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Latham Letter

VOLUME XXVII, NUMBER 1

WINTER 2006

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

SINGLE ISSUE PRICE: \$5.00

Changing Lives:



PHOTO CREDIT: Alec MacRae

The Green Chimneys Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities Immersion Internship

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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 XXVII, Number 1, Winter 2006

**BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON
HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**



The *Latham Letter* is published quarterly by The Latham Foundation, 1826 Clement Ave., Alameda, California 94501.

Subscription Rates: \$15.00 One Year or \$25.00 for Two Years

Paid and/or Requested Mail Subscriptions: 702

Publisher and Editor Hugh H. Tebault, III
Managing Editor Judy Johns
Printer Schroeder-Dent, Alameda, CA

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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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Editorial

Expectations

Core Values and Humane Education



Hugh H. Tebault, III, President

Like most of us, I was raised with values including respect for my elders, for family, and for animals, as well as a work ethic about how to work and contribute to my society. These values I hold dear, and even while I am constantly learning new things and meeting new people, my core values do not change over time. My values form the foundation of everything I do.

As I write this editorial, much is in the media about the ongoing war against Christmas. Some say there is no attack, or that it's nothing to get upset about. I beg to differ. It is important for us to recognize and defend our core values in order to maintain who we are.

The United States was established by people with strong Judeo Christian values. Many had left their own nations where their freedoms were restricted and joined together in America where they could be free to worship without fear. Our founders were clear that the Government would not mandate a specific denomination, but would respect the citizens' rights to worship as they chose. Even today, over 200 years later, more than 80% of citizens identify themselves as Christians. The founders and defenders of this nation had core values they were clear on, and stood up to defend them from those attacking them.

The United States prides itself on being a nation of immigrants. As we welcome each new generation, we value those who share our dream of a nation bound by common values, including the desire to work hard and the ability to live free. We encourage these new Americans to adopt established American traditions as their own, and also to share those from their prior nation with us, thereby enriching our society.

Each year Christians recognize Christmas as the birthday of Jesus and our society celebrates the season with Santa Claus and shopping. It is a time to include everyone, reaching out to your family and neighbors showing care and compassion. Christians, Jews and Muslims recognize that Jesus of Nazareth lived. They differ about his absolute role.

Wishing someone "Merry Christmas" during this season is one of the ways we express a shared value.

So, what does this have to do with Humane Education?

The Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education was founded and guided by people with strong religious values. They wanted to share the benefit of understanding good moral values. They taught these values to children by showing respect to animals and helping them recognize the benefit of doing so.

Showing respect for animals is just the first step in Latham's Steps to Humane Education – stylized by the deLemos illustration of the children at the foot of the stairway to the castle of world friendship we feature in *The Latham Letter*. Understanding respect for animals forms the foundation of good values with Each Other, Other People, Our Country, Other Nations and The World.

Latham's humane education work does not require any specific religious test. It applies equally to those of the Muslim or Jewish faith as it does to Christians or Hindus. It applies equally as well in Canada, Mexico, India, Japan, Australia or any other nation.

It does depend on our clear explanation and demonstration of how and why respecting animals is important. It is a value we seek to share with the next generation, helping them form and maintain values that have served us well.

So the next time someone asks you why teaching kindness to animals is important, I hope you take time to tell them.





Of Note

Latham Announces Program to Replace Humane Education Materials in Hurricane-Affected Shelters

Latham's program to help replace educational tools that were damaged or lost during the recent hurricanes continues.

To assist in recovery efforts and add to the good work of the many organizations that have been assisting hurricane victims, Latham will provide any shelter impacted by the hurricanes free humane education materials.

Organizations whose materials have been lost or damaged in the recent disasters are invited to visit www.Latham.org and select up to three books and five videos or DVDs with which to begin rebuilding their educational programs. Shelters should contact Latham by phone, fax or mail to arrange to participate in this program. We ask only that they agree to pay the costs of shipping.

Note: See page 13 for an Emergency Check List.



**CELEBRATE
WITH US**

In 2006 Latham is honored and proud to celebrate our 88th year as a publisher, producer, sponsor, colleague, clearinghouse, and catalyst for humane education and activities. We thank all our readers and supporters who help make our work possible.

***Interested in sharing your experience with Latham Letter readers?
We encourage submissions for publication consideration.
Writers guidelines are on our website at www.Latham.org.***

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Changing Lives: Green Chimneys Animal Assisted Therapy & Activities Immersion Internship

By Michael E. Kaufmann

It is a chilly and foggy morning at the Green Chimneys farm. Figures wearing hooded sweatshirts and heavy jackets appear from the dormitory buildings and head up to the farm, where a chorus of moos, oinks and whinnies can be heard. It is morning feeding time at the Green Chimneys farm. A small boy, accompanied by a supportive intern, enters the stalls and feeds the goats and llama with confidence.

Hadas Weiner, a young woman from Tel Aviv, Israel is that intern supervising the child. She and four others make up the fall 2005 Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities Immersion Internship team. Hadas has dedicated four months of her life to learning more about how people and animals can interact in mutually beneficial ways.

