

Latham Letter

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WINTER 2004

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

Single Issue Price: \$5.00

Celebrating the Human-Animal Bond

PAWSitive InterAction







atlanta humane society

Pets and the Aging:

Atlanta-based PAWSitive InterAction explores scientific thinking about the important role pets play in the lives of people as they grow older.

See Page 6 and www.pawsitiveinteraction.org



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Edith Latham's Mandate:

"To promote, foster, encourage and further the principles of humaneness, kindness and benevolence to all living creatures."



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Promotion of Humane Education*

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The Latham Letter

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Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities



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The Latham Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private operating foundation founded in 1918 to promote respect for all life through education. The Foundation makes grants-in-kind rather than monetary grants. Latham welcomes partnerships with other institutions and individuals who share its commitment to furthering humane education.

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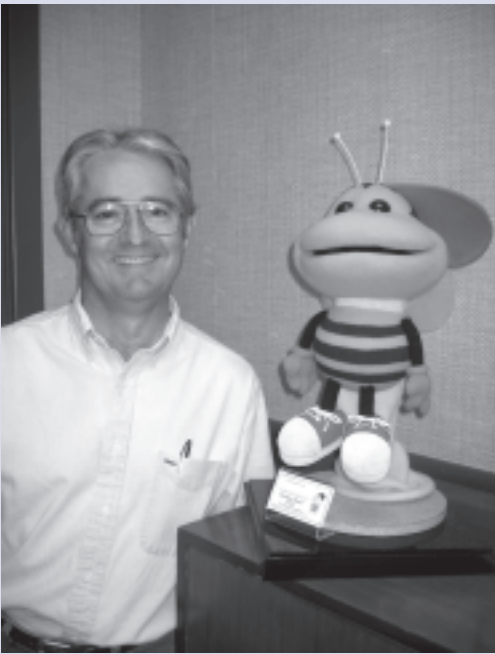
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Editorial:

Expectations For Humane Education

By Hugh H. Tebault, III, President

When reading something, we rely on our comprehension of the words used to understand the author's intent. When using our primary language, the effort involved in grasping the author's meaning is insignificant. However, if we are working in a secondary language, we usually spend more time making sure we understand the meaning of the words used.

This fundamental reality seems obvious. But what happens when someone alters the meaning of words?

We print and use dictionaries to keep the true meaning of the words we use, adjusting for modifications and additions over time. Recently, my attention has been drawn to the attempt to re-define "Humane Education." What is Humane Education? Is it a simple thing with few mandatory attributes, or is it a very complex thing with many mandatory rules and behaviors?

Random House's Dictionary provides the following definitions:

- "hu-mane 1. characterized by tenderness, compassion, and sympathy for other beings, esp. for

the suffering or distressed; merciful. 2. of or pertaining to humanistic studies.

- hu-man-ist n 1. a person with a strong concern for humane welfare, values, and dignity. 2. a person devoted to or versed in the humanities esp. a classical scholar...

- hu-man-i-tar-i-an adj 1. having concern for or helping to improve the welfare and happiness of people. 2. or pertaining to ethical or theological humanitarianism. n 3. a person actively engaged in promoting humane welfare and social reforms, as a philanthropist 4. a person who professes ethical humanitarianism.

- hu-man-i-tar-i-an-ism n 1. humanitarian principals or practices. 2 a. the ethical doctrine that humanity's obligations are concerned wholly with the welfare of the human race. b. the doctrine that humankind may become perfect without divine aid."

For decades, people have consistently used the simple model, humane, when defining Humane Education; namely, the behavior of helping others learn to be kind to and

show respect for others. An obvious starting point is to teach children the benefit of being kind to animals so they will grow up to extend that respect toward other people. This simple model does not say you have to eat a certain way, or live a certain way, or belong to certain organizations – it is just Humane Education.

A more complex model has appeared in the recent past. This complex model, humanitarianism, states that you should be kind to animals – but then adds rules on how you must live your life and relate to the world order in order to be "kind." Typical rules include what food you eat, what clothes you wear, what organizations you support, and even what political position you might take. Key questions can be "...do you support sustainable farming/fishing/etc," or "...are you going to march to support global government?"

The importance of the distinction in these definitions distills down to dollars. "Follow the money." Many of the US school systems mandate that Humane Education be taught, and many state laws go further to clarify what that means.

However, not everyone involved in purchasing humane education material checks out the organizations selling the materials. We owe it to ourselves and our neighbors to make sure our schools are truly teaching basic humane education without pushing some politically correct agenda.

If you are involved in bringing behavior education into a group or school, make sure the groups you utilize are humane educators and not advocacy groups using the term humane education to get inside the classroom. There is a world of difference between teaching children to be kind to animals and each other and changing the world political order.

It seems that nothing is really new. After I wrote this editorial, a book in the Latham Library written in 1993 came to my attention: *The Hijacking of the Humane Movement, Animal Extremism* by Rod and Patti Strand. (ISBN 0-94487-5289)

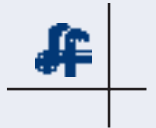
The forward, written by Dr. Alvin Grossman states in part,

“The time has come for all those people who sincerely have the welfare of animals and society at large to declare to those misbegotten souls of the animals rights movement that we have had enough.”

The book’s introduction states further:

“The humane movement has been hijacked, radicalized and rerouted. Started more than a hundred years ago, it was traditionally concerned with the humane treatment of animals. In the last 20

years however, it has been taken over by animal rights leaders whose priority is neither the humane care of animals nor the prevention of cruelty to animals, but instead, the promotion of a revolutionary value system which redefines man’s relationship with other animals. Animal rightists want to end man’s use of animals altogether.” Some of the extremists listed in this book are still operating, albeit more subtly. This should serve as a validation of sorts that we must remain clear on our definitions and goals and vigilant in defending them from the ongoing attacks couched in re-definition of terms or political expediency.



Handout material available

If you or your organization is planning a program or event at which information about the Latham Foundation’s products and services would be appropriate, please contact us for a supply. Please allow at least three weeks’ notice.

Speaker’s bureau available

The Latham Foundation has speakers available who can discuss the links between animal abuse and family violence to a wide range of audiences: veterinarians, social workers, law enforcement officials, psychologists, child protection groups, domestic violence/women’s agencies, and animal welfare workers. We invite our readers to provide contact information of people and organizations who might wish to arrange for “Link” presentations. Please contact Phil Arkow, chair of Latham’s Animal Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Project, c/o Latham at www.latham.org

Of
Note:

Celebrating the
Human-Animal Bond

PAWSitive InterAction



HappyTails

P.A.L.S.

atlanta humane society

Pets and the Aging: A "White Paper" authored by PAWSitive InterAction

Visit www.pawsitiveinteraction.org

for references to studies cited here and additional information

Introduction

In April 2003, PAWSitive InterAction held its second annual educational summit — "Think PAWSitive! 2003: Pets and The Aging" — in Atlanta, Georgia, to explore current scientific thinking about the important role pets play in the lives of people as they grow older. With 76 million aging baby boomers in the United States today, the summit provided vitally important information by bringing together leaders in the field to explore the science behind the human-animal bond.

