

T H E

# Latham Letter

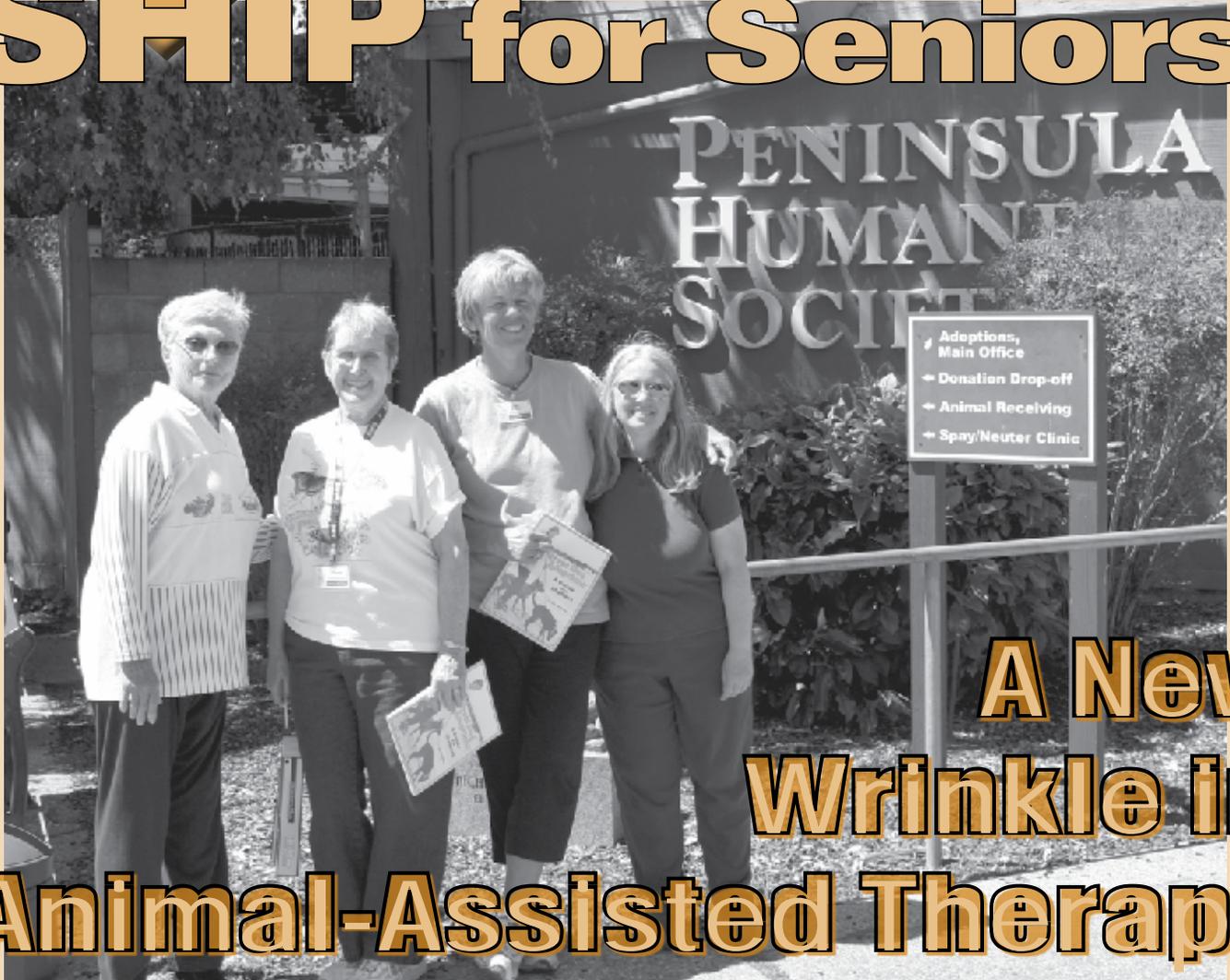
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FALL 2007

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

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## SHIP for Seniors:



## A New Wrinkle in Animal-Assisted Therapy

Betty Count, Peg Nordensten, Nancy Struck, Lynn Loar

By Lynn Loar and Ken White

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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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# The Latham Letter

Volume XXVIII, Number 4, Fall 2007

**BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON  
HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**



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# Guest Editorial

## A Wake-up Call from Australia

By Sheryl L. Pipe, Ph.D.



In an article titled *Principals fed up with dog safety, pet lessons* (<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuId=77&ContentID=36237>), Leonie Trimper, leader of the Australian Primary Principals Association, included programs on dog bite prevention and pet care in a list of examples of “curriculum clutter.” Such programs should only be taught if they do not detract from the school’s core business, according to Trimper. This “core business” seems to be the same in Australia as in the United States – teaching English, Mathematics, and some Science and Social Studies. In both countries, Music, Art and Physical Education are deemed much less important.

At a time when educators, administrators, schools and districts are being evaluated based on their students’ performance on standardized tests, the field of humane education is very much in danger of being considered mere “curriculum clutter.” In fact, many humane educators report that it has been more difficult to penetrate schools since the advent of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. As it seems pretty likely that the NCLB Act will be reauthorized, humane education must rise to meet new challengers and guard against being viewed as superfluous.

The case can be made for humane education and its important messages. One way is to argue that schools are responsible, at least in part, for conveying

public safety information. Given ASPCA estimates that 50 percent of children under the age of 12 will be bitten by a dog, the rationale for including quality dog-bite prevention programs in school curricula seems pretty obvious. But this may not be enough.

What is likely required is to explicitly demonstrate how such lessons further rather than detract from lessons in English, Math and other subjects. An increasing number of humane educators are now linking their lessons to state and national education standards across the curriculum areas, demonstrating how lessons about pet care and preventing dog bites, for example, can address content in a variety of curriculum areas. Using Language Arts as an example, we can point to learning the definitions of words like incidence, prevalence and nutrition and using them appropriately. For mathematical skills, we can highlight how calculating how much food and water one might need to pack for their 100 pound mastiff and 14 pound tabby to adequately prepare for an emergency allows for teaching and practicing number operations and measurements, just to name a few. A wonderful resource for listings of national and state standards is Education World.com. (<http://www.educationworld.com/standards/state/index.shtml>)

While dog-bite prevention and pet care are important lessons and are staples of humane education, innovators within this field have for many years presented lessons on a much broader range of topics. Among them are



# Of Note

programs on companion, wild, local, urban, endangered, farmed, abused and misunderstood animals – linked to curriculum content standards for a variety of subjects. Animals are of great concern to today’s youth. Reports consistently show that interest in animals and their welfare are ranked highly among teens and tweens. The multitude of animal-related media directed at children indicates that animals draw the attention of younger children as well. By combining humane lessons with quality animal content and activities that address curriculum content standards humane education may be of great assistance to today’s schoolteachers rather than an impediment.

