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# Latham Letter

VOLUME XXXIV, NUMBER 3

SUMMER 2013

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

HUMANE LIVING

SINGLE ISSUE PRICE: \$5.00

## Buzz ON!

*How to invite  
pollinators  
to your  
backyard*

By Ruthanne Johnson



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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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The Latham Foundation, 1826 Clement Avenue, Alameda, California 94501

# The Latham Letter

Volume XXXIV, Number 3, Summer 2013

**BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON  
HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**



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

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Hugh H. Tebault III,  
Latham Foundation's  
President

## COMMON SENSE

**Common Sense:** (noun) Sound practical judgment that is independent of specialized knowledge, training, or the like; normal native intelligence.

**D**id you ever wonder why some people have common sense and others do not? I can truly say I have wondered that, but have not yet found the answer. However, accepting this apparent fact of humanity does help me in the plans I make.

Latham has a core message that teaching respect and kindness toward animals and getting students to internalize the value it brings results in a better society for people and animals. This is common sense to me, but others often do not understand the long lasting benefits to both student and society.

As we reach out to help in our community, we often run into people who seem to have no common sense, and as a result are in situations they seem powerless to change.

Some people do not want to change. This stasis can be debilitating both to the person involved and to those around them. Stasis is a condition of inactivity caused by forces of equal power pushing on both sides. Some refer to this as a balanced position – but others see it as a position of no movement when movement is called for. A prime example of this is when someone is in an abusive relationship and does not leave. As an outsider you wonder why, but there are the equal forces that keep that person, with or without an animal, from making the change away from the abuse.

In our society, we hold a common view that respect is appropriate even when opinions vary. Too often these days some in society openly mock others, causing great angst in the public discourse. Respect may be a proper acceptance or courtesy, as in respect for the flag or respect for others; but it is also important to note that one must be respectable to be

worthy of respect. So this is a two way street. Because people have the capacity for moral decisions, often those who are respectable are also responsible and therefore accountable for their own actions.

To bring the kindness and respect of animals message to as many people as possible, we should understand how to successfully change opinions. Change management is a term used to describe actions taken to help others recognize, accept and be successful during a time of change. This term is most often associated with business where a larger company has to make a change and wants to be as successful as possible taking their existing employees from one task or set of duties and responsibilities to another, showing them how they can be more successful by adopting the change.

The recognition that the Latham core value of showing kindness and respect toward animals and others is a core value we all desire, and that incorporating that value set in all we do is a common sense approach to improving our society, drives our desire to develop the change management programs to help more and more people overcome their previously inability to change.

Latham's newest film series, *HelpMeHelpYou* highlights many very successful programs that show respect, kindness, and the change management process. They use these values to help both children and animals rise to new levels of personal success. Inspiring and motivational, they are also instructive on how you or your community might reach out or improve your programs.

*Faith and Hope on a Farm* is the first film in this series and is currently available on our website.



## Latham's DVD *Faith and Hope on a Farm* wins 2013 Telly Award

*Faith and Hope on a Farm* is a reminder that teaching compassion, empathy, and respect can help break the cycle of abuse. See page 23 for more information about this inspiring film.

This film is the first in a 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.

The Telly Awards is the premier award honoring the finest film and video productions, groundbreaking web commercials, videos and films, and outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs. The 33rd Annual Telly Awards received more than 12,000 entries from all 50 states and five continents.



This is the second year in a row that a Latham Foundation production has won a Telly Award. Many thanks to all who made *Faith and Hope on a Farm* possible.



### Going to Best Friends No More Homeless Pets Conference in Jacksonville?

October 10-12, 2013

Come say hello at Booth #30

We'd love to know more about your work and how we might help you.

**THANK YOU** to all our readers for your continued interest in humane issues and activities.

*It is because of people like you that the Foundation is able to continue to promote the importance of animal welfare, education, and the beneficial connections between humans and animals.*

## Important Announcements about Veterinary Hospice Care

### CD-ROM OF PROCEEDINGS FROM THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON VETERINARY HOSPICE CARE ... NOW AVAILABLE!

The Nikki Hospice Foundation for Pets is pleased to announce that the CD-ROM containing the Proceedings of the Third International Symposium on Veterinary Hospice Care, held at UC Davis on July 20-22, 2012, is now available. Reserve your copy now by calling (707) 557-8595! Order forms and further information can be found at [www.pethospice.org](http://www.pethospice.org).



### Save the date!

The **Fourth International Symposium on Animal Hospice Care** will be held at CSU Maritime in Vallejo, California, on July 25-27, 2014. [info@pethospice.org](mailto:info@pethospice.org) or [www.pethospice.org](http://www.pethospice.org)

# Buzz ON!

## How to invite pollinators to your backyard

By Ruthanne Johnson

Reprinted courtesy of March/April 2013 *All Animals*\*  
[www.humanesociety.org/allanimals](http://www.humanesociety.org/allanimals)



*Summer's long days would be strangely quiet without the subtle hum of bees – a reassuring reminder that these prolific pollinators are busy keeping most of the world's 250,000-400,000 flowering plant species reproducing.*

Unlike pollinators such as birds, bats, beetles, moths, and butterflies, bees deliberately gather nectar and protein-rich pollen on their bodies to carry back to the nest and feed their young. This symbiotic relationship with flowers has earned them a top spot as keystone species, responsible for sustaining ecosystems and billions of dollars in agricultural crops each year.

Honeybees, probably the most recognized of bees, actually hail from Europe. But there are some 4,000 bee species native to North America, including types of bumblebees and sweat, miner, carpenter, mason, squash, and leafcutter bees. In recent years, as colony collapse disorder began devastating honeybee populations, the spotlight has swung to native species to perform the vital task of crop pollination. Unaffected by the disease, these hardier types can forage in light rain and colder temperatures. They're also out earlier and later in the season, and some species can navigate at dusk. "On a bee-per-bee basis, [native bees] are more effective," says Mace Vaughan, pollinator program director for The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. "... As scientists are studying wild bees in agriculture, they are astounded by how many more native bees are out there pollinating apples and berries and squash and melon and cucumbers and cherries and pears and almonds."

“ Unlike the defensive European honeybee, who lives in a colony, most native species like leafcutter bees lead solitary lives and are fairly docile. ”

But while native bees' star is rising, their numbers are also in decline. "In farming landscapes and places where you have lost habitat and there is usage of insecticides and pesticides, there is a dramatic decrease in the diversity and abundance of native bees," Vaughan says. "... We've got five or six bumblebee species that ... have disappeared over most of their former range."

The good news is that a few simple changes in the way you manage your property can have a big impact on propping up native bee populations. Once your garden is buzzing, you may find these industrious insects more charismatic than you thought a bug could ever be.

### SET THE WORLD ABLOOM

Bees depend on pollen and nectar for food, so it's essential to have flowers blooming successively in spring, summer, and for late-season species such as bumblebees, even fall. When architectural designer Denise Shreeve decided to help native pollinators on her McLean, VA, property, the first thing she did was plant native vegetation that would attract them and wouldn't need chemicals to thrive. For early-season pollinators such as the orchard mason bee, Shreeve has willows, dogwoods, and eastern redbuds. She also resists the urge to pull dandelions: "Even though they aren't native, they are an early source of pollen," she says.

