

Linda A. Mohr

Author~Speaker~Professor

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To order *Tatianna*, visit lindamohr.net



Biography of Linda A. Mohr, Author of
Tatianna — Tales and Teachings of My Feline Friend

Linda A. Mohr has shared more than thirty years of her life with feline companions, most notably Tatianna, Katarina, Noelle, Taittinger and Marnie. The experiences of living with and loving these precious pets—and learning to tell them good-bye—has given Linda tremendous insight into the mysterious, often miraculous connection between humans and animals.

Today she shares her Florida home with her current feline friend Lexie Lee, a stray Norwegian Forest cat who happily wandered into her life after Hurricane Jeanne. However, Linda feels that there is more than one feline friend occupying her domicile. She continues to sense the comforting presence of her beloved Tatianna, and even hears her little paws on the creaky hardwood floors from time to time!

In addition to being a lifelong lover of felines, Linda is a dedicated educator. After earning a Bachelor of Science from the University of Missouri and a Master of Science from Purdue, she taught at Iowa State University. Later Linda earned a Master of Business Administration from Nova University. In 1988, she began her successful career as a professor at Northwood University's West Palm Beach, Florida, campus. In her first three years at the university Linda was an adjunct professor of business mathematics, humanities, marketing, management and fashion merchandising. Then in 1991, she was appointed Northwood's Career Assistance Director, and two years later taught the first course in the launch of a fast-track program for working adults. In 2001 Linda was promoted to director of the Northwood University's Florida Outreach, where she was responsible for a multimillion dollar budget in West Palm Beach and Tampa. In 2003, she developed a capstone strategic management course as an online class. In 2006, her career came full circle as she returned to the classroom as a full-time Associate Professor at Northwood.

Linda has received the Outstanding Faculty Award five times and was honored in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* in 2002 and 2003. Her mission in the classroom has always been to be "enthusiastic, enlightening and engaging." She believes that making a heartfelt difference in the lives of students is paramount, and credits her passion for knowledge, research, learning and words to her mother, a teacher. "I love to listen to her life stories about her amazing thirty-five-year-teaching career that began in rural Missouri and Iowa in the 1930s while she earned a degree in business education. To this day we can't go anywhere without a former student recognizing her and thanking her for what she did for them years ago. It is a heartwarming experience."

Outside the classroom, Linda's primary entrepreneurial endeavor was owning a pet-care business, Pet Apothecary, from 1977 to 1989. This was the first pet business in Palm Beach County that offered evening hours and one-stop shopping for medical, boarding, supply and grooming services. While running her business, Linda often witnessed how an owner's love and devotion can help a precious animal overcome seemingly insurmountable medical odds. This knowledge later helped her persevere through Tatianna's treatment and inspired her to tell Tatianna's story in the interest of helping other pet owners beat the odds and give their beloved companions as much quality life as possible.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Book Gives Hope and Inspiration to Animal Lovers

West Palm Beach Author Tells Touching Tale of Feline Friend's Battle with Kidney Disease

West Palm Beach, FL, December 1, 2007— A new book by first-time West Palm Beach author Linda A. Mohr chronicles her fifteen-year relationship with Tatianna, a brilliant grey cat with sparkling blue eyes who developed feline kidney disease. *Tatianna—Tales and Teachings of My Feline Friend*—follows their shared lives from the time Mohr is presented with an adorable bundle of fluff to the day she has to tell her beloved pet farewell. The book describes in clear and touching detail all the unforgettable moments that so enrich the lives of those who have been blessed to share their homes with animal companions.

When Tatianna was near death, Mohr never lost hope. Instead, she and her beloved pet embarked on a journey of hope and healing. "I am so glad to be sharing Tatianna's story with animal lovers everywhere—particularly those with cats who have kidney disease," Mohr says. "It is my deepest wish to inspire hope and show that with a combination of love, faith and the proper treatment, miracles can indeed happen."

Another message that readers of *Tatianna—Tales and Teachings of My Feline Friend* take away is that the love we feel for our animal companions—and even our relationships with them—live on well after they have crossed over the "rainbow bridge." "I still feel Tatianna's presence around me," Mohr says. "Her spirit spurred me on to write and publish our book. I have sensed her on my bed and walking on my creaky hardwood floors, and I feel her guiding and protecting me when I am on trips."

Mohr is a marketing and management professor at Northwood University in West Palm Beach. Over her 20 years at the university she has received the Outstanding Faculty Award five times and was honored in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* in 2002 and 2003. Mohr formerly owned Pet Apothecary, a one-stop shopping source for medical, boarding, supply and grooming services. While running the business, she often witnessed how an owner's love and devotion can help a precious animal overcome seemingly insurmountable medical odds. This knowledge later helped her persevere through Tatianna's treatment and inspired her to share Tatianna's story with other pet owners.

To arrange an interview with Linda A. Mohr, please call 561-845-1985. For more information on Mohr and *Tatianna—Tales and Teachings of My Feline Friend*, please visit www.lindamohr.net

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Book Fact Sheet

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An Interview with Linda A. Mohr, Author of
Tatianna — Tales and Teachings of My Feline Friend

Q: Why did you write *Tatianna — Tales and Teachings of My Feline Friend*?

A: I wrote *Tatianna* in response to a higher force compelling me to do so. Tatianna passed away on the day before Easter. On Easter afternoon, I sat in my favorite rocking chair in front of the living-room picture window and simply began writing. This was a spot where Tatianna and I had spent many hours. I just let the pen fly across the page, not really knowing why. It was only after I had finished the entire manuscript that I realized the importance of bringing her message to the world.

Q: What do you hope to communicate with the world through your book?

