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Latham Letter

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FALL 2013

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

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Edith Latham's Mandate:

"To promote, foster, encourage and further
the principles of humaneness, kindness
and benevolence to all living creatures."



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Promotion of Humane Education

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The Latham Letter

Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

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Volume XXXIV, Number 4, Fall 2013

Balanced perspectives on
humane issues and activities



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ABOUT THE LATHAM FOUNDATION:

The Latham Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private operating foundation founded in 1918 to promote respect for all life through education. The Foundation makes grants-in-kind rather than monetary grants. Latham welcomes partnerships with other institutions and individuals who share its commitment to furthering humane education.

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Hugh H. Tebault III,
Latham Foundation's
President

What is Humane Education?

In 2004 I did an informal survey about the definition of humane education. In the past nine years, much has happened and it is time to revisit this core value. This may seem to be a simple question, but it has many variations depending on whom you ask. The simple answer for The Latham Foundation is, “those things that teach kindness and respect of other living creatures.”

Latham’s founders, like many of their generation, were repelled by the utter horrors of WWI. While war has been a part of mankind’s experiences since the beginning, and will likely be with us forever, the horrors of using poison gas and the slaughter of the people and animals was beyond the pale. The Lathams believed there was a better way to educate everyone on the values we all have in common and avoid this in the future. As a result, in 1918 they established the Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education.

When WWII was in progress, some groups in the United States were saying that in order to be kind you had to be anti-war. Edith Latham wrote an editorial (http://www.latham.org/Issues/LL_91_WI.pdf#page=2) explaining that freedom was key to our showing kindness and respect and therefore we must support the fight for freedom. She understood that the freedoms we have in society are the basis from which we can teach and practice kindness toward animals. Ultimately in WWII it was our willingness to fight for Europe and the Pacific that allowed those cultures to regain their freedom and enjoy the humane education principles they have today.

Latham and other organizations have worked over the years to get humane education into the school curriculum in most states. Now other organizations have introduced their own versions or lifestyles as methods of being humane – ergo, humane education. Their personal views do include aspects of humane education, but many narrow the focus to exclude

the majority of society. Some humanists require an almost religious view of behavior: if you don’t do (...), or if you don’t believe (...), you cannot be a humane person. Being a humanist or an environmentalist is not a core element of humane education.

Any time someone tells you that you must only eat vegetables, or not wear leather, or believe in man-made global warming – you know they are not practicing just humane education, but placing their own agenda into the humane education framework. Be careful not to judge too early. There are many very fine people who are great humane educators and hold many personal beliefs that are different than yours; but first and foremost, they are humane educators.

To be fair, we believe that mankind should be a good steward of the resources we have on this earth, using them carefully and appropriately. Ultimately, how we do this is a political issue and best resolved by each community or state. Personal responsibility should be in the forefront in all these choices.

Humane Education is a core set of values that provides us with the tools to better understand other living creatures around us – including our neighbors. It does not separate us from others, but allows us to have good core values in common while enjoying the diversity of other opinions and lifestyles in society. It is not limited to animal lovers, or nature lovers, or farmers, or hunters, or citizens of only one country. It is the common set of beliefs regarding the acceptable behavior toward animals and others.

It is right to show respect to others; it is wrong to hurt others. I believe a person practicing humane education principles would tend to encourage others, listening respectfully and sharing ideas in order to create a successful outcome.

Humane education is a set of values that begins with showing respect for animals and each other so that we can all have a better day, every day.



Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) Announces Pilot Program with the Karen Pryor Academy for Animal Training & Behavior

From GDB's Newsletter

"In GDB's efforts to continually improve our puppy raising program, we are thrilled to introduce a pilot program with the Karen Pryor Academy (KPA). The Program gives graduates of the Academy's professional dog training program, known as Certified Training Partners, the opportunity to raise guide dog puppies using KPA's revolutionary positive reinforcement techniques.



The ultimate goal of this partnership is to determine new and effective training methods to integrate into our formal puppy raising program. Certified Training Partners nation-wide are eligible to volunteer for this program. This collaboration is a wonderful learning opportunity for us, and we're excited about its potential impact on our puppy raising program."



Animal-Assisted Therapy Training Mandated

In what is believed to be the first legislation of its kind anywhere in the world, the State of Connecticut has enacted HB 6465 that requires the Commissioner of Children and Families to develop and implement training for DCF employees and mental health providers on the healing value of the human-animal bond for children, the value of therapy animals in dealing with traumatic situations, and the benefits of animal-assisted therapy programs.

The new law, which allows appropriated funds, also requires creating a coordinated volunteer canine crisis response team who will provide aid to individuals during and after traumatic events, such as the school shootings in Newtown, Conn. The crisis response program will also provide animal-assisted therapy to children and youths living with trauma and loss.



State Rep. Diana Urban

"I am so thrilled this bill passed both chambers. There is well-researched evidence that children and families respond to animal therapy in times of crisis. The animal/human bond helps children as well as their parents process and cope with tragedy," said State Rep. Diana Urban, who introduced the bill after out-of-state canine response teams converged on Newtown because Connecticut did not have a mechanism to organize and deploy its own animal crisis responders. "When Connecticut's volunteer teams are deployed, they will be able to stay indefinitely," she said.

"Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as important to the child as it is to the caterpillar."

– Bradley Millar

Good News from Washington

In August, the White House issued an official statement against breed discrimination: "We don't support breed-specific legislation – research shows that bans on certain types of dogs are largely ineffective and often a waste of public resources."

The Legacy of Chloe and Hercules

By Dr. Lisa Lunghofer

On July 5, 2012, a four-month-old pit bull mix named Hercules was found severely burned in a North Philadelphia neighborhood. It was the fifth incident in four weeks in which dogs and cats had been set on fire in Philadelphia. Ten days earlier, Chloe, also a pit bull mix, died after being doused with accelerant and set aflame. The cases outraged the public and spurred the Pennsylvania SPCA to act.

A week later Jerry Buckley, who had recently been named chief executive officer of the Pennsylvania SPCA, led a rally in memory of Chloe and for Hercules, who at the time was more flesh than fur, suffering from burns covering 75 percent of his body. As Hercules received extensive medical care, including skin grafts, Buckley implored rally attendees to join with the Pennsylvania SPCA to put an end to animal cruelty, saying, “Aided by animal lovers in the Philadelphia area and across Pennsylvania, there is no reason why we cannot reduce the rampant abuse of animals and lessen the suffering.”

At the rally, Buckley announced the launch of the Fund for Humane Education, which will support expansion of education programs, particularly those aimed at youth.

Wendy Marano, a spokesperson for the Pennsylvania SPCA at the time of the fund’s launch, said, “Chloe and Hercules are ambassadors, representing the need to stop all forms of cruelty.” She continued, saying, “Education is so important. We need to teach empathy towards animals and all living things. We need to empower children from an early age to be protectors of animals.”

A Community-based Approach

The launch of the fund provided an opportunity for the Pennsylvania SPCA to step back and reflect on the role of humane education in Philadelphia. In planning the education initiative, we began from the fundamental premise that animals are an integral part of our community. Our holistic approach to humane education is founded on a belief that where people are at risk, animals are at risk. We are committed to providing innovative education programs designed to improve the well-being of Philadelphia residents and change community norms regarding the treatment of pets. Buckley notes what he hopes will be the far-reaching results of the Pennsylvania SPCA’s efforts: “We believe our approach will serve as a one-of-a-kind model for replication in other communities interested in promoting the welfare of animals and people alike.”