The 2003 summit, hosted at Emory University in collaboration with the Emory Center for Health in Aging, brought together experts in geriatric medicine, oncology, psychiatry, veterinary medicine and senior living to discuss scientific research, case studies, anecdotal evidence and trends that validate the therapeutic benefits of the bond between humans and animals. This paper is a summary of the key presentations at the summit.

Presenters included Dr. Edward Creagan, professor, Mayo Clinic Medical School, American Cancer Society Professor of Clinical Oncology, The John & Roma Rouse Professor of Humanism in Medicine and member of the Advisory Board for PAWSitive InterAction and Dr. Rebecca Johnson, associate director for research, Center of Excellence on

Aging, University of Missouri-Columbia. In addition, Dr. Sandra Barker, a professor of psychiatry and director of the Center for Human-Animal Interaction at Virginia Commonwealth University, and member of the Advisory Board for PAWSitive InterAction, led a panel discussion with local experts on "Pets as Social Support for the Elderly."

The Challenge

Americans are living longer than ever. A woman in good health at age 50 today can expect to live another 45 years. A man who reaches the age of 65 can anticipate another 20 years of life. Most women will spend the last 12 to 15 years of their lives alone. A pet can alleviate the loneliness that many seniors experience. But pets also can provide demonstrable health benefits to the elderly. Scientists are increasingly providing hard data to show the ways in which the human-animal bond improves health.

The fervent hope of PAWSitive InterAction is that the research brought to the attention of the public through its summit meetings will result in needed changes in policies and procedures to take advantage of the significant, concrete and demonstrable health benefits of the human-animal bond and facilitate the increased use of animals in caring for the elderly.

Continued on next page.

The Pet Prescription

For 30 years, Dr. Edward Creagan has been writing prescriptions that instruct cancer patients to get a pet. A renowned professor of oncology at Mayo Clinic Medical School, Creagan said pets can help patients cope with cancer, and that, in addition, animals can be a significant factor for successful aging. Studies suggest that pets can do more than keep you young at heart,” Creagan said. “They can help keep your heart — and the rest of you — younger and healthier.”

Pet ownership can help lower blood pressure, decrease the number of visits to a physician, reduce depression, increase heart attack survival and decrease loneliness.

“Now if I were the CEO of an HMO looking at the bottom line, this would really get my attention,” he said. “If pet ownership was a medication, it would be patented tomorrow.”

Animal-assisted therapy has clearly demonstrated that even once-a-week exposure to a pet can produce a significant reduction in an elderly person’s loneliness. A study of three groups — one with no animal-assisted therapy, another with one 30-minute animal-assisted therapy session per week and a third with three 30-minute sessions — showed that therapy with animals significantly decreased loneliness in patients who interacted with the animals. “This was a real biological effect, and it didn’t happen by serendipity,” Creagan said.

Creagan cited a study of patients a year after they suffered heart attacks that found that a person can increase fourfold his or her odds of being alive a year after a heart attack by having a pet. “If you had a pet, nine patients out of 10 were alive one year after a heart attack. If you did not have a pet, only seven patients out of 10 were

alive at one year,” he said. In examining deaths, the study found that “for individuals who had no pets, 28 percent were dead at one year. If you had a pet, only six percent were dead.”

The presence of an animal can even provide benefits to Alzheimer’s patients. A Purdue University study found that the simple presence of an aquarium with fish at mealtime increased the appetites of Alzheimer’s patients, who often under eat. “This is rock solid proof that eating in the presence of fish has a calming quality and helps people increase their caloric intake,” Creagan said. (A chart illustrating this study appeared in the *2002 PAWSitive InterAction Summit white paper: A Scientific Look at the Human-Animal Bond*. To download the paper visit www.pawsitiveinteraction.org.)

Pets and “Happiness” Hormones

Scientists already have established that pet ownership is associated with lower depression in older adults; now they are trying to find how they can demonstrate that the human-animal bond helps people stay healthier, be more active, feel better and be less depressed — in other words, that animals can be a preventative measure in the aging process. Dr. Rebecca Johnson presented one of the most exciting studies to date in the human-animal bond field by Dr. Johannes Odendaal, a South African psychologist, physiologist and veterinarian. Dr. Odendaal focused on the effect of the human-animal bond on neuro-endocrine responses, not only in humans but in the dogs with whom they interacted as well. The hormone levels were measured before and

after 30-minute quiet human-animal interaction periods. “What he found overall was that all of the hormones connected with happiness and well-being (such as phenethylamine, endorphin, oxytocin, dopamine) increased in dramatic amounts, and all of the stress hormones (such as cortisol) decreased in similarly dramatic amounts when people interacted with the dogs,” Johnson said. Johnson’s research, based on Odendaal’s findings, is exploring the neurological effects of human-animal interaction to establish animals as complementary therapy in human health care. Preliminary findings are promising. They show beneficial reactions in three hormones: increases in endorphins, known as runner’s high, and serotonin, which alters and controls depression; and decreases in the stress hormone cortisol. Serotonin, in particular, is important with respect to the use of antidepressants.

The benefits of pet ownership seem to transcend race. Ethnic elders tend to depend more on informal support mechanisms, living with relatives rather than moving into nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The key finding of a study based on ethnicity was that dog ownership was positively associated with emotional health for Latino and African-American elders, as well as Caucasians.

Instinctively, we know pets make us feel good,” Johnson said. “Scientifically, we can trace those ‘feel good’ emotions to chemical reactions in people that are triggered by pets. Such chemical ‘triggers’ can enhance human health and wellbeing in numerous ways and provide insights into delaying the aging process.”

Pets as Social Support for the Elderly

The panel on using pets as social support brought together touching stories about the importance of pets. Dr. Sandra Barker, the moderator, director of the Center for Human-Animal Interaction at Virginia Commonwealth University, told of a depressed, lonely, bedridden 95-year-old woman named Annie who was given a small dog named Pumpkin. “Annie quit crying. She started eating. In fact, she would get up from bed to go to the table to eat because she could feed Pumpkin at the same time.” Annie’s landlord sued her for violating a no-pet policy. When asked in a deposition what would happen if Pumpkin were taken away, Annie said, “I’ll die.”

I think that says an awful lot in terms of the emotional and social support that a pet can provide for the elderly,” Barker said. “These warm anecdotes help bring the research we just heard to life. They put a face on that research.”

