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PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

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Klamath Falls, Oregon's

HANDS & WORDS ARE NOT FOR HURTING®

P R O J E C T



By Michael L. Kaibel

➔ See Page 6

Students from Henley Middle School, Cinco De Mayo Parade

INSIDE SPRING 2011



Thoughts on a Pet's Quality of Life and the Gift of Euthanasia pg 9

Doggone Safe's Dog Bite Prevention Challenge pg 13

News from the National Link Coalition pg 16

Shelter Medicine Program at University of CA, Davis pg 17

Is Your Dog a Hero? Nominations Open pg 18



*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

Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

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The Latham Letter

Volume XXXII, Number 2, Spring 2011

**BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON
HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**



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CONTENTS:

EDITORIAL:

What Will You Do? 4
By Hugh H. Tebault, III

Of Note 5

COVER STORY:

Part Two: HANDS & WORDS ARE NOT
FOR HURTING® Project 6
By Michael L. Kaibel

Quality of Life to the End of Life:
We Owe It To Them! 9
By Alice E. Villalobos, D.V.M., DPNAP

Educating Our Way to a Bite-Free World:
Won't You Join Us! 13
By Joan Orr, M.Sc.

The NATIONAL LINK COALITION 16

Koret Shelter Medicine Program Emulated
throughout the Nation 17
*Reprinted from U.C. Davis'
Veterinary Medicine News*

American Humane Association's
Hero Dog Awards™ 18

Media Reviews and Announcements 19

Tools for your important work 22

What Will You Do?

*Hugh H. Tebault,
Latham Foundation's President
with Brother Buzz*



Every day our values and expectations forge our experiences as we interact with others. We constantly choose how we will respond to every situation in life. When we hear of people who have chosen to do things we do not believe in, things that hurt others, we question how their values could be so different from ours. We may even think, “if only I had been there, it would have been different.”

Good people do need to take action to ensure the quality of our society continues to be grounded on our foundational principles. History has proven that when good people take no action, the bullies assert themselves and society declines. But is it true that a majority of people take no action, or does it only appear that way because of what the news media chooses to feed us?

Many people are taking the lead, rolling up their sleeves and working to maintain the quality of our society. They are the unsung and often overlooked heroes quietly helping their neighbors and their community. Consider several current television shows:

- What Would You Do?** <http://abcnews.go.com/WhatWouldYouDo/>
- Secret Millionaire.** <http://abc.go.com/shows/secret-millionaire/about-the-show>
- Undercover Boss** http://www.cbs.com/primetime/undercover_boss/

In “What Would You Do?,” ordinary people are put on the spot. A secret camera captures their reaction to various circumstances, such as bullying or cheating. Surprisingly (or not), in each situation someone will invariably step in, speak up and risk uncomfortable or even dangerous reactions. In “Secret Millionaire,” people who have been successful in business temporarily lay aside their lavish lifestyles, conceal their true identity and live for a week in desperate neighborhoods on the equivalent of one week’s welfare. They then reward several unsung heroes of the community with tens of thousands of their own dollars. In “Undercover Boss,” CEOs of major corporations go undercover, concealing their identity to work alongside their employees. In doing so, they find both the hard working and the underachieving, and then find ways to reward or mentor them.

These programs highlight the best in people and show what personal responsibility is all about. It does not take another law or governmental program to make the difference in the community – it simply takes people willing to get involved and help each other. The values shown in these shows reveal and affirm what we already know. Good people do the right thing.

So, my challenge to our readers today is to check out the many programs already in place to help the people in your community. Think about your own talents and passions, find a match, step up and help out. You will find immense satisfaction as well as new friends, and you will make your community a better place to live.

**“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless.
Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



LETTER TO LATHAM

Dear Latham Folks,

I love Lynn Loar's handbook Teaching Empathy to the point where it's almost unrecognizable because I have dog-eared so many pages and covered them with notes and rainbow colored highlighters. So glad Latham published my new "bible."

Melissa Wolfe
Monterey, California

GOOD NEWS! Florida Bans the Sale of Dogs and Cats in Pet Stores

According to
Best Friends Animal Society,
Lake Worth, Florida has become the
first city on the East Coast
to ban the sale of dogs and cats
in pet stores.

DNA EVIDENCE LEADS TO TWO NYC CRUELTY CONVICTIONS

In a groundbreaking victory for animals, DNA evidence helped the ASPCA win justice in two animal cruelty cases last month. For the first time ever in New York City, juries in two separate animal cruelty trials heard DNA evidence – and as a result, two men who tortured cats now face time behind bars.

For details: <http://www.asPCA.org/News/National/National-News-Detail.aspx?NDate=20110401&NType=National#>

Out of Africa (from the Winter 2011 Latham Letter)

Want to know more about Leah Katz's adventures in Uganda? Here's the link to her blog ...

<http://www.katzinuganda.tk/>



TOO MANY CHOICES! TOO LITTLE TIME.

Thinking of getting insurance for your dog or cat? Find helpful comparison charts at:

<http://www.petinsurancereview.com/dog.asp>

A N D

<http://www.petinsurancereview.com/cat.asp>

Meet and Greet!

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Sample Latham Letters Available

Contact us if you would like sample issues for a library, colleague, or friend and help spread the word about issues and activities in humane education.

Part Two:

HANDS & WORDS ARE NOT FOR HURTING®

P R O J E C T

By Michael Kaibel

(Continued from the Winter, 2011 *Latham Letter*, pages 16-19
“Animal Abuse is Everybody’s Business”)

Before we enter part two, a brief introduction of our organization and a quick visit to Part One may be beneficial. We are Klamath CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION and home to the Klamath Chapter HANDS & WORDS ARE NOT FOR HURTING® project. If you haven’t guessed yet, we are located in Klamath County just east of the Cascade Mountains and not far from the California-Oregon border.

Klamath CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION (CAP) is an all volunteer organization made up of child and family advocates dedicated to ending child abuse and family violence through education and awareness campaigns. CAP has been serving the community since 1997 and our vision is a Violence-Free

Klamath County. Our philosophy is that a holistic approach works best when addressing violence; one that addresses the whole “family violence system” (child abuse, domestic and sexual violence, elder abuse, and animal abuse). To that end CAP has been forming alliances with key agencies and organizations to provide a coordinated effort in ending all forms of violence that harm children and families.

