

# T H E Latham Letter

VOLUME XXXVI, NUMBER 3

SUMMER 2015

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

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U P D A T E

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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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## ***The Latham Letter***

Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

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# The Latham Letter

Volume XXXVI, Number 3, Summer 2015

**BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON  
HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**



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# How's YOUR green thumb?

*Guest Editorial by Michael Kaufmann,  
Farm and Wildlife Director,  
Green Chimneys School, Brewster, NY*

It has been a muggy summer at Green Chimneys farm. The horses are sweating, the sheep are panting in the shade and all the animals seem to prefer to wait out the heat and long for cooler days. The shelter dogs on campus prefer the air conditioned rooms, the llamas don't much care to go for the long walks they love at other times of year and overall activities with the animals move at a slower pace.

This time of year brings many guests for program tours. Eager animal-assisted education professionals from all over the world come to our campus to learn about how we engage our students in supportive relationships with farm animals, wildlife, horses and dogs. Sure, they are here to learn about animal interaction. But what these good folks don't know is that we will also introduce them to our "stealth weapon" in our nature-based program arsenal – the gardens.

In the summer our vegetable gardens are ripe with plentiful fruit, vegetables of all kinds and flowers of many shades and shapes, luring everyone into the garden. It's a great time to visit and watch the kids eagerly pick tomatoes, make salsa, weed the blackberry patch together, water things at dawn and to just join them in the garden gazebo having iced mint tea on a hot afternoon. Good things happen when kids care for plants.

For some reason the rich opportunity offered by horticulture education/therapy has had very little cross pollination with animal-facilitated therapy and experiential learning with animals. As someone who equally appreciates

what animals and plants can do for people – this has always bothered me. That disconnected approach just does not make much sense.

Why do some animal people almost wear it as a badge of pride that they are "terrible with plants" – joking about their "black thumb" and how they kill every green thing in their care? Yet they would walk through briars to save a bunny or to feed a hungry dog. It kind of makes me sad to see these colleagues blindly sitting in their office next to neglected and half dead plants. Plants aren't all that different from animals; they require knowledge, care, attention and sensitivity. Where's the difference?

We are often asked if there are other schools like ours that incorporate animals or gardening to help kids with special needs – sure there are. But what really sets us apart is how





## CHERI'S HOPE – LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Cherishope.org has created a pet organ donation network for participating veterinarians and pet owners in the Kansas City area. When a pet's life comes to an end, donating healthy organs to cherishope.org can help pet owners find solace in knowing their special pet will leave a lasting legacy by contribution to the future of renewed health of other dogs and cats.



## DON'T FORGET OUR INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE – A great chance for you to save on Latham books and DVDs

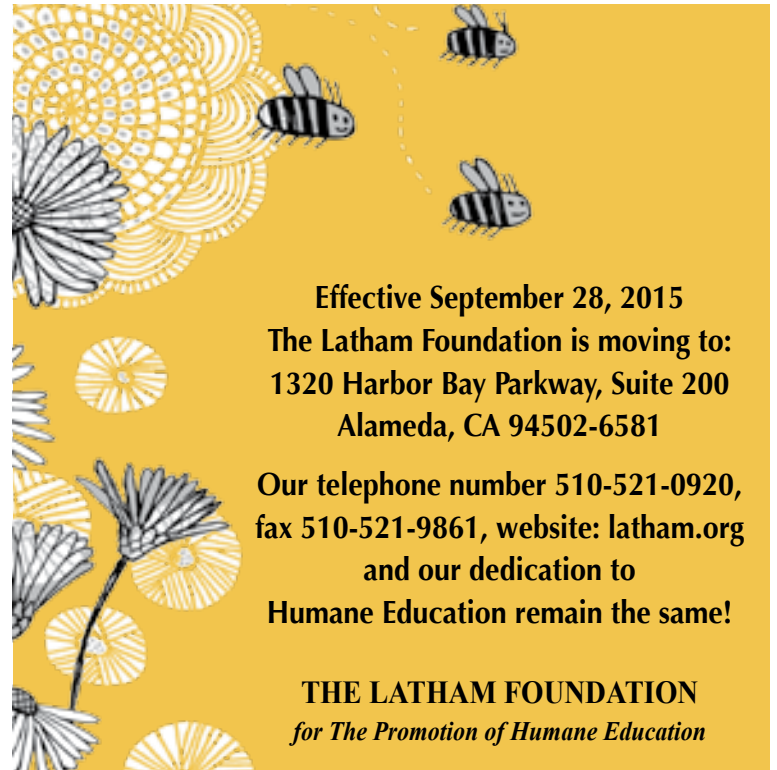
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**THE LATHAM FOUNDATION**  
*for The Promotion of Humane Education*



### CORRECTION

On page 12 of the Spring *Latham Letter* we incorrectly listed Oreo's trainer at Project BARC as Marvel. His name is Marcellus Bennett (*but we think he's a marvel*).

## FREE FORMS AND SAMPLES FROM THE ASPCA: Documents for Cruelty Cases

*Nineteen forms that can help accurately document and present information often crucial to a successful prosecution. Included are ways to identify animals in large-scale seizures, inventory and evidence logs, and histology and necropsy forms. All can be customized for your agency.*

Download at:

<http://www.aspcapro.org/resource/disaster-cruelty-animal-cruelty-animal-fighting/sample-documents-cruelty-cases>



we see “nature” as being a broad umbrella – and that the immersion with animals of many kinds, plants of diverse species and discovery of living natural settings offers the children a chance to reconnect with something profound.

Some of the same processes that are at work when transplanting seeds – gentleness, being thorough and learning with wonder – are also at play when caring for a flock of baby chicks. From morning to evening the farm setting of our campus frames the day for the children and staff. What we try to teach is a greater respect and appreciation for the living world around us and how it can be sustaining. As the seasons pass, the children may feed sheep in the morning with the farm teacher and then spend the afternoon helping to tap maple trees for sap with our gardening staff.

What Green Chimneys has done since 1947 is slowly starting to be validated by researchers. Internationally, discussion among academics about “nature deficits” in urban populations, the need for more contact with nature for children, a raised appreciation of our food sources and green spaces globally are concrete signs of a growing understanding.