## VARIETY IS BEE-AUTIFUL

To keep your bees flying straight, plant a variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs, shrubs, trees, and wildflowers like wild mint, sunflower, and thistle (check xerces.org or contact your local university extension service for help identifying native types). “They all provide different mixes of nutrients, minerals, fats, and proteins in their pollen,” says Vaughan. Another reason for variety: “All bees have different size tongues,” says Shreeve, “and they need different size flowers to access the nectar and pollen.”

Some other known bee magnets include monarda, milkweed, wild indigo, goldenrod, linden tree, penstemon, hyssop, scorpion weed, and lupine. “The diversity of bees that visit those plants is simply astounding,” says Vaughan. Since specialist bees – ones that rely on a single plant family or genus for pollen or egg-laying sites – are especially vulnerable to population declines, you should also incorporate their favorite flora into your landscape.

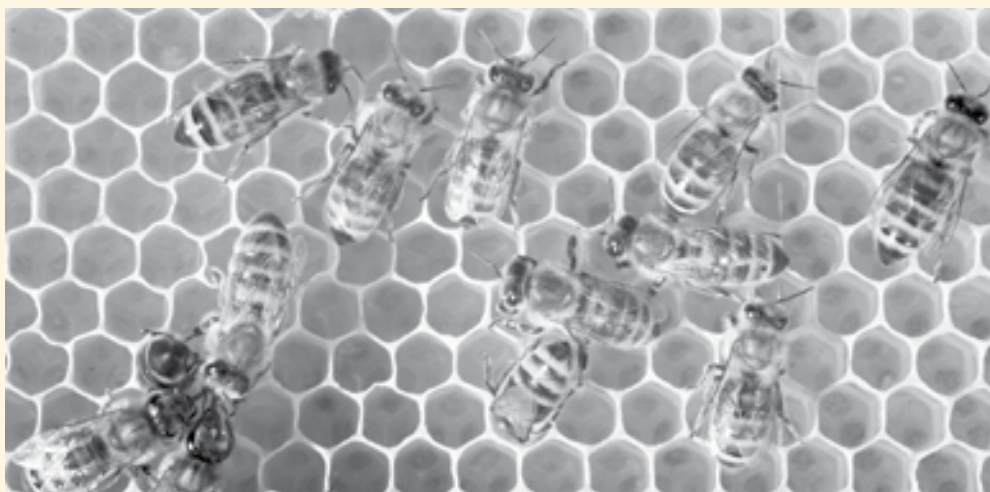
## CREATE A CLUSTER

Native bees come in different sizes – from more than an inch long to smaller than 1/8 inch – and their flight ranges vary. Bumblebees can travel up to a mile from their nest, while tiny ground-nesting bees can only fly a few hundred feet. Because females may visit hundreds of individual flowers on a single foray, clustering nectar and pollen producers saves them time and energy. At his Portland, OR, home, Vaughan planted wide patches of wildflowers.

“Imagine you are a bee flying across a landscape,” he says. “... If there is a splash of color in bloom all at once, you are more likely to investigate.” Once there, foraging becomes more efficient. “[Bees] can move from flower to flower, get what they need, and get back to the nest.”

## THE GOOD EARTH

To roll out the welcome mat for bees, housing is as important as food. About 70 percent of native bees nest in the ground, using partially bare slopes, creek banks, berms, dunes, roadside ditches, and even soil-filled flowerpots. Bumblebees often nest in unmowed areas with tussocks of native grasses and in abandoned mouse burrows. Squash bees like to live close to their favorite food source: “If you grow anything from pumpkins to zucchini, watermelon,



You can learn how to build and maintain a bee block at [humansociety.org/allanimals](http://humansociety.org/allanimals).

\*All Animals tells the story of The HSUS and the broader animal protection movement.

or winter squash, the squash bee will nest in the ground at the base of the plants,” Vaughan says.

Mining, alkali, and polyester bees prefer partially bare patches of untilled ground with full exposure to morning sun. Vaughan remembers weeding his garden one Saturday and by late Sunday afternoon dozens of sweat bees were digging in the soil. “They use their mandibles, these big hard jaws, to cut through the dirt and their legs to push it out,” he says. “... It’s pretty hilarious. Their little butts comes out of the hole and a spray of dirt flies out and then they go rushing back inside to dig some more.”

## WOODEN BOXES

About 30 percent of native bees nest in wood – holing up in reeds, under bark, in pre-existing tunnels in fallen logs and trees, and even in manmade bee blocks or bamboo bundles. After Shreeve hung bee blocks, she soon had mason and leafcutter bees nesting in the openings, which she lined with removable parchment paper to prevent disease. “When spring arrives, you can hear [the leafcutters’ larvae] crunching and chewing out of the cocoons,” Shreeve says. “It sounds like Rice Krispies cereal ... and it’s so much fun to watch them emerge.”



And let’s not forget  
**Brother Buzz.**

See page 18.

# INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES BENEFIT DOGS AND HUMANS

By Maureen Ross, MA

Dog Talk Media, 603-635-DOGS (3647)



I came across the following “writing” while purging my files, most of which I decided to keep. This particular sharing comes from a July 2004 issue of Counseling Today. My addition is adding dogs – of course.

## Little Boy and the Old Man

By Shel Silverstein

Said the little boy, “Sometimes I drop my spoon,”  
Said the old man, “I do too!”  
The little boy whispered, “I wet my pants.”  
“I do that too,” laughed the old man.  
Said the little boy, “I often cry.”  
The old man nodded, “So do I.”  
“But worst of all,” said the little boy,  
“It seems like grown-ups don’t pay attention to me.”  
And he felt the warmth of the wrinkled old hand.  
“I know what you mean,” said the old man.

Try re-reading the above, keeping the older adult for the human part and substituting what a puppy, or a re-homed, confused and fearful dog might say if he spoke “human” for the little boy responses. For example, change “I wet my pants” or “I cry” to a dog’s innocent plea, “I peed in my crate, I whine or bark, or I was so lonely and happy to see you when you got home that I couldn’t wait and christened the carpet.” A re-homed dog might say, “I’m glad you adopted me, but I haven’t a clue what to do yet. Please give me some time, guidance and patience until I learn how to live in with you.”

Some of the emotional human dilemmas I come across in private coaching and on pet therapy visits are loving, caring people looking for solutions to:

- *Leaving their puppies (or dogs) alone for more than a few hours. Is it okay to leave a dog in a crate all day?*
- *Deciding what they can do when a friend or relative can no longer care for their pet. Should a pet be given away if they have lived with someone for 10 years and now the owner is not capable of caring for them?*
- *Should pets who are not Registered/Certified be allowed to visit?*

I don’t walk in anyone’s moccasins but my own, but my inner wisdom knows that there are two distinct dilemmas; they have similar solutions/alternatives.