Some eldercare facilities have already made the decision to allow residents to keep pets. “There is no downside,” said Dominique Siler, a member of the panel and director of Community Relations at Brighton Gardens assisted living facility. Siler’s facility in Atlanta has already adopted a pet-friendly policy. Another panelist, Dr. Joseph Ouslander, director, Emory Center for Health in Aging, noted that, “The MacArthur Studies for Successful Aging have shown that engagement is the one key thing to successful aging. And I think this is where pets can play a big role. Isolation is common in older people, and pets can be a very important factor in dealing with isolation.”

“The importance of keeping pets healthy to fulfill their increasingly valued roles falls upon veterinarians — the other family doctor,” said panelist Dr. Gail Powell-Johnson, CEO, Atlanta Veterinary Eye Clinic. Some institutions already have recognized the importance of the human animal bond and are beginning to integrate it into the nation’s most advanced facilities for caring for the aged. One such facility is “Tiger Place” at the University of Missouri-Columbia, an experimental community for the aging where older adults will move in with their pets. Other facilities arrange for visits by therapy dogs and cats, or expose residents to the human-animal bond with field trips to zoos and nature centers.

Conclusion

For thousands of years, people have intuitively understood the benefits of the human-animal bond. Today, scientists are producing increasing amounts of solid scientific data that prove the beneficial effects of animals on the elderly. In the United States, the number of people 50 and older will double in the next 35 years.”

In an era of concern about the soaring price of medical care, the proof of the benefits of the human-animal bond has important implications for controlling costs and improving health in a growing population of senior citizens,” said Dr. Nalini Saligram, director, corporate communications, Merial, and Board Chair of PAWSitive InterAction. “Indeed, policies that encourage pet ownership among the aged, either at home or as they make

the transition to elder living facilities, can absolutely improve some medical conditions and alleviate loneliness.”

Discussions at the PAWSitive InterAction summit were thought-provoking and the attendees left with the spirit of spreading the word to law- and policymakers about the growing body of scientific evidence that indicates people can live longer, healthier, more enjoyable lives, while taking fewer medications, if they can interact with a companion animal.

Among the issues that society must address are finding ways to fund animal ownership and veterinary care to help elderly people who wish to have pets but have limited budgets. Discussions touched on the issue of whether medical insurance and health maintenance organizations would begin to pay for the costs of pet therapy.

Asked directly about when society would reach the point where insurance covered the cost of pet therapy, Dr. Rebecca Johnson declared: “When we continue to present findings that show that it actually works.” And that is the purpose of PAWSitive InterAction: it will continue to provide a forum to showcase the evidence that pets are good for our health — at all ages.



Crime Prevention Funding Introduces the “Link” to Canadian Groups

By Phil Arkow

Learning to Care through Kindness to Animals



A guide for teachers

CALGARY and EDMONTON, Alberta – Two Canadian humane organizations have obtained federal funding to make innovative gains in the fight against animal abuse.

The Community Mobilization Program of Department of Justice Canada launched a National Crime Prevention Strategy. This proactive approach aims to reduce crime and victimization by investing in projects that address risk factors at the community level and that develop community-based partnerships.

The Calgary Humane Society (CHS) obtained a grant through the Strategy to carry out its Violence Prevention Initiative and its No Excuse for Abuse Campaign. The funding enabled CHS to put a full-time violence prevention coordinator, Heather Gnenz, on staff.

Through the grant, CHS has developed a multidisciplinary approach to family violence. Working with the YWCA, a women's shelter, police,

a veterinarian and teacher, CHS is helping community action groups coordinate responses to violence, helping legislators strengthen anti-cruelty laws, and providing Link training for social services providers. Activities to date include:

- conducting local research on the impact of animal abuse on battered women
- introducing the Link to domestic violence agencies, veterinarians, law enforcement officers, and educators
- establishing a pet safekeeping program for animal victims of family violence.

CHS has developed a brochure to help battered women include their pets in safety planning and manuals about the Link.

These action guides include flowcharts of how to respond when you observe suspected animal abuse, domestic violence or child abuse; guidelines for dealing with victims; lists of resources; summaries of research; legal remedies available to domestic violence victims; and a primer called “Domestic Violence 101” – one-page summaries of indicators of abuse and quick reference cards for police officers that summarize animal cruelty laws and relevant sections of the criminal code.

CHS was founded in 1922 to prevent cruelty to animals and children. Like many other humane organizations, its mission is coming full circle with a renewed emphasis on the links between all forms of

family violence. For details, contact Gnenz at 403-250-7912 ext. 338 or heatherg@calgaryhumane.ca

In Edmonton, the Alberta SPCA also used National Strategy funding to produce a guidebook for teachers that uses the link between animal cruelty and other violent behaviors as the rationale for introducing humane education into schools.

The booklet, “Learning to Care through Kindness to Animals,” was published by the Alberta Teachers' Association. It includes an excellent history and definition of humane education; guidelines for teachers when a student discloses animal abuse; curriculum and teaching ideas; and an extensive list of printed and video resources.

The Alberta SPCA was instrumental in including a Latham Foundation presentation, “Woman's Best Friend: Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence,” in the annual province-wide Family Violence Conference.

For details, contact Tim Battle, Humane Education Director at 780-447-3600 or direduc@albertaspca.org



Center for the Study of Animal Well-Being at Washington State University Educates the Public about the HCAB

By Francois Martin Ph.D.

Anne Taunton

People-Pet Partnership (PPP) is a public service organization within the Center for the Study of Animal Well-Being at the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) at Washington State University (WSU). Founded in 1974 by Dr. Leo K. Bustad, PPP's mission is to research and educate the public about the Human-Animal Bond (HAB), its applications, and the proper treatment of companion animals. Dr. Bustad was an outstanding educator, scientist, humanitarian, and pioneer in the field of HAB research who believed that all people benefited from an awareness and appreciation of the sanctity and interrelatedness of all living things. PPP promotes Dr. Bustad's philosophies through education, community service, and research.

In 1980, PPP joined with the Latham Foundation to publish *The People-Pet Partnership Program* written by Dr. Bustad and Linda Hines. The purpose of this booklet was to present guidelines on the establishment of a People-Pet Partnership in one's local area. Since then, both organizations have worked toward a common goal of promoting humane education and the HAB.

PPP designs a variety of additional educational materials for the general public and for veterinary students. Recently, PPP created an innovative educational web site called *Learning and Living Together: Building the Human-Animal Bond*

Online Curriculum. This web site educates youth by promoting science and general education, encouraging the proper treatment of companion animals, and building leadership skills through relationships with companion animals. The curriculum currently consists of three modules: K-1st grade, *Getting Acquainted with Pets*; 2nd grade, *Little Critters as Pets*; and 3rd grade, *Cats as Companion Animals*. In the K-1st grade module, children get acquainted with pets and are introduced to the importance of carefully selecting companion animals according to their family's life style. They learn the difference between a pet, a farm animal, and a wild animal. The 2nd grade module introduces children to a special type of pet: the little critters. Children learn about the care of and how to safely handle little critters. With the last module, third graders become familiar with domestic cats, their behavior, biology, and history. All modules involve complex tasks based on challenging problems at age appropriate levels. The activities of the web site are aligned with the USA's National Science Education Standards (NSES). Since the spring of 2003, the first three modules of the PPP curriculum have been available online and are free of charge (<http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-pppp/child.asp>).