It’s really so obvious isn’t it? Our kids get to see how rain showers fall on the asparagus patch in early spring, they experience the oppressive humidity of August as it lays heavy on the farm and marvel at the ice crystals on the barn windows in January. Relationships are built with living beings. The orderly passing of seasons frames the daily routine of campus life. The timeless rhythms of nature settle and calm turbulent lives and histories. Growth and change happen. That’s the secret.

Sure, we have great therapists, licensed teachers and fabulous child care staff – it’s a team effort to work with our

students and there is a lot of professionalism at work. But enriching our school with animals, ornamental plants, and vegetable gardens is central to our success.

So it is our hope that when our animal colleagues visit – and get to experience the passion the kids have in the healing gardens, they too may do better by those pitiful houseplants they ignore or kill at work or home. For those who already are on board with the needs and therapeutic gifts of plants, it simply reaffirms where they stand.

Plants, animals and people at the core of it, we all need the same things to thrive! So many words for such as simple truth.

*MICHAEL KAUFMANN is the Farm and Wildlife Director at Green Chimneys and the director of the new Sam and Myra Ross Institute, dedicated to research on the human connection to animals and the natural world. He served the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and the American Humane Association (AHA) as a key program director in animal-assisted activities/therapy, humane education & animal welfare. He has contributed to defining publications in the field and has served on numerous national boards & committees. He has lectured internationally on humane education, animal-assisted activities and how the link between child abuse and animal cruelty offers opportunity for collaboration between various helping professions.*



## For more on Green Chimneys School, see Latham’s DVD *Green Chimneys, Blue Skies*



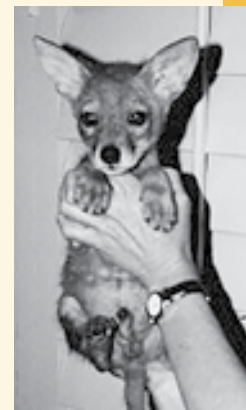
This film is part of the HelpMeHelpYou series highlighting programs where animals and children care for each other and through their interactions help each other. At Green Chimneys School in Brewster, New York, animals have been helping kids succeed academically, socially, and emotionally for more than 65 years. In turn, kids have been helping rescued animals. How and why do they do it? *Green Chimneys, Blue Skies* is a comprehensive and detailed look at Green Chimneys’ philosophy and methods. It is also a reminder of the power of the human-animal bond and sure to leave you moved and inspired.

# Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center Continues to Rehabilitate and Educate

## Editor's Note:

We featured the fine work of Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center (SWCC) (then called the Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Foundation) in the Winter, 1998 *Latham Letter*. ([www.latham.org/order-our-products/index.php?route=product/search&filter\\_name=winter%201998](http://www.latham.org/order-our-products/index.php?route=product/search&filter_name=winter%201998))

After a recent visit with a group from the Association of Professional Humane Educators, we realized it's time for an update.



The story of Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center began in the early 1990s when Linda Searles, a woman with a passion for all living things, had a life-changing encounter with an orphaned coyote pup named "Don." A local farmer accidentally ran over a den of newborn coyote puppies with his tractor, leaving one sole survivor. The farmer tried to seek help for the tiny wild creature, but didn't know where to turn. Eventually fate and kind people brought Don Coyote and Linda together. At that time, there were no vets that would treat an orphaned or injured wild animal. The need for a rehabilitation center specializing in mammals became painfully obvious.



Linda's dream for such a center became a reality when she purchased ten acres of open desert northeast of Scottsdale, Arizona and transformed it into a shady oasis for wild animals in need. Linda and a handful of volunteers planted trees and built enclosures and Don Coyote was joined by countless other injured, orphaned and displaced mammals that had no place else to turn.

Don lived happily to a ripe old age with his soul mate Ashley. He served as an ambassador for his kind, teaching thousands of visitors about the importance of wild animals in our ecosystem and the beauty of our natural world.

SWCC has become one of the leading wildlife sanctuaries and rehabilitation facilities in the southwestern United States. It rehabilitates thousands of native wild animals who lose their homes to development, or are found injured, orphaned, or abandoned. When possible, the animals that it cares for are rehabilitated and released – healthy and wild – back where they belong. Those who can't survive in the wild can live out their lives at SWCC, which is accredited by the American Sanctuary Association (ASA).

SWCC offers educational and humane scientific research opportunities in the field of conservation medicine and it shares its knowledge and passion about animals through education. If you are lucky enough to live near or visit Scottsdale, you can participate in wildlife walks, sunrise and full moon tours, discovery days, school presentations, or even summer bat netting nights, which are unforgettable evenings of capturing and identifying local bat species then releasing them unharmed.

A small staff and many dedicated volunteers run the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It is funded solely through private donations, fundraising, and grants.

Visit <http://www.southwestwildlife.org> for additional information including resources such as wildlife fact sheets.



# ~ ALL LIFE IS SACRED ~

## Tribal Members Reconnect to Traditional Values to Help Tribal Communities and Their Animals

AN INTERVIEW WITH DIANA WEBSTER,  
FOUNDER OF THE NATIVE AMERICA HUMANE SOCIETY

A phone call from a relative on an Indian reservation was the catalyst for Diana Webster to found the Native America Humane Society in early 2014. “My cousin contacted me after seeing my work for stray animals in Mexico on Facebook. She said “you help dogs in Mexico so why aren’t you helping rez dogs?” Webster, an enrolled member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe (Anishinaabeg) and a California attorney, realized that she not only had the experience helping animals but also had a deep connection to many tribal nations and tribal issues after working with tribal courts around the country. “Everything just came together,” Webster said. “Especially after talking to my family and network of tribal members to check if their communities needed help with their dogs, cats, and horses and hearing a lot of ‘heck yeah we dos.’” With that, the Native America Humane Society was launched as a national nonprofit organized to help tribal communities be safer, healthier, and happier by sharing information and resources on self-directing animal care programs. “The response has been



tremendous. I was able to recruit tribal members from across the country to be on our Board and in our Advisory Circle. And not just tribal members want to help. There’s already a lot of wonderful work being done by caring individuals and groups but nothing that

addressed the need on a national basis for community-driven, culturally sensitive programs. That’s where NAHS thought we could provide value. We plan to be the umbrella organization that centralizes and guides the work for animals on reservations for tribal nations who decide these efforts are needed in their communities.”