Jerry Buckley, CEO, Penn. SPCA



At the rally to honor Chloe and Hercules

One of the signature initiatives of the education effort is collaboration with Drexel University. In his 2010 Convocation Address, President John A. Fry said he had a vision for Drexel as the “most civically engaged university in the United States.” The University is particularly committed to investing in the neighborhoods adjacent to the campus. Specifically, Drexel’s Neighborhood Initiatives provide a comprehensive and long-term strategy to improve the quality of life in the West Philadelphia neighborhoods of Powelton Village and Mantua.

Slated to open in 2014, the Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships is central to the success of the Neighborhood Initiatives. It will serve as a unique “urban extension center” that draws on the Drexel community and their partners to provide a wealth of resources to residents of West Philadelphia. The Center will be located on a formerly vacant site that includes two historical properties and a school, totaling more than 29,400 square feet of space.

The Neighborhood Initiatives address six key areas that, taken together, will strengthen the community. The Pennsylvania SPCA is partnering with Drexel to provide programs focused on one of these areas – health and wellness. Dr. Lucy Kerman, Drexel’s Vice Provost for University and Community Partnerships,

said, “For us, it is a really innovative partnership. We will have programs that improve the health of animals in our neighborhood, and at the same time, show the connection between the humane treatment of animals and communities free of interpersonal violence. These are particularly valuable lessons

for young people.” Jennifer Britton, the interim director of the Dornsife Center, went on to explain: “The Pennsylvania SPCA is working to address animal cruelty in Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania, but we are strategizing with them to pilot programs on a neighborhood level to achieve the most impact. The partnership with Drexel at the Dornsife Center will offer a platform for ongoing, intensive education and outreach efforts.”

In collaboration with Drexel, the Pennsylvania SPCA will pilot an array of programs that will focus on: (1) teaching youth to be ambassadors to the community, educating others about the organization’s mission to end animal cruelty and how they can help; (2) improving the health of animals by providing access to affordable veterinary care and education on responsible pet ownership; and (3) strengthening the bond between people and their pets. Because we recognize the importance of reaching all segments of the community, we plan to offer programs for children and youth, adults and seniors, and entire families.



Hercules in the hospital

This summer the first pilot program began in Mantua. The Pennsylvania SPCA partnered with Girls, Inc. to offer In Our Own Hands, an experiential leadership program for middle school-aged girls. The program helps girls to build leadership skills and create lasting social change through community action projects. The focus of this summer's program was animal welfare. Over the course of 12 sessions, the girls learned about the importance of treating animals humanely, developed team building and leadership skills, and gained awareness of issues related to animal abuse and neglect.

During the last two weeks of the program, girls worked together to develop their community action project. Together the girls created a board game called Animal Life, which features true/false statements designed to teach other children about the importance of taking care of animals and how they can prevent animal cruelty. The girls are eager for the game to be prominently displayed at the Dornsife Center when it opens next year. Briton agrees that interactive and intensive programs like this are important: "Offering opportunities for hands-on advocacy and education about animal welfare issues, we think, can help our [program] participants be positive role models in terms of caring for companion animals."

Plans are currently under way for a second pilot program in Mantua. The program is a replication of Youth Leaders, one of the flagship programs of Safe Humane Chicago, a nonprofit dedicated to "creating safe and humane communities by inspiring positive



Animal Life Game

relationships between people and animals." Dr. Cynthia Bathurst, who developed Youth Leaders and is Executive Director of Safe Humane Chicago, will help to adapt the program, which traditionally has been offered as a semester-long high school elective course. In Philadelphia, we plan to offer Youth Leaders through the Mantua 4H Club, which is currently being developed by Drexel.

The ten-week program will train high school students to make presentations on the humane treatment of animals to elementary school children living in West Philadelphia. Adult volunteers will mentor the high school students, teaching them compassion, animal safety, and civic responsibility. These students will then prepare and deliver their own 45-minute humane education presentation to children at local area elementary schools. Consistent with positive youth development principles, Youth Leaders will provide high school students with opportunities to: (1) participate in structured activities; (2) develop skills such as teamwork, communication, and leadership; (3) form pro-social relationships with adults and peers; and (4) give back to the community by serving as leaders in an effort to stop animal cruelty and, ultimately, make West Philadelphia safer and more humane.

Other programs we plan to implement in collaboration with Drexel include a mobile vaccine clinic at which we will provide education about responsible pet ownership and the humane treatment of companion animals; an initiative in collaboration with local food pantries and social service providers to help both seniors and their pets stay healthy by providing home visits, pet food, and access to low-cost veterinary care; and opportunities to strengthen the human-animal bond. Training classes that are fun and engaging for both dogs and their people

will reduce the likelihood of behavior problems and promote a strong bond between the animal and his/her owner, reducing the likelihood of surrender. Classes specifically designed to engage all family members in dog training offer additional opportunities to promote communication and bonding. Recreational opportunities for people and their pets will be important ways to promote health and wellness. The grounds of the Dornsife Center include a renovated carriage house and a large, fenced open space that will, respectively, be ideal locations for training programs and recreational activities.

The Importance of Working Together

The Pennsylvania SPCA recognizes that the success of our education programs will depend on collaboration with nonprofit and for-profit organizations, government agencies, community groups, and civic leaders. We see each program as an opportunity to build relationships with community representatives and establish enduring partnerships with both traditional and nontraditional partners.

In an op-ed piece featured in the Philadelphia Enquirer in June 2013, Buckley wrote, “One thing I’ve learned in my first year with the Pennsylvania SPCA is that there is so much to teach, and we cannot teach alone. We must come together to educate our peers, be a voice for animals, and ultimately build stronger, healthier and happier communities.” He added, “For Chloe, Hercules, and all the other animals I’ve met this past year, there has to be a better way.”

An Ending and a New Beginning

Hercules’ story has a happy ending. Despite long odds, he was nursed back to health by a team of experts from the Animal Alliance of New Jersey and Crown Veterinary Specialists. Dr. Amy Zahn, one of the veterinarians who cared for him,

said, “Hercules was the most amazing patient. He never ‘complained’ about anything that needed to be done to him. His injuries were horrific, so it was absolutely endearing to see how he endured. He was always trusting and tolerant.” Dr. Zahn eventually adopted Hercules, and he now lives with a family that includes a cat and two children who “adore him.” He is happy, healthy, and fully recovered from his ordeal.

Hercules is a symbol of resilience and the healing power of compassion. He represents the promise of what a community can accomplish when we come together to protect the lives and promote the well-being of our most vulnerable members. Buckley hopes the dog’s tragic experience will indeed lead to “a better way” and that the legacy of Chloe and Hercules will be a community that values and respects all living beings.

Dr. Lisa Lunghofer, Executive Director of Making Good Work, works with mission-driven organizations to help them create strategic plans, develop programs, write grant proposals, design evaluation plans, and track outcomes. Since 2009 she has served as a consultant to animal-related programs throughout the country, including Safe Humane Chicago, Forget Me Not Farm, Best Friends Animal Society, Soldier’s Best Friend, Animals and Society Institute, and Lucky Dog Animal Rescue. She is currently working with the Pennsylvania SPCA to develop their humane education initiative.