Several classes exploring the HAB and related topics are part of the veterinary curriculum at WSU.

For example, *Reverence for Life*, a class taught by the Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Animal Well-being and People-Pet Partnership's director, Dr. François Martin, investigates connections between living things, with an emphasis on those between humans and animals. Students contribute to discussions and debates on various topics related to the use of animals in Western societies, veterinary education, and social issues associated with veterinary medicine. A second class, *Professional Orientation and Ethics*, offers students a chance to grow as people, leaders and compassionate caregivers amid the other demands of the curriculum. In this course, coordinated by Dr. Martin and Dr. Kathleen Ruby, Head of the CVM Counseling Services, students are encouraged to explore the balance between the science and the art of veterinary medicine as it relates to important issues like pet loss and grief, self care, the impaired professional, ethical decision making, legal issues, animal rights and animal welfare, human-animal bond, etc. It provides veterinary students with opportunities to experience and embrace important concepts, ideas, and models that, while recognized as integral to the practice of veterinary medicine, are generally not addressed in the more didactic portions of the curriculum.

Continued on next page.

As service to Moscow, ID, Pullman, WA, and the surrounding Palouse area, PPP offers recreational, therapeutic horseback riding for people with emotional, physical and/or mental challenges. The Palouse Area Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) program promotes horseback riding for individuals with disabilities as an opportunity to strengthen and relax muscles, increase joint mobility, and improve balance, posture, and coordination. This experience fosters the development of confidence and self-reliance in riders while they learn the basics of caring for a horse. Not only does PATH benefit the participants in the program and their families, but it also offers opportunities for WSU students as well as community members to interact with people with disabilities in a normative context as volunteers. PATH enlists the help of over 100 volunteers who lend their time and expertise to the program and serves between 65 to 95 riders per year. PATH is one of only three university-based American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) Premier Accredited Centers in North America.

Finally, PPP's research is centered on generating scientific knowledge about the HAB and its applications, including when the bond is broken at the death of a companion animal. Dr. Martin and colleagues are currently researching factors and practices surrounding euthanasia of companion animals and the importance of those factors to small animal clients, staff, and students at a veterinary teaching hospital. Preliminary results show that all groups recognize the same factors, such as privacy, a client-present euthanasia option, and employee training on grief and loss,

as being important to the experience. This research helps to better understand this process and to facilitate the HAB in healthy euthanasia experiences. Recently, PPP's research team reported a connection between the importance of the HAB to veterinary students and the career paths they chose (Martin, Ruby and Farnum, 2003). This study showed that all students value the HAB and believe it is important to the veterinary medicine curriculum. Students agreed that the HAB was influential in their decisions to become veterinarians. Some differences noted in the study were that students seeking a career in food animal medicine seem to attach less value to some aspects of the HAB and that females attach more significance to the role the HAB plays in their lives. Finally, Dr. Martin and colleagues published findings on the effects of therapy dogs on social behavior of children with Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) in therapeutic context (Martin and Farnum, 2002). Results showed that children with PDD exhibited a more playful mood, were more focused, and were more aware of their social environments when in the presence of a therapy dog. This study suggests that supervised interaction with dogs may have specific benefits for children with PDD and proposes that animal-assisted therapy (AAT) maybe an appropriate form of therapy. In summary, PPP aims to conduct research that will result in identifying, promoting and facilitating the HAB.

For more information about People-Pet Partnership at Washington State University and a complete list of research publications, please visit our web site at <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-ppp/>

Life Itself

The night's cool and
the nocturnal animals
rustle in the woods
around this house.

In a while, the fat possum
will return to feed
on my dogs' food.
They'll know he is out there.
They can hear him move
the metal bowl across
the flagstone floor.

In early summer,
a small brown bird
slept on an open wooden
perch I'd nailed
to a porch support.

What can we do
with this material?
Protect it and make it safe,
if only in our memories.

September 9, 2003

Tom Page
Spruce Pine, NC

Latham celebrates: A Year in our Life and a Little Bit of History



HISTORY

THE '20s, '30s and '40s: To encourage graphic artists to focus on kindness and humane education, Latham created an annual worldwide poster contest that ran for nearly forty years. The first contest had only 12 entries, but by 1929 there were more than 1,000 posters entered. That number grew to 10,000 in 1942, 15,000 in 1953, and 30,000 in 1961 when more than 2,000 were submitted from Japan alone.



During the 1930s and 1940s Latham had more than 40 exhibits traveling around the country for schools and art centers.

In 2003 the Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education

celebrated its 85th anniversary. The mission set forth by Edith Latham in 1918 continues to be relevant.

THE '50s AND '60s – BROTHER BUZZ: In 1952 Latham updated the Brother Buzz radio drama for television. They hired Ralph Chesse, a well-known classic puppeteer and artist and launched the first children's television program with humane education as its goal. The Brother Buzz show was a Wednesday afternoon staple on KPIX until 1960 when CBS took the time slot for network programming. Brother Buzz then moved to KTVU as part of the Captain Satellite show.

By October, 1952, 4,000 letters for membership in the Brother Buzz Club had been received. By 1962 there were 40,000 members!

During that same time, Latham sponsored 16mm films for elementary classrooms. Their success inspired Latham to create its own film department, which has been active ever since.

The Brother Buzz Club Pledge

"I will try to be kind to every living creature and to cultivate a spirit of protection toward all who are weaker than myself and I will try to treat animals as I would wish to be treated if I were in their place"

TODAY:

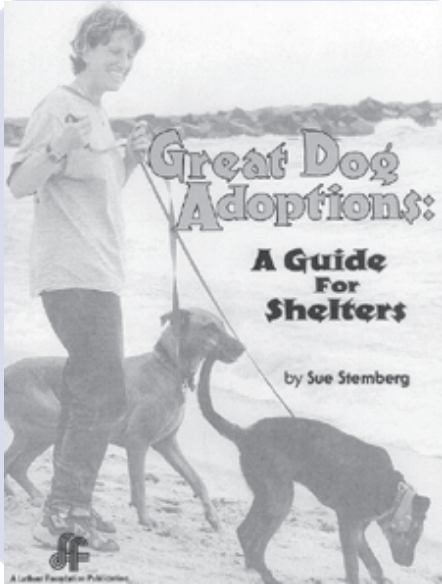
Award-winning documentary filmmaker and art director Tula Asselanis joined the Foundation staff in 2003. Currently she is completing the new *Breaking the Cycles of Violence* video and planning one on zoonosis.