Everyone has different lifestyle needs. Careful thought and planning should go into any decision to add a puppy or dog to a family. Puppies need to eliminate at least every two hours. Many will hold it for much longer in a crate, but it is not healthy (or fair) for them. Puppies need socialization and manners (SAM). Adult dogs do too



unless they have been conditioned, slowly, to being left alone for longer periods. The operative words are “slowly conditioned” not speed dialed into instantly trained. Older and adopted dogs need time to transition into new situations. That shared, if a loved one needs to relinquish a pet due to transition or illness, friends, families and staff need to consider both the human and the pet. It can be unbearable for families to make decisions about giving up a pet, especially if no one in the family is capable of or wants to take it. Emotions and stress take their toll. Here is what may be a solution to consider:

## Intergenerational Programs

Today, some of the interaction between generations is decreasing because individuals are relocating around the country for a better whatever. Quality time between the older and younger generation is valuable to pass on wisdom and traditions. The positive emotional benefits of being around older adults are invaluable. The role-modeling of mixing teenagers with older adults and/or those in need (hospitals, assisted living) is an invaluable lesson in humanity.

Intergenerational programs are growing nationwide. The National Council on Aging defines Intergenerational Programs as “Activities or programs that increase cooperation, interaction or exchange between any two generations. They involve the sharing of skills, knowledge, or experience between old and young.”

In some cultures older adults are revered. They should be everywhere!

They can use their skills to help the less knowing or advantaged. Young and older are motivated, enriched and feel a sense of fulfillment spending quality time teaching someone (or a dog). Consider this!

If you are aware that you or someone you know will need assistance for a puppy, adult dog, adopted dog or aging dog, check into intergenerational programs in your community. Better still, start one! It’s not difficult. Check out your local churches; post it on the community bulletin boards, schools, libraries and veterinary practices. Check with friends and neighbors. You may find that they have had similar needs and have found some terrific solutions to share.

Get someone (after interviewing) that you trust to come in once or twice a day to spend quality time walking your, or your loved one’s dog, making sure they have fresh water and are comfortable in their crates or confined areas in the house or outside kennels.

If someone you know has been moved due to age, illness or other reasons, and they have shared years with a beloved pet, it may be possible to integrate this pet into your life with this kind of help. At the very least, it will give you (and your loved one) some breathing time to transition into life without a pet while being mindful that this is stressful for the pet too.

**For registered visiting teams:** If you are faced with emotional transitions where someone has had to relinquish their pet to live in transitional care, be mindful that this may or may not be a good time to visit this person with your pet. Ask them directly if they want a pet visit, and discuss this with staff ahead of time. Let those missing their pet know that you care/empathize. Let them choose. Then, share your pet with joy and kindness.

There is no easy way to tell someone that they can no longer see their pet. I can’t imagine not being able to touch my pets. I know if it were me, and someone reassured me that my pets would be loved and cared for, and that they could visit me, my chances of healing and emotionally surviving would increase 100%.



*For additional information on intergenerational programs, contact the National Council on Aging  
www.ncoa.org*

*There is also information in Maureen Ross’s book,  
Awareness Centered Training – ACT.*



## HORSES 4 HEROES

**Horses4Heroes** is one of the most successful equestrian service organizations for our troops, veterans, first responders and their families.

Motivated by the tragic events of “9/11” and the heroic acts that followed, at home and abroad, Horses4Heroes was created in 2006 to say “thank you” to the men and women whose daily sacrifices keep us safe and free by making equestrian programs fun and affordable for these heroes and their families.

Horses4Heroes was started by Sydney Knott and her three daughters, accomplished equestrians who have won local, regional and national championships and enjoy sharing their love of horses with those who serve. Since its inception, Las Vegas-based Horses4Heroes has introduced more than 5,000 people to horses and horseback riding, simply because of their sacrifice and service to our country.

Today, Horses4Heroes has 230 centers in 44 states, plus Canada. All are committed to providing fun and affordable recreational, instructional and health & wellness equestrian programs for active duty military personnel, veterans, first responders, critical care and hospice nurses, special educational school teachers and their families.

These programs emphasize fun and safe activities with horses, mounted and un-mounted, for all ages.

Participants learn valuable leadership and teamwork skills, make new friends, and develop a lifelong love of horses. Their four core values emphasize Responsibility, Independence, Dedication, and Empathy. (R.I.D.E.)

Working with and caring for horses teaches many important life skills and reinforces these core values that horses build character and will guide youth to become empathetic, empowered adults who will make responsible choices throughout their lives.

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### Frequently Asked Questions

[www.horses4heroes.org](http://www.horses4heroes.org)

#### *My husband is Active Duty, how can we participate?*

Step one is to find a host center near you. You can type in your zip code and find a center. Most of our centers will allow you to schedule an appointment for a visit or tour. If you like what you see and you are looking for fun and affordable equestrian programs for you and/or your family, we hope you will join our organization and take advantage of all that we have to offer.

#### *How much is a membership?*

##### *Is it for just one year?*

If you live in Las Vegas, the one-time enrollment fee is \$50 for you

and your entire family. If you live outside Las Vegas, the fee is just \$25. Horse owners can join for just \$20. Again, once you’re in our “club,” you’re in ... for life!

#### *What do we receive?*

You will receive one free t-shirt and the opportunity to purchase more for just \$5 per shirt. In addition, we will give you a free one-year subscription to Blaze Kids (\$19.95 value), and a membership card, which is your family’s All Access Pass to fun and affordable horseback riding.

#### *Who is eligible for membership?*

We serve all active duty service members, veterans, first responders, critical care and hospice nurses, special education school teachers and other heroes in our communities and their families. Those who want to join, but do not qualify as a “hero,” may join as a Friend for \$100 per family.

#### *Who else do you serve?*

Many of our centers have programs for at-risk youth, foster kids, teens and young adults, victims of domestic abuse and violence, veterans with PTSD, deployed families, and others in our communities who need a hand up, not a hand out!

### *What type of programs do you offer?*

Our centers provide recreational, instructional and health & wellness programs for all ages and riding levels, and we support all breeds and all disciplines. We recommend you check with the center near you regarding what services they offer.

### *What is Operation Free Ride?*

Operation Free Ride is a national initiative to introduce horses and horseback riding to our troops, veterans and their families. Interested families and individuals may register for their free ride via our web site, [www.operationfreeride.com](http://www.operationfreeride.com). Then you can type in your zip code, find a center, and contact them to schedule your appointment. Don't see a center near you? Check back on a regular basis! This is an ongoing program and we are adding new centers every day!



### *There is a barn in my community that is not on your list and it looks like a nice place to ride.*

#### *How can I connect them with you?*

On our web site, there is a Facility Referral form. Fill it out and we'll do our best to get them to join our organization.

### *I think my center would be perfect? How do I join?*

#### *Is there a fee?*

We welcome all centers, from small urban farms to large ranches that support our mission to make horseback riding fun and affordable for our local heroes and their families. There is no charge. We ask that you have safe and sound horses, have posted Barn Rules and safety policies including requiring kids 16 and under to wear helmets, have at least a Farm and Ranch insurance policy, require all riders to sign a waiver, and have knowledgeable staff and volunteers. If you are an instructor at a center, the center's owner must be the one who registers.

### *Do you accept donated horses?*

Many of our centers are looking for safe and sound horses that can be used in our recreational, instructional and health & wellness programs. Please contact a center near you or send information to [Horses4Heroes@gmail.com](mailto:Horses4Heroes@gmail.com). Donations are considered final after a three-month trial period. During the three-month period, the center can opt to give you the horse back if it's not working out and/or you can ask for your horse back. After three months, the horse becomes the property of Horses4Heroes and will be used at whatever center is most appropriate.



