Pilots Save Shelter Animals

High-flying volunteer group, Pilots N Paws, has rescued dogs, snakes, a chicken and a pig.

One python headed to rescue!

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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.”
The Latham Letter
Volume XXI, Number 1, Winter 2010
Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

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Humane Education as Good Board Governance

Latham’s Steps in Humane Education is an iconic illustration of how being kind to animals is a strong foundation to so many other valuable traits. The second and third steps emphasize how important showing respect to each other and to other people is in every day activities.

In addition to my work at Latham, I volunteer at several non-profit corporations as well as a public school district. The work I do is varied, but most often it is related to helping those groups with issues of governance.

Good corporate governance provides that a group of people act together as a board of agents for the owners (stock holders or members) to make the business successful. In doing their work, they must ensure certain transparency is observed such that their actions are completely without fault and can be easily seen by all.

When any group works together, there are several human characteristics that also come into play. One of them is the propensity of a large group to divide itself into smaller groups. When a single group grows larger than 12 to 15 people, the group will self divide into two or more sub groups. Knowing this, many larger boards often create several sub-committees to harness that natural division and provide a framework in which those subgroups can operate effectively.

In group interactions, the more effective the communication the better the group can operate. Taking time to show respect, listen attentively, and help develop the group goals is much better for an organization than having one or two dominant individuals force their own agendas on the group.

The showing of respect to others is a natural by-product that results from being taught humane education at an early age. It results in your own growth and inner strength, allowing you to more effectively work with other people, listen to their viewpoints and discuss areas where your points of view coincide - seeking mutually acceptable solutions where they don’t. This is the essence of good governance – different people with unique talents working together to achieve a common objective.

Think about the person who can show compassion to an animal and who would stop to help a neighbor. That is the type of person who would be more likely to listen to other people’s opinions and work to find a solution.

A couple of hints to achieve success: Don’t seek to define how you are different from other people – seek instead to articulate why you are all part of the same group and focus on areas where you can work together to make a difference. Don’t try to change those things outside of your control – work where you can to help on items that are within your charter. Honor everyone’s time and efforts by keeping to an agenda and avoiding surprises. When in doubt, delay the discussion until everyone has had a chance to become fully informed.

Showing respect to each other and to other people contributes abundantly to a group’s success.

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results. – Andrew Carnegie

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. – Henry Ford
Animal Farm Foundation’s Perfect Match Award

Animal Farm Foundation’s Perfect Match award celebrates the human-canine bond by awarding $500 to not-for-profit shelters or rescues that make the “perfect match” between an owner and an adopted shelter dog appearing to be a pit bull. Together, the honored pair will be winning hearts and opening minds, paving the way for other dogs and owners who are still searching for their Perfect Match. This award showcases an adoption that has benefitted the community in that it is an excellent example of the human-canine bond in action.

Animal Farm Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation dedicated to restoring the image of the American Pit Bull Terrier and protecting all dogs from discrimination and cruelty. For information about Perfect Match Award winners and other grant programs, visit www.animalfarmfoundation.org.

Morris Animal Foundation Celebrates the First Anniversary of the Happy Healthy Cat Campaign

Morris Animal Foundation reports significant progress toward improving the health of all cats. They now have three studies under way that are analyzing shelter environments and how housing factors affect stress and stress-related illnesses in cats. These projects will provide shelter managers with scientifically sound data that will help them keep the cats in their care healthy and happy until the animals are placed in loving homes.

For additional information, visit www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org.

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Hosted by the Anti-Cruelty Society in downtown Chicago

* Association of Professional Humane Educators
APHE provides professional development opportunities and networking for educators who promote humane attitudes toward people, animals and the environment.
Pilots Save Shelter Animals

High-flying volunteer group, Pilots N Paws, has rescued dogs, snakes, a chicken and a pig.

Excerpted from the Pilots N Paws website http://pilotsnpaws.org/

Pilots N Paws got its start in February 2008 when a Knoxville, Tennessee pilot named Jon Wehrenberg had offered to fly his friend, Debi Boies, from her home near Greenville, South Carolina down to Florida to pick up a Doberman pinscher she wanted to adopt from a rescue group. Wehrenberg asked Boies if there would be a regular need for such a thing.

“I said, ‘Oh Jon, you have no idea,’” Boies recalls. Rescue groups have long moved animals around the country to improve their chances for adoption, she told him, but it usually involves long, exhausting car trips.

