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Latham Letter

VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 2

SPRING 2005

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

SINGLE ISSUE PRICE: \$5.00



Animal Care Professionals and Compassion Fatigue



See Page Six



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Providing for your companion animals when you're no longer able to

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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

Volume XXVI, Number 2, Spring 2005

**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.

TO CONTACT LATHAM:

Voice: 510-521-0920
Fax: 510-521-9861
E-mail: info@Latham.org
Web: <http://www.Latham.org>

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Editorial

Expectations

The Importance of Early Values Education



Hugh H. Tebault, III, President

During its history, The Latham Foundation has written extensively about the need for early values education by the family, and by extension in the classroom. Gwyn Tebault, my grandmother, and Delores Wilkens Kent were the original humane educators for Latham. They wrote extensively and visited classrooms teaching this message. For many years, Latham published an elementary school newsletter called *The Kind Deeds Messenger*. Later renamed *The Messenger*, it was the communication tool used to expose children to the benefits of showing respect for animals and each other.

It was in the pages of *The Messenger* that Delores Wilkens Kent gave life to the story of Brother Buzz, later to become the television host for Latham.

Imagine my surprise recently as I was looking through some Latham archives when I picked up a thin bound booklet of *The Messengers* with my name and birth date printed on the front cover. I opened this book and found this message written many years ago:

*"To dear little Hugh,
Hoping that in the years to come you may enjoy these little tales and also
learn, in these pages, of the fine work done by your Grandmother Gwyn.
Lovingly,
Delores Wilkens Kent"*

The first issue of *The Messenger* included in this special book was issue # 149. On the cover of this issue was the poem "The Steps" by Delores Wilkens Kent, together with an illustration of "Steps in Humane Education" by Mariam de Lemos. I suspect this issue was the first time The Steps appeared in print. They appear again in this issue on Page 19. I never knew that the illustration was based on a poem.

This poem is aptly illustrated by the children approaching the steps – taking the first step of being kind to animals, then to each other – and reminding me so much of what I was taught early on and have always carried with me.





Of Note...

Animal Cruelty Law Pocket Cards

Now Available . . .

Attention, animal advocates from California, Illinois, New York and New Jersey! Did you know that you can help take a bite out of animal abuse simply by knowing your state's animal cruelty laws? And now this information can always be at your fingertips, with the ASPCA's animal cruelty law pocket cards. Excellent resources for local law enforcement, animal control officials and concerned citizens, the tri-fold cards list each state's cruelty laws and penalties, and are available in quantities of 50 and 100. For complete ordering information, visit ASPCA.org or e-mail legislativeservices@aspca.org.

Pet-Abuse.com is Breaking the Cycle of Violence through Action, Education, and Information

Latham lauds Pet-Abuse.com and its web site that contains detailed information on animal abuse cases, prevention, and the abuse connection. A section of abuse statistics illustrated in graphs and charts, the National Court Watch (upcoming Court Dates), the Animal Abuse Crime Database of more than 3,900 entries, a searchable list of 4,289 convicted Abusers, and links to 331 Resources with 151 more pending approval. make Pet-Abuse.com unique, useful, and user-friendly. See for yourself by visiting this wonderful resource at www.Pet-Abuse.com.

Alison Gianotto who founded Pet-Abuse.com in 2001, wrote, "... I have used much of Latham's material in my research and studies and it is invaluable to the cause. Your work is a shining light of hope for the future of people and animals alike. Without it I don't know that my organization would be as strong as it is today. I truly believe that cooperation between organizations is the only way we will all succeed."

From an animal shelter in the Philippines to Sue Sternberg about her book *Great Dog Adoptions*



Hello Sue,

I just received the book you've sent to me a couple of days ago. It is a big help for us in systematically handling dogs for adoption especially the balanced views you present for the future owner of shelter dogs and to the animal as well.

We learned a lot from it and hopefully we would like to adopt your system here in our place.

Again, the rest of the group and myself are extending our deepest thanks to you for giving us this "precious gift."

Animal Care Professionals: Vulnerable to Compassion Fatigue

By Julia L. Hammid

Animals are increasingly being recognized as playing an important role in American society. More and more households include dogs, cats and other pets who are showered with love and care. Pet store sales and vet practices are booming. Animals are being brought into nursing homes, prisons, schools and therapy rooms as aids to treatment and educational programs. Mistreatment and abuse of animals is more widely recognized as wrong and even criminal. Animal welfare advocacy groups have multiplied and existing ones have grown more professional and high profile.

Yet even in communities at the leading edge of these trends, there is still little understanding of the needs of the people who work in the animal care field, the shelter workers and volunteers, trainers, animal control officers as well as veterinarians and their staff. Animal care work is full of passion and joy but also pain at witnessing the suffering of many more animals than the public realizes. Caring for animals and interacting with the public is skilled work but is, for the most part, poorly paid and undervalued by society. Though certainly much still needs to be done in raising awareness around the welfare of animals, there is a recognized movement in place. The needs of the people who work on the front lines, however, are just beginning to be recognized.

A group of people sit in a semicircle in a sunny meeting room. They have just finished lunch and someone remarks how rare it is to get a chance to sit down, much less sit and eat. A wave of warm laughter sweeps around the room, reflecting the bond that has developed after only a few hours spent together. One of two facilitators who sit facing the group introduces a new topic and invites responses. After a few minutes of silence, someone begins, "Well, there was this one dog... I think his name was Lucky..." Two others who work at the same facility smile and nod, recognizing a familiar incident. The rest listen intently in anticipation of the story about to unfold. "... animal control brought him in one Sunday and was he a mess!" The speaker recounts the careful attention and tireless care Lucky received, how near to death he was at first, the miraculous recovery he made and the bittersweet moment

when the shelter worker said goodbye and sent him off to a loving adoptive family. One by one, others tell stories illustrating the deep satisfaction this work can bring. The scene takes place during a "Compassion Fatigue and Burnout Workshop" offered by a non-profit organization, Support Services for Animal Care Professionals (SSACP).

This unique, one-day program directly addresses the tremendously wide range of experiences and challenges faced by animal care professionals on a daily basis. Along with the joys and triumphs

Animal care work is full of passion and joy but also pain at witnessing the suffering of many more animals than the public realizes.

that are so much a part of their work, are painful experiences as well. The overwhelming number of animals who are sick, injured, abandoned, abused and even tortured, is something the public is largely oblivious to but that animal care workers confront regularly. There is a growing recognition that first-responders, such as fire, medical, police and rescue personnel, can be traumatized by the constant exposure to injury, death and tragedy that is part of their jobs. As we have learned more about the stresses of these professions, we now recognize that animal care professionals work under similar conditions and are equally vulnerable to stress related disorders and trauma. Animal care work is made even more stressful by the public's lack of recognition for its value and for how demanding the work is. And this is the only profession which has to choose to end the lives of so many of the very animals they care so deeply about.

