

**FIREPAW, Inc.**  
**THE FOUNDATION FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION**  
**PROMOTING ANIMAL WELFARE**

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Abstract Submission for NILAS Conference: Plants, Animals & the Human Imagination  
Joshua M. Frank, Ph.D.

**Title: “Animals in Stories: Symbols of All That is Possible”**

The presentation will consist of readings of fiction stories and a poem, some previously published, all focusing on animal issues, and a discussion of his animal-related novel. Specific works to be included in the session are:

\*“Angel of Death” (to be read in full)—A short story from the perspective of an animal shelter worker whose primary job (by choice) is to euthanize animals. *Previously published in the Virginia Adversaria Literary Journal*

\*“Jumping from Buildings” (short poem—to be read in full)—Draws a parallel between the fate of people in the World Trade Center and animal labs. *Previously published by Left Curve*

\*“Veiled Safety”—A short story about a person who goes to a bed and breakfast that grows their own animals. She experiences a sudden transformation and attempts to rescue a newborn calf she has grown attached to.

\*“Free Education”— A short story about a college student who works at a behavioral science pigeon lab. His relationship to everything changes when he realizes the so-called "non-lethal" research he is assisting with will involve killing the birds.

\*“Salesman”—A short story from the perspective of a salesman of laboratory equipment for animal research. He is on a slump and about to close a big sale, but protesters outside the building make things complicated. *Previously published in Mobius: Journal of Social Change*

\*“Breakthrough”—A short story about a graduate student up against the myopic views of those studying animal consciousness.

\*“Summer Revival”—A short story about a recent widower is pressured into getting a puppy. The puppy helps him emerge from his grief.

\*“Lost in Translation”—A short story about the intelligence and communication capabilities of dolphins lost on the arrogance and idiocy of humankind.

\*“Puppy Love”—A short story about what happens to human relationships when one person’s love for animals overrides the love for his significant other.

“Higher Intelligence” (novel)—Science fiction novel about our conflict with a life form on another planet is a metaphor for our treatment of animals who we consider to be of inferior intelligence.

Available at: [www.firepaw.org](http://www.firepaw.org)

\*Short stories included in the book, “Jagged Little Edges: A Compilation of Short Stories” by J.M. Frank.  
Available at: [www.firepaw.org](http://www.firepaw.org)