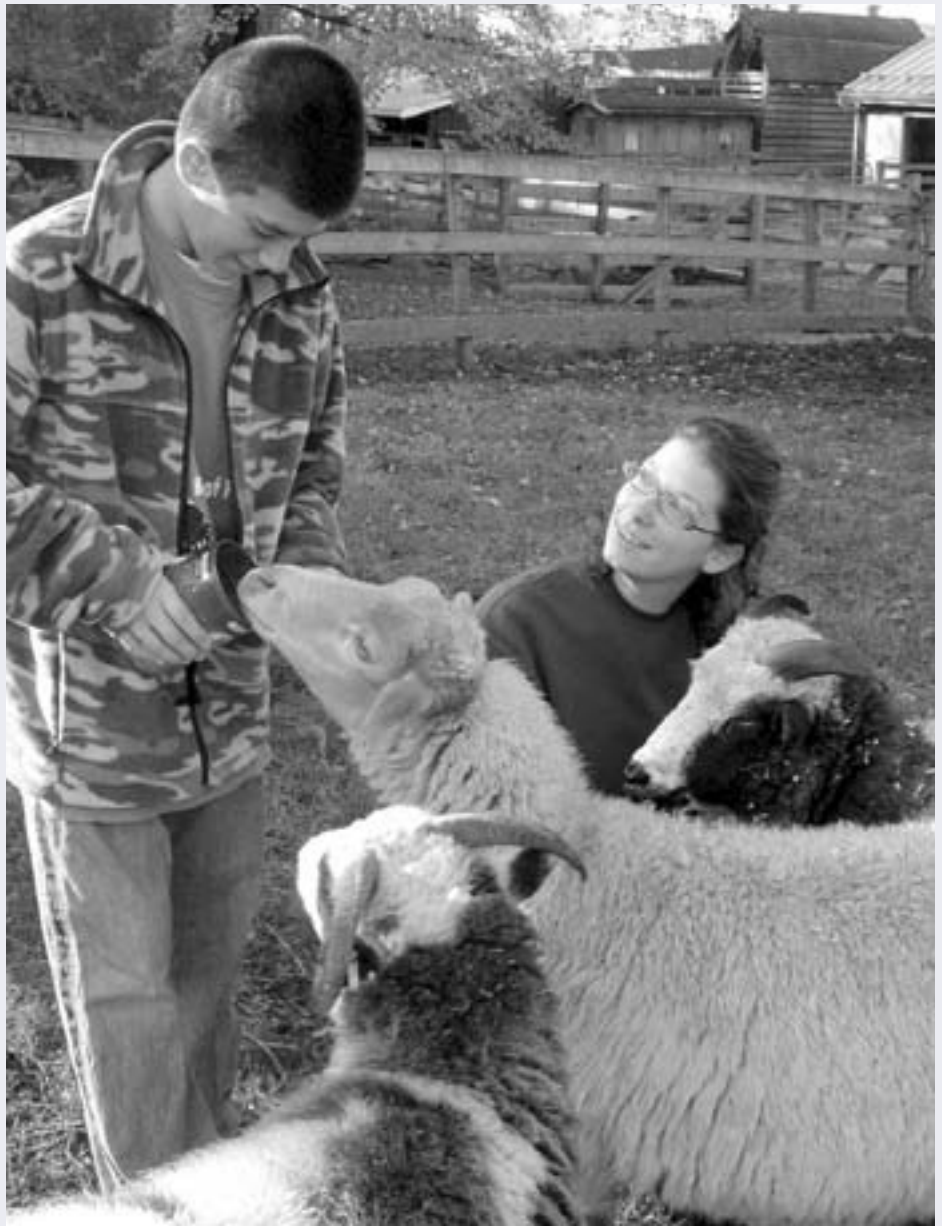


PHOTO CREDIT: Alec MacRae

What are the benefits of feeding farm animals on a cold morning with a child in October? Weiner laughs: “When I started working with this boy, he was afraid. He would not even enter the animal pens. Each time we come to the farm, his confidence grows and I can see him change. His enthusiasm has grown so much and he can’t wait for me to pick him up at his dorm now.”

But Weiner admits she benefits from the experience, too. “Being here teaches me about myself, about what I can do and also lets me find out what I want to do with my life.”


A Place for Children and Animals

Founded in 1947, Green Chimneys is a nationally known, non-profit organization recognized as a leader in restoring possibilities and creating futures for children with emotional, behavioral and learning challenges. Recognized as an innovator in animal-assisted therapy, Green Chimneys operates a residential treatment for children, a special education school and offers specialized treatment and educational and recreational services.



The Green Chimneys Farm Internship

offers an introduction to the theoretical and practical principles of incorporating animals, plants and the natural world in the re-education, socialization and treatment of children experiencing crisis in their lives.



Each year, Green Chimneys' restoration system gives hundreds of children and their families the tools that enable them to positively experience their youth, regain a sense of self-worth and create hope for the future as independent, positive and productive adults.

Yet, what has given Green Chimneys its unique identity is a Farm and Wildlife Center of considerable proportion. There are about 200 farm animals, unreleasable wildlife, horses and a small number of service dogs in training at the farm. The main criteria for animals in the program are that they play a supportive role with the children. Domesticated animals, such as sheep, goats, chickens, dogs and other animals that are accustomed to living with people, make up the majority of animal residents. These are the animals that provide close contact with the children.

Non-domesticated species such as eagles, hawks and owls live in the rehabilitation center. The children do not handle the owls and eagles in the same way they work with the farm animals and dogs. The philosophy behind working with wildlife is to teach them that not all animals are there to be hugged. Some animals by their nature like to be away from people.

Some animals come to Green Chimneys with a history of abuse. This allows for productive metaphors with the children, who also are overcoming challenges in their own lives. The horse Romeo is an example of this. He was starved by his previous owner and was near death when he came to the farm. The children worked for months, helping to nurse him back to health.

Animal welfare is at the core of the Green Chimneys mission and great lengths are taken so each animal receives the utmost nutrition, housing and veterinary care. Animals are not objects to be used, but individual partners to interact with in a respectful manner. Behavioral enrichment is offered when needed and the staff is always vigilant that the animals benefit as much from their interactions with people as the children do. Experience has shown that the best way to prevent stress in therapy animals at the farm is to not ask too much of each animal in the first place. Prevention of stress is the key. Lots

of breaks, rest periods, play time with other animals and frequent evaluation of the animals helps the staff and interns to make sure every goat or pig continues to flourish in the program.

A Program With History

"Inviting interns onto our campus is something we have done for almost twenty years now," says Dr. Samuel B. Ross Jr., founder of Green Chimneys. "We offer one of the most interesting settings for a student trying to experience humans and animals in a therapeutic setting, and having motivated interns is a win-win situation. Our children benefit from having one-to-one attention from motivated and enthusiastic adults and the intern can actually experience what this work entails. A secret hope of our program is to encourage individuals who like this kind of work to perhaps replicate it in their own way wherever they might travel in their lives."

The unique position of Green Chimneys Farm Internship offers a well grounded introduction to the theoretical and practical principles of incorporating animals, plants and the natural world in the re-education, socialization and treatment of children experiencing crisis in their lives.

Interns are immersed into the therapeutic milieu of the Green Chimneys Farm and Wildlife Center, the organic gardens and campus life under the watchful eye of staff credentialed in psychology, therapeutic riding, horticulture therapy and other specialties. Through supervised and guided participation, interns

are able to work with the children, learn the practical application of animal assisted education, and gain experience in animal and plant care in an internationally known therapeutic milieu. In the last 20 years more than 200 interns have passed through the Green Chimneys campus. "Many of our former interns now have started their own programs and there are former interns all over the world," explains Dr. Ross.