SSACP was founded by Dr. Carol Brothers, a clinical psychologist and specialist in grief, loss and trauma and Connie Toverud, a counselor who was a member of Elizabeth Kubler-Ross' senior staff. Dr. Kubler-Ross is a world-renowned expert on loss, grief and trauma. Carol is the owner of four dogs, three of whom are certified with Therapy Dogs International. Through her work with the dogs, she attends training workshops and has volunteered at shelters. Getting to know people working in the animal care field gave her a glimpse into a world the public seldom sees. The idea for SSACP was born during a training workshop she attended. The group, consisting mainly of shelter workers, was learning about



temperament testing, a method of screening for potentially dangerous, or otherwise unadoptable animals. It was clear that those who failed the testing, and even many of those who were adoptable, would not find homes. As a psychologist, Carol recognized the tremendous amount of pain those in the room were feeling about the reality that so many healthy, loving animals were going to have to be euthanized.

Carol began talking more directly with people in the animal care field about their concerns and found tremendous interest in having some workshops specifically designed to support them in this unique profession. She discovered that her friend and colleague, Connie Toverud, had already been providing

**Animal Care workers are the only group of
professionals who have to choose to end the lives
of the very animals they care so deeply about.**

trainings for animal care workers in her local community. Carol and Connie combined their counseling skills with their love for animals and created just such a program. Carol's training in Critical Incident Debriefing, which is used by rescue and medical personnel after responding to a disaster to inoculate personnel against stress-related disorders, proved to be equally applicable in the animal care field. The SSACP Workshops develop and increase skills and empower people to face the disappointment and frustration which lead to burnout. They also strengthen the many rewards inherent in working with people and animals, enabling participants to reaffirm their connection with the animals and with colleagues and to leave with a renewed appreciation and self-respect for their enormously important work.

Continued on page 8

In Jan 2001, Carol and Connie held the first Compassion Fatigue and Burnout Workshop for a shelter in Frederick County, Maryland. Four years later, Connie Toverud has retired but six new facilitators have joined the team. One of them, Nancy Mullins, a marriage and family therapist and also on Elizabeth Kubler-Ross' senior staff, is now a partner in SSACP. Several more facilitators are currently being trained. The Workshops have evolved in response to feedback which is gathered from participants on an ongoing basis and SSACP has developed several additional programs addressing specific issues such as dealing with the public ("Tips and Tricks") and more productive use of anger ("Anger Mismanagement"). To date, SSACP has provided over fifty Workshops throughout the U.S., from Oregon to Florida and even Alaska. Other organizations offer staff development programs at conferences or other central locations, limiting access to only a few staff members. A unique feature of the SSACP Workshops is that they are held at the sponsoring organization's facility, thus providing training to the entire staff.

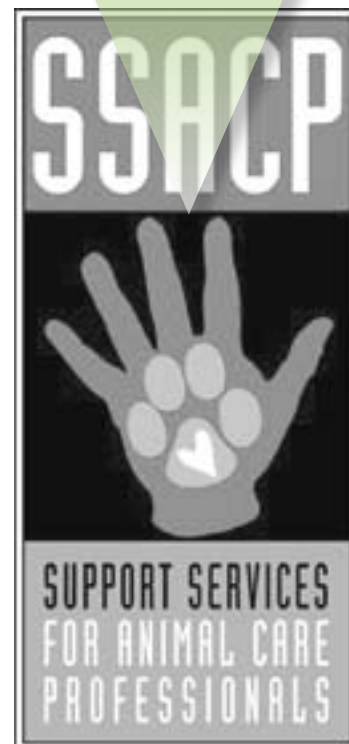
SSACP is on the leading edge of meeting the needs of the animal care community. In this field, which is as full of intense emotion as emergency rescue or fire fighting, there is little space to acknowledge or process the events of the workday. At the core of the SSACP Workshops is an opportunity to talk

The Workshops are not therapy. They are designed to support normal, healthy people who are working in an extraordinarily demanding environment.

about some of the more difficult aspects of this work. A shelter technician tells how, "...it's hard to keep from crying sometimes when it's kittens... during kitten season, when we're doing litters of cuddly little kittens every day, it really gets to me. Sometimes I go out to my car and cry where no one can see..." Several others in the circle dab their eyes with Kleenex as they empathize with the painful issue of pet overpopulation and the reality of ongoing euthanasias.

Frustration and even anger are also recurring themes in this work. An animal control officer shares that, "... I had been out to that house at least three times and the dog was tangled in the heavy chain again, hungry and bleeding! How can people treat a living creature like that? Sometimes I wish I could just..." Though moments such as these are an integral part of the day's experience, these Workshops are not therapy. They are designed to support normal, healthy people who are working in an extraordinarily demanding environment. Through a combination of teaching and active participation, participants gain tools to help them maintain the energy and resiliency that is needed to be effective in this field. One of the most powerful tools is the debriefing technique, listening and sharing experiences in a safe, structured setting with a group of colleagues who truly understand.

SSACP cares for the people who care for the animals.



The Workshop facilitators stress throughout the day that participants are each others' best teachers. At any given Workshop, the group will typically include personnel from several different agencies operating in the same region. Having a chance to meet and share experiences with colleagues from other organizations is something that is often impossible to do in the midst of busy day-to-day operations, and often proves to be an important feature of the day's experience. The Workshops include plenty of informational content and time to share lots of participants' own strategies. The Workshops last just one day, but the feedback SSACP has been getting is that the experience is powerful and profound and is easily put into practice. Participants find that changes, such as improved communication among staff and

being able to talk more easily about sensitive issues, can make a dramatic difference in their daily lives and in the operation of an organization.

The strong positive response to the Workshops has created a demand outpacing SSACP's ability to meet it. The demand itself is limited by the lack of funding that pervades the animal care field. Though the cost of the Workshops is kept as low as possible, even just covering travel expenses and accommodations for the facilitators can be difficult for many organizations to budget for. Some animal care organizations are finding that, as in other fields, supporting staff pays off in the long run. Spending a relatively small amount can reduce staff turnover, maintain better morale, enable the organization to attract and keep good personnel and improve the care of the animals and of the public. Another option is to seek outside funding, such as was the case recently when Hill's Pet Nutrition (makers of Science Diet) began providing grants to cover Workshops for some organizations. As new funding sources are developed, more organizations will be able to bring


these Workshops in, strengthening the field as a whole. Future SSACP goals include setting up programs within organizations such as allowing seasoned staff to mentor newer workers as they enter the field.

