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DRAW AND PAINT

# super cute animals

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**35**

step-by-step  
demonstrations  
in pencil and  
watercolor



JANE MADAY

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**NORTH LIGHT BOOKS**

CINCINNATI, OHIO

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Butterflies,  
pg. 102

# Contents

**Introduction** ..... 6

PART 1

**Materials and Techniques** ..... 8

*This section contains all you need to know to get started drawing and painting adorable animals! After you gather your basic supplies, you'll learn three beginning drawing techniques for getting your sketches started, plus a variety of coloring methods and helpful tips on the challenging aspects of animal fur.*

PART 2

**Adorable Animal Demonstrations** ..... 22

*In this section you'll learn my favorite techniques for creating cute animals and birds in a variety of mediums. I have also added some tips on creating an environment for your animals to help place them in a natural setting.*

Bunnies ..... 24

Cats ..... 28

Dogs ..... 34

Foxes and Wolves ..... 42

Forest Animals ..... 46

Rodents ..... 50

Nature ..... 56

Farm Animals ..... 58

Birds ..... 66

Sea Creatures ..... 78

Bears ..... 86

Pond Life ..... 92

Insects ..... 100

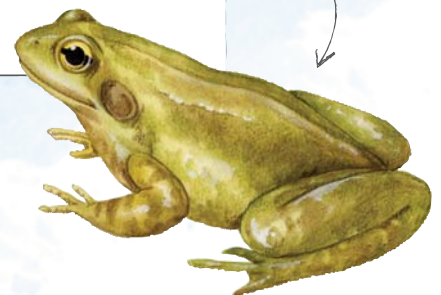
Flowers ..... 104

Putting It All Together in a Scene ..... 106

**Index** ..... 108

**About the Author** ..... 110

Frog,  
pg. 98





Goldfinch,  
pg. 74

Orange Cat,  
pg. 32



Bear,  
pg. 88



Labrador Puppy,  
pg. 38





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# Introduction

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*Cute animals appeal to everyone. Who can resist their sweet expressions, fluffy fur or brightly colored feathers? That is why they are my favorite subjects to draw and paint. My goal with my art is to put a smile on the face of everyone who views it.*

In this book I'd like to introduce you to some of my favorite tools and techniques for drawing and painting adorable animals of all kinds. Remember, art is a learning process that continues throughout your whole life, and everyone has to start somewhere. I have tried to include lots of different art materials in this book, so you can experiment and find the techniques that work best for you.

I find it helpful to always have a sketchbook or camera handy. You never know when you are going to see the perfect subject. Daily sketching practice is very valuable. It is wonderful to be able to look back through your

sketchbooks and see your work as your skills progress.

In these pages you will find many examples of drawing studies from my sketchbook that I use as references for larger drawings and paintings. Feel free to use these as a basis for your own personal work for learning purposes. Please note that I do retain copyright and ask that you keep them just for your own personal use.

I truly hope you enjoy using this book as much as I have enjoyed writing it. Trust that your happiness will show through your drawings and bring joy to those who see them. So relax, sharpen your pencils and have fun!





What a WONDERFUL  
World



PART 1

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# Materials and Techniques

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*In this section I will introduce you to the art supplies you'll need—including some of my favorites—and explain how to use them. You don't need to rush out and buy everything at once. Try a few different materials at a time to see what's most comfortable for you. I do recommend getting the best quality supplies you can afford, so that you are not struggling with inferior products in addition to your own inexperience. Feel free to play, experiment and become familiar with different mediums before you try an elaborate drawing. The more comfortable you are with your supplies, the more successful your drawings will be.*

## Transferring a Sketch

I like to do my sketches on tracing paper first, then transfer the sketch with graphite transfer paper onto my final drawing surface. This way I can work out any problems with the drawing before I begin working on my good drawing paper.

Transfer paper comes in several colors, but I typically use the graphite version. White transfer paper is handy for transferring a drawing onto darker-colored papers. Red transfer paper is somewhat water-soluble, so it can be good if you are working in watercolors and don't want your transferred lines to show through.

Choose a brand that is wax-free. Saral is my favorite brand. Each sheet can be used many times until you no longer get good lines. You can buy it either in a roll or in a packet of individual sheets.



### Using Transfer Paper

Attach your tracing paper sketch to your final drawing surface with drafting tape to keep it from shifting around. (Drafting tape is less sticky than masking tape, so it won't damage your paper.) Put a piece of transfer paper between the tracing paper and your drawing surface, making sure it is graphite side down.