Intern Focus Area

But what exactly do interns do? Their days are varied and structured to offer a variety of different experiences.

■ **Learn and Earn Mentor:** Interns work with individual children through a therapeutic animal-assisted activity support program. Interns are taught to understand the difference between a mental health professional conducting "therapy" with an animal present, versus the supportive therapeutic interactions a paraprofessional can conduct with animals. Most interns do not have mental health credentials, but are striving to continue their careers in social work, psychology or education.

■ **Class Support:** Interns are taught to skillfully apply animal-assisted education and activities and horticulture education to groups of students as teaching assistants in classes. While many interns have an affinity for the theory of animal assisted activities, few actually know how to develop curriculum or conduct lessons. Structuring

and supervising groups of children who have special psychological needs often is the first step to becoming more familiar in the role of educator.

■ **Animal Husbandry:** Interns learn how to provide humane and species appropriate care for farm animals, horses, wildlife and a variety of other species. Many interns have never experienced the day-to-day routine of caring for animals other than house pets. Being immersed in the reality of animal husbandry with hundreds of animals of different species is an important aspect of becoming more familiar with the commitment that must be made to the animal partner in a therapeutic relationship.

■ **Program Administration:** The Green Chimneys intern experience provides a participant the building blocks to safely and successfully replicate animal-assisted programs in other settings. Many individuals dream of starting an animal-assisted therapy or activity program. Few actually achieve the dream. Part of the challenge is to understand that a successful program must be administered and run like a business. As interns, they see that a successful program must incorporate fundraising, maintenance, quality control and insurance.

Lessons in Relationship

More than anything, the time at the farm offers the interns a chance to build relationships with individual people and animals. Anyone who comes to the farm can observe the commitment and engagement of the interns. They are deeply involved in the daily animal care routines and almost always have a child by their side. Late in the afternoon Haddas Weiner and a young girl lead Samantha, the two-year-old Jersey cow, down the path toward the barn. The evening is getting chilly and the breath of all three can be seen in the cool air.

Hadas Weiner will stay at Green Chimneys until December. Then the next group of interns will take their turn. Was the time she spent there worthwhile? Weiner thoughtfully concludes, "I spent time in school studying the theories of animal-assisted therapy and of working with children. This experience at the farm is the real thing and I now know that this is what I need to do with my life."



About the Author:

Michael E. Kaufmann is the new Farm and Wildlife Director at Green Chimneys Children Services/Green Chimneys School. Michael has been recognized as a resource in Animal Welfare, Animal-Assisted Activities/Therapy and in Humane Education for 25 years. He has served various national organizations as a key program director, spokesperson and has led and facilitated workshops and seminars throughout the United States and internationally. Michael has served as past chair of the Humane Education Advisory Council of the Latham Foundation.

The Green Chimneys Internship at a Glance

Who Should Apply?

People from all over the world may apply. The Animal-Assisted Therapy and Activities Immersion Internship is for highly motivated and flexible individuals who are able to dedicate four months of their lives to Green Chimneys and to gaining skills in the principles of animal-assisted activities, therapy and education.

What Is Involved:

Interns live in a co-educational, communal dormitory setting on campus for the entire four-month period. There is little privacy. Bedrooms are shared, as are kitchen and living facilities. All meals are provided by Green Chimneys.

Work Schedule:

Interns are expected to work five days a week from 7:30am - 4:00pm including some weekends and holidays. Each intern receives a lunch hour and two days off a week. Local interns may commute.

Insurance:

All interns must provide written proof of medical insurance.

Academic Credit:

The farm internship has satisfied academic requirements of several colleges, universities and some vocational schools. Interns must coordinate their academic requirements with Green Chimneys staff during the application process. Licensed staff psychologists, social workers, teachers and nurses are available to satisfy individual supervision requirements.

Other requirements:

Interns will undergo a thorough interview process via telephone with Green Chimneys staff and must agree to a criminal background check, fingerprinting and a medical screening that includes a test for tuberculosis.

For more information please contact:

Dr. Susan Brooks, Farm Psychologist
Green Chimneys Children's Services
400 Doansburg Road - Box 719 - Brewster, NY 10509
Telephone (845) 279-2995 Ext. 229 - Fax (845) 279-3077
sbrooks@greenchimneys.org

Green Chimneys Children's Services

Green Chimneys provides innovative and caring services for children, families and animals and targets its services at restoring and strengthening the emotional health and well-being of children and families, and fostering optimal functioning and independence. It strives to develop a harmonious relationship between people, animals, plants, nature and the environment through an array of educational, recreational, vocational and mental health services.

It is a voluntary, non-sectarian, multi-service organization.

Today, the organization serves children and adults with various special needs from the greater New York area.

To date, Green Chimneys is considered the strongest and most diverse program of its kind involving farm, animal, plant and wildlife-assisted activities.

Dogs Deserve Better: Anti-Chaining Humane Education



By Debra J. White

The dog's name was Worthless. Tammy Grimes first spotted Worthless, a scrappy black dog, chained outside near her Altoona, Pennsylvania home. She pulled over in her car on the way to work and noticed that Worthless had a thin, sparse coat. It seemed hardly enough to protect him from the frigid northeastern winters. Grimes didn't waste any time. She approached the owners about giving up the skinny, droopy-eared dog. They shrugged, then slammed the door.

Images of Worthless chained to a ragged doghouse stuck with Grimes. While the owners were away, Grimes snuck food and water to the lonely dog. Caught feeding him one day, the owners became livid. The next morning, Grimes found the doghouse tucked behind the main house. She wondered if she would ever see Worthless again.

Grimes was so moved by Worthless and his bleak existence that she formed Dogs Deserve Better, a national advocacy group to end dog chaining. That was four years ago and Dogs Deserve Better has come a long way.

"Since we started, the plight of chained dogs has become a leading issue," says Grimes. "I expect to see more changes that benefit chained dogs."

In 2001 when Grimes launched Dogs Deserve Better, she was the sole employee. Only recently did she earn a salary. Currently, there are three paid part-time employees, including Grimes, plus volunteers who keep the group afloat.

"I am pleased by our growth. Chained dogs need our voices," Grimes said.

Besides the inhumanity of chaining dogs, a chained dog can be a dangerous threat, especially to children. Dogs are pack animals eager for human companionship but as Dr. Julia Neufeld of the Animal Rescue Center in Phoenix, AZ explains, "Total isolation leads to aggressive tendencies and bad behavior. Children unfortunate enough to come near chained dogs often pay the price for owner's poor decision making."