Tribes are considered “sovereign nations” under Federal law and most have their own governments, social services agencies, and law enforcement. Like many rural locations, tribal nations do not always have the resources in their own governments to support comprehensive animal control or care programs, especially in view of the social challenges facing their communities. Despite recent economic growth in some tribal communities from gaming revenues, the reality is that most Native Americans live under the poverty line and often have few options to support their family and take care of their pets. “It’s a challenge that Native people face on a daily basis. We are still in survival mode in many places. This is why our work at NAHS focuses on helping the community and their

**NAHS: The umbrella organization that centralizes and guides the work for animals on reservations for tribal nations who decide these efforts are needed in their communities.**




**Despite recent economic growth in some tribal communities from gaming revenues, the reality is that most Native Americans live under the poverty line and often have few options to support their family and take care of their pets.**

animals. It's a package deal," according to Webster.

Further, attempts at service provision by outside agencies, even where available, are rarely successful in impacting the roaming dogs issues on Tribal lands due to cultural mistrust, historical trauma from past outside interventions, and poor community engagement. "There's a history of promises made to Indian country that makes tribes very skeptical of outside help." So after gaining the attention of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), NAHS has entered into a partnership to bring IFAW's Humane Community Development framework to tribal communities, starting with two pilot programs in 2015-2016. With a tag line of "Respect the Rez – Respect the Rez Dog." Webster and her team feel that the HCD framework and joint NAHS/IFAW program is very much in line with traditional ways that Native Americans managed their communities – by including and respecting all community stakeholders in any discussion of group issues to find sustainable solutions. "We believe this framework of community-based decision making will resonant with tribes who are interested in putting programs in place to address dog population management challenges," said Webster. "NAHS is all about supporting every tribe's right to self-

determination and sovereignty. We are tribal members who understand the context of well-meaning programs imposed on tribal nations that did not take into consideration the sovereign rights of community members to shape their own destiny."

NAHS also quickly saw other ways for animals to bring value to tribal communities. "Many of our community members need healing from the multi-generational trauma that started after colonization by Europeans began," Webster said. She points to the near decimation of whole cultures through the banning of native languages, religions, and traditions. "Our children were torn from our homes and forbidden to speak their native languages while our traditions and religions were deemed heathen and sacrilegious by the settlers. This



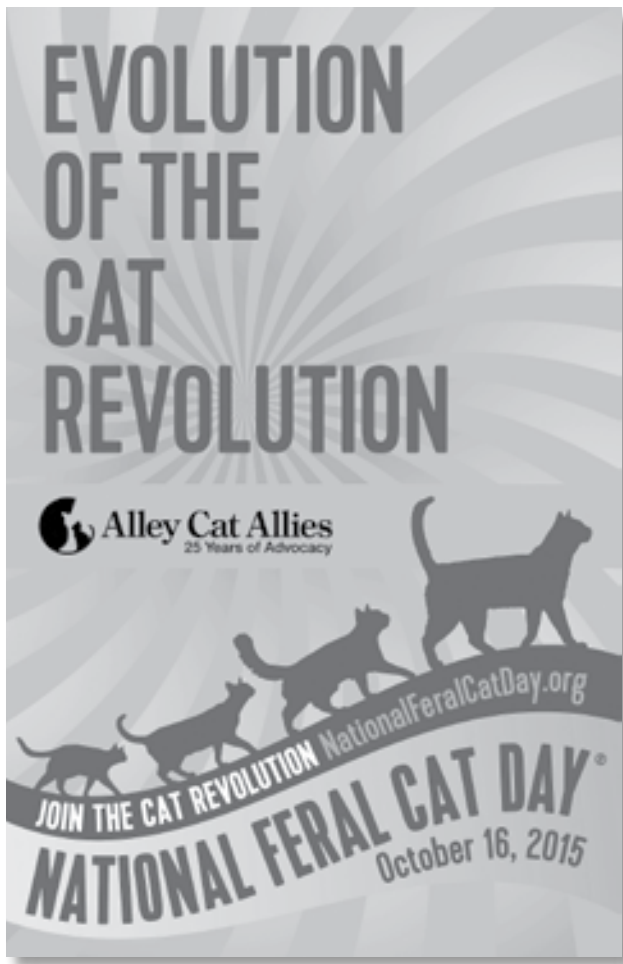
**"There's a history of promises made to Indian country that makes tribes very skeptical of outside help."**

left many of our people lost and unsure of their position within the dominant culture and we are still feeling the effects in our families. We believe that by healing our animals, we can heal our people." NAHS is currently researching the link between human violence and animal abuse in tribal communities to create resources for tribal social services workers, victim advocates, and law enforcement. A "Link" publication in collaboration with Allie Phillips of the National Association of District Attorneys and based on the research is forthcoming. NAHS has also presented at conferences around the country on the benefits of animal therapy for victims of violence, at-risk youth, and community members who need healing. "Through the Latham Foundation's support, we have been able to share resources about the power of animals to heal victims of violence, humane education, and 'the Link.'"

With the support of other animal welfare and protection organizations like IFAW and the Latham Foundation, the Pegasus Foundation, and Helen Woodward Animal Center, NAHS is focusing on creating basic programs that are designed to bring tools to tribes to heal their communities, humanely manage their animals, and reconnect to the traditional values of many tribal cultures about the role that animals have in the sacred circle of life. "The scope of our work is daunting with 566 federally recognized tribes and over 320 reservations and Alaskan Native communities in the United States," admits Webster. But by joining forces, combining resources, and exploring new solutions to help tribal communities and their animals, together we can create lasting change. The great Shawnee chief, Tecumseh said, "A single twig can be broken but the bundle of twigs is strong."



# National Feral Cat Day® 2015:



## The Evolution of the Cat Revolution

By Becky Robinson

media to hosting a TNR event for the community, helps save cats.

No matter where you are in your evolution as an advocate, Alley Cat Allies invites you to consider: What is the next step in your advocacy? Here are a few ways you can celebrate the most important day for cats.

The best way to help community cats is Trap-Neuter-Return. If you feed community cats, take the next step on October 16 and have them trapped, neutered, and returned.