In *Part One* we focused mainly on domestic and sexual violence prevention. CAP is taking an innovative approach in protecting domestic violence victims by protecting their pets. Batterers who have access to family pets use them to extract revenge, control their victims, and hold families hostage. Twelve independent studies have reported that between 18% and 48% of battered women delay leaving abusive situations out of fear for the safety of their animals (Ascione, 2007).



Because CAP was blending family abuse prevention with preventing cruelty to animals we needed a strong yet

flexible program that could bridge both components and serve as the cornerstone for all of our anti-violence programs. We were already experiencing phenomenal success in our community and schools with an award winning program called Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting® Project (HandsProject.org).

The Hands Project reduces violence of all types and is proven to save lives. Its success is based on simplicity, repetition, and visibility. Following the wisdom that “all you need to change the world is one simple, powerful idea” makes these words the fourteen most important words you will need to remember all your life: “I Will Not Use My Hands Or My Words For Hurting Myself Or Others®.”



CAP

Purple Hands Pledge:
*"I Will Not Use My Hands
Or My Words For Hurting
Myself Or Others®"*

The Hands Project was founded in 1997 by Ann S. Kelly and operates out of Salem, Oregon. Since its conception it has spread from Oregon to all 50 States and 12 foreign countries. Its rapid expansion and popularity is due to its singular message that hands and words are not for hurting. Each year Oregon State Officials take the Purple Hands Pledge and it has been taken by many members of the U. S. Congress.

The Hands Project has been easy to implement, effective, and inexpensive to bring into our school programs. It has been shown to increase the development of healthy relationships among students based on respect, equality, and personal responsibility. Schools across the nation that embrace the Hands Project curriculum and take it seriously, find that students and others will too. Embracing the program includes having staff, teachers, and students recite the Purple Hands Pledge daily as a way to set the tone for the day. In Klamath County we have a large Hispanic population and we are encouraging all our schools to say the pledge in English and Spanish, so the message is carried home in a way that all parents and family members can best receive it.

The Hands Project has both a Preschool-2nd Grade Curriculum and a K-12 School Curriculum. We currently have the Hands K-12 Curriculum in every City and County school in Klamath County. Klamath County Commissioners recently received a letter from the national

headquarters for the Hands Project stating that Klamath County was the first county in the nation to have the Hands Curriculum in 100% of its public schools. Included in the K-12 Curriculum is the 10-minute film called the Power of One which is recommended for middle school, high school, and adults. It is a very powerful film and all the students who participated in the film received certificates of recognition from Harvard University. When we presented the film to our city school district, all the principals voted to have the Hands Project curriculum in their respective school.

An important aspect of the Hands Project is the recognition that the community, schools, and parents are all equal and vital to the full success of the program. Highlighted below are a few of our successes with the Hands Project in Klamath County:

Community

- More than 100 agencies, organizations, and public officials have viewed the film Power of One and endorsed the Hands Project.
- When our judicial system viewed Power of One they voted right then to make the film mandatory viewing by all parents seeking child custody through the Klamath County courts; it has been mandatory since April 2009.
- Upon completion of the new Klamath Falls Police Department building they are planning to have a permanent display in their lobby incorporating the Hands Project Logo sign-set.
- One hundred and sixty-eight businesses have placed the Hands Project 5" Round Window Decal in their entryway to show their support for the Hands Project.
- During our Purple Hands Pledge drive in 2009, over 10% of our county's population took the pledge with us by tracing their hand and signing their name on the pledge form stating "I Will Not Use My Hands Or My Words For Hurting Myself Or Others®." Forty percent of those were adults, which is something we encourage since parents and adults are the role models for our youth. Over 50 businesses on Main Street helped by gathering pledges from their customers and employees. County Commissioners allowed us to display 1,000 Purple Hands Pledges in the windows of our Government Center building during the pledge drive event.
- The third week of each October, our County Commissioners proclaim "National Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Week" in Klamath County.

Schools

- Thanks to funding from the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative and help from CARES (Child Abuse Response & Evaluation Services), every City and County public school has the Hands Project K-12 Curriculum. The Hands Curriculum is starting to be picked up by private organizations, such as daycare centers and faith-based organizations as

well. Two elementary schools in a neighboring county have also integrated the Hands Curriculum and the Hands Preschool-2nd Grade Curriculum into their school programs.

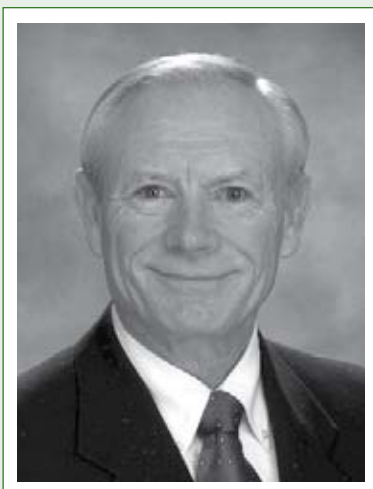
- Linkville Kiwanis Club purchased and donated the Hands Project K-12 Curriculum to Ponderosa Jr. High School.
- Students from Mazama High School started a mentoring program for students at Shasta Elementary using the Hands Project Curriculum.
- Henley Middle School student, Amanda Gatz, sold candy suckers and raised enough money to purchase the Hands Project K-12 Curriculum for her school and to provide administration with Hands Project T-shirts. She also raised enough money to fund Hands Project materials for the Hope Community Center's after school program. Amanda collected 5,000 cans and donated the money to the Klamath Chapter Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting® Project. In recognition for both her accomplishments and her high level of character, she was awarded the first Purple Hands Pledge Ambassador certificate in the nation.

Parents

- Parents are encouraging other parents and family members to learn and practice the Hands Project philosophy of respect and dignity for all living things. A local group, Grandparents as Parents, is actively promoting the Hands Project among its

members and in its community trainings.

During our journey in the prevention of family violence we have learned that when animals are at risk, people are at risk. We also discovered that violence is violence, no matter what form it takes, making it important to collaborate with other agencies and different disciplines to come up with new solutions to old problems. Most importantly we learned that animal abuse is everybody's business and the key to early identification of children and families at risk. Thinking outside the box and seeking new perspectives for preventing violence is helping to make our Klamath County a family friendly place to live and play.



Michael L. Kaibel is the Violence Prevention Coordinator for Klamath Child Abuse Prevention in Klamath County, Oregon. He is the recipient of the Klamath County Volunteer of the Year 2010 Award and the Camp Fire USA Centennial Spirit Award. Contact Michael for information on their programs to reduce all forms of family violence, including animal abuse, at michaelkaibel@centurytel.net or call 541-798-5498.



Doing Research?

