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Latham Letter

VOLUME XXXVI, NUMBER 4

FALL 2015

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

SINGLE ISSUE PRICE: \$5.00

Building a COMMUNITY of CARE and COMPASSION in Northern British Columbia

*By Valerie Ingram
and Alistair Schroff*



➔ See page 6



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horsemanship at
Taking the Reins in
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How the Peaceful Animal
Adoption Shelter is
making a difference in
Oklahoma pg 14

Media Reviews & Announcements
including an exclusive interview
with Justin Silver, author of
The Language of Dogs pg 17

THE MANDATE:

Edith Latham's MANDATE:

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

Cover Photo:

Liz Bartlett, a volunteer Canadian Animal Assistance Team (CAAT) veterinarian, has shared her expertise with Burns Lake for the last five years.



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The Latham Letter

Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

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The Latham Foundation, 1320 Harbor Bay Pkwy, Suite 200, Alameda, CA 94502-6581

Printed on recycled paper



The Latham Letter

Volume XXXVI, Number 4, Fall 2015

**BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON
HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**



The *Latham Letter* is published quarterly by The Latham Foundation, 1320 Harbor Bay Pkwy, Suite 200, Alameda, CA 94502-6581.

Subscription Rates: \$15.00 One Year, \$25.00 for Two Years

Publisher and Editor Hugh H. Tebault, III
Managing Editor Judy Johns
Printer Schroeder-Dent, Alameda, CA
Design Joann Toth, Fountain Hills, AZ

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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

Veterans' Day

I am writing this on November 11, 2015, Veterans' Day. As a veteran and the son of a veteran, I hold a strong belief in the United States' basic truth that everyone is to enjoy an equal opportunity, common rights, and protection of the common law. There are times when this truth's implementation is not perfect, but it is the best framework I know of. It is also the framework upon which the *Latham Foundation Steps to Humane Education* illustration is based.

Teaching respect is a core value in humane education. We generally are focused on a person showing respect to animals and other living things that surround us, but that is really only the starting point of showing respect.

On the back cover of some *Latham Letters* we share the Latham Steps to show how kindness to animals (respect for animals) supports kindness to others, kindness to other people, and all the other steps above it.

I mention this illustration today because of troubling news lately at a couple of college campuses where young adults do not seem to have ever been taught the humane education's principle of respect. Their petulant outbursts of emotional demands isolate them from a society that shows peer respect to all and follows a common law. Perhaps it is time for a refresher course at all educational sites to review how to show respect to each other.

Showing respect to someone does not mean you look, talk or feel identical to everyone else. Diversity of looks, opinion, words and feelings is a good thing and we should be tolerant of each other in all things.

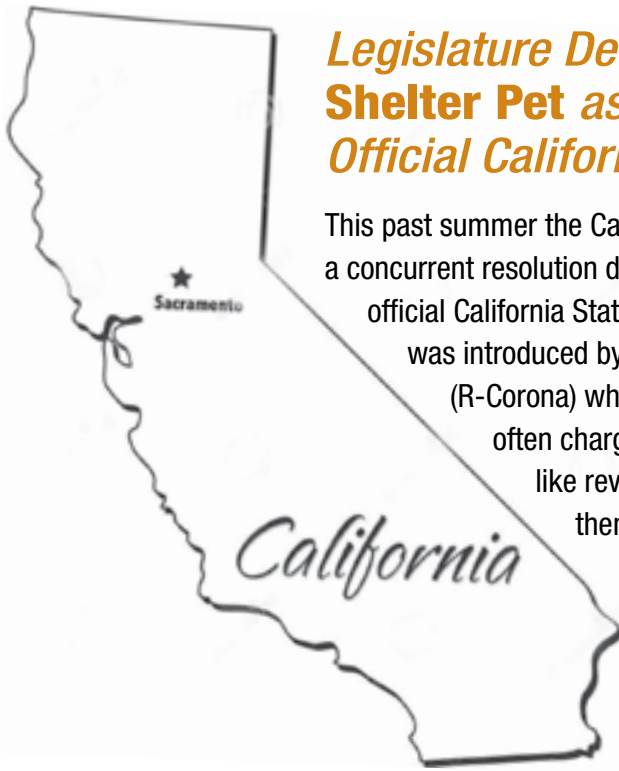
Showing respect to someone does not stop you from exercising your legal and constitutional rights. Just because someone feels they don't like your bumper sticker, they do not have any legal or moral right to remove it. They may choose not to associate with you and that is certainly their right of free association.

Showing respect to someone does not require you to agree with them on all points. Disagreements can and should lead to respectful discussions, allowing people to listen and learn from each other, a two-way showing of respect.

I hope you will review how your humane educational programs help each and every person to better respect diversity of opinion.

A listing of the Bill of Rights from the US Constitution, specifically Amendments 1-10, is on page 16.





Legislature Declares Shelter Pet as Official California State Pet

This past summer the California State Legislature passed a concurrent resolution declaring the **Shelter Pet** as the official California State Pet. The resolution, ACR 56, was introduced by Assemblymember Eric Linder (R-Corona) who said, "Humane societies are often charged with nearly impossible tasks like reviving debilitated animals or placing them in homes with loving families. I hope by naming the Shelter Animal as California's State Pet, we can highlight great organizations and all the good work they do for our animals."



SCIL
Social Compassion
in Legislation



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT AS THE HOLIDAYS APPROACH

Animal Rescue Aid, a 501(c)(3) organization known especially for the affordable, high-quality beds they make available to shelters and rescue organizations, has a new BOGO program for pet owners: Buy one shelter-proven bed for your own pet and give one at cost to a pup in a shelter waiting for its forever home. *Talk about a Win-Win!*



ANIMAL RESCUE AID



Many rescued animals are housed in kennels with concrete floors that are hard, cold, and often soiled. A simple pet bed not only gives a rescue immediate comfort, it reduces their stress and anxiety level, helping to bring out their true personality to prospective adopters.

Visit ARA's new website (www.animalrescueaid.org) for details about the BOGO offer and learn about their **National Pet Bed**, **National Pet Crate Donation Programs™** and their **Forgotten Shelter Program™** too.