If you are a shelter employee, invite a local TNR group to come and speak at your shelter. Share ideas and strategies to humanely and effectively stabilize and reduce community cat populations together.

Whether you're a shelter employee, a veterinary technician, or an advocate knocking on doors in your neighborhood, National Feral Cat Day® is an excellent opportunity to help educate people in your community on humane cat care. Everyone who registers an activity at [www.NationalFeralCatDay.org](http://www.NationalFeralCatDay.org) receives a Welcome Kit full of helpful materials, including truth cards, informative brochures, posters, a kitten baby bottle, and more that you can share with your clients and neighbors.

The threats facing cats are clear – outdated “catch and kill” policies, punitive ordinances, misinformation, and a lack of education all contribute to the cycle of killing cats in shelters. And if the past 100 years have taught us anything, it's that these policies just don't work. But organizations, shelters, and individuals who want to help don't have to reinvent the wheel. With over 500 municipalities in the United States that have already embraced TNR, and thousands of groups and individuals practicing TNR every day, there are models that communities can turn to for guidance. And National Feral Cat Day® is the perfect time to make those connections.

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So we invite you to consider hosting your own activity or event, or to reach out to a local group or organization already planning an event in your area. Visit [www.NationalFeralCatDay.org](http://www.NationalFeralCatDay.org) for more information, inspiration, free tools and resources, and ideas on how you can get involved.



On October 16, millions of people across the country will celebrate National Feral Cat Day®. But National Feral Cat Day® is unique, because it is more than just a day of recognition of past accomplishments – in my experience, cat advocates don't like to rest on their laurels. Instead, National Feral Cat Day® is a call to action; it's a day of national activism that brings together everyone from cat advocates to shelter directors, TNR groups to veterinary clinics, all to grow the movement to protect cats.

What makes National Feral Cat Day® so effective and inspiring are the hundreds of activities and events held nationwide (and many globally) to jumpstart new programs, bring more advocates into the fold, and spread the word about community cats – also called feral cats – and humane care. This year's theme is “The Evolution of the Cat Revolution,” signaling a call to action for advocates to take their advocacy to the next level. Every single activity, no matter how big or small, makes an impact. Everything from sharing a National Feral Cat Day® message on social

# Shelter Program Transforms Teens as well as Dogs



By Nora Parker

**St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center is dedicated to providing programs and services that improve the welfare of all animals. But their efforts are also changing people's lives.**

In January of 2014 St. Hubert's introduced its Teen Animal Welfare Enrichment Program, a week-long day camp session for at-risk teenagers in recovery for substance abuse, at its Madison, New Jersey campus.

The intensive 20-hour course was developed by Ellen Goldberg, the organization's humane education coordinator (who retired in April 2015). One of the major components of the program is a daily training session with dogs awaiting adoption in the shelter, designed and led by the Center's certified dog trainers. Classroom time with presentations and open discussions on animal welfare topics, and volunteer activities to benefit homeless animals and pet families in need round out the course.

The 12 program participants from around New Jersey are undergoing



Daytop residents Jesus & Taleah

residential treatment at Daytop Village of New Jersey. Daytop provides comprehensive treatment for substance abuse and co-occurring mental health disorders. Students enter the facility voluntarily or are placed there by the state.

St. Hubert's views the program as a "win" for the students, and for the animals. The students receive nonjudgmental, unconditional love from dogs, and also learn the importance of helping other people, while adoption dogs benefit from the additional socialization and training afforded by the program.

## **Positive Reinforcement**

Students work in pairs and are assigned dogs for the training portion of the program where they learn about positive, reward-based training and experience first hand the importance of consistency, kindness, and patience with their canine partners.

"Here we have a group of kids that are struggling to improve their own behavior and better practice patience, tolerance and understanding," says Nora Parker, vice president of community programs for St. Hubert's. "Due to their past actions, it's understandable that it's going to take some time for the people in their lives to regain trust and confidence in them. When they're working with the dogs though,



Brendan

they see the results of their own positive behavior much more quickly. It's so rewarding and reinforcing for them to see not only what they are able to teach the dogs, but also to experience the trust and affection that they receive from them in return for those efforts."

Their common affection for animals and the almost immediate bonds they form with their assigned dogs have had a positive effect on the students, some of whom have been initially reluctant to work as a team.

"Kids that don't necessarily have relationships with one another are paired together," says Eriach Fox, managing director for Daytop. "The animals are the bond that brings them together and that gets them to work together. Without this beautiful loving creature in front of them, they could easily give up."

"I wasn't really happy at first with the partner I was teamed up with because we had our issues," said Taleah, Daytop resident. "But training our dog brought us closer together. In the end, I couldn't have asked for a better partner."

## Humane Education

A variety of staff and guest speakers expose camp participants to pertinent animal welfare topics, including the cruelties of puppy mills, dog fighting, factory farming and humane co-existence with wildlife. The students explore ways in which they can help to educate others, and examine their own attitudes and choices that affect the creatures with whom they share the environment. "We arm them with information that they can use to support their own efforts toward increasing respect for all animals," says Goldberg.



Gabby

In accordance with St. Hubert's food policy, lunch and snacks are all vegetarian with vegan options. Vegetarian students expressed their appreciation for the food policy and were pleased, stating that they often feel their needs aren't considered at other venues. Lunch time provided the opportunity to continue meaningful discussion on food choices and for all to recognize the many vegetarian options they have and explore the ways in which their new knowledge will influence their individual choices.

## Community Service

Campers work together to prepare food and supplies for distribution through St. Hubert's community pet food and supplies pantry. "There are families in need that will be able to feed their pets meals for a week because of their efforts," says Parker. "Knowing that they are helping us provide a service that will keep pets in the homes where they are loved helps them feel connected with their community."

Students are often surprised to find that their enthusiasm and common goal of helping animals and people in need allows them to put aside their differences and function as an effective team and actually enjoy the group activities. "A number of students have said to me that they have been on the other end of community programs," says Goldberg. "They have been the receivers, and so it's a great feeling for them to be able to give in this way."