The Web site for Pilots N Paws now serves as a forum where shelters and rescue groups can hook up with pilots. Boies says more than 680 pilots have already transported more than 2,000 animals all over the country.

PILOTS N PAWS PURPOSE

The Pilots N Paws website is a meeting place for those who rescue, shelter, or foster animals, and pilots and plane owners willing to assist with the transportation of animals. It is not the intent of Pilots N Paws to coordinate or arrange those providing these valuable services, but rather, to provide the environment in which those involved can come together in a common place and arrange or schedule rescue flights, overnight foster care or shelter and all other related activities through its Discussion Board.

The organization reminds its volunteers that while aviation is a wonderful alternative to ground transports, it involves issues not generally faced by ground transporters. It encourages respect for everyone’s varied perspectives and concerns.

Pilots N Paws co-founder Debi Boies admits her goal is lofty but says a tremendous volunteer network will help accomplish its objectives.

Learn more about the volunteer air flight group at http://pilotsnpaws.org or contact Debi at pilotsnpaws@gmail.com or Pilots-N-Paws, 4651 Howe Rd., Landrum, S.C. 29356.
The Marin County District Attorney’s Office is the first District Attorney’s Office in California to incorporate a service dog into its prosecution efforts. The highly trained service dog is used with traumatized witnesses and victims of crime. Often victims need to be interviewed or called to court to testify about horrific acts done to them. This highly trained and well-behaved dog acts as a companion for the traumatized victims and witnesses by easing their tension and quieting their fears.

Santa Rosa based Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) bred, raised and trained “Vivian,” the service dog now being used by the D.A.’s office. Deputy District Attorney Andrea Buccine volunteered to be the dog’s handler and guardian and underwent an extensive and required training program. The costs for the breeding and training of Vivian were approximately $60,000 and were totally borne by CCI. No county funds were needed to acquire Vivian. In addition, the Marin County Humane Society agreed to provide, at no cost to the county, health and veterinary services when the need arises.

Vivian became a member of the office during the summer and has been used in a variety of assignments. Vivian is available to staff attorneys who need to have young witnesses come to their offices for meetings prior to their court appearances. She has also gone to local schools, senior fairs and youth outreach programs and clubs.

Vivian accompanies and assists the attorneys, inspectors and victim advocates that work at the Jeanette Prandi Children’s Center, the county’s forensic interview center for abused and traumatized child victims of physical and sexual abuse. Vivian is introduced and accompanies the young victim as he or she is interviewed. Vivian is trained to put her companion at ease, by providing a silent supporting presence.

Another area where Vivian may be called to serve is with our elder and dependent adult prosecution efforts. She has been introduced to the county staff that works in this area and will be made available to assist when needed.

In November, Vivian was used for the first time during a formal court hearing. Our office requested at a preliminary hearing that Vivian be placed beside a four-year-old boy when he was on the witness stand testifying about his physical abuse. After a hearing, the court allowed Vivian to be present. She quietly lay at the child’s feet as he was questioned and cross-examined. With Vivian at his feet, the child calmly answered the attorneys’ and the judge’s questions.

For further information, contact Edward Berberian, District Attorney, County of Marin, Phone 415-499-6450, Email: eberberian@co.marin.ca
A unique concept: The wheelchair buggy

The wheelchair buggy is a unique concept developed by Mr. J. Verdonckt, a Belgian carriage-maker. Mr. Verdonckt is passionate about horses and designed the buggy to help open up humane horse driving to people with physical challenges. Mr. Verdonckt built his first wheelchair buggy in 2004 when he saw how difficult it was to drive a horse-drawn vehicle while in a wheelchair.

People in wheelchairs who are interested in driving horse-drawn vehicles have daunting obstacles to overcome. First, they have to lift their wheelchair into the vehicle. This is essentially impossible for them to do on their own in a traditional vehicle.

Second, a person seated in a wheelchair is positioned too high in a traditional vehicle. Sitting higher than the horse compromises the stability of the wheelchair in the vehicle. It also impedes the sight of and control over the horse.

A solution for these obstacles was found in the special concept of the wheelchair buggy (photo 1a). The buggy is 105 cm (41") wide, 160 cm (63") long, and weighs 98-110 kg (215-242 lbs) empty (photo 1b). Indeed, in many ways, the wheelchair buggy looks very similar to a regular buggy – with a few, key differences: Sitting

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Researchers and Practitioners Work Together to Assess the Welfare of Horses Involved in Wheelchair-Buggy Driving in Belgium

By Femke Lambrecht1; Lieve Meers1, 2; William Ellery Samuels3

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2 Ghent University, Department of Nutrition, Genetics, and Ethology, Merelbeke, Belgium
3 The City University of New York, College of Staten Island, New York, USA
about 20 cm (8") from the ground, the wheelchair buggy has a lower profile than comparable buggies. The lower profile allows a person in a wheelchair to mount the buggy easily. This also makes the buggy more stable and much less likely to roll over.