# Unfinished Business

**Unfinished Business, new in 2013, is a program that helps men, women and children obtain closure.**

At their headquarters in Las Vegas, Horses4Heroes is working with children who have experienced a tragic and traumatic loss (family member suicide), domestic violence victims, veterans experiencing PTSD and others who need to say "good bye" or get over a loss or difficult situation.

They are meeting people every day who do NOT want to talk to a therapist, discuss their feelings nor have their issues become part of their permanent record. Their centers create a non-judgmental environment where people can express their true feelings, let go of their hurt and suffering, say "good-bye" to a loved one and allow their heart and soul to begin the healing process.

To promote Unfinished Business, Horses4Heroes is reaching out to veterans' organizations, hospice centers, churches and shelters. This is a FREE program and we are seeking donations and grants to cover expenses. An Unfinished Business session costs our centers \$50 per family and we recommend at least two to four sessions.

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**For more information about Horses4Heroes Inc., contact: Horses4Heroes Inc. (888) 9US-HERO (987-4376) (702) 645-8446 Email: [syd@horses4heroes.org](mailto:syd@horses4heroes.org)**

# Middle East Animal Rescue



By Debra J. White

Fascinating people live in the Middle East but the region is divided by religion, civil unrest, competition for scarce resources and a growing thirst for democracy. Animal rescue however unites diverse people. Shelters and rescue groups in Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Israel, and other countries help unwanted dogs, cats, donkeys and other animals. Some groups are organized with paid staff and volunteers. Others are small networks of friends and colleagues. All share the same goal – to save unwanted and/or abused animals.

Take the case of Iran's VAFA dog shelter in Hashtgerd outside the capital city of Tehran. Since 2004, VAFA operates mostly with volunteers. Only a few staff members are paid. Run entirely on donations, the shelter has a capacity of about 300 dogs but rarely turns away abandoned dogs says Fatemeh Motamedi, shelter founder. VAFA networks with volunteers in Western nations to place dogs in Canada, the US and Europe. San Francisco Bay Area resident Farah Ravon facilitates US placements as well as manages their Facebook page. Pet overpopulation is a problem in countries like Iran says Motamedi because Islam considers dogs as haram or unclean. There is change among younger Iranians who shrug off the taboo and live with dogs. Some adopt from VAFA. Government policies,

however, exacerbate pet overpopulation because there are no animal control, licensing or spay/neuter programs. VAFA works tirelessly to promote animal welfare and spread kindness to animals.

Egypt faces similar conditions as Iran except there are more shelters and rescues. There is the Egyptian Society of Animal Friends (ESAF). Founded in March 2002, ESAF is located in Giza, outside of Cairo. ESAF operates a small shelter for domestic animals, such as cats and dogs. Other programs include TNR (trap, neuter and return) of feral animals, advocating on behalf of working and domestic animals as well as introducing animal welfare to the public through workshops and classrooms. ESAF sponsors public clinics where veterinarians and veterinary students treat donkeys, mules, and horses for hoof disorders and other ailments. They also inspect local pet shops to insure humane treatment of animals.

Business owner, animal lover and Cairo resident Heike Hagenguth says millions of stray cats and dogs scratch out a living on Egyptian streets. Few are starving because garbage collection is not systematic. "They suffer from parasites, mange, and other diseases," she says. Dogs and cats are often hit by cars and may limp around on broken limbs. The government ignores the growing problem of

pet overpopulation. Cities and towns deal with strays through mass poisonings or shootings. “Many people don’t care about street animals because of their own poverty,” says Hagenguth. Despite the presence of so many street animals, more affluent Egyptians clamor for purebred dogs. A Facebook page is devoted to the sale of puppies. “Some purebreds become status symbols and are sold at high prices. But owners don’t train or socialize them and they become outside aggressive barking machines,” says Hagenguth.

The Brooke Animal Hospital is Egypt’s oldest program for the care and treatment of working donkeys, horses and mules. It is named after Scotland’s Dorothy Brooke, who dedicated herself to animal welfare upon moving to Egypt. Founded in 1934, Brooke works across seven regions to deliver veterinary care in state and mobile clinics. It also engages in community education projects, works with local farriers and veterinarians, and builds trusting relationships with local leaders to spread kindness to animals. The Brooke’s services are vital because there are approximately 1.2 million working animals in Egypt. Last year they provided services to around 144,000 of them according to Victoria Hiscock, supporter care officer.

Other Egyptian rescue groups include Egyptian Mau’s in Mokattam (EMR), a cat shelter for native Egyptian Mau’s (native cat), and the Egyptian Society for Mercy to Animals (ESMA). Founded in 2007, ESMA works to improve conditions for working, domestic, and zoo animals. ESMA conducts pet shop inspections, public veterinary care clinics for donkeys and horses in Giza and TNR of feral animals.



The Jerusalem SPCA is one of the few private shelters in Israel. The SPCA was actually founded before the state of Israel existed according to Eve Beili, shelter director. British wives were appalled by the condition of stray dogs and horses in the city. The present shelter has been in its location for 35 years. The SPCA takes in about 300 dogs a year. As dogs are adopted, new ones are accepted. Beili says cats present more of a challenge because the warm Israeli weather allows for a very long breeding season. “During these months,” she says, “we get hundreds of abandoned kittens.” Many do not survive. Those that are placed for adoption are sterilized to prevent further overpopulation. The shelter operates with a handful of paid staff and the generosity of volunteers. Besides adoptions, the SPCA participates in TNR (trap, neuter and release) of feral cats. They send speakers to public schools and sponsor tables around the city with information about animal welfare. “We try to do as much humane education as possible,” says Beili. Because of ignorance and religious pressure, both Islamic and Hebrew, a large segment of the population considers pets expendable. Dogs are often used as guards or on farms. There is recent improvement however. The city passed a higher licensing fee for intact dogs. That should bring in much needed revenue and curb overpopulation.

The Protecting Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) was the first of two shelters to open in Kuwait. Founded in 2003 by a group of local residents and expatriates, PAWS saw the need to help the increasing number of stray and abandoned animals, which are estimated to be in the tens of thousands. There was little concern about the strays born on the streets and pets sold in shopping malls. At present, the shelter holds 100 dogs and 70 cats. Plans are underway to construct a larger facility. Like other Middle Eastern shelters, PAWS operates on private donations and volunteers. Pet ownership was frowned upon primarily due to

Islam but there is change among the younger generation. “Pet ownership is increasing and improving,” says Manu Tague, chairperson. PAWS struggles to find good homes for shelter animals. Many landlords maintain no-pet rules in apartment buildings. Some public parks prohibit dog walking. To open up adoptions, PAWS networks with rescue groups in Western nations such as the US, Canada or Europe. Overseas adoptions open up more space to rescue local animals. Local schools are welcomed to tour the shelter. When invited to the classroom, volunteers host presentations about animal welfare. “PAWS is a deep believer that the future generations are the key to improvement,” says Tague.

