the world. We are lucky dogs! Thanks Dr Boston.

I highly recommend Dr. Boston's book to anyone, whether you are an animal lover or cancer survivor or just a human on this planet. She cleverly and sweetly weaves her story about diagnosing her own thyroid cancer and navigating the Canadian health system with her experiences as a veterinary surgical oncologist. Throughout her story, she indirectly gives great advice to those of us with pets in how to give respect to veterinary medicine and respect to those professionals are passionate about it. This issue is of special importance to me as I have a sister who is a successful veterinarian. I came across this book by reading a story about it in the University of Florida's newsmagazine, while, ironically, waiting for my husband to come out of surgery at Shands U of FL Hospital. I pre-ordered Dr. Boston's book that very day and quickly read the 300 page book last night upon its arrival from , laughing out loud several times and shedding a few tears along the way. After reading of her challenges with the Canadian health system, I have a renewed appreciation for our American health system, albeit not a perfect one. We certainly have experienced the best of doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals at Shands U of FL teaching hospital for humans! Thank you, Dr. Boston, for sharing your experiences and for giving hope to those of us with pets whose quality and quantity of life can often be made better by you and your colleagues' knowledge,

expertise, dedication and compassion. Respectfully submitted, Terri Whitacre, owner of an adorable toy poodle, Roxie

This book had much more depth than I was actually expecting. It draws comparisons not only between human and veterinary medicine but the American healthcare system and the socialized system in Canada, as well. I was pleasantly reminded of the access to cutting edge healthcare Americans have that we often take for granted (assuming you can afford it, of course!). As someone who is an advocate for a more socialized system in the U.S., it was refreshing to see the reality that both platforms have their problems, as well as solutions. As a vet student (3rd year), I love that Dr. Boston owns her title and the letters behind her name, as I'm sure that she undoubtedly earned them. Being a veterinary surgical oncologist requires years of specialized study and training (4 years of undergrad + 4 years of vet school + 3-5 years average for post-doctoral training + fellowship in subspecialty). It cannot be underestimated what an accomplishment this is. Even so, I think veterinarians even at this level struggle to be on equal footing with our physician counterparts, as is illustrated at times in the book. I think the tone or attitude that has been commented on is only reflective of the amount of hard work and sacrifice Dr. Boston has put into her career, and her opinion should be valued. This book effortlessly draws parallels between being a human patient while also being a veterinarian. I consider myself to be an empathetic person, but her accounts have made me see our patients in an even newer light. This book is a fun (I cracked up SO many times) and educational book for everyone, but especially those in healthcare. We can all learn from each other, and Dr. Boston and her book have paved just a little path for us to follow.

As a veterinarian, I don't usually read veterinarian books or animal books. I gave it at the office. But was recommended by a colleague so thought I would check it out. The book was so well-written and such an engaging story that I really enjoyed it.

As an oncology nurse practitioner this account of diagnosis and treatment of thyroid cancer spoke to me on several levels. My practice was based in the US, just across the border from Ontario, Canada. The comparison I saw between US and Canadian systems was an eye opener. Speed of intervention was a goal for us. I think lay people could get lost in the science presented. If so just skip over it. It is the human experience that you will take away.

This first-time author delighted me with her wit, her prose, and her insight along her journey through

cancer, the Canadian and American health care systems, and veterinary surgeries big and small. It reads like a good novel, and I found I couldn't put it down. Hope to hear more from this multi-talented author!

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