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Quality of Life to the End of Life: WE OWE IT TO THEM!

By Alice E. Villalobos, D.V.M., DPNAP

KEY WORDS:

Quality of Life Scale, End-of-Life Care, Pawspice, Pet Hospice, Palliative Care, Terminal Disease, Gift of Euthanasia, Well Death

Introduction

Every day, pet lovers are requesting their veterinarians to provide palliative and pet hospice care. When families are caring for aging, ailing or terminally ill pets, especially pets with advanced or recurrent cancer, they want and need compassionate medical care from the local pet hospital. These end-of-life care services need to include more **quality of life (QoL)** assessment tools so that caretakers can confidently determine what their ailing pets need. The time is now for all veterinarians to embrace the concept of palliative care, pet hospice and/or Pawspice care. Pawspice starts around the time of diagnosis of a life-limiting disease. Pawspice focuses on relief of pain and symptoms while offering kinder more gentle standard care to deal with the disease. Pawspice transitions to hospice when the pet declines or when death is expected within weeks, days or hours.

How do we know when a chronic, morbid condition starts to ruin a pet's QoL? Most older pets have one or more morbid conditions such as



painful osteoarthritis, obesity or organ disease. When a life-limiting disease, or cancer and its related treatment, exert added burdens on a compromised pet, when or how do we determine if QoL is impacted or threatened? How can pet caregivers confidently determine what is satisfactory? Who is capable of monitoring that pet? How are they making their decisions? At what point should caregivers abandon further curative therapy? What obligation does the veterinary team (v-team) have to provide palliative care or to preserve their clients' hope for a beloved pet's well being? Veterinarians are frequently asked, "When is the right time to euthanize my beloved pet? How will I know?"

The "HHHHMM" Quality of Life Scale

To help caregivers assess a beloved pet's QoL, this author developed an easy to use QoL scale and scoring system. The QoL scale guides pet lovers to work with their v-teams to look at the necessary ingredients that make pet hospice a workable end of life program. Some of these items are very difficult to face especially when one is in denial. Pet owners must ask themselves if they are truly able to provide enough care to maintain their ailing pet properly. The "HHHHMM" QoL Scale acronym allows easy recall for pet caregivers. The five Hs and two Ms represent **Hurt, Hunger, Hydration, Hygiene, Happiness, Mobility and More** good days than bad days [pawspice.com].

Animals have basic needs and desires which should be recognized and respected by their caretakers. The Five Freedoms of animal welfare, developed in the United Kingdom are: **1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst, 2. Freedom from Discomfort, 3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease, 4. Freedom to Express Normal Behavior, 5. Freedom from Fear and Distress.** [fawc.org.uk/freedoms.htm] The Five Freedoms list was developed in the 1960's for farm animals. Several adaptations improved this list along the way and it is truly applicable for all pets. With good veterinary supervision, pet owners can maintain these basic desires with a satisfactory level of comfort and pain control for their pets during hospice care. When the score falls below what is felt to be acceptable, then there is no justification in continuing the hospice.

The HHHHHMM QoL Scale (Table 1, page 12) provides useful guidelines for caregivers to help sustain a positive and rewarding relationship that nurtures the human-animal bond at the end of life. This simple-to-use tool provides a framework to assess various aspects of home care and the well being of failing patients. The straightforward QoL Scale, with its objective scoring, automatically helps family members face reality without guilt feelings or confusion. It asks people to quantify their observations as they struggle through the difficult decision making process of whether to maintain their pet's end-of-life care or to elect the gift of euthanasia.

Pet owners can bring the HHHHHMM QoL Scale to their veterinarian's attention so they can

help to correct deficient criteria. If the veterinarian can help relieve pain and discomfort by at least 30-60%, the improvements can create a remarkable rejuvenation in the pet's well being. The v-team can teach pet owners to assess and control their pet's pain and provide good nutritional and hydration support. When discussing hygiene, the v-team can demonstrate wound care techniques and teach caregivers to prevent decubital ulcers by using egg crate mattresses, soft bedding and body rotation. The v-team might also have suggestions to prevent self soiling with strategic elevation, absorbent towels, diapers and so forth.

When family members are empowered to use the QoL Scale for assessment of the necessary criteria, they may realize that they need to ratchet up certain aspects of care to properly maintain their pet. A well-managed end-of-life care program allows more time for tender private moments and sweet conversation to be shared between family members and their dying pet.

More Good Days than Bad Days

If a terminal pet experiences more than 3-5 bad days in a row, QoL is too compromised to continue the hospice. This would also correlate with the QoL score dropping below 35. When a healthy, two-way interactive human-animal bond is no longer possible, it is time to let go. All family members who make the effort to work with the QoL scale will become self aware that the end is near. The final decision needs to be made if the pet suffers break through pain despite being on combination pain medications. The veterinary oath clearly binds the v-team to prevent suffering. It is important to have plan A,B,C regarding euthanasia and after life needs. It is best to be prepared. When a beloved pet no longer has quality of life, it is merciful to provide heavy sedation to relax the pet's anxiety. Some near-death pets may pass on peacefully. But the rigors of death may be harsh and unpredictable and too difficult to observe for most loving families. Most dying pets receive the kind gift of a bond-centered euthanasia. The gift of euthanasia can be pre-arranged to take place at home or at the local pet hospital. However, if the pet slips into crisis after hours or on a weekend, and the final call must be made for euthanasia, it can be provided at an emergency clinic.

Don't Let a Pet Suffer to Death

Due to cultural, religious or personal beliefs, a few pet owners and a small contingent of veterinarians and counselors prefer natural death over assisted death. When a client has this bias, it is difficult and disheartening for the v-team to justify caring for an emaciated, dehydrated, depressed, terminal patient that is being forced to endure further deterioration, pointless pain and suffering until liberated by death. When a veterinarian or pet hospice counselor has this bias, it affects how they think and how they influence the pet owner's decision making for their terminal pet when the bad days persist without any good days. The attending doctor or counselor may be sincerely attempting to respect the owner's wishes, while caring for the patient. Yet, they may be totally unaware of how they are manipulating their clients into withholding



Pawspice & “HHHHHMM” QoL Scale Synopsis

Dr. Alice Villalobos, a renowned veterinary oncologist, developed “Pawspice,” a conceptual quality of life program for pets that starts when a well or sick pet is diagnosed with a life-limiting condition or disease. Pawspice offers palliative care that transitions into hospice care for animals as they approach their final days and hours of life. Pawspice protocols should not be considered synonymous with hospice which implies “giving up.” Instead, Pawspice care involves kinder, gentler versions of standard care to avoid adverse events that may put the pet at risk or destroy quality of life.