Two shelters operate in Lebanon: Animals-Lebanon and Beirut for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (BETA). In 2004, BETA established as a non-governmental organization (NGO) and received charitable status in 2006. Without government funding, they rely on charitable donations. Since its founding, BETA has rescued over 3,000 animals, mostly dogs and cats, with 1,800 adopted locally and the rest transferred to rescues/shelters in Western nations. Pets adopted are spay/neutered before adoption. A donation of \$100 is requested to help defray costs.

BETA assists with other rescues. For example, according to spokeswoman Rima Barakat, in 2006 they rescued an endangered sea turtle and nine wild animals from bombed areas. All were sent to a sanctuary in New South Wales. A lion cub kept in unsafe conditions was rescued in 2009. Donkeys, mules and horses have also been saved.



To address pet overpopulation, BETA worked on a local spay/neuter campaign that was quite a success. Lack of funding, however, has prevented expanding further outreach at this time. Humane education is important to BETA to improve the lives of animals. Says Barakat, “Through education and direct action we can prevent animal overpopulation and cruelty. We can encourage a society that treats animals with compassion.”

Similar to other Middle East countries, Lebanon is nagged with pet overpopulation. Barakat says people buy pets without thinking about the responsibilities and long-term commitment. That sounds similar to some US pet owners. “We still have a long way to go but we’ve come a long way since 2004,” she says.

The Saudi Humane Society lacks a formal shelter but instead is a network of volunteers who rescue animals in need throughout the country. The SHS upholds the Islamic values of compassion and mercy towards animals and believes that all Muslims have responsibility to protect them from suffering. They envision a nation that encourages compassionate action and protection of animals.

Challenges remain for Middle East animal rescue due to explosive population growth, chronic poverty, and civil unrest. Governments are hesitant to prosecute animal abusers. Animal control is often via poison or gunshot. The absence of spay/neuter programs adds to overpopulation. But the growing number of shelters and rescue groups is promising. Schools often welcome humane education. Groups like the Saudi Humane Society say Muslims have a responsibility to protect animals. Thousands of animals live better lives because of dedicated caring volunteers. Their influence will continue to spread kindness and compassion throughout the Middle East.





## From The LINKLetter

Vol.6, No. 7, July 2013\*

### Groundbreaking Legislation in Connecticut

#### *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. “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. She 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.

### Link Interest Raised in Nicaragua, Bulgaria, Romania

A Nicaraguan attorney with expertise in animal law is attempting to raise interest in The Link as a way to educate law enforcement and other officials throughout Central America about the importance of animal cruelty and its adverse impacts on human welfare.

Alberto Arguello has established a Facebook page as a first step to what he sees as a full-fledged Link program. Meanwhile, Link interest is growing in Eastern Europe, where animal cruelty reporting helplines are planned in Romania and Bulgaria, based on the Link premise that animal abuse is a risk to human health and a component of family violence. National Link Coalition Coordinator Phil Arkow was interviewed by Karina Karanjotova for the Bulgarian National TV network. Karanjotova produced a 26-minute video on The Link and the plight of stray dogs in Bulgaria last November.

\* We recommend subscribing to The National Link Coalition’s LINKLetter for additional details on Link-related news. The LINKletter is a monthly report of news about the connections between animal abuse, cruelty and neglect and other forms of violence, [www.nationallinkcoalition.org](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org) — Phil Arkow, Editor



# Protecting your Pets in the Summer



This article is excerpted from the *Center for Companion Animal Health Update*, Spring/Summer 2013 edition.

**A**s the weather turns warm, not only do we enjoy the great outdoors, but so do many of our pets. However, there are hidden risks to our pets when they venture outside, even if it's only in the backyard.

Three experts from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine explain the precautions we should take to keep our pets safe during warm weather.

Dr. Karl Jandrey is an assistant clinical professor in the Small Animal Emergency and Intensive Care Service at the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. He is board-certified in emergency and critical care and has been on faculty at the school since 1999. Dr. Jane Sykes serves as the director of the Small Animal Clinic in the hospital and is leading research in companion animal infectious diseases. Dr. Gina Davis-Wurzler is an associate professor in Small Animal Outpatient Medicine.

## Avoiding Heatstroke

An animal develops heatstroke when its body temperature rises to a dangerous point (often it is over 106° Fahrenheit) that will damage cell health and normal functions.

Heatstroke often occurs during the first warm spell of spring, when a pet is not used to activity in warmer temperatures. Dogs at greater risk are

those that are older, overweight and brachycephalic.

Dr. Jandrey recommends, “The best way to avoid heatstroke is to slowly reintroduce activity to your pet, while ensuring it has breaks for drinking plenty of water or cooling off in a pool or safe body of water.”

He also advises that if you suspect your pet is overheated – with signs of weakness, increased respiratory effort or rate, excessive “panting” (or not panting at all), or even vomiting – stop the activity. Cool your pet by soaking its coat down to the skin and then see a veterinarian as soon as possible.

## Protecting Against Rattlesnake Bites

Some dogs love to hike with their owners, especially as the weather warms, so it is important to remember that the risk of rattlesnake bites is most common between April and October.

To help avoid rattlesnake bites, keep away from areas with tall grass, rocks or wood piles, stay on trails and have your dog on a leash, and use a walking stick to rustle brushes along the trail to alert snakes of your presence.

Curious dogs often get bitten on the nose as they investigate typically reclusive snakes. “The best thing to do if your dog is bitten is to get to

the nearest veterinarian quickly,” Dr. Jandrey advises. “A veterinarian can determine the course of treatment based on your dog’s symptoms. A rattlesnake vaccine does not necessarily prevent the need for veterinary attention or treatment!”

## Preventing Infectious Diseases

**Infections from fleas, mosquitoes and ticks:** Cats and dogs that go outdoors are susceptible to infections transmitted by fleas, mosquitoes and ticks. Even though your pet may not leave the yard or have direct exposure to other animals, it is still at risk for infection. Dr. Sykes offers helpful tips in protecting your pet against infectious diseases.

The most common disease transmitted by mosquitoes is heartworm disease. Since there are mosquitoes living year-round in many locations, the use of heartworm preventatives is an effective way to protect against this disease.

*Bartonella* is a bacterium transmitted by fleas and possibly ticks (which manifests as cat scratch disease in people). It can cause endocarditis (heart problems) in dogs, though most cats infected with *Bartonella* do not get sick at all. A variety of products are available to protect against ticks. Make sure to follow the manufacturer’s



instructions, or the products will not be effective. Dr. Sykes warns, “Cats are susceptible to toxicity from many tick products (permethrin and amitraz), so sometimes cats can get sick if they live with a dog using these products. If you have cats, make sure you use a product that is safe for cats, such as flumethrin or fipronil.”

Check your pet for ticks after outdoor activities and remove any ticks promptly. Do not use bare hands when removing ticks – use a special device (or curved forceps). With the forceps, grasp the tick as close to the skin’s surface as possible. Pull upwards with steady, even pressure and make sure mouth-parts do not break off and remain in the skin. If that happens, disinfect the area and watch carefully for the possibility of infection. If you see signs of swelling or redness, your pet should be checked by a veterinarian.