Dogs Deserve Better gathers statistics on childhood deaths and injuries due to encounters with chained dogs. They indicated that

between October 2003 and August 2005 fifty-one children died or were seriously injured by chained dogs. Chaining dogs often makes mean dogs.

Also, chained dogs suffer. Left outside in icy cold winters or blistering summers, chained dogs often lack proper shelter from extreme weather. They often freeze to death or die from dehydration. Doghouses are not enough to protect them from blizzards or torrential rainstorms.

Many shelters and rescue groups already support the no-chaining movement and others that don't support it yet are re-considering their policy.

Grimes efforts have not gone unnoticed. In 2003, Dogs Deserve Better won the ASPCA's prestigious Pet Protector Award for its dedication to chained dogs. That award helped propel Dogs Deserve Better into the national spotlight as an effective activist organization for chained dogs.

In addition to sending out information in the form of brochures, posters, videos, bumper stickers, and door hangers in both English

and Spanish, Dogs Deserve Better tracks anti-chaining legislation. Approximately seventy-five communities have enacted legislation that either ban chaining or restrict it to a certain number of hours per day. Most limit the length of chains or tethers. New Jersey, for instance, leads the nation with seven cities that have anti-chaining legislation followed by Kansas, California and Texas with six cities each. New Hanover, North Carolina and Okaloosa County, Florida ban chaining altogether while Denver and Los Angeles place restrictions on it.

"Once a city or county enacts anti-chaining legislation, others copy it," Grimes said. She also said legislation is pending before the

state capitol in Pennsylvania to restrict dog chaining to no more than 15 hours a day. Grimes compromised on this bill. Although it still allows dogs to be chained, at least it permits nine hours of freedom.

"That it's a statewide law will be a huge gain," Grimes said. "It's far from perfect legislation, but it recognizes that chaining is not in the dog's best interest."


Mesa, AZ resident Dietrich Buczko called Grimes and asked her to send material to a neighbor who kept his dog on a chain 24 hours a day, seven days a week with little access to shade. Temperatures during the long Arizona summers usually exceed 100 degrees for at least four months.

"I called the police who investigate animal cruelty and they talked to the family," Buczko said. "But there are no laws in Mesa against chaining or keeping a dog outside. I also spoke to the owners numerous times and said dogs should be part of the family. Otherwise, why have one?"

For months, nothing changed until one day

Buczko noticed his efforts finally paid off. "Passing their yard, I was surprised to see the dog off his chain. The dog is still outside but at least he's free. I have no doubt Dogs Deserve Better helped free this poor guy."

Grimes appreciates Buczko's persistence and practical, hands-on approach. All too often callers simply present situations that tug at Grimes' heart. Unfortunately she can't personally help all chained dogs. "They tell me about a chained dog and want me to take over," says Grimes.

Grimes started a trend to end chaining but others must open their hearts and homes to chained dogs. Chained dogs need the rest of us to free them from their chains. 

Grimes eventually rescued Worthless, who she renamed Bo. Due to years of negligence, poor care and outside living, Bo had numerous health problems. He died six months later.

Debra J. White lives in Phoenix, AZ. She volunteers at Maricopa County Animal Care and Control and is the author of Nobody's Pets (www.4-footedfriends.com). Debra is the proud owner of five rescued dogs.



Tammy Grimes and Bo "after".

**For more information, visit
Dogs Deserve Better at
dogsdeservebetter.com
or contact them at 1-877-636-1408**

**Dogs Deserve Better
Box 23
Tipton, PA 16684**

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.

___ Cut, Curl, and Counsel	Fall 05	___ Domestic Violence Assistance Program Protects Women, Children, and their Pets in Oregon	Summer 97
___ Canadian Veterinarians Adopt Strategic Policy on Reporting Animal Abuse	Summer 05	___ University of Penn. Veterinary Hospital Initiates Abuse Reporting Policy	Fall 97
___ "Link" Activities Come to the Windy City	Summer 05	___ Domestic Violence and Cruelty to Animals	Winter 96
___ "Link" Activities Extend to Delaware's Probation and Parole Officers	Spring 05	___ Animal Cruelty IS Domestic Violence	Winter 96
___ 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	___ Abuse an Animal - Go To Jail! (Animal Legal Defense Fund's Zero Tolerance for Cruelty)	Summer 95
___ Putting the "Link" All Together: Ontario SPCA's Violence Prevention Initiative	Spring 01	___ Milwaukee Humane Society's "PAL" Program: At-Risk Kids Learn Respect through Dog Obedience Training	Winter 94
___ Canadian and Florida Groups Actively Working on the "Link"	Winter 01	___ Latham Confronts Child and Animal Abuse	Spring 94
___ Latham's "Link" Message Goes to South Africa	Spring 00	___ A Humane Garden of Children, Plants, and Animals Grows in Sonoma County	Spring 94
___ Crossroads: An Intensive Treatment Program for Adolescent Girls	Fall 00	___ Education and Violence: Where Are We Going? A Guest Editorial	Spring 94
___ Latham Sponsors "Creating a Legacy of Hope" at British Columbia Conference	Winter 00	___ Bed-wetting, Fire Setting, and Animal Cruelty as Indicators of Violent Behavior	Spring 94
___ New England Animal Control/Humane Task Force	Spring/Summer 99	___ Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence: Intake Statistics Tell a Sad Story	Spring 94
___ Confronting Abuse (a veterinarian and a social worker confront abuse)	Summer 98	___ The Veterinarian's Role in the Prevention of Violence	Summer 94
___ The Human/Animal Abuse Connection	Spring 98	___ Results of Latham's National Survey on Child and Animal Abuse	Summer 94
___ The Relationship Between Animal Abuse and Other Forms of Family Violence	Winter 97	___ A Shared Cry: Animal and Child Abuse Connections	Fall 94

ARE YOU AND YOUR PETS READY FOR AN EMERGENCY?

Do you have an evacuation plan and an emergency kit for both humans and animals?

Local, state and federal agencies are exploring new and more efficient emergency preparedness plans to reduce the number of casualties and displaced residents. However, as the Katrina disaster revealed, emergency evacuation, rescue, and shelter strategies may not include plans for our pets. Therefore, those of us with pets as part of our families must take it upon ourselves to ensure the safety of our entire family.