At the back of the buggy is a ramp that is lowered and raised with a winch that a person seated in a wheelchair can easily operate. After the person in the wheelchair has mounted the buggy, he or she can raise and lock the ramp up for safety. The wheelchair itself is also locked into place within the buggy for further stability, comfort, and safety (photo 2).

The buggy is designed to be easily controlled by either the person in the wheelchair or by a co-driver. When there is a co-driver, the ramp by which the person in the wheelchair mounts the buggy is stored beneath the buggy and a special seat for the co-driver is attached to the back of the buggy (photo 3).

The buggy can be outfitted with either one or two sets of reins and brakes (a powerful handbrake for the person in the wheelchair and a footbrake for the co-driver). This arrangement makes it possible for either or both occupants to drive the horse. Even if only one person has reins, they both always have access to brakes.

The co-driver could be a more experienced driver helping to train the person in the wheelchair how to drive the team. The co-driver could also be an animal caretaker or a therapist when the buggy is used in an equine-assisted intervention (EAI) regimen. If the co-driver is teaching the person in the wheelchair to drive, the pair can start out with the co-driver holding the only set of reins. Then, both the person in the wheelchair and the co-driver can have reins (and brakes) while the person in the wheelchair learns how to safely and humanely drive. Finally, the person in the wheelchair can have the only set of reins while the “co-driver” simply rides along to supervise and literally be a backseat driver.

The buggy is designed to be pulled by smaller horses that are about 130 cm (13 hands) high. Employing horses of this size allows driver(s) to have a good view over the horses’ backs.
Driving the wheelchair buggy as an expression of equine-assisted interventions

The wheelchair buggy is either applied in recreational activities (considered equine-assisted activities, EAA) or in equine-assisted therapeutic programmes (EATs). The goal of recreational activities is to provide a way for people in wheelchairs to safely and humanely enjoy the pleasure of driving a horse. In these EAA sessions, the driver can feel the power and majesty of the horse, enjoy quiet jaunt on a country lane, feel free of everyday challenges, and benefit from the social contact of participating in a hobby on an equal basis with other drivers who may or may not also be in wheelchairs.

One such association that organizes EAAs in Belgium is De Kalmoes. De Kalmoes is a non-profit association that encourages children, adolescents and adults to learn how to enjoy working, playing, and learning with horses and to benefit from all the positive things that horses can bring – regardless of the person’s background or current situation. The main goal of the association’s activities is to benefit people with physical challenges, including those in wheelchairs.

Like all animal-assisted therapies, therapeutic sessions (EATs) involving the wheelchair buggy are designed to meet specific goals prescribed by a therapist. To date, the EATs that have used the wheelchair buggy have been to build patients’ strength after car accidents. Other occupational therapies are planned, but not yet implemented.

Well-being of the horses

The well-being of the horses involved in any activity is of utmost importance. Pulling a vehicle requires that a horse be in good physical condition. When pulling a vehicle, a horse must also move at a relatively steady pace and pay close attention to its driver. In addition, the driver is relatively far behind the horse, and thus less able to comfort the horse than is a rider. Finally, although the wheelchair buggy is always driven on either private property or rather level, quiet, country roads, there is the possibility that other traffic or animals might disturb the horse. Given these concerns, an animal handler always carefully assesses any horse that is employed in activities and therapies using the wheelchair buggy to make sure it is healthy, well fed, and well trained. In addition, the driver must be trusted by the horse and well trained to drive it.

Despite these precautions, it is important to evaluate the impact of being involved in wheelchair-buggy programmes on horses’ health and well-being. Depending on its configuration, the wheelchair buggy weighs up to about 100 kg (220 lbs) (photo 4), and may be carrying two adults and a wheelchair. There may also be a difference in how horses respond to pulling the buggy and its passengers through different environments.

Femke Lambrecht, an animal-handler specializing in research for animals involved in EAlS, volunteered to evaluate the working and management conditions of eight horses
stabled in two locations in Belgium that are employed in activities with the wheelchair buggy. The condition of the horses was measured through their heart rates using a Polar monitor (photo 5) and through analyses of their behaviour on videos made before, during, and after the evaluated sessions. The housing, training, and management of the horses were also evaluated.

