

European animals that we now consider pests. If we insist on singling out particular animals as vermin while ignoring the invasive ways of our ancestors, aren't we being a tad hypocritical? Shouldn't we be labelling ourselves as 'feral', too?



Obviously, the situation cannot be reversed overnight, especially not with rifles and poison at least. We cannot fix the mistakes of our ancestors, but we can show responsibility to the Earth Mother by taking responsibility for our own lives. Animals that we shun reflect facets we choose to ignore about ourselves, and they represent qualities we resent in others too. They symbolise our jealousies and our secret desires, or the things we yearn to do, but are afraid to acknowledge or embrace. The animals, as the voice of the Earth Mother, are simply trying to point out our inadequacies – those aspects we avoid, suppress or blame others for. It is a waste of time to 'band-aid' the situation by eliminating the 'feral animals' in an attempt to hide our shortcomings. It is like treating the symptoms without considering the cause. How we perceive the world is actually reflective of how we see ourselves. To see beauty in something is reflective of the beauty we see within ourselves. But, to see ugliness in something is a sure fire sign of healing we need to address within ourselves. If something disgusts or angers us, for example, we need to ask, 'why'? We need to ask ourselves where this very same situation is being played out in our life, and whether or not it is something we are doing ourselves. It is not the animals themselves that are the problem, but rather the 'medicine' or lesson represented by animals that upsets us or puts us on edge. Once we identify the reasons why the animals annoy us, we can integrate their lessons into our life, heal that aspect of ourself and then release all judgement of the animal. The more people do this, the less the animals will feel compelled to remain. The more we take responsibility for our own healing, the more the animals and the Earth Mother will support us. If we fail to heed their requests, however, the more the Earth Mother will continue to send the messengers. If we were to just surrender and take responsibility for our own lives, the 'ferals' would surrender, too. Sure, they will always be there (for as long as we are, at least), but chances are the need for them to be there in such undisciplined numbers would subside as the Earth Mother called them back to her.

To contact Scott or to enquire about his book, *Animal Dreaming*, visit: [www.animaldreaming.com](http://www.animaldreaming.com)

## Messages offered by 'feral' animals

**Foxes** encourage us to step out of the shadows, to acknowledge the skills, tools and achievements we have accumulated in preparation for the day 'our life will change for the better', and to implement them today. Fox offers us the confidence to follow our hearts and to do what we know we should be doing.

**Goats** taunt us to consider the grass on the other side of the fence. Goats are never satisfied with what they have, but rather aspire to reach ever greater heights and to try new things at every opportunity. Why be held back by emotional ropes when you can set yourself free by simply acknowledging your right to live a whole, interrelated life with everyone and everything?

**Rabbits** teach us to acknowledge our fears, to address them, conquer them and eventually move on to enjoy abundant lives free of limiting beliefs and behaviour.

**Cats** help us heal on a deeply emotional level. Cats are called 'Pussy Cats' because they protect the sexual region of all women (and men, too). They help us address sexual issues rooted in our past – issues that may have dampened our ability to trust ourselves and to breathe life into new projects and relationships.

**Dogs** speak of loyalty, friendship, unconditional love and companionship. They encourage us to find these qualities within ourself and to celebrate them fully before we expect others to shower them upon us.

**Pigs** speak of the cycles of life – birth, death and rebirth. Pigs teach us that before we can expect any new phase to begin, we have to first let old aspects die a sacred death to make way for them. Essentially, before any new door can open, we have to shut old doors properly first. Pigs also reflect issues related to children. To have problems with Pigs suggests a lack of communication with one's children, a separation of the child from the mother or a refusal to communicate about issues that, if addressed openly, would only help such relationships heal.

**Deer** represents 'the people'. She teaches us to walk gently on the Earth, to see everyone as equal and to consider the Earth as our Mother. An over-abundance of Deer, however, suggests a lack of respect for the Earth, an abusive, critical nature or a tendency to favour denial over the taking of responsibility for one's life.

**Cane Toads** are ugly, venomous and in plague proportions. Cane Toads suggest self-loathing, resentment and a refusal to speak from the heart. They essentially represent a self-poisoning, self-destructive character traits or excessive pretence. Cane Toad embodies the attitude 'if it looks beautiful it is beautiful'. People that present a false face to the world, or create a facade of beauty to hide a multitude of sins, will find themselves troubled by Cane Toad, who only asks that we speak from the heart and be true to ourselves.

**Possoms** offer opportunity. Those who find their homes invaded by Possoms are being warned not to ignore, reject or overlook as being 'too good to be true' an opportunity that will offer a leg up. Possum can also suggest an individual who may have overstayed their welcome and abused an opportunity to the point where they have become a parasite.