Emergency ID cards and wallet emergency contact cards are available from 2nd Chance 4 Pets at www.2ndchance4pets.org. These cards, when posted in your home and carried with you in your wallet, will alert others to the presence of pets in your home as well as who to call to take care of them in case of an emergency.

2nd Chance 4 Pets is a volunteer-run, nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing the number of pets unnecessarily euthanized due to the death or incapacity of the human companions who care for them.

PET EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

- Crate or carrier large enough for your pet to stand up and move around in and a waterproof sheet for cover
- Current photos and licenses to prove ownership
- Two-week supply of food (plus a can opener if your pets eat canned food)
- Three-day supply of bottled water
- One-month supply of medicine, if applicable, plus medical records
- Non-spill feeding bowls
- Cat litter and pan
- Leashes
- Plastic bags and newspaper for waste disposal
- Blankets or towels
- Paper towels
- Brushes and combs
- Disinfectants
- Radio, flashlight and batteries
- Favorite toys

Many organizations have excellent information available on emergency preparedness for companion animals. This particular checklist is reprinted courtesy of 2nd Chance 4 Pets' Newsletter, *Companion*, Winter 2005.

An Intergenerational Animal-Assisted Intervention (AAI) Program in Japan

By Naoko Aiba and Debbie Coultis

Reprinted courtesy of the People, Animals, Nature, Inc. (PAN)
Summer 2005 Newsletter

Japan has become increasingly urbanized and has the lowest birth rate and longest life expectancy of any nation in the world. As a result, there are more elders and fewer families who are able to care for them in a home setting. Nursing homes are more prevalent in Japan than in the past and there are fewer opportunities for intergenerational contact. Thus, many youth lack opportunities to interact with elders and learn about traditional Japanese culture.

The Japanese government has taken steps to address societal fragmentation between generations. The National Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), which administers educational curriculum implemented a major reform in 2002 allowing schools to equip students with knowledge and skills identified as important in the 21st century. Emphasis was placed on “social education,” which promotes lifelong learning and is independent and voluntary and has resulted in learning flourishing in various forms. MEXT strives to provide learning opportunities about contemporary and other issues. In addition, MEXT subsidizes various local and voluntary activities to encourage people of all ages to interact.

***This article describes details of the Animal-Assisted Intervention (AAI) program in Japan
“Making Bridges between Elderly People and Youth with Animals,”
which complies with MEXT’s social education mandate.***

About the Partner Organizations, the Participants, and How the Program Works

The Society for the Study of Human-Animal Relations is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to address societal problems in Japan caused by changing demographics and other societal forces through Animal-Assisted Intervention (AAI).

Finding volunteers who have pets and are willing to learn how to interact with clients appropriately can be challenging, but is a necessary component of any AAI program. Students from Sendai Veterinary

Technician School are motivated volunteers and already have some training about animals.

Two staff members from the Society for the Study of Human-Animal Relations coordinate activities. They also teach Veterinary Technician students about AAI in the classroom venue. The Miyagi Fukushima Kai Nursing Home is a facility for elderly people in the Miyagi prefecture which is in the northern region of Japan. The facility has one section for people who can live independently (Shou-Ju-En) and another for people who can live independently but need additional assistance due to visual impairments (Shou-Fu-So). The facility staff participants are the chief

counselor, other counselors and various other staff members. There are typically three staff members and 10 residents present at each monthly session.

Sendai Veterinary Technician School (VT School) students participate in the program as part of their school curriculum. AAI is getting more popular in Japan and students are eager to learn techniques and have the opportunity to participate in a program such as this, which provides social education and enhanced vocational skills.

Nine VT students participate in each session. Students who participate in the AAI sessions are enrolled in a one-year program taught by The Society for the Study of Human-Animals Relations. Students may

continue to participate in the AAI program after they complete the program. Students bring their own dogs to live with them at the VT School. The Society for the Study of Human-Animal Relations provides training about canine behavior, canine handling skills and AAI. Dogs and people are evaluated prior to attending any sessions to make sure they can work safely together. Dogs undergo a shorter assessment prior to the start of each individual session. There are typically five dogs per session.

A Typical Session

Coordinators meet with the Miyagi Fukushi Kai's chief counselor to determine session goals for each participant. Changes in areas such as how they are feeling or behaving, physical problems such as hearing, sight or movement are taken into consideration when determining session goals. Next, equipment to be used in the session is checked for safety and assembled.

The session begins with introductions. A month can be a long time to remember names for both old and young alike. Names of other animals are more likely to be remembered than names of other people. Next, there are organized activities such as singing a seasonal song to help people remember the cycles of the year, singing a dog-related song to motivate people to interact with dogs, dancing with dogs to stretch and exercise, and playing games with dogs to provide opportunities for decision making. Lastly, there is free time in which participants can touch the animals and converse with staff and students in a non-structured format.

Each session concludes with a follow-up meeting run by the program coordinators to discuss thoughts



about what happened in the session and to share suggestions about how identified problem areas can be resolved. New concepts about AAI are introduced during these sessions.

Program Assessment

Since the program goal is to encourage communication between youth and the elderly through AAI, we have meetings after each session to determine if we are meeting our goals. The Society for the Study of Human-Animal Relations program coordinators, Nursing home staff and students participate in these meetings. Students often say, "I didn't know how to communicate with elderly people because they don't talk very much." The staff explains that some of the residents rarely express feelings to anyone including staff due to mental impairments. Staff tells students that deciding to attend the program should be viewed as great progress for some residents. It is a first step in the process of normalizing interaction with other people. Learning to be silent often comes with age and can be a strong form of communication.

As the program progresses, students learn that speech can be augmented with touch. Touch alone is sometimes a better form of communication

than speech and touch together. Through observation, students learn that other animals can help facilitate communication between people of different ages. The students gradually learn how to communicate with the elderly, including people with impaired vision. The elderly have the opportunity to interact with other animals and students so they feel less lonely and also begin to understand today's youth.

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Japan's Education at Glance 2004. (2004).
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p.13. Activities with dogs enable students and elders to work together

Naoko Aiba is Executive Director, The Society for the Study of Human-Animal Relations. This model is goal oriented and similar programs and partnerships can be developed elsewhere. For additional information about the program, contact Naoko Aiba at aiba_ta@hotmail.com.