**To learn more about
Dr. Lunghofer’s work, visit
www.makinggoodwork.org**



Hercules today, happy at home



THE HEALING POWERS OF ANIMALS

By Tiina aila Eldridge

Editor's Note: Tiina aila Eldridge was a featured speaker at the May 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society in Ontario, Canada, while she was finishing up her work-release program from a correctional institution. Phil Arkow, chair of Latham's Animal Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Project, who also spoke at the meeting, was so inspired by her story – as were the entire audience – that we thought we would share it with our readers as well.



Thank you for inviting me to speak here today. I feel honored to be able to share my story with you. Like most people here today, I'm an animal person and we're not always good at expressing our emotions to others, so this gives me an opportunity to do so. For those who saw me on a day-to-day basis, I don't think the transformations that were taking place in my life were that visible, and I'm so glad to be able to articulate them today so you can all know what an important role you played in these changes.

All my life, I've lived with violence – as a child, in my relationships, and then when I chose to live a criminal life. I don't really want to spend too much time discussing my past and the reasons why I became incarcerated because my story is one that has a happy ending and I'd like to focus on that. I'd like to discuss the role that the work release that I've done with the Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society has played in giving me a hopeful future.

When my prison sentence started six years ago I knew there was a partnership between KWHS and Grand Valley Institution for Women. Even back then it sounded like an amazing opportunity – but not something I thought I would ever get the chance to do.

To be involved in a work-release, a woman – I'm just going to take a moment here to explain; I don't like to label people as inmates or offenders because there's more to us than our current incarceration status. So I refer to my fellow incarcerated as women, because that's what we are – so to be involved in a work release, a woman needs to have maintained a minimum security level for about a year; remained free of institutional charges; have completed her correctional plan, meaning she has done successfully everything asked of her in terms of programming; and demonstrated a genuine desire to change – that means distancing yourself from drama, gossip and negative influences within – not easy to do when you live with 200 women!

Well, to be fair, there were only about 100 of us back then. But back then I felt like a failure and a loser and I wasn't even sure I wanted to change, let alone prove to CSC – Correction Service Canada – that I wanted to.

But the idea of a work release stayed in the back of my mind. I had lost my dog Alfie when I got arrested and I missed him dearly, and any connection with an animal would have helped me tremendously at that point.

But I continued to feel hopeless and like a loser, and I worked very hard to hide my problems from everyone who could help me. I was released into the community on day parole, but not only did I mess up, I reoffended and got nearly 3½ years added to my five-year sentence.

You would have thought this would have made me feel more like a loser, but thankfully, it caused me to see that if I didn't do something drastic, I'd never break

“ **The work release that I’ve done with the
Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society
is giving me a hopeful future!** ”

free of the correctional system. A judge actually told me that if I didn’t change I’d die in a cage – harsh, but today I’m thankful for those words.

So, with the thought of a work-release to the Humane Society as a goal, I set out to earn it! I never gave up even when people laughed and said “You? – Yeah, right!” or tried to discourage me. I faced a lot of that because prison is an environment that pits women against each other and pushes us to test our limits and breaking points, not at all the “healing” environment it tries to portray itself as.

I didn’t want to just achieve this work release: I wanted to find a goal and purpose for my life and my release that would allow me to truly change. It sounds crazy, but with the new time added to my sentence, I was glad to have a few years to work on this.

First, I started seeing a psychologist, not easy in an overcrowded, understaffed prison. I may have told a few white lies to get in to see the psychologist, but as soon as we started working together it was apparent how much help I genuinely needed! Then, I began to explore educational opportunities. I had dropped out of university almost 20 years earlier due to an abusive relationship, my first of many. At the time, I’d floated around in school for about four years and I had all my electives, but I just couldn’t decide on a major. This time, my life experience and incarceration lead me naturally to Women’s Studies.

Now, I just had to find a way to pay for it. As prisoners, we are not eligible to receive student loans, so I relied on bursaries, (financial scholarships) grants, and I even earned a scholastic scholarship.

Each semester I began paying for my textbooks out of my institutional pay – \$6/day – that I had saved. And, with the help of GVI’s education counselor, I began applying for funding. The scariest year was this one that just passed. All government bursaries for prisoners had been eliminated, so while I was finishing my last course and a half towards my Women’s Studies B.A., I wasn’t sure if I could pay for it. Finally, just two weeks before the payment deadline, I received a bursary to pay my tuition. And I’m very proud to say I’m the first woman from GVI to have earned her B.A. and, I have to brag, I received straight As!

I also became involved in something called the Peer Support Program at GVI. We receive training in crisis management so that we are able to counsel our peers not only in times of emergency and crisis but also just when life gets overwhelming or rough on the inside. Through working with the psychologist, studying Women’s Studies and being involved in Peer Support, it became apparent to me that I wanted to work with and help women, especially women who were victims of violence. I also got elected to the Inmate Committee where I really found my voice and my desire to advocate for women’s rights.

While researching careers I discovered the Assaulted Women’s and Children’s Counselor/Advocate Program at George Brown College in Toronto. This is a feminist program that helps empower women with life experience to use that experience to help others. Oddly enough, my criminal record and history of violence became assets to me gaining acceptance to the program! So this became my goal, and when the time came to apply, I only applied to this one program, once

again putting my faith in my plans and goals. And it paid off because I have been recently accepted to the program for September 2013 and granted parole so I can make this goal a reality.

While I began to find my voice and build the foundations for change, there was still something seriously missing. I was very confident here inside the prison, but I was terrified of the outside. The idea of interacting with “normal” people scared the daylights out of me. I wasn’t going out on any passes into the community even though I was eligible.

Then a program came to GVI called the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program supported by the Hallman Foundation. It brings outside university students from Wilfred Laurier University into the prison to participate in classes with inside students, for which we all receive university credit. Much to my relief, I didn’t get accepted to the first class! But I faced my fears and applied again for the second semester and was accepted. What a change that class made in my life – the outside students not only listened to me, they also respected me and appreciated what I had to say.

“ **To be honest, I think
[they] are a little sick of me
begging to make our next
project discovering a way
to partner with KWHS to
bring therapy animals
into GVI!** ”

Healing, continued on pg 14

A New Life for the LATHAM FOUNTAIN



In 1913 Edith and Milton Latham, founders of the Latham Foundation, erected a bronze and concrete sculpture where two busy streets intersect in Oakland, California. The sculpture honored their parents, James and Henrietta Latham, who founded the first local SPCA. In keeping with the Lathams' love of animals, the bottom of the sculpture included watering troughs for horses, bowls for dogs on a lower level, and a large birdbath on top.

In recent years, unfortunately, the once vibrant V-shaped intersection had become a traffic bottleneck and a headache for drivers – hardly a walk in the park for pedestrians. Oakland city planners could have added lanes or more signals, but instead they opted to experiment with a different approach: they have banned cars and turned Latham



Square (which is actually a triangle), into a pedestrian plaza.

With the support of a state grant and surrounding downtown merchants, the plaza now features picnic tables, artwork salvaged from the city's corporation yard, greenery, and occasional live music. It opened on August 16th and is expected to be in place for about six months. At that point, based on public response, the city will make it permanent, modify it, or scratch the whole idea and reopen the area to car traffic.