— NOTE —



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**I SAW IT ONLINE
SO IT MUST BE TRUE:**

More people die from taking selfies than from shark attacks. As of September, 2015: Selfie deaths 12. Shark deaths 8.

Be careful out there.



Building a COMMUNITY of CARE and COMPASSION in Northern British Columbia

By Valerie Ingram and Alistair Schroff of the
Lakes Animal Friendship Society

Introduction

Burns Lake is a rural village in the north-central interior of British Columbia, Canada. The village has a population of approximately 3,600 including the residents of the First Nations reserves. The village is renowned for its rich First Nations heritage, and for its extensive network of mountain biking trails, which have received international acclaim. Until recently, it also had the sort of problems one can see in many northern communities – rampant overpopulation of cats and dogs, nuisance and danger posed by roaming dogs in search of a mate or a meal, abuse and neglect of animals, and an overall sense that animals are “disposable.” Many dogs and cats died due to disease or injury; others were killed inhumanely. However, thanks to the efforts of a community determined to make positive and sustainable changes in animal welfare, this small town has become a model for others.

This article shares some of our experiences in helping to build a community of care and compassion in Burns Lake.

Since its start in 2008, the Lakes Animal Friendship Society has tried to make life better for the community in Burns Lake and beyond. Early in our Society’s development, our motto became: “Healthy, happy animals are part of healthy, happy families and communities.” We wanted to build programs that supported families with tools and resources to help keep their four-legged members healthy, happy and in the home. We developed four main programs



The Lakes Animal Friendship Society’s motto is “Healthy, happy animals are part of healthy, happy families and communities.”

over time: education about animal care, compassion and bite safety; spaying and neutering of dogs and cats from lower income families; dog and cat houses for animals in need of proper winter shelter; and pet food for animals in need. There is an intentional thread of community involvement in each of our programs and we consider this our greatest success.



Childrens’ art after a lesson with Dusty

1. Education about Animal Care, Compassion, and Bite Safety

We still consider education our most important program. As *Latham Letter* readers are well aware, children have an intrinsic love for animals and this love needs to be nurtured. Children who learn compassion and respect for animals have a better chance at becoming compassionate adults and responsible community members. And while we don't have detailed local statistics on bite incidents, our polls of students corroborate the estimate that by age twelve half of all children have been bitten by dogs.

My canine sidekick, Dusty, and I have made most of our organizations more than 5000 student visits. The interactive presentations include consistent, repeated messages. They involve individual "meet and greet" lessons with Dusty to reinforce bite safety. They also involve discussions of animal needs and their similarity to the students' own needs. Before this program started, few students were aware of how to stay safe around dogs and many lacked knowledge of what it means to be a responsible and caring pet guardian.

To extend the lessons, we provide handouts and high quality books with animal welfare themes to the classrooms we visit. Finding resources that are appropriate for our generally lower literacy levels and that are culturally relevant to northern rural communities has been a challenge. Our colleagues in the Association of Professional Humane Educators (APHE) and at RedRover have been an invaluable resource, as have publishers like Gryphon Press and Animal Welfare Institute.



Babine School students and staff donating hand-made blankets to our Community Animal Care Event

To see some of the materials we use, please check out our web site. We make many of our original materials freely available. (www.lakesanimalfriendship.ca)

Students get involved in the process by creating posters for their school for themes like bite safety, community cats, and the needs of animals. Our newsletter, *Critter Care News*, incorporates posters and images created by the students and their own stories about helping animals or caring for their dogs and cats. We produce about 1000 copies of the *Critter Care News* once or twice per year in professionally designed and printed format and ensure that every child receives a copy to share with their family. The students are empowered as they share ways to be "superheroes" by helping the animals of their community. Reading the *Critter Care News* with their family helps bring awareness beyond the schools into the home.

Some schools we work with have been inspired to initiate new projects to help the animals. Our hearts were touched by a small school in a remote town called Granisle. There are about 35 students at Babine Elementary Secondary School (BESS), which runs from kindergarten to grade twelve. The whole school got involved in collecting donations of unwanted clothing, which they unstitched, cut and sewed into beautiful and unique blankets for dogs and cats in need. Four of these blankets were donated for distribution at the APHE conference this spring and have travelled across North America with rescue groups. The rescue groups are corresponding with BESS and telling them stories of the journeys these blankets have taken.



Here Valerie is reading *Nobody's Cats* to a class. Every child in Burns Lake received a copy of this book.

2. Spaying and Neutering of Animals from Lower Income Families

We owe a debt of gratitude to the *Latham Letter* for sharing Jean Atthowe's article "A Lesson in Changing Attitudes." The work of the Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force inspired our community-minded approach to tackling dog and cat overpopulation.

Some of our First Nations reserves (the Canadian term for Indian reservation) are in very close proximity to the Burns Lake Veterinary Clinic. Even so, the owner Dr. Lois Martin indicated that perhaps two percent of the families were regular clients. Education, culture, finances, and transportation were all potential barriers. We certainly worked hard on education. As Maya Angelou says "I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better." Clearly education alone is not sufficient; you must provide the tools and options to implement what you have learned. So we set out to remove more of the barriers.



A community cat being released back into its colony

The community – including First Nations, local veterinarians, governments and police – invited a group of amazing veterinary volunteers to Burns Lake for our Community Animal Care Event in 2011. The Canadian Animal Assistance Team (CAAT) conducts animal health clinics and delivers on-site health checks, spaying and neutering, vaccinations and deworming. The Lake Babine Nation donated the use of their community hall, and other community members helped provide food, transportation and accommodations for the team. We were not

sure what to expect for our first Community Animal Care Event, but starting on day one community members flocked to the event with their beloved pets. Animals were lined up out the door!

CAAT encourages families to stay with their animals through the whole process.

Community Animal Care Events offer career education opportunities.



The interaction with the veterinary team and our local volunteers provided many educational opportunities. Students from local schools were invited to observe the clinic, help out, and create heartfelt cards thanking the team members who travelled from across Canada to help the community. The services were provided for free; however, we encouraged donations of any kind. We felt this was important, as it recognizes that the animals have value. Our donations included smoked salmon, a lovely pair of knitted socks and bannock (fried bread)!

There is an intentional thread of community involvement in each of our programs and we consider this our greatest success.

