

T H E Latham Letter

VOLUME XXXVIII, NUMBER 4

FALL 2017

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

SINGLE ISSUE PRICE: \$5.00

Reading, Math, and Kindness Class –

Incorporating

Humane
Education
at Every
School

A “How To” by Sarah Kesty



➔ See page 7

ALSO INSIDE FALL 2017

A perfect de-stressor: Pet Therapy at Airports pg 9

From the eye of the storm: Pets, Wildlife, and Hurricane Irma pg 11

Research News pgs 15 & 16



THE MANDATE: MANDATE

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



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Promotion of Humane Education*

The Latham Letter

Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

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The Latham Letter

Volume XXXVIII, Number 4, Fall 2017

**BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON
HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**



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"Play by the Rules"

*By Kay Stout, Director,
Peaceful Animal Adoption Shelter, Vinita, Oklahoma*

My son played soccer, baseball and football in high school – three sports – three different sets of rules, coaches, and players. When I asked him if he had any trouble changing sports/coaches, he said “No.” My next question was whether he liked everyone on each team. Again the answer was, “No.” Finally and most importantly, I asked him why he adjusted to each sport’s rules, coaches, referees, players, the weather, et al. He gave me that look that teenagers have perfected and said (with great exasperation), “Mom, I want to play the game.”

Those six words “**I want to play the game**” were the deciding factor for him.

Fourteen months ago, we began to transport homeless dogs (and a few cats) from our shelter in northeast Oklahoma to Dumb Friends League in Denver, Col., in earnest. I’m delighted to report that we just surpassed the 2000 mark! I believe the program has worked as well as it has because we all play by the same rules.

Dumb Friends League sets a high standard for transporting. And yes, at first we would gritch about it, but we quickly realized they knew what they were doing.

Today we have more than 15 area rescue organizations and shelters that collaborate with us. Every

Tuesday evening, more than 30 dogs (and sometimes a few cats) head to new homes in Colorado. All of our partners follow the guidelines established by Dumb Friends League. And, yes, it’s hard for some of them to follow the new rules. We understand, but in the end, when everyone plays by the same rules, more lives are saved.

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria saw large organizations collaborate. Consequently, they saved the lives of thousands of pets, including a potbelly pig. They agreed on the rules they were going to follow, got to work, and “got ‘er done.”

So yes, we follow the rules. Yes, it works – and yes – when you follow the rules, everyone wins. Like the rules? Don’t have to – just follow them.

Your son or daughter will accept an umpire or referee’s call. He will play a position the coach gives him and she will wear a uniform in all kinds of weather – to play the game.

Well, it works for rescue as well.





News about **Kind News**[™]



RedRover has adopted Kind News magazine from The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Kind News has been a flagship of the humane education world since 1983, teaching kids – and often, their parents and teachers – more about the animals who share our world and how to care for them.

Kind News is an eight-page publication that helps children understand and respect animals and think about why treating animals and people with kindness matters. The magazine encourages both empathy and critical thinking in children by celebrating the human-animal bond and helps motivate children to take action to improve the lives of animals. Kind News is aligned with national teaching standards and can be easily integrated into school curriculum.

For more information and subscription rates, visit <https://redrover.org/redrover-adopts-kind-news-magazine-hsus>.

FREE Humane Education Materials



The Latham Foundation has a program to help replace educational tools that were damaged or lost during natural disasters. This 2017 season has again brought major hurricanes to our shores.

To assist in recovery efforts and add to the good work of many of the organizations that are assisting victims, Latham will provide free humane education materials to any shelter impacted by the disasters.

Organizations whose materials have been lost or damaged are invited to select Latham books and Latham DVDs with which to begin rebuilding their educational programs. Shelters should contact Latham by phone, or email (info@latham.org) to arrange to participate in this program. We ask only that they consider paying the shipping costs when possible.