Great Dog Adoptions: A Guide for Shelters is the highlight of recent publishing projects. Author Sue Sternberg describes how shelters can provide both behavioral and mental sheltering and better manage and maintain the dogs in their care, whether for days, weeks, months, or years. It emphasizes the importance of temperament testing and training in order to find good matches between dogs and potential adopters.

The book concludes with the author's thoughts on euthanasia, which are also the subject of a new HBO documentary "Shelter Dogs."

In December 1999, filmmaker Cynthia Wade, interested in making a film about ethics, approached Sue and asked if she could document the events at her boarding and adoption facility in Accord, NY. Sternberg not only offered unrestricted access to everything that happened at the shelter, but she also entrusted Wade with complete editorial control over the project.

For more than two years, Wade filmed pet surrenders, staff meetings, temperament tests, adoptions and euthanasias. As a seemingly endless stream of homeless dogs arrive at



their doorstep, Sternberg and her staff navigate a world in which there are no simple solutions, and where decisions are often of a life-and-death nature.

Some of the dogs are immediately placed in wonderful, permanent homes, but there are also troubling moral dilemmas surrounding some of the “gray area” dogs. If a dog bites a shelter worker, is it ethical to adopt him out to the general public? If a dog guards his food, can he be trusted in a family with children? And what about the dogs that never find homes — is it more humane to sentence them to a lifetime in the shelter or to euthanize them? This is a controversial topic with significant humanitarian and public health implications.

“Shelter Dogs” will be available for fundraising and home video after its HBO premiere in January. Screening dates and locations are available at www.shelterdogs.org

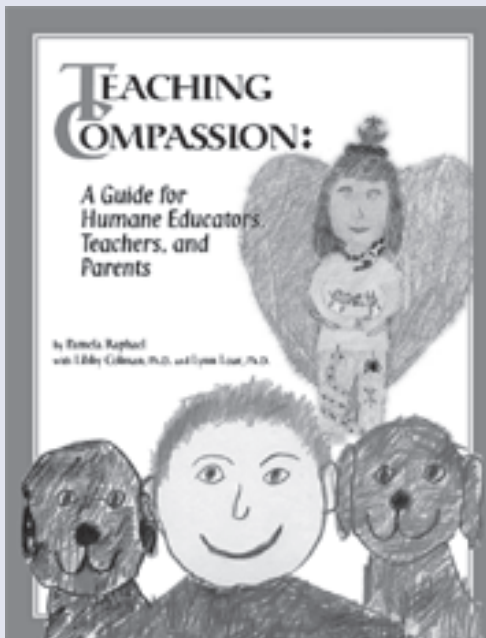
We have distributed 2,600 copies of *Great Dog Adoptions* since its publication in 2002.

This year we revised and updated the widely distributed *Breaking the Cycles of Violence manual* by Phil Arkow. The new

Guide to Multi-Disciplinary Interventions gives child protection, animal protection and domestic violence prevention professionals tangible tools to identify, report, investigate, and manage cases of abuse and neglect.

Another of our publications, *Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Animal Abuse: Linking the Circles of Compassion for Prevention and Intervention*, co-edited by Phil Arkow and Frank Ascione, Ph.D., emphasizes multidisciplinary intervention for reducing community violence and achieving systemic change. The book is available from Purdue University Press.

Teaching Compassion: A Guide for Humane Educators, Teachers, and Parents contains lesson plans and a teacher’s narrative to encourage respect, responsibility, and compassion in elementary-age children. It uses artwork and poetry to examine the meaning of animals in children’s hearts.



Latham responded to hundreds of **requests for information** from university-level students, researchers, the media, like-minded organizations, and individuals interested in the benefits of the human animal bond, humane education, and violence reduction and prevention in 2003. The majority of these requests for HCAB reprints and back issues of the *Latham Letter* were received through the Foundation’s web site: www.Latham.org.

Latham is respected as a neutral or non-partisan organization — a respected, non-threatening leader. This gives the Foundation a unique and valuable niche in its field.

Latham, as a private operating foundation, uses its resources to highlight the importance of universal kinship and respect for all life through publications, projects, and as a catalyst for responsible action.

It sponsors the Search for Excellence Video Awards to recognize and encourage excellence in video productions promoting respect for all life. The contest is held every two years. The next winners will be announced in the Summer 2004 *Latham Letter*.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

The Foundation is proud to include **Associate Members** on its roster. Benefits include first access to each *Latham Letter* through the Foundation’s web site and a 10% discount on video and publication orders.



Upcoming Workshops, Conferences & Events

E-mail your listings to info@latham.org

APRIL 2004

April 23-25

No More Homeless Pets Conference, Presented by Best Friends Animal Society, Las Vegas, NV nmhp@bestfriends.org

MAY 2004

May 12-15

National Conference on Animals in Disaster, Philadelphia, PA, Presented by The Humane Society of the United States, www.hsus.org/disasterconference

JUNE 2004

June 13-19

How to Start an Animal Sanctuary, Presented by Best Friends Animal Society, at Best Friends, humane.ed@bestfriends.org

JULY 2004

July 7-10

Let-Live Canada 2004, Vancouver, BC, www.jazzpurr.org

AUGUST 2004

August 19-22

CHAMP (Conference on Homeless Animal Management and Policy), Orlando, FL Presented by The Pet Savers Foundation, info@champconference.org, www.champconference.org

SEPTEMBER 2004

September 12-18

How to Start an Animal Sanctuary, Presented by Best Friends Animal Society, at Best Friends, humane.ed@bestfriends.org

September 26-28

American Humane's Conference 2004, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, www.americanhumane.org

OCTOBER 2004

October 24-26

No More Homeless Pets Conference, Presented by Best Friends Animal Society, Las Vegas, NV nmhp@bestfriends.org



Trap-and-Reunite (TAR) Uses Baited Humane Traps to Recover “Lost” Cats

By Kathy “Kat” Albrecht

Shardik was a naughty kitty. Like thousands of other indoor-only cats, he leapt at the opportunity to slip outdoors for an impromptu adventure. And like thousands of other displaced cats—cats that have been transplanted into unfamiliar territory—Shardik panicked in his new surroundings. And like most other displaced cats, Shardik did two things: he hid nearby and he remained silent. Shardik looked and behaved like a feral, untamed cat.

When he escaped, Shardik’s guardians, Tim and Suzie Prange, panicked. But thankfully, they went above and beyond what most guardians do when their cat is lost. They used the Internet to learn about “lost cat behavior” and came to realize that they could use a baited humane trap as a recovery tool. This method, known as “trap-and-reunite” or “TAR,” is growing in popularity thanks to Missing Pet Partnership, a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing the science of finding lost pets.