The housing, training, and management of the horses in both settings were all found to be of high quality. Unstructured interviews and analyses of video-taped behaviours indicated that staff and therapists (when present) were responsive to the horses’ actions and that they were aware of their short- and long-term needs.

Results of the physical and behavioural measures of the horses themselves found that three of the horses showed some physical (high heart rate) and behavioural (energetic tail wagging and tossing the head in the neck) signs of stress when pulling the wagon on a mild slope for two to three minutes in Belgium, the maximum duration of this level of exertion. None of the other horses displayed elevated heart rates or signs of discomfort. None of the eight horses displayed any alarm to the few encounters they had with traffic during the evaluated sessions.

Therefore, the horses appeared to be well-adapted to pulling the wheelchair buggy under these conditions and the buggy itself was not found to be a problem for the horses. Based on these results, practitioners are now ready to work on improving the buggy and refining the selection criteria of the horses.

**Contact**

This study was conducted by the cooperation of De Kalmoes (www.dekalmoes.be), Hof te Ruitegem (www.ehruitegem.be) and Mr. J. Verdonckt (www.koetsen-verdonckt.be).
Vanessa Schulz is a filmmaker based in Bend, Oregon who is working on a documentary about street dogs in Chile. She was inspired by a story that hit international news in which a street dog went into heavy freeway traffic to pull a struck dog to the side of the road. The incident happened to be caught on camera; if you missed this touching story when it was going around online, you can see it at http://www.21paradigm.com/heroDog.php.

Vanessa jumped into an immensely challenging animal welfare situation and made a commitment to raise awareness about the plight of street dogs in Chile and in other developing countries around the world through her film. You can see a trailer for the film here http://www.lostdogsfilm.org, and you can read Vanessa’s blog http://21paradigm.wordpress.com/ which tells the story of her time in Chile. Vanessa is a great example of how someone who’s not been living in the “animal welfare field” can bring new perspectives and energy to the field. New to the field just a year ago, she’s now spent time with organizations and individual rescuers in Chile, has rescued and re-homed six dogs and adopted one former Chilean street dog herself.

According to Assistant Producer Reese Mercer, “What we hope to achieve with “Lost Dogs” is to raise global awareness about the issue of homeless dogs, to educate people on appropriate care for their animals, to encourage adoptions of streets dogs and those in shelters, and to generate support for organizations helping the dogs.

“One of our strategies to give visibility to the dire situation of street dogs in Chile and around the world, while also promoting the film’s production, funding, and eventual distribution, is to begin now to build our audience.
Facebook Fans
“We currently have 1100+ fans on our Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/#/21paradigm?ref=mf), and growing rapidly – our goal is to reach 10,000 fans by March. This page has been very active in connecting individuals from around the world with the Lost Dogs story – and with each other, in a galvanizing way – individuals wanting to make a difference and connecting to each other, through this powerful medium.”

Latham thanks Karen Green, Director of Outreach at the Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs (www.acc-d.org), for bringing “Lost Dogs” to our attention.

Ennui
The dogs are everywhere, so everywhere is a new opportunity to ignore them.

Trying to understand
Constanza, adopted in Santiago after living for several months in Rinconada, where she survived hunger, thirst, cars, strychnine poisoning that killed seven other dogs, the incessant ardor of the pack’s alpha male, and entrapment in a rabbit snare.

Additional International Work on Behalf of Animals
We have featured the wonderful work of several individuals and organizations working internationally in previous Latham Letters. (Back issues are available as free downloads at www.Latham.org.)

Organizations include Romania Animal Rescue (RAR) www.romaniaanimalrescue.com and Be Kind Belize www.belizebirdrescue.com/bekindbelize.html.

We know there are many others doing great work and we welcome additional submissions. Please contact us for writer’s guidelines.
My dad, Gardner, was born in Waco, Texas to John Newton Lyle and Beulah Work. He graduated from Waco High School in 1936 or 37. He was very athletic and loved playing football and tennis. He also loved swimming. He was a tall lanky kid, 6 ft. 1 in. tall and only about 165-70 lbs. I can see from the poster he created in high school that he had an innate artistic ability. After high school he worked for Montgomery Wards department store as a display artist and he also sold cartoons to various magazines such as Colliers. He knew my mother (Evelyn Ramona Antoinette Alessandro, a raven-haired beauty) from high school. They fell in love and got married in about 1939. During this time he obtained training in show card and sign making through the FDR work training programs.

