



## Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog in the World'

*Cathy Luchetti*

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# **Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog in the World'**

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## **Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog in the World' Cathy Luchetti**

Every once in a lifetime something magical happens, something so special it leaves us breathless. And although we want it to last forever, we know that nothing ever does. In the early 1990's David Hartwig, a Texas cowboy with dreams of rodeo stardom, struggled to support his family and, in doing so, discovered a dog with talents he himself could never realize.

Together with David, Skidboot shot to international fame, despite tumultuous events that nearly sent this rural family to the brink. Skidboot is a true story of loyalty, sacrifice, discipline, love, and companionship. Skidboot--there will never be another.

## **Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog in the World' Details**

Date : Published June 10th 2013 by Naretev (first published May 13th 2013)

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Author : Cathy Luchetti

Format : Kindle Edition 326 pages

Genre : Animals, Dogs, Autobiography, Memoir, Nonfiction

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## **From Reader Review Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog in the World' for online ebook**

### **Jennifer Moore says**

Wonderful :) This writer has such a witty and wonderful narrative voice. I truly enjoyed this story from beginning to end. I love dogs, so this book struck a chord with me, but biases aside, I truly loved the story-telling quality of this writer. I was rooting for this family & I genuinely enjoyed this book. This was a sweet story based on a real pup & a sweet family. It brought a smile to my face. A tale of great friendship.

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### **Marianne says**

A fun story about a dog that (apparently) touched a lot of lives. I don't remember ever hearing or seeing about the dog, but it is a touching story about how a mutt changed the direction of the lives of the owners. This would have made a great movie.....but alas.....it never was to be. I watched all the videos, however, of this dog performing on Oprah, Jay Leno and other shows.

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### **Maggie Mines says**

#### **Skidboot.**

If you want to read another dog book you must read about Skidboot. This was a great read from beginning to end.

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### **Project Skidboot says**

<http://www.amazon.com/Skidboot-The-Sm...>

Skidboot Book Reviews!!!

Doghood, June 5, 2013

By Peggy Vincent "author and reader" (Oakland, CA) - See all my reviews  
(REAL NAME)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Paperback)  
I was privileged to be asked to read/edit the beta version of this terrific book.

It's a hilarious rendition/documentation/history of the amazing Blue Heeler, Skidboot.

The story is really astounding, but the writing is also part of what makes the book so engaging. Cathy writes in a rollicking style that perfectly suits this Texas dog and his rodeo cowboy owner. The wording of some of her passages made me laugh aloud at the dog-hood-ness of the story. It's a doggone good book, a doggone quick read about one doggone smart dog...and the man who knew how to handle the critter that's probably the most intelligent dog ever born.

5.0 out of 5 stars A great read, June 19, 2013

By Cynthia F. Allen - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Paperback)

When I received an email that a new book about Skidboot was available, I immediately hit the link and bought a copy. I remember watching Skidboot on PetStar many years ago and knew this dog was special (as in one of a kind special)! I still have the original book I ordered from Skidboot's website (along with a letter signed by David Hartwig), but I never knew the whole story about Skidboot or the Hartwigs until now. It's a wonderful, heartwarming story for anyone, but especially those who love animals.

5.0 out of 5 stars Skidboot great summer travel book, June 20, 2013

By Gala - See all my reviews

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Paperback)

As soon as the new book by Cathy Luchetti came out I bought it. Just this year I discovered this great writer. Now Skidboot is quite a departure from her previous historic books ( which I also highly recommend). although a true story, it reads like a novel and is quite a page turner. I could not put it down despite the fact that I am traveling in Amsterdam with my family. Even if you are not a real dog lover it gives you lot's of insight into the Texan life style with rodeos and such, a place I have actually never been to. It is written very elegantly and fun to read for young and old. My kids kids, ages 10 and 12 are going to read it next.

5.0 out of 5 stars Five Stars for Skidboot from a Veterinarian, June 12, 2013

By Passin' Through - See all my reviews

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Paperback)

I grew up sneaking kibble from dog dishes before becoming a veterinarian and consider my taste in canine books highly trained. This book is gourmet. A blend, not a mix because that wouldn't be authentic. This book recalls John McCormick's Fields and Pastures, James Herriot's All Creatures Great and Small, and certainly Louis L'Amour's great story telling, along with a dash of scientific spice. Skidboot is the smartest dog in the world, a fictionalized biography that will have you scratching the kennels for pups that might grow up or be like the protagonist, and searching the bookshelves for more Cathy Luchetti animal stories and true westerns. Skidboot the real dog and Skidboot, the biography based on the screenplay, are destined to follow Lassie and Rin Tin Tin straight past Snoopy into the hearts of every reader and become the next mischievous, lovable and, yes, most intelligent, adviser to humankind. Steve bo Keeley DVM

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful

5.0 out of 5 stars More than smart, June 10, 2013

By Stan Huncilman (California) - See all my reviews

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Paperback)

You know when a dog is smarter than some of your co-workers that you are in for something special.