We need to work on the public image of humane education and demonstrate the value of our educational contributions more broadly so that the perceived value of the work we do is not reduced to mere “curriculum clutter.”

*Sheryl L. Pipe is the Senior Director of Humane Education at the ASPCA and the President of the Association of Professional Humane Educators. She holds a Ph.D. in Clinical and School Psychology.*

**Editor’s Note: We appreciate Kristine Crawford of For Pits Sake ([www.forpitsake.org](http://www.forpitsake.org)) for bringing the Leonie Trimper article to our attention.**



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# SHIP for Seniors:

## A new Wrinkle in Animal-Assisted Therapy

By Lynn Loar, Ph.D., LCSW, President, The Pryor Foundation and Ken White, President, Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

Readers of the *Latham Letter* are well aware of the many wonderful humane education programs that introduce children to animals and the animal-assisted therapy programs that improve behaviors in humans and animals in various settings such as hospitals, juvenile detention facilities, and shelters for battered women and homeless families. Well, here's a new wrinkle for those interested in more ways people and animals can work together for their mutual benefit.

SHIP (Strategic Humane Interventions Program) for Seniors, a project of the Pryor Foundation ([www.thepryorfoundation.org](http://www.thepryorfoundation.org)), teaches clicker training to members of Senior Coastsiders, the senior center in Half Moon Bay, CA, and facilitates their volunteering at the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS/SPCA) to prepare shelter animals for adoption.

SHIP for Seniors benefits both human and animal participants in learning new skills and expanding opportunities. The seniors teach animals to come to the front of their cages, sit (rather than bark and jump) and look at the person in front of the cage. They also teach cats and dogs “high fives” and a couple of other endearing behaviors. Seniors using walkers and wheelchairs can do this readily and there is no risk to their safety because they do not take the animals out of their cages for training. There is a separate socialization component in which the seniors can sit to cuddle and play with animals without risk of tripping or falling.

Many members of Senior Coastsiders love animals but cannot manage to care for one at home at this stage of their lives. SHIP for Seniors gives people meaningful and enjoyable contact with



animals and allows them to contribute to the animals' prospects for a new home and better future. Additionally, they meet and develop relationships with staff and volunteers at the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA, broadening their own horizons and social network.

Transportation to animal shelters, which are usually located in industrial areas far from participants' neighborhoods, is a perennial problem for programs serving children and seniors. Senior Coastsiders serves a hot lunch Monday-Friday and provides transportation to the center at noon. It also offers a ride home at 4:00 p.m. SHIP for Seniors members gather at 1:00 and form carpools so that those who don't (or shouldn't) drive have rides available. The carpools return to the senior center in time to catch the 4:00 van home.

The animals' prospects for adoption improve through SHIP for Seniors. Animals that orient to people and look friendly (and smart – all those “high fives”) get adopted while those that stay in the back of their cages and ignore visitors or bark and jump are often passed over. Additionally, the shelter is able to assess which animals would be a good fit in a home with an older person and which would not.

PHS/SPCA is a large and busy shelter. For this program to work, it must go with the shelter's flow and make minimal demands on staff and routines. Happily, the accommodations needed for our SHIP for Seniors volunteers are few and easy to make:

### **1. Time commitments**

PHS/SPCA, like other shelters, needs reliable, committed volunteers. The shelter requires that regular volunteers make a commitment of at least a 2-hour shift per week for a full year. Seniors interested in volunteering want to be able to meet the commitments they make. They also know that illness and family obligations may make considerable and unexpected demands on their time. Thus, asking seniors to keep weekly appointments and guarantee a year of service will rule out many motivated volunteers who would otherwise give many hours of dedicated work for years. SHIP for Seniors, the sponsoring organization, commits to the schedule and allows individual members to sign up week by week as their health and schedules permit. We've found that 90 minutes twice a month is about the right length for most seniors – long enough to do a considerable amount of work, and short enough that even people with various infirmities can participate. Most seniors prefer afternoons



Scott DeLucchi and John Forbes



Senior Coastsiders Betty Count, Peg Nordensten and John Forbes

as they need more time to get ready in the morning and prefer not to return home after dark.

## 2. Writing

PHS/SPCA volunteers fill out applications and sign a number of informed consents. Several of our senior participants have gross and fine motor problems resulting from strokes, Parkinsonism and other problems of aging that make writing difficult. It is embarrassing for people to admit that they cannot write. Thus, letting our seniors fill out applications at home or at the senior center and mail them in spares them public discomfort.

## 3. Clothing

PHS/SPCA volunteers wear PHS/SPCA T-shirts as well as name tags so they are easily identified. Older people choose clothing that facilitates mobility and perhaps obscures signs of disability or injury. They may also need assistance dressing. Asking them to wear an agency T-shirt or smock is problematic if they need help putting it on and taking it off or if it compromises mobility or highlights a sore spot. Name tags suffice to identify SHIP for Seniors participants.

Like most progressive sheltering organizations, PHS/SPCA strives to be an active and contributing member of the community. PHS/SPCA always seeks both to meet the obvious demands of the animals in its care and to join with human service programs to create a more humane community for all. This partnership has allowed PHS/SPCA to enter into our new community collaboration easily because SHIP for Seniors makes no significant demands on staff time or other resources. The animals benefit from one more opportunity for compassionate contact with people while at the shelter, and the seniors experience a benefit as well. It's a true "win-win."

*SHIP For Seniors, a project of the Pryor Foundation, is supported by a grant from the Half Moon Bay Branch of the American Association of University Women and a donation of dog treats from Trader Joe's in Daly City, CA.*



**SHIP (Strategic Humane Interventions Program) for Seniors is a project of the Pryor Foundation ([www.thepryorfoundation.org](http://www.thepryorfoundation.org)), an educational organization that promotes the study, understanding and application of marker-based shaping as a tool for influencing human and non-human animal behavior.**

**Senior Coastsiders, Half Moon Bay, CA ([www.seniorcoastsiders.org](http://www.seniorcoastsiders.org)) offers classes, lectures, events and trips, assistance with home repairs, transportation, shopping trips and meals, case management and resources on aging and caregiving.**

**The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA ([www.peninsulahumanesociety.org](http://www.peninsulahumanesociety.org)) is a full service open door shelter providing services for all animals in San Mateo county. It offers a wide array of services including wildlife rehabilitation, outreach vaccination and spay/neuter clinics, humane education and adoption programs.**

Photographs by Nancy Struck and John Forbes

Chee Chee

Chee Chee

By Eleanor Blangsted

Chee Chee

Chee Chee

Chee Chee

Chee Chee

Chee Chee

## Introduction

Growing up in Alameda, a small island in the San Francisco bay, I learned the benefits of living in a community where the residents showed respect for each other and shared common values.