A: Animals are a sacred gift and they deserve love and respect. A kind word, a caress, a scrumptious meal, and proper medical care are just as needed and appreciated by animals as they are by humans. The bonds between owner and pet can be deepened during periods of extended or terminal illnesses. If kidney failure—one of the leading causes of death in cats—strikes, it is possible to provide an environment for your pet to live her or his last months or years in a high-quality way.

Q: What is the most important lesson Tatianna taught you?

A: Miracles can be accomplished simply by love and an enduring belief in God.

Q: How can we know when it is time to let go after trying to sustain an animal's life through traditional and/or alternative medicine?

A: I think it is important to communicate with your pet and ask him or her to give you a sign when it is time for him or her to go. It is also our responsibility to watch for that sign and accept it when it happens. I have found that you just intuitively know when the time comes.

Q: What advice do you have for people who are attempting to deal emotionally with the imminent passing of a beloved pet?

A: Appreciate and celebrate each moment, live in the present, and avoid fast-forwarding your thoughts to the pain that is coming. There will be plenty of time for that later. Make sure to tell your pets how much you love them and what they have meant to you. Assure them you will be okay. Allow yourself to feel the range of emotions that will overtake you.

Q: Are there still times when you sense Tatianna around you?

A: Tatianna travels with me in spirit on all my plane and long car journeys. Many times I have asked her to keep me safe. I have sensed her on my bed and walking on my creaky hardwood floors in the middle of the night. Her spirit spurred me on to finish the myriad of details in publishing our book.

Q: How do you imagine the animal afterlife to be?

A: It is filled with love and warmth. Animals are never hungry, cold, or abused.

Q: What is the first thing you will say to Tatianna when you are reunited with her?

A: I love you Tatianna, always and forever. I promised I'd see you on Rainbow Bridge for a glorious reunion, and this moment has surpassed my wildest imagination.

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Fact Sheet — Feline Kidney Disease

Feline kidney disease is also known as *chronic renal failure*. It is a progressive, irreversible deterioration of kidney function that can occur at any age. The tiny filters in the kidneys, called nephrons, begin to die off and lose their ability to help the body eliminate waste products and regulate electrolytes in the body. Waste products accumulate in the body and reach toxic levels. As the kidneys deteriorate, the cat can suffer electrolyte imbalances, anemia and high blood pressure.

Symptoms: Symptoms may not become apparent until more than two thirds of kidney function has been lost. They include increased water consumption, frequent urination, loss of appetite, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, and declining vision. The disease may progress quickly or gradually. Early detection is critical—experts advise that even cats without outward symptoms should be checked for signs of chronic renal failure during their regular yearly exams once they have reached the age of seven.

Causes: It can be difficult to pinpoint why some cats develop kidney disease. Causes can include kidney infection, decreased blood supply to renal arteries, congenital disorders, toxic chemicals, feline leukemia virus infection, hypertension, or kidney tumors.

Diagnosis: To confirm a diagnosis of chronic renal failure, a veterinarian must perform a urine test to measure the concentration level of the urine and blood tests to check levels of BUN (blood urea nitrogen) and creatinine.

Diet: Veterinarians recommend that cats with chronic renal failure be given a diet that is low in phosphorous and relatively low in protein. This gives the kidneys less to filter.

Treatment: There is no cure—however, with early detection and proper treatment, a cat may have many good years left. Treatments to control the progression of the disease can vary, depending on the type of kidney disease and the degree of damage to the kidneys. The goal of treatment is to reduce the amount of waste products that the kidneys must filter. Treatment options include diet changes, medication and hydration therapy, which may be used to restore the electrolyte and fluid balance and increase the cat's comfort. If the cat's condition becomes critical, intravenous fluids may also be helpful.

Transplantation: There are facilities performing feline kidney transplants throughout the United States. Total costs are estimated at between \$5,000 and \$9,000. University facilities generally cost less than private facilities. The total cost includes screening tests, donor adoption, surgery for the donor and recipient, travel, hotel, extended hospital care, postoperative maintenance, and medications. The recipient must receive an anti-rejection medication daily for the rest of his or her life. The success rate for candidates whose illnesses have been diagnosed early is between 80 and 90 percent.

Alternative therapies: Holistic treatments include nutritional supplements such as vitamins, purified Omega 3 fatty acids and a customized diet with the proper balance of protein, carbohydrates, fats and vegetables. Some practitioners also recommend acupuncture, which increases blood flow to the kidneys, improving their function.

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Tatianna Speaker Series

“My mission in the classroom has always been to be enthusiastic, enlightening, and engaging. Making a heartfelt difference in the lives of people and pets is paramount.”

Linda A. Mohr

Author of *Tatianna—Tales and Teachings of My Feline Friend*
Professor of Marketing and Management at Northwood University

The following topics are designed for your group’s needs ranging from fifteen minutes to half-day presentations. Custom-designed programs can also be requested. Attendees receive a printed outline for note-taking as well as supplementary materials.

The Human-Animal Bond

- Fostering the human-animal bond
- Tuning in to our animals’ stories
- Learning life lessons from the human-animal bond

Your Senior Feline and Kidney Disease—What are the odds?

- Recognizing and diagnosing kidney disease
- Learning the causes of kidney disease
- Treating with transplants, diet, hydration, medicine, and alternative options

Farewell My Furry Friend

- Knowing how to tell it’s time
- Letting go and saying good-bye with grace
- Honoring your pet at the end and beyond

The Creative Process: So you want to write a book!

- Engaging the creative process
- Writing everyday
- Bringing your dream of being a published author to life

The Creative Process: So you’ve written a book....now what?

- Knowing how and when to begin promotion
- Marketing in your backyard and beyond
- Sustaining the success of your book

For availability, fees, and scheduling contact lindamohr7@bellsouth.net