He enlisted in the navy in 1941 and was stationed in Long Beach before shipping out to the South Pacific front. Dad was a Radioman 1st Class. He could type Morse code coming in over his headphones at an unbelievable rate of 110 words per minute. While he was in the South Pacific his ship got cut in half by another ship and he was in the water for 18 hours before being picked up by a U.S. destroyer. They came under attack while he was on this destroyer, and his position near one of the big guns caused him to lose hearing in his left ear. He never claimed any disability for that injury. He felt that he was fortunate to come through with only that.

My mother, aunt, cousin and I settled in a rented house on Boylston Street in Los Angeles for the duration of the war. When the war was over and my father came home, he teamed up for awhile with another display artist. In about 1948 he started getting his own accounts (predominantly exclusive men’s clothing stores around Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Laguna Beach, Manhattan Beach, etc.). He met many stars of the time at such shops as Sy Devore’s, Hollywood Men’s Shop, etc. These included Jerry Lewis, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Perry Como, etc. He was successful and he purchased a new home on the GI Bill in the San Fernando Valley. Things got even better and we sold the house in the valley and bought a new house in Culver City, CA.

Dad became the top window display artist in Southern California. Soon businesses were paying all his expenses to fly to Las Vegas, San Francisco, Catalina Island, etc. to do their displays. He also did the displays for many of the trade shows at the major hotels in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Las Vegas.

Although financially lucrative,
his job required long hours and sometimes days away from home. He was very dedicated to his work. This put a strain on the marriage and led to their divorce in 1956 after 17 years of marriage. Dad made sure he took care of us. He paid out a substantial amount every month without fail not only for me and my sisters Nicola and Candi but also a generous amount to mom.

A couple of years later he met and fell in love with an English bookkeeper (Yvonne Upfold). They married and remained so for 45 years, until his death on February 24, 2003 at the age of 83. My dad was Yvonne’s life. She died just six days later.

My dad and Yvonne were avid animal lovers. I remember about ten years prior to his death his favorite cat Jesse passed away. He was never one to cry much but he cried and cried over the loss of that cat. He never quite got over it. They adopted any stray animals in the neighborhood, fed them and paid for their vet care. Every afternoon Yvonne and dad would go into their backyard and feed the birds who were always on time and waiting.

Dad was still making show card signs and small displays for shops in the local mall up to about five years before he died. He would have continued but they stopped using original signs and art and went to computerized signs and displays. This was a real blow to him. He loved his work. When he was 73-74 years old, he broke his hip when he fell off a ladder while putting a sign up for a shop several miles from home. He told the owner that he was OK and proceeded to drive himself home. He ended up getting a hip replacement. He was still doing signs for four years after that. I think he inherited this work ethic from his dad. His dad was a CPA who died at the age of 99. He was working on accounts up to the day he died.

My dad was a kind and gentle man with an extraordinary sense of humor. When pushed too far he could lose his temper, but that was not really him and the anger would pass even more quickly than it started. He never owned a weapon nor expressed any desire to own one or go hunting or anything of the kind. I think this kind of rubbed off on me. I have lived, at times, in rather remote areas. When I was younger, I took my boys backpacking and camping on a regular basis into the Sierras and elsewhere. I have had many acquaintances that were into hunting. I knew I could never kill a deer or anything else, so I never had the urge to participate nor would I even accompany them on these types of excursions. I was and am very vocal about how I feel about hunting.

Dad represents a generation of people that did not expect or want anything given to them. They took extreme pride in their work and truly appreciated the rewards this work brought. They put their efforts into achieving instead of spending all their time trying to figure out how to beat the system. The feelings of accomplishment they got from their hard work far surpasses any high you can achieve through drugs or any other artificial means. Dad is truly missed. The ethics of that generation also is truly missed and every effort should be made to revive those ethics in ourselves and children.
I can remember always having animals in my life. My first “pony” was an Irish setter when I was a baby. Real horseback riding lessons started at two years old. I got my first Shetland pony when I was six. We always had dogs and my dad collected birds. Some of the most colorful pheasants, a pair of toucans, and, after a trip to Africa, touracos lived in my backyard. In the fourth grade, my class went on a field trip to my house.

I grew up in San Diego and my parents had me in every San Diego Zoo summer school class, Sea World class, and Scripps Institute of Oceanography class they could find. I will forever remember our “Sammy the Sea Otter” mascot. At 15, I started volunteering summers at the San Diego Zoo, coming back each year they would have me. Being there exposed me to a whole new realm of exotic animals, each one more beautiful and interesting then the next.