As Latham's President Hugh Tebault told San Francisco Chronicle reporter Carolyn Jones, *"If it helps people become kinder – to animals and each other – then that's a very good thing. I'm sure the Lathams would approve."*



Animal Welfare Seminar for Teens

By Elana Blum

After years of teaching a traditional summer camp, I decided to switch it up this year and teach a three-day seminar for teenagers. With the goal of empowering the applicants, I titled it “The Animal Welfare Seminar for Teens.” It worked! We had thoughtful application essays, enthusiastic parents, and a full class. I knew we were on to something.

With the intended time restraint, I packed the curriculum with pertinent topics. This isn’t an easy task for a Humane Educator because we have so much we want the kids to understand. Since I work at an open door animal shelter, we started with how and why facilities like ours exist. We moved on to society’s attitudes towards various animals. When they returned from a tour and a break bonding with the animals, we discussed one of the reasons for the vegan snacks we served. This led right into our next lesson, factory farming.

That is quite a lot of information for the first day but having worked closely with teenagers for more than a decade, I knew they could process it. With today’s



constant access to digital information, students already know a lot. My goal was to help make sense of this knowledge and apply it with experiential learning.

In the photo above of Kimmie and the handsome, block-headed dog we named Hank, we see the smiling, non-judgmental faces of hope. Hank stayed with us in the classroom and by the end of the day, everyone knew that judging a dog based on appearance is just as inaccurate as judging a person because of how they look.

Not unexpectedly, there were a few students who had not yet warmed up to reptiles. Our bearded dragon helped enlighten the class by charming us with his smile, too.

Another highlight was a poignant visit from a friend who fostered and then adopted her dog, Belle, from the Beagle Freedom Project, a wonderful organization that rescues dogs from laboratories that conduct animal testing. Together we celebrated the one-year anniversary of Belle’s release. As we talked about how she never got to walk on grass or play with a toy while she was in the laboratory, Belle strolled around the room and greeted each of us with kindness and understanding.

Now it’s the beginning of the school year and I am already receiving emails from the students about future projects that they want to do. Based on this enthusiasm, I’m convinced that the Animal Welfare Seminar for Teens was a big success.

Elana Blum is a Humane Educator with the Pasadena (CA) Humane Society and SPCA. In addition to her classroom presentations, she manages the Pet Therapy Program and the reading enrichment program, Barks & Books. She can be reached at elana@phsspc.org.

Photos courtesy of Elana Blum



Slowly, my confidence grew as I took more classes and became a member of the Walls To Bridges Collective, a think tank we formed out of the program, who, to be honest, I think are a little sick of me begging to make our next project discovering a way to partner with KWHS to bring therapy animals into GVI! By now I think you may be beginning to see how when I set my mind to something, my stubborn determination prevails, so one day this will happen!

But I knew I had to get out into the community if I wanted to be successful. So when I saw there was a posting for the work release I'd always dreamed of, I was on it! I applied right away and persisted.

I faced a lot of obstacles in trying to get this position. For example, I had three different parole officers. Every time I would get one on board, I'd get a new one and have to start all over with someone who didn't know anything about me other than what they read on paper, and my early history was not good. I even had to put in a grievance against a staff member – my primary worker – who was not doing her job. I won the grievance and the warden intervened so the paperwork would get done. This was a very scary process



I know what it's like to be scared and locked in a cage, so I tried to love the animals and help to ease that fear.



because my primary worker is the one who basically decides everything I do in the institution and if I get to go out on passes – so to complain against her takes a lot of bravery.

Fourteen months later, with The Humane Society's tremendous patience, I finally made it! It was such a challenge to get this work release that I almost forgot to be scared! Almost. But the thought of coming to work with animals outweighed most of my fears. I hadn't petted a dog in six years and having grown up with animals, I desperately missed being around them.

I was also suffering the trauma of being separated from my own dog Alfie. I came home one day to find police in the hallway outside my condo and when they arrested me, the first thing I said was, "You can't arrest me, I have a dog!" The police managed to put handcuffs on one of my wrists but couldn't pry the dog out of the other arm. Eventually I surrendered the dog when the Toronto Humane Society arrived. That was honestly the worst part of my arrest and I put more effort into trying to find someone to help with my dog than trying to get bail.

I couldn't find anyone to help me and little Alfie got adopted. For years this traumatized me. But how wonderful that I ended up at a Humane Society, able to view firsthand the love all of the staff members give to all the animals! So I know now that my dog was loved and cared for and is in a good forever home today. This is just one of the many benefits I have received through this work placement.

In the days before I started the placement, I grew increasingly anxious. I wondered what everyone would think of me. Would I make them all nervous and uncomfortable? Would they all stop talking every time I entered the room? I know there is a natural curiosity surrounding prisoners, especially women prisoners, as the picture that most people have is based on what they see in the media.

But it wasn't like that at all: everyone was so kind, friendly and patient with me, so much so that I wondered if they even knew where I came from! This gave me a whole new set of problems: what if they later found out and felt like I had been lying to them or keeping it from them? Unfortunately, I was too shy to just ask. I spoke to my work-release coordinator, Michelle, about how to broach the subject and she encouraged me to be open and honest. I wasn't sure how to do that because in spite of everyone's kindness, I still found myself sometimes so nervous I would stutter over my words. I didn't want to focus on that so I poured myself into my work. That was the only way I knew how to show my gratitude for how kind everyone was being. I'm not good at expressing my feelings, so I cleaned! I felt proud when I'd leave at the end of the day and the place looked great. I knew it would make everyone's jobs a little easier and lives a little less stressful.

Then my past came up in conversation with one of the other volunteers. I later learned that she was one of the only ones who didn't know about my incarceration. I explained to her where I came from and why I was there. At first my words were shaky and my face was burning, but then I gained courage as I told my story. I never thought I'd feel brave on the outside again – but I did. This is exactly what I needed because in my future I will have to explain this, but I don't need to feel ashamed. I've made bad decisions, I've paid for them and I'm trying to be a better person.

After that, the floodgates opened and I felt I could be open and honest and share my experience. I talked to everyone, maybe too much! The questions I was

“ Bringing animals into the institution

will give women who can't get out like I did

the benefits of healing that I had. ”

asked were always thoughtful and respectful and I talked freely about prison, incarceration, and why a lot of women end up in prison. That was very healing for me. I began to feel more comfortable and more like I belonged every day.

I had encountered a unique set of problems, though, as I got accustomed to outside life. For example, inside (prison) when someone asks, “Did you see so and so?” the answer is no because you are supposed to mind your own business at all times. Or, if I entered the lunch room and two people were talking, in my experience I ignored them and didn't get involved in their conversation. I think my co-workers found this kind of rude! So it helped me to re-learn non-prison social etiquette!

All these amazing things were happening for me – and I haven't even got to the best part yet – the animals! It was so fantastic to be around them again. They had no idea I was a prisoner and loved me unconditionally! Although I worked hard, once I felt comfortable I was always able to sneak off and get some puppy or kitty love. Sometimes things they did made me laugh so hard I cried – an emotion I hadn't felt in a long time.


Then my duties grew to include animal care. My heart soared and I couldn't wait to get to work every day! Don't get me wrong, I was happy to just be there helping in any way I could. But when I was given the responsibility of caring for these amazing animals and I was relied upon to help, changes happened in me. I was valued and appreciated, and for the first time in many years I wasn't a prisoner – I was a person! I don't think any gift I'll ever be given will ever compare (well, maybe a really big and sparkly diamond!).

