

iCARE: Creatures

I have lots of stuff that I truly adore!
I have knick-knacks galore, but I always want more!
I care about fashion and looking my best,
the latest cool labels and all of the rest,
but caring for brands is a lame claim to fame
when caring for creatures *could* be my aim.

Things do not matter as much as a horse,
a beetle, a dove, or your pets — of course.
They are all better than clothes on the rack
'cause my favorite t-shirt cannot love me back.

Caring for them is much harder to do.
I'm not being mean, it simply is true.
Sometimes they're messy and you have to clean.
Sometimes they're noisy and you want to scream.
Sometimes they break things and that makes you shout!
And when *you* get a break — they want to go out.

I care for all creatures because they're alive,
because every life has a right to survive.
I care for them all, everyone that I see,
from BEARS in a zoo, to a WHALE in the sea,
to COWS in a coop, a FISH in a bowl,
a FROG in a pond, a TIGER with soul,
a BAT in a belfry, a SNAKE and her dance,
a CLAM in a cove, the ANTS in your pants,
a DOG in a car, a SHARK in a tank,
a SNAKE in the grass, a SLUG at the bank,
a FOX in a hollow, a BUG in a rug,
a FAWN in the rain who could use a good hug,
a DUCK on a lake, a FLEA on a RAT,
a BEE in a bonnet, a CAT in a hat,
a SHEEP in a meadow, a BIRD in your hand,
a JELLYFISH caught on the shore in the sand,
a CROW in a nest, a FISH off the hook,
or a WORM off the hook who resides in a book,
and while I'm at it, a HEN in a house
a PIG in a pen, a squeaky gray MOUSE,
a HIPPO who's roly and poly and clumsy,
a CHIMPANZEE swinging around in a onesie,
and even the tiniest FLY on the wall,
each one is so precious; I care for them all!

Like stars in the sky, like the sun, and the rain,
they're all more important than I can explain.
And just like we care about staying alive,
we must care for them to make sure they survive.

I care 'cause I know it's the right thing to do
to make the world better for me and for you.

- Paul Rodriguez for Rodro