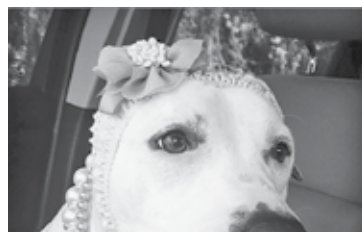
Real Estate Factoid

More millennials are listing **dogs** as the biggest factor in their home buying decisions, ahead of marriage and children.



Hero Dog of the Year Honored at American Humane Gala

Abigail the pit bull doesn't go out in public without a fancy headband or hat.



When Abigail started wearing her special headgear, it was to cover up some terrible injuries that cost the dog an ear – and nearly took her life. Now, they're her signature style, and a moving symbol of optimism.

"We really hope that people look at Abigail, this pit bull, and see that she has defied the odds," adoptive mom Megan Steinke told TODAY. "She is hope."

AMERICAN*HUMANE
FIRST TO SERVE[™]

She is also American Humane's Hero Dog of the Year.
Congratulations, Abigail!



It's Official! California Is the First State to Ban the Pet Store Sale of Puppy Mill Dogs

California's revised restrictions – set to take effect January 1, 2019 – will require pet store owners to sell dogs, cats and rabbits from animal shelters, rescue groups, or adoption centers. According to the legislation signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, stores could receive fines of \$500 for the sale of an animal that is not a rescue.

Many animal welfare groups including the **Humane Society**, the **American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)**, and **Best Friends Animal Society** widely support the legislation. These groups agree that the bill will ensure better treatment of animals, promote more rescue adoptions and prevent unnecessary animal deaths. "This landmark law breaks the puppy mill supply chain that pushes puppies into California pet stores and has allowed unscrupulous

breeders to profit from abusive practices," said Matt Bershadker, President and CEO of the ASPCA.

According to the Humane Society, irresponsible breeding leads to an estimated 1.5 million animals euthanized across the United States each year and puppy mills supply a shocking 99 percent of dogs sold in pet stores nationwide.

Thirty-six cities, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, already have similar bans on mass breeding operations, but this new bill spreads these policies statewide.

Many animal lovers hope California's law will inspire other states to follow similarly. While a new pet can be a wonderful addition to a home, it's important to **keep the breeding process healthy, wholesome and humane.**

News from the Association of Professional Humane Educators

By Dana Buchwald, Editor, The Humane Education Quarterly

The Association of Professional Humane Educators (APHE) is initiating and featuring a new recurring column in its quarterly magazine about where humane education stands as a field and visions for its possible future. We are inviting various leaders and innovators in the discipline to write for this column, starting with Zoe Weil in the fall edition.

We also want to hear your thoughts, both as reactions to what the columnists write, as well as your own concerns and ideas for sustaining and nurturing humane education to ensure its longevity and growth.

For this edition, we can start our thinking on the subject with some data and analysis.

Faunalytics, an unique, nonprofit research organization that is "dedicated to helping animals by providing useful information to advocates to help them increase their impact," has just released its Animal Tracker blog, which is all about humane education, and it's good news!

Faunalytics found that "in 2017, an impressive three in four U.S. adults (75%) think that human humane education is important. One-third (33%) of them think it is "very" important. Only 6% say humane education is not at all important."

You can find the full blog, with graphs, here: <https://faunalytics.org/animal-tracker-2017-humane-education/> and here's a link to the overall survey results and methods: <https://faunalytics.org/animal-tracker-2017-methods-overview/>.

If you'd like to contribute to the conversation, please email Dana Buchwald at HEQ@APHE.org.



Reading, Math, and Kindness Class –

Incorporating Humane Education at Every School

A “How To” for Teachers

By Sarah Kesty



(left to right) Students Ashley Hernandez, Kevin Montanez, Jesse Lopez, Maya Seda, Mia Borja, and Shirley Hernandez discuss ways to advocate for and support wildlife.

It seems that children of all ages are genuinely interested in animals. Just ask any toddler what a dog says, and he will answer with an excited, “Woof!” School age children often report that their pets are some of their first and most meaningful friends. And teens find solace in the nonjudgmental companionship of their furry family members. Why, then, do schools miss the opportunity to use animals and the human-animal bond to engage and instruct children? And, if students knew how to do right by animals, would they?