I guess it’s no surprise I decided the make animals my career; I just didn’t know how at the time. In college, a family safari to Africa renewed my passion and I changed my major from pre-med to animals. I transferred the next year to Moorpark College and the Exotic Animal Training and Management Program. After graduation I went back to the San Diego Zoo as a keeper in the Children’s Zoo. I ended up back in Los Angeles working as a trainer in the film industry before I found my way to American Humane. I have been an animal safety rep for 11 years now, the last few years as a Senior Animal Safety Rep.

From the riding lessons and classes to all the animals we had, I know that my parents fed my passion for animals. They taught me that animals enhance our lives and make them fuller. I learned this by their example. My parents are very active members of Optimist International, a service organization that helps children. My dad went to Africa years ago to start a sister club there and in 2002 he was the International Vice President.

At an international convention a few years ago, my parents started wanting to help childhood cancer patients in their community. They didn’t know it would then, but that little idea morphed over a couple of years into an amazing concept. They eventually got together with Kaiser Permanente of San Diego and The San Diego Zoo. The idea to help kids with cancer turned into revamping the pediatric ward at Kaiser Zion Hospital.

The idea was that the sterile environment of the old ward wasn’t the most conducive to healing. Some of these kids have to stay there for months of treatment, and a new look to their environment might help healing. With the help of San Diego Artist Dan Evers, they converted the
walls to tile mosaics that depict parts of the rainforest and the animals it contains. They changed the windows in the patient’s rooms to stained glass windows of colorful rainforest animals.

The San Diego Zoo gets the kids in treatment out to the zoo once a month to draw pictures of the animals. The kids enjoy this and the animals enjoy it also, often coming over to see what the kids are drawing. For the kids who are too sick to leave the hospital, once a month the Zoo brings animals to the hospital for them to enjoy. Their pictures are turned into mosaic tiles that are included in the ceilings in Kaiser’s Rainforest Project hallways.

From talking to the kids who have stayed on the ward, you can tell that the changes are absolutely helping in the healing process. They have a beautiful area to be in as they are going through treatment and lots of new animal friends that watch over them, from the stained glass windows to the curious orangutan at the zoo who watches the kids draw his picture. Kids have a connection to animals and here animals help the kids escape the hospital environment. The Children’s Rainforest Project is helping children and their families heal in some of the most difficult times that they have ever faced.

I am so proud of my parents for turning an idea to help kids with cancer into a revamped hospital ward. They didn’t listen to people who said it couldn’t be done. This is my dad’s legacy and I am so proud of all that he and my mom taught me.

In Memory of Kari Winters and in Honor of Wuffy, the Cat-Rescuing Dog

Kari Winters, author (www.ShelterPetsInk.com) and animal advocate, died unexpectedly last summer at her home in New Mexico.

Darlene Arden, a close friend of Kari’s and one of the authors she admired, explained Kari’s ability with animals like this, “A chosen few have a special gift for rehabilitating special needs animals. Kari was one of those people. Her ability to help dog after dog, cat after cat, was more than impressive. Kari had the patience and love to gain the trust of orphans of all ages, and turn them around. Whatever problems they had developed from unknown situations before finding their way into rescue, Kari could change their lives, taking something broken and making it whole.”

Fourteen years ago, Kari rescued and then convinced her friend Gary Rohde to adopt a puppy named Wuffy. One day Wuffy carefully presented Gary with four abandoned kittens that she had just found. Gary, who loved dogs but was unfamiliar with cats, was concerned when the veterinarian told him he would have to bottle feed the kittens and help them learn to be cats. It turned out that he needn’t have worried because Wuffy nurtured the kittens and kept every one of them alive until they could be adopted.

When Kari learned of Wuffy’s talent, she started calling Gary to say, “Send Wuffy, I need her help.” Wuffy would arrive and help Kari care for foster kittens and cats. She always seemed to know which kitten was the sickest and who needed the most help. Together Kari and Wuffy rescued and rehabilitated more than 600 cats and kittens.

Although Wuffy is retired now, she often visited schools, hospitals, and fairs throughout Southern California proving that she loves people too.
Spreading the Love…
In addition to being fun friends for travelers, Guppy Love goldfish also double as popular centerpieces for group meetings, special events and wedding receptions. For example, a FORTUNE 500 company CEO was so mesmerized by his goldfish’s soothing water-ballet, that he requested its presence as a table centerpiece at a meeting the following day to help participants relax and focus.