Besides the direct benefit to participants and their communities, the Workshops are sending ripples out into the larger society. Though the specifics of what is shared during a Workshop is completely confidential, as SSACP staff learn about the world of animal care, they become ambassadors to the public. Carol Brothers, who was chosen as one of Maryland's top 100 women of 2003, partly due to her work with SSACP, expresses this eloquently when



SSACP Founders

**An opportunity to talk
about some of the more
difficult aspects of
animal care work,
such as euthanasia,
is at the core of the
SSACP Workshops.**

she says, "The privilege of working with people who are so committed to the animals has just been life-changing for all of us and a deep honor. It has been incredibly sensitizing to learn about a whole area which, even though I've been involved with animals all my life, I really had no appreciation of. I was awed to discover an entire culture so devoted to animal sheltering, animal placement, animal care and caring for the safety of the public, which is a big part of what animal control officers and field service officers do. I am deeply moved by the incredible love that people bring to this work. It's awesome to be able to be part of the animal care community in this way and to be able to bear witness to the truth and the power of the experiences that animal care people have been willing to share." 

For more information on SSACP and the Workshops, contact: Dr. Carol Brothers at 410-451-8882, 410-987-5164 or carolab@juno.com.

Julia L. Hammid has been co-facilitating SSACP's Compassion Fatigue and Burnout Workshops for four years. She trained with the former staff of Elizabeth Kubler-Ross in working with people who are dealing with grief, loss and trauma and her educational background includes studies in psychology, anthropology and communication. She is an artist, teacher and writer and lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

"Link" Activities Extend to Delaware's Probation and Parole Officers

By Phil Arkow

Much of The Latham Foundation's work in exploring the Link between animal abuse and other forms of family violence has focused on cross-training various professions. Over the years, we've taught veterinary associations, women's shelters, law enforcement officers, child protection agencies, law schools, and many other professions how recognizing and reporting animal maltreatment can assist them in their work.

Latham's work branched out into a new direction in February when we conducted a training program for 80 members of the Probation and Parole Division of the State of Delaware's Department of Corrections. Probation and parole officers frequently conduct home visits to monitor male batterers, and these agents were very interested to learn about the links between animal abuse and domestic violence.

The day-long program, "Animal Cruelty and Domestic Violence: Effective Cross-Reporting and Inter-Agency Responses," was organized by the Attorney General's


"Probation and parole officers frequently conduct home visits to monitor male batterers, and these agents were very interested to learn about the links between animal abuse and domestic violence."

Task Force on Animal Cruelty and Interpersonal Violence, with the Delaware Humane Society and Kent County SPCA. Delaware Attorney General Jane Brady enthusiastically noted that this was the largest turnout for in-service training that the Probation and Parole Division had ever experienced.

Brady also noted another reason why Child Protective Services caseworkers need to establish contacts with animal shelters: when they inspect parents' or foster homes to determine whether children need to be removed, they often encounter vicious dogs who compromise

their own safety and that of the children.

The Task Force, which for several years has actively promoted legislation and inter-agency cooperation, will be expanded to include Probation and Parole representatives.

Latham thanks the Delaware organizations for the opportunity to meet with them, and congratulates them on their ongoing, pioneering efforts. 

Breaking the Cycles of Violence Series

Cycles I Video: Introduction to "The Link"

Cycles II Video: "Successful Interventions"

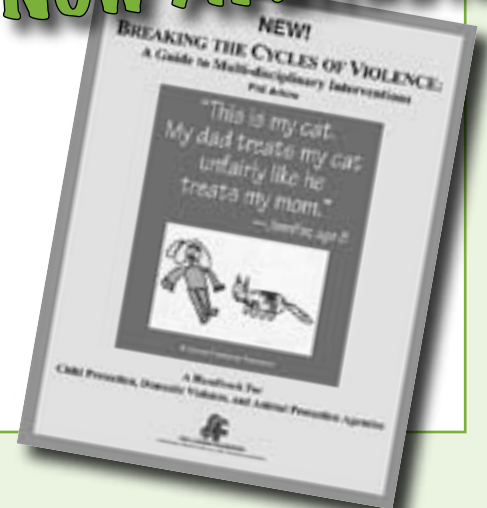
Manual -- "The How"

To order or for more information, contact Latham at:

www.Latham.org or orders@latham.org

Phone 510-521-0920 • Fax 510-521-9861

Now Available



Latham Letter BACK ISSUES containing "Links" Articles

The following back issues containing articles on the connections between child and animal abuse and other forms of domestic violence are available from the Foundation for \$2.50 each, plus \$3.00 Priority Mail Postage and Handling for up to 10 issues (U.S. and Canada).

Foreign orders please add \$10.00. California residents please add 8.25% sales tax. MasterCard and VISA accepted.