Humane education is said to be about showing respect for animals. As we know, it is more than that; it is about growing that respect and applying it to your everyday experience.

My father, Hugh H. Tebault, II, personified that respect. He helped start the Meals on Wheels program in Alameda. In that role he volunteered weekly to visit people who were not able to go out, most often elderly people. He was also able to visit people living in the Alameda Care Center. One of those residents was Eleanor Blangsted who wrote the *Chee Chee* story that follows.

My father shared this story with me two days before he died and said he wanted to write an introduction for the *Latham Letter*. While he was not able to do so, I am honored to introduce the author and the *Chee Chee* story to our readers.

When I visited with Eleanor recently, she explained that she originally ended the story one paragraph short of the way it appears today, noting that some life stories do not always have happy endings. A family member urged her to add the final paragraph. See what you think about the two endings.

My personal thanks to the author for her permission to reprint this work, and for her kind words about my parents who visited her frequently. Life is a series of today's remembering the lessons of yesterday.

I hope this story will stir in you the desire to work in your community's care centers. Visitation programs with animals and young people can bring a sense of purpose and relationship of community that is always good.

Hugh H. Tebault, III

## Can you imagine what it is like to be 95 years old? Well, I don't turn cartwheels anymore.

Since I am old, my son Erik said, "You need to come to live near my house. Then I can stop in to see if you are all right." So I moved.

My sons hired a white private jet. I was told to pack just a few things and put them in boxes. I packed warm clothes and two pairs of shoes. I left almost everything else I owned in the cupboards and closets. All my beautiful dresses and jackets were left behind.

It was mighty interesting to be a passenger in the handsome white private jet plane with my son Douglas and his wife Tina. We zoomed down

the runway in Carlsbad, flew over Oceanside, and headed north to Oakland, CA. My dear friends Sue and Knud were there to wish me happy adventures in my new life.

When our plane landed in Oakland, Erik was there to collect my belongings and drive me to my new home at the Alameda Care Center. I would share a room with a nice lady named Katherine.

I was lucky. My bed was next to a wall of windows, with floor to ceiling gold drapes. The very first morning I woke up and pulled those long drapes open. Oh! Such a surprise!

# Chee Chee



was Chee Chee with four babies on each side of her. I squealed with delight! She had not flown away. She had been busy with hatching her new eggs! Those tiny ducklings were only about two inches high.

Guess what I saw? A pretty brown mother duck looking straight up at me. When I opened the glass door and screen she was not afraid and did not move. So I talked to her.

“Hello! Beautiful duck. How are you?” She wiggled her back tail feathers and stared up at me. “Are you hungry? I’ll bet you want something to eat.” I went over to my desk where I had a box of crackers, I took out some and went gently back to the door. Chee Chee was still waiting there, looking up and watching me as I opened the screen, scrunched up the crackers and dropped them near her webbed feet. OH! How fast she ate them. She was hungry.

In a little while she left the sidewalk and crossed the green grass. I watched as she went into the bushes next to the little garden house to hide in the shadows. I got into my bed under the covers because I’m always cold.

Perhaps you might find this hard to believe. The second morning I got out of bed and pulled the drapes open. There was the same duck, just like yesterday, looking up at me. “Well, hello pretty duck, I’m going to call you ‘Chee Chee’.” She looked up and smiled and wiggled her tail feathers. “Chee Chee, do you want some more

crackers?” She opened and closed her beak. I turned to get the crackers. I think she smiled when I came back with them crumbled in my hands. Her bill was about two inches long. She ate those crackers in a hurry.

This time she crossed in the other direction, walking across the grass to the pond made with all kinds of colored rocks. She jumped in, drank water and swam around. Then she went back to her same nest to rest. This connection with her was almost impossible to believe.

After that, she was there at my large window every day. Why? There are about 14 other windows just like mine where she could go. We carried on a conversation. I always said, “Good morning, Chee Chee. How are you?” She looked right up into my eyes and wiggled her back tail feathers.

Son Erik went to a feed store and brought the proper food for ducks. There must have been 12 different colored seeds. Chee Chee loved them.

Then one morning she did not come. I couldn’t see her anywhere. I was worried. She didn’t come the next morning or the next.

But on the fourth morning when I opened the big long drapes, there

They did not have wings, just puffy white where the wings would start to grow.

Now I had the right duck food and I scattered it by their tiny webbed flat feet. They scooped up the yellow and white seeds with their little bills. It was very interesting to see Chee Chee stand back and watch them eat. She was checking to see that each tiny duck got something.

Next she led the way, all going in a single line, to the water pond. They watched mama duck as she climbed upon the rocks and jumped down into the water. How the babies struggled to get over the rocks. Each hesitated a moment, then jumped into the water. They drank some. They kicked their small webbed feet, managing their first swim. Chee Chee led the way out, climbing the slippery rocks. They slid and struggled but eventually all managed to get out. Again they followed Chee Chee, one behind the other in a straight line, across the grass, and past the garden hose. All climbed into the thick bushes where Chee Chee settled down with her babies snuggled close to her. One even nestled on her back.

It was magic! Every morning when I opened that big long drape and looked out, there was not just

Chee Chee. She was there with all eight tiny ducks. How I smiled and talked to them! "Hello, Mama Chee Chee. Just see your wonderful babies." She looked up and smiled. "Okay. I'll go get you something to eat." When I threw out the seeds, she stood back and watched the babies eat. She always ate when the baby ducks were finished. Then, in one long line, they followed her to the water for a swim and a drink. Then they climbed out, walked to the short green grass, and picked at things between the green blades.

On the other side of the garden house was a two foot square hole with a grate over it. Our gardener George, who worried about those fluffy babies, put a big sheet of plastic under the grate so a baby duck couldn't fall down between the grate bars. One day a new worker was cleaning the yard. He thought that solid plastic didn't look neat. So he raised the grate, pulled the plastic away, and dropped the iron bars back into place.

It happened just as you might guess. One curious tiny duck went exploring. Sad to say, it stepped on the grate and fell down into the two foot deep hole. It cried and couldn't get out.

George hurried outside to raise the grate. He reached in to get the terribly frightened baby. The little duck was too scared of kind George and fled into a six inch pipe leading away from the grate, too far away for George to reach it.

George said, "It is hopeless. It would not let me touch it. It has run away into the long old dark pipe. It goes all the way under the house." He gave up and put the grate back into place.

I felt so sad. That pipe was so long and black and was filled with creepy things. So scary for a duckling.

The next day George said, "I am going out in front of the building to see if, by any chance, it came out of the pipe on the other side into the street." It's so hard to believe, but there was that one weak, frightened baby in front of the house. This time, George was able to catch it. He came back through the house to show me.