Kayla



Taleah



On the final day of the program, St. Hubert's staff and Daytop counselors and residents gather to applaud the participants' accomplishments during a graduation ceremony. Each team performs a training demonstration with "their" dog and talks about their canine partner, sharing information about his/her special individual personality traits, their progress in teaching and their thoughts on why the dog will be a good adoption choice for someone. Without prompting, many students also speak about how they have benefitted from the experience. Each student receives a certificate of graduation from the program, which closes with a celebratory meal with program staff.

"Coming to St. Hubert's and working with the dogs, and achieving things that they don't think they will be able to accomplish, boosts the students' self-esteem," says Fox. "Students that participate in the program come back to Daytop with principles that they can apply to their recovery, and their lives have been improved because of it."

St. Hubert's hopes to expand the Teen Animal Welfare Program, which will require additional financial support. "We believe in the program very much," says Parker. "We hope to be able to increase the number of participants and create an even bigger impact to inspire at-risk teens to stay strong in their recovery and continue their efforts to be a voice for animals."

"I'm glad I had the opportunity to participate in the program," says Taleah. "I grew a strong bond with my canine partner. I felt like I was giving back to him, just like how Daytop has given back to me."

*For additional information, visit [www.sthuberts.org](http://www.sthuberts.org).*



## Survey says...

Every two years, the American Pet Products Association (APPA) publishes a survey related to consumer habits and trends in pet ownership.

Here are a few of the statistics that Julie Morris, the ASPCA's Senior Vice President, Community Outreach gleaned from their report.

Based on the percentage of pet-owning households and the number of U.S. households, APPA estimates there are some 79.7 million households that own pets. Extrapolating by using the average number of dogs and cats in a household, there are 77.8 million owned dogs and 85.8 million owned cats.

- 31% of cat owners and 23% of dog owners adopted from an animal shelter
- 34% of dogs are purchased from breeders, while just 3% of cats come from breeders
- Few dogs (4%) and even fewer cats (2%) are obtained from pet stores
- Nearly half of all dogs (regardless of size) sleep in their owner's bed and even more cats (63%)

About one-third of owners mentioned shedding, finding care when they are away from home and the cost of food/care/medicine as a drawback to owning a dog. However, 20% said there were NO drawbacks to owning a dog, and the majority of dog owners agreed having fun was a major benefit to owning a dog.





# How Pippa Became a SHARE Therapy Dog

*By Deirdre Rand, Ph.D.*

## **Pippa is rescued from the streets**

As my friend Amy tells the story, she had finally convinced her husband that they needed a second dog. Amy wanted a dog who was smart, sweet, and tolerant of other animals, especially Sailor, their resident dog who was now 10 years old. After looking at several candidates, they came across a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and Papillon mix who Amy thought would be a good fit. Amy and her husband decided to adopt the small dog. Jim suggested naming their new dog Pippa and the name stuck.

You never really know what you're getting when you adopt a rescue. Pippa was a stray, living on the streets and fending for herself when she was picked up by Animal Services. According to Amy, Pippa's behavior was unremarkable during the first couple of weeks in her new home. "She had plenty of vim and was eager to please," Amy told me. When Amy

walked Pippa along public paths, a different side of Pippa's personality emerged. Amy watched in dread as Pippa engaged in rapid fire leash aggression, limited manners, and a keen desire to chase cats, kids, bikes and strollers. "I knew right then and there I had to enroll her in some serious training classes because I had no interest in living with a leash or otherwise aggressive dog."

## **This dog needs some serious training**

Two months after bringing Pippa home, Amy and Jim shipped her off to a private training facility in the country, where Pippa would live and train for three weeks. The trainers there opined that Pippa had grown accustomed to living "a life of bold self-rule" while she was on the streets. At the end of the three week intensive, Amy was trained in the same basic and intermediate obedience commands that Pippa

had learned during her facility stay. "The transformation was remarkable," Amy said.

To reinforce and expand on Pippa's new skills, and to strengthen the human-animal bond, Amy and Pippa enrolled in the Family Dog obedience series at the Marin Humane Society (MHS) in Marin County, California. Amy did Agility with Pippa at MHS. She followed the advice of the Agility instructor, who suggested that K-9 Nosework (sometimes referred to as canine scent detection) would be a fun activity for Pippa and strengthen Pippa's bond with Amy even more. In case you're wondering how Amy and I know one another, I should tell you that we met in an Extreme Scenting class offered by MHS.

## **Pippa becomes a certified therapy dog**

Amy began thinking that Pippa would make a good therapy dog but was

under the mistaken impression that no therapy dog training was offered in her geographic area. It came as a surprise when, during a volunteer meeting at MHS, Amy learned that her local humane society, i.e. MHS, had a number of Animal Assisted Therapy programs that operated under the name of SHARE (Special Human-Animal Relations). In the fall of 2014, Amy and Pippa enrolled in the SHARE training for aspiring therapy dogs. They took and passed the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test. Less than a year after Amy and her husband adopted Pippa, Pippa became an MHS certified therapy dog with the SHARE-A-Book program, visiting school children to help them improve literacy skills and self-confidence.

## Therapy dog team helps children learn to read

Amy and Pippa began by visiting a kindergarten reading hour class. “The kids instantly took to Pippa and she to them,” Amy told me. “During the six months we’ve been visiting, I’ve seen the kids steadily progress in their

reading and comprehension skills. I am forever touched by their generosity, exuberance, and love of learning. They have renewed my faith in human kindness and my hope for the future.”

Amy and Pippa’s next assignment involved visiting adolescents with various cognitive and physical challenges. Amy was unsure at first of how Pippa would react to sudden outbursts and physical movements by a new group of older kids. However, as Amy talked with each student individually, listening to their stories, Pippa settled in and happily accepted big hugs and kisses on the forehead.

Unbeknownst to Amy, their next visit coincided with a talent show. One of the students developed a sudden case of performance anxiety. Amy was surprised when the teacher sought to alleviate the boy’s fear by gently suggesting that Pippa accompany him on stage. The boy agreed and off he went with Pippa in his arms. Once on stage, Amy watched as the boy laughed and Pippa sat in his lap, looking up at him from time to time and licking his chin. “Together they sailed through the skit and put on a successful show,” Amy told me proudly. “I came away from that experience with the realization that

Pippa, in her own easy way, had given a priceless gift and I had received yet another.”