### **Infectious Diseases**

Cats who spend time outdoors are at risk for a number of infectious diseases. The most common one is an abscess that occurs from an injury received during a fight with another cat. Cats who fight are also at risk for acquiring two viral infections – feline leukemia virus and feline immunodeficiency virus. These viruses can gradually impair a cat’s immune system. The end result, often several years later, may be cancer or other infectious diseases.

**Leptospirosis:** This disease is seen most often in dogs who are outdoors, but more often during times of warm and wet weather. Leptospire are bacteria that can cause fever and kidney failure in dogs. Dr. Sykes advises, “Good vaccines are available

for the prevention of leptospirosis and are recommended for dogs who spend a lot of time outdoors.”

### **Other Infectious Diseases:**

Kennel cough is a respiratory illness contracted when cats or dogs are housed in close quarters. “If you are planning to travel and leave your pet at a boarding kennel, consult with your veterinarian and care provider for the proper vaccination requirements,” Dr. Sykes recommends. It is also important to allow time for adequate immune response.

### **Outdoor Tips at a Glance**

- Have fresh water available at all times.
- Know the location of the nearest veterinary clinic.
- Know the risks for the area in which you are traveling.
- Have your pet microchipped.
- Protect your pet’s paws from hot, rough, surfaces.
- Create a pet “go bag” that should include: Record of your pet’s current prescriptions, bottled water, and a first-aid kit, including flea and tick treatment and other items recommended by your veterinarian.

Cats and dogs can be exposed to infectious diseases when they eat lizards, rabbits, raw fish or rodents. These diseases include salmonellosis and rare diseases, like plague or tularemia, which can make people very sick too.

A variety of fungal organisms – such as *Aspergillus* and *Cryptococcus* – can also cause disease in dogs.

### **Staying Safe from Toxic Plants & Products**

Poisonings from toxic plants and products and certain common people foods can happen year round, not just during warm weather. Cats and dogs can get into household toxins if they are not properly applied and stored.

Commonly ingested substances include antifreeze, fertilizers, household compost or garbage, insecticides, medications, rat poisons, and plants (such as lilies, oleander, sago palm and yew).

Common things that people eat, such as avocados, chewing gum with xylitol, chocolate, coffee/espresso beans, grapes/raisins, macadamia nuts and onions/garlic, can be very toxic for pets.

For more information about pets and toxic plants, visit [www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/CCAH/health\\_information/plants\\_pets.cfm](http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/CCAH/health_information/plants_pets.cfm)

### **Safeguarding Against Other Dangers**

All pets need proper identification, such as microchips and license tags, and tags with contact and medical information

If your cat insists on going outside or you feel that its quality of life is improved by spending some time outside, then let it go outside with supervision or consider installing cat fencing around your yard. If that is not feasible, allow your cat to go outside only when you are home and make sure that it has proper identification. Your pet should have free access to fresh water, as well as shade and a safe place to hide or rest. Also consider having a misting system installed where your pet resides.



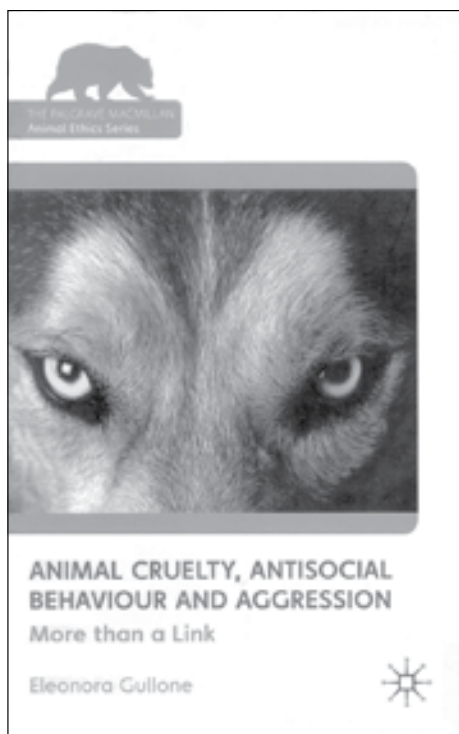
## **Animal Cruelty, Antisocial Behaviour and Aggression: More than a Link**

By *Eleonora Gullone*  
Reviewed by *Phil Arkow*

Australian psychologist Eleonora Gullone’s marvelous new book begins with a timeless question: How does violence, and particularly violence in childhood, begin? While acknowledging that philosophers and social scientists are no closer to answering this question today than Plato was when he said that without education man can quickly change from the most civilized to the most savage of earth’s creatures, Gullone points to *The Link* as a critical and often overlooked key.

The relevance of animal abuse to human behavior has often been dismissed as not being significant. The renaissance of interest in how acts of interpersonal violence are often preceded by, or co-occur with, acts of animal cruelty presents an opportunity to examine the links between interspecies and interpersonal violence and aggression. Gullone wrote this book to present empirical as well as theoretical findings on the subject and to extend an evidence-supported argument that animal cruelty behaviors are not outside the purview of psychology, but rather fit logically within existing theories of antisocial behavior.

She begins by laying extensive groundwork into the processes by which human behaviors develop, detailing numerous psychological



theories of the trajectories of deviant behaviors originating in infancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood. She considers biological and environmental risk factors for aggressive behaviors, including adverse media and the impact of child abuse and domestic violence.

She then links these theories and risk factors into more specific explorations of the Violence

Graduation and General Deviance Hypotheses as possible explanations for animal cruelty. She concludes with the little-explored issue of how cross-cultural variations cause different societies to perceive and respond to animal abuse.

Gullone argues convincingly that animal abuse is indeed significant, a part of the continuum of violence which is both a public health and individual psychopathology issue. Her book should help change the general perception of animal cruelty as being relatively unimportant when compared to crimes against humans. Many crimes against humans may be prevented if “red flag” incidents against animals are taken more seriously. Extensively referenced, Gullone’s book is a significant addition to the corpus of *Link* literature, particularly for those seeking greater understanding of the psychological dimensions of pro- and anti-social human behaviors.

*\$85.00*  
*Palgrave Macmillan Animal Ethics*  
*ISBN: 978-0-230-23923-4w*

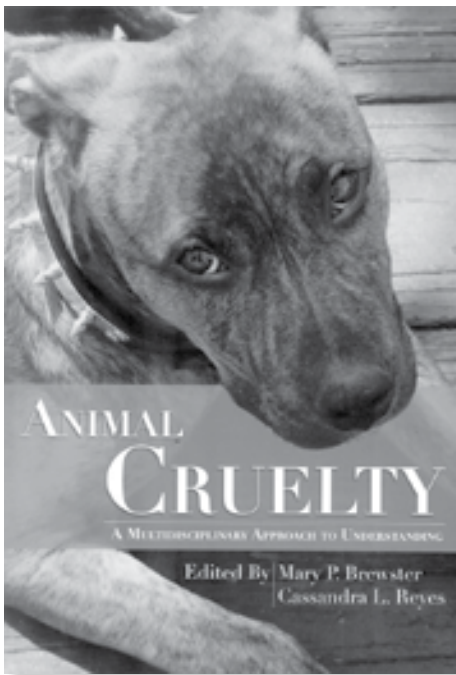
## **The Buzz on Brother Buzz**

The marionette Brother Buzz has been Latham’s “Spokesbee” since 1927 helping us spread our message of kindness to all. He began as a character in our children’s stories in the late 1930s, had his own radio program a decade later, and in 1952 became a TV star as a marionette operated by Ralph Chesse. The *Wonderful World of Brother Buzz* was on the air until 1969.