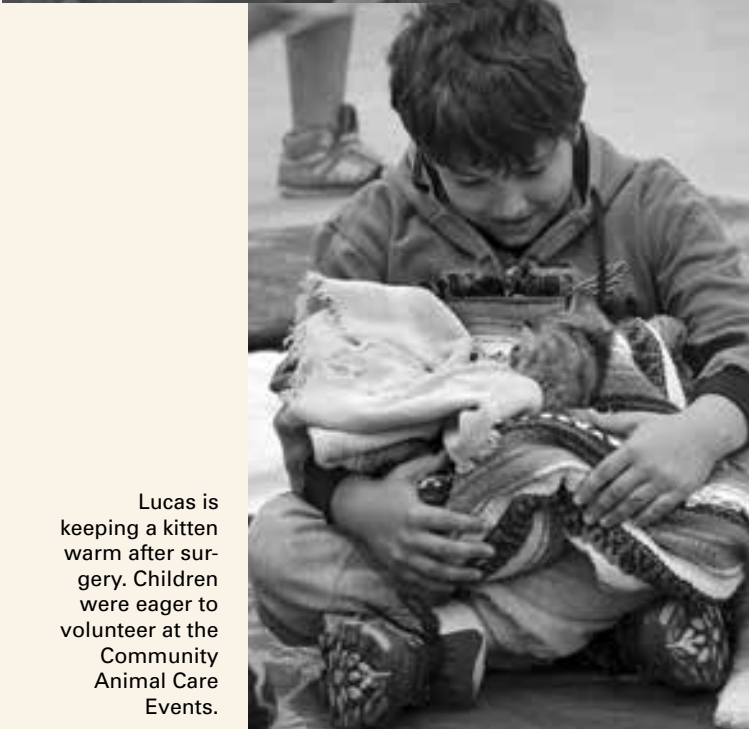
We hosted Community Animal Care Events in the three years that followed. Every year we noted the improvement in conditions of the animals, and the level of knowledge about animal care increased dramatically. Numbers of dog-related complaints in the village have dropped to almost nil. Annual impoundments and surrenders of dogs have dropped to less than half of prior levels. This is saving significant taxpayer and community resources (including donations) which can now go to more proactive purposes in animal welfare or to other community priorities.

From 2013 to the present we have carried out a trap-neuter-return (TNR) project for community cat colonies, in cooperation with the Burns Lake Veterinary Clinic and the BC SPCA.



Anastacia volunteering to cuddle a puppy in recovery

A guardian and his pup arrive at the Animal Care Event



Lucas is keeping a kitten warm after surgery. Children were eager to volunteer at the Community Animal Care Events.

Our local students, true to form, got involved in the educational aspects of the TNR project. They contributed artwork and helped write the ending of our children’s book, *Nobody’s Cats*. The book was based on the true story of two local students who contacted us about a community cat colony. The students and their school raised funds, helped to feed the cats and ultimately get the TNR project started. At the writing of this article, thousands of copies of the book are in the hands of local students, regional schools

The greatest sustainable hope is in education, and change does not come overnight.

and libraries, and animal welfare and humane education groups across North America and beyond. So not only are our students ambassadors for animal welfare within our community, they can see the ripple of compassion spreading.

In total we have spayed and neutered well over 1000 dogs and cats since 2011, in a community where the town and rural population is around 7000 people.

The TNR project will be completed this year and has resulted in stabilization of populations at even some very large (100 cat) colonies, and greatly reduced (by 80%) the number of animals ending up in the local cat shelter operated by the Burns Lake Veterinary Clinic. In a way, we felt that the TNR project marked a new stage in the evolution of our community attitudes and behaviors. Ten years ago nobody would have imagined that there could be such a project to help these animals on the margins!

3. Dog and Cat Houses for Animals without Proper Winter Shelter

This program started with houses that we built and dropped off for dogs and cats in anonymous midnight runs. In Burns Lake, winter temperatures can reach minus forty, so an insulated shelter can mean the difference between life and death for chained dogs and other animals left outside. We soon realized that by building large dog and cat shelters at high cost, we were not going to help as many dogs and cats as we would like. And, we weren’t really involving the community.

Phase Two of the dog house program involved requesting donated dog houses that we then refurbished and insulated as required. On the plus side, it raised awareness of the issue of proper shelter, provided us with contacts for households needing assistance and saved on materials. However, it was still cumbersome,

as we had to pick up houses from remote locations, and some were behemoths that two people could barely lift! These issues prompted a friend to come up with a one plywood sheet design that would be cost-effective and suit our needs. Local industrial arts teacher Dirk Hofer took on the task of getting the design into production. As a school project, his high school students built 30 houses in a very short time, from materials we provided. Elementary school classes offered to paint the houses using donated paint and supplies.

Since then, we have distributed over 200 houses, including 150 “Hofer Houses” that elementary, high school and college students in our community built and

Children who learn compassion and respect for animals have a better chance at becoming compassionate adults and responsible community members.



Phase two of the dog house project. These are the Hofer Houses that can be built from kits. Students of Grassy Plains School painted them bright colors.

4. Pet Food for Dogs and Cats in Need

Initially, we made deliveries of pet food to community members receiving our dog houses. Again, we had the feeling that we weren't meeting the larger needs of the community. With schools running breakfast and lunch programs for hungry children, we could only imagine the number of suffering dogs and cats. We also heard heartbreaking stories of local senior citizens on small pensions who were not getting enough to eat because they wanted to make sure their pets didn't go hungry. We spoke to the community food bank. The organizers confirmed that there was a significant demand for pet food but they could not keep up. Pet food donations were limited. The food needed for the human members of client families fully occupied their small storage space.

Through community connections, we sourced a donor of food from Vancouver, the largest urban center in our province. A local freight company that reduces the shipping cost delivers the palletized food to our community. The hardware store off-loads the pallets and stores them in the garage of the adjacent community-owned forest company. The food bank volunteers pick up what they need, when they



The children take great care and pride in painting their own dogs' houses and those of other animals in need, including community cats.

painted. We distributed some fully constructed and others as “flat packs” of the house components. Families and groups receiving the flat pack houses have the opportunity to be part of the process. They can take pride in assembling the houses for their beloved pets or other pets in need. The flat packs are much easier to transport to remote areas where needs are great, and only require a screwdriver to assemble.

need it, when the pet food supplies at the food bank are depleted.