For additional information about PAN, please visit www.pan-inc.org

The Atlanta Humane Society's Pet Facilitated Therapy Program at Metro State Prison Continues as Model Program

By P.J. Smith

The Atlanta Humane Society has conducted Pet Facilitated Therapy (PFT) visits to Metro State Prison for 17 years, and AHS is the only non-profit animal humane organization authorized to visit the Atlanta prison. Started in 1988 with a St. Bernard named "Geraldine" and Marti Wilson, a dedicated Atlanta Humane Society Board Member, this program has developed into one of the most effective therapy projects that has entered the gates of Metro State Prison. It has been so effective that the State Correctional Commissioner approved similar projects at additional institutions modeled on the Atlanta Humane Society's program. Today, many states have adopted Pet Facilitated Therapy programs in correctional facilities and these programs are becoming more and more successful.

"The Atlanta Humane Society's Pet Facilitated Therapy program must still be considered by the State of Georgia as an important asset, because the program has not been pulled from the State Prison like many of the other programs," states Ceola West, Metro State Prison Activity Therapist. "It is a very good program, especially since it still is going on."

The Atlanta Humane Society's PFT program, sponsored by Merial, began when Metro State Prison was an all-male facility. It has since changed to a women's maximum-security prison. Although the participants are different, the program has remained the same and the benefits have changed people's lives.

What good could a puppy do?

The Atlanta Humane Society PFT visits satisfy the prisoners' basic need to interact with another living creature and be accepted. The inmates of Metro State Prison learn what it is to receive unconditional love, a concept new to many who live behind iron bars. The response to these new emotions has led inmates to redefine their attitudes towards others, and for the first time it has taught some how to care for another living soul. (Touching between inmates in the state prison is strictly prohibited.)

"We have boundaries and inmates cannot touch or hug. There is no way to express emotion," states Ms. West. "Animals show unconditional love. The inmates are able to finally hug something and love it back."

When asked why she participates in this program, one inmate responded by stating, "It lets me deal with the stress I have to face when I leave this room [PFT visitation area]." Another replies, "It brought back feelings I haven't had in years."

The Atlanta Humane Society's PFT program not only brings interaction into Metro State Prison, but also it initiates inmates' interests in extra-curricular activities, and many have begun participating in other therapeutic groups. The results are very positive. Inmates get excited about the visits and eagerly await the arrival of the AHS volunteers and puppies.

"In the past, inmates have had pets in their lives. The women actually look forward to the Atlanta Humane Society visits," states Ms. West.

A deeper look inside

The whole atmosphere inside the visitation room is different from the gray prison cell walls where inmates spend most of their days. Conversations flow with ease and inmates smile and even laugh. Anxiety tends to disappear and there is a noticeable increase in attention spans and socialization. Not only does this program increase inmates' communication skills, but also it teaches the importance of responsibility, patience and accountability – qualities that an inmate might not necessarily learn during her everyday routine. Inmates are accountable for the care of the animals. If a puppy uses the bathroom on the floor, the inmate assigned to the animal must clean up the mess.

"It is up to the inmates to care for the animals and they take this responsibility seriously. The inmates are protective of the puppies and they reprimand each other if they feel that another inmate is not properly caring for an animal," states Marti Wilson, AHS Board Member. "These women will be out among us at some point in the future and when I see them showing compassion and nurturing towards these animals, I know that there's hope for them."

Inmates are only allowed to participate in the Atlanta Humane Society PFT visits if they exhibit "good" behavior. The visits take place in a gymnasium and inmates sit in two large circles. A typical visit is with 15-50 inmates, usually closer to the latter. The visit is supervised not only by AHS volunteers, but also by state prison guards and

Metro State Prison's Activity Therapist, Ceola West.

Atlanta Humane Society volunteers are very dedicated to this Pet Facilitated Therapy program. Each volunteer spends countless hours making sure that the project succeeds, and the hard work pays off. Inmates thank volunteers profusely after each visit. Both Metro State Prison officials and inmates are pleased that there is an organization like the Atlanta Humane Society that takes the time and effort to visit.

"They (volunteers) believe strongly in the possibilities and benefits that the Metro State Prison PFT program provides the inmates," states P.J. Smith, Atlanta Humane Society Public Relations Manager.

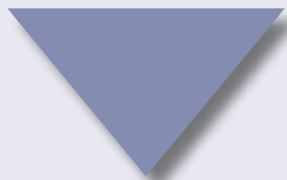
Volunteers participating in the Pet Facilitated Therapy program must go through an orientation at both the Atlanta Humane Society and Metro State Prison. Volunteers are fingerprinted and issued a photo I.D. The volunteers' safety is highly regarded and the Atlanta Humane Society PFT group must go through a guarded main entrance and two security gates, and pass two security towers, before reaching the Metro State Prison inmates.

"Our volunteers need to be committed to the program. It is important that they have a view that (these inmates) have a possibility of rehabilitation," states Marti, the program founder. "As long as humans are alive, there is a chance for change."



For additional information, contact P.J. Smith at pamillas@atlantahumane.org



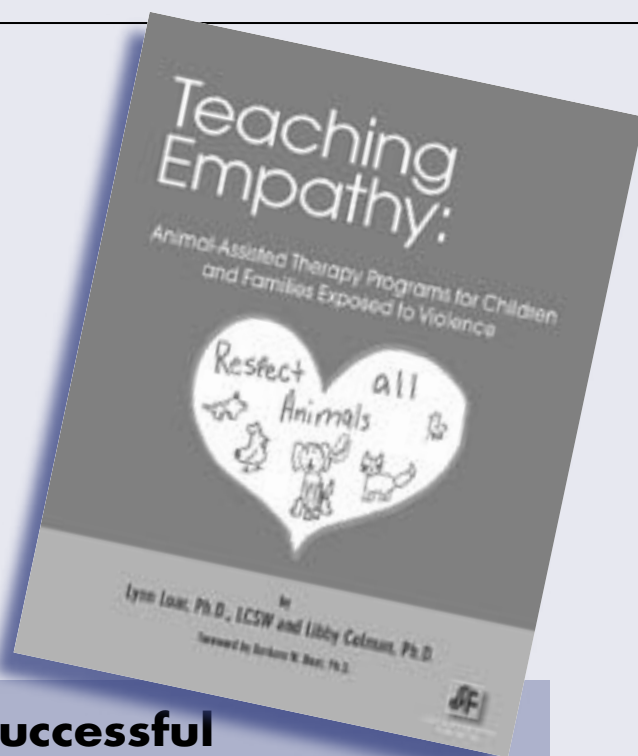


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Upcoming Workshops, Conferences and Events