Many educators are seeking these answers, bringing humane education into our schools, rather than having humane education available only through shelters and rescues. Incorporating humane education into a school’s curriculum serves many purposes. For example, it allows students of all economic backgrounds access to new ideas and a new narrative about animals. Some families may not have the transportation to bring children to shelters or to pay for camps relating to humane education; having the program at school provides an opportunity for all children to interact with these ideas.

While it is still not widely known, many states have mandates requiring humane education. California, Florida, Illinois, Maine, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington state, and Wisconsin each have laws mandating humane education in public school curriculum. California’s law provides justification in that:

“WHEREAS, Humane education, such as that involving wildlife, the animals’ place in the overall environment, and the negative impacts humans can have on them, including death and extinction, can disrupt the cycle of animal and human abuse by decreasing a child’s potential to be abusive or neglectful toward animals and, consequently, promote pro social behavior toward humans; and WHEREAS, Humane education programs seek to prevent violence by teaching empathy, compassion, and respect for all living beings and to help children develop into caring, responsible citizens.”¹

A third benefit of humane education’s presence at schools is that it is an effective, research-based method of improving the social-emotional skills of students. Public schools reflect the importance of social-emotional learning; students with higher social emotional skills, regardless of socio-economic levels, demonstrate reduced suspension rates, decreased classroom interruptions, and better life and employment outcomes.² If you’re looking for a way to “pitch” humane education in your school, start with these facts. Principals and school leaders will listen.

Maybe you are an interested teacher or you know of someone who is...now what? Where do you start to create a humane education program for your school? The answer, it turns out, is easier than it may seem. It only takes some planning, a little connecting, and a whole bunch of passionate students!

¹ http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160HR28

² Paul Tough. *How Children Succeed*.

Consider the format

Ideally, every teacher would teach humane education, connecting the school with a common focus and social-emotional vocabulary. However, if you're just beginning, it may be easiest to lead by example, starting with your classroom. Consider how you can fold humane education into what you're already teaching. You may also want to start a club or an elective class. Take pre-and post-student reflections to gauge student growth and your program's impact. When you can quantify your program's impact, you'll be better able to promote the program to educational leaders at your school and district.

Create a scope and sequence

Map out a general flow of what you will cover and for about how much time. Student interest or current community needs may lead you to adjust your plan as the year progresses, but having a scope and sequence will help make pioneering curriculum less daunting.

Remember to use our network of Humane Educators for resources and support. Kasey Brown, who teaches math at a middle school in Alameda, Calif., developed a popular elective class called Animal Care and Welfare. The class is a mix of guest speakers, key topics like spay/neuter and student projects that educate and help animals. She also created a website called Teachaboutpets.com for teachers to find standard-aligned lessons and videos about pets.

Reach out to local speakers

When you develop a humane education course or club at a local school, you're forging a very important bridge between students and community animal leaders. Invite local groups and speakers to meet with your students and empower them with community vision. Brown recommends that you pre-teach the speaker's topic to the students, so that students have thoughtful questions to ask the speaker. And, of course, follow up with student reflections and thank you letters. Organizations often love to hear student voices and will sometimes use student letters in promoting and demonstrating their impact.

Trust your students

Humane education can bring up some challenging feelings and memories for students, and as Brown recommends, be prepared to support students but not shield them from feeling uncomfortable. Students will engage with topics and deeply think for themselves, developing an internalized humane outlook by wrestling with difficult ideas. The nonprofit RedRover can train you in questioning techniques that encourage students to develop empathy in lasting ways (www.redrover.org/readers). Some of the age-appropriate materials you find may upset students, who may feel angry at the way animals, humans, and the environment are currently treated. Mindfully encourage students to harness that anger and turn it into action. Provide students with the resources to create projects and solutions. You can trust that when they know better, they will do better, as Brown suggests.