We pushed open the heavy glass door and took the baby back to its family. It could hardly walk and wouldn't eat very much. It limped while trying to stay in line.

If you wish, you can stop reading here, knowing that the little, fluffy duck was saved and back with its mama. Or you may wish to know the true ending. You see, some

stories have sad endings. This is one of them.

The sick, tired, little duck struggled but could not keep up with the others. It tried to eat and to walk in line with the others. Worst of all, it tried to get down to the water over the slippery rocks. Finally, it succeeded. When Chee Chee and the family had a good swim they left the water. They didn't realize that the weak one had no more strength to get out of the water again. It was left behind, just lying there, floating alone in the water until it died.

Chee Chee raised her other seven ducklings until they were old enough to fly away with her to their winter home. And, guess what! This spring she came back to be with us again to raise another family. So not everything is so sad about my friends Chee Chee and her feathered family.



## Chee Chee



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# Here's Where Our "Attachment" to Dogs Begins:

By Phil Arkow

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MAIDSTONE, KENT, U.K. – One of the key premises of the human-companion animal bond is that it is not the mere presence of a pet, but rather the attachment to that pet, that determines the intensity of the bond. At the risk of belaboring an obvious pun, for many people that attachment begins at the point of contact with the pet, namely the dog collar.

Most of us are somewhat bewildered in the pet supply store, forced to choose among an endless array of nylon, leather, chain and halter options in a bewildering assortment of colors and sizes. I suspect all of us would be astounded to realize that this technology dates back at least 500 years, and you can see examples on display in the world's only dog collar museum.

Leeds Castle is one of Great Britain's premier tourist attractions. Tucked away behind the castle's moats and gardens, in what was formerly the horse stables, is the world's largest, if not only, collection of canine neckwear. Some five centuries' worth of collars are on display. The oldest is a 15th century medieval iron spiked collar used to protect dogs from marauding bears. The newest is a black leather contraption with studs made from tire valves that is catalogued, in true museum format, as "Late 20th century, Western United States."

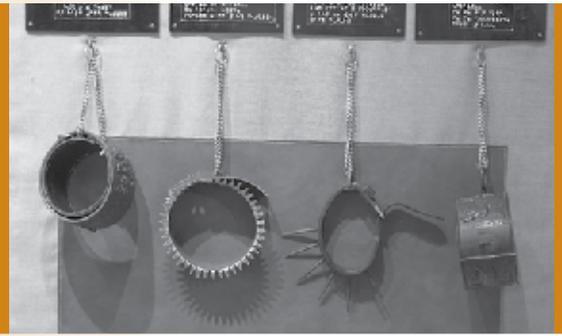
The collection was donated to Leeds Castle by John and Gertrude Hunt, Irish medieval scholars. The earliest specimens feature bristling, fearsome copper, iron or brass spikes that protected the

**This Italian collar dates from 1630-1650 and features the cartouche of an unknown family and elaborate trellis work.**



**This Victorian-era brass collar features studs and leather lining. It is inscribed Leach Bros., Darwen.**

# The Dog Collar Museum



vulnerable throats of prized hunting dogs from their prey – the bears, wolves and wild boar that inhabited the forests.

The museum and castle are about two hours east of London and worth a day trip through the spectacularly quaint Kent countryside. You can find more information at [www.leeds-castle.com](http://www.leeds-castle.com)

Later examples, dating from the 17th through 19th centuries, feature exuberant German and Austrian baroque leather collars decorated with velvet and embossed metalwork, and English silver and brass collars elaborately engraved with the names of the dog and its owner. In the centuries before dog tags, owners were responsible for identifying their own animals. (Even today, metallic license tags are still not issued in Great Britain, where paper registrations are still the only form of municipal registration.)

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This fine brass collar, dating from 1700, came from France. It is lined in leather and features a coat of arms and the initials CFCA. It is unknown what the initials represent.



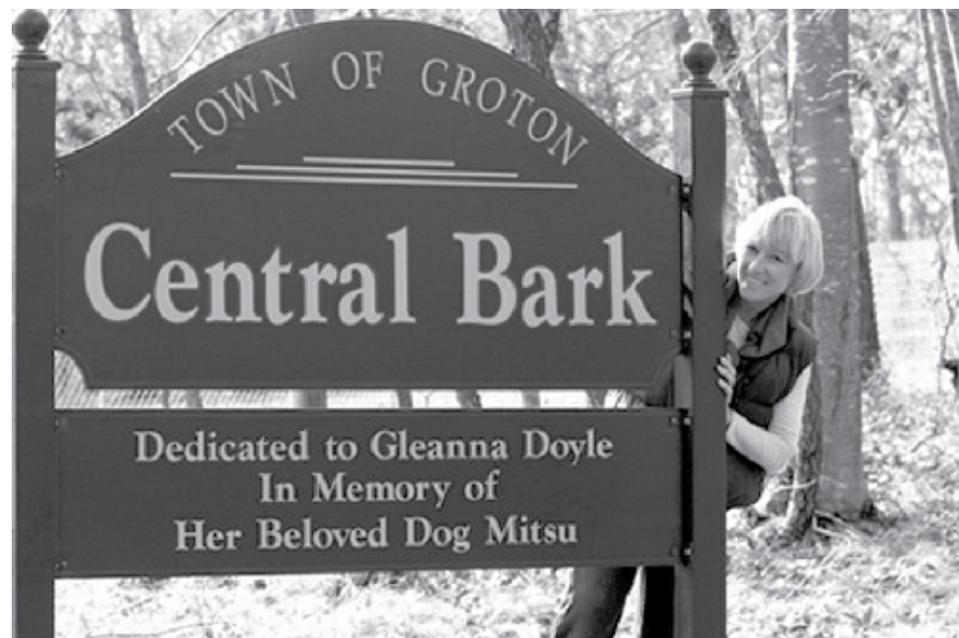
Imagine the “macho” dog that wore this German medieval iron spiked collar in the 15th century!



This 19th century white metal collar with leather lining, an attachment ring and a padlock was inscribed, “Presented to Wimbledon Jack by the Parade Committee for his work in the cause of charity.”

# Mitsu's Memory

and  
the



## *Power of Perseverance*

By Gleanna Doyle

In the 1980s Mitsu and I used to go to the Mystic (Connecticut) Community Center ball field in the early morning so that she could run off leash. I would lie on the bench and sip my first cup of coffee, one eye barely open, and always on my Mitsu. She bolted across the field and leaped into the air after the Canada Geese as though she thought she might catch one. I imagined she wanted to become one. When her goose chase ended, she ran, then slowed to a walk as she sniffed every blade of grass along the way back to my bench. Only then was she ready to go home.