___ Latham Brings "Link" Training to Brazilian Police Officers	Winter 05	___ Gentleness Programs (I Like the Policeman Who Arrested that Dog)	Spring 96
___ Nova Scotia Conference Explores the "Link"	Summer 04	___ Loudoun County, Virginia Develops Cooperative Response to Domestic Violence	Spring 96
___ Partnerships Formed in Colorado to Stop the Cycle of Violence	Summer 04	___ And Kindness for ALL (Guest Editorial)	Summer 96
___ Tulane University Symposium Introduces the "Link" to Lawyers	Spring 04	___ Should Veterinarians Report Suspected Animal Abuse?	Fall 96
___ Crime Prevention Funding Introduces the "Link" to Canadian Groups	Winter 04	___ Windwalker Humane Coalition's Web of Hope Grows Stronger	Fall 96
___ Gabriel's Angels Breaking the Cycle of Violence in Arizona	Summer 03	___ Update on the Link Between Child and Animal Abuse	Fall 96
___ New Training Materials Help Professionals Recognize Non-Accidental Animal Injury	Spring 03	___ Report on Tacoma, Washington's Humane Coalition Against Violence	Winter 95
___ Making a Difference for People & Animals in Hamilton, Ontario	Winter 03	___ Animal Cruelty & the Link to Other Violent Crimes	Winter 95
___ Examining the "Link" in Wellington County, Ontario, Canada	Summer 02	___ Univ. of Southern California Conference Addresses Violence Against Children	Spring 95
___ New Link Resource Book Helping Albertans	Summer 02	___ Working to Break the Cycle of Violence	Spring 95
___ Making the Connection Between Animal Abuse and Neglect of Vulnerable Adults	Winter 02	___ The Tangled Web: Report on La Crosse, Wisconsin's Coalition Against Violence	Spring 95
___ Calgary Research Results: Exploring the Links Between Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence	Fall 01	___ San Diego, Calif. Child Protection Workers Required to Report Animal Abuse	Summer 95
___ Ontario SPCA's Women's Shelter Survey Shows Staggering Results	Spring 01	___ Animals Over Children? (An Editorial by Michael Mountain, Editor, Best Friends Magazine)	Summer 95
___ Putting the "Link" All Together: Ontario SPCA's Violence Prevention Initiative	Spring 01	___ Summaries of Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Conferences	Summer 95
___ Canadian and Florida Groups Actively Working on the "Link"	Winter 01	___ Abuse an Animal - Go To Jail! (Animal Legal Defense Fund's Zero Tolerance for Cruelty)	Summer 95
___ Latham's "Link" Message Goes to South Africa	Spring 00	___ Report on Rhode Island Conference: Weaving a Silver Web of Hope from the Tangled Threads of Violence	Summer 95
___ Crossroads: An Intensive Treatment Program for Adolescent Girls	Fall 00	___ Milwaukee Humane Society's "PAL" Program: At-Risk Kids Learn Respect through Dog Obedience Training	Winter 94
___ Latham Sponsors "Creating a Legacy of Hope" at British Columbia Conference	Winter 00	___ Latham Confronts Child and Animal Abuse	Spring 94
___ New England Animal Control/Humane Task Force	Spring/Summer 99	___ A Humane Garden of Children, Plants, and Animals Grows in Sonoma County	Spring 94
___ Confronting Abuse (a veterinarian and a social worker confront abuse)	Summer 98	___ Education and Violence: Where Are We Going? A Guest Editorial	Spring 94
___ The Human/Animal Abuse Connection	Spring 98	___ Bed-wetting, Fire Setting, and Animal Cruelty as Indicators of Violent Behavior	Spring 94
___ The Relationship Between Animal Abuse and Other Forms of Family Violence	Winter 97	___ Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence: Intake Statistics Tell a Sad Story	Spring 94
___ Domestic Violence Assistance Program Protects Women, Children, and their Pets in Oregon	Summer 97	___ The Veterinarian's Role in the Prevention of Violence	Summer 94
___ University of Penn. Veterinary Hospital Initiates Abuse Reporting Policy	Fall 97	___ Results of Latham's National Survey on Child and Animal Abuse	Summer 94
___ Domestic Violence and Cruelty to Animals	Winter 96	___ Israel Conference Puts the Link Between Animal and Child Abuse on the Public Agenda	Summer 94
___ Animal Cruelty IS Domestic Violence	Winter 96	___ A Shared Cry: Animal and Child Abuse Connections	Fall 94

Reader's Survey

Win a free book!

The Latham Foundation wants to find out more about you and your interests.

Please take a minute to complete this survey and return it to Latham. Your responses will give us a better picture of who you are, what you do, and how the Latham Letter can better serve your needs.

By helping us, you could **win a free book**. Five respondents chosen at random will receive copies of *Teaching Compassion*, (a \$19.95 value).

Our survey deadline is May 30, 2005.

Thank you for your valuable input.



1. How long have you been a *Latham Letter* reader?

☐ 0-6 months ☐ 6-12 months ☐ 1-2 years ☐ 2-5 years ☐ More than 5 years

2. How many people other than yourself read your copy of the *Latham Letter*? (circle one)

1 2 3 4 5 or more

3. Overall, I find the *Latham Letter*:

☐ Consistently interesting ☐ Somewhat interesting ☐ Not very interesting

4. Some of the editorial categories of a typical *Latham Letter* are listed below.

Which of these would you like to see us include:

	MORE OF	LESS OF	ABOUT THE SAME
The Link™	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Humane Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human-Companion Animal Bond Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical and Scientific News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Media Reviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Calendar items	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. What would you like to see in the *Latham Letter* that isn't there now?



6. To which of the following magazines and journals do you subscribe or read regularly?
Please check all that apply.

☐ Animal People

☐ Cat Fancy

☐ Wards

☐ Anthrozoos

☐ Dog Fancy

☐ AVMA Journal

☐ La Joie

☐ Best Friends

☐ BARK

Others: _____

7. How old are you?

☐ Under 18

☐ 18-25

☐ 26-35

☐ 36-65

☐ 65+

8. What is your occupation? _____

9. To what associations and organizations to you belong?

10. Finally, please list the names and addresses of any colleagues or friends you would like us to send
a sample copy of the *Latham Letter* to.

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

**Please return your survey to The Latham Foundation at 1826 Clement Ave., Alameda, CA 94501
Or better yet, fax your completed questionnaire to Latham at 510-521-9861.**

Phone _____

E-mail _____

So we can notify you if you win a book. We will hold this information in the strictest confidence.

Thank You!



Upcoming Workshops, Conferences & Events

E-mail your listings to info@latham.org

APRIL

- April 22-24** No More Homeless Pets Conference, Presented by Best Friends Animal Society, Portland, OR. 435-644-2001 Ext. 129 or e-mail nmhp@bestfriends.org
- April 25** Romania Animal Rescue (R.A.R.) Second Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Oakhurst Country Club, Clayton, CA. Proceeds send HSUS veterinarians to train vets in Romania. Contact Rory Janes, 925-672-5908, romaniadogs@joimail.com, www.romaniaanimalrescue.go.ro
- April 27-29** Clackamas County 6th Annual Child Abuse and Family Violence Summit, "The Power of One in Collaboration with Others." Jantzen Beach, OR. www.co.clackamas.or.us/sheriff/summit/

MAY

- May 1** Dog Behavior Seminar at the Greyhound Adoption Center Featuring Darren Rigg, Quail's Inn Conference Center, Lake San Marcos (North San Diego, CA County) 877-478-8364 or www.houndsavers.org
- May 1 to 7** Be Kind to Animals Week®, The American Humane Association created Be Kind to Animals Week in 1915 to celebrate the unique bond between humans and animals. Every year, animal shelters throughout the country hold special events during this special week to raise awareness about Being Kind to Animals, and to teach people about the amazing role animals play in our lives. A tradition of American Humane's Be Kind to Animals campaign is the Be Kind to Animals™ Kid Contest, which honors kids who have demonstrated extraordinary kindness toward animals. One grand prize winner from each of the two age categories will win \$5,000. www.americanhumane.org
- May 26 – 28** "Let Live Canada" Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Practical Solutions and Community Collaborations. www.jazzpurr.org or 519-258-9299

JUNE

June is Adopt-a-Cat Month

- June 2-4** NACA Annual Training Conference, Scottsdale, AZ
For registration and further information, call 913-768-1319



SEPTEMBER

- September 8 – 10** CHAMP (Conference on Homeless Animal Management and Policy). A program of The Pet Savers Foundation, Anaheim Marriott Hotel, Anaheim, CA. www.champconference.org or 516-883-7767
- September 29 - October 1** American Humane Annual Conference, Austin, TX.
www.americanhumane.org

The Power of Kindness

By Chris Bergman

AAT-related activities offer opportunities for therapeutic and instructive encounters with kids and moms from abusive settings. The Building Bridges program of the SF/SPCA attempts to address these concerns (The Bond Vol. 1 No 3) as do regularly scheduled AAT visits to shelters for battered women and children.