Pawspice simultaneously and consistently focuses on pain and symptom management to enhance quality of life. This approach often results in longer survival times for geriatric and compromised companion animals over those pets that are treated with standard “can do” care. Dr. Villalobos also developed a scoring system to help family members and veterinary teams assess a pet’s life quality,

The HHHHHMM Quality of Life Scale.

The five H’s stand for:

Hurt, Hunger, Hydration, Hygiene and Happiness.

The two M’s stand for

Mobility and More good days than bad days.

The QoL scale also serves as a helpful decision making tool to assist the v-team and pet lovers as they struggle through the difficult and emotionally draining process of making the final call for the gift of euthanasia to provide a peaceful and painless passing for a beloved pet.

See next page for QUALITY OF LIFE SCALE

the mercy of euthanasia for a dying pet if or when it is needed.

It is fortunate if a pet is able to die at home in a painless and peaceful state. This is ideal and acceptable. This is most predictable when using veterinary supervision that includes home euthanasia services. It is a sad fact that not all terminal animals are able to pass away peacefully and naturally at home. Some dying pets go into terrible respiratory distress and thrash about and become agonal before death. Witnessing this traumatic scenario is a horrible experience for loving family members who did not want their beloved pet to suffer this pointless indignity without having the option of euthanasia. Family members feel guilty and are haunted for years with these harsh memories. Therefore, it is important to instruct pet owners who prefer a natural death to have a backup plan in case their pet goes into a distressful crisis and needs professional help to change worlds. Caregivers should know where to go 24/7 for immediate assistance for the gift of euthanasia to avoid a beloved pet’s futile and unnecessary “suffering to death.”

Summary

The HHHHHMM QoL Scale provides useful guidelines for caregivers. It helps sustain a positive and rewarding relationship that humanely nurtures the human-animal bond at the end of life during palliative care, hospice or Pawspice. This simple-to-use tool recruits caregivers and their v-teams to evaluate and improve important criteria that will promote and maintain a good quality of life for the dependent pet. The QoL Scale helps family members face reality without confusion and quantify their observations as they struggle with the difficult decision of whether to maintain their pet’s end-of-life care or to elect the gift of euthanasia.

Alice E. Villalobos, D.V.M., DPNAP is Director, Pawspice at VCA Coast Animal Hospital, Hermosa Beach, CA and Beachside Animal Referral Center, Capistrano Beach, CA, and Animal Oncology Consultation Service, at Animal Emergency and Care Center, Woodland Hills, CA
www.pawspice.com and dralicev@aol.com



Quality of Life Scale

(The HHHHMM Scale)

Pet caregivers can use this Quality of Life Scale to determine the success of Pawspice care.
Score patients using a scale of: 0 to 10 (10 being ideal).

Score	Criterion
0-10	HURT – Adequate pain control & breathing ability is of top concern and outweighs all others. Is the pet's pain well managed? Can the pet breathe properly? Is oxygen supplementation necessary?
0-10	HUNGER – Is the pet eating enough? Does hand feeding help? Does the pet need a feeding tube?
0-10	HYDRATION – Is the pet dehydrated? For patients not drinking enough, use subcutaneous fluids daily to supplement fluid intake.
0-10	HYGIENE – The pet should be brushed and cleaned, particularly after eliminations. Avoid pressure sores with soft bedding and keep all wounds clean.
0-10	HAPPINESS – Does the pet express joy and interest? Is the pet responsive to family, toys, etc.? Is the pet depressed, lonely, anxious, bored or afraid? Can the pet's bed be moved to be close to family activities?
0-10	MOBILITY – Can the pet get up without assistance? Does the pet need human or mechanical help (e.g., a cart)? Does the pet feel like going for a walk? Is the pet having seizures or stumbling? (Some caregivers feel euthanasia is preferable to amputation, but an animal with limited mobility yet still alert and responsive can have a good quality of life as long as caregivers are committed to helping the pet.)
0-10	MORE GOOD DAYS THAN BAD – When bad days outnumber good days, quality of life might be too compromised. When a healthy human-animal bond is no longer possible, the caregiver must be made aware that the end is near. The decision for euthanasia needs to be made if the pet is suffering. If death comes peacefully and painlessly, that is okay.
* TOTAL	*A total over 35 points represents acceptable life quality to continue with pet hospice (Pawspice).

Original concept, *Oncology Outlook*, by Dr. Alice Villalobos, *Quality of Life Scale Helps Make Final Call*, VPN, 09/2004; scale format created for author's book, *Canine and Feline Geriatric Oncology: Honoring the Human-Animal Bond*, Blackwell Publishing, 2007. Adapted for the International Veterinary Association of Pain Management, 2011 Hospice Guidelines. Reprinted for the Latham Newsletter with permission from Dr. Villalobos & Wiley-Blackwell.



Educating Our Way to a Bite-Free World: Won't You Join Us!

By Joan Orr, M.Sc.



Doggone Safe¹ is challenging dog professionals and humane educators to help us reduce the dog bite risk by joining us in a week-long worldwide educational event. This event will be held during Dog Bite Prevention Week (May 15-21, 2011) and its purpose will be to educate 50,000 children about dog body language and how to behave safely around dogs.

Are Dog Bites a Problem?

The American Veterinary Medical Association considers dog bites to be major public health concern for children. According to a recently published study from the US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality², there is a dog bite problem and it is getting worse, not better. A *New York Times* report about this study said: "The increase vastly exceeded population growth, and pet ownership increased only slightly during the same period, said the report's author, Anne Elixhauser, a senior research scientist with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality." This refers to only those admitted to hospital and not those treated and released. We really don't know how many people are bitten, but we know that the number is high.

In a written survey completed by children attending "Be a Tree"³ program presentations, we found that of 859 children polled, 54% had been bitten. This is consistent with reports from many "Be a Tree" presenters and with the oft-quoted statistic that 50% of children will be bitten by age 12.

Classroom teachers are shocked at the number of children who have been bitten. This number is easy to verify. Next time you are with a group of adults, ask them how many were bitten by a dog as a child. Usually the incidence is in the range of 50-75%. Ask them if they remember the details of the dog bite compared to other childhood injuries. You will hear dates, names and breeds of the dog, what they were doing, where they were, where the bite was and all manner of detail not recalled about falling off a bike or out of a tree. Why the difference? Because dog bites are memorable and they cause emotional trauma, people remember the details. Many people will tell you that a childhood dog bite resulted in a lifelong fear or distrust of dogs.