Conclusion

This past summer, we hired Darci Burch, a registered veterinary technician and CAAT member to help us with our programs and to carry out education and outreach in communities across northwest BC. While we still have a lot to learn, we have seen firsthand the difference that even a small group of committed individuals can make. As Jane Goodall says, “A person may be easily overcome with feelings of helplessness in whatever cause you are passionate about. A person sometimes questions how their actions could possibly make a difference. But apathy is overcome, only if we have hope.” As Darci visited remote communities where dog roundups and shoots had taken place and heard fearful students talk about “garbage dogs,” she reflected on our community. After eight years of intensive education, community involvement and providing tools for care, dog bite safety and the needs of animals are well known and the level of care has improved dramatically. The norm has moved from neglect and abuse to care and compassion. So yes, there is hope for animal welfare in our northern communities and beyond. The greatest sustainable hope is in

Yes, there is hope for animal welfare in our northern communities. The norm has moved from neglect and abuse to care and compassion.



LAFS volunteers Alistair and Haley delivering food and a dog house to a critter in need

education, and change does not come overnight. We must meet people where they are, not where we expect them to be.

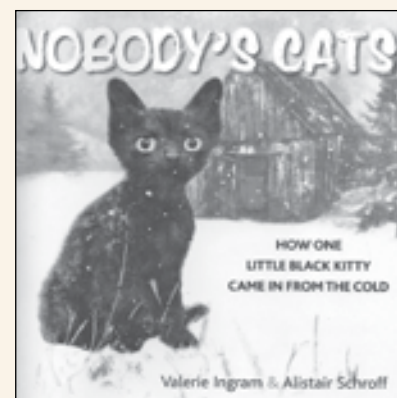
We will leave the last word to Jan Hannah of the International Federation of Animal Welfare who aptly summarizes the lessons we have learned over the past eight years:

“A comprehensive and sustainable approach to dog and cat population management is necessary. This isn’t about being a dog lover or not. It’s about empowering communities to create for themselves a safe and healthy environment where human, animal welfare needs are met, and where dogs are not a threat. The issue is complex and the solution is holistic. To create a culture of engaged and responsible pet ownership, “the fix” is not spay/neuter on its own, not legislation without education. A proactive approach needs to be taken.”

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Valerie Ingram is a certified teacher and president of the Lakes Animal Friendship Society (LAFS). She has 19 years of experience teaching all grade levels but spent much of her career teaching kindergarten. A lifelong love of animals and a commitment to teaching care, compassion and respect made humane education a logical career move (even at no pay!). Valerie volunteers in classrooms around the community and northwest BC. She mentors others who volunteer in communities across the region.

Alistair Schroff is Valerie’s husband, a forester and volunteer with LAFS. While he has difficulty keeping up with Valerie’s passion and enthusiasm, he brings some business experience and helps with bookkeeping, proposal writing, animal transport, food delivery and whatever else needs doing!



See pages 19-20 of the Summer 2015 Latham Letter for more information.





Photo Credits:
Elana Blum, Jessica Harper, Liz Haven

Taking the Reins:



Empowering Girls with Horsepower and More

By *Elana Blum*

Along the Los Angeles River, there's a place for teenage girls like no other. Taking the Reins (TTR) is a community-based, not-for-profit organization on a unique 2.5 acre urban farm. It offers horseback riding and garden and nutrition programs to girls from varied backgrounds, schools and neighborhoods across Los Angeles. Here, each girl knows that no matter what growing up in a big city brings, there are good feelings and a gorgeous mountain view at the barn.

In 16 years, Taking the Reins has empowered more than 1,700 girls to become confident leaders. The red barn at TTR, built in 1938, is part of a historically significant equestrian community in Los Angeles. At the barn, girls learn to recognize and positively use their own physical strength and leadership skills. At the barn, everyone arrives ready to work together. At the barn, there's a very small staff with pretty big goals.

Working together with horses, farm animals and in the garden, every girl learns the value of teamwork, responsibility, and smart footwear. Halfway through the barn aisle, there's a handy tack room with a selection of communal boots from size 4 to 14. Everyone just grabs a pair and gets going!

Horses are a major draw for many people. Here, the equestrian program brings the experience of learning how to ride together with barn procedures and safety. All participants learn about basic veterinary care, building on their equine science and grooming classes. Learning to understand, trust and lead a 1100 pound animal absolutely resonates through any girl's adolescence.



In recent years, TTR's urban farming program has expanded. It now offers a "seed to skillet" experience through organic gardening and cooking classes. Learning horticulture, stewardship of the land, animal husbandry, and an appreciation for the natural environment encourages interest in nutrition. Then, bolstered with this knowledge, the girls make informed decisions in their school cafeteria and their home kitchens.

While many attributes of the program seem immeasurable, 76% of the participants tested showed significant improvement in self esteem and confidence. In leadership and teamwork assessments, 92% of the girls declared that the skills they learned at the barn helped them perform well in school and in their personal lives. Last year, all of the graduating seniors went on to pursue a college education. *Whoa, that's horsepower!*

For more information, visit www.takingthereins.org.

Elana Blum is the Operations & Community Relations Manager at Taking the Reins. Elana has been a proud member of the Association of Professional Humane Educators for 12 years.
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Making a Difference – It Matters



By Kay Stout

There are pivotal times in everyone's life when the road chosen changes everything.

That happened to me while at Second Chance Animal Sanctuary in Norman, Oklahoma. Sarge, a grumpy, growly Schnauzer got his second chance at the Lexington Oklahoma Prison's dog training program. He went from "unadoptable" to resident therapy dog at the Norman Veteran's Center. The documentary "The Dogs of Lexington" is on YouTube. Click on the one submitted by John Otto.

While I'm no longer at Second Chance, I'm fortunate to have the opportunity to once again save the lives of homeless dogs and cats as the Director at the Peaceful Animal Adoption Shelter (PAAS) in Vinita, Oklahoma.