Lessons about the choices available when exercising power can be taught in this setting, for it is the abuse of power that creates the need for such shelters in the first place.

On some level abusers need to deny or disregard the aliveness of their victims, and recognize no inherent sanctity or protection deserved because of it. It is as if the victim is an owned inanimate object and the issue an economic one. "This is my radio, I own it. If it doesn't work right (to my liking) I have every right in the world to throw it against the wall and shatter it."

The obvious philosophy of any AAT work is a very different one: a cherishing of all expressions of life. The human AAT volunteer can model this idea to the children and on that basic foundation, lessons about power can then be built.

Power does not only abuse, hurt, and limit. It is also a function of superior power to nurture, protect, and uplift. It is the difference between power over and power with.

When interacting with a living being of less power, less control of the situation, less physical size and strength, less mastery of the environment, one has a choice to make. Shall I exercise my power over this other life by hurting and abusively dominating it? Or shall I join with it and empathize with its experience by being sensitive to it and protective of it?

When a child is a victim of abusive power, a lesson is taught and example set that the obvious choice when acting on the conclusion that one is more powerful than another living being has to do with the ability to control and dominate in a hurtful way. Given their own brutal experience, it becomes an automatic initial response for some children and socially challenged adults to size up all other living beings they encounter, human or otherwise, in terms of comparative physical power.

If the use of power with the opposite intention can be modeled through AAT activities, it offers a strong alternative lesson that there is a deep satisfaction in nurturing and protecting a living being who is less powerful. That it feels




at least as good to give that kind of energy as it does to receive it.

When an AAT volunteer explains that her pooch partner was rescued from a shelter, perhaps with a history of abuse and abandonment, a child may identify with the animal's history. The child might conclude, with some guidance, that since they themselves

are grateful for gentle, hopeful treatment, so would the animal be, and just as they themselves deserve to be treated fairly and kindly, so does the animal.

If the child is convinced on some level (as many are) that they themselves do not deserve fair treatment, or worse, that they are in some deep way responsible for the abuse they receive, they may find through the animal a new sense of innocence and begin to identify with it. This can help transform their feelings of self-blame. It can work to help break the disheartening cycle of abuse being passed down through generations.

These therapeutic possibilities make sense only within an overview of nature that sees non-human animals and humans as equally deserving of life and as in no way any less sensitive to it. Recognizing that the drama of their lives is felt by them just as intensely as ours is by us, we see them (and ourselves) as deserving of humane treatment. If we can recognize that we are all one organism - leaves on the very same tree - it follows that to exercise power that causes pain leads to suffering on all fronts, while to use power to help others thrive opens the way to healing in all directions.

These kids know how it feels to be disregarded and devalued. What great power (and creativity) they exercise when they nurture and protect! 

Chris Bergman is the Director of Animal-Assisted Therapy at the San Francisco SPCA. For more information, contact him at CBergman@sfsPCA.org. This article originally appeared in THE BOND.



In Pet Trusts We Trust

Reprinted from BEST FRIENDS MAGAZINE, March/April 2004

What's the best way to be sure that your companion animals will be taken care of if you're no longer there for them?

When the famous tobacco heiress Doris Duke died, she left \$100,000 to her dogs. Actress Betty White, from *The Golden Girls*, is reported to be leaving her \$5 million estate entirely to her animals.

We all want to know that our pets will be well taken care of if we should go over the Rainbow Bridge before they do, but there are some significant issues about doing this.

Just for starters, you can't actually leave money directly to your pets. That's because, in legal terms, pets are not regarded as family but as property, and you can't leave money to a piece of property.

Fortunately, many new companies are offering to help people set up their own pet trusts. Having reviewed many of them, Best Friends is now working with one of their members, Amy Shever, who is the creator of the PetGuardian pet trust program. They invited Amy to explain the program herself.

Best Friends: You gave up your career in high tech to set up PetGuardian

Amy Shever: I've been involved in pet rescue for 20 years and it was very upsetting to see people bringing in to shelters pets of their relatives who had passed away. When I started looking into it, I learned that there were about 500,000 pets being put down each year at vet clinics and at shelters just because their owners had passed away.

Best Friends: In fact, about 800 dogs and cats become orphaned after the 9/11 event, so we should all be aware that anything can happen to any one of us any day.

Amy Shever: That was actually the day when I thought to myself that I have to have a plan for my pets.

Best Friends: Many of the trusts that people have set have failed because they didn't take into account all the legal ins and outs that different states have, or that trusts can be challenged by unsympathetic family members.

Amy Shever: Pet trusts are actually valid in all states, and some states now have what are called enforceable pet trust statutes. But it's not enough just to be taken care of. Working with attorneys, we've included all the necessary

components in the PetGuardian program. We provide a cost analysis to help pets, pet care instructions for the person taking over as a caregiver, and emergency ID cards for your home and wallet.

There's also Best Friends Animal Society's backup service. As long as you have at least two caregivers and have set aside an appropriate fund, Best Friends will help locate an affectionate caregiver if necessary. (That would be unusual, but bear in mind, for example that some birds can live 60, 70, or even 80 years.)

Best Friends: We should mention that for people, who can't identify anyone to act as a caregiver, there are other options available, like the new Best Friends Lifetime Care Program.

Amy Shever: Some people refer to these as perpetual care programs, and they are viable options for people who may not have a friend or relative. But having your own trust is always the best way to go.

Best Friends: We always prefer animals to go into good new homes, too, because that's what they're used to. They want to be able to curl up with their person in the evening. Now, you mentioned the cost analysis component. That's important not only because you don't want to leave too little money but because if you leave too much, someone in your family might come along and challenge the pet trust. They might say, "Fido and Fluffy don't need this much money, so it should be handed over to me, because I'm the rightful heir."

Amy Shever: Exactly. That is a major concern about pet trust programs. People want to leave everything they own to the pets, including any money they have in their bank, which really doesn't make sense. Your pets don't necessarily need everything you have to live out their lives. So pet trusts tend to get challenged in court if they're overfunded. A critical piece of the PetGuardian plan is that we calculate an estimate to determine an appropriate level of funding based on the cost of current and anticipated care and the life expectancy of the pet.

Best Friends: Some of the other pet trust programs charge from \$2000 to \$10,000 just for setup, not including the amount that you set aside for your pet. That sounds like a lot of money.

Amy Shever: It is a lot of money, and unfortunately, very few estate-planning attorneys are equipped to provide a comprehensive pet trust solution. Many of these trusts are nothing more than few lines of legalese that outline your wishes for a caregiver and trustee. They don't necessarily provide specific information about how they want their pet taken care of. And any time you want to change any of the information on the pet trust, such as adding another pet, attorneys can charge you \$200 just to call the attorney to make that change.