Minor dog bites are not just an inevitable and harmless part of growing up, despite common belief. Being bitten, regardless of the severity, is emotionally difficult for children, especially when they thought that the dog loved them, and even more so if the dog is sent away or killed as a result of the incident.

Child psychiatrist Dr. R. Larry Schmitt says that children must receive trauma counselling after a dog bite if they show changes in behavior, suffer from nightmares or become withdrawn. His advice to parents is, "You must repeatedly encourage and allow the child to talk about the accident and their feelings."

The dog bite problem is real and it affects children and dogs the most. A biting dog risks removal from its home and family or even death. The most common reason for euthanasia or surrender to shelters is behavior problems.

Fear and anxiety are the most common reasons that dogs bite. A dog doesn't just bite out of the blue, but will send warning signs in many ways, resorting to a bite only once all his warning mechanisms are exhausted.⁴ Unfortunately most children and dog owners do not know what these signs are and so they assume that their own dog (or a friend's, relative's, babysitter's dog etc.) will not bite them. They assume that a dog showing extreme tolerance for a child's behavior will continue in his tolerance and will never bite because he "just loves children". Dog owners also make the mistake of trusting their dogs too much and not supervising or not intervening when the dog begins to reach the limits of his tolerance. Doggone Safe cofounder and dog behavior consultant Teresa Lewin says, "trust is a dog's worst enemy."

What Do Kids and Dog Owners Need to Know?

Firstly they need to know that happy dogs are much less likely to bite than are anxious dogs. Parents need to teach children to recognize the difference between a happy and an anxious dog and to avoid anxious dogs and interact only with happy dogs. Understanding dog body language should go a long way to reducing bite risk from familiar dogs and from dogs that they might want to ask the owner if they can pet.

Children also must know what to do in case they meet a strange dog or even if a dog they know is bothering them. We need to empower them with the knowledge they need to keep themselves safe. Doggone Safe and many other bite prevention programs and dog behavior experts teach children to stand still when a strange dog approaches. Doggone Safe calls this "being a tree." We teach children to stand still, fold your branches (hands folded in front), watch your roots grow (look at your feet) and count in your head over and over to the biggest number you know until help comes or the dog goes away. This is the skill that is going to save a life or prevent a serious mauling if a child ever meets that rare and truly aggressive or predatory dog. We recently received an e-mail from a mother who said "[My 3-year old daughter] was standing in a tree pose as well as she could, shivering while being surrounded by two of the dogs barking and growling at her. We would like to thank you for your campaign and online information. We are convinced that it saved our daughter's life."

Children are more likely to encounter generally friendly dogs that may or may not want to meet them or interact with them. They need to learn observational skills (we call this "looking for clues") and become dog detectives so that they can tell when a dog is happy and wants to meet them or is anxious and wants to be left alone. By learning to read dog body language and understanding that dogs have feelings, they will develop empathy for dogs, and will realize that they can control the situation with their own behavior. This is very powerful for kids and we have had many reports that, after learning



from the Be a Tree program, kids lost their fear of dogs. We have also heard from parents and teachers that kids remembered to "Be a Tree" in a real-life situation.

A child in fourth grade from Dana Point, CA had this to say "I really enjoyed doing the actions, like the tree. I hope that I will be able to adopt one of your dogs. I am kind of afraid of dogs, but now I feel much safer." Another said, "I learned a lot from that presentation, it was very interesting. I told my Mom about it and she was amazed ... I saw this mean dog one day and I did the tree."

How Can You Help?

Dog owners need to know how to tell when their dog is anxious and that they need to take steps to make their dog happy. This might mean modifying their own actions, changing the environment, removing the dog from a situation or changing the actions of others (including children) around the dog. There are lots of ways you can help with this education:

- Point out body language signs that you observe to parents, kids and your clients. The most common signs of anxiety include: lip licking, yawning, scratching, shaking off, sniffing the ground and showing a half moon of white in the eye (also known as whale eye). Key signs of avoidance include turning away, looking away and moving away. Tell your clients to watch for these signs and to intervene if the dog shows any of them in response to a child's approach or a child's actions.
- Explain to people with kids the importance of teaching the kids how to be a tree. This works to discourage the attentions of strange dogs and also their own dog if he gets too frisky or is bothering them.
- Encourage your clients to learn more about dog body language. Doggone Safe (www.doggonesafe.com) offers many free resources and an online course for people who want more in-depth study. There are many good books and DVDs available from Dogwise on this topic. (www.dogwise.com)
- Become a Doggone Safe Be a Tree presenter and offer bite prevention as part of your course offerings or as a community service and to promote your business. Veterinarian Dr. Bob Bellamy reported a 40% increase in new business over a two-year period attributable to offering free Be a Tree presentations to local schools.



- Become a Dogs & Storks presenter and offer dog safety classes to expectant parents. (www.dogsandstorks.com)
- Become a Dog and Baby Connection Presenter and offer classes to dog owners who also have infants and toddlers. (www.thedabc.com)
- Join the Doggone Safe educational challenge and educate as many children as you can during Dog Bite Prevention Week this year. Visit www.doggonesafe.com/International_Dog_Bite_Prevention_Challenge for more details.
- Help spread the word by Tweeting, posting to your Facebook page, sharing items from the Doggone Safe Facebook page and blog, writing an article for your local paper or your organization's newsletter or posting a link about the Challenge on your website.

All of us can help to make a difference one community at a time!

Joan Orr is the President and a cofounder of Doggone Safe, a member of the Karen Pryor Clickertraining Clicker Expo Faculty, an advisor to the Karen Pryor Academy for Dog Behavior and Training, co-creator of the award-winning products the Doggone Crazy! Board game and the Clicker Puppy training DVD.

(ENDNOTES)

- ¹ Doggone Safe is a non-profit organization dedicated to dog bite prevention through education and dog bite victim support www.doggonesafe.com.
- ² Holmquist L. and Elixhauser A. 2010. **Emergency Department Visits and Inpatient Stays Involving Dog Bites, 2008**. Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Statistical Brief #101.
- ³ The Be a Tree program is a dog bite prevention educational seminar for school children.
- ⁴ <http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/Health/20101222/kids-should-be-warned-about-dogs-101223/>





NATIONAL LINK COALITION

Working together to stop violence against people and animals

An Important Resource

<http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org>

Latham is proud to promote the work of the National Link Coalition. In addition to the e-Newsletter, *The LinkLetter*, the NLC website contains a wealth of information including news about Link Coalitions throughout the country, advice on starting a coalition, legislation, research, and a Link Training calendar.