Skidboot is the story of a Texas dog that might be the missing link - an animal that thinks like a human.

Author Cathy Luchetti goes beyond the carnival elements without removing the humor and joy inherent in the story.

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5.0 out of 5 stars Hilarious, heartfelt, and touching; highly recommended!, June 8, 2013

By Carrie N. Hall/Schaer (Culver City, CA United States) - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Paperback)

This is, quite simply, NOT your ordinary "dog" story. In fact, it is in a league of its own! Skidboot was and is a "one in a million" pooch! This is a wonderful, funny, touching, and engaging story which deserves to be read by all; I believe this book will also strike a special chord with every child that reads it. I am quite surprised that this story has not been made into a feature film. Hopefully, when this happens, all of the magic present in this book will be successfully captured on screen! Note: Review written by Will Schaer

5.0 out of 5 stars Wonderful Story, July 5, 2013

By Julie (France) - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Kindle Edition)

Have just finished reading this ,firstly thank you to the author Cathy who did such a great job portraying 'Skidboot' & his shared owner /trainer David. It was done with such empathy & understanding,I felt as if I knew him at the end, so thank you so much for sharing his story.

I had never heard of this talented & gifted dog, but immediately went looking for videos & FB pages,& yeah! it's all there. This is a definite 'keeper' & will appeal to all ages,don't hesitate....you'll love it!

5.0 out of 5 stars Skidboot, A Facinating True Story for All Ages!, July 4, 2013

By Mary Elizabeth Harvey "Liz" (Boca Raton, FL) - See all my reviews

(REAL NAME)

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Paperback)

He was a Texas Cattle Dog born to perform and bring smiles to all who saw him. I loved that he also had some endearing idiosyncrasies and even misbehaved at times. He blessed his rather poor owner's lives with miracles but not without some bumps along the way. All through the story I found myself wishing I had seen him "in person" but reading and re-reading Cathy Luchetti's absorbing book was the next best thing!

5.0 out of 5 stars Every dog lover should read this book!, July 3, 2013

By Ladycat (Texas) - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Kindle Edition)

I have read countless dozens of dog books, both fiction and non-fiction, and this is definitely one of the best, maybe THE best. Not only because Skidboot was such an incredible dog, but also because the writer is so talented. I hope this book gets made into a movie- I'll be first in line for a movie about Skidboot!

5.0 out of 5 stars A Ripping Texas Tale, July 3, 2013

By Pet Rock 235 (San Jose, CA USA) - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Paperback)

Skidboot is not only the story of an amazing dog, it is also an immersion into hardscrabble Texas living. One clearly sees the wide open spaces and the wildlife and vegetation that cover it, the struggles of ranch life and small town living. The story is enhanced by Luchetti's writing style which infuses her words with a clear

Southern cadence and a Texas twang. I'd love to hear the author read it aloud.

5.0 out of 5 stars Wow, what a story and what a dog., July 28, 2013

By herk jerk "herk jerk" (san antonio, tx) - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Paperback)

Wow ! What a story and what a dog. This is a must read, not only for animal lovers but for everybody. It's a great story

for kids too, many lessons to be learned here. I couldn't help getting wrapped up in the story and could not put it down.

The gradual realization that they had an almost human dog was most interesting, especially considering Skidboot's

behavior as a puppie. I could go on and on....read the book, you'll see what I mean. I normally don't read animal books, but I knew about Skidboot from seeing him on the Tonight show with Jay Leno....that prompted me to look up u-tube video's. I had hoped a book would be forth coming.

5.0 out of 5 stars Great book!, July 27, 2013

By Rita J. Deere - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Kindle Edition)

Entertaining and worth reading. It is an easy read and keeps your interest. Would like to see more books by this author.

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5.0 out of 5 stars Skidboot, July 27, 2013

By ronda - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Kindle Edition)

Loved the book I will definitely see the movie if there is one. I will be checking out the u tube videos first chance I get . Five stars

Help other customers find the most helpful reviews

5.0 out of 5 stars Graet story, July 25, 2013

By Don Condon - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Kindle Edition)

A truly great dog and man story. They did it together and what a ride it was! From the small county fairs to the Tonight Show they tricked and danced their way to fame. A truly heartwarming and amazing story for beginning to end.

5.0 out of 5 stars Excellent, July 25, 2013

By Virginia - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Kindle Edition)

One of the best stories ever, of a brilliantly wonderful animal. It was great to read about a dog I have seen in

video so many times.

5.0 out of 5 stars Good Read, July 24, 2013

By CCathy - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Kindle Edition)

What a wonderful story. A fun read and hard to put down. Afterwards I went and watched some of the youtube videos. Made me smile.

5.0 out of 5 stars GREAT READ, July 23, 2013

By TERRY LATHAM - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Kindle Edition)

Cathy Luchetti writes a exciting, humorous and heart-warming story about a Cowboy and his extraordinary dog. This is a made for the silver screen tail (sic).