The fee for the PetGuardian program is \$500 and any changes that are done online are free. So you can go online, change your information, and have new forms generated at no additional cost.

How a Pet Trust Works

A pet trust is a legally sanctioned arrangement providing for the care of one or more companion animals if the pet owner dies or becomes disabled. A designated trustee holds the property in trust, making regular

payments to a designated caregiver who provides the pets with the care outlined in the pet trust. Pet owners should incorporate a fund for the pet trust to allow for continuous care of their pets.

A PetGuardian pet trust plan is a comprehensive and affordable service that includes:

- A Comprehensive pet trust document
- A cost analysis to help you determine how much to set aside
- Complete pet care instructions to share with anyone who might be calling for your pets, temporarily or permanently
- Emergency ID cards to post at home and keep in your wallet
- The Best Friends backup service (As long as you've designated at least two potential caregivers and set aside appropriate funds, Best Friends will help locate an alternate caregiver should anything happen to your two designated caregivers.)

PetGuardian uses language created by attorneys, which help to ensure the validity of your pet trust in any state.

The Cost Analysis

It is important to fund the pet trust at an appropriate level. Overfunded pet trusts have been subject to challenge in court.





PetGuardian provides a comprehensive cost analysis to establish the appropriate level of funding, based on cost of current anticipated care, including food. The estimate takes into consideration the life expectancy of the pets based on current age.

If you have existing estate plans, it's best to discuss the options for funding your pet trust with your attorney and financial planner.

Trustees and Caregivers

Trustees and caregivers can be friends, relatives, or anyone else you are confident will put the well-being of your pets first.

The trustee administers the trust, makes payments to the caregiver, and monitors the welfare of your pets. The caregiver receives payment from the trustee and provides care based on the detailed instruction in the pet trust.


It's a good idea for your pets and caregivers to know each other. But in general, estate planners recommend that the trustee and caregiver not be the same person, to avoid any possible conflict of interest and to help ensure that the pets are cared for as specified by you.

Best Friends Participation

Best Friends Animal Society is working with PetGuardian to ensure that your pets will never be left homeless.

To help ensure an ample supply of new adoptive and foster homes, Best Friends is inviting their members to become a backup home for another member's pet. Their cooperative plan will help ensure an easy transition to a good new home in a nearby location, should that ever become necessary.

PetGuardian supports the No More Homeless Pets Initiative of Best Friends Animal Society, and a portion of all revenue from the sale of PetGuardian plans will be distributed to animal welfare organizations to assist with their efforts to care for pets in need.

Best Friends and PetGuardian have also set up a fund to ensure that if a particular pet needs more care than has been provided in their trust, the needed money will be available. If a pet trust has funds left over when the pets pass away, the balance can be used for the benefit of underfunded trusts, and for the work of Best Friends or any other charity that you designate. 

For more information, visit the web site at www.petguardian.com.

PetGuardian, 1484 Pollard Road, Suite 444, Los Gatos, CA 95032.

Phone 888-843-4040

Fax 408-866-6659 or e-mail customerservice@petguardian.com

Cat Haiku

Seeking solitude
I am locked in the closet.
For once I need you.

Toy mice, dancing yarn
Meowing sounds. I'm
convinced:
You're an idiot.

Most problems can be
Ignored. The more difficult
Ones can be slept through.

The food in my bowl
is old, and more to the point
Contains no tuna.

The dog wags his tail,
Seeking approval.
See mine?
Different message.

Am I in your way?
You seem to have it
backwards:
This pillow's taken.

There's no dignity
In being sick – which is why
I don't tell you where.

My brain: walnut-sized.
Yours: largest among
primates.
Yet, who leaves for work.

My affection is conditional.
Don't stand up.
It's your lap I love.



THE MESSENGER

THE LATHAM FOUNDATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF HUMANE EDUCATION

No. 149

THE STEPS

By DOLORES WILKENS KENT

Once the Greatest said so gently
Of the children at His knee
"Of such is Heaven's Kingdom
Suffer them to come to Me."

In the hearts of little children
Lies a tenderness and love
For all of nature's creatures
That is given from above.

'Tis this feeling, wisely nurtured,
Trained to honesty and right,
Forms the first step on the pathway
Leading upward to the light.

One by one the steps are mounted,
Growing older day by day,
Spreading far and wide the lesson
They have learned along the way.

Home and school, the larger circle,
Carrying on as they began,
Hands outstretched to one another
In a brotherhood of man.

Up and up the path is winding,
Truth and love will never cease,
Till the goal is reached abiding
In a Universal Peace.



By John and Mariam de Lemos

PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO THE TEACHERS

Dear Teachers:

Hereafter by request of many schools our Essay Contests will be held during the first semester, the current one ending November 16th.

So in a few days you personally will receive our very attractive Prospectus for the 19th Annual Essay Contest. We have devoted a great deal of thought and effort to make this prospectus the best and most interesting we have yet issued.

Its main theme is one more vital than any other to the interest and happiness of every man, woman and child in the world today. It is easy therefore for you to guess that this theme is "PEACE."

While we are in accord most heartily with all material plans which can be devised through treaties and conferences to keep the world out of war, we know that a fundamental and inviolable peace can be assured only through the processes of Education.

We are therefore emphasizing the steps which we believe are conducive to that state of heart and mind which best make for the realization of peace.

We look hopefully for your cooperation.

Your pupils can and will make the same proud record as last year.

Cordially yours,
Edith Latham.



Media Reviews



People I Sleep With

Jill Fineberg

I love this book!

Judy Johns

Somewhere at the dawn of our history, a wolf lay down by a campfire and a relationship between animal and human was born. Today, a survey in USA Today reveals the striking statistic that 79% of pet owners allow their animals to sleep in bed with them.

People I Sleep With documents the bond that has developed between some very special creatures, both domestic and exotic, and their beloved human guardians. This powerful collection of photographs is poignant, provocative, and whimsical. Dogs and cats are well represented of course, but so are ferrets, horses, donkeys, pigs, alpacas, rabbits, wolves, birds, snakes, monkeys, and even skunks.

The beautiful book also contains the inspiring stories behind the photographs and scientific evidence on the physical and emotional health benefits of having animals in our lives plus a resource section of animal rescue groups.

Jill Fineberg has a degree in journalism and was a professional photographer in New York for many years. Her work has appeared in Time, Newsweek, People, and other publications. She now lives and works as a photographer, intuitive energy body-worker, and grief counselor in Santa Fe, New Mexico with her two cats, Mr. Studmuffin and Bamboo.