Here is Suzie Prange’s diary of how she lost and then found her beloved kitty Shardik:

October 11, 2003 — *We accidentally left our sliding glass door cracked open. I didn’t realize the door was open until one of our two cats, Apache, walked back into the house. After a quick search of the house my husband Tim and I realized that our other cat, Shardik, was missing. We ran outside and saw him two doors down. He was star-*

ing at a cat in another apartment and was very upset. When we approached him he ran. We continued to try to herd him back into our apartment, but he refused to go in the door. Finally Shardik ran, at full speed, to the end of our apartment building and disappeared. We spent most of the night searching for him. Tim went off on foot, while I stayed by the door in case he came home on his own. But we didn’t see him again.

October 15, 2003 — *During the past week, we’ve tried numerous search techniques. We’ve driven or walked our neighborhood early in the morning and after dark. We’ve left out tuna and water on our patio. We’ve also left out dirty laundry and used kitty litter and have even dribbled tuna from the end of our building (where we last saw him) to our patio. We’ve been sleeping in the living room on the futon so we could check the patio during the night and hear him if he came home and meowed to get back in. We’ve visited the animal shelter, called all of the no-kill shelters and veterinarians in the area, and placed a lost ad in the local newspaper.*

October 17, 2003 — *We’ve posted nearly 100 fliers within a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile radius of our apartment and got numerous calls during the first two*

days, but none have produced results. The third day after the fliers were up, the city building inspector called and said we had to remove all



of the fliers. Unknown to us, there was a city ordinance prohibiting the posting of fliers. I feel like everything is working against us.

October 21, 2003 — *Everything that I have read about lost indoor-only cat behavior says that there is a high probability that Shardik is still very close. But we’ve gone 10 days now without a single sighting. I’m*

discouraged, but Tim and I have decided that we just need to keep trying to find Shardik.

October 22, 2003 – Today, as I left the apartment building through the main door, I walked out and saw a cat in the bushes. It was Shardik – just 3 doors down from our apartment! He saw me and quickly ran under the concrete slab in front of the doorway. I ran in and got tuna (his favorite snack) and went back to the hole. I could see him, but he was afraid of me. He wanted the tuna and crept up to the entrance. I fed him a little tuna by hand and tried to get him to come out enough that I could grab him. At one point he let me pet his head but when I got my hand on the back of his neck he pulled away. Finally, he growled at me and crawled back even further and disappeared. We blocked all possible exits and put a humane trap at the main entrance. The only way out is to go into the trap. All we can do is wait!

October 26, 2003 – It's been four days and Shardik still hasn't gone into the trap. By the second day I was frantic and we moved the trap away from the entrance to check on him. We couldn't see him and I didn't know whether he had found another way out or if he had crawled in a corner and was out of view. So we removed the trap and decided to wait to make sure he was okay. We didn't see him Friday, but Saturday morning he was there again. When he saw us he went further back under the slab and disappeared from view. This time we put the trap near the entrance, but did not block it. We're hopeful that he will be more likely to enter the trap if he doesn't feel forced. I'm worried about his condition and fear he will die.

October 30, 2003 – Yesterday, we saw Shardik on our own patio and immediately moved the trap over to our patio. We haven't seen him today, but something ate the cat food and the tuna that we left out last night. Our new plan of action is to get Shardik to regularly visit our patio by leaving out food and then to slowly work him into the trap.

I'm worried about his condition and fear he will die.

November 1, 2003 – In order to be sure Shardik is visiting our patio and to gauge his reaction to the trap, we've set up a video camera hooked up to a VCR. We've been able to find out that Shardik has indeed been visiting our patio nightly! Last night, Shardik came by 2, 3:30, and 5 o'clock. We've moved the trap closer to the food so that it was in the field of view of the camera and we could judge his reaction to it. He ignored the trap completely.

November 2, 2003 – We've pinned open the trap using a stick (so that it could not be triggered) and placed food by the front door of the trap. Last night, Shardik went to the food without hesitation and visited the bowl three times.

November 3, 2003 – Last night, we placed the bowl half way back in the trap. Shardik refused to enter the trap the first time he visited, but entered hesitantly the 2nd time. Later during

that night (he visited four or five times), he seemed very comfortable going inside the trap to eat. I want to continue to ease Shardik into the trap, but the weather is supposed to turn very cold. We've decided to go for broke. Tonight we'll put the food all the way back and set the trap.

November 4, 2003 – Last night I stayed up and waited. We turned out all the lights, and set everything else up as usual. Shardik first came by at 11 pm. He circled the trap and left. He came again at 1:30, showed some interest in entering the trap but then something frightened him away. Immediately afterwards another cat came up and I tapped on the sliding glass door and it ran away. Five minutes later Shardik came back and slowly walked in the trap. We had put a few crunchies leading toward the back and he ate them as he entered. He went all the way back to the trip plate, stood there for what seemed to me like forever, and backed out and left! My heart sank, but I vowed to continue to wait.

During the next two hours I had to continually frighten away other cats. Somewhere around 3:30 I began to get very tired, closed my eyes just for a couple of minutes and then I heard it – the trap door shut. My first thought was that another cat had come back and I had to get him out fast before Shardik came back. I ran out, looked in the trap, and couldn't believe my eyes! It was Shardik! Tim watched the videotape today and said that the last time Shardik came, he circled the trap and went straight in without hesitation. Shardik was lost for a total of twenty five days. But thanks to the information on lost cat behavior found at www.lostapet.org and the great humane trapping advice and surveillance tips that I found at

www.catsinthebag.org, *my baby is home where he belongs!*

The feral and stray cat population is full of “lost” cats like Shardik that were never found. Shardik’s behavior clearly demonstrates why cat owners who rely on posting flyers and visiting their local shelter cages routinely fail to find a skittish “lost” cat that may be hiding nearby, behaving like a feral cat. Educating cat owners in how and when to use baited humane traps as a recovery tool will increase shelter return to owner rates as well as help reduce the feral cat population. If you would like to learn more about lost cat behavior and TAR services, visit Missing Pet Partnership’s Web site at www.lostapet.org.

Kat Albrecht is a police detective-turned-pet detective who has trained several dogs to track lost pets and pioneered law enforcement-based lost pet services through Missing Pet Partnership, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reuniting lost pets with their owners. Kat’s book “The Lost Pet Chronicles: Adventures of a K-9 Cop Turned Pet Detective” will be published in April 2004. For more information on Kat’s shelter seminars and books, visit her web site at www.katalbrecht.com.