Mitsu means honey or light, depending on how it is written in Japanese, and before her death from Leukemia, Mitsu was my delightful silver-gray, pinto-colored Akita. Even in her death, she is the light that guides my life.

Just before her tenth birthday, Mitsu passed away and I wanted to set up a fund at the Foster Hospital for Small Animals at Tufts University, where Mitsu was diagnosed. I wanted it to be a memorial to her but also

to help other dogs affected by Leukemia. However, Mitsu's doctor suggested an alternative path.

Several months later, I began the long, difficult journey toward opening Southeastern Connecticut's first off leash Dog Park. There were many times during the following ten years that I thought about quitting, but the memory of Mitsu took me back to that field where she ran so freely. How fondly I remember those times there with her and how I wanted other people to have the same experience, so I kept at it.

In 1996, "dog" was still a dirty word, at least in New England where there were no dog parks and dogs were not allowed in many public places including parks for people. My mentor, William E. Campbell, author and internationally recognized authority on pet behavior, introduced me by telephone to his friend Miriam Yarden in Long Beach, California. Miriam had established the first Dog Park in Long Beach and was eager to help others get started. Encouraged by Miriam's enthusiasm and the success of Dog Parks in her city

and throughout Southern California, I made the journey out west to see with my own eyes.

I bought a cup of coffee and drove up the Canyon Road to the dog park in Laguna Beach. There, a bustle of dogs ran, leaped, played, and sniffed with each other, while their guardians conversed. Occasionally someone would toss a ball or Frisbee. Water was available and poops were cleaned by respectful guardians.

I had anticipated these sights and sounds, but I hadn't been prepared for the actual experience of seeing the dogs and their guardians in the happy surroundings of the dog park. I was also surprised to learn that newly established Dog Parks had raised property values and lowered crime rates within neighboring vicinities.

While training a dog on a movie in Manhattan, I learned about Dog Runs, which functioned like the Dog Parks in Southern California and abided by similar rules, but were significantly smaller; however, some were equipped with kiddie pools and hoses to cool the dogs in the heat of summer. There seemed to be a Dog Run for each New York City neighborhood. Everyone I spoke to agreed that dog fights occurred rarely, if at all.



It was clear to me that Dog Parks were a good idea. But would New Englanders agree? Many were misinformed about dog behavior and the care their responsible guardians take. They were afraid of dog fights, dog bites, and urine and feces getting into the

ground water. They had only one vision of parks: Parks served the needs of adults and children, not dogs.

A few weeks later a friend and I met at a series of breakfast meetings to discuss the dog park idea and to implement a plan. We gathered a group, added and dropped a person here and there, but accomplished little. Over the years our group grew and shifted. We finally made some headway with the local politicians and the recreation department in the town of Stonington. After reading about our plans in the newspaper, a local businessman agreed to sponsor our fencing at a reduced rate. Just when we were ready to view a list of available properties, our town contacts were replaced by newly elected officials and we lost our support in Stonington.

**“I was surprised to learn that newly established dog parks raised property values and lowered crime rates in their vicinities.”**





Frustrated, I contacted the new Director of Parks and Recreation in Groton, a neighboring town. I hesitated to ask him if we could meet to discuss the possibility of a Dog Park but when I finally found the gumption to ask, he said, “Of course we’re going to have a Dog Park; it is just a question of when and where!” “There is a God,” I remember saying. He explained that he had helped establish a successful Dog Park in his previous position in upstate NY.

Our group, now organized as the Southeastern Connecticut Dog Park Association, met with members of Groton Town and the Parks Maintenance Director. We began looking for reasonable properties. The perfect spot eluded us until a parcel that was the subject of numerous possible development plans came to our attention. All of the previous plans had been turned down because of strict low density restrictions.

A bumpy road led to the 340 acre property that had been a working farm. As we drove, the trees opened up to the honey colored fields that blew softly in the late spring breeze. “This is Eden for dogs,” I said.

The first hurdle was gaining the support of the owners’ Board of Overseers. We went into the meeting with the knowledge that most ideas failed. I was sweating. The fluorescent lights caused me extreme anxiety and a headache crept up from my neck. “I don’t see any

problem with it,” said one member. I couldn’t look. I flushed with nervousness and clasped my sweaty hands. I looked at my feet while the second member voiced approval. I wiped my hands on my thighs, clasped them, and shifted in my seat, while the third member gave his approval. I don’t know how long it went on like this, but when the doors burst open and we filed out, I raced for the bathroom. Before I could grasp the door handle a reporter for the New London Day, asked, “So how does it feel Gleanna? The board was unanimous in their decision. Your dog park was approved.” We had made it over the first hurdle.

But that was only the beginning. Two years of meetings and miles of red tape ensued: Wetlands Commission, Town Council, Committee of the Whole, Town Manager. Approvals, disapprovals, reconsideration. Finally, I received the call I’d been waiting for. “It passed last night. We have a Dog Park.”

On August 21, 2005 Congressman Rob Simmons, Mayor Harry Watson of Groton, and yours truly cut the ribbon for Central Bark. It was one of the most glorious moments of my life. Dogs frolicked without leashes. People laughed, smiled, played, and swam with their dogs in the kiddie pools. Eden for dogs had been realized in Groton, Connecticut.

Central Bark was dedicated to me and my beloved dog Mitsu, but there are many people whose collective contributions made it happen. I will forever be grateful to them all.

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*Gleanna Doyle has been teaching dogs and their guardians how to live harmoniously for twenty years. She also trains animals for television and movies. Gleanna concentrated in Animal Studies in her Bachelor of Science at Mitchell College. She is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer and is working toward her certification as a Dog Behavioral Consultant. She writes a “Dear Dog Lady” column in the New London Day in Southeastern Connecticut where she resides. She may be reached through her website [www.rhodescollar.com](http://www.rhodescollar.com).*



## *The Dish With Watermelon Rind*

was dotted with black ants – some plump as blackberries, some thin as thread. They must have a sixth sense to have known it was there so quickly by the kitchen sink; I hear they use scouts like Lewis and Clark.

For 110 million years they've worked together without one of their 20,000 species waving flags to kill. I put them all outside where they scattered like question marks.

Carol Smallwood  
smallwood@tm.net

## *Furry Facts*

**Number of states in which cruelty to animals is a felony . . . . 42**

**Number of states where judges have administered financial trusts set up in a pet's name . . . . . 25**

**Minimum lifetime cost of a medium-size dog, including food, supplies, boarding, and basic veterinary care . . . . \$4,500 - \$5,500**

Sources: The American Pet Products Manufacturers Association and *The Wall Street Journal*

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## **This is not news to most *Latham Letter* readers, but here is what the AARP reminds its readers in the May & June 2007 Bulletin**

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“ Dog owners 50 and older see their doctors less often, have fewer illnesses, and recover more quickly when they are sick than is the case with their critter-less counterparts. And the benefits go beyond what you'd expect from the added exercise of regular walks.