## The journey

“When I set out to adopt a dog, I just wanted a nice family dog who would be an easy companion for us and for our older dog, Sailor. I had no idea we would end up with such a kind, bright, and engaged therapy dog whose capacity for giving is still growing.”

### AUTHOR’S NOTE:

I am deeply grateful to Amy Taylor for telling me Pippa’s story and giving me permission to publish it in the *Latham Letter*.

*Deirdre Rand, Ph.D. is a psychologist whose online CE course titled “Animal-Assisted Therapy: The Healing Power of Pets Part I” will be available soon through Professional Development Resources (PDR). The course is geared to mental health practitioners and other healthcare professionals, but is open to anyone interested in this topic.*



## Resources to “Help You Help Others”

*There are more than 100 articles on animal-assisted activities in the Latham Letter archives.*

– V I S I T –

[www.latham.org/research-and-resources/latham-letter-articles/](http://www.latham.org/research-and-resources/latham-letter-articles/)



# News from the Horses and Humans Research Foundation

By KC Henry, Executive Director

## *Research Indicates Equine-Assisted Intervention Leads to Significant Improvements in Mother-Child Relationship and Interaction.*

### MISSION:

The Horses and Humans Research Foundation funds research into the interaction of horses and humans to maximize therapeutic benefits.

Chagrin Falls, Ohio, June 25, 2015 – Recently published research from University of Rostock, Germany indicates that implementing an Equine-Assisted Intervention as an early approach to improve mother-child relationship and interaction for children with attachment disorders was successful.

Horses and Humans Research Foundation, a publicly funded international foundation based in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, awarded funding to the Department of Special Education, University of Rostock, Germany and lead investigator Andrea M. Beetz, PhD to determine whether equine-assisted activities (EAI) can help insecurely attached children and their caregiver or therapist to engage in a more secure and trusting relationship than they had before. The study explored whether

these dyads, who have a history of neglect and/or abuse, will open up easier to their therapists after equine-assisted activities in comparison to play therapy.

Insecure attachment, both of the child and of the mother, has been identified as a risk factor for early regulation disorders and further child development. During the study, both interventions (equine-assisted activities and play therapy) took place once a week for 45 minutes over a period of eight weeks and aimed at improving maternal caregiving and security in the mother-child relationship. Twenty mother-child dyads (children aged 12 to 24 months) from a high-risk background, in some of which the child already displayed dysregulation symptoms, were investigated. Attachment of mother and child, maternal caregiving, and interaction within the dyad were assessed before and after the intervention. Overall both approaches led to significant



improvements in mother-child relationship and interaction, both having specific advantages over the other. When given the choice, the majority of mothers would prefer EAI, which points to a potential motivational effect.

This research was published in Volume 8, Issue 1, 2015 of the *Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools and Early Intervention*.

Horses and Humans Research Foundation is the only organization dedicated solely to funding research to support the equine-assisted activities and therapies field. Since its founding, HHRF has awarded \$400,000 in professional research efforts led by eight research teams in the United States, Canada and Germany.

*To make a donation and/or learn more about this and other Horses and Humans Research Foundation projects please email [info@horsesandhumans.org](mailto:info@horsesandhumans.org) or visit <http://www.horsesandhumans.org>.*



# Emancipet is Taking a Bite out of the Homeless Animal Problem in Houston with its New Clinic

By Amy Mills



There's good news about animal welfare in Houston. I'm the CEO of Emancipet, a nonprofit organization that manages a rapidly expanding network of high-quality, low-cost clinics offering spay/neuter and preventive veterinary care services. In May, we opened our first Houston clinic, which is also our first location outside Central Texas.

Emancipet Houston operates in a customized 48-foot semi-permanent trailer in the East End, a low-income neighborhood where the stray animal problem is the most dire. Emancipet will be able to spay/neuter 7,000-8,000 animals per year, and provide approximately 10,000 preventive care visits.

In a few months, Emancipet will move into a brick-and-mortar space in the same neighborhood, and move the semi-permanent trailer to a new location. Our plan is to open three Emancipet clinics in neighborhoods with the greatest need in Houston over the next few years, and to work with city and county officials to address the homeless pet population challenge.

These efforts are aided by a \$1 million gift from the ASPCA that will help Emancipet expand its low cost spay/neuter and preventive veterinary services in the city's underserved neighborhoods, and in other cities in the future.

Emancipet is in Houston thanks to the persistence and leadership of Houston Mayor Annise Parker, Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Gonzalez, and Council Members Robert Gallegos and Oliver Pennington who approved \$260,000 in funding to help us start a clinic.

Houston's East End is basically ground zero for perhaps the worst stray pet problem in the country. City officials estimate there are 1.2 million stray dogs and cats. What I have personally seen in Houston should be unacceptable in any U.S. city. The problem, especially with stray dogs, who live in packs and are increasingly aggressive towards people, is out of hand. These animals are suffering, and people are legitimately scared.

A chronic lack of spay/neuter resources in low-income areas caused this problem, and it's not going to be solved overnight. But we're committed to helping to transform Houston's underserved neighborhoods into humane communities, in partnership with the City of Houston and an army of animal welfare organizations committed to change.

Emancipet's approach to reducing the population of homeless pets is unique in several ways. Our safe, high-volume process for performing spay/neuter operations

has been used as a model for other clinics around the nation. Emancipet has also been successful in reaching pet owners who are not seeking out spay/neuter services, primarily in lower-income areas where cost and lack of information are barriers. Our philosophy is that all pet owners want to do what's best for their pets, and will do so when given the information and opportunity in a non-judgmental way.

Solving animal homelessness is a movement that everyone can be part of in their community. To learn more, visit [www.emancipet.org](http://www.emancipet.org).