PAAS is the realization of a four-year journey. It started with the unfortunate and untimely death of Petey, the cat. A neighbor considered him a nuisance and the animal control officer decided to rid the neighborhood of his presence – an action that galvanized concerned citizens. Today, PAAS is saving the lives of dogs and cats in Vinita and the surrounding area.

Northeastern Oklahoma (like many rural areas) poses cultural challenges when it comes to dogs and cats. Spay and neuter ("fixed" in our neck of the woods) are not part of the conversation or life style. The challenge has been to demonstrate that getting "fixed" is the right thing to do.

Early on I knew if we could start a TNR (Trap/Neuter/Release) program for feral cats, we could save the lives of hundreds of feral cats. Lots of conversations and blogs in local newspapers, with the cooperation of the area veterinarians, made a noticeable impact. It wasn't long before we were also "fixing" feral cats that were amazingly tame. That was the right decision. Unless a significant number of cats were neutered, we wouldn't have had the impact we needed. The



adoption of cats is a different challenge. We're working on it.

It took less than three weeks for the shelter to be full of dogs. Rescues from local/area pounds and municipalities coupled with owner surrender were absolute proof that supply far exceeded demand.

Looking for a solution to save the lives of the homeless dogs who had no voice became my top priority. The conferences I'd attended, the articles I'd read, and the networking with other professionals all pointed to out-of-state-transport. Fortunately, I'd made an excellent connection with the Cheyenne Wyoming Animal Shelter and, at a conference sponsored by the Kirkpatrick Foundation, I'd connected with a colleague in Colorado. Roger, my Colorado connection, put me in touch with the Boulder Valley Humane Society and Denver Dumb Friends

League. And the rest they say is history – at least for now. We started transports in late August. By the end of this month, more than 150 dogs will be living the good life in Colorado and Wyoming.

The Cheyenne shelter was our first out-of-state transport. They were thrilled with the puppies we sent to them and they were quickly adopted. When I reached out to the Boulder Humane Society and Denver

Dumb Friends League, they wanted to be sure our dogs were socialized. Pictures of happy dogs of all sizes, playing together quickly dispelled their concerns. Too many shelter dogs get too little time outside playing with other dogs.

In the early days of waiting for the construction to be completed, I'd arranged a visit with the trainers at Lexington for the PAAS Board members. It was a life-changing



experience for many of them. Once we were inside the prison walls, sitting in a small room talking with the trainers, I just sat back to observe. More than 2½ hours later they were still engaged, watching the dogs in training and gaining an understanding of the program's value. Mission accomplished.

The Vinita Chief of Police, who is a board member, attended the session as well. He became a believer and played a key role in PAAS now having a trustee who comes seven days a week, eight hours a day to clean kennels, feed dogs and cats, and, most importantly, gain the dogs' trust. In only a few days, the trustee has the shyest, most frightened, dogs following him everywhere with tails a waggin'.

Out-of-state transport is the best over-population solution for now. It is not, however, the best long-term solution. That solution is frequent, affordable, spay/neuter clinics. There are two challenges that must be addressed for the clinics to be welcomed in the communities on a regular basis – the reluctant local veterinarians and the members of the public who still believe it's okay to let your dog roam, breed, roam, and breed. Fortunately, many of the young people have a much better understanding of the overpopulation picture, and once they're pet owners it is hoped they'll be responsible pet owners. In the meantime however, breeding continues and it is truly heartbreaking.

Our long-term goal for the facility includes providing agility classes, obedience classes, and training shelter dogs as comfort/therapy dogs. I've seen the life-changing results of the human-dog connection. We're especially focused on providing well-trained dogs for those veterans who've given so much for us as Americans. We know each time a dog saves a human life, the impact is beyond measurement.

There are solutions for rural communities. Each of them has unique challenges, but there are solutions. It takes caring people who put aside their personal differences, meet together to find a common ground and agree to collaborate on the plan of action. It's happened in rural communities in other states; it can happen in my state.

Whenever I look into the eyes of a frightened dog, I remember Sarge. He's the 2015 Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association's Hero Dog of the Year. I knew him when he was scared, frightened, growly, and deemed difficult to adopt.



GOOD NEWS from the 2015 **Best Friends** National Conference



The Bill of Rights from the US Constitution

Specifically Amendments 1-10



1. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.
2. A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.
3. No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.
4. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.
5. No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War, or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.
6. In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.
7. In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.
8. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.
9. The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.
10. The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.



Are You Getting the LINK-Letter?

A monthly report of news from The National Resource Center on the Link between Animal Abuse and Human Violence www.nationallinkcoalition.org

SUBSCRIBE – It's Free! Phil Arkow, Editor, arkowpets@snip.net



Remembering Hurricane Katrina through Literature

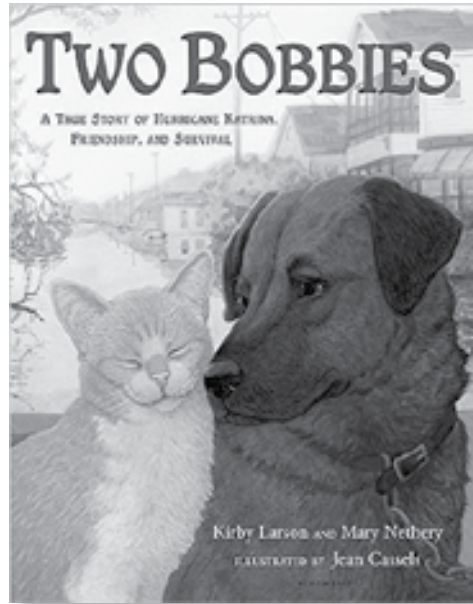
By Debbie Duel

August 29th marked the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, one of the most disastrous storms of all time. Many young readers were born long after the devastation. For today's learners, Hurricane Katrina is a historical event, one that needs to be remembered and learned from.

Two must-read books underscore the number of animal companions who were left behind during the evacuation because animals were not permitted in shelters at that time. * *Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival* (2008, Walker Publishing Company, Inc.) and *Buddy* (2013, Puffin), should be read, discussed, and reread, particularly during this season of remembrance.

Published just three short years after Katrina, *Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival* by Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery with illustrations by Jean Cassels, is both heartbreaking and heartwarming.

