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 **Reviews**
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There is selectivity in many of the narratives of how animals' lives have been shaped by warfare in the 20th century, which often focuses on their bravery and loyalty as they are used and abused on battlefields. Thus in the popular imagination the brutality of the First World War Western Front is now entwined with the experiences of one horse, Joey, who went from farm to fighting- fields and was the focus of Michael Morpogo's *Warhorse* (1982). Few people however are aware of events around which *The Great Cat and Dog Massacre* is pivoted, the destruction of 400,000 cats and dogs in the four days of September 1939 as the Second World War began. This book explores both the attitudes and practices that led up to this massacre and the animal and human relationships that developed in its aftermath.

The Second World War Home Front has been the subject of a range of academic work. Since Calder's seminal work *The People's War* (1969) interrogated the lived experience of everyday life during the conflict. Both he and a number of other writers have challenged the tenacious and inaccurate myth that this was a conflict in which stoical Britains all pulled together, in equality of sacrifice with grim determination and good humour. Within this field of history it is rare that for book to come along which offers a completely new prism through which to think about this war - yet Hilda Kean's scholarly book does exactly this. It seeks to fulfill the aim of those who work in the field of Animal Studies to place animals center stage in the historical narratives. But how much lasting this significance this will have in terms of historiography is open to question, given the limited success of those with similar aims in women's history, black history and LGBT History. Kean does however demonstrate that once attitudes and behaviour towards pet animals are added into the mix, familiar historical narratives of the conflict are unpicked, dislodged, undermined or at the very least shown in a very different light. Thus Kean's research offers scope for a rethinking of a number of historical approaches to the Second World War.

In reminding historians that during the Second World War, 'animals and humans shared the same space and events' (p. 18), Kean calls for a re-imagining of life in the home on the home front. She reminds us that many domestic spaces were inhabited by, and contained, not just multiple relationships between humans, but relationships between humans and animals. In doing this, the text makes a contribution to the growing field of emotional history. It offers numerous examples of how the minutiae of people's emotional experience of wartime were shaped by or involved their pets. Examples range from the calming presence of Churchill's cat, often observed sleeping peacefully on his bed, to the pet owners found dead amongst the rubble after bombing raids with their arms firmly clasped around their beloved animal who died with them. A quote from Nella Last, the housewife whose writing about her everyday life in Barrow-on-Furness for Mass Observation Archives has become emblematic of the Home Front, demonstrates the emotional support people gained from their pets. Nella observes:

To me he is more than an animal; he has kindness, understanding and intelligence and not only knows all that is said but often reads my mind to an uncanny degree. He know when I am sad and dim and lies with his head on my foot, or follows me closely as if to day, "I cannot help you, but please understand you and will stand by".

As Kean argues there is often a sense in Nella Last's diaries that she got more support from her dog than her husband, and demonstrates that

Like many historians Maggie Andrews is also interested in Mass Observation's reporter Nella Last. However, Last not only liked Sol her dog, as mentioned by Maggie, but also her 'wild, free cat' Mr Murphy and specifically kept both animals.

Indeed the later chapters of the book include the discussion of the broad survival of animals, including the cats living with Winston Churchill - who declared to his minister 'This cat does more for the war effort than you do!'