Things just got better and better. I loved the people, I loved the animals, and I just wanted to help and to learn. I feel my work was so important. I know what it's like to be scared and locked in a cage, so I tried to love the animals and help to ease that fear. Seeing them slowly open up was so rewarding. I learned this from every staff member who gave their endless love to all the animals.

There were times when I wanted to cry for the sadness and cruelty that humans had inflicted, but I'm so proud to have been there to give my love and try to make it better. Then there was the sheer joy when they found their forever homes and the privilege I felt when I – me! – got to name two kittens! Not much work got done by me during their stay there – but giving love is part of the job, too – right?

I could go on forever ... I can't thank everyone enough at the KWHS for all they've done nor can I express how instrumental this placement was in giving me the confidence to go out there and succeed. And I'm not saying good-bye; I'm hoping this is just the beginning of a lifelong partnership.

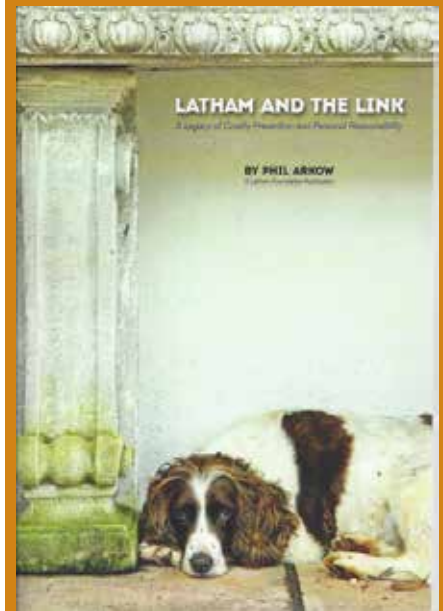
In my future counseling and advocating for women, two of my hopes are that I'll be able to incorporate animals into therapy and that we can get a partnership between GVI and KWHS. Bringing animals into the institution will give women who can't get out like I did the benefits of healing that I had.

This was such a wonderful experience. If we can only share it with more people, I know it will change lives – it did with me! Thank you SO much. 

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Latham who have
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the lives of millions of
children and animals.



Urban Resource Institute Launches URI PALS Project, New York City's First Initiative to Shelter Domestic Violence Survivors with their Pets

Article courtesy of Allie Phillips,
National District Attorneys Association

In May, the Urban Resource Institute (URI), a leading NYC domestic violence nonprofit organization, launched the first co-sheltering program in New York City, naming it PALS (People and Animals Living Safely). The URIPALS program now ensures that pet owners no longer have to choose between their safety and their beloved animals.

URI is partnering with the Mayor's Alliance for NYC Animals, the animal welfare agency ensuring that each pet is seen by a veterinarian and that animal welfare issues are addressed as pets enter the domestic violence shelter with their families. The program is currently assisting five families with pets including Chowder, a five-year-old Bombay cat. Chowder was able to join the family at the URI shelter after years of abuse and being terrorized with acts that included being duct taped, tied up and threatened in a closed microwave. All the families are doing very well and constantly express how much it means for them to have their beloved pets with them in the URIPALS apartments.

"There has never been a more important time for the domestic violence shelter community to open its doors to pets," said URI President Nathaniel Fields. "As we witnessed during Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy, pets are members of the family and no one should have to make the impossible decision to leave them behind during times of crisis."

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, national data show that more than 40% of domestic violence victims stay in abusive situations out of fear of what would happen if they left their pets behind. Plus, more than 70% of pet owners who enter shelters report that the abuser has threatened, injured or killed family pets. Yet in New York City – the largest provider of domestic violence services in the country with more than 50 shelters – not one shelter allowed pets in residence, until now.

"The Alliance has assisted in hundreds of crisis cases – many involving domestic violence – over the past six years," said Jane Hoffman, Alliance President. "We are extremely pleased

that with our new URI partnership, families in domestic violence situations will be sheltered safely with their pets and away from the abusers, in keeping with our goal to help people and pets remain together during times of crisis."

During its six-month pilot phase, URI PALS will accept cats and smaller animals such as hamsters, birds and fish into shelters. With the goal of raising \$250,000 for program support and expansion, URI plans to launch PALS in its three other domestic violence shelters in New York City and welcome dogs into shelters as well. These funds will enable URI PALS to make the structural and organizational changes – such as soundproofing, building dog runs, and increasing staff training – that dogs and larger animals would require.

To ensure operational success, URI and the Alliance enlisted the help of Allie Phillips, national expert and founder of Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T) – the first and only global initiative that guides family violence shelters on how to welcome families with pets. "Urban Resource Institute's PALS program



**The URIPALS program
ensures that pet owners
no longer have to choose between
their safety and
their beloved animals.**



will change the way New York City assists families with pets experiencing violence,” said Phillips. “Lives will be saved due to URI’s recognition that pets are part of the family and can be targeted in situations of family violence.”

Muriel Raggi, a domestic violence survivor who was in shelter four years ago, said she’s thankful to URI and the Alliance for recognizing how important pets are in people’s lives. “I remember lying in bed at night, with so many fears and worries swirling in my head, wishing I could have my dog Jasmine next to me to provide raw affection, comfort and support,” said Raggi. “URI PALS will ensure that other survivors with pets won’t face the heartbreaking choices I did.”

As part of the initiative, URI is launching an education campaign to raise awareness about pets and domestic violence. One of its key messages is to inform the public that New York is one of 25 states that allow people to place their pets on orders of protection.

Urban Resource Institute (URI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides comprehensive, holistic, and supportive human services programs that help individuals and families in the New York metropolitan area overcome obstacles and better their lives. For more information, please visit www.urinyc.org.

The **Mayor’s Alliance for NYC’s Animals** is a 501 (c)(3) charity that receives no government funding. As the organization marks its 10th anniversary, with donations from foundations, corporations, and individuals, it is committed to transforming New York City into a no-kill community by 2015: where no dogs or cats of reasonable health and temperament will be killed merely because they do not have homes. Working with 150 partner rescues and no-kill shelters, the Alliance offers important services to save the lives of NYC’s animals. For more information, please visit www.animalallianceny.org.

Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T)[™] is the first and only global initiative offering guidance to family violence shelters

on how to accommodate families with pets. The SAF-T Start-Up Manual provides practical information for shelters to provide on-site housing of family pets in an effort to keep families and pets safe from violence and reduce the number of families from returning to the abusive home in order to protect their pet. SAF-T was created by former prosecuting attorney Allie Phillips when she was a frontline prosecutor and saw too many victims returning home to protect their pet. Currently the SAF-T program has over 70 family shelters in the United States, Australia and Canada. Please visit www.animalsandfamilies.org for more information.



For tips on keeping the entire family safe in domestic violence situations, please visit www.urinyc.org.

To learn more about becoming a foster family for pets in crisis, visit www.animalallianceny.org.

Why Dogs Hump and Bees Get Depressed: The Fascinating Science of Animal Intelligence, Emotions, Friendship, and Conservation

By Marc Bekoff, author of
The Emotional Lives of Animals

As one of the leading experts on animal emotions and the growing field of anthrozoology - the study of animal-human interactions – Dr. Marc Bekoff is renowned for making the rapidly changing science and policy around animal intelligence and emotions accessible for a mass audience. In this far-reaching, entertaining, and timely collection of his popular blog posts for *Psychology Today*, he explores our complicated relationships with animals through the lens of recent research demonstrating the surprising cognitive and emotional capacity of animals such as fish, bees, and lizards.