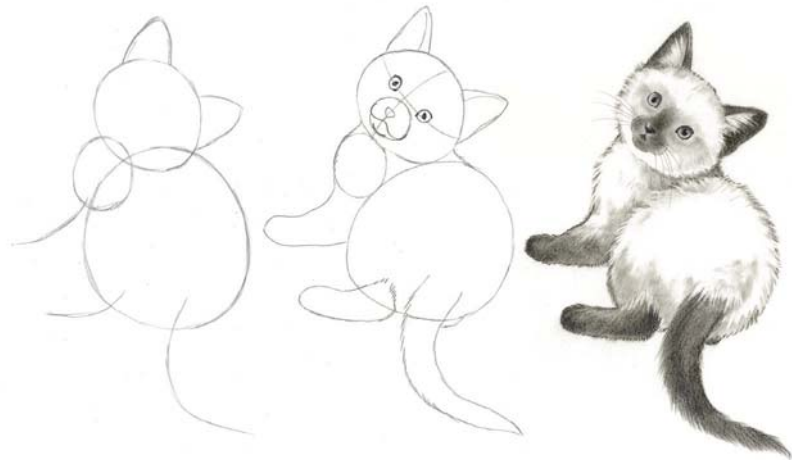
Use a pencil with a hard, sharp lead to transfer the sketch. Do not press too hard or the transferred lines will be too dark, or you could impress the lines into the drawing surface. Lift up a corner of the transfer paper to check your progress, but be careful not to pull up the tape and move your tracing paper out of position.

### DRAWING VERSUS TRACING

You may wonder why I don't suggest just tracing the photo, since you are working with tracing paper. This is simply because you won't learn anything about the art of drawing through direct tracing. If you rely on shortcuts, you risk becoming dependent on them and losing the drawing skills you already have. Once you become more experienced, you may find that you can draw what you see directly and can skip the grid method altogether.

## Basic Shapes

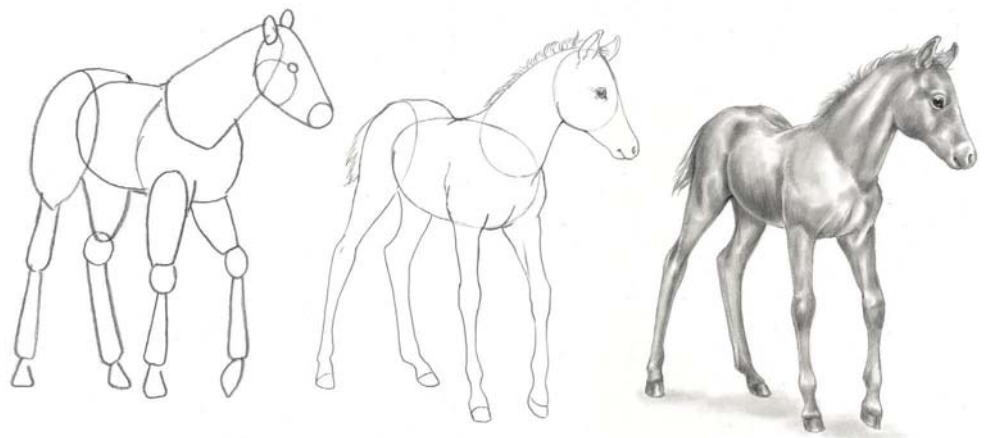
Another way to sketch an animal is to build up your drawing from its basic shapes. This will help you learn how to draw freehand. Start sketching loosely and lightly with a 2H pencil.



### Kitten

Practice visualizing the basic shapes that make up an animal's form. Ovals and egg shapes are most common, but you will also use circles, cones, cylinders and triangles. Adding curved guidelines to the face will help you place the features.

This kitten is based on ovals and triangles. The triangles for the ears have curved lines; there are no straight lines on an animal.



### Foal

Always begin by drawing lightly so you can erase your guidelines as you develop the drawing. This foal is made up primarily of cylinders. The back legs are slightly longer, so joint placement is crucial.

