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Latham Letter

VOLUME XXXVI, NUMBER 1

WINTER 2015

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

SINGLE ISSUE PRICE: \$5.00

Realizing Potential:

At-risk youth teach and learn from shelter dogs, cats, and rabbits

By Sarah Aguiniga, Mario Garcia, Karla Olvera, Ronaldo Ordonez, Brenden Patterson and Lynn Loar

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INSIDE

Edith Latham's MANDATE:

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 Foundation, 1826 Clement Avenue, Alameda, California 94501

The Latham Letter

Volume XXXVI, Number 1, Winter 2015

**BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON
HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**



The *Latham Letter* is published quarterly by The Latham Foundation, 1826 Clement Ave., Alameda, CA 94501.

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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Pitting Ourselves Against the Competition

By Dr. Emily Weiss, Ph.D.*
Reprinted Courtesy of the ASPCA Professional Blog

www.aspcapro.org/blog/2014/12/03/pitting-ourselves-against-competition

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Dr. Emily Weiss shares a story about what might happen when we put barriers up for people who want to adopt certain breeds.

I met Lily this past weekend. She was enthusiastically digging in the sand, pushing a coconut she found in the surf deeper and deeper as her dad watched, cooing words of encouragement her way. Lily was bought on Craigslist for \$150. But wait... this was only after Lily's dad had been denied adoption of a dog who looked much like Lily because he did not meet the requirements – he lived in an apartment and was a first-time dog owner. They told him he was welcome to adopt a dog of a different breed, but not that breed.

Lily is beautiful – and she is also a bit of a physical turkey! When I met her she rammed me with her head and then jumped into me 6 or 7 times as she pushed her nose into my pocket where tiny remnants of a treat apparently remained from a walk with my own pups earlier in the day. As I chatted with her pop, I wrestled to keep Lily's 4 paws on the ground as opposed to on me, sand spraying and dad giggling over Lily's enthusiasm. How many Lilys fall apart in our shelters as they are "protected" and restricted from just the contact that could save their lives? Sure, she was a handful – and that was just fine with her pop. Lily's dad was perfect for her – and he would have been perfect for that shelter dog, too. He told me when they left the beach they were off to another activity – her whole weekend was planned!

Earlier this year I wrote a blog highlighting the popularity of pit-type dogs – from the increase of the breed type seen at vet offices to the increase in registrations to the UKC and more. Gosh, you all – everywhere I turn, be it visiting a friend in the city or in a country club, the farmers' market, or the beach, dogs who look like pit-type

dogs are being loved. I also noted in that blog that pit types enter the shelter more than any other breed in most communities, and while they are the third most likely to be adopted, more are euthanized as well. Certainly at least a portion of those euthanized may have had an opportunity to go home if the barriers were removed, no?

Lily's pop went to a shelter first – we had him, and we lost him because we placed barriers in the way. I am continuously struck by how many will shout that all dogs are individuals and should be treated as such (to which I wholeheartedly agree) and at the same time will place restrictions and barriers for entire breed types. From requiring adopters to be "experienced" to mandatory meet-and-greets with other dogs, we are driving folks to find the most popular dog outside of our walls, to places where they will perceive demand is high and inventory low! While we drive them away from our "inventory" (also known as incredible beings), we are also driving them away from our support and assistance. If we develop the right relationship, the adopter will connect for assistance when and if they need it, be it they adopt a poodle mix or a pit-type dog.

While I am not opposed to folks obtaining their pet through any humane means, I sure would prefer that those who come to us stay with us. Think of the Lilys in animal welfare organizations around the country – let's get them to the beach. We have some steep competition out there!

Editor's Note:

Latham supports treating all dogs as the individuals they are, focusing on behavior rather than breed. We also strongly promote the importance of responsible owners/guardians. To that end, potential adopters should always check local ordinances and any property owner or homeowner association restrictions before bringing a new pet into the family.





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*About Dr. Weiss: (SEE GUEST EDITORIAL)

Dr. Emily Weiss, CAAB joined the ASPCA in July of 2005. Dr. Weiss has focused her professional and personal life on improving welfare for animals. Dr. Weiss was the Curator of Behavior and Research at the Sedgwick County Zoo. There she developed enrichment and training programs for many different species – from lions and Komodo dragons, to African hunting dogs and giant cassowary birds. She developed training programs to improve husbandry and decrease stress for many zoo animals.

During this time, Dr. Weiss also continued to develop assessment tools for shelter animals, first developing the SAFER assessment, a behavior assessment used by shelters throughout the country, and then developing Meet Your Match™ now an ASPCA program.

She is the Co-Editor of the Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, and has published extensively in the field of applied behavior. She has traveled across North America lecturing on various areas of applied animal behavior, and has been featured nationally on radio, TV, and print.

Recently, Dr. Weiss' work has focused on developing program and process to increase the Live Release Rate in shelters around the country.



Realizing Potential:

At-risk youth teach and learn from shelter dogs, cats, and rabbits

By Sarah Aguiniga, Mario Garcia, Karla Olvera, Ronaldo Ordonez, Brenden Patterson and Lynn Loar

Introduction

Readers of the *Latham Letter* may remember reading in last spring's issue about a new program, Baden SHIP (Strategic Humane Interventions Program), a collaboration of the Pryor Foundation, the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA and Baden High School. The program offers at-risk students in an alternative school the opportunity to work with and train animals at the local animal shelter to increase the animals' adoptability. The students shadow shelter staff and volunteers to learn about job opportunities in animal welfare and to improve their academic skills. At the same time, they earn extra credit toward the hours they need for high school graduation.

Students apply in writing at the beginning of the school year, and the most serious few are offered a slot in this behaviorally and academically rigorous program. The program is divided into four modules, one in the fall and three in the spring

semester. Each module offers greater involvement with animal care and training and demands more and more reflective writing. The students write feedback at the end of every class and write an essay reflecting on what they have learned in order to graduate from the first module. We host a Module One graduation celebration at the high school and award graduation certificates and volunteer T-shirts from the shelter. Each student stands and reads his/her essay aloud to the assembled multitude of faculty, staff and interested others. This year a member of the school board attended! Below are their essays, revised now with the greater wisdom and experience learned in Module Two. Their writing assignments also include writing adoption resumes for the dogs they have trained, extolling the virtues and explaining the learning styles of each dog they have taught good manners and impulse control. The resumes are posted on the shelter's website and on each

animal's kennel.* Students also take field trips to the veterinary technician program at nearby Foothill College, to Forget Me Not Farm** in Santa Rosa, and to the Winter Lodge Ice Rink (where I coach) to learn Tagteach, an application of clicker training to athletic coaching.***

* If you would like to see the adoption resumes, email me at l.loar@comcast.net. For more information on the design of the program and the importance of writing in AAT programs, check Latham's publication *Teaching Empathy: Animal-Assisted Therapy Programs for Children and Families Exposed to Violence* coauthored by Libby Colman and me.

** *Faith and Hope on a Farm*
www.latham.org/order-our-products/videos.

*** "TAGs On Ice: Teaching new skills to children with special needs and their families" Libby Colman and Lynn Loar (available from amazon.com or as a download from www.tagteach.com).

Students' Essays

Sarah Aguiniga

One of the main reasons I decided to be a part of the program at the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA was to have a chance to work with animals, and I thought it would be a fun experience. My experience so far has been enjoyable and exciting. I love working with and training the cats, rabbits and dogs, helping better their chances for adoption and finding a loving home. I thought it was so interesting how quickly the dogs caught on with clicker training and what they had to do in order to get the treat.

Sarah



The obstacles I had to face included becoming comfortable with my surroundings and working with the larger dogs. What helped me

overcome these obstacles was going back to the shelter to become more familiar with the environment and people. I am definitely more comfortable now compared to when I started. This program has taught me how to train animals without having to yell at them or to punish them for not getting it right away. I have learned how to approach dogs safely and know what their actions and body language indicate. The past two weeks at the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA have been a big learning experience for me because I have seen all of the progress I have made in my skills as a trainer. I believe this will definitely help me in the future to find a job or possibly furthering my knowledge and making this into a career working with animals. I am grateful to this program for providing me with a fun activity to do after school. I am definitely proud of what I have accomplished so far, and I am excited to see what I will learn in the future.

Mario Garcia

Hello, my name is Mario Garcia, and I am very happy that I have completed the first module of volunteering with the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA. The main reason I was drawn to this program was due to my love of animals. The first module taught me a lot about clicker training and learning what animals are expressing to you through their body language.

I have realized that I have a passion for training the animals as well. The program taught me more about how to interact with all animals without making myself seem threatening.

It's also helped me personally in my life. It's taught me to have much more patience. In the beginning, I thought the training process was

Mario



really stressful and irritating because I was unsure if what I was doing was right. After a few sessions, I found myself able to feel more at ease and relaxed. The newfound feelings helped the time go by much faster.

I look forward to interacting with all different types of animals and helping the animals become adopted into loving homes.

Karla Olvera

When I heard about the program with the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA at school, I was very happy and willing to participate. I'm happy to be in this program, because I believe it will help me in the future. I was extremely excited not for the credits but to actually work with the animals. The first module was less intimidating than I thought. I have learned a lot about clicker training, and I am still surprised that you can also train a *fish** to learn new tricks.



When we first started clicker training, I was a little scared of messing up. After a while, I started getting better and better at it. I know how to feed two dogs at the same time without them fighting. Although cats aren't always interested, it is still a great experience working with them. When we went to the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA in Burlingame, CA, I was excited to know that we would have the opportunity to work with

the animals outside of their cages. This program has helped me to work with the animals and understand them more. Most importantly, this program has inspired me to become a Veterinary Assistant. I cannot wait to go back and work with all the animals.

* Karen Pryor's video *Shaping*, teaching a fish to swim through a hoop on cue, www.clickertraining.com.

Ronaldo Ordonez

I have enjoyed my experiences so far in volunteering for Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA. It was interesting to learn about clicker training, and I found it fascinating to learn that any animal could be trained using this method, or ones similar to it. I was proud of myself for developing my skills when training the dogs, cats and rabbits. It was somewhat difficult at first, but I found it to be easier with each session I spent practicing.

I enjoyed training the cats, rabbits and the dogs, but I thought the treat for the cats, allowing them to chase the moving stick the trainer holds, was a more interesting incentive than simply giving them a treat. The dogs had friendly personalities and were better with people than the cats were.



Training dogs was harder since they had to figure out relatively difficult tasks in comparison to the cats. The dogs had to figure out how to stop barking and to stand on all four legs while the cats simply had to touch the target stick.

Overall, I have found the experience informative and interesting. I am looking forward to going back and perfecting my skills in training and learning more about the different aspects of the animals' personalities in order to make sure they can become adoptable.

“The partnership of Baden High School with the Pryor Foundation and the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA has created an opportunity for students like this to learn and experience something new in an environment that encourages them to take risks and to succeed, maybe for the first time in their lives.”

Michael Coyne, Baden High School Principal

Brenden Patterson

My name is Brenden Patterson, and I wanted to join this awesome program with the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA because I really love animals, and I wanted to learn how to teach them good behaviors.

I have learned how to teach dogs to calm down, bark less and keep their paws on the ground instead of jumping. I have also learned that many cats prefer play to edible treats as their reward. They responded to the opportunity to play. I dragged a little stick around the cage and watched them get excited by the stick making noise against their cage.



I have really enjoyed the program and all the things that we have done so far, and I have been able to take what I have learned and apply it to my life. When I used to go to my friend's house, his dogs always barked at me, but because of this program, I

have learned to walk slowly toward his dogs from a sideways angle. I extended my hand and made sure it was at an angle that was clearly visible to the dogs. Ever since that moment, the dogs haven't barked at me anymore. I look forward to every session with this program, and I'm really looking forward to learning more strategies to train every animal so that it can be adopted.

“By teaching good manners and impulse control to shelter animals, at-risk youth learn to recognize the impact of their body language and impulsivity on other living creatures.”

Lynn Loar

Michael Coyne
Baden High School Principal

The profile of a continuation high school student is frequently marked by prolonged academic and personal failure. A student who has experienced this pattern of failure often develops a poor self-image and consequently is less likely to attempt a new experience. The partnership of Baden High School with the Pryor Foundation and the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA has created an opportunity for students like this to learn and experience something new in an environment that encourages them to take risks and to succeed, maybe for the first time in their lives. The students all bring a passion for working with animals, and they are now finding success in an arena that may very well be their life's calling.

The perspective from the animal shelter

Animal shelters are busy and hectic places, always short of staff and funds, and reliant on the assistance of dedicated volunteers to meet the needs of the animals temporarily in their care. For this collaboration to work for the shelter as well as for the school and the students, we need to contribute to the welfare and future prospects of the animals. We do this by training the animals to have good manners including standing quietly rather than jumping and barking, waiting patiently for treats and ignoring food dropped on the ground, and walking calmly rather than pulling on a leash. Because we are a reasonably large group, five teenagers and four adults, we can teach the animals to ignore distractions, get used to a motley group of people and help animals overcome their fears of strangers.

Maria Jose Eguren, CABC

**Director of Animal Behavior and Training
Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA**

The partnership of the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA, the Pryor Foundation, and Baden High School gives a group of high school students an opportunity to learn clicker training, the importance of reading human and animal body language when interacting with animals, and various job opportunities in the animal field. The high school students work on their skills as trainers realizing that each animal is an individual and might need a different approach to maximize their learning experience, while the animals at Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA learn basic manners and impulse control which increases their adoptability. This practice not only helps the shelter animals but also shows the teenagers that everyone can have different learning styles, and the coordination between trainer and student is what matters.

Having worked with both human and animal behavior and the connection between them during my entire professional life, the transformations I observe during the time these students and animals go through this program never cease to amaze me. For this particular group it is endearing to watch them soften up, and accommodate their training style, to rabbits and small rodents.

With the help of a skilled volunteer and very little behavior staff time, this program gives Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA more insight into the animals' behavior by observing their responses to clicker training and their interactions with a group of teenagers and their teachers. It is definitely a win-win situation for all parties involved, and I am very proud to be part of it.

Conclusion

Many students at alternative high schools find academics difficult. They also may not see academic achievement leading anywhere they can picture—nobody in their family has a job requiring a BA. When I say to students, “Let’s imagine that things work out well for you for the next several years. You’re now in your mid 20s. What does your life look like?” They really cannot answer.

Additionally, these students learn by doing more readily than they learn in a classroom. They learn more—and more enthusiastically—with a compelling experience first and then tackling the academics that pertain to that experience.

If students have experience volunteering in a shelter and can speak and write well, they will have little trouble finding employment in

SIDEBAR

Gena Sands

**High School Counselor
Pupil Personnel Services**

My name is Gena Sands and I work as a high school counselor for Baden High School in South San Francisco, CA. I have had the amazing opportunity to be a part of this incredible partnership with the Pryor Foundation, the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA and Baden High School. We have taken five students to the Humane Society to help the organization work with a variety of animals so that the animals can become more adoptable. It truly has been wonderful to witness the growth and maturity our students have displayed because of this program.

One of my goals as a counselor has been to help the students realize their potential both professionally

and personally. This program has enabled the students to become more open to new situations, adapt to the challenges that arise, and recognize their own personal strengths in overcoming those challenges. I have been impressed with each student's sense of calm and appropriate level of energy when approaching animals they don't know well. They are always amazing role models for me, especially since I am not able to attend every session. Each student is incredibly respectful and genuinely interested in helping each animal become adopted. Every experience with the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA allows the students to learn something new about themselves, and for that I am grateful.

Jane Kalish High School Counselor

Baden is an alternative high school in South San Francisco that serves students who were unsuccessful at a mainstream high school for reasons such as credit deficiency, truancy and lack of involvement. Each of our students at Baden is bright and unique, but most have not had the experience of being a part of something meaningful to them either in school, family or their community. The program at the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA has given these five students a special opportunity to be a part of a something important.

The staff members and dedicated volunteers at the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA have shown a warm welcome and enthusiastic energy to our students. From the beginning, the learning environment has been interesting and challenging. The students were able to experience success as their abilities grew. I am so proud every time I see the students putting in so much effort with clicker training. They amazed me from the beginning of the modules but, as we progress, I am even more impressed by each student's unique style and ability. It is thrilling to see our students so engaged.

an animal shelter. Shelters offer jobs in animal care, veterinary medicine, adoption counseling, humane education, behavior and training, and law enforcement (animal control and state humane officers [who, by the way, are mandated reporters of both child and elder abuse and neglect in CA]). Also, since shelters are open on weekends and provide care for animals around the clock, employees can arrange for schedules that allow them to continue their education and work.

So, by teaching good manners and impulse control to shelter animals, at-risk youth learn to recognize the impact of their body language and impulsivity on other living creatures. Because their dual motivation to work with the animals and to improve the animals' prospects for adoption is high, they pay close attention to the feedback the animals give and learn to pace the training sessions so the animals are successful learners. In my several decades working with at-risk humans clicker training shelter animals, the most common feedback I get is that the humans have learned patience—with the animals, with their children and parents, and with themselves.

Writing makes people clarify and organize their thoughts. Every student writes feedback at the end of every class, and I respond that evening. The students and participating faculty reply to my emailed reply between classes. They also write adoption resumes for the animals they have trained, end-of-module essays, and a publishable article for the *Latham Letter*. Mario made my day when he asked me how to spell

successive approximation while he was writing feedback last week. He used the term correctly to describe how he patiently taught a timid dog to approach him and wait to be offered a treat!



About the author

Lynn Loar, Ph.D., LCSW, is a licensed clinical social worker and the president of the Pryor Foundation, www.thepryorfoundation.org, an organization that promotes methods that facilitate behavioral change exclusively through positive reinforcement. She specializes in abuse and neglect across the lifespan, and in the role that cruelty to and neglect of animals play in family dysfunction and violence. She is the author of numerous books on the role that animals play in family violence, including Loar, L. and L. Colman. (2004). *Teaching empathy: Animal-assisted therapy programs for children and families exposed to violence*, and Patronek, G., L. Loar, and J. Nathanson. (2006). *Animal hoarding: Structuring interdisciplinary responses to help people, animals and communities at risk*. She also coaches ice skating at the Winter Lodge Ice Rink in Palo Alto, CA and runs the Family Ice Skating Program for children with special needs and their families, the subject of the documentary *TAGs on Ice: Teaching new skills to children with special needs and their families*, directed and produced by Libby Colman.

A Page from our History Book: The Wonderful World of Brother Buzz

Created for television by Ralph Chesse



According to Bruce Chesse, who is an internationally known puppeteer and a pioneer in the area of Puppetry in Education, his father Ralph was the patriarch of a large creative family. He was a Renaissance man in the grandest sense with diverse interests in the arts: theater, sculpture, puppetry, painting, writing and music. His artwork spanned almost the entire 20th century.



In 1952, Ralph created a television production with marionettes called *The Wonderful World of Brother Buzz*, produced under the sponsorship of the Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education. It was the first children's television puppet program to deal with environmental issues and to explore the realm of animals by promoting Humane Education.



LEFT, Top to Bottom:
Mr. Kiwi

**Bucky Beaver,
A woodsman**

**Professor Snodgrass
in South America**

ABOVE: **Gilbert Fox
and Mr. Rabbit**

RIGHT: **Mrs. Opossum
and her babies**



That show became the longest sustaining children's program in the history of San Francisco television, lasting from 1952 to 1969. It rivaled Howdy Doody for longevity with a run on the air of 17 years. It ran on three stations in San Francisco: KPIX, KTVU, and eventually on the ABC affiliate station KGO-Channel 7, where it was syndicated and distributed by Westinghouse and the Cox Broadcasting systems.



LEFT: **Mr. Robin and the Grasshopper**

BELOW: **Mr. Packrat**

RIGHT, Top to Bottom:
The Buzz Puppeteers on Set: Virginia Arnett, Don Chesse & Lettie Schubert

Mr. Packrat under construction

Mr. Flitterhouse, the Bat



All photographs courtesy of Bruce Chesse, and available as postcard sets through Bruce Chesse Arts Ltd

*P.O. Box 15203
Portland, OR 97293
Phone: 503-936-0380*

*For more information visit
www.chesseartsltd.com or
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Brother Buzz, the Evolution of a Kind Bee a limited-edition DVD available from Latham

Brother Buzz has been the spokesperson for The Latham Foundation for more than 80 years. With great charm and through several manifestations, he has helped us spread our message of kindness to all.

See more at: www.latham.org/order-our-products/videos

And watch a YouTube clip at:
[Youtube.com/watch?v=DQmuGyX5i6s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQmuGyX5i6s)



The Alberta SPCA's Pet Safekeeping Program

By *Tim Battle*

Background Information

The Alberta SPCA's Pet Safekeeping (PSK) Program began in late 2013 with the hiring of a part-time coordinator. This program was a natural progression of our Cruelty Connection awareness-raising campaign about the links between animal cruelty, domestic violence and child abuse. Part of that campaign included our study of Alberta women's shelters, which was published in 2012 (available at albertaspca.org/cruelty). The study found that 59% of animal-owning domestic violence victims in emergency shelters delayed leaving their abusive situation out of

concern for their pets or livestock. The PSK pilot project was created to overcome this barrier by providing care for pets while their owners were in emergency shelters.

The Alberta SPCA's Director of Education oversees this program, which is guided by an advisory board known as the Alberta Alliance for the Safety of Animals and People (AASAP). The AASAP board consists of approximately 15 representatives from both animal organizations (representing the veterinary association, animal health technologists, animal shelters and veterinary clinics) and human-service agencies (including social work agencies, women's shelters, public legal education, crime prevention and police).

Progress this Year

The first task of the PSK coordinator was to prepare the groundwork for a pilot program to operate in the greater Edmonton area. Preliminary work included establishment of protocols and procedures, memoranda of understanding with other agencies, risk assessment and mitigation and determination of acceptance

criteria. The work entailed consultations with other agencies doing similar work in other areas, and extensive dialogue with cooperating organizations that would be directly involved with the program. A fundamental goal of the program was that it was to help relieve the burden of finding suitable pet accommodation without adding to the workload of agencies already helping domestic violence victims. Pets accepted into the program receive veterinary examinations and are offered complimentary spay/neuter procedures.

While this preliminary work was being done and agencies learned about our plans, we started receiving requests to care for pets. Consequently, our first intake occurred in July. To date we have logged 37 calls and accepted nine animals, of which seven were actually received into the program. Each call involved extensive discussions with the referring agency or client. Many calls were preliminary inquiries about the program where the victim wasn't quite ready to take action





but wanted assurance of a safe place for her pet when the time came. Each case in which the pet is accepted involves dozens of calls to obtain accurate information and coordinate suitable placement, and the volume of calls has been steadily increasing.

Lessons Learned

As a pilot project, it was intended that the procedures would be continually re-assessed and revised as needed. The intake procedure in particular was streamlined to make it easier for both victims and emergency shelter staff, and the requirements for admission were clarified: pets of anyone accepted into an emergency shelter for domestic violence victims qualified for our program.

Staff training had been conducted at each participating emergency shelter, but it was discovered that this training needed to be held numerous times so that all staff would be familiar with the program and its procedures. The training program itself was refined and formalized.

The number and type of partnering agencies grew to include other referral-only (i.e., non-shelter) agencies. This naturally resulted in an increase of training needs, including a more formal definition of partner agency responsibilities and expectations. We also started accepting pets of clients of second-stage housing programs (up to six months) contingent on finding suitable pet accommodation.

Transportation of animals to the PSK drop-off location posed a problem in several cases, necessitating an agreement with a taxi cab company whereby they would pick up and deliver pets in kennels. This extra expense has been included as an item in future budget projections.

Perhaps the greatest lesson learned was that no two cases are the same – except that they all involve people in extremely distressful and dangerous situations, whose relationship to their pets is often the only positive thing in their lives. In many cases, it's this relationship that empowers the victim to continue to strive for a better life, while at the same time the abuser threatens the pet to further intimidate and control the victim. Each call received has proven the need for our program.

Future Plans

We are currently reaching out to agencies beyond the greater Edmonton area: the ultimate goal is to provide a service that is accessible anywhere in Alberta. Our research has shown that the rural areas are underserved and victims in rural areas have additional difficulties to overcome, and so we hope to continue to grow to serve those needs.

To allow for consistency and to accommodate growth, we need to expand the role of the pet safekeeping coordinator. This position will become full-time early in 2015. We will accordingly need to identify ongoing funding sources in order to make this program sustainable.

As awareness of the program grows, we expect more animals to enter our pet safekeeping program. The data from our research and advice from other active programs support this conclusion. The complexity of operating such a program involving numerous agencies is both a weakness and strength. Logistically, coordination between agencies increases the difficulty, but that is more than compensated by the positive broad-based support. The tremendous support and goodwill shown by all members of the AASAP advisory board has been invaluable.



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.com



R • E • W • I • L • D • I • N • G :

A Cultural Meme for Rehabilitating Our Hearts

By Marc Bekoff

Rewilding is all the rage

The notion of “rewilding” is receiving a good deal of attention in books such as George Monbiot’s *Feral: Rewilding the Land, the Sea, and Human Life* (the original title is *Feral: Searching for Enchantment On the Frontiers of Rewilding*), J. B. MacKinnon’s *The Once and Future World: Nature As It Was, As It Is, As It Could Be*, and in my own *Rewilding Our Hearts: Building Pathways of Compassion and Coexistence*. In all of these books, rewilding – to make wild once again – calls for a personal transformation and journey to undo the unwilding that occurs in the lives of many people, including youngsters. In his excellent book, George Monbiot recalls how by watching salmon fly through the air he became enraptured and felt as if he “had passed through the invisible wall that separated me from the ecosystem, as if I were no longer a visitor to that place but an inhabitant. ... It was then that I realized that a rewilding, for me, had already begun.” (page 255) An editorial in *New Scientist* magazine (March 1, 2014) noted that “Rewilding is all the rage in conservation circles.”

In a recent video interview I did about my book, I recounted how rewilding is necessary if we are to make the future better for other humans, other animals, and all of our homes. As I was doing the interview it came to me that rewilding is all about rehabilitating our hearts and souls and love for ourselves, other animals, and the places we call home. This personal and spiritual journey also calls for rewilding education and more humane education, along with rewilding the media, so that youngsters get out into and respect nature and other animals for what they are, not what we want them to be. Why have kids if they’re headed into an impoverished world? Of course, part of rewilding means that we need to stop making more of us, as overpopulation and over-consumption are decimating us and our one and only wondrous planet. Less really can be more.

In my work with inmates at the Boulder County Jail as part of Jane Goodall’s global Roots & Shoots program I also talk about rewilding and how important it is for them to reconnect with other humans, other animals, and habitats for their own good. Just today, when I was talking with the students in my class at the jail, many mentioned how important it is for them to “get outside” or daydream about being outside to relieve their alienation from nature. When I asked them what

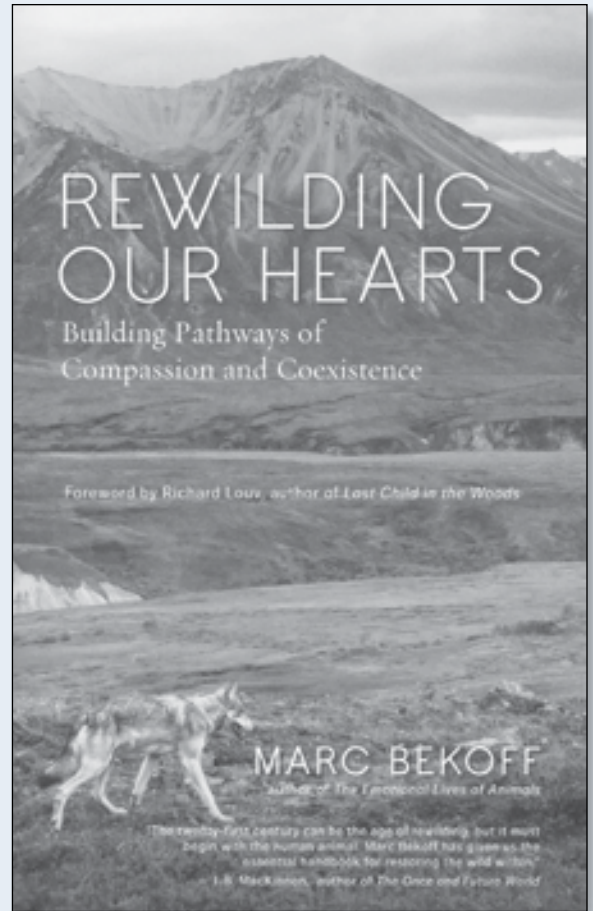
rewilding meant to them, one student said that he thinks of rewilding as rehabilitating oiled birds, for example, and that it is our duty to do so. They also talked about how we are innately and deeply connected to nature, that biophilia is real, and that’s why it feels so good to be outside and in the company of other animals. It reduces fragmentation and instills wholeness.

Unleashing our hearts

In his foreword for my book, renowned author and visionary Richard Louv sees

“**Rewilding calls
for humility, is open to all,
and is simple, concrete,
and personal. Individuals
can choose how to rewild
and follow the path that
best fits their interests
and needs**”

“Rewilding” – to make wild once again – calls for a personal transformation and journey to undo the unwilding that occurs in the lives of many people, including youngsters.



rewilding as part of the New Nature Movement that “includes but goes beyond traditional environmentalism and sustainability; one that maximizes the potential of nature to enhance our minds, our personal and societal vibrancy, and our resilience” (page xiv). He also notes that “Rewilding is achieved through the most radical of acts: opening ourselves to others. In essence, it is about unleashing our hearts” (page vx).

Rewilding calls for humility, is open to all, and is simple, concrete, and personal. Individuals can choose how to rewild and follow the path that best fits their interests and needs in terms of how they reconnect and interact with other people, other animals, and their homes. Rewilding also calls for being open to learning about all views and being kind even to people with whom one disagrees. We need to talk with others, not to them or at them.

Rewilding: A cultural meme for rehabilitating our hearts

Rewilding is rehabilitation process that will result in much closer and deeper reciprocal connections with other humans and other animals and their homes, and if enough people rewild

themselves, rewilding will become a heartfelt and heartfelt cultural meme that fosters behavior patterns that will spread from person to person and to future generations as a form of cultural evolution. In my book I write about the eight p’s of rewilding – being proactive, positive, persistent, patient, peaceful, practical, powerful, and passionate – and I’ve recently added two more, namely, the importance of being playful and being present.

We really need a heartfelt revolution in how we think, what we do with what we know, and how we act. Rewilding can be a very good guide and is all about acting from the inside out. The revolution has to come from deep within us and begin at home, in our heart and wherever we live. We’ll never have the world we previously had, but the longer we wait the less likely the future will be a good one for those who follow in our wake.

While we won’t ever get back the world we once had, we all need to do all we can to make sure that future generations inherit a planet that is the very best we can leave them. Rewilding is a great arena for all to meet and to move into a challenging and complicated future. As I’ve written before, ecocide is suicide and the end result is that we will all benefit from rewilding and becoming re-enchanted with the magnificent world in which we live.

Marc Bekoff’s latest books are *Jasper’s story: Saving moon bears* (with Jill Robinson; see also), *Ignoring nature no more: The case for compassionate conservation* (see also), *Why dogs hump and bees get depressed* (see also), and *Rewilding our hearts: Building pathways of compassion and coexistence*. *The Jane effect: Celebrating Jane Goodall* (edited with Dale Peterson) will be published in 2015. (marcbekoff.com; @MarcBekoff)



Take Animal Welfare to the Next Level with Emancipet's Customized Training

By Myles Chadwick

INTRODUCTION

Austin, Texas-based Emancipet offers a wide array of national training and support services to help animal welfare organizations, spay/neuter clinics, and public and private shelters become more effective and efficient. Training options range from two-day seminars to private trainings and consulting in your community.

Emancipet is dedicated to making high-quality spay/neuter and preventive veterinary care affordable and accessible to every pet owner. To achieve this mission, we manage a growing network of low-cost clinics, advocate for prevention-based solutions to animal homelessness, and offer customized training programs.

Since its founding in 1999, Emancipet has grown from a single mobile unit to a network of three stationary clinics and two mobile clinics serving seven Texas counties, and has safely spayed or neutered more than 200,000 animals at little or no cost. In 2014, Emancipet performed more than 25,000 spay/neuter surgeries and had more than 50,000 visits at its healthy pet clinics.

For the past several years, we've shared what we've learned with colleagues across the country by offering affordable seminars, customized consulting, and keynote presentations. Part of our mission is to advocate for safe, accessible spay/neuter programs everywhere; supporting other animal welfare organizations through our training programs help us achieve that goal.

Emancipet's seminars delve deep into some of the toughest challenges facing spay/neuter clinics and animal welfare organizations. The content was developed over several years by lead Emancipet staff, mostly in response to our own internal challenges as we grew and added new clinics, but also as a result of the many other clinics that reached out to us for support over the years.

Our 2015 seminar series will cover topics such as how to increase clinic capacity, leadership skills for medical directors, harnessing organizational culture, how to talk about spay/neuter effectively, fundraising, and more. Seminar size is limited to 30 participants to ensure everyone gets enough personal attention from the instructors, and to facilitate the formation of personal relationships with the others in the class.

Our seminars provide information that helps attendees get immediate results while empowering and inspiring them in a fun and interactive environment. Private trainings can be offered in Austin or at your location.

"Sometimes we get bogged down in the day-to-day of operating a clinic. The 'Turn Up the Volume' seminar by Emancipet is a refreshing look at improving your communication, staff morale, and clinic practices while empowering you to make an even bigger difference."

– Samantha Person, executive director,
The Cattery, Corpus Christi, TX

For organizations that want to move to the next level, we offer consulting engagements of three to six months. We

can work with your board, leadership, and staff to develop strategies and action plans to help your team reach its full potential.

"My experiences with Emancipet have empowered me to be a more confident executive director, and have given me the tools to share the things that I learned with my team. The result is a stronger organization with a greater impact in our community."

– Jackie Palmer, Executive Director,
Hill Country Animal League, Boerne, TX

In addition to training and consulting, Emancipet CEO Amy Mills speaks frequently on animal welfare topics to a wide range of groups around the country and in Canada.

If you are interested in any of our training, consulting, or keynote speaking offerings, please contact me at myles.chadwick@emancipet.org. I would also like to invite you to sign up for our free newsletter, The Elevator, which specifically addresses many of our training topics and always includes at least one idea you can put into action immediately. You can opt-in to the newsletter and find more information on our upcoming seminars at www.emancipet.org.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Myles Chadwick joined Emancipet in January 2013. He assists Emancipet clinics in meeting stringent quality standards, advancing the mission, and upholding the core values of the organization.





The Results are in and Doctors Agree: There are Health Benefits to Having a Pet

According to a recent survey of 1,000 family doctors and general practitioners conducted by the Human Animal Bond Research Institute, a nonprofit third-party organization that is funded by partners like Wellness Natural Pet Food, 97 percent of them believe there are health benefits to having a pet.

Ninety-five percent of those surveyed either own or have owned a pet, and 69 percent have worked in a facility that partnered with pets to assist patient treatment or therapy.

The respondents reported hearing about the health benefits through several sources, including patient stories (64 percent), personal experience (59 percent), traditional news media (44 percent) and medical journals (39 percent).

Among the findings:

- 75% reported seeing a patient's overall health or a specific medical condition moderately or significantly improve after the patient adopted a pet, and 87% saw a patient's mood or outlook improve.
- 84% said they talk to patients about their pets.
- 60% have recommended that a patient get a pet.
- 82% said that if the medical evidence supported it, they would prescribe a pet for a patient.



Interested in Becoming a Pet Partners Therapy Animal Team?

Step 1 of this 4-step process is to take the Pet Partners Handler online course which provides information and training that will prepare you to volunteer effectively with your animal as a Pet Partners therapy animal team in a variety of environments. Please visit www.petpartners.org/TAPinfo to view all the steps in the process.

Prior to signing up for the online Pet Partners Handler Course, [please check to see if your animal meets the health requirements.](#)

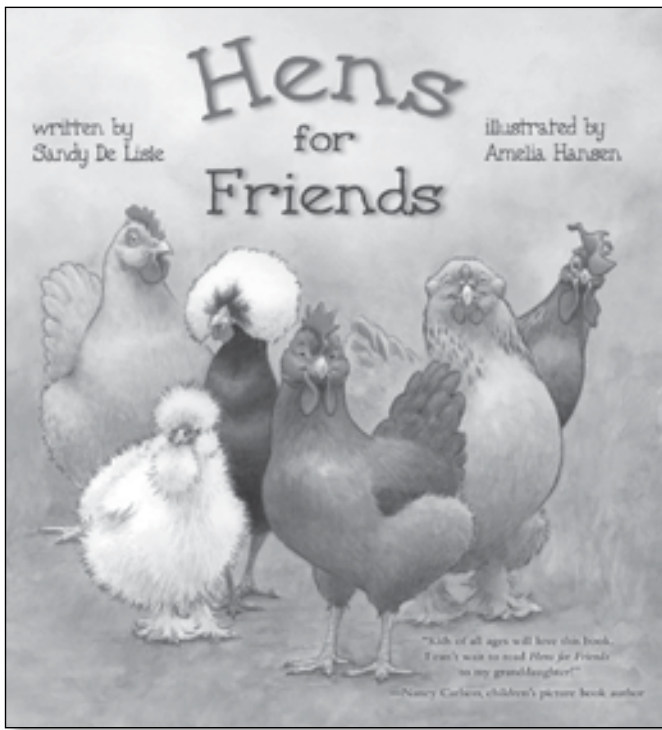
A team evaluation is required to complete the registration process, so please make sure that there is a local team evaluator in your area by using our [Pet Partners Directory.](#)

Once you become a registered therapy animal team, you may want to sign up for other online Pet Partners courses such as:

- *Visiting Clients with Alzheimer's or Dementia*
- *Pet Partners Team Evaluator*
- *Pet Partners Instructor*

You may also want to look into organizations such as Therapy Dogs International (TDI), Therapy Dogs Inc. (TDInc.), as well as therapy animal programs sponsored by local and regional groups.

Thanks to Dr. Deirdre Rand for this information.



Hens for Friends

Reviewed by Judy Johns

I've always been fascinated by chickens – from backyard hens, to the amazing clicker training workshops that Marian and Bob Bailey pioneered, to chickens' unfortunate lives in factory farms, and even the dancing chickens in an arcade in New York's China Town. Surprisingly, the attraction featured a sign about how well they took care of their chickens. I was always a little suspicious though.

Happily, *Hens for Friends* focuses on the friendship between a boy and his favorite backyard hen, the friendly, even cuddly, Margaret.

This is a wonderful book by "one of our own." Author Sandy De Lisle is making her debut as a children's picture book author. I think her book will surprise and delight readers of all ages while subtly promoting respect and proper pet care. For example, it includes sections on "the fun part," what one needs to know, and where to find a hen friend.

Sandy has worked as a public school teacher and is now the senior manager of content development for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). She also is a member of the Association of Professional Humane Educators and currently serves as Vice President of its Board of Directors.

The lovely illustrations are by Amelia Hansen. She is the award-winning illustrator of *It's Raining Cats and*

Cats!, Are You Ready for Me?, It's Raining Pups and Dogs!, and At the Dog Park with Sam and Lucy, which are all Gryphon Press titles, and nineteen other books exploring the connections between people, animals, and the earth.

About The Gryphon Press

Anyone interested in animal welfare and the human-animal bond should know about The Gryphon Press. This unique company is dedicated to publishing picture books about animals and the human-animal bond. It strives – and I believe succeeds – in being "a voice for the voiceless," promoting and fostering empathy toward animals. Gryphon Press titles are available from bookstores and online. Many teachers, librarians, and humane educators read Gryphon Press titles to their students.

Please note this generous offer:

Non-profits/schools/shelters/libraries can receive a 50% discount when they buy directly from Gryphon by the box. (contact: dana@thegryphonpress.com) Also, if you are interested in donating a classroom set of books to a school, visit www.thegryphonpress.com and indicate that in the contact form on their feedback page.

The publication date is April 14th, 2015, but folks can pre-order the book at Amazon. Here's the link: www.amazon.com/Hens-Friends-Sandy-Lisle/dp/0940719266/ref=asap_bc?ie=UTF8

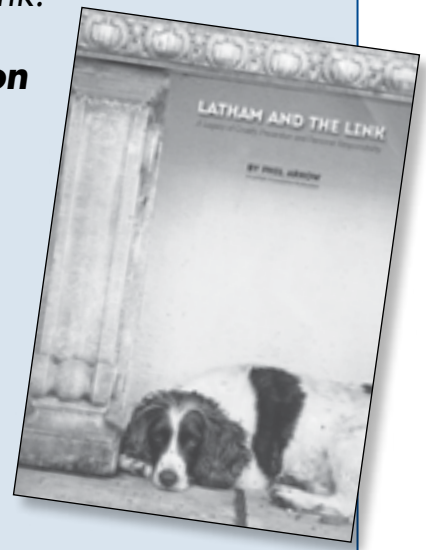


Latham and the Link: A Legacy of Cruelty Prevention and Personal Responsibility

The inspiring story of Edith and Milton Latham, founders of the Latham Foundation, and how they made a difference in the lives of millions of children and animals.

Available from Amazon's Createspace.

www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Latham+and+the+Link



HelpMeHelpYou

A series of films that examines a variety of animal-assisted activity programs across the USA – programs in which animals help children, and in turn, children help animals.



FAITH and HOPE on a FARM

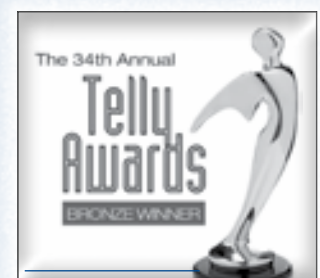
See a YouTube clip by visiting www.Latham.org or searching "Latham Foundation" on YouTube.

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

This 15-minute DVD highlights Forget Me Not Farm at Sonoma Humane Society in Santa Rosa, California, 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.

Order at www.Latham.org



Green Chimneys, Blue Skies



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

At Green Chimneys in Brewster, New York, visitors see smiling students and well-cared-for animals. What’s not immediately evident on this beautiful campus is that the children there are struggling with emotional, educational, social, and behavioral challenges. Green Chimneys includes a New York State-Approved Special Education Program, a Residential Treatment Program, and a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility. All are designed to help children succeed academically, socially, and emotionally – to see blue skies in their futures.



The USDA-accredited Farm and Wildlife Center is at the heart of this unique, multi-faceted setting. At Green Chimneys animals have been helping kids and kids have been helping animals for more than 65 years. How and why do they do it?

Green Chimneys, Blue Skies is a comprehensive and detailed look at the philosophy and methods behind this successful world leader in animal-assisted therapy. It is also a reminder of the power of the human-animal bond and sure to leave you moved and inspired.

Order at www.Latham.org

Third in the HelpMeHelpYou Series*

* Animal-assisted activities in which both youth and the animals benefit



BARC If You Need Help

New

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



Project BARC = Building Adolescent Responsibility and Compassion

Project BARC is a collaborative program 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 selected trainees 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.

You'll see some of the lives (both human and canine) that Project BARC has transformed in this inspiring film with a very happy ending: the BARC Graduation Ceremony and the joyful results of everyone's hard work.

(All ages; 15 minutes. Social Studies, Science, Undergraduates and above, Professionals, Occupational Therapy, Juvenile Justice, Criminology, Corrections)

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