'The simple act of petting an animal has been shown to lower blood pressure by inducing an instant relaxation response,' says Alan Beck, Sc.D., director of the Center for the Human-Animal Bond at the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine in West Lafayette, Indiana. 'And animal owners have higher one-year survival rates following a heart attack, and have lower cholesterol levels, than those without pets – even when they have the same levels of exercise. Even watching fish has been found to help slow Alzheimer's deterioration in some patients.'

*So don't sweat those vet bills; consider them an investment in your own good health.*”

# Upcoming Workshops, Conferences and Events

 E-mail your listings to [info@latham.org](mailto:info@latham.org)

## OCTOBER

**October 19 - 21** Valley Cottage, NY Therapy Dog Camp. The first camp ever devoted to Animal Assisted Therapy – a weekend of workshops, presentations, training sessions, and special events for dogs and handlers on the campus of The Tolstoy Foundation. The camp is being conducted by the Hudson Valley Humane Society Visiting Pet Program. For more information visit their website at [www.HudsonValleyVisitingPets.com](http://www.HudsonValleyVisitingPets.com) or call 845-267-8795.

## NOVEMBER

**November 3 - 6** Point Vedra Beach, FL – SAWA Conference - 2007  
The Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA) National Conference, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club (22 miles Southeast of Jacksonville). More information is available at [www.sawanetwork.org](http://www.sawanetwork.org) or by email to [PBrenzel@sawanetwork.org](mailto:PBrenzel@sawanetwork.org)

## DECEMBER

**December 6 - 7** Baltimore, MD – National Technology Assessment Conference on Animal Assisted Interventions for Youth-At-Risk sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States and the Center for Prevention of Youth Violence of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. By bringing together leading researchers and practitioners in the fields of youth violence prevention, evaluation, and animal assisted interventions, the conference seeks to enhance the field of animal-assisted interventions for emotionally troubled, at-risk, and adjudicated youth through evaluation research and development and dissemination of best practices. Visit [http://www.humanesocietyu.org/workshops\\_and\\_classes/draft-workshops-and-classes-national\\_technology.html](http://www.humanesocietyu.org/workshops_and_classes/draft-workshops-and-classes-national_technology.html) to download conference registration materials or e-mail Jennifer Jackman, Ph.D., at [jjackman@hsus.org](mailto:jjackman@hsus.org) for more information.

## 2008

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Jan 31 - Feb 1** San Diego Humane Society and SPCA,  
The APHE Annual Conference.  
*Coast to Coast Creativity: Trends in Humane Education.*  
Information at [www.APHE.org](http://www.APHE.org)



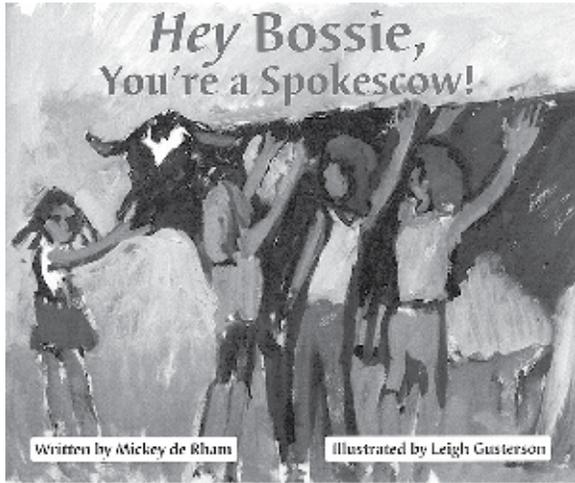
**April 6 - 8** Sheraton Park Hotel at the Anaheim Resort in Anaheim – California Animal Care Conference. ACC is a cooperative venture of the California Animal Control Directors Association, the California Veterinary Medical Association, and the State Humane Association of California. For information, [www.animalcareconference.org](http://www.animalcareconference.org)

**May 14 - 17** Disney Coronado Springs, Orlando, Florida. HSUS Animal Care EXPO. [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)



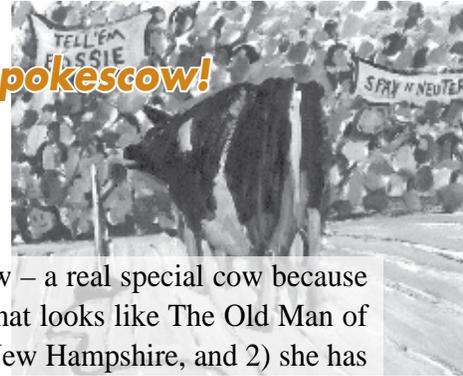


# Media Reviews



## Hey Bossie, You're a Spokescow!

By Mickey de Rham  
Illustrated by Leigh Gusterson



*Hey Bossie* is the story of a real cow – a real special cow because 1) she has a mark on her shoulder that looks like The Old Man of the Mountain, a rock formation in New Hampshire, and 2) she has an important mission: to educate humans about pet overpopulation and about the need for spaying and neutering their pets.

This is a children's book with a message that caring people of all ages will enjoy.

The illustrations by Leigh Gusterson are gorgeous; the story is charming. And although the Old Man of the Mountain rock formation came tumbling down a few years ago, Bossie's important work as a spokescow and much loved local celebrity continues.

Author Mickey de Rham has been involved in animal welfare work for more than 40 years. In 1989 she founded the White Mountain (New Hampshire) Animal League. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of *Hey Bossie* help support its spay/neutering program.

*Hey Bossie, You're a Spokescow!* • By Mickey de Rham • Illustrations by Leigh Gusterson  
Plaidswede Publishing • P.O. Box 269 • Concord, NH 03302-0269 • [www.plaidswede.com](http://www.plaidswede.com) • \$9.95 + p/h

## The Pride of Baghdad

By Brian K. Vaughan  
Reviewed by Michelle Rivera ([www.animals101.com](http://www.animals101.com))

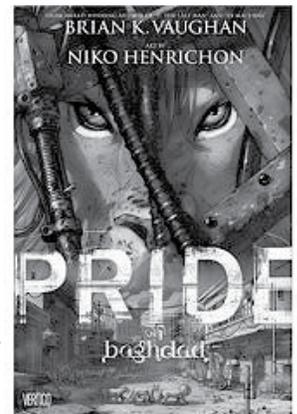
*The Pride of Baghdad* is an incredible story of a pride of lions that escaped from the Baghdad Zoo during the U.S.'s "shock and awe" battle in 2003. I highly recommend it, especially for humane educators.

