Steward is what I called myself when I was asked to take care of the Garden in Al Khawaneej, Dubai. The one who has been entrusted with the treasure from nature. Landscapes, flora and fauna. When His Excellency Mr. Saleh drove me around the property in June 2010 and showed all the animals and birds living joyfully in a small ecosystem. May it be Thilapia, Crowned cranes or Llama, it was a magnificent little world for a number of animals and birds from across the globe who got acclimatized in a desert ecosystem over the years. A world unimaginable, not less than a dreamland, a garden like Eden. I could see the passion of Mr. Saleh and his vision for this world of animals. He said while seeing me off that day ‘if not any progress, at least maintain the garden as it is’. His passion was infectious and had completely taken over me making this coffee table book a reality.

As my journey proceeded, the animal world was not an easy deal to handle. Their nutritional and habitat requirements were all different. Each animal had its own veterinary demands. I began working on these two farms in summers, challenging my own adjustments in a new country vis a vis making our animals ready for summer months. Ponies and sheep had to me sheared, monkey shelter had to be covered with date palm leaves and many more precautions for unlikely medical emergencies. Our visiting veterinarian Dr. Mohammed Shafy was a great guide and friend in consulting and teaching me basic animal medicine in a most natural way. Our lime orchard was a great source of vitamin C and our vegetables were treat for our birds of the aviary throughout the year. Most of the medicines used are Ayurvedic or herbal. In fact this book is a brainchild of Dr Shafy.

It was a community. Our animal care takers who worked day and night attending to our farm friends with love and dedication, Dr. Shafy running at mid nights for causalities and Mr. Saleh making sure of the health progress of any sick animal. It is indeed an incredible community!

The story has been overwhelming. The objective of this coffee table book is to showcase our farm members who continue to give a joyful delight to their creator, owner and the steward. Sit back and enjoy the beauty of the animals and birds of AMS Garden!