 E-mail your listings to info@latham.org

JANUARY 2006

- January 21:** Animals in the Classroom Workshop for Teachers and Humane Educators. An APHE Regional Workshop, Contact: Stacey Zeitlin, 619-243-3424 or cp@sdhumane.org
- January 23-27:** Level II National Animal Control Association Training Academy, Portland, Oregon (Holiday Inn, Portland Airport). For additional information please contact NACA at 913-768-1319 (option 6) or visit www.nacanet.org

FEBRUARY

- February 12-14:** Animal Care Conference 2006 California Animal Control Directors' Association (CACDA) State Humane Association of California (SHAC) California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Pasadena Conference Center, Pasadena, CA Host Hotel: Pasadena Sheraton www.animalcareconference.org

MARCH

- March 8 - 11:** HSUS Humane Society of the United States Animal Care EXPO, The Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, California. For more information visit www.AnimalSheltering.org or call 1-800-248-EXPO
- March 24-25:** The Animal Welfare Federation of NJ "Learning, Sharing, Unity for Success" Woodbridge Sheraton, Iselin, NJ. For information, call 856-740-1344 or email conference@awfnj.org
- March 24-26:** Green Chimneys Farm, Brewster, NY. Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy Workshop: A comprehensive workshop on equine therapy, "Conversations with Equine Practitioners: An Interactive Workshop," will be offered at Green Chimneys this spring. The two-and-half-day workshop is designed for psychotherapists who conduct clinical work partnering with equines, either dually trained or working in conjunction with an equine specialist to learn more effective and creative ways to conduct this form of psychotherapy. The cost is \$500, or \$470 if paid registration is received before February 15th. For details, contact Dr. Susan Brooks at 845-279-2995, ext. 229 or farm director Michael Kaufmann at ext. 170. www.greenchimneys.org
- March 29 - April 2:** Association of Professional Humane Educators (APHE) Annual Conference, Tucson, AZ. Further information available soon at www.aphe.org or contact Marsh Myers at 520-321-3704 ext. 168 or 125.

APRIL

- April 8 - 9:** Catalytic Services, Inc. (CSI), National Conference "The Value of Animals in the Lives of Youth." Tallahassee, Florida. Presenting the most current research and methods for creating compassionate, courageous leaders. The conference will feature Dr. John Pitts as the Keynote Speaker and Dr. Jerry Osteryoung on the developing trends of animals in the workplace. For more information visit www.csivisions.com or contact Colm McAindriu at colm11@comcast.net or 850-893-8503
- April 22-24:** People Animals Nature (PAN, Inc) Overview of People, Animals, Nature: A Healing Connection Conference (2.7 CEUs from DePaul University Continuing and Professional Education). A three-day Workshop followed by a 1-day Conference (see below).
- April 22:** The 8th Annual Humane Education Seminar "Building Community Relationships," Urbana, IL. Presented by The Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Illinois. View the Web Site at <http://events.ansci.uiuc.edu/companion/humane/> for further details.
- April 25:** PAN's 2nd Annual People, Animals, Nature: A Healing Connection Conference (.9 CEUs).

Both events are at the same hotel, the Hilton Garden Inn in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. For a complete list of speakers and additional information about either event including registration fees, visit www.pan-inc.org or email Debbie Coultis at coultis@umich.edu or Coultis@gmail.com



Media Reviews and Announcements



Where the Trail Grows Faint: A Year in the Life of a Therapy Dog Team By Lynne Hugo

Reviewed by Tula Asselanis

"This job is not going to be easy as I thought. I'm not ready after all. Hannah's not ready either. Who cares what tests we've passed? Training for this already appears as helpful as classes for fish on how to ride a bicycle. I remind myself that just yesterday Hannah and I hiked an unfamiliar section of forest where mounds of fallen leaves were so deep as to obscure the trail, if there even was a trail. I'd had no choice but to follow my instincts ... and my dog."

Judging from the title I thought this book was simply a guide for

animal-assisted therapists, but the beautiful opening paragraphs convinced me that I was in for a view of a much wider landscape. With a sense of humor and great affection, author Lynne Hugo chronicles the journey that she and her Labrador retriever Hanna take into the realities of aging. Hanna is a Therapy Dogs International-approved therapy dog.

Lynne and Hanna travel down an eye opening and heart wrenching path into the lives of residents at "Golden View," a long term nursing home in the Midwest. They meet a wide variety of patients ranging from Liz, a 50-year-old woman suffering from depression, to 95-year-old Mary, who was paralyzed and abandoned by her family.

Hannah and Lynne keep each other on the trail of therapy and service despite the fact that the trail is unmarked and neither of them has gone down it before. Hannah, with her loving enthusiasm for human affection, bounds eagerly down the road with Lynne. In the process they both learn a lot about elders, about loving dogs, and about the fundamental human need to nurture and remain connected to other people, to animals, and to the natural world.

Where the Trail Grows Faint is an excellent source of information for everyone involved with or considering animal-assisted therapy. It also reaches a much wider and more universal audience. Anyone who

knows an elderly patient in a nursing home, is contemplating placing their own parents in one, works in one, or even is planning their own move into such a facility will be touched by the author's perspective.

Lynne observes, "Hannah licks the tears of regret for her sad patients; gently approaches weak-handed ones for an awkward caress."

Together they cure the stagnant boredom of a nursing home as well as some broken hearts, including their own.

Tula Asselanis is the Latham Foundation's Executive Film Producer.

Where the Trail Grows Faint: A Year in the Life of a Therapy Dog Team

By Lynne Hugo

ISBN 0-8032-2432-X

University of Nebraska Press

Lincoln, NE 68588-0255

www.nebraskapress.unl.edu

ANIMALS

A full-length feature film by Jason Young

This beautifully photographed and edited film poses difficult questions but lets viewers reach their own conclusions about eating meat. It documents Jason Young's thought-provoking experiment as a fledging farmer when he and his wife trade their home in Toronto for a farm in Nova Scotia.

As his wife grows her business, training jumping horses and giving riding lessons, Jason raises livestock. He explains, "For most of man's

time on earth, we killed what we ate. But with the rise of cities, we left the butchering to professionals.” Now in a struggle with his conscience, he continues “If I was going to continue eating animals, I was going to raise (and butcher) them myself.”



