

SCOTT ALEXANDER KING

"My life has been ruled by 'animal experiences'. The most precious (not outstanding in any way, though) would have to have been watching my (then 5 year old daughter) wandering around our house with the orphaned fox cub that we had living with us at the time. It was just so cute, my little girl carrying around a tiny little fox wrapped up in a towel - like a baby!"

PETS: I have always had heaps of animals - the maximum at any one time being approximately 170 individual animals ... seriously! Over the years I have had (and mostly at the same time) mice, rats, ferrets, rabbits, guinea pigs, goats, sheep, cattle, cats, a dog, chooks, guinea fowl, peacocks, geese, turkeys, ducks, pigeons, doves, budgies, parrots of all descriptions, pheasants, turtles, lizards, quail, possums, foxes and ponies.

For one reason or another, I am currently down to 'the bare minimum' - with only about 40 Japanese bantams and a duck, 2 cats, 1 spaniel, 4 budgies, 7 goldfish, 1 cockatiel and a Shetland pony. The house feels so empty!

I would love to have miniature goats, alpacas, macaws, white swans, squirrels, mandarin ducks and canada geese in the future. Maybe crocodiles, too. Who knows?

FAVOURITE ANIMAL: I have two favourite animals - the barn owl and the red fox - they have always been special to me, for reasons associated with my spiritual path. They are my totem animals. I feel a special bond with these animals - I understand them - almost as if we are one and the same.

We had two fox cubs which we raised to adulthood. They were so tame and beautiful, but they were confiscated and destroyed by the authorities. Apparently it is illegal to keep foxes, so please do not take on the responsibility. It is heartbreaking (and expensive - we were fined \$1600 for the 'offence') when they are taken away and destroyed for no other reason except for being a fox.

IF YOU COULD BE AN ANIMAL IN YOUR NEXT LIFE: If I could come back as an animal, I think I would prefer to return as a bird. I think the ability to fly would be the most amazing gift. I don't think I would ever come down to earth! An owl, perhaps?