*Author Amy Mills is a committed servant leader and advocate for the underserved – both people and animals. As the CEO of Emancipet*

*since 2006, she leads the organization's strategic plan to make spay/neuter and preventive veterinary care affordable and accessible to all pet owners. Amy speaks and conducts trainings at conferences across the country and in Canada. Her areas of expertise include spay/neuter outreach strategy, organizational culture, leadership training, and collaboration across organizations.*





# For Interested Writers

# Author Guidelines



The editors welcome manuscripts relevant to the Foundation's interests and mission but reserve the right to publish such manuscripts at their discretion. The Latham Foundation promotes respect for all life through education; *The Latham Letter*, now in its 36th year, presents balanced views on humane issues and activities throughout the world. We are particularly interested in articles that will appeal to the *Letter's* diverse readership. Subscribers include animal welfare and social service professionals, veterinarians, university students, and individuals interested in humane education, the human-companion animal bond, animal-assisted or animal-facilitated therapy and interventions, and the connection between animal abuse and other forms of violence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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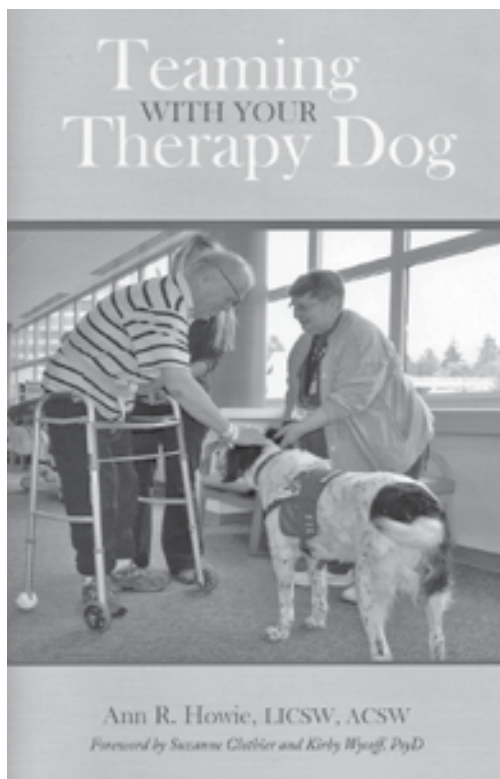
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## **Teaming with your Therapy Dog**

By Ann R. Howie, LICSW, ACSW

This is a wonderful – and wonderfully important – book. It is one of the first to focus on how to manage, interact with, and truly team with therapy dogs so that they enjoy their work as much as their handler enjoys sharing them with others. The author respectfully reminds readers that they are responsible for insuring good outcomes for their dog as well as for the people they are trying to help. Her advice is based on decades of real-world experience. She introduces the “STEPS of Teamwork,” designed to deepen handlers’ relationships with their dogs. And as Kathy Sdao (Author of *Plenty in Life is Free*) says in her endorsement, “This book delivers cogent and compassionate training advice for not only therapy dog handlers but anyone who views dogs as friends and partners.”

For example, Ms. Howie begins with The Therapy Dog’s Bill of Rights:

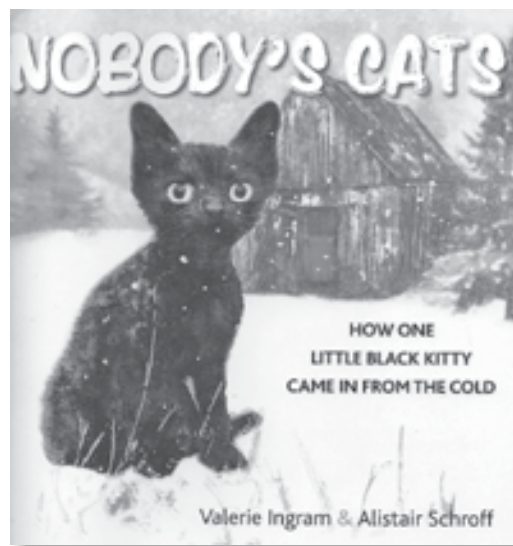
### **As a therapy dog, I have a right to a handler who:**

- *Obtains my consent to participate in the work*
- *Provides gentle training to help me understand what I’m supposed to do*
- *Is considerate of my perception of the world*
- *Helps me adapt to the work environment*
- *Guides the client, staff, and visitors to interact with me appropriately*
- *Focuses on me as much as the client, staff, and visitors*
- *Pays attention to my nonverbal cues*
- *Takes action to reduce my stress*
- *Supports me during interactions with the client*
- *Protects me from overwork*
- *Gives me ways to relax after sessions*
- *Provides a well-rounded life with nutritious food, medical care, physical and intellectual exercise, social time, and activities beyond work*
- *Respects my desire to retire from work when I think it is time*

Author Ann R. Howie began integrating animals into her counseling practice as a clinical social worker in 1987. Combining her master’s degree with a national certificate in canine learning and training, she is uniquely qualified to work with both people and animals, specializing in animal-assisted therapy and therapy dog training. She was part of the initial task force that developed Standards of Practice for Animal-Assisted Activities and Therapy and she was Pet Partners’ (formerly Delta Society) National Director of Animal-assisted Therapy Services from 1995 to 2000. She is an adjunct faculty member in the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver in Colorado and at Yamazaki College in Tokyo, Japan.

*Teaming with your Therapy Dog* is part of Purdue University’s *New Directions in the Human-Animal Bond* series edited by Alan M. Beck and Marguerite E. O’Haire.

Purdue University Press • West Lafayette, Indiana • [www.press.purdue.edu](http://www.press.purdue.edu)  
ISBN: 978-1-55753-703-4 • 180 pages, USD \$16.95 • E-book available, \$9.99



## **Nobody’s Cats How One Little Black Kitty Came in from the Cold**

By Valerie Ingram &  
Alistair Schroff

A beautiful little book, made even more so because it’s based on a true story. *Nobody’s Cats* is the story of a project to help community cats in the small

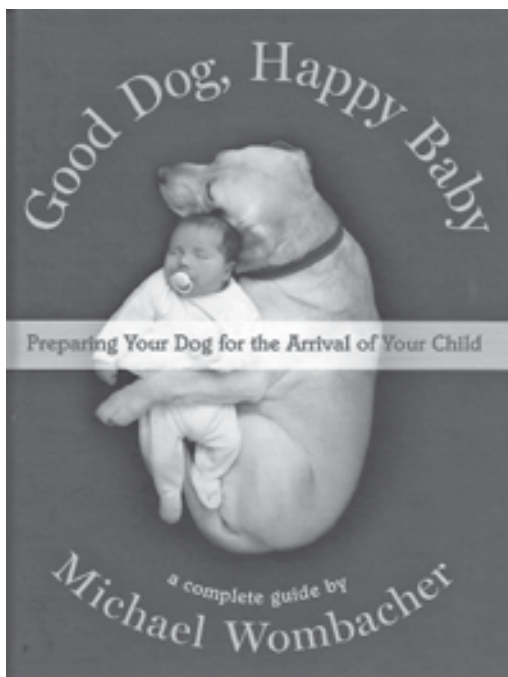
town of Burns Lake in rural northern British Columbia. The book is a reminder that, as the Dalai Lama says, “It is not enough to be compassionate – you must act.”

Two little girls saw suffering cats near their home one winter and instead of ignoring them, they took action. They contacted Lakes Animal Friendship Society and their caring act led to many others. Thanks to those girls, many caring individuals, and generous organizations, they succeeded in spaying and neutering all of the cats and ending the crisis.

In the years since then the project has helped more than 400 cats in colonies around their small community. The caregivers and the cats are much happier and the colonies are monitored to make sure they stay healthy, happy, and under control. We will be featuring the inspiring work of the Lakes Animal Friendship Society in an upcoming *Latham Letter*.

*Nobody's Cats* is available directly from the author for \$10, which includes shipping anywhere in the world. All profits from sales go towards helping cats and dogs of northwest British Columbia. More good news: They hope to have a Kindle version available at some point. Stay tuned.

For more information contact:  
**LAKES ANIMAL FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY**  
 BOX 49 Southbank BC V0J 2P0  
 250-694-3696  
[www.lakesanimalfriendship.ca](http://www.lakesanimalfriendship.ca)



***Good Dog, Happy Baby*** is important because the pre-birth practices that trainer Michael Wombacher recommends might make the difference between a couple being able to keep their dog after their baby arrives and having to re-home it.

There are many current studies showing the benefits of children growing up with dogs in their lives

The author lays out a twelve-step process that will give families the skills they need to navigate this new era of their lives, leading to dogs and children being fantastic companions.

For example:

- How to evaluate your dog and identify potential problems long before your child arrives
- How to resolve common behavioral problems such as barking, counter surfing, object guarding, door crashing, jumping, over-protectiveness, fearfulness, and much more

***Good Dog, Happy Baby: Preparing Your Dog for the Arrival of Your Child***

By Michael Wombacher

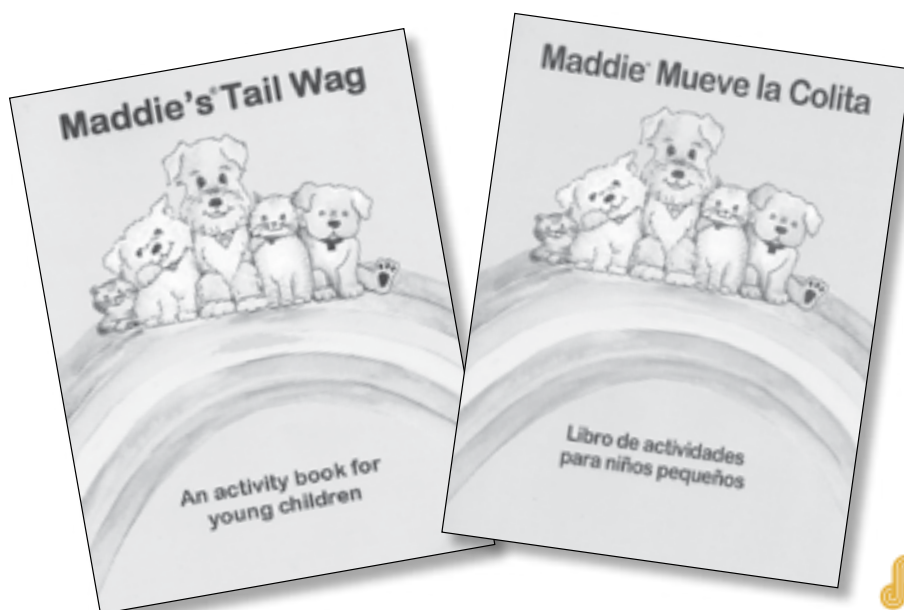
224 pages with 50 photographs and illustrations

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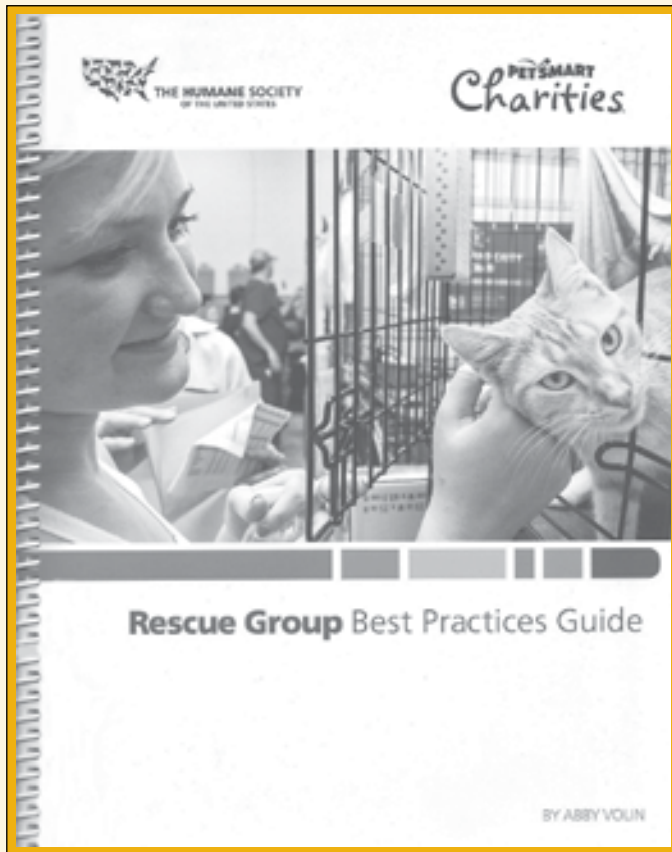
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## DVD in **English and Spanish** to Help Reduce Returns and Surrenders

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

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## The HelpMeHelpYou Series where animals help kids and kids help animals



## 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.,



FIRST IN A SERIES

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)



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