People I Sleep With

Jill Fineberg

\$19.95 hardcover, 144 pages

ISBN 1-58008-634-9

Ten Speed Press, P.O. Box 7123

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510-559-1600

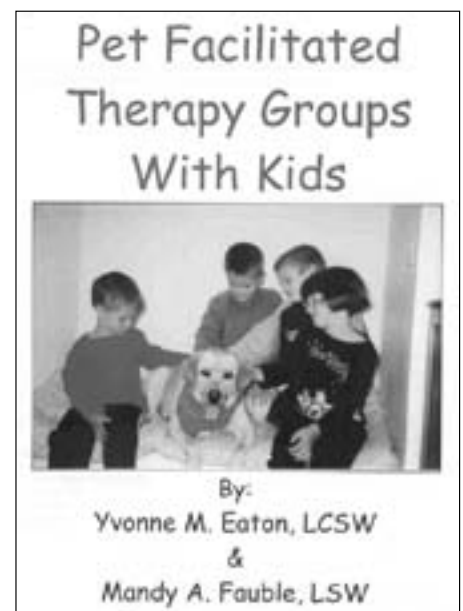
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Pet Facilitated Therapy Groups with Kids

Yvonne M. Eaton, LCSW

Mandy A. Fauble, LSW

This handbook is designed for the counseling professional who would like to implement pet facilitated therapy groups with a certified therapy dog. It includes hands-on information including ten group curriculums with therapeutic objectives and activities for issues such as anger management; coping with loss; family changes; feelings identification and expression; health management; responsibility; self-esteem; social skills; stress management; and trauma.



Yvonne Eaton, LCSW is the clinical supervisor at Safe Harbor Behavioral Health in Erie, PA. She has been working in mental health for 15 years and is a recognized



expert in forensic social work and performs as a mental health consultant and hostage negotiator with law enforcement. She has been an adjunct professor at Mercyhurst College, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and Penn State Behrend. She is a leader in Pet Facilitated Therapy programming in Northwestern Pennsylvania and she and her dog, Maggie, volunteer at a number of non-profit organizations serving children and adults. Mandy Fauble, LSW is an Outpatient Therapist at Safe Harbor Behavioral Health where she works with both adults and children/families. She is recognized for her creativity including a Wellness manual, creative writing and creative theater groups.

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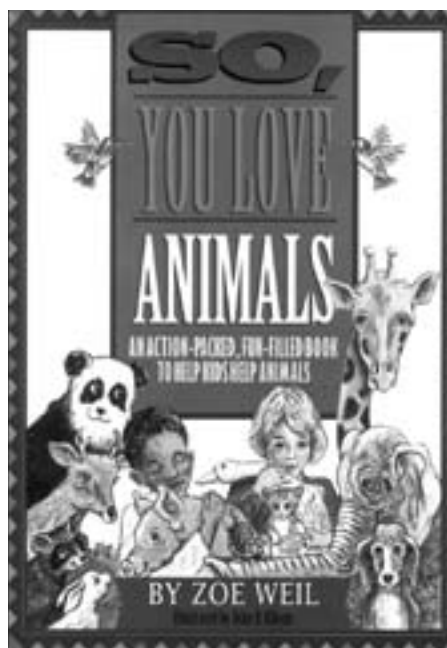
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Erie, PA 16508

So, You Love Animals

By Zoe Weil

Reviewed by Tula Asselanis

So, You Love Animals is filled with meaningful and simple things kids can do to be kind to animals; however, some readers may find the lifestyle changes that are “softly” suggested a bit too much. Under an avoiding animal cruelty umbrella, this book runs the whole gamut. It discourages fishing, eating factory farmed animals,



drinking milk, and dissecting frogs in biology class. The author gives helpful tips for politely arguing and avoiding these situations but I thought it got a little preachy.

I wish the book had come through with more of the “cool” animal facts promised in the beginning because these are what would really have interested my son. Speaking as a meat-eating mother of a milk-drinking eight-year-old, there was not one thing written here that I found objectionable. In fact, I agreed with most of the philosophy in principle. However, even though we are both concerned about animal welfare, I decided not to read *So, You Love Animals* to my impressionable son who bonds with his Dad by going fishing. I feel he is not old enough to make the rather severe lifestyle choices that the book suggests. We also don’t think it’s appropriate for him to make judgments about other’s life-style choices at this age. My husband and I teach the book’s kind-to-animals principles to our son by word and

action but we don’t want him to think going fishing with his dad is wrong.

So, You Love Animals

By Zoe Weil

New Society Publishers

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British Columbia, V0R 1X0

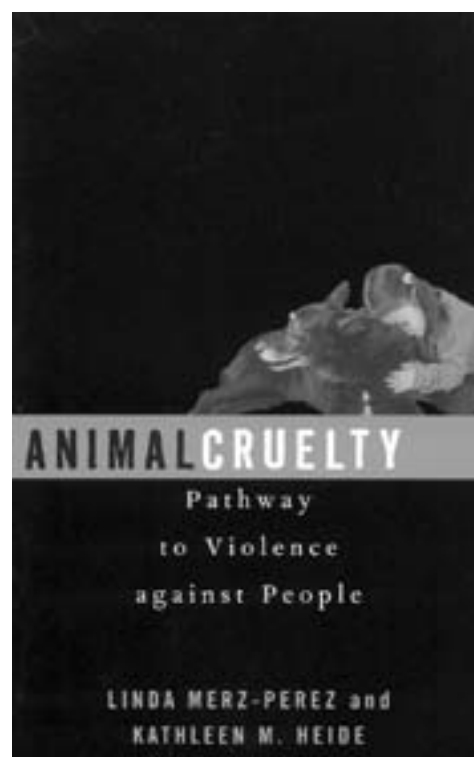
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Animal Cruelty: Pathway to Violence against People

By Linda Merz-Perez and
Kathleen M. Heide

In this work, authors Merz-Perez and Heide provide the first scientific examination of childhood cruelty to animals as a forerunner to violence





against people. They also consider issues of cruelty among different types of animals (pet, wild, stray, and farm). The authors evaluate both qualitative and quantitative data to identify correlations between childhood cruelty and adult violent behavior, utilizing interviews and criminal records of violent and nonviolent inmates in a maximum security prison. Their findings are of importance to researchers and practitioners in the fields of juvenile justice, violence and domestic abuse, social welfare, animal welfare, and

animal rights. It will also be valuable to those in education, law, and medicine, especially those concerned with intervention and prevention strategies. With its foreword by Randall Lockwood, Ph.D., Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D. says, "Our understanding of the phenomenon of animal abuse has been advanced significantly by Merz-Perez and Heide's efforts."

Linda Merz-Perez is executive director of the Humane Society of Shelby County, Alabama, has served as a court-appointed animal cruelty investigative officer, and has been involved in the field of animal welfare for twelve years.