PART 2

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# Adorable Animal Demonstrations

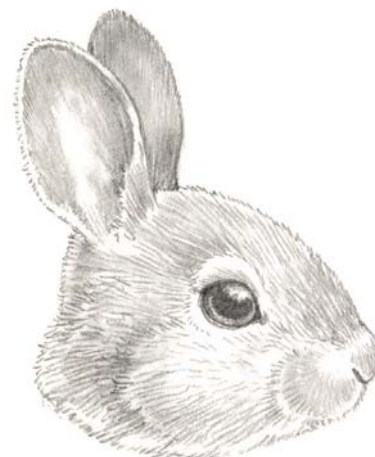
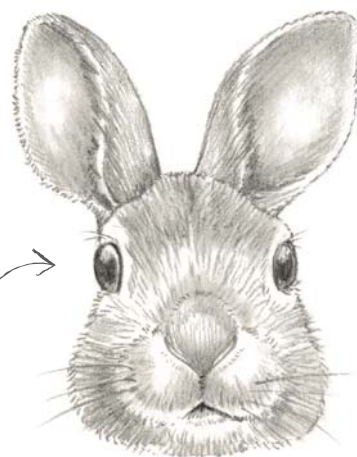
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*In this section I'll like to introduce you to my methods of drawing and painting my favorite sweet animals and birds. In most cases I have chosen animals that are common as pets and as visitors to our gardens. If you are just starting out, try to remember that art is a learning process. I still learn something new with every piece I create. Don't let your insecurities discourage you from drawing. The joy you feel in your art will show through, even if it isn't perfect!*

# Bunny Studies

Bunnies appear in a lot of my paintings. They are the perfect size to combine with flowers and birds to make a sweet composition.

Prey animals have their eyes set on the sides of their heads so they can watch for predators. Make sure you do not place the eyes too far forward.



A baby rabbit isn't just a small adult rabbit. The head is larger in proportion to the body, and the ears are smaller. Baby animals appear to have large eyes because the eyes reach full growth and development before the rest of the head.

DEMONSTRATION

# Bunny in a Teacup

Add another level of cuteness to your drawings by using scale. By placing the bunny in a teacup, we can emphasize his small size and add a touch of whimsy. For this drawing I used a fun product called water-soluble graphite. You can buy it as a pencil or as a cake that you moisten with a damp brush.

## MATERIALS

bristol board, tracing paper, graphite pencils, kneaded eraser, water-soluble graphite, scrap paper, small round brush, Titanium White watercolor



**1** Sketch your bunny with a 2B pencil on tracing paper, then transfer it to a sheet of bristol board using tracing paper.



**2** Fill in the base tones with water-soluble graphite and a damp brush. Add some outlining with a 2B pencil, but make sure the paper is completely dry first or you might tear it.



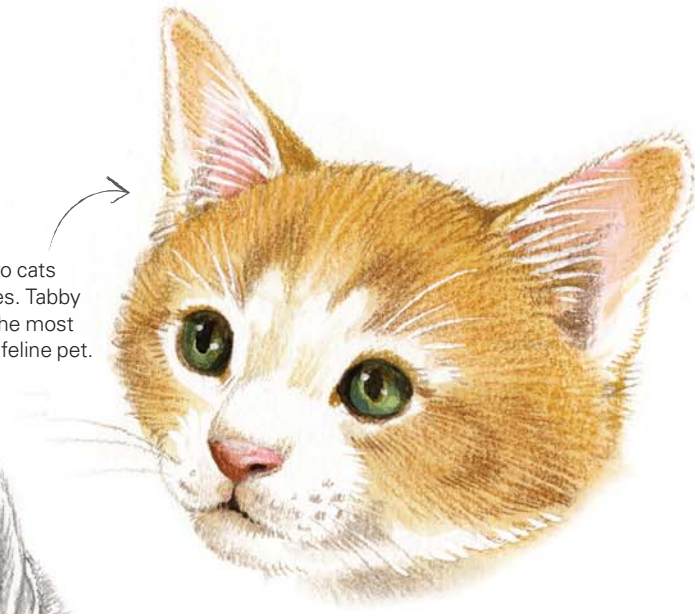
**3** Fill in the fur on the bunny with 2H and 2B pencils. Keep a sheet of scrap paper under your hand to avoid smearing. Add highlights to the eyes with little dots of Titanium White watercolor.

Using the 2H pencil and delicate scribble strokes, shade the leaves and cup. Dot in the flower centers with Titanium White watercolor.