Emphasize the power of student ambassadors

Students are masterful with social media; use this to benefit humane education! Emphasize the importance of sharing information and encourage students to take



Mia Borja and sisters Ashely and Shirley Hernandez enjoy a visit with a gopher. Connecting students with local animal organizations, such as Project Wildlife pictured above, empowers students to become ambassadors of information and support for animals in their communities.

pictures in class. Allow students to create slogans and bite-sized facts that they can share online and with friends and family. Help students roll play leading discussions and answering difficult questions, empowering them with communication skills that will become great assets in adulthood!

With your hard work, and help from your students, we will bring humane education to every school. Reading, writing, arithmetic...and kindness! It sounds good to me!

Sarah lives in San Diego, Calif., and in 2014 she was named Twin Rivers School District's Teacher of the Year. She is a Middle School Education Specialist and the proud author of a children's book that celebrates empathy and overcoming challenges: Everybody has Something: Together We Can.



Pet Therapy at Airports

By Debra J. White

“That’s just what I need,” said an arriving passenger, as he saw Ozzie and his handler, Ivan Smith, at Phoenix’s Sky Harbor International Airport. After greeting the five-year-old mixed breed dog, the passenger was on his way. “He’s such a sweet dog. I love that.”

In September, 2017, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport was the latest in a long line of domestic and international airports to introduce pet therapy to relieve passenger stress. According to Misty Cisneros-Contreras, customer service manager at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, “The Navigator Buddies pet therapy program is yet another layer of exceptional customer service provided here at Phoenix. It’s wonderful to see how our furry four-legged volunteers can make our guests smile.”

The Navigator Buddies program is an extension of the seventeen-year-old Navigator volunteer program (see description below). Volunteer navigators wear purple jackets so it made sense for the therapy dogs to wear purple vests too. To distinguish them from airport police dogs or passengers traveling with service dogs, therapy dogs wear vests that say, “pet me.” Therapy dogs and their handlers mingle with passengers around the airport in two-hour shifts seven days a week. Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport passenger Guy Braswell of Oxford, Miss., noticed Ozzie as the dog handed his paw to a group of passengers. “It’s a wonderful to see people smile. I love the idea,”



Ozzie and his handler Ivan Smith

says Braswell. “It’s a great way to reduce stress too.” Ozzie and his handler Ivan Smith worked their way through the terminal meeting and greeting passengers. Nearly everyone was pleased by Ozzie’s tricks. Even airport employees stopped to say hello to Ozzie. Some posed for pictures too. The dog rolled over, begged for treats, and gave passengers the high-five. Traveling to Edmonton, Alberta, Shannon Harte took time to greet Ozzie. “This is awesome. I can’t go up and hug a stranger but I can hug this dog. It’s wonderful.” In addition to their work at the airport, Ozzie and Smith also visit patients at a nursing home.

Pet therapy is a growing trend at airports. There are therapy teams at about 50 airports across the country, large and small, in cities such as Appleton, Wis., Erie County, Pa., Denver, Colo., Los Angeles, Calif., and Miami, Fla.

There's even therapy teams at three international airports – Milan, Calgary, and Mumbai. Airport pet therapy is believed to have started at the Mineta San Jose International Airport after 9/11. Chaplain Kathryn Liebschutz brought her dog, Orion, a Boxer/Great Dane mix, to the airport to help calm passenger fears about flying. The dog was such a hit with passengers that the airport created the K-9 Therapy Crew. There are now 13 dogs and handlers at the airport according to Rosemary Barnes, Public Information Manager.

The Minneapolis St. Paul airport program began in 2015 to make passenger travel more enjoyable says Lynn Klonowski, of the Travel Assistance Foundation. "The program has been a huge hit with the traveling public with requests for special needs 'meet and greet' from our canine companions." Even airport employees visit the therapy dogs. There are 72 teams at special petting stations around the airport who volunteer seven days a week from 8 a.m. to

8 p.m. The therapy program works in conjunction with the airport navigator program, which has around 500 volunteers that guide and assist passengers (like the program in Phoenix).