The book is filled with amazing stories about the empathy, grief, and love we can observe in both wild and domestic animals, whether it's humpback whales protecting gray whales from orca attacks or what we're learning about PTSD in dogs who serve alongside soldiers in combat. (The book includes special emphasis on the canines that Bekoff has spent his career studying.)

Bekoff also calls our attention to policies toward animals that are not keeping pace with the developing science about what animals feel and think, such as in biomedical research or industrial agriculture. This collection is both an updated sequel to Bekoff's popular book *The Emotional Lives of Animals* and a call to begin the important work of "re-wilding" ourselves and the way we treat our fellow animals.

Sections include:

Animals and Us: Reflections on Our Challenging, Frustrating, Confusing, and Deep Interrelationships with other Animals

Against Speciesism: Why All Animals are Unique and Special

Media and the (Mis)representation of Animals

Why Dogs Hump: Or, What We Can Learn from Our Special Friends

Consciousness, Sentience, and Cognition: A Potpourri of Current Research on Flies, Fish, and Other Animals

The Emotional Lives of Animals: The Ever-Expanding Circle of Sentience Includes Depressed Bees and Empathic Chickens

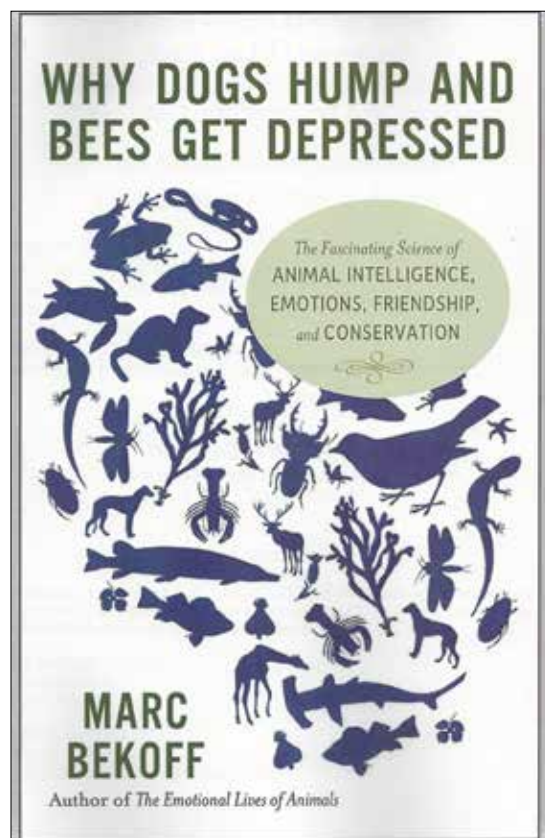
Wild Justice and Moral Intelligence: Don't Blame Other Animals for Our Destructive Ways

The Lives of Captive Creatures: Why Are They Even There?

Who We Eat is a Moral Question

Who Lives, Who Dies, and Why: Redecorating Nature, Peaceful Coexistence, and Compassionate Conservation

Re-wilding Our Hearts: The Importance of Kindness, Empathy, and Compassion for All Beings



Why Dogs Hump and Bees Get Depressed: The Fascinating Science of Animal Intelligence, Emotions, Friendship, and Conservation

By Marc Bekoff

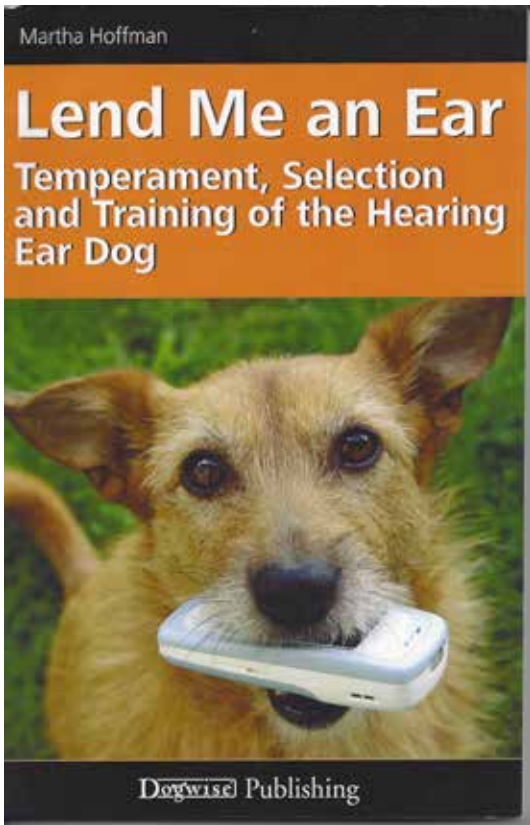
\$15.95 • 320 pages

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A subscription to the Latham Letter is the perfect way to show you care. Help your friends, colleagues, vets, children's teachers, etc. stay informed about the latest activities in humane education, animal-assisted therapy, and animal welfare.

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Dog potential; and dog-friendly training methods for teaching a dog to alert to sounds.

Martha Hoffman is the Training Director for the Hearing Dog Program at the San Francisco SPCA. During the last 25 years she has tested more than 20,000 shelter dogs and trained several hundred Hearing Dogs. She lives in California and always has several Hearing Dogs in training at her home or with local foster-trainers.

Dogwise Publishing, Ingram & Baker & Taylor

Price: \$24.95
Paperback, 6" x 9"
220 pps, B&W photographs
ISBN: 9781617811210

Lend Me an Ear – Temperament, Selection and Training of the Hearing Ear Dog

By Martha Hoffman

As author Martha Hoffman explains, “Compared to dogs, all humans are hearing-challenged.”

But it takes more than sharp ears to be a Hearing Dog. Mixed companion-breed dogs from shelters and rescues have proven themselves to be more talented for this career than any existing dog breed. When a curious, people-loving busybody of a mutt with a natural interest in sounds is trained and paired with the right human partner, wonderful things happen.

Hoffman explains how to select and train a Hearing Dog, including: The complex temperament of the perfect Hearing Dog; Testing methods to select; shelter dogs for Hearing

My Animal, My Self: A Breakthrough Way to Understand How You and Your Animal Reflect Each Other

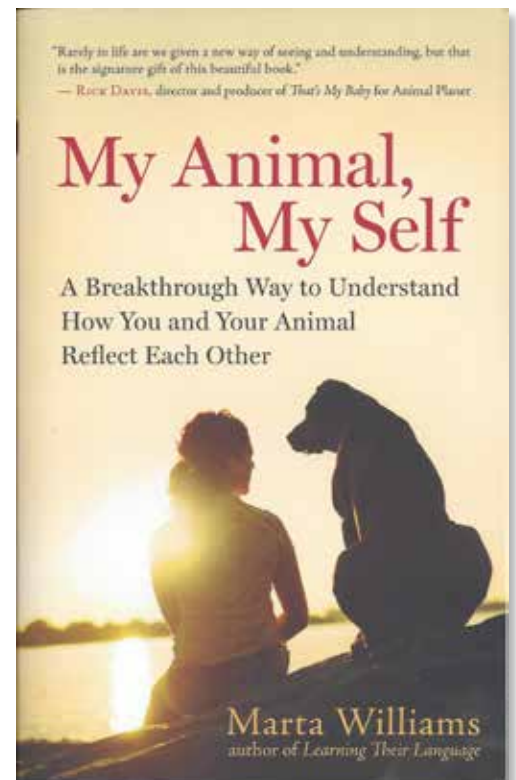
By Marta Williams

My Animal, My Self brings into focus an unexamined dynamic in the relationships between human and non-human animals: the idea that our animals are often our mirrors.

