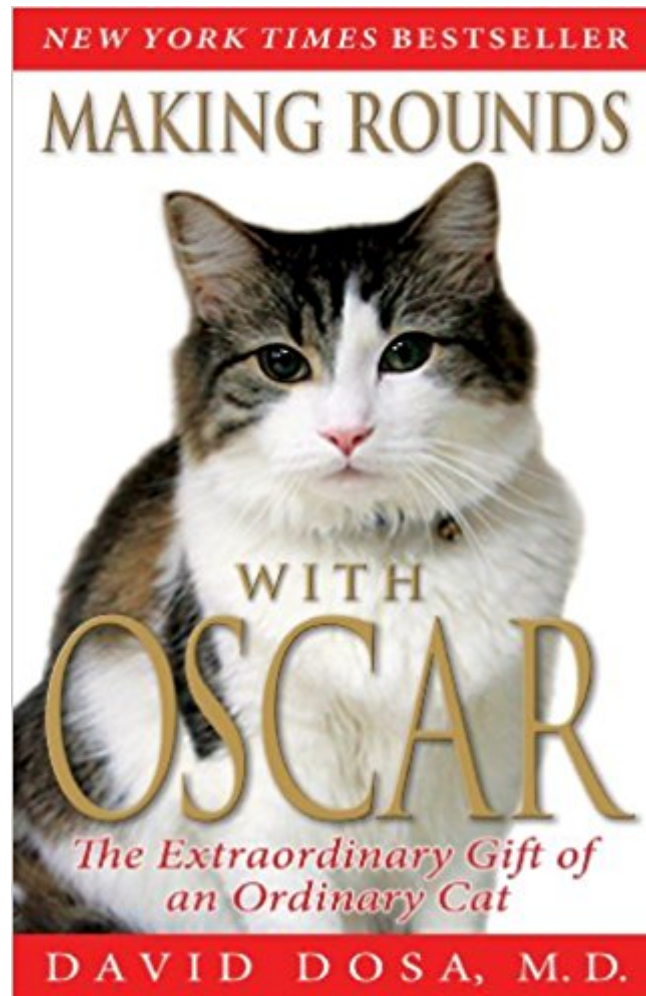




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# Making Rounds With Oscar: The Extraordinary Gift Of An Ordinary Cat



## Synopsis

A remarkable cat. A life-changing story. Making Rounds with Oscar: The Extraordinary Gift of an Ordinary Cat is the story of a doctor who, at first, doesn't always listen; of the patients he serves; of their caregivers; and, most importantly, of a cat who teaches by example, embracing moments of life that so many of us shy away from. "Oscar has much to teach us about empathy and courage. I couldn't put it down." --Sara Gruen, author of *Water for Elephants* "This book is a must-read. Truly, this is a story that needs to be told." --Fresh Fiction "You'll be moved." --People "This touching and engaging book is a must-read for more than just cat lovers; anyone who enjoys a well-written and compelling story will find much to admire in its unlikely hero." --Publishers Weekly "[The] book, both touching and humorous, isn't just about Oscar. It's about listening and letting go." --USA Today

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dosa, a geriatrician with a strong aversion to cats, tells the endearing story of Oscar the cat, the aloof resident at a nursing home who only spends time with people who are about to die. Despite hearing numerous stories about Oscar's uncanny ability to predict when a patient's time is nearing, Dosa, ever the scientist, remains skeptical. Slowly, he starts to concede that there may be something special about Oscar. Dosa starts to pay more attention to the cat's decidedly odd behavior, noticing that Oscar seeks out the dying, snuggles with the patient and family members until the patient passes; with others, he smells the patient's feet, sits outside a closed door until admitted, or refuses to leave a dying patient's bed. Dosa discovers how powerfully Oscar's mere presence reassures frightened or grieving family. Ultimately, the good doctor realizes that it doesn't

matter where Oscar's gift comes from; it's the comfort he brings that's important. This touching and engaging book is a must-read for more than just cat lovers; anyone who enjoys a well-written and compelling story will find much to admire in its unlikely hero. (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This touching and engaging book is a must-read for more than just cat lovers; anyone who enjoys a well-written and compelling story will find much to admire in its unlikely hero. --Publishers Weekly  
Oscar captured my heart, and Dr. Dosa opened my mind. This extraordinary book offers a physician's perspective on death and dying, as well as insights on family love, companionship without question, and the life lessons that only the old can provide. As if that weren't enough, it proves the old adage: there are no ordinary cats. --Brenda Copeland, editor --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a very well written account of this Doctor's experiences with a cat who had an extraordinary ability. As he thoroughly investigates the phenomenon he becomes convinced. He also gives us a good look at the geriatric care facility he worked with and the staff and seniors who populated it. This is a one-sitting read, he keeps you interested and engaged. He does a great job when describing his interactions with the staff, families, and the patients at the facility as well as his own inner dialog. His empathy and understanding of these people is extraordinary and it comes out in the writing, It's not only about a special cat but also about a wonderful facility with a great staff and interesting patients.

1. How to be compassionate  
2. How to cope when a loved one is no longer the person you remember  
3. Dealing with the prospect of loss  
4. Surviving the feelings guilt when you cannot help or change the situation  
5. At the end Oscar is there to show you how ease the death of a loved one  
Couldn't ask for more from a small book that lights the way. Bought one for my daughter which is high praise from me.

A very nice book about an amazing cat. The author is a gerontologist who heard about the unusual activities of one of the home's cats whenever someone was about to die. He questioned a number of the family members who, like Oscar the cat, were present at the death of their loved ones, or who were unable to be there but were happy to know that Oscar was there, keeping watch

over their loved ones until the coroner left. During his investigation of the cat, the doctor learned a great deal about how people learn to care for their loved ones and how they cope with the emotional losses, and the physical losses as well. As an adult with a mother with Alzheimer's, the book was helpful, heart breaking at times, and entertaining. And, yes, at the end, I also prefer the cat, not the ICU.

Interesting description of various aspects of Alzheimer's/dementia as well as the cat's ability to predict the patients' death. I have experienced a cat similar to Oscar when my mother-in-law was in a nursing home (although Alzheimer's/dementia was not involved) and the resident cat used its presence to predict the death of residents in that home, so it was interesting to read another case history of this nature.

Making Rounds with Oscar (the hospice kitty) as seen through the eyes of Dr. David Dosa, is delightful and heart-warming. I particularly love the subtitle, The Extraordinary Gift of an Ordinary Cat. Dr. Dosa takes the reader along on his journey of discovery; namely, cats possess sentience. Oscar, in particular, comforts the terminally ill patients in his hospice home. He does not fail; he knows exactly when to arrive for his person and when to leave. Oscar's self-appointed job allows no one in his personal care to die alone. And he knows what he is doing. The story is a beautiful confirmation for anyone who has been privileged to live with such a cat. Confirmation of a feline's gifted awareness and subsequent behavior from a medical man is a comforting read indeed.

Oscar is just one of several cats that lives at Rhode Island's Steere House, a nursing home. However, he is the only one of the cats that has the extraordinary capacity to "know" when a resident is close to death. Steere House staff soon realized that Oscar was always nearby keeping the resident company at the time of their passing. The only exception may have been when two residents were passing at the same time and poor Oscar went back and forth between the rooms. This book was written by a doctor at Steere House who decided to find out more about Oscar's unusual talent. As Dr. Dosa spoke with the deceased residents' family members to learn more about Oscar's vigils, he never really figured out how Oscar did it. However, he did learn a whole lot about the impact of dementia upon patients and their families. Not just the physical consequences, but also the emotional and social ones. For that reason, this book makes an excellent, reassuring, and validating read for caretakers and family members of those with dementia. And with rates of dementia currently at 5-15% of people over the age of 65 and on the rise, this will be most of us.

Unfortunately, I am already included in this number, but I found a lot of comfort in this book. I would recommend it for those that are enduring the pain of watching a loved one deal with dementia. This is a sweet and touching look at end of life issues and a very special cat.

I've ponder over and over how I was going to review this book and am not sure I can do it justice. I have never doubted that animals have a special sense when someone isn't feeling well or is dying. Not all animals have this sixth sense or whatever you want to call it. What I found strange was that Dr. Dosa found it odd. Research has shown the power that pets have over humans, to lower blood pressure, depression, and so forth. I believe all nursing homes should have a resident pet, Oscar was one of six that resided at Steere House along with other assorted creatures. Oscar was truly a remarkable cat to not only the patients but their family members. I enjoyed this book very much (started it and couldn't put it down until I finished it) and learned from it too. Dr. Dosa researched this and is a believer now. He can't explain it but believes. Sometimes a special gift like Oscar can't be explained nor needs to be. Excellent book for someone going into the field of geriatrics. I don't believe anyone will be able to fully understand dementia for years to come. A very insightful book on dementia, other conditions that happen to these patients, their families and the staff at Steere House.

Great read for anyone in the medical field - especially helpful for geriatric docs. Gives a nice review of what couples and children go through with aging ailments. And the fact that there are cats in the book, focusing on Oscar is fabulous. Sent it to a hospice worker friend and a geriatrics doc friend. Heartwarming; I felt like I was there with the patients as Dr Dosa told the story.

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