Not just any dog is suitable for therapy work. Dogs must be friendly and comfortable around strangers, especially those using walkers

or wheelchairs. They are screened for behavior by national groups such as Therapy Dogs International. They must be healthy and have a veterinary certification. All breeds are welcomed.

Pet therapy at airports has been reported in travel magazines as well as local and national media. There is a Facebook page called Airport Therapy Dogs. Airports, though, are just the latest venue for pet therapy. Pet therapy has a long history dating back to the 1970s when veterinarians and psychiatrists noticed that patients improved through interactions with animals. These professionals formed the Delta Society in 1977 to study the human-animal interaction. In 2012, the organization changed names to Pet Partners and their mission is to improve human health and well-being through the human-animal bond. According to Pet Partners, pet therapy offers many benefits such as lowering blood pressure, decreasing social isolation, and alleviating pain.

Therapy teams are found in hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, schools, homeless and domestic violence shelters, after school programs, group homes, and even in libraries. Children with learning problems read to therapy animals to overcome speech and language issues. Pam Gaber, president and founder of Gabriel's Angels (whose mission is to deliver healing pet therapy to abused and at-risk children), says the concept of therapy dogs at airports is brilliant. "Suddenly, a late flight or lost baggage is more bearable."

Rosemary Barnes, public information manager at the Mineta San Jose International Airport, expects that more airports will offer pet therapy. "We're so pleased to have started this important passenger service," says Barnes.



The Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport Navigator program began in 2000 to assist passengers with questions about airport services.

Volunteers answer questions about ground transportation, available food, parking, gate locations, arrivals and departures, etc. There are currently 400 volunteers who work four-hour shifts seven days a week except on Saturday when there are only two shifts. Sixteen therapy dog teams serve the airport as well.



The moonlit calm before the storm

Hurricane Irma:

A first-hand look at what we learned from Hurricane Katrina about people and their pets

By Judy Johns

It was a picture-perfect vacation at Moonswept, a friend's villa on St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands, until we got word that Irma, a category five hurricane, was bearing down on us.

Lush and green with gorgeous beaches, St. John is the smallest and least developed of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Two thirds of the land area is a pristine National Park. It is heavily dependent on tourism. In addition, it's no stranger to hurricanes.

Therefore, attitudes toward and preparations for the storm varied. Some people were convinced it would turn at the last minute and be a big nuthin'; others hurried to get supplies and put their hurricane shutters up. My friend and I were of the "better safe than sorry" school of thought, so we bought extra water and wine, checked batteries and flashlights, brought in anything we thought might blow away, and had the aluminum shutters installed over the many windows that faced the water. All the while, we watched a steady stream of sailboats head into Hurricane Hole, a supposedly safe natural harbor.

Later, at the insistence of my friend's husband who had to return to New York before any hurricane watches or warnings were on the radar, we packed up our supplies, abandoned Moonswept, and headed down the mountain to a friend's house with windows built to Miami-Dade County's impact-resistant standards. We also reasoned that being there would be more convenient for getting to the ferry to St. Thomas and on to our respective flights. Little did we know what was actually in store for us.

The storm

We had a bit of a hurricane party with drinks and games until Irma blew in



St. John Animal Care Center



Cruz Bay, St. John

At one point, the wind and rain got so violent that we huddled in a hallway away from any windows – two dogs who were amazingly calm, five people, and one guitar. My friend sang and played to soothe the savage beast of a storm and keep our spirits up.

The aftermath

Late that afternoon the winds died down and we began to survey the damage. The entire house had about four inches of water in it. Jamsie, 12, got out his skimmer board and zoomed through the great room.

Roads were impassable. Communication with the mainland was impossible and there wasn't a green leaf left anywhere. However, amazingly, the Koi survived!

about noon on September 6th, which was the day I was originally scheduled to leave for home. For about three hours we watched while the storm with sustained winds of up to 185 mph pummeled the house, the trees, everything. We heard tiles come off the roof and bounce along the length of the house. We saw the Koi pond and swimming pool flood.