The true story chronicles the struggles of best and unusual friends, Bobbi, the dog, and BobCat, the blind cat, following Hurricane Katrina. Having lost their homes in the deadly storm, the unlikely duo depends on each other to survive. The picture book shows the devastation: high waters measured by submerged cars, Xs

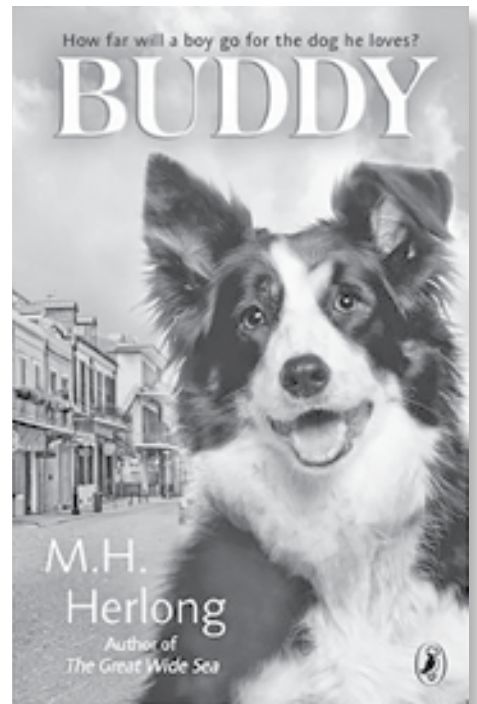


marked on abandoned homes, and rescuers in boats on city streets strewn with debris. It also tells how it was that many, many beloved animals were left behind: "Winds roared 110 miles an hour. Rain pounded hard and fast. Strong winds pushed walls of water from the Gulf of Mexico into Lake Pontchartrain. Some of the levees holding back the lake gave way. Water poured into the city, deeper and deeper. People who had stayed through the storm were finally forced to leave their homes. They had to say good-bye to everything they loved. Many were told they could not take their pets."

The book also documents the pair's attempts to survive on the hazardous, deserted streets, their eventual rescue by a Good Samaritan, and their stay at the Best Friends Animal Society's temporary shelter in Celebration Station. Despite numerous reunification

efforts, Bobbi and Bobcat's pre-Katrina families were never found. The book's epilogue, complete with photos of the real-life Bobbi and BobCat, details the real-life happily ever-after ending.

M.H. Herlong's *Buddy*, a nearly 300-page book does not sugar coat; there is no fairy tale ending here. Li'l T, the story's lovable 12-year-old protagonist, and his family might be poor before the hurricane – and totally wiped out after the disaster – but they are survivors with an abundance of riches: they have each other, their faith, and their unwavering determination to persevere. That resolve is what keeps Li'l T working to get Buddy, his beloved three-legged dog, back long after the levees break.



Before heading out to seek refuge with an aunt in Mississippi, Li'l T secures Buddy in the second floor bathroom with a large opened bag of

dog kibble, a bathtub full of water, and the promise to be back soon. Days turn into weeks. When Li'l T and his dad are finally allowed to return to their home, the writing is on the wall; spray-painted beneath a big X are the words, "9/12, One Dog."

The ever-present theme of survival and moving on is front and center, particularly when Li'l T's parents present him with a fluffy, wiggly puppy for Christmas. He won't name him "Li'l B" for Little Buddy like his dad suggests, instead choosing the moniker Rover "because it's a dog's name."

Buddy is never far from Li'l T's thoughts. Finally, on page 235, Li'l T's faith is rewarded; he learns that Buddy is okay, albeit living a long, long way from New Orleans. Brother James tells Li'l T that he saw a nice animal shelter on TV ... in California, where some of the Hurricane Katrina survivors were sent. He tells him that one of the dogs caught his eye, "a black dog with three legs." Li'l T is ready to travel the 2,000-plus miles to bring Buddy home, putting the reader on a fast-paced, nearly 60-page journey.

In the end, Buddy stays in California with his new boy, Brian, and Li'l T returns home to New Orleans to his new dog, Rover. Both Li'l T and Buddy are exactly where they are supposed to be. While there isn't the happy ending that readers may have been hoping for, it's the right ending. Li'l T tosses the ball, Rover retrieves it again and again and, after all that Li'l T and his family have been through, he thinks to himself, "This is happiness. This is home." Buddy is definitely a four-tissue book!

*** One of changes that occurred in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was the Congressional passage of the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act (2006), requiring state and local governments to incorporate pets and service animals into disaster planning.**

Debra K. Duel, the Washington Animal Rescue League's director of humane education, has nearly 30 years of experience in humane education, leading classroom programs, workshops, teacher trainings, and conferences. She is the author of Nigel, an Operation Outreach-USA book. She can be reached at Debbie@warl.org.



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Interview with Justin Silver, star of CBS's 2012 reality show *Dogs in the City* and author of *The Language of Dogs*

Latham: You came to dog training through the world of dog rescue, right? How did that happen?

Justin: I did come to training through dog rescue and not a moment too soon. Clichéd as it sounds, dogs kind of saved me.

About ten years ago I was living in NY and doing stand-up comedy most every night. Every night I'd come home after performing and experience a horrible crash. To go from the high of being onstage to being tired, wired, and alone is tough. To unwind, I used to watch infomercials. It worked for a while but the monotony of, "and if you order now, we'll send you more useless things," became irritating, so I graduated to torturing myself with those depressing animal commercials. It was brutal but effective, because a week later I was fostering rescue dogs.

I got on the fostering circuit and quickly became a go-to-guy for tough dogs. My fellow volunteers noticed two things: one, that I had the equivalent of a green thumb with the tricky dogs; and two, that I had a gangrene thumb with plants. My cacti were dead, but gone was the post stand-up crashing. I felt renewed. I started a dog walking business. Walking a small pack of dogs and bringing them to dog parks was like going to canine college. You not only have to know your dogs really well, but you have to be able to quickly assess how they'll interact with other

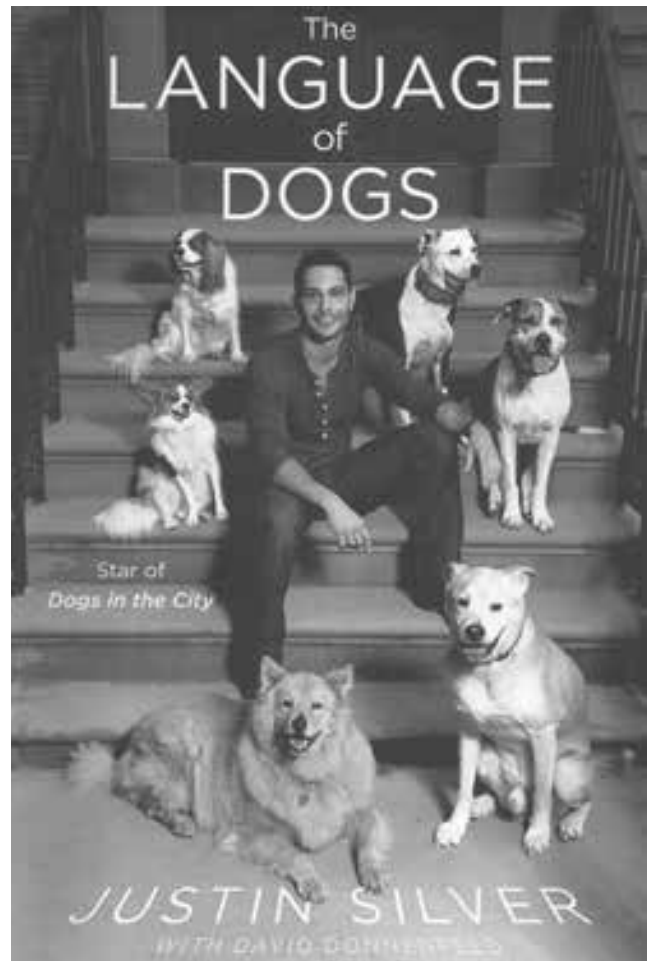
dogs off leash, in elevators, around kids, you name it.

I became established as something of a dog handyman in my neighborhood – providing quick fixes to workaday issues. I was training dogs but I found that the lessons didn't always stick with owners.

At this point, I brought in my friend/big brother, Dave Donnenfeld. He's an interesting guy with a background in behavioral health. Everyone goes to him with their problems and he reads people exceptionally well. He's always quick to see and help owners overcome their stumbling blocks. Together, I don't think there's a canine quandary we can't fix. In the past few years, we've trained more dogs than almost anyone, and invariably, we're not their first trainers. The experience we've garnered as re-trainers has helped hone what we do down to a soft science.

L: How do you deal with your detractors, the ones who claim you don't have formal dog training education?

J: I don't really deal with detractors. Experience has been a great teacher to



me and I'm comfortable with that. That said, I have a coterie of fellow trainers, behaviorists, vets, and animal professionals and we all learn from and consult with each other. Sadly, pet care in general has become a victim of its own success. Had the industry not grown so rapidly, I probably wouldn't be talking to you, but the field is decentralized and still maturing. Without a governing body or even agreed-upon principles, new approaches often attempt to claim authority and differentiate themselves by dismissing others. On whose authority are they speaking? On their own of course. And who are they? A self-proclaimed authority. Round and round we go. The dog world can be downright catty. The reality is that dog training has been practiced for centuries and

is continually evolving. It has always been ongoing and always will be.

L: *Your description of operant conditioning in Chapter Four was great. How do you incorporate reward and punishment into your own life as a dog trainer?*

J: Are we talking about positive or negative punishment? I'm kidding. Actually, you can thank Dave for that write up in Chapter Four; he's more the academic in the family. We wanted to write that piece to address some of the misinformation that is continually being floated. In our subsequent discussions, we did come up with a remarkably simple answer to this and it is:

- 1) You can't solve a problem without a solution. Don't say "duh." Most people are so acutely aware of what they don't want their dog to do, that they have no idea what they do want their dog to do. This leads us to point two.
- 2) Always direct your dog to a reward. As long as I'm being humane and my eye is on the prize for my pooch, then the word "no" can be useful. It signifies that my dog is moving away from the desired behavior. My sole aim is to guide and direct my dog towards what we want. If you don't know what that is, see point #1.

L: *I love that you have such a knack with people and I've seen that it really pays off for them and their dogs. What do you look for on the people side of dog training?*

J: Even saying "the people side of dog training" illustrates the problem. A dog trainer works with dogs that live with people, and it is that person's relationship with the dog that prompted a call to me. I immediately look for the hiccups in communication and try to see if I can get everyone's needs met. Simple, but definitely not easy. Typically, the dog comes along quickly, but teaching an owner to implement and maintain the fix over time can require a lot of emotional support.

L: *What's your main message for readers?*

J: I think the number one thing dog owners could do more of is to "listen with their eyes." No one can know a dog better than the person who lives with it. Many times they're telling us all we need to know about them and ourselves. I hate to see people missing out on a great relationship.

L: *There are hundreds of good books out there. Why should we read yours?*

J: You should read it because a) it's the best book ever, b) it's an easy read and funny, c) it is both instructive and philosophical, d) it addresses dogs as individuals and provides readers with the tools to tailor their approach that best fits their unique pet, and e) all of the above.

<http://www.thelanguageofdogs.com>

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



The "Not Your Mother's Book" (NYMB) anthology series has gained popularity because NYMB books are contemporary, fun, and even daring – never sad or sappy.

This one, *Not Your Mother's Book on Cats*, came to our attention through one of its 62 contributors, Susan Easterly.

Susan is an award-winning writer and author of *Your Older Cat* and *The Guide to Hand Raising Kittens*. She is currently the poetry contributing editor of *LaJoie*, a quarterly publication dedicated to promoting appreciation for all beings. Her true story, "Ziba's Tale," is delightful and guaranteed to make you smile.

There's also a *Not Your Mother's Book on Dogs* and more than 20 new NYMB titles under development. Story guidelines are at www.PublishingSyndicate.com.

Not Your Mother's Book on Cats
Edited by Dahlynn McKowen,
Ken McKowen, and
Margie Yee Webb
ISBN: 978-1-938778-18-6
Publishing Syndicate
Orangevale, California



grabbing and heart-stirring headline on Coffey’s story. It generated so much passionate feedback that Coffey and Fusaro decided to team up to work together.