Kimpton’s Hotel Monaco in Denver previously incorporated guppies into a Fiji-themed wedding that included sand, palm trees and a chocolate waterfall.

Since its introduction at all Hotel Monacos in 2001, and following its expansion to over 20 hotels throughout the country, Guppy Love has become a nationally-recognized signature element at Kimpton. Everyone from children to business travelers appreciate this temporary travel companion, giving a whole new meaning to the phrase, “sleeping with the fishes.”

For information about participating hotel, please visit www.KimptonHotels.com or call 1-800-KIMPTON.

While Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants welcomes pets of the furry variety at all hotels, sometimes it’s the quiet finned kind that can be the best traveling buddy. For guests in need of a little extra color, comfort and companionship – but no extra effort – many of Kimpton’s nearly 50 hotels offer a special kind of Guppy Love.

Can You Feel the Love Tonight?
Guppy Love provides guests at most Kimpton hotels with the option to request a live goldfish to stay overnight in their guest room. Guests never have to worry about caring for their fishy friends with hotel staff on hand for daily feedings and care, allowing travelers the opportunity to enjoy stress-free bonding throughout their stay.

Why Goldfish? Because They are Betta…
Research has proven that watching colorful fish swim gracefully to-and-fro actually calms nerves, reduces anxiety and lowers blood pressure. There is perhaps no more elegant, low maintenance, or interactive fish than B. splendens, or Betta fish, which Kimpton has selected to share the Guppy Love. Unlike many varieties of fish, Bettas don’t require aeration and are perfectly content in large, unheated tanks or smaller glass bowls, making an ideal in-room companion.

Guests at Kimpton Hotels Fall Hook, Line and Sinker for Signature Goldfish Program
You can now view a presentation of our mission plus clips from several of our films on You Tube.

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Also available to help you with your important work:

Breaking the Cycles of Violence

Cycles I and II films (available on VHS or DVD) and a Revised Handbook by Phil Arkow

Please visit us at www.latham.org for information about our affordably-priced films and books.

Watch a clip from Breaking the Cycles of Violence II on You Tube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fGvbC78pak
The Boy Who Loved All Living Things
The Imaginary Childhood Journal of Albert Schweitzer

By Sheila Hamanaka
Published by the Animal Welfare Institute

This is a charming book, suitable for reading aloud, that the author has imagined and beautifully illustrated. She begins, “There are more children born every month than there are hairs on a tiger’s back. And each one has courage. This is the story of an especially brave child who was born long ago, in 1875, in a small country called Alsace. ...Albert was an especially brave boy. When he grew up he became a famous doctor, musician, minister and philosopher. In 1952, he even won the Nobel Peace Prize. What made Albert such a special child? He never made a scrapbook or wrote a journal when he was a little boy. But if he had, perhaps it would look like this...”

The Animal Welfare Institute (publisher) was started in 1951 by Christine Stevens, a woman who, much like Albert Schweitzer, loved animals. For more information, visit the AWI website: www.awionline.org. The Animal Welfare Institute presents the Albert Schweitzer Medal to a person who has done outstanding work to help animals. Albert and his dog Tchu Tchu appear on the medal, along with Albert’s words: “We need boundless ethics which will include the animals also.”

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Veronica Boutelle, MA Ed., CTC, is the former Director of Behavior and Training at the San Francisco SPCA. Through her business, dogTEC, www.dotec.org, she teaches sold-out seminars and consults one on one with dog professionals. She writes a column for APDT Chronicle of the Dog and is a sought-after speaker at conferences and dog training schools across the country. She lives with her husband and two dogs surrounded by wildlife in Sixes, Oregon.

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Pets’ Playground: Playing Safe in a Dog-and-Cat World

By Dr. Amanda Chin, BVSc
Illustrated by Luke Feldman

Pets play an important role in child development. They promote a range of social attributes in children, including companionship, nurturing, affection, responsibility, and respect. However, this human-animal bond can quickly dissolve if safety isn’t practiced. Current trends show that an alarming 4.5 million Americans are affected by dog bites, cat scratches and pet-related zoonotic diseases each year. In addition, children continue to be at the top of the list sustaining animal-related injuries and diseases.

Who is responsible for teaching children about how to properly interact with their pet while avoiding harm to themselves and their pet? Doctors, veterinarians, teachers and parents all play a significant role in educating children about pet safety, but it’s not always easy to find the highly credible, kid-friendly educational materials needed to do so.