The premise of the book is that our animals are deeply and inextricably connected to us on the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual levels, and can pick up and reflect back to us the issues and events of our lives. For example, an animal could mimic or mirror the back pain or emotional anxiety exhibited by the owner.

In a clear and detailed presentation, this book examines how and why mirroring between people and animals can occur, and gives in-depth guidance on what to do when a mirroring situation is negative or out of balance. The author relates heartfelt stories from clients, students, friends, and her own life as practical examples of how animals can mirror our inner and outer worlds. Through a series of exercises and an extensive questionnaire, readers will gain unique insight into the healing and teaching roles of their animals, both past and current, and the profound gifts their animals put forth.

With her previous books, *Learning Their Language*, *Beyond Words*, and *Ask Your Animal*, Williams established herself as one of the world’s principal experts on animal communication. Now, in *My Animal, My Self*, she combines her years of research and practical



experience with insights from interviews with veterinarians, animal behavior specialists, human psychologists, and animal trainers. This book offers readers a chance to see and understand their animals in a totally new way.

Marta Williams is a biologist and an animal communicator. For more information visit www.martawilliams.com.

***My Animal, My Self:
A Breakthrough Way to Understand
How You and Your Animal Reflect
Each Other***

By Marta Williams

\$15.95.232 pages.

ISBN: 978-1-60868-169-3

**AVMA Animal Hospital
Video Game**

You get to be the veterinarian.

Start out as New Veterinarian and work your way up the ranks to become Chief Veterinarian of AVMA Animal Hospital. The quicker you are at diagnosing and treating the animals, the more points you'll score. Can't get to all the animals in time? Just try again and build on your skills. Learn about each animal's ailments, diagnostics, and treatments as you race the clock and treat the animals. During the game you'll have the opportunity to treat dogs, cats, guinea pigs, birds and turtles. Not only is the game a fun way for children in grades 4-8 to learn about veterinary medicine, it's a fun game to play for any animal lover.

***Play AVMA Animal Hospital
on your mobile device!***

AVMA Animal Hospital was developed by *Game Gurus*. Development of this video game was funded through a grant provided by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation.

The Problem of Dog-Related Incidents and Encounters

Published by The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice

This booklet, by *Latham Letter* contributors Ledy VanKavage, Esq., and Patricia Rushing, Ed.D, along with Cynthia Bathurst, Ph.D., Donald Cleary, and Karen Delise, provides a wealth of valuable information. Although it is designed to help law enforcement officers deal effectively and safely with dog-related incidents, any reader will appreciate the sections on dog body language.

Bernard Melekian, Director of the Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice, explains, "With *The Problem of Dog-Related Incidents and Encounters*, law enforcement officers have a valuable resource to help them improve incidents involving dogs – internally, externally, and with political audiences – and to build the knowledge, skills, and awareness necessary to succeed in these encounters.

"This publication offers an in-depth look into developing effective strategies in assessing a dog's environment; what dog posture, vocalization, and facial expressions mean; options for distracting and escaping from a dog; defensive options in dealing with a dog; asking the right questions in dog investigations; and effective gathering of dog evidence and report writing. Presented here are important findings as well as powerful recommendations for agencies to improve their dog encounter processes and illustrate those processes to the public in a way that promotes safety for officers, the public, and dogs they encounter."

For information visit COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov

Authors:

Cynthia Bathurst, Ph.D., Principal Director, Safe Humane Chicago, National Director, Project Safe Humane, Best Friends Animal Society

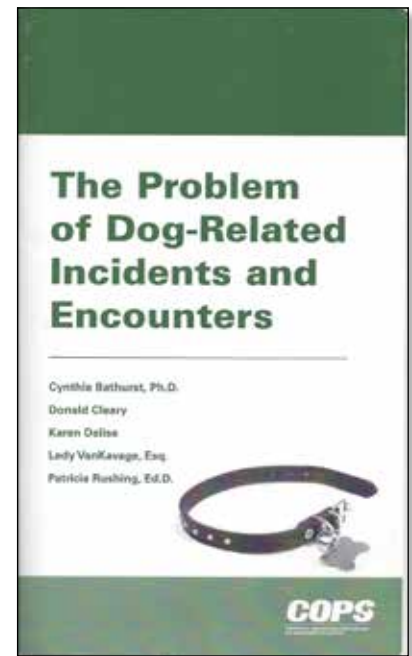
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ISBN: 978-1-935676-31-7



How to Speak Dog

By Dr. Gary Weitzman,
President of the San Diego
Humane Society and SPCA

Reviewed by Judy Johns

I admit that on hearing that this was “A guide to decoding dog language,” I thought it was going to be just another book on reading dog body language. Not that dog body language isn’t important, but I was pleasantly surprised at how much more *How to Speak Dog* has to offer.

Produced with National Geographic, *How to Speak Dog* is written for the school market, but the colorful design and beautifully illustrative photographs with dog captions had me at first glance. The canine body language examples and doggie demeanor sections are first-rate, but it is the section on Hound

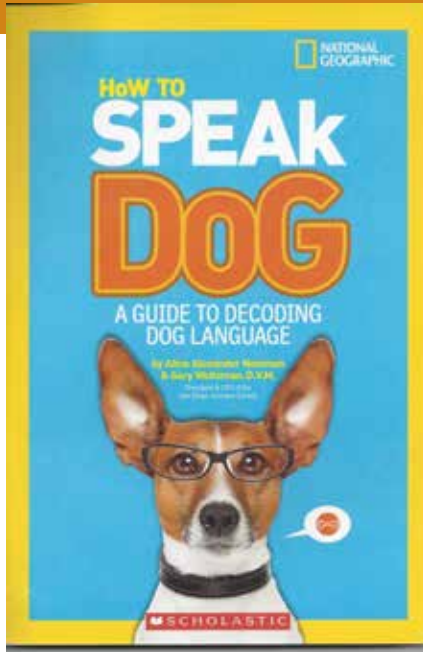
Sounds that sets this book apart.

For example, did you know that an invitation to play between dogs always sounds the same? It’s a “stutter bark.” As the authors explain, “A stutter bark has two parts. The end of the bark is louder than the beginning. It sounds like

arr-ruff, and it sounds happy.” The sounds section covers the reasons behind slow barking, fast barking, howling, baying, growling, whining, whimpering, panting and fun facts. Did you know that in 1980 a serious piece of music called “Howl” was performed at Carnegie Hall? It featured 20 human musicians and three howling dogs.

How to Speak Dog is a fun, non-judgmental read. It’s filled with information to help humans better understand and appreciate their amazing canine companions, which in turn strengthens the human-animal bond.

How to Speak Dog can be purchased in the San Diego Humane Society’s retail store or through the National Geographic online store, as well as at Amazon and most commercial book stores.