It is the first graphic novel that I have ever read. I always felt that a graphic novel would take away from the running movie in my imagination as I read the story, but this is decidedly not true. A graphic novel, in fact, assists your imagination and helps you see the story unfold through the terrified eyes of the animals. This book should rank right up there with *Jonathon Livingston Seagull*, *Watership Down*, and *The Pilgrims' Progress* because it is a metaphor for our life on earth and a parable of the highest sort.

In an age of talking penguins and cars, we can accept that lions and antelope can, indeed do, talk too. But in this story they do it for a higher purpose; they do it to warn mankind of the dangers of complacency. This is a cautionary tale told beautifully and tragically, made more heartbreaking by the fact that this story is true. The book is illustrated by Niko Henrichon, and the pictures are stunning and disturbing.

Read this book with your older children and re-discover reading; recommend it to your students and enjoy the discussion to follow.

*The Pride of Baghdad* • 136 pages • Vertigo • ISBN-10: 1401203140 • ISBN-13: 978-1401203146





## Working Like Dogs: The Service Dog Guidebook

By Marcie Davis and  
Melissa Bunnell

A service animal is not a pet under federal law. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) states, "A service animal is any animal that has been trained to provide assistance or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits one or more major life functions." According to the Delta Society (a leading non-profit organization that emphasizes the important role of animals for people's health and well-being), there are roughly 40,000 service dogs living and working with their human partners throughout the United States.

These dogs transform the lives of their human partners by serving as companion, helper, aide, best friend, and close member of the family. In *Working Like Dogs: The Service Dog Guidebook*, Marcie Davis, who has been partnered with a service dog for over thirteen years, and Melissa Bunnell clearly explain everything you want and need to know about these relationships. Filled with heart-warming personal experiences, checklists, and practical tips, this book is an A to Z guide to service dogs.

*Working Like Dogs* provides valuable information on everything from how and where to apply for a service dog to daily care and health concerns and eventually preparing for retirement, a successor dog, and ultimately the death of this beloved companion. The book opens

a window into the magical relationship between a human and their service dog partner. Each chapter contains elements from Davis's day-to-day life with her dog, as well as stories from other service dog recipients, to help readers gain insight into the realities of this amazing symbiotic relationship.

*Working Like Dogs* speaks directly to anyone who is considering the benefits of a service dog or knows someone who is. This valuable tool is essential to anyone who is responsible for the raising or training of one of these animals (or someone considering this wonderful way to help others), or anyone who is just curious about the amazing human-animal bond that service dogs and their partners develop.

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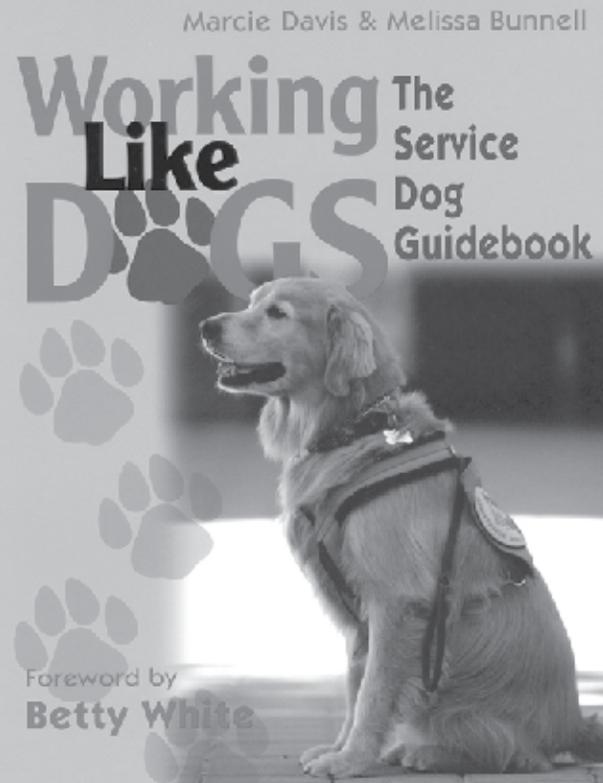
"Working Like Dogs, helps us realize what the term 'service dog' really means, and appreciate the different worlds these animals have opened up for their partners, physically, psychologically, emotionally and socially."

– Betty White, actress/author

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### About the authors:

**Marcie Davis** is a writer, public speaker, advocate, and activist. She is the Chief Executive Officer of Davis Innovations, a public health and human service consulting firm. Davis has been a paraplegic for more than 35 years and has been partnered with a service dog for more than thirteen years. She has received numerous awards and accolades for her tireless advocacy on behalf of individuals who cannot advocate for themselves. Marcie



lives with her husband, Franz, and her service dog, Morgan, in Santa Fe, NM.

**Melissa Bunnell** holds a Masters Degree in Social Work from The Ohio State University and has specialized in family and crisis counseling. As an animal lover, she became interested in the subject of service dogs through her colleague and friend Marcie Davis. In 2003, Bunnell and Davis co-founded Working Like Dogs, LLC, an organization dedicated to working dogs around the world. [www.WorkingLikeDogs.com](http://www.WorkingLikeDogs.com) Bunnell lives with her husband and daughter in New Mexico.

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**Working Like Dogs:  
The Service Dog Guidebook**  
By Marcie Davis and Melissa Bunnell  
Foreword by Betty White  
128 pages, 8.5" x 11"  
45 color photographs  
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[www.alpinepub.com](http://www.alpinepub.com)  
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## **The Pit Bull Placebo: The Media, Myths and Politics of Canine Aggression**

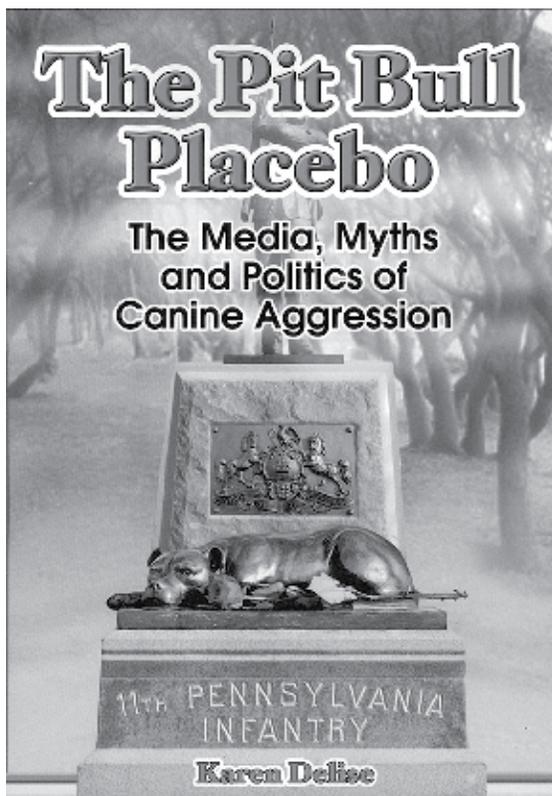
By Karen Delise

In *The Pit Bull Placebo*, author Karen Delise examines actual cases of severe dog attacks during the last 150 years – greatly expanding on the often quoted approximate half dozen studies that have been conducted on fatal dog attacks in the United States in the 25-year period from 1977-2001.