Congratulations to Phil Arkow and NLC Members.

About the National Link Coalition

The National Link Coalition is an informal network of individuals and organizations working cooperatively on the intersections between animal abuse and other forms of violence and to address these concerns through research, legislation, program implementation, and public awareness. Organized in 2008 at a historic summit in Portland, ME, the National Link Coalition's vision is:

The Link between violence against humans and violence against animals is widely known and understood. We believe that through the recognition and integration of this understanding into policies and practices nationwide, humans and animals will be measurably safer.

The LinkLetter

A monthly report of news about the connections between animal abuse and other forms of violence from the National Link Coalition.
Phil Arkow, Editor

To reach the National Link Coalition, to find a speaker to address your organization or to receive our monthly e-newsletter about Link activities, please contact:

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37 Hillside Road • Stratford, NJ 08084 • 856-627-5118
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Koret Shelter Medicine Program Emulated throughout the Nation

This article was originally published by the UC Davis (California) School of Veterinary Medicine in the Winter 2011 edition of *Veterinary Medicine News*.

The Koret Shelter Medicine Program was the first veterinary program in the world to concentrate on the prevention of disease problems of pets in animal shelters. Since its inception in 2001, the program has led the way for incorporation of shelter medicine training in more than half of the veterinary schools in North America.

Personnel of the program have carried out dozens of comprehensive on-site evaluations for shelters across the nation, reaching shelters caring for over 400,000 animals each year. Through the program's website, staff members have responded to thousands of questions by e-mail and consulted by telephone with shelter veterinarians and private practitioners throughout the world about shelter animal health.

The program has three main components:

- *Study of infectious diseases and behavioral problems in shelter animals to determine how to prevent or manage them*
- *Education, encompassing residencies, externships, academic and continuing education courses, presentations and online scientific resources*



left to right: Jyothi V. Robertson, DVM; Kate Hurley, DVM, director; Danae Wagner, DVM; and Michael Bannasch, MS, program coordinator.

- *Consultation and diagnostic services to directly improve shelter animal health*

Hurley's mission is to create a community in which no animal dies simply because it loses its home, and one in which all shelter animals, no matter how long they stay at a facility, receive the best possible care.

Often definitive diagnostics and straightforward recommendations can result in dramatic improvements. In 2006, for example, program personnel helped a shelter in Las Vegas identify the cause of an outbreak of hemorrhagic pneumonia that had killed more than 1,000 dogs, and offered recommendations that included vaccinations on intake and changes in cleaning practices. Within three months, comfort and health of cats and dogs at the shelter improved dramatically, and the number of animal deaths declined by more than 1,100 compared to the previous year.

Working with scientists at the universities of Wisconsin and Florida, Hurley and her colleagues pioneered an innovative use of antibody testing to minimize the need for euthanasia in controlling deadly outbreaks. Sandra Newbury, who became the program's national shelter medicine extension veterinarian in 2007, has created a data collection and statistical tool for evaluating shelter health management. Hurley and Newbury are members of a national panel that published the first Minimum Standards of Care for Shelter Animals.

The UC Davis shelter medicine program operates entirely through the generosity of donors. The Koret Foundation of San Francisco has been the largest supporter of the program at UC Davis and is currently offering to match up to \$400,000 of donations. You can obtain more information by visiting www.sheltermedicine.com or calling (530) 752-7024.



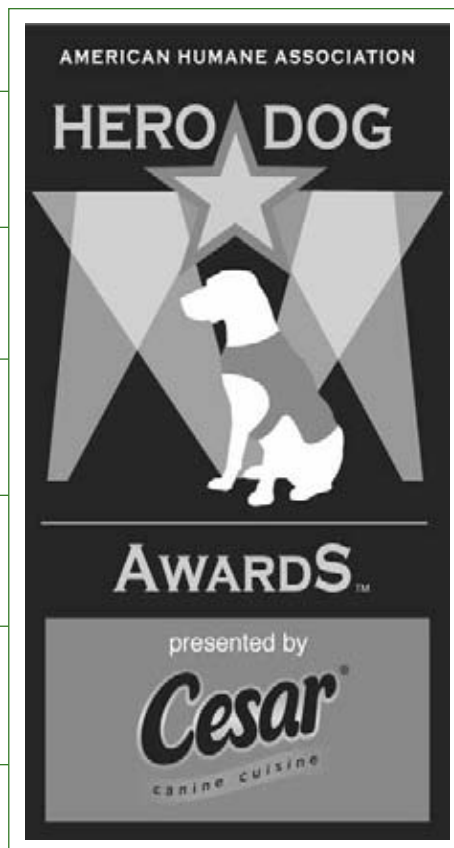
AMERICAN

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HERO DOG

AWARDS™



IS YOUR

DOG A

HERO?



The Film & Television Unit of American Humane Association is heading up the search for America's Hero Dogs. Dogs may be nominated in eight categories: **Law Enforcement and Arson Dogs; Service Dogs; Therapy Dogs; Military Dogs; Guide Dogs; Search and Rescue Dogs; Hearing Dogs; and Emerging Hero Dogs.**

Finalists in each category will be selected by the public from the pool of contestants, and the winners will be announced at the first-ever American Humane Association Hero Dog Awards™ celebrity gala, presented by CESAR® Canine Cuisine, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, California on October 1, 2011.

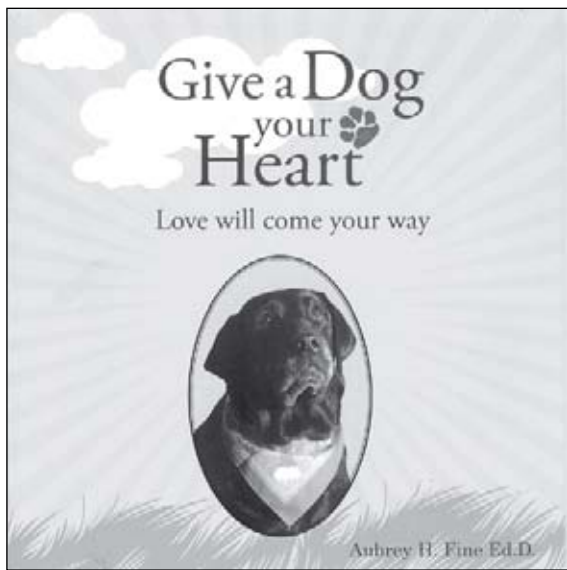
The Hero Dog Awards recognize the powerful relationship between dogs and people and celebrate the many benefits of animals and people sharing their lives together. "Championing American values of caring, compassion and hope, the Hero Dog Awards celebrate the animals we love and the people who interact with them on a daily basis," says American Humane Association President and Chief Executive Officer Robin R. Ganzert, Ph.D. "This national signature event for American Humane Association helps to elevate the status of animals

in society by honoring that inextricable link between animals and people, strengthening the human-animal bond."

