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Schenone, Laura. *The Dogs of Avalon: The Race to Save Animals in Peril*

Norton. Aug. 2017. 320p. Photos.

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What motivated James Beard Award-winning food historian Schenone (A *Thousand Years Over a Hot Stove: The Lost Ravioli Recipes of Hoboken*) to write a book about animal welfare? It began with her selling an old stove and her ensuing encounter with animal rescuer Elizabeth. From the start, Schenone shows that the heart of the animal welfare community lies in people, mostly women, who possess an innate drive to help animals and who connect with others in order to accomplish this. Through Elizabeth, Schenone adopts Lily, a lurcher (a mix of sighthound and other breeds), and meets Irishwoman Marion Fitzgibbon, whom she chronicles for much of the book. Along the way, readers learn about Irish history, including the subculture of Travellers (Irish nomads), whom Fitzgibbon also aids. The author perfectly captures the ethos of veteran animal advocates and the obstacles in their work. Schenone's lovely prose captivates, and her mostly pragmatic perspective complements the subject matter. In Fitzgibbon, readers have a true animal champion.

## **Verdict**

While other important aspects of the global animal welfare and rescue movements are addressed, this book is most engaging in its focus on Fitzgibbon's crusade to bring animal welfare issues to mainstream Irish culture.— **Meagan Storey, Virginia Beach**

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