Their book reveals that even though dogs over the age of seven tend to be calm, easy, and already house-trained, they often represent the highest-risk population at shelters. With gorgeous, joyful photographs and sweet, funny, true tales, of “old dogs learning new tricks,” Coffey and Fusaro show that adopting a senior dog can be even more rewarding than choosing a younger dog.

This book is a celebration of all the grand times that shelter dogs past the age of puppyhood can bring their owners.

Photographer Lori Fusaro is crazy about dogs. She’s lived with them for as long as she can remember, and she photographs them for a living. But until a few years ago, the idea of adopting an older dog made her squirm with uneasiness.

“I thought it would just be too sad,” Fusaro said. “I didn’t think my heart could take it.” But then she welcomed a sweet-natured 16-year-old dog named Sunny into her family.

Sunny rewired Fusaro’s view of older dogs so completely that she decided to launch a photography project to show how much senior shelter pets have to offer. She never guessed that her efforts would spark a media frenzy and draw the attention of hundreds of thousands of supportive readers from around the world, but that’s exactly what happened.

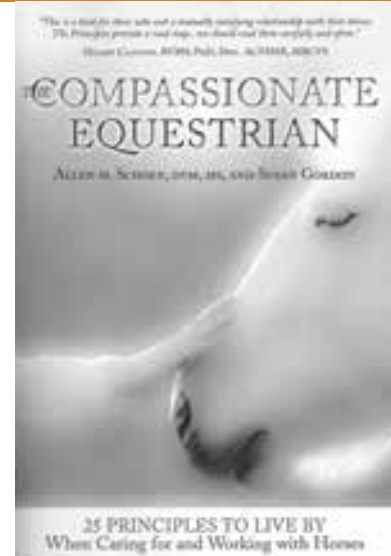
That outpouring began when Laura T. Coffey wrote a feature story about Fusaro’s work with senior shelter pets for TODAY.com, the website of NBC’s TODAY show. “No Dog Should Die Alone” was the attention-

Laura T. Coffey is a longtime writer, editor, and producer. As an award-winning journalist with more than two decades of experience, Laura has written and edited hundreds of high-profile human-interest stories. She lives in Seattle, Washington.

Lori Fusaro is staff photographer at Best Friends Animal Society in Los Angeles and owner of Fusaro Photography, whose clients include BAD RAP, Guide Dogs for the Blind, k9 connection, Angel City Pit Bulls, and other animal rescue organizations. She lives in Los Angeles. Their website is www.MyOldDogBook.com.

My Old Dog: Rescued Pets with Remarkable Second Acts

*By Laura T. Coffey
Photographs by Lori Fusaro
Foreword by Neko Case;
Afterwords by Dr. Marty Becker
& Mikkel Becker
\$24.95 • 256 pages
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World-renowned veterinarian and author, Dr. Allen Schoen, and long-time horse trainer and competitor, Susan Gordon, collaborated on this book that introduces the 25 Principles of Compassionate Equitation: a set of developmental guidelines that encourage a profound level of personal awareness during interactions with horses and all sentient beings. They believe that by developing deeper compassion for our horses – and for ourselves – equestrians take the first step to transcending differences and disagreements, learning instead to empathize and connect more closely with the “global collective” of horses and horse people.

Dr. Allen Schoen, DVM, MS, Ph.D. (Hon.) has been acknowledged worldwide for introducing the concept of an integrative approach to veterinary medicine

Susan Gordon retired as a professional hunter/jumper trainer in 2009 and founded Green Pony Productions for the production of digital media content relating to social justice for horses.

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Caring Careers Making a Living, Making a Difference

Latham’s **Caring Careers: Making a Living, Making a Difference** DVD reminds viewers of all ages that there are many ways to show respect and love for animals through one’s career.

A dog groomer, dog walker and pet sitter, equine massage therapist, reptile and amphibian specialist, up-and-coming horse trainer, and several veterinary technicians candidly discuss the joys, training, challenges, and rewards encountered in their chosen caring careers.

Recently the DVD received a rave review that we can’t help but share:

“As for the Careers video, I love it! I have it in a few high schools and grade 6/7 classes as well. It’s the best video on careers I’ve found out there. The kids always chuckle at the part where the lizard nips the fellow.”

— Valerie Ingram, Lakes Animal Friendship Society



The HelpMeHelpYou Series where animals help kids and kids help animals



FIRST IN A SERIES

Faith and Hope on a Farm



An inspiring reminder of why we teach compassion, empathy, and respect to help break the cycle of violence.

This DVD highlights Forget Me Not Farm at Sonoma Humane Society in Santa Rosa, Calif.,

where 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. As you see her blossom, you'll be reminded that where there's life, there's hope.

(All ages: 15 minutes.
Social Studies, Science,
Child development, Psychology)

Green Chimneys, Blue Skies

Green Chimneys School in Brewster, New York is a world leader in animal-assisted therapy. The school, which was founded in 1947, includes a state-approved special education program, a residential treatment program, and a psychiatric residential treatment facility for children who are struggling with emotional, educational, social, and behavioral challenges.



This DVD is a comprehensive and detailed look at the philosophy and methods that help the children succeed and see blue skies in their futures. It is also an inspiring reminder of the healing power of the human-animal bond.



2
SECOND IN A SERIES

(All ages; 40 minutes.
Social Studies,
Science, Child development,
Psychology, Psychiatry)



3
THIRD IN A SERIES

BARC if You Need Help

BARC stands for Building Adolescent Responsibility and Compassion, and Project BARC is a collaboration between the Humane Society of West Michigan and the Kent County Juvenile Detention Center. Its purpose is two-fold: to build responsibility, compassion, and self-confidence among the teens in the detention center and to increase dog adoptions. The trainees that are selected for the program participate in daily classroom lessons to build empathy. At the same time, they work with an animal trainer to help their dogs pass the Canine Good Citizen test, which greatly increases their chances for adoption.

In this DVD, which has a happy ending, you'll see some of the lives (both human and canine) that Project BARC has transformed.



(All ages: 15 minutes
Social Studies, Science,
Occupational Therapy,
Juvenile Justice, Criminology,
Corrections)



The End of Summer – Synchronized Swimming at its Finest
Courtesy of Ellen K. Rudolph, Images in Nature Collection



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