And despite neighboring farmers warning him not to treat his animals as pets, Jason resists herd mentality. He names his animals and bonds with them. “I wanted to give my animals the best life I could as a balance for their inevitable end.” It seemed simple. If you’re going to eat meat, Jason thought, then you should raise the animals. Get to know them, discover their personalities, and treat them with respect.

This award-winning documentary is quiet and powerful. It takes us deep into the heart of the human-animal relationship, with all its contradictions.

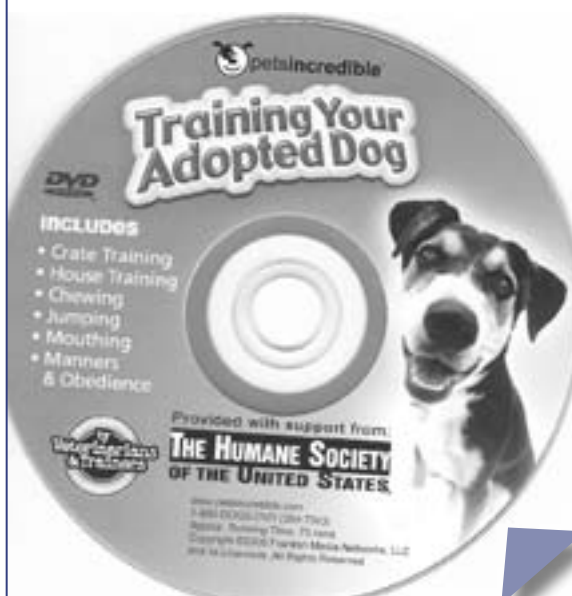
Distributed by Passion River

www.passionriver.com

DVD: \$14.98 SRP

Running time: Approximately 72 mins.

UPC: 85070000103-2



This DVD teaches pet parents how to have a well-behaved dog and how to avoid the common behaviors that often lead to relinquishment.

Designed to give animal shelters an affordable and effective training tool for new adopters, the DVDs are available at a reduced bulk rate of 99 cents per copy. The goal is to reach new pet owners when they first acquire their new pet and are most excited about their new companion.

A free demonstration copy of the DVD is available to animal shelters, rescue groups and animal control agencies across the country, thanks to support from the HSUS. To request the free demonstration DVD or obtain more information on the Shelter Helper Program, contact Franklin Media Networks toll free at 866-DOGS-DVD or visit www.petsincredible.com.

For information on PetsIncredible's DVD programs, contact Traci Theis toll free at 866-364-7383 or traci@petsincredible.com.

Proceedings Available from the first annual People, Animals, Nature: A Healing Connection Conference

People, Animals, Nature, Inc. (PAN), The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (The ASPCA), and The Animal Medical Center partnered to host the first annual People, Animals, Nature: A Healing Connection Conference July 16, 2005 at The Animal Medical Center in New York City.

The book includes abstracts from speakers Naoko Aiba, Susan Cohen, Debbie Coultis, Kate Fischer, Miyoko Matoba, Kate Nicoll, Naoko Ogawa, and Bill Samuels.

\$15.00. (\$20.00 for orders shipped outside the United States)

Available from: People, Animals, Nature, Inc.

1820 Princeton Circle, Naperville, IL 60565

E-mail: pan@pan-inc.org

For additional information about PAN, please visit: www.pan-inc.org.



DOGS BITE But Balloons and Slippers are More Dangerous

By Janis Bradley

This fascinating book arrives in an era of sensational media coverage of dog attacks, breed bans, proposed legislation and regulations. It couldn't be more timely or important because it puts the danger of dog bites in perspective.

For example, dogs almost never kill people. A child is more likely to die choking on a balloon or falling from a swing, and an adult is more likely to die in a bedroom slipper-related accident than from a dog bite. Your chances of being killed by a dog are roughly one in 18 million. You are even five times more likely to be

killed by a bolt of lightning than by a dog. Yet lawmakers and insurers press for less dog ownership.

Why do dogs and dog bites cause so much hysteria? Using a fluid writing style that makes the science of statistics interesting and understandable for the average reader, Bradley explains the potential reasons for our society's exaggerated fear of dog attacks. She compares the relative frequency and severity of dog bites with other common hazards such as, five-gallon water buckets, swimming pools, playgrounds, horses, disease, bad nutrition, cars, guns, friends and even family.

Yes, dogs bite. And yes, occasionally someone is seriously injured or dies in a dog-related incident. However, the companionship of tens of millions of dogs benefits many times more people than even the most inflated estimates of dog bite victims.

This book is a beacon of common sense. It is an ideal tool to help put dog bites into perspective, to open conversation with local and state legislative bodies, and to educate children – and adults – about how to act appropriately around dogs to decrease injuries.

Author Janice Bradley is a former college administrator and teacher who has been an instructor at the San Francisco SPCA Academy for Dog Trainers since 2000. She lives in Oakland, California with Ruby, the teeth-clacking Doberman, and Henry, the Greyhound clown.

Dogs Bite but Balloons and Slippers are More Dangerous

*James & Kenneth Publishers
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Berkeley, CA 94708
800-784-5531
ISBN 1-888047-18-6
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Pet Behavior Tip Sheets From the HSUS Pets for Life Program

Worth a Look!

Perfect for shelters and all rescue groups, this CD contains 43 PDF files of behavior tips designed to keep pets and their people together by helping solve many of the most common pet behavior problems – problems that are often the reason animals are relinquished to shelters, abandoned, or forgotten by their human family, chained to a doghouse, or simply no longer allowed in the house.

The CD contains solutions to many behavior complaints about cats and dogs, as well as cross-species issues and other helpful information. For example: Preventing and solving litter box problems, preventing destructive scratching, and preventing aggression between cats. For dogs:

preventing destructive chewing, housetraining, and dealing with separation anxiety.

Conveniently and wisely, each information sheet can be customized with an organization's contact information, then printed and distributed to help their clients keep their pets.

For more information visit www.petsforlife.org or write to Pets for Life, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

Latham's new film now available to help you **COMMUNICATE** the **BENEFITS** of **SPAYING** and **NEUTERING** **DOMESTIC** **ANIMALS**

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overcoming resistance and communicating the benefits of spaying and neutering domestic animals ... **Please send me Latham's new film!**



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Written and directed by
Tula Asselanis

Principal photography
Dezsoe "Steve" Nagy

Music
**Nicholas Gunn – www.nicholasgunn.com
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