*Brother Buzz: The Evolution of a Kind Bee* is a limited edition DVD that gives you a bit of our history and a look at story telling in days gone by. DVD ONLY (ntsc) See a clip on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQmuGyX5i6s>

In 1973 Latham produced a film *Honey Bees* documenting their importance as pollinators. *Honey Bees* is still available as part of our Classic Film Series. VHS; \$15.00. **Order at [www.Latham.org](http://www.Latham.org).**





**Animal Cruelty:  
A Multidisciplinary  
Approach to  
Understanding**

*Edited by Mary P. Brewster  
& Cassandra L. Reyes*

*Reviewed by Phil Arkow*

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*\$50.00  
Carolina Academic Press  
ISBN: 978-1-61163-072-5*

The study of the links between animal abuse and interpersonal violence is particularly interdisciplinary. The Link affects veterinary, physical, public and mental health, activists and legislators, child and adult protection and domestic violence officials, police and prosecutors, and dozens of other specialties.

Trying to encapsulate this variety into one textbook presents an enormous challenge, but Mary Brewster and Cassandra Reyes, professors of criminal justice at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, have succeeded admirably with this exhaustive, 436-page anthology. Utilizing the contributed expertise of 28 well-respected authorities, this book would be a valuable addition to the curricula of specialized criminal justice, criminology, psychology, law, and human-animal studies courses.

The book begins with an extensive review of the terminology, history and implementation of animal cruelty laws. The human-animal bonds affecting companion, farm, assistance and wild animals, and the implications of broken bonds for violence, set the stage for an examination of several sociological theories of animal abuse and psychological approaches to offenders.

Comprehensive reviews describe animal cruelty as an antecedent and predictor of other violence. The book's 17 chapters consider in great detail animal cruelty's implications on youth delinquency, child abuse, domestic violence, firesetting, and homicide.

One novel section of the book describes the criminological aspects of specialized forms of animal cruelty: industrial and for-profit animal abuses, blood sports, hunting, sexual deviance, and hoarding.

Following a discussion of the challenges in gathering statistics and measuring animal cruelty, the editors examine emerging issues in public policy, prosecution, activism and legislation. This book has the hallmark of becoming a required undergraduate and graduate-level textbook in a variety of fields for many years to come.



**Lola Goes to Work:  
A Nine-to-Five  
Therapy Dog**

*By Marcia Goldman*

This is a delightful book for young children told in “first person/dog” by Lola a five-pound Yorkshire Terrier who is a certified therapy dog. Today Lola proudly makes weekly visits to elder care centers, bookstores, and classrooms but, as she explains, training to provide comfort to those in need and getting certified wasn't easy. Through Lola, children can learn how important it is not to give up.

Lola tells her story through large color photographs that children are sure to enjoy. The book also contains a Teacher's Page with focus words, empathy study questions, and activities.

Author Marcia Goldman has her Masters Degree in Special Education and has spent the last 25 years focusing on providing therapeutic-based programs for children with autism and their families.

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\$16.99*

## Two reviews for cat lovers

By Debra J. White



Debra White (left) with Gwen Cooper

On June 29, 2013 best-selling author and cat lover Gwen Cooper visited the Pet Match Adoption Center (formerly a pet store) at the Chandler Fashion Center in Chandler, AZ to sign copies of her new book, *Love Saves the Day*.

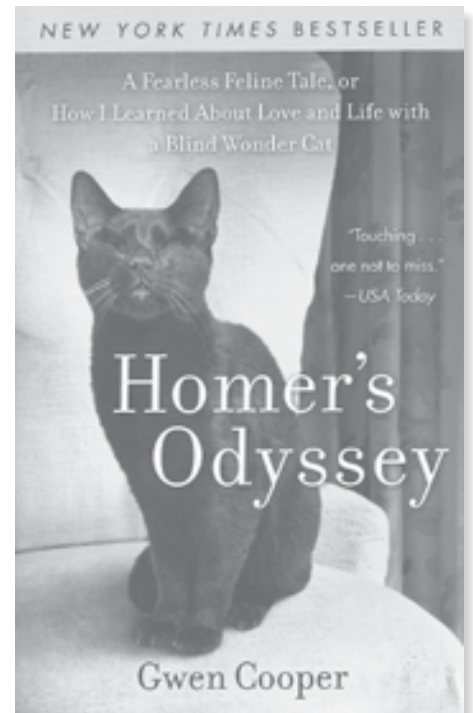
The Pet Match Adoption Center opened last November after the mall pet store closed. In October 2011 the Macerich Corporation, the mall's owner, stunned the animal rescue community by announcing they would not renew pet store leases in the 70 malls they own across the US including the 16 in Arizona. Several already closed and became adoption centers such as the Pet Match Adoption Center in Chandler.

*Homer's Odyssey*, published by Bantam Books in 2009, begins when Gwen Cooper receives a call from her veterinarian's office. She already has two adopted cats, Scarlett and Vashti. A four week old kitten with a "virulent eye infection" has been abandoned in their office. Not only is he blind but his eyes are removed. No one wants him. "I was her last call, the last possibility she could think of before ..." Cooper doesn't finish the last sentence. She agrees to meet

the kitten. No promises are made. Cooper leaves the vet's office with the eyeless kitten. *Homer's Odyssey* is as much about Homer as it is about Cooper as she experiences job changes, relocates from South Florida to New York City and enters a new relationship.

Watching Homer as he grows and experiences life is a joy. "One of the first things I learned about Homer the following morning was how ecstatic he was merely to wake up," says Cooper. A lack of vision does not diminish his playfulness. Cooper's other cats, Scarlett and Vashti, accept Homer and sometimes play games together.

Despite his blindness, Homer saves Cooper from an intruder. Cooper wakes at 4 a.m. to "a sound I'd never heard before." Homer stands at the edge of the bed, "puffed up to about three times his normal size." Back arched, his tail bristles. A strange man is there, scaring Cooper. She grabs the phone and calls 911 even though the intruder warns her not to. Then Homer springs into action, leaping through the air. He attacks the stranger. Hissing, shrieking and spitting, Homer chases the intruder out of the apartment. *Homer's Odyssey* is about love, life and the joy of sharing your home with



companion animals. Homer teaches us that handicapped animals have plenty to offer. The book is a joy to read.

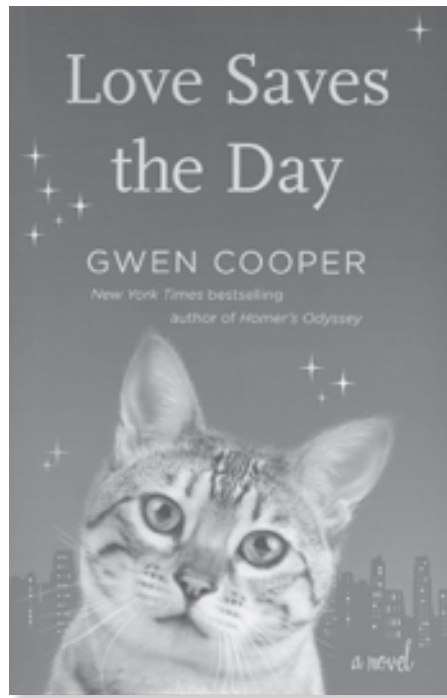
Gwen Cooper's follow up to her best seller *Homer's Odyssey* is just as charming and delightful.