Kathleen M. Heide is professor of criminology at the University of South Florida, Tampa, and a licensed mental health counselor. She is an internationally recognized consultant on adolescent homicide, family violence and juvenile justice.

Animal Cruelty: Pathway to Violence against People

By Linda Merz-Perez and

Kathleen M. Heide

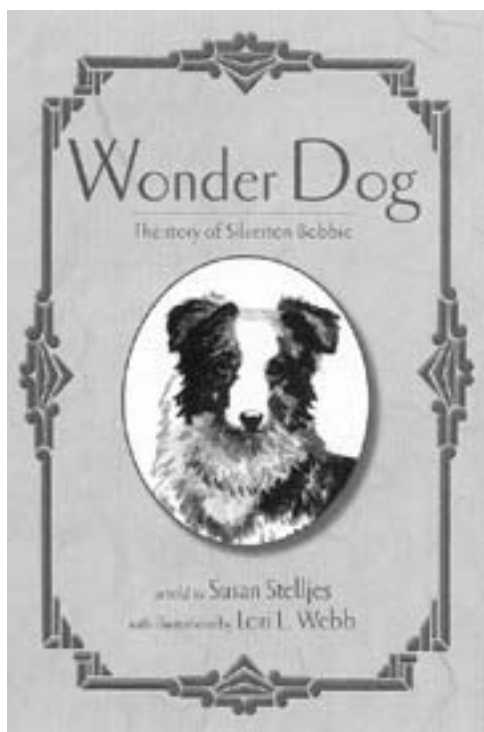
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**Wonder Dog:
The Story of Silvertown
Bobbie**

As told to Susan Stelljes
Illustrations by Lori Webb

"***Wonder Dog*** is captivating for young and old alike," says Carol Shiveley, Director of Education at Oregon Humane Society.

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In 1923, while on a family road trip in Indiana, Bobbie, a two-year-old Scotch collie, is separated from his owners and lost. After an exhaustive search, the broken-hearted family returns to their home in Oregon never expecting to see their beloved dog again.

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Through Bobbie's eyes and words, we experience his incredible

ordeal crossing twenty-eight hundred miles of plains, deserts, and mountains in the dead of winter to return home. We meet the people who aided him along the way, and learn of the dangers he encountered. And we follow Bobbie through his meteoric rise to fame following his return to Silverton. Through newspaper articles, books, and even film, Bobbie gained fans throughout the world, earning him the title of *Wonder Dog*.

Wonder Dog: The Story of Silvertown Bobbie

As told to Susan Stelljes

with illustrations by Lori L. Webb

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For the Love of Dog Books

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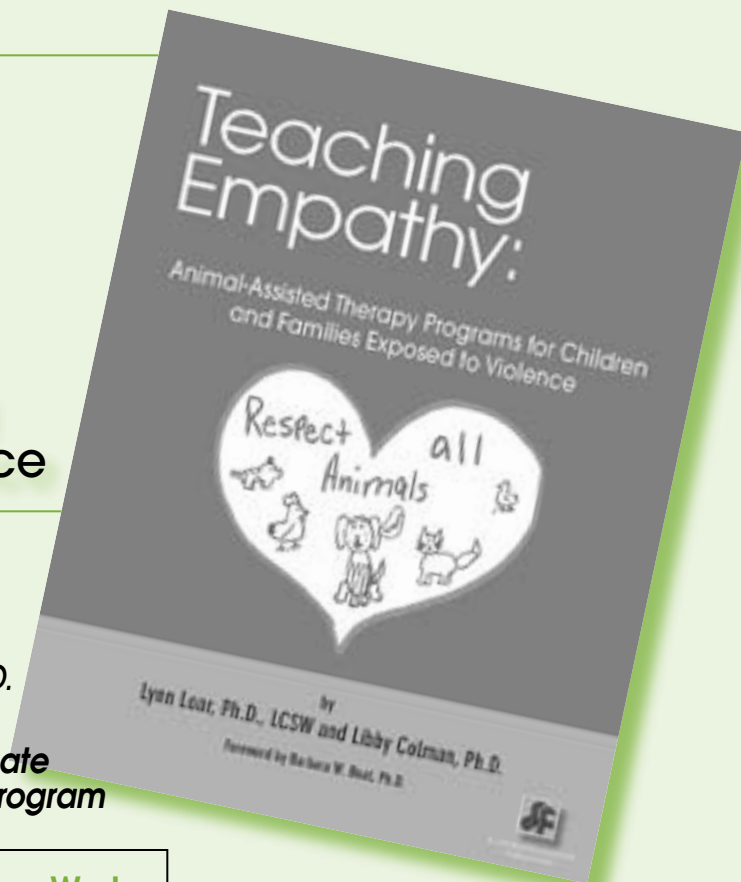
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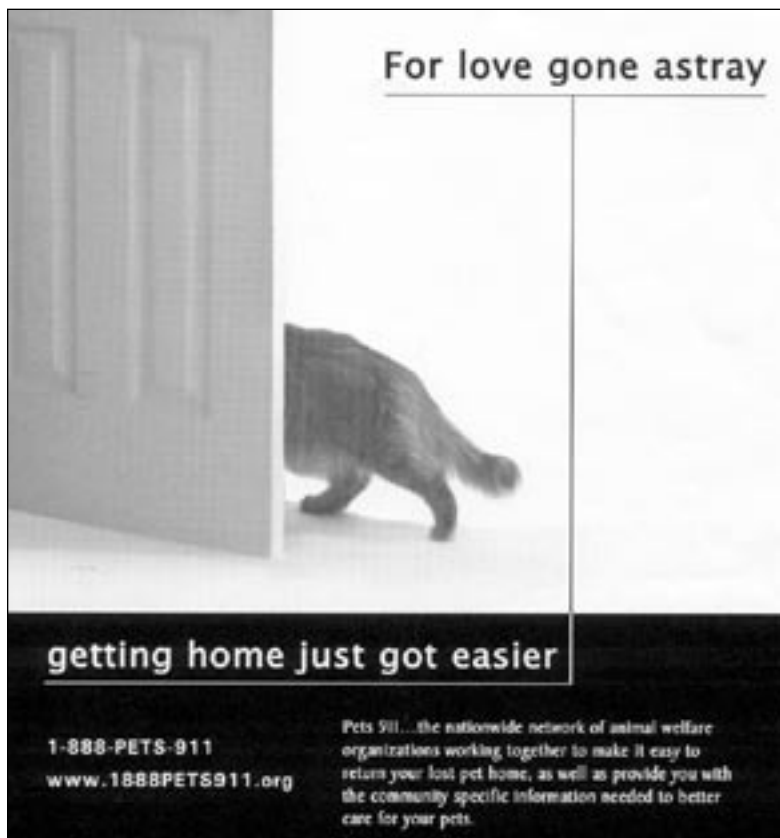
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