According to Karen Rosa, Senior Vice President of the Film and Television Unit, "Dogs are an inseparable part of our everyday lives. We work to protect animal actors and animal athletes in more than 2,000 monitored film and television productions every year through American Humane Association's Film and Television Unit. The Hero Dog Awards allow us to recognize the contributions to society of many other dogs, including therapy dogs working with children in hospitals, military dogs protecting U.S. soldiers abroad, and even dogs who learn to detect cancer in people, saving human lives. As search and rescue dog teams are dispatched from across America to help people in areas devastated by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, we recognize most vividly how important it is to pay tribute to our dog heroes."

Nominate your dog today at
<http://www.herodogawards.org/>

Nominations are open now through May 31, 2011. Public voting for nominated dogs begins on June 1, 2011.



Give a Dog Your Heart

By Aubrey H. Fine, Ed.D.

This is an uplifting story about a boy named Corey and his childhood dog, Hart, his best friend. Their friendship spans more than a decade and ends with Corey learning one of the hardest lessons of his young life: understanding and coping with death. *Give a Dog Your Heart* provides children with a passionate story of love and hope. It is a message about how they can always cherish their loving relationship.

Author Aubrey H. Fine is a child psychologist who specializes in using animals to help children heal from trauma and other life difficulties. For many children, a loving pet can be their touchstone to help them get through tough times; the loss of such a pet can result in feelings of emptiness and pain.

Give a Dog Your Heart is simply written and will help give children and their families the opportunity to talk about their feelings of love and loss. Included in the book are passages for children to create their own memory book of their beloved pet, just as Corey does. Parents and children will end this story realizing, "When you give a dog your heart, love will come your way."

ISBN: 978-615-36177-2 • Healing Paws Press
909-625-2297 • \$16.99
www.healingpawspress.com

Living with the Rescues: Life Lessons and Inspirations

By Sharon Langford

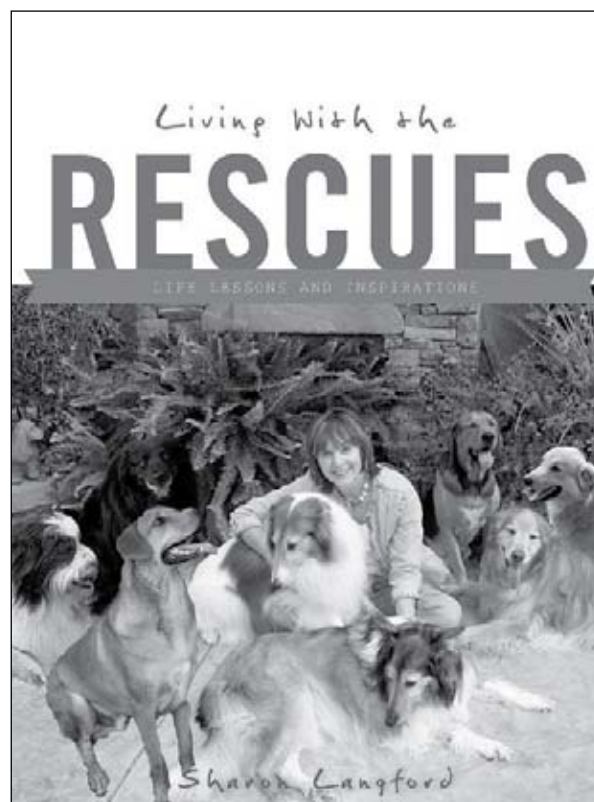
Reviewed by Mary Pat Boatfield
Executive Director, Nashville Humane Society

Can your dog teach you a thing or two about life?

Well author Sharon Langford thinks so. In a series of 14 stories that share the lives of 16 dogs, she shares the lessons she has learned from a lifetime of rescuing and caring for homeless and injured dogs. Each of the stories prove that as with their human sidekicks, it's not the pedigree that enables these abandoned and neglected animals to become faithful and congenial companions, it's their souls.

Some of the life lessons Langford has received from her canine friends include the importance of overcoming rigid beliefs, the necessity of approaching life with strength, will, and tenacity, ways to make the most of where you are, the importance of not comparing yourself to others, and the joy of finding the simple pleasures of life.

This short read is perfect for those who share a commitment to rescuing and rehoming those special needs dogs, with deep emotional and health issues. The book will also resonant with those who admire and appreciate these committed individuals that make a difference in the lives of those dogs, that against all odds, are given that one chance to know love and kindness in their lives.



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All proceeds benefits Daisy's Legacy a 501C3 to help homeless pets

The Cruelty Connection The Relationships between Animal Cruelty, Child Abuse, and Domestic Violence

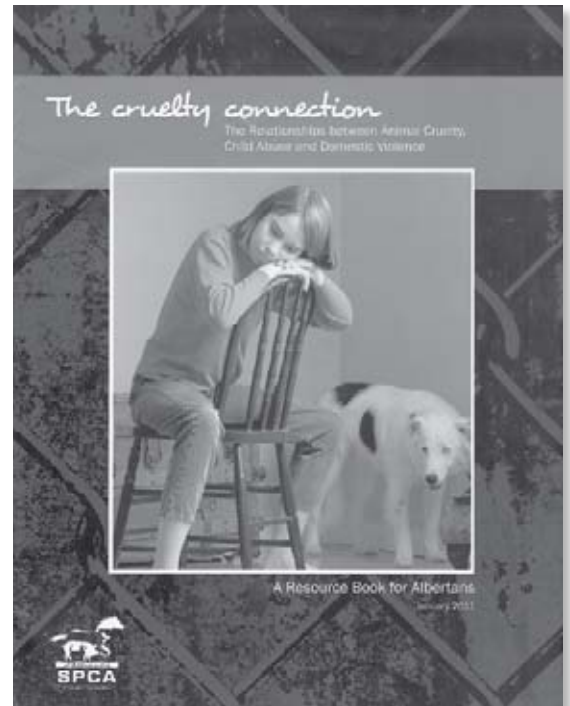
By Tim Battle, Alberta SPCA Director of Education

Updated version now available

While there is a growing awareness of the connections between animal abuse and human violence, much work remains to be done. This publication, updated from the original 2002 version, provides additional information taken from the Cruelty/Crime Connection conference held in Edmonton in October 2009. The conference proceedings and other information can be found at albertaspca.org/cruelty.