*Love Saves the Day* is a novel that grabs your attention from the first page and doesn't let go until the end. Three central characters pull you into the story – Prudence the cat, Sarah who rescues the scrappy stray from the gritty streets of New York's Lower East Side and Laura, Sarah's only daughter who steps in when she is needed.

Feisty, witty but lovable Prudence soaks up Sarah's affection and feels love for the first time in her young life. She says, "Sarah's music was my beautiful thing, and nobody was going to chase me away from it or try to take it from me." A single woman, Sarah opens a record shop, Ear Wax, on Manhattan's Lower East side after

her marriage fails. She needs a steady income to raise her daughter Laura. “The best and worst thing about owning a store is that anybody can walk in,” Sarah says. Sarah’s music store becomes a central part of the community of working class people and Sarah is loved by all.

Then one day Prudence’s comfy life suddenly collapses. Laura, Sarah’s daughter, and Josh, her husband, show up at their apartment and start packing up Sarah’s belongings. What’s up, Prudence wonders? The couple moves Prudence to their Upper West Side apartment. Meal time includes a new organic cat food, not the less costly brand she is used to. Prudence wants to go home to her scratching post, windowsill and her beloved Sarah. What happened to her savior? She spends her time thinking



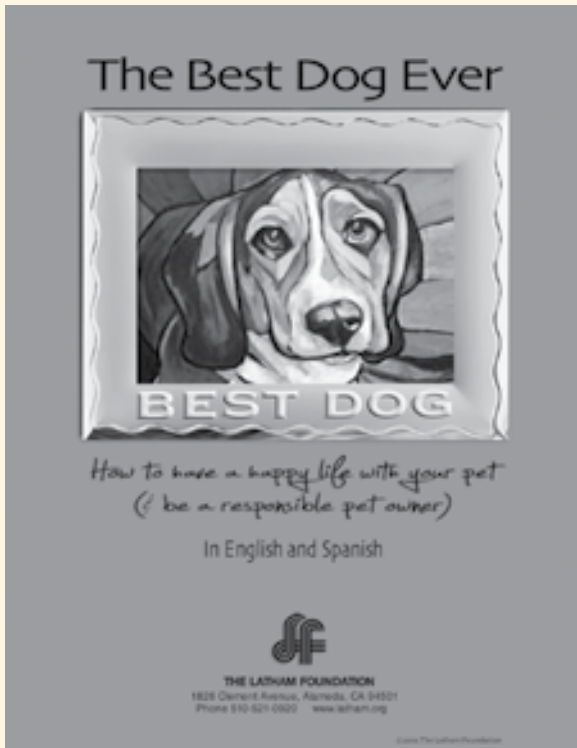
about Sarah and the cozy life they shared. “Sarah used to laugh when I would press my nose against the windows during snowstorms trying to

catch some of it on my paw,” says Prudence.

Eventually, Prudence learns to accept the love and affection from Laura and Josh when she realizes Sarah won’t be back. She is gone forever.

*Love Saves the Day* is a story about a couple who run into financial, personal, and employment issues but eventually find their way with the support of family, friends, and a special cat. *Love Saves the Day* makes you smile, cry, laugh and wonder what your cat really is thinking or feeling. If you don’t already have a rescued cat, maybe you’ll adopt one after reading *Love Saves the Day*.

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## Your Ideal Cat

By Benjamin J. Hart and Lynette Hart

While Latham whole-heartedly encourages adoptions, we understand that some pet lovers obtain purebred cats for one reason or another. In fact, University of California, Davis, animal behaviorists Benjamin and Lynette Hart note that interest in obtaining purebred kittens has grown. Therefore, they have written *Your Ideal Cat* to help people understand the breed and gender-related behaviors that are most likely to accompany their feline housemate.

The Harts say it is equally important for people planning to adopt generic, non-purebred cats to be aware of the range of possible behaviors and of major gender-based differences but all too often, kittens or adult cats are chosen because of appearance or happenstance, rather than according to the most compatible behavior traits.

“The kitten you choose today will grow into the cat that could be your companion for the next 15 to 20 years,” said veterinarian Benjamin Hart, the book’s co-author and distinguished professor emeritus in the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Therefore, it

would be helpful to know about some rather strong contrasts in behavior among the common breeds in areas such as affection, aggressiveness, fear or friendliness toward visitors, and even the tendency to engage in household urine marking.

“Our goal is to help prospective cat owners select the breed and gender best suited to their personality, family, and home environment,” said Lynette Hart.

In *Your Ideal Cat*, the authors obtained expert rankings for 15 common purebred cat breeds according to 12 behavioral characteristics, all in comparison with the domestic shorthair and domestic longhair.

The breed-specific information was developed by rankings gathered from 80 practicing veterinarians who are members of the Association of Feline Practitioners.

The cat specialists ranked the increasingly popular ragdoll breed as the most affectionate, socially outgoing, and least aggressive to cats or people. In contrast, another popular breed, the Bengal, was ranked the least affectionate, most aggressive, and one of the most likely breeds – just behind the domestic shorthair – to urine mark. The most active cats – those that may treat the house as a three-dimensional forest – are the Abyssinian and Bengal breeds, with the Abyssinian also being the most playful.

Readers familiar with the “Zen master” Persian would likely not be surprised to find this breed ranked as least active and socially outgoing, while being the most difficult in litter box issues. And the Siamese was ranked the most vocal.

As for gender-based differences,

there was a surprisingly strong consensus that neutered males are more affectionate and less aggressive than spayed females. On the other hand, males are most likely to urine mark in the house.

The Harts also give owners useful tips for welcoming a new cat into their homes. They suggest bringing home the litter box and scratching post that the kitten is already using, making the new home smell and feel familiar. And they offer advice for introducing the kitten to a home that already has one or more cats or a dog.

The book also contains advice on how to correct potential problem behaviors and provides emerging scientific explanations for some of cats’ more endearing or interesting behaviors such as purring, yawning, “flipping out” on catnip and eating grass.

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**About the authors:** Benjamin Hart developed the first comprehensive teaching and research program in companion animal behavior at UC Davis’ William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital and served as chief of the hospital’s behavior service. Lynette Hart studies human-animal interactions and communications, and was founding director of the Center for Animals in Society at UC Davis. Her research produced landmark studies on the socializing effects of animals for people with disabilities and on grief experienced by people following the death of a companion animal. The Harts also co-authored *The Perfect Puppy: How to Choose Your Dog by Its Behavior*.

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Purdue University Press  
ISBN # 978-1-55753-648-8



New DVD!



## FAITH AND HOPE ON A FARM



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[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaR6ds\\_2ops&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaR6ds_2ops&feature=youtu.be)

**D**o 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.



Order at **[www.Latham.org](http://www.Latham.org)**



Hope you're all enjoying your summer.



## The Latham Foundation

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