Here is another good resource:
Pets’ Playground: Playing Safe in a Dog-and-Cat World, a fun and educational children’s book, was created to help children ages four to nine gain the necessary skills and knowledge to promote safety for both children and their pets while strengthening the human-animal bond. Pets’ Playground, written by internationally recognized veterinarian Amanda Chin, covers topics such as dog and cat behavior, parasites, nutrition, home care, and veterinary care. It is a 104-page fun and educational book that includes 18 diverse activities.

Pets’ Playground teaches children:
• How to read both dog and cat body language
• The right ways to pet, play and hold their pet
• How to practice good hygiene
• The difference between their own pet and stranger pets
• Situations to avoid and how to act when in a bad situation
• How to be responsible pet owners

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Dr. Amanda Chin is a Veterinarian with more than ten years of international experience. Dr. Chin is passionate about educating people about the importance of preventive medicine to preserve the benefits of the human-animal bond. Through widespread education, she hopes to help prevent pet-related injuries such as zoonotic disease and dog bites and promote overall wellness in pets.

ABOUT AAHA:
The American Animal Hospital Association is an international organization of 6,000 veterinary care teams, comprised of more than 40,000 veterinary professionals, who are committed to excellence in companion animal care. Established in 1933, the Association is well-known among veterinarians for its leadership in the profession, high standards for veterinary practices and pet health care, and most importantly, its accreditation of companion animal practices. For more information about AAHA, visit the Association online www.aahanet.org.

$11.95 ($9.95 for AAHA members)
Available through AAHA press and at Amazon.com
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press.AAHAnet.org
Guardians of Being is a unique collaboration between two masters of their fields. It joins the original words of wisdom by Eckhart Tolle with delightful illustrations by Patrick McDonnell. Each page provokes thought, insight, and smiling reverence for each moment and inspires readers to recognize the lessons of the present moment, as embodied by the dogs and cats who share out world.

Patrick McDonnell is the award-winning creator of the MUTTS comic strip, which appears in more than 700 newspapers in 20 countries and has an estimated daily readership of 50 million. He explains, “My main inspiration for MUTTS was my own dog Earl, a Jack Russell Terrier. I’ve always felt that if I could capture any of his joyful spirit on paper I was doing my job.” (www.muttscomics.com)

Eckhart Tolle is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Power of Now and A New Earth, the fastest-selling Oprah Book Club selection ever. He speaks and teaches extensively throughout the world. As McDonnell tells us, “In Guardians of Being, Eckhart has translated what our companion animals have been telling us for ages. ‘Life is good.’ ‘Live in the Now.’ ‘Enjoy.’”

Words by
Eckhart Tolle;
Art by Patrick McDonnell
128 pages; Color illustrations throughout
Printed on 100% postconsumer-waste recycled paper

Play With Your Dog

A playful dog is a healthy dog!

For most dogs, play comes naturally, while for others, play is something they need to be taught. Play helps dogs learn to interact properly with other dogs – and people. It helps sharpen their social skills and provides excellent physical and mental stimulation. In addition to being just plain FUN, play is a great way to help build a solid relationship between you and your dog and can be a great training tool.

Play With Your Dog will show you:
• How play can help you build a loving and long-lasting relationship with your dog
• The role of play in helping puppies avoid problems like fear and biting
• How to use play to re-socialize adult dogs
• What to look for in dog play. Is it aggression or just having fun?
• Dozens of games you can play with your dog and the benefits of each

So, whether you and your dog already play together and are looking for more creative opportunities to play, or you have a play-deprived dog who needs a re-introduction to the joys of play, this book will open your eyes to the possibilities. But don’t spend too much time reading – be sure to save time for play!

“This extremely user-friendly book will inspire and instruct anybody seeking to strengthen their relationship with dogs through play. It’s for every dog person, from the novice pet owner to the professional trainer and opens up a new world of joyful communication. Play is one of the most significant tools in the trainer’s toolbox. Now go out and play!”

Leslie McDevitt, MLA, CDBC, CPDT, author of Control Unleashed.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Pat Miller is at the forefront of the force-free, positive dog training phenomenon in the United States. She operates her own training facility in Hagerstown, Maryland, where she lives with her husband and a menagerie of rescued dogs, cats, and horses. Pat is a 20-year veteran of humane work and a popular columnist for Whole Dog Journal, Your Dog and Popular Dogs magazines.

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