



## HUMANAGERIE – a new anthology from Eibonvale Press

Allen Ashley and Sarah Doyle are delighted to announce that they will be co-editing a new anthology together this year, with a submission window open for three months, from March 1st until May 31<sup>st</sup> 2018.

To be published this autumn by David Rix's elegant Eibonvale Press, "Humanagerie" will showcase both poetry and short fiction on the theme of animals. The book will not be about animals as such, but will instead be inspired by the characteristics that animals possess, and the points at which these intersect with – and manifest in – humanity. We are interested in shifting states, in scenarios that explore duality, hybridity, and liminality.

We hope to discover new existential narratives in the spirit of Franz Kafka's "Metamorphosis" and Hermann Hesse's "Steppenwolf".

We are seeking poems and short stories that contain some element of the speculative and/or the fantastical, the metaphorical, metaphysical or magical; we are not seeking straightforward descriptive pieces, or 'nature' themed writing that works only on one level.

We are asking writers to consider how animalistic attributes might manifest in the human psyche – or vice versa. We want hints of scales, tails, fur and fins... gills, claws, paws and spines... glimpses of horns, tusks, teeth and tongues... stalking, slinking, slithering and stomping... roars, whimpers, howls and song. We want breath, heat, musk. We want landscapes ranging from urban wastelands to frozen tundra, from bedsits to coastlines, from suburbia to savannah – and the imagined worlds between. We want water and we want fish out of water. We want the visceral and the vulnerable, the slippery and the synaesthetic, emergence and extinction.

As it is animal qualities that interest us, rather than animals themselves, you might consider these strange and beautiful adjectives as a starting point for your inspiration, but feel free to use others:

Anguilline – snake / eel  
Apian – bee  
Aquiline – eagle  
Arctian – moth  
Batrachian / Bufotenine – toad  
Bombycine – silkworm  
Cathartine – vulture / buzzard  
Ceratorhine – rhinoceros  
Chelonian – tortoise / turtle  
Columbine – dove  
Corvine – crow / raven  
Didelphine – dolphin  
Eusuchian – alligator  
Formicine – ant  
Halcyonine – kingfisher  
Hippocampine – seahorse  
Homarine – lobster  
Leporine – hare

Lupine – wolf  
Lutrine – otter  
Macropine – kangaroo  
Megapterine – humpback whale  
Mephitine – skunk  
Murine – mouse / rat  
Myoxine – dormouse  
Myrmecophagine – anteater  
Octopine – octopus  
Ostracine – oyster  
Otarine – seal / sea lion  
Pavonine – peacock  
Pieridine / Pierine – butterfly  
Porcine – pig  
Ranine – frog  
Ursine – bear  
Vespine – wasp / hornet  
Vulpine – fox

Anyone seeking poetic inspiration is invited to read *Ursula* by Robert Peake, *Bird* by Liz Berry, and *The poacher's daughter* by Alex Toms – three thrilling exemplars of the oscillation between human/animal imagery (in these examples, ursine, avian, and leporine), cited here by kind permission of the poets:

<https://www.robertpeake.com/archives/5340-ursula-film-poem-online.html>

<http://www.poetryinternationalweb.net/pi/site/poem/item/26701>

<https://mslexia.co.uk/shop/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Mslexia-Issue-71/mobile/index.html#p=22>

We will be including both poetry and short fiction side by side, as a means of providing a crossover for readers of both literatures. Sarah will edit the poetry content, and Allen will edit fiction, with both editors working closely together to ensure thematic diversity and editorial cohesion. Both genres sit well together in numerous literary journals, so why not in this exciting new anthology?

The word limit for fiction is 1,500–4,000 words; the line limit for poetry is 60 lines per poem. Payment will be one copy of the book per author, plus a nominal £10 per story and £5 per poem. Payment will be made upon publication.

## **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

All submissions must be written in English, although the anthology is open to writers across the world, provided they are aged 18 years or over.

Writers are invited to submit one unpublished story or/and up to six unpublished poems, with a short cover note including full contact details and a brief biography. ('Published' includes but is not limited to: text – print or digital; podcasts – visual or aural; broadcast; exhibited; shared via social media; appearance on blogs or personal websites. This includes excerpts.)

Please state your name in the subject bar of your email.

Please send submissions as Word attachments, with your name as the file name.

Please use Times New Roman font, 12 pitch. Stories should be double-spaced; poems should be single-spaced.

If sending poetry, include all poems in one document, with each poem starting on a new page.

Include your name and email address as a footer in your Word document.

Submissions should be sent to:

Poetry: [humanagerie-poetry@outlook.com](mailto:humanagerie-poetry@outlook.com)

Fiction: [humanagerie-fiction@outlook.com](mailto:humanagerie-fiction@outlook.com)

PLEASE DO NOT:

Send translations.

Send work that is published, accepted elsewhere, or is under consideration elsewhere.

Make more than one submission per genre.

Include any copyright material.

Send work that is misogynistic, homophobic, racist, etc.

Send work that is gratuitously violent.

Please note also that we are not looking for mermaid / selkie stories or vampire bat or straightforward werewolf / were-creature narratives. We are also not looking for "Furry" stories.

Finally...

All submissions will be read carefully and considered equally. Unfortunately, we cannot provide feedback on unsuccessful submissions, but everyone submitting will receive a response. We anticipate that decisions will be made and notifications will be sent within two to three months of the closing date, possibly sooner.

We very much look forward to reading your stories and poems!

*Allen and Sarah*