Shelter Training & Enrichment

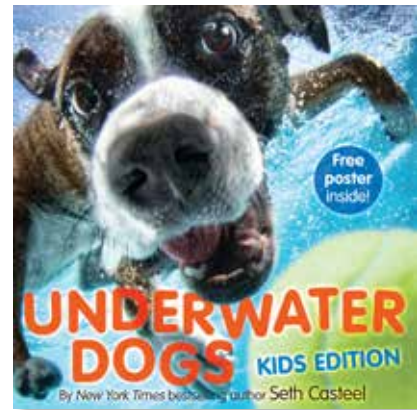
Do you want to help improve the quality of life for shelter animals?

This course is invaluable for shelter staff, volunteers, managers, or trainers who want to help reduce the stress and enrich the lives of animals living in a shelter. Whether you are looking for quiet kennels, help for shy animals, enrichment ideas, or solutions to behavior problems, this course will be a treasured resource.

Course Benefits

- *Teach simple behaviors that help make shelter animals more appealing to adopters and less likely to be returned*
- *Stave off boredom and lower stress levels of the animals in your care with dozens of creative, low-cost enrichment ideas provided*
- *Learn to solve common behavior problems, such as nuisance barking and jumping up*

Visit www.karenpryoracademy.com
for further information.



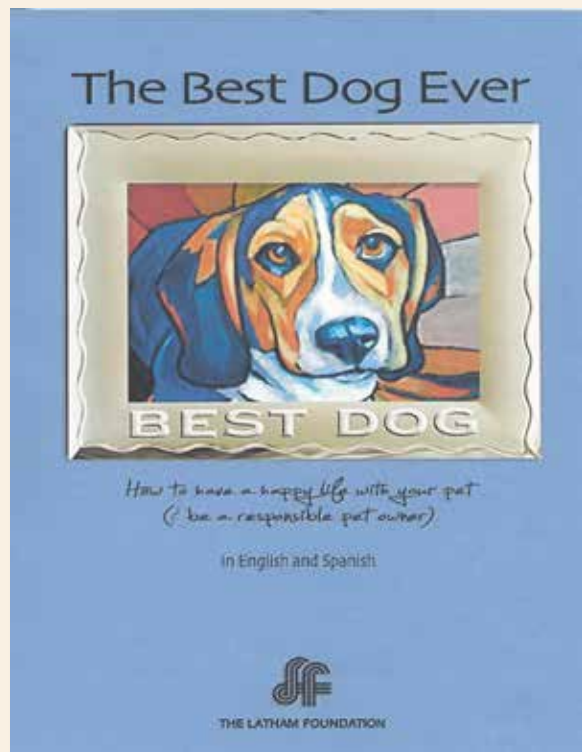
Cover dog Wrigley is a rescue from Texas.

Just in time for the Holidays

UNDERWATER DOGS; KIDS EDITION!

The Underwater Dog guy, Seth Casteel, has done it again. This version of the Underwater Dogs book features brand new photos as well as old favorites paired with rhyming verse.

Available at: Amazon • Barnes&Noble • IndieBound

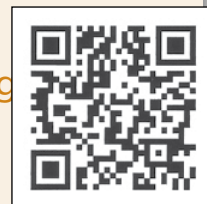


Help reduce your returns and surrenders with this new DVD

Help adopters learn everything necessary to be a responsible pet owner and fully enjoy their new family member.

Meet Marisela and her new dog

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See a YouTube clip by visiting www.Latham.org or searching "Latham Foundation" on YouTube.

IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH

A new video that uses charm and humor to encourage responsible pet ownership.
A useful bilingual resource.

Marisela, a delightful high-school senior, is thrilled to have her first dog but she knows "love is not enough" so she asks the behaviorist at her local humane society for advice.

They discuss and show the importance of:

- Spaying and neutering (including what to say to a reluctant father)
- Training and socialization
- Exercise and shelter
- Licensing and identification
- Nutrition and veterinary care



In other words, everything necessary to be a responsible pet owner and fully enjoy a new member of the family.

The DVD contains both English (8.23 mins.) and Spanish (10.37 mins.) versions.

See a YouTube clip by visiting www.Latham.org or searching "Latham Foundation" on YouTube.

New DVD!



FAITH AND HOPE ON A FARM



See a YouTube clip by visiting www.Latham.org or searching "Latham Foundation" on YouTube.

Do you want a reminder of why we teach compassion, empathy, and respect to help break the cycle of abuse? Are you looking for inspiration?

Look no further than [Faith and Hope on a Farm](#).

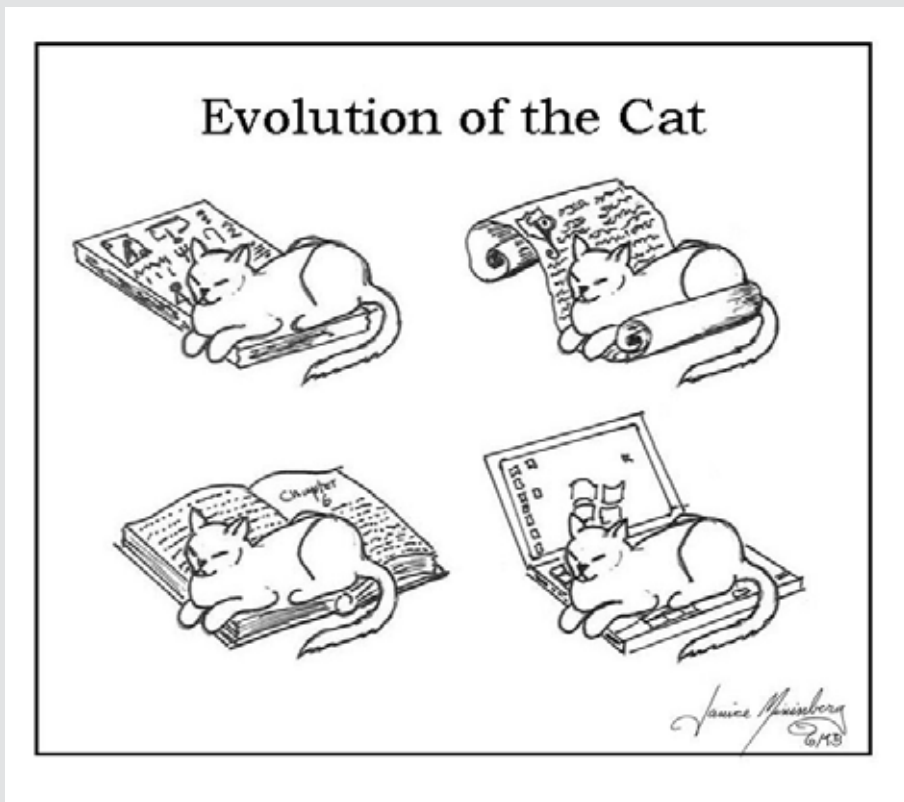
This 15-minute DVD highlights Forget Me Not Farm on the grounds of Sonoma Humane Society in Santa Rosa, California, where at-risk children and animals bond and heal. At this safe haven, children learn gentle touch and respect for both other humans and animals through animal-assisted and horticultural activities.

The film features Faith, a formerly-abused child who was adopted by wonderful parents. You'll see her blossom, and you'll be reminded that where there's life, there's hope.

This is the first in a new series of films that will examine a variety of animal-assisted therapy programs across the USA -- programs in which children help animals, and in turn, animals help children.

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Thank you, Janice Mininberg.



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