



## **Introductions**

Welcome! This book presents daily highlights from the year in which the novel *God's Furry Angels* unfolds. It uses the generally accepted calendar of humans, notwithstanding that under the Doctrine of Grakkkoth, cats rarely allow such limitations. To appease our feline readers, this list includes a few notable highlights that cats often link to popular lore of this sort, and just about everything else.

We start by introducing the major players opening this drama, set within a small, rural northeastern Kansas community, circa the early 1990s. To identify all animals except the hawk, we use names bestowed by the book's humans rather than their native titles, which may change over time, or have symbols hard to convey

## A Year in the Lives of God's Furry Angels

in human speech. Our cast includes:

\* John Ferguson, 23 years old, an energetic accountant completing his first year in the field.

\* Jessica Andrews Ferguson, 22, an exobiology student and pre-med major who has dated John for more than four years.

- \* Sebastian, Jessica's 12-year-old male cat. Jessica thinks the silver-haired feline may be a Russian blue, but she's not sure. Sebastian, like most cats, sees Jessica as a mostly hairless giant, and he is quite sure. They both consider the other their pet.
- \* Scarface, an 8-year-old veteran alley cat and garbage-can warrior who has staked out the Ferguson home as his domain.
- \* Jason Alexander Scabbard, 70, the proud owner of an aging downtown pet store and self-appointed guardian of all the town's animals, domestic and wild. He takes special care of the many, many creatures who live in the city park.
- \* Pepper Janes, 67, a longtime downtown veterinarian and friend of Jason's. As the small town's animal control officer, Pepper works with the police and fire departments to advise them on such issues. He aids Jason in quite a bit of community work.
- \* Margaret James, 69, Pepper's wife and work assistant. She manages his business, and just about everything else

\* Edna, a 9-year-old fox squirrel who acts as a mother figure for the city park's many residents.

- \* Butch, an 8-year-old golden retriever who lives in the storage area of the park's old windmill, a beloved landmark transported board by board long ago from Holland.
- \* Tom'alaxt, a 4-year-old red-tailed hawk who watches over the park and town.
- \* Old Snapper, a 59-year-old snapping turtle settled in the creek that runs through the city park.