Through her extensive research of historical newspaper accounts, Denise explores the circumstances, the individual dogs involved, the victims, and the media's interpretations of these events in a self described attempt to "offer a balanced perspective on the behavior of dogs and the critical role humans play in the management and treatment of our canine companions."

Of particular interest are the Appendices. Appendix A describes circumstances of 146 dog attacks reported in Northeastern newspapers from 1864-1899 when Bloodhounds and Newfoundlands dominated the list of serious and fatal attacks. Appendix B describes 156 attacks reported between 1960 and 1975 when German Shepherd dogs dominated the statistics.

Delise's analysis of her database of fatal and severe dog attacks revealed a consistent pattern of circumstance and behavior that offers vitally important insight into the reasons and causes of dog attacks. Those circumstances and behaviors,



which she describes in detail in the book, are not specific to any one breed. Denise urges examining all the details of dog bite cases from a practical and objective perspective in the hopes of understanding how some humans come to be victims of a dog attack.

Whether one's goal is community safety, understanding canine behavior, furtherance of humane treatment towards dogs, or the advancement of the human-animal bond, Delise urges replacing what she describes as meaningless statistics and pseudoscience with rational thought and basic common sense about the canine and human behaviors that have long been recognized to contribute to dog attacks.

*"Delise provides common-sense solutions for public safety and sheds light on current media bias involved in the reporting of dog attacks. This book is a compelling and thorough analysis of reckless owners and dangerous dogs in America. A must-read for any public official concerned with increasing public safety."*

– Ledy VanKavage, Senior Director of Legislation & Legal Training, ASPCA

*"An eye-opening look at how media portrayals of dog attacks have changed, through the lens of newspaper reports sampled over more than a century and a half. Delise has uncovered a profound change in our cultural perception of dog aggression."*

– Janis Bradley, author of *Dogs Bite But Balloons and Slippers are More Dangerous*

### **About the author:**

*Karen Delise is the founder of the National Canine Research Council and is a New York state-licensed veterinary technician. She is a leading expert on fatal dog attacks and the author of Fatal Dog Attacks: The Stories Behind the Statistics. [www.canineresearchcouncil.com](http://www.canineresearchcouncil.com)*

***The Pit Bull Placebo: The Media, Myths and Politics of Canine Aggression***

By Karen Delise

Published by Anubis Publishing • ISBN 0-9721914-1-0 • \$24.95



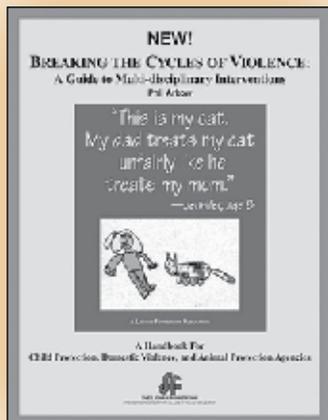
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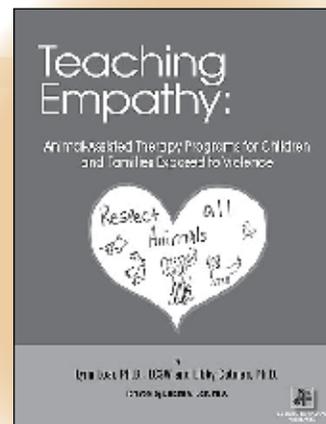
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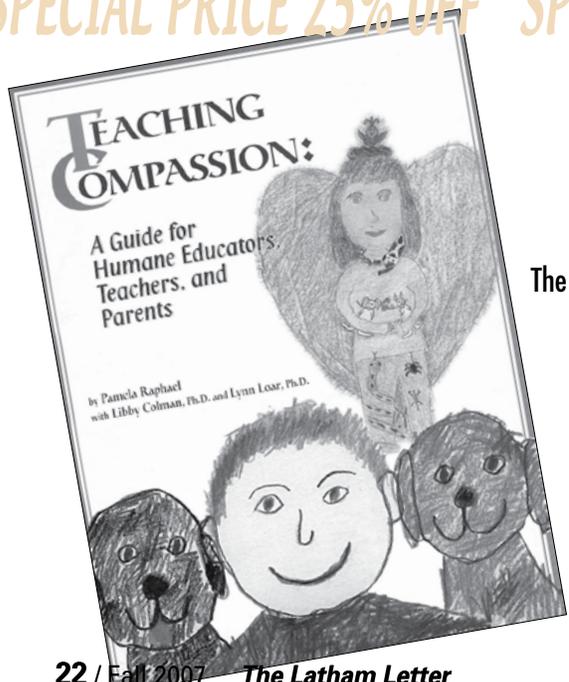
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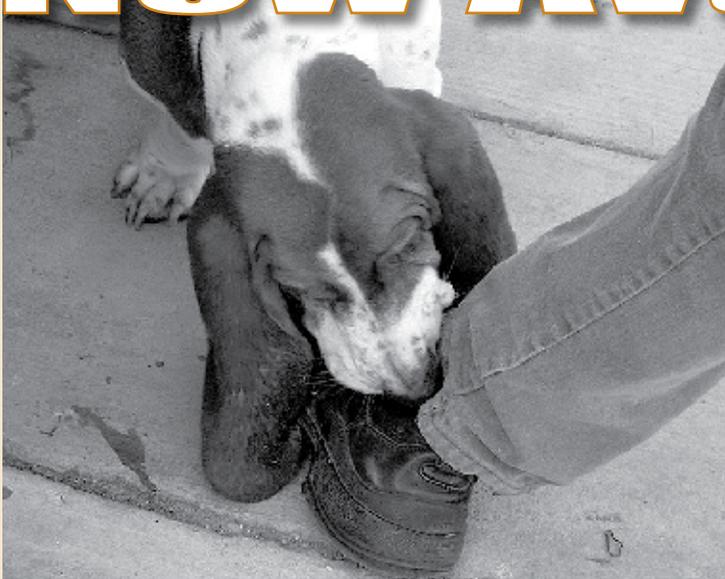
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The Peruvian Hairless is a special breed of dog with a higher-than-normal body temperature. Often found nearby sacred sites, Peruvian people have used it since Pre-Inca times to treat sickness. (They keep the warm hairless dog next to their cold bodies.)

Photo by Sam Oppenheim [www.samoppenheim.com](http://www.samoppenheim.com)

Archaeological site of Huaca Del Sol y Luna, the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon, Peru



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