Email kat@lostapet.org



Doris Day Animal Fund’s COMICS FOR COMPASSION Reaches Adolescent Boys with a Valuable Lesson



DDAF created its **Comics for Compassion** program to reach a large audience of adolescent boys, who represent a significant percentage of comic book readers, and unfortunately, childhood perpetrators of animal cruelty. They are currently offering free copies of X-Men Unlimited #44, published by Marvel Comics, to teachers and humane educators. This comic book is recommended for children of middle school age or older. They also have a free study guide to help facilitate discussion among young readers about the issues addressed in this story. For more information, visit <http://www.ddaf.org/comicsforcompassion/xmen/>.

They are also holding a CONTEST, open to students in grades 1-9, to design a pair of superhuman and super-animal mascots to serve as the new official logo for the Comics for Compassion program. The winning characters will also appear in a Marvel comic book, and their creator will receive artwork used in the creation of that comic book. The deadline for entries is April 30, and entry forms can be downloaded at <http://www.ddaf.org/comicsforcompassion/animalchampioncontest/>.

Museum Exhibit Teaches Children about Pets



NORFOLK, VA—The Norfolk Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' new Pet Park exhibit in the Children's Museum of Virginia in Portsmouth, Virginia educates children about animal-related issues while they play.

One of only a few of its kind in the country, the permanent exhibit teaches children about responsible pet ownership, the importance of spaying and neutering, and helps to ensure area children grow up to be compassionate, knowledgeable pet owners. The exhibit, which was designed and created with help from Old Dominion University's Technology Application Center, will reach approximately 10,000 children a year.



The Pet Park exhibit features a life-sized reading gazebo with animal-related books, a plasma screen TV playing pet-friendly educational videos, spinning totem poles to educate about different animals and animal behaviors, a computer kiosk to teach about the needs of pets, and an etch-a-pet table for coloring. Norfolk SPCA literature is also displayed. Live animals visit the exhibit weekly.



The Norfolk SPCA is a non-profit no-kill animal welfare organization that provides sanctuary to unwanted animals, promotes adoptions and responsible pet ownership, and operates a low-cost spay/neuter and wellness clinic. Please visit www.norfolkspca.com for additional information.

Canines in the Classroom: Raising Humane Children through Interactions with Animals

By Michelle A. Rivera

In *Canines in the Classroom* award-winning humane educator Michelle Rivera has created a guide for all who want to begin teaching humane education in their homes, classrooms, communities, churches and organizations. In addition to providing practical instructions and creative lesson plans, Rivera interviews students, teachers, humane educators and experts in psychology, education and sociology – creating a comprehensive picture of humane education that demonstrates the many ways in which humane education works and why it is so badly needed in our society.

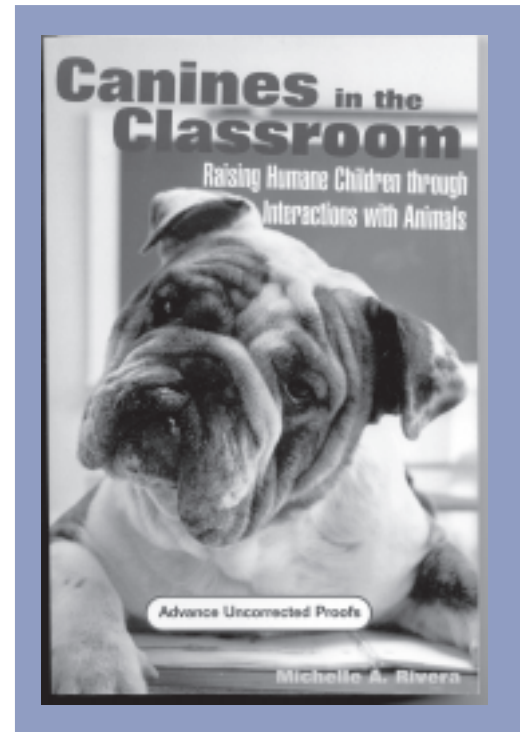
Michelle Rivera is the author of *Hospice Hounds: Animals and Healing at the Borders of Death* and she is co-founder and director of Animals 101, Inc., a humane education project in South Florida. She has received numerous awards in the fields of animal rescue and humane education and is a board member of the Association of Professional Humane Educators (APHE).

Canines in the Classroom

By Michelle A. Rivera

ISBN 1-59056-053-1 \$15.00 paperback

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ABOVE ALL, BE KIND

Raising a Humane Child in Challenging Times

By Zoe Weil

Author Zoe Weil, a pioneer in the field of humane education, is aware of the enormous effect parents and other caring adults can have on young people. In *Above All, Be Kind*, Weil describes what most parents want for their children – to be good human beings: to display generosity, courage, perseverance, integrity, and kindness. Weil sums up these qualities with a single word: “humane.”

Weil begins by identifying ten commonly articulated qualities for living a humane life, then lays out a plan for nurturing these qualities in children. Cornerstones of the book and her humane education approach are the four key elements to raising humane children: providing information; teaching critical thinking; instilling reverence, respect and responsibility; and offering positive choices.

Weil examines these elements within the different developmental stages of a child’s life, each of which presents different challenges. Chapters on The Early Years (0-6), The Middle Years (7-12), and Adolescence (13+) discuss the finer details of the four elements at each stage and are replete with real-life examples and “exploring the issues” sidebars. While parents and caregivers will likely get much practical use of these chapters, they also will find a welcome source



Media Reviews, continued on next page.

of inspiration in the final chapter, which profiles several humane young men and women who are compassionate and respectful and who meet the world with confidence and integrity.

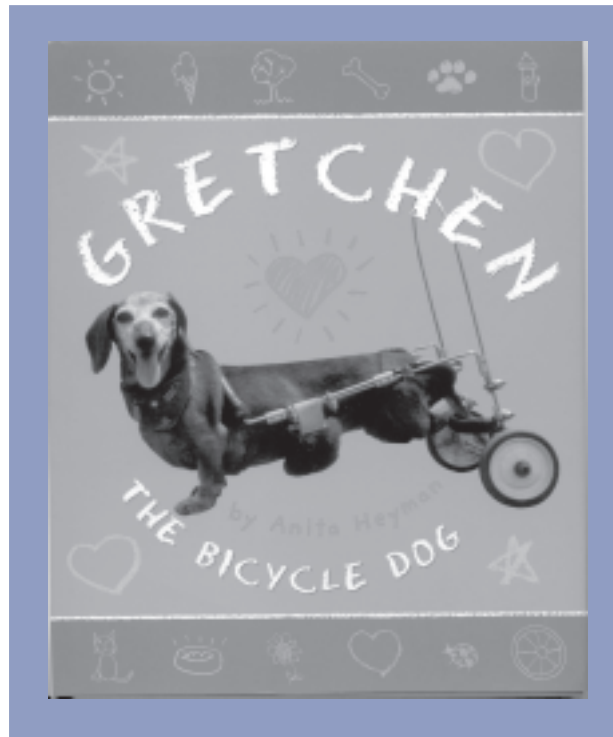
Above All, Be Kind encourages parents to examine their own lifestyles and attitudes, too, and helps them determine how they would like to change.