This publication provides information for the various segments of the population who need to collaborate including the public, service providers, victims of domestic violence, teachers, police and prosecutors, and veterinarians.

To order copies of *The Cruelty Connection*, contact the Alberta SPCA Education Department at 780-447-3600 extension 3739. Copies are also available for downloading from www.albertaspca.org.



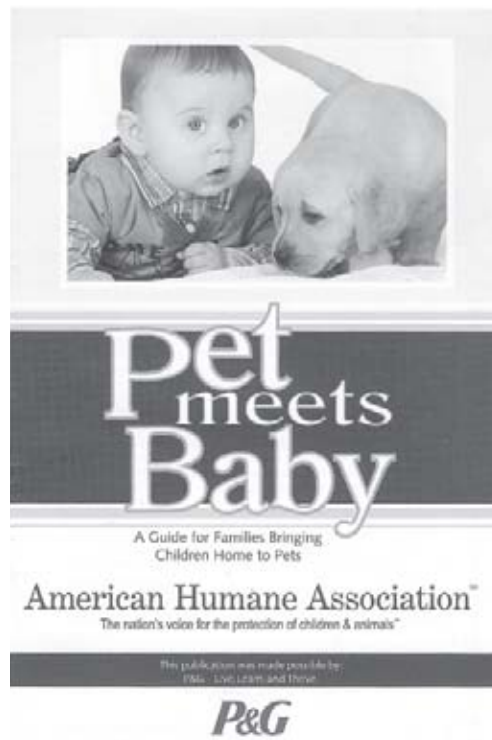
Pet Meets Baby

American Humane Association™

This is a valuable booklet for anyone bringing home a new child, via birth, adoption, or fostering. There are many factors to consider and the sooner you prepare your pet(s), the better your chances of success will be once the baby or child arrives.

Chapters include Preparing Ahead, Ensuring Appropriate Behavior, The Big Day, Raising Kids around Pets, and Health and Disease Concerns. Filled with references for further information, this booklet is highly recommended.

www.americanhumane.org



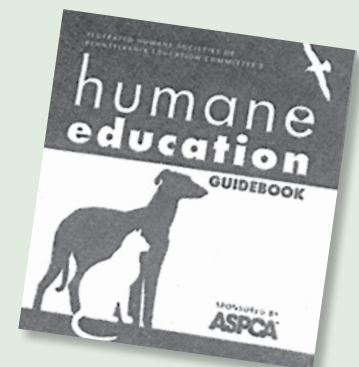
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For Interested Writers

Author Guidelines



The editors welcome manuscripts relevant to the Foundation's interests and mission but reserve the right to publish such manuscripts at their discretion. The Latham Foundation promotes respect for all life through education; *The Latham Letter*, now in its 31st year, presents balanced views on humane issues and activities throughout the world. We are particularly interested in articles that will appeal to the *Letter's* diverse readership. Subscribers include animal welfare and social service professionals, veterinarians, university students, and individuals interested in humane education, the human-companion animal bond, animal-assisted or animal-facilitated therapy and interventions, and the connection between animal abuse and other forms of violence.

Submissions should be between 500 to 2,000 words and, if possible, e-mailed as an attached Microsoft Word document with a brief cover letter explaining your submission. The cover letter should include authors' names in publishing order and the name, address, telephone (home and work) and fax numbers and the e-mail addresses for the corresponding (submitting) author. If the manuscript already exists in other document formats, please save it as a rich-text (.RTF) file before submission.

Photographs, tables, figures and other related graphics such as an organization's logo are encouraged. Photographs should be properly labeled with credit and captions and submitted either as high resolution files or as originals, which will be scanned (and returned if requested). Please include copies of all signed releases.

Tables and figures should be submitted as separate files in their original format. Please do not integrate them into the electronic text.

Submissions should conclude with a brief biographical paragraph about the author(s) including preferred contact information.

The ultimate decision regarding the appropriateness and acceptance for publication lies with the Latham Foundation. All accepted manuscripts are subject to editing for space and to conform to the *Associated Press Stylebook*.

Published authors will be expected to transfer copyright to the Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education. *Latham Letters* appear in their entirety as .PDF files on the Foundation's website www.latham.org. Please keep original copies of the manuscript in your possession.

Send queries or manuscripts to:

Judy Johns, Managing Editor, *The Latham Letter*

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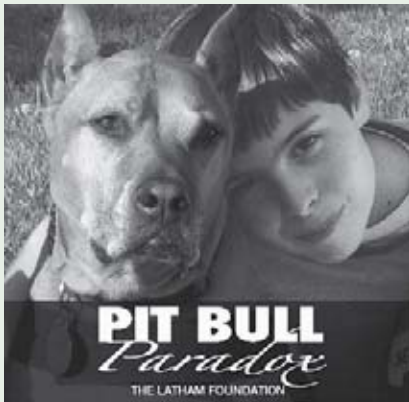
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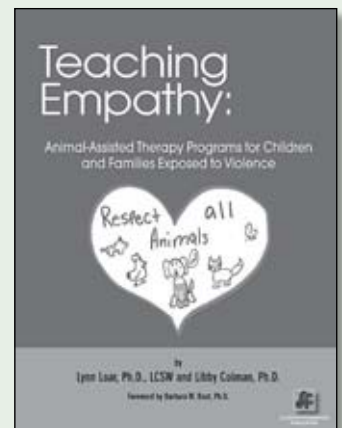
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The Latham Foundation 2009

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Brother Buzz. The evolution of a Kind Bee

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Directed by Tula Asselanis
20 minutes

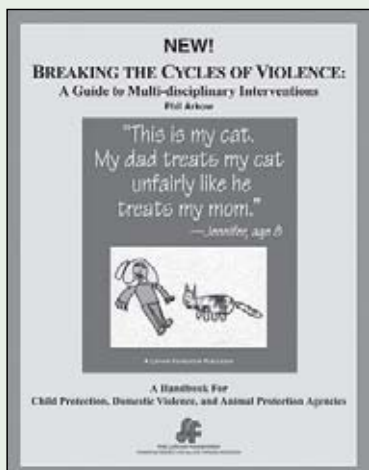
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