5.0 out of 5 stars Meet This Fabulous Dog, July 16, 2013

By Virginia T. - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Paperback)

"SKIDBOOT" was truly a fabulous dog. He quickly learned to follow instructions from his people, (after a difficult lesson from one of them), and went on to live a joyful life as a performer for community events and Texas rodeos. He brought much happiness to many friends, even horse friends. He became known to multitudes of people, and seemed always to know when he had an audience, but in his home he enjoyed loving family life and relaxation. Travel in many modes was part of his professional life, even being served his food by the airline as he rode from city to city in the business class. This is a biography of a unique animal, to be enjoyed by adults and children. The photographs are precious.

5.0 out of 5 stars Loved this book, July 5, 2013

By Horsegal 2760 - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Skidboot 'The Smartest Dog In The World' (Kindle Edition)

I've always loved dogs and especially working breeds n training. Skidboot was a very unique, extra intelligent dog. The only thing I didn't like about the book was how David constantly shut his wife out, forgetting Skidboot was HER dog.

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## Jen says

Maybe it was the author's writing style, or the fact that the book was loosely based on the screenplay, and, admittedly, also a bit specualated or fictionalized. It just didn't have the same warm feeling as Ronald P. Westmoreland's book about same. I did learn some things I hadn't already known, and I did enjoy hearing all about Skidboot's exploits. I know that everyone trains their dogs differently, and that ranchers, in particular, subscribe to a very "old school" method passed down through generations, but I felt like Skidboot's training

was often more complicated than it had to be. Not necessarily that it was "cruel" but that there was a lot of miscommunication and misunderstanding, at least initially. The pair did develop a relationship and a meeting of the minds with practice, which is part of it. I can't complain.

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### **Grace Cunningham says**

#### **Heartwarming**

Really, how could I not give this a great rating. I love dogs and believe in the human-animal bond. Dogs have been man's best friend for hundreds if not thousands of years. If only more humans were dogs best friend....

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### **Lynda says**

This was an interesting story and could have been very good but it was very poorly written. (and edited) I've seen misspellings in books and thought nothing of it, but this had some misspellings and a lot of poor grammar - and repeating sometimes the same sentence in the same short paragraph. It makes for an interesting read and I agree that Skidboot must have been as smart as they say - but then he should have written the book!

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### **Jami says**

First off, I have to say that Skidboot gets 5++++ stars. I fell in love with Skidboot the first time I saw him on Pet Star, and I just think he is awesome.

That being said, I was disappointed with the book. When I first saw Skidboot and David on Pet Star, I thought how bonded they were based on mutual love. While I have no doubt that David loved Skidboot, the book's focus on Skidboot as a monetary asset and a way to make money left a bad taste and affected the way I viewed David and his relationship with Skidboot. I also had an image of David in my mind as an "aw shucks" mellow kind of guy, but as portrayed in the book, he appears to have a temper at times and not always being very nice to his wife. Not the image I had from Pet Star. I also cringed at his dominating techniques used to train Skidboot, despite the book's protestations that it was the natural order of things.

The other issue I had with the book was the writing/editing. The book switched at times from David's perspective to what Skidboot was thinking; either the book is written from the dog's perspective or it's not - the back and forth was distracting and did not work. Also, there were jumps in time without any explanation. For example, one minute Russell was living at home, and suddenly he was gone to school. The editing also left a lot to be desired, with missing quotes, typos, etc.

So, while I was not thrilled with the mechanics of the book or with some of the realities, the one thing I can say is that I still love Skidboot the dog. I didn't realize he went blind in his later years, due to the same disease that took the sight of my shih-Tzu. The ending was sad, as is most dog books. Now that I'm done with the book, I'm going back to you tube and revisit some of my memories of watching Skidboot perform!

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### **Darlene Hull says**

I absolutely loved this book- what a great story! What an amazing dog. Not sure I would have kept him at the beginning, lol! Well written, and truly very interesting.

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### **Elder Tome says**

Loved Skidboot on TV.  
The book didn't hold my attention as much, but I liked it.

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### **Gene McBride says**

#### **Great and touching story**

Any dog lover will love this story about the smartest dog in the world. I would not have believed it true without seeing it with my own eyes.

Gene

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### **Joel Carpenter says**

Wonderful piece of literature! Cathy really brings the story to life and makes it feel like we all have our own Skidboot right here at home. Here's to a job well done. Thank you, Cathy!

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### **Kay Van Slyke says**

I loved this book. Skidboot's childhood makes Marley of "Marley and Me" look like a Saint. Although some of David Hartwig's training methods may raise the eyebrows of professional dog trainers, clearly Skidboot required "out of the box" thinking. What a wonderful story. There will never be another Skidboot!!! I'd really like to give this a 4.5!!!

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### **Debbie Richards says**

Loved it

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**Justina Hayden says**

In response to enthusiastic reviews, I purchased this to read on my iPhone in the Kindle app. I confess to being underwhelmed. The writing is pedestrian and repetitive. I had a hard time finishing the book.

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