With gentle lucidity, this book gives parents the tools to raise humane children who know who they are and what is truly important in life; who learn how to overcome anger and hatred with understanding and commitment to fair resolution; and who will help create a more just and peaceful society. When children are taught to seek truth and live with integrity, and act upon their compassion in creative and thoughtful ways, everyone benefits. Humane children can bring about a more humane world. This book helps light the way.

Author Zoe Weil is cofounder and president of the International Institute for Humane Education. A humane educator since 1985, she developed the first graduate program in humane education in the U.S. She holds masters degrees from Harvard Divinity School and the University of Pennsylvania and has written several humane education books for young people.

Above All, Be Kind: Raising a Humane Child in Challenging Times
Zoe Weil

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800-567-6772 or
www.newsociety.com



Gretchen The Bicycle Dog

A 6-year-old friend of mine named Peter said he was afraid reading *Gretchen The Bicycle Dog* book would “hurt his heart.” But his mother encouraged him to give it a try and rather than making them sad, they discovered a heartwarming story of how one spunky, curious dachshund triumphed over adversity. Gretchen narrates her own tale about the family who dotes on her after her common but unfortunate accident and the set of wheels that gives her back her zip and speed and freedom.

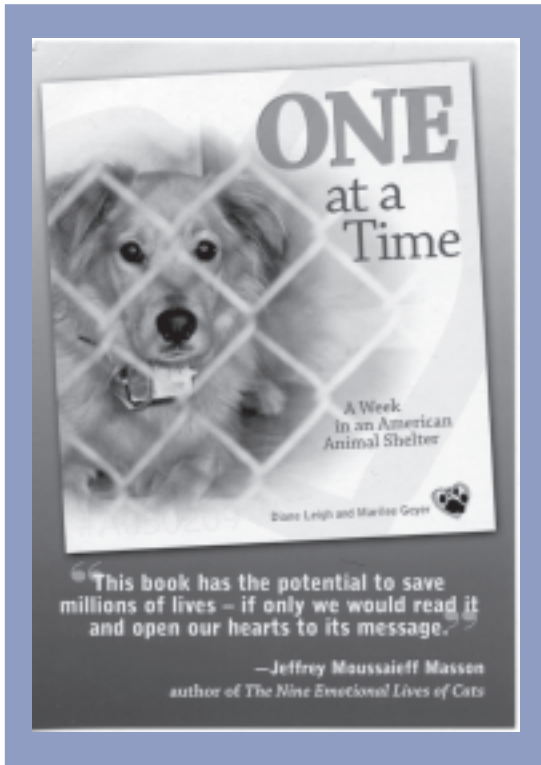
With candid photos, an engaging text, and a lively scrapbook-style format, Gretchen’s story of unflappable determination and joy in life will be appreciated by children, pet owners, and anyone who has ever overcome a challenge.

Author Anita Heyman explained that whenever she and Gretchen went out walking (and rolling), children would gather around, adults would stop to talk, and cars would even pull

up to the curb. Everyone wanted to know about Gretchen’s cart – why she needed it and how it helped her. So ... “I decided that Gretchen should tell her story.”

Anita Heyman is the author of two young adult books, *Final Grades* and *Exit from Home*, which was an ALA Notable Children’s Book and an ALA Best Book for Young Adults. It was also a recipient of the Children’s Book Award from the Association of Jewish Libraries and the Sydney Taylor Book Award. She lives in New Jersey with her husband, her dog, and her cat.

Gretchen The Bicycle Dog
by Anita Heyman
Dutton Children’s Books,
a division of Penguin Putnam
Books for Young Readers
www.penguinputnam.com
ISBN 0-525-47066-2



One at a Time: A Week in an American Animal Shelter

By Diane Leigh and Marilee Geyer

This book chronicles the true stories of 75 animals who passed through a typical U.S. animal shelter during seven days witnessed and documented by the authors. Each animal's story unfolds to explain why he was in the shelter, how his situation could have been prevented, and what finally happened to him or her. Many stories end in joy, others in heartbreak – reflecting the every day reality of every animal shelter in the United States.

Some will find the more graphic photos and stories controversial, the authors believe that a society cannot change what it cannot see, and have therefore pledged to show the complete truth about this disturbing social issue. The result is a riveting glimpse into the nation's homeless animal tragedy and the innocent individuals caught in it.

Beautiful and honest, heart-stopping and hopeful, *One at a Time* is a passionate plea for our society to see homeless animals as important, unique individuals deserving of our compassion and respect.

The authors Diane Leigh and Marilee Geyer are former shelter workers passionately committed to giving homeless animals a voice. Their experience in animal advocacy spans more than twenty years in a wide variety of roles, from hands-on animal care to community education and activism. Both live in California, sharing their homes with an assortment of beloved animal companions adopted from shelters and rescue organizations.

One at a Time: A Week in an American Shelter

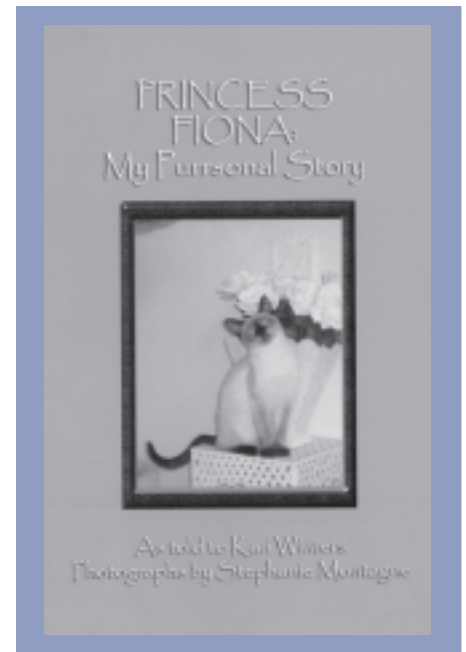
By Diane Leigh and Marilee Geyer

ISBN 0-97283-8708

\$16.95

831-440-9574

www.NoVoiceUnheard.org



Princess Fiona: My Purrsonal Story

As told to Kari Winters

Photographs by Stephanie Montagne

This book tells the story of Princess Fiona and Liam, two very lucky Siamese kittens. They are only two of the thousands of abandoned animals who are saved each year by the incredible people who volunteer their time to animal rescue.

All profits from this book, which is filled with charming photographs and has a happy ending, benefit California Siamese Rescue (CASR). Most of their cats are rescued from shelters throughout California and other Western states. CASR is part of a group of Siamese rescues throughout the country, all of which are run independently, but share the same website (www.siameserescue.org).

The book is currently available through Amazon and CASR's Ebay store (where the charity makes the most profit.)

ISBN 0-9740980-0-0

\$14.95

www.siameserescue.org

Teaching Empathy:

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