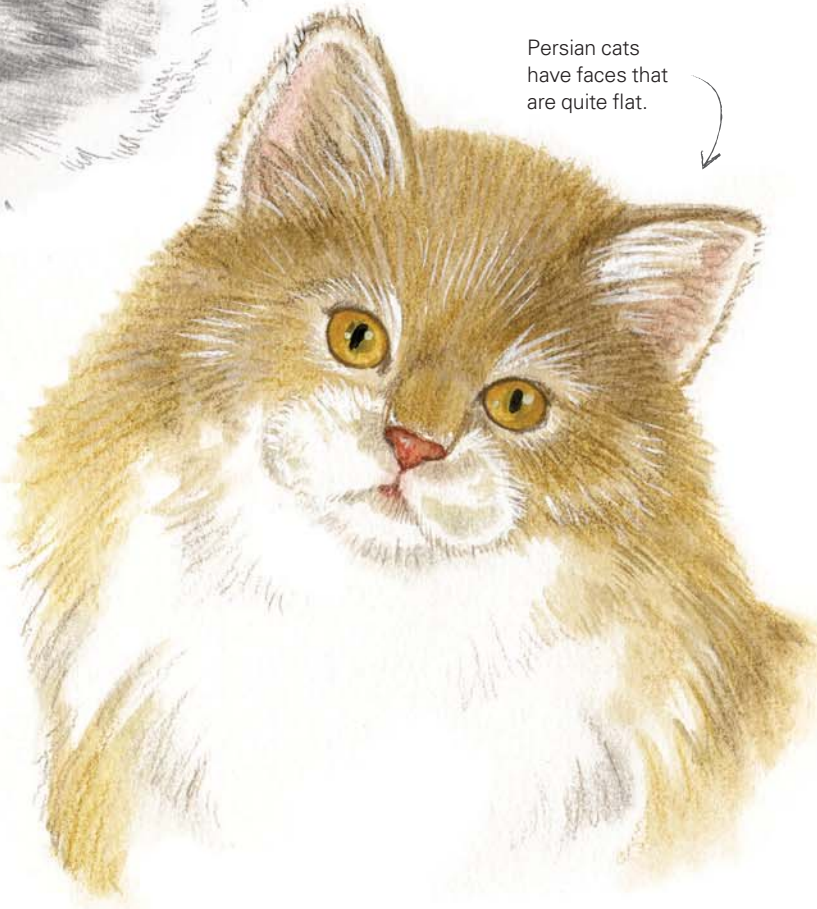
# Cat Studies

Cats have been popular pets for thousands of years. In that time, numerous different breeds have been created, resulting in a great deal of variation in face shape, fur length and color. When drawing fur, your strokes should always follow the length and direction of hair growth.

These two cats are tabbies. Tabby cats are the most common feline pet.



Persian cats have faces that are quite flat.



Siamese cats have large ears and pointed faces.





DEMONSTRATION

# White Cat

The key to drawing white fur is to draw the shading around the white areas rather than trying to draw the white hairs individually. It is best to try to leave the white areas as plain paper. The shadows can be surprisingly colorful; try adding blues and golds rather than just plain gray.

## MATERIALS

bristol board, graphite pencils, kneaded eraser, colored pencils, blender pen, small round brush, Titanium White watercolor



**1** Sketch the cat's portrait with a 2H pencil onto bristol board. Lift the pencil lines gently with a kneaded eraser so they are not too dark.



**2** Coloring a vignette around the cat helps the white fur stand out. I used Earth Green and Sky Blue. The nose and inside the ears are Dark Flesh. Leave the hairs in the ears as plain paper. The shading on the fur is Warm Grey II and Yellow Ochre. The eyes are Sky Blue and Light Phthalo Blue.



**3** Add pupils to the eyes with black. Begin adding darker shading with Walnut Brown. Deepen the colors of the nose, mouth and around the eyes with Dark Flesh and Raw Umber.



**4** Continue shading with Raw Umber. Go over the background with a layer of May Green. Blend everything with a blender pen. Add highlights to the eye with Titanium White watercolor, and whiskers with a 2H pencil.





## About the Author

Born in England and raised in the United States, Jane Maday has been a professional artist since she was fourteen years old. At sixteen, she was hired by the University of Florida as a scientific illustrator. After graduating from the Ringling College of Art and Design, Jane was recruited by Hallmark Cards, Inc., as a greeting card illustrator. She left the corporate world after her children were born and now licenses her work for products such as cards, garden flags, jigsaw puzzles, home décor and more. Jane is the author of many magazine articles and the best-selling art instruction book, *Draw Baby Animals*, as well as *Color Super Cute Animals*, *Adorable Animals Grayscale Coloring Book* and *Super Cute World: A Coloring & Creativity Book*. She lives in scenic Colorado with her husband and children. For more, visit [janemaday.com](http://janemaday.com).

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## Dedication

This book is for all the new friends I have made out in the art world. I hope that you all love the book!

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## Acknowledgments

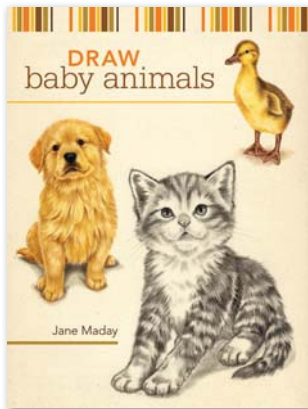
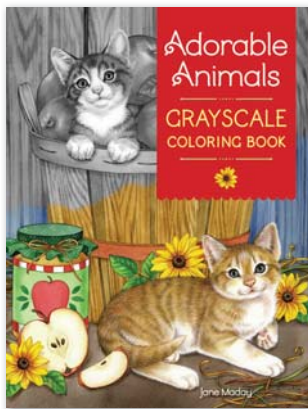
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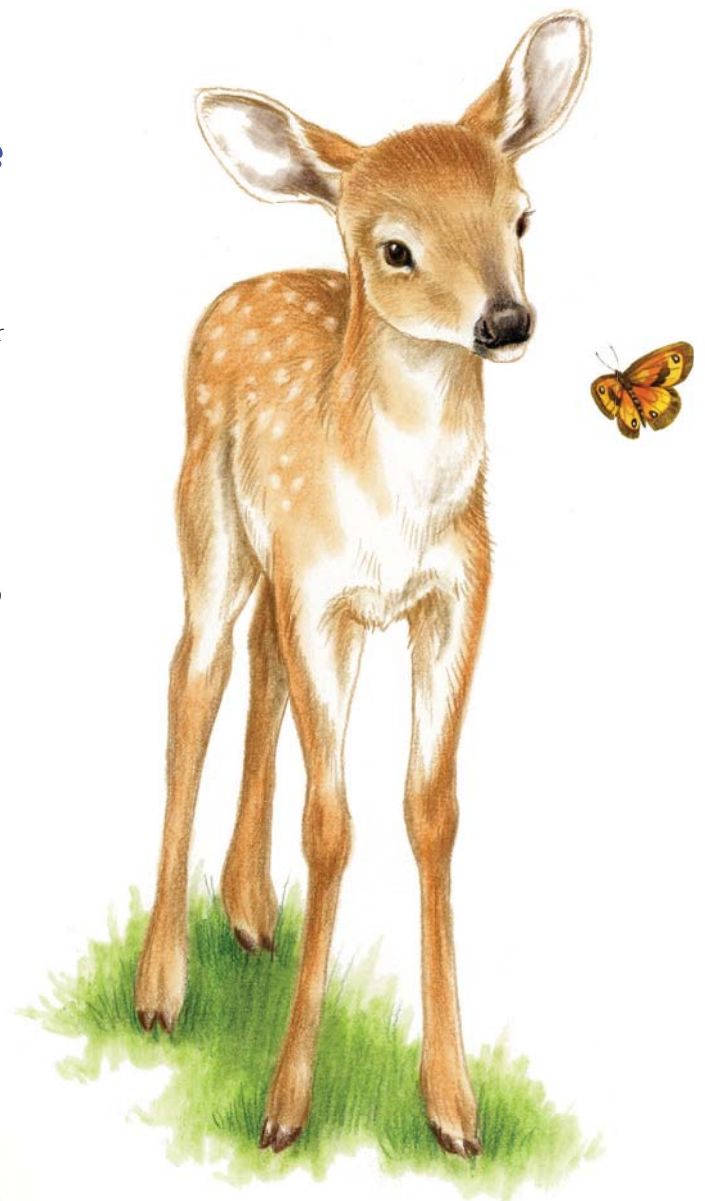


## make absolutely adorable and cuddly animal art

They're cute, cuddly and easy to draw. Learn the drawing techniques and coloring methods necessary to bring all manner of adorable critters to life, from baby bunnies and fluffy puppies to tiny mice and chipper chickadees.

Start with easy shapes and sketches, and build from there. Using your favorite coloring medium—pencil or watercolor—you'll learn how to paint all aspects of these super-cute animals, including big eyes, fuzzy muzzles, sweet expressions and itty bitty paws. Bonus anatomy and nature studies will help you create pleasing scenes for your animals to inhabit.

- 35 step-by-step super-cute drawing demonstrations covering everything from kittens and fawns to birds, bears and butterflies
- How to create sweet and sentimental critter compositions using scale, props and anthropomorphized attributes
- Tips to up the adorable factor and put a smile on someone's face



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