Eventually we got the generator going to power the refrigerator and freezer, but gasoline was limited. Turns out it's not as easy as it used to be to siphon gas out of a car.

There was a curfew in effect to allow the Water and Power Authority to begin clearing roads, and after a couple of days we made it into town where one grocery store was open, one gas station was still pumping, and one pharmacy was treating, not emergencies, but "urgencies" such as additional prescription medicines for vacationers like me.

Amid all reports of damage e.g. two of the four ferries sunken, sunken car barges, and all of the boats in Hurricane Hole lost, word spread fast that if one climbed to the balcony over Ronnie's Pizza, you could get an AT&T phone call out. That's where I finally got word to loved ones back home that I was alive and well.



September 8th, partially cleared road





September 10th, typical aftermath

While these photographs show some of Irma's physical damage, they don't show the human tragedy – people who lost everything they had, walking with plastic bags full of belongings trailed by children holding hands. It was heartbreaking.

The Animal Care Center

While in town, we checked on St. John's small but impressive Animal Care Center. The building and all the animals had survived with only one large hole in the cat area that they quickly repaired. Their needs? Cat and dog food, cat litter, foster homes, and large crates so they could take in additional animals. Thankfully, at this point there was plenty of fresh water. We returned with a large crate and every bag of dog food that we could find.



September 12th, the first of the evacuated animals

Other animals on the island seemed to have survived surprisingly well. Iguanas trudged along as usual; chickens resumed their scratching; birds were everywhere, but what must they have been thinking?

Relief efforts

Responders were spread thin because of Hurricane Harvey's flooding in Houston and Hurricane Irma's devastating winds in Florida, but in a few days we saw the Army and Marines arrive with water and relief meals. We also saw neighbors helping neighbors and many generous acts of friendship, care, and concern.

The evacuation

Normally, we would have taken a ferry to St. Thomas and a flight home from there, but the port was closed because of all the sunken boats, and the St. Thomas airport was inoperable. Still, we redoubled our efforts to get off the island because there was little we could do to help and we were only a drag on the very limited resources.

Then we heard via the coconut telegraph that the U.S. Coast Guard was evacuating people to Puerto Rico, which had been relatively unscathed by Irma. We followed a loosely-organized plan to get in line for that possibility.

We were to sign up, then show up the next day with the usual "one carry on and one personal item" – women and children and anyone with health problems first, then others like us, and finally, unlike in Hurricane Katrina, anyone with animals. We didn't know exactly what was in store for



Gotta' love the Coast Guard

us, but our turn came and smiling Coast Guard men and women loaded us, six-at-a-time, onto an inflatable boat. They sped us across the bay toward a waiting Coast Guard cutter. As we neared the cutter and saw the inflatable boat ahead of us, I realized we were going to have to climb a rope ladder to get up to the cutter! %*&^! But I made it. We were welcomed aboard and I had the pleasure of watching from the deck as they safely passed up the crated animals.

That's it for the exciting part of this tale. From then on it was mostly a matter of patiently waiting – waiting on deck all day until the cutter took us to port in St. Thomas; waiting in St. Thomas for one of the minimally-staffed but inviting humanitarian cruise ships to arrive late that night; and waiting on board out in port two nights while they received other refugees. Finally, we moved on to San Juan where the American Red Cross welcomed us and everything was well organized. We spent two luxurious nights in a hotel in San Juan before finally getting a flight out just before Hurricane Maria hit and devastated Puerto Rico.

My weeklong vacation had morphed into a 16-day adventure that left me with a good tale to tell and renewed faith in the human spirit. Would I return to St. John? Absolutely. The wonderful people of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are in dire straits now, but eventually they'll rebuild and need our tourist dollars more than ever.

Thanks to –

The incredible James, Kelly, and Jamsie for sharing their house and love which was so very much more than “any port in a storm;” the many friends and neighbors who pitched in with all kinds of skills; FEMA, the U.S. Coast Guard, Army, Marines; the American Red Cross; the Royal Caribbean cruise line; and last but not least, my incredible traveling partner, Terre.



Royal Caribbean's Majesty of the Sea, our “Humanitarian Ship”



Onboard litterboxes

Hurricane

Irma



St. John Animal Evacuation Update

International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) to the Rescue!

Here's an update from Ryan Moore, manager of the Animal Care Center on St. John, one month after hurricanes Irma and Maria.

We have finally reached our end goal for the moment. The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) team landed today with more than 100 crates (along with food) so that we can transport our dogs and cats stateside.

Tomorrow morning at 5 am we will start loading the dogs and cats into the travel crates. Then we will make our way to the St. Thomas airport with a police escort. We will be flying close to 100 animals to New Hampshire on a cargo flight. Most of the dogs will be going to Last Hope K9 in Massachusetts. The cats will go to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. We will also transport some dogs and cats that belong to owners who were stranded stateside when the storms hit and could not make it back to get them.

A huge thank you to all of the organizations and people involved in this relief effort.



Research News You can Use:

FOURTH IN A SERIES

By Deidre Rand, Ph.D.

No Pet or Their Person Left Behind:

Increasing the Disaster Resilience of Vulnerable Groups through Animal Attachment, Activities and Networks

Kirrilly Thompson, Danielle Every, Sophia Rainbird, Victoria Cornell, Bradley Smith and Joshua Trigg

Animals 2014, 4,214-240;
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The people of Australia are experiencing more extreme weather and more frequent disasters, including 400 bush fires in 2009 which combined to form the Victoria firestorm in which 173 humans and untold numbers of companion animals, livestock and wildlife died. A disaster of this magnitude puts the relationships people have with their pets to the test as they face decisions about fleeing with their animals or leaving them behind. These challenges can be especially heartbreaking for vulnerable populations such as children and youth, elderly persons, and people who are disabled or homeless. These individuals are more likely to have limited resources for responding to and recovering from disaster, important factors used to define resilience.

Animal attachment is often viewed as a risk factor for human survival in disaster because of increased willingness to take risks in order to save animal lives. This article proposes the opposite, suggesting that encouraging people to think about emergency planning for their animals could actually motivate animal guardians to engage in disaster planning for themselves as well as for their animals. For animal lovers in vulnerable groups, animal attachment, animal-related activities and social networks may be particularly effective conduits for disseminating disaster resilience information and building disaster resilience behaviors.

Here is a link to the entire article:
<http://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/4/2/214>



Deidre Rand, Ph.D.

Deidre Rand, Ph.D. is a psychologist whose online CE course titled "Animal-Assisted Therapy: The Healing Power of Pets Part I" is available 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.



Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence and Perpetration of Animal Abuse

By J. Noelle Hollar

For a copy of the full literature review, please email noelle.hollar@gmail.com



Introduction

Children's exposure to domestic violence has been an area of interest for social researchers since the 1980s (DeViney, Dickert, & Lockwood, 1983). As research progressed, primarily with surveys of battered women shelters, it became evident that interparental violence included abuse of the family pet(s) as means of coercing the victimized parent and children. Following this discovery, researchers found concerning evidence of children witnessing animal abuse in the home and then perpetrating abuse on animals themselves (Deviney et al, 1983; Ascione, 1998).

Animals have been incorporated into human lives for many generations and thus hold important roles within family systems (Thompson & Gullone, 2003). In a healthy family environment, they are a source of joy, pleasure, and companionship. In a family environment plagued by violence, they do serve as a source of comfort and safety amidst danger in the home (Ascione, 2007), but also become victims as much as the abused parent and children. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) estimates 1 million animals are abused or killed every year in connection with domestic violence (DeMello, 2012). Research has found the typical animal abuser is a male child (Ascione & Lockwood, 2001; DeMello, 2012) who commits "direct, physical acts of animal cruelty" (2012, p. 246). Arkow (2007) noted the vast majority of adult animal abusers witnessed their pets abused as children, and consequently violence against animals became "a family value that is transmitted inter-generationally" (p. 73).

Because no set definition for "animal abuse" currently exists amongst the research, the author will be referencing the term *animal abuