



## Jolie concerned for North Koreans

Angelina Jolie says she's worried about the people of North Korea, particularly the persecution defectors face when repatriated to the reclusive state.

Jolie was in Seoul on yesterday to promote her latest action thriller, *Salt*, which opens with a scene that takes place in a North Korean prison.

Jolie, who serves as a goodwill ambassador for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said she got a tutorial on the plight of North Korean defectors from Seoul-based officials from the UN refugee agency.

"They spoke a lot about the concerns about people being per-

secuted when they are sent back to North Korea," she said. "I'm very concerned about the people."

Tens of thousands of people from impoverished North Korea have migrated to neighbouring China in recent years, activists say. Many are sent back as part of an agreement between North Korea and China.

Some 19,000 have made it to South Korea.

"I learned today about them gaining citizenship and crossing into South Korea," Jolie told reporters. "The UN-HCR practices quiet diplomacy in which they do more than they talk about."

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# Woof like me: The best of screen animals

► They came, we saw, they conquered our hearts ► In honour of Friday's *Cats and Dogs* sequel, here are five films that deserve two paws up



► The Oscar-nominated Babe, left, and the 1953 classic Lassie Come Home show the best of our furry friends.

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The cats and dogs of *Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore* have all kinds of super-spy gadgetry and training at their disposal: jet-packs, tricked-out collars, the works. But they come from a long and lovable tradition of live-action animal movies — ones that were simpler and sweeter. Here's a look at five that show the best of animals:

### Babe (1995)

This is a movie about a talking pig — a talking pig, people! — that was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including best picture and best actor for James Cromwell. (It won one, for visual effects.) That's how good it is. Director and co-writer Chris Noonan's film about a pig who learns how to herd sheep is so sweet, so funny, so unexpectedly touching, it never hits a false note. As voiced by Christine Cavanaugh, Babe might just be the most earnest, most adorable creature ever.

### My Dog Skip (2000)

Just writing the name of the movie makes me want to tear up. Seriously, there is no way to get through this thing without bawling — I dare you to try. Several powerful forces are at work here: an insanely cute Frankie Muniz as our shy, nine-year-old hero; the idea of a dog being your only real friend when you're a lonely, inse-

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ecure kid; and of course, Skip himself, a lovable, scruffy Jack Russell terrier.

### Canuck canine



► While speaking of cute — and resourceful — animals on films, one cannot

forget the enduring Canadian contribution to lovable creatures on screen: *The Littlest Hobo*. Yeah, it was a TV series but was actually based on a little-known 1958 American film. The show, featuring a German Shepherd who goes from town to town helping people in need, originally aired in 1963 but was then revived on CTV in 1979 for a popular six-season run.

### Lassie Come Home (1943)

Maybe it's because I had a collie as a little girl, but I can walk into this movie at any point and find tears streaming down my face within seconds. It's a classic, of course, featuring a young Roddy McDowell and Elizabeth Taylor (and it was remade pretty faithfully a few years ago with Peter O'Toole and Samantha Morton).

### The Black Stallion (1979)

It's scary and thrilling, amusing and inspirational — which means it has all the ingredients for a perfect family film. And that Arabian horse creates such a striking figure, you can't help but be in awe of its majesty.

### Every Which Way But Loose (1978)

Goofy, but kinda irresistible in its self-awareness. You have to love Clint Eastwood toying with his tough-guy image by playing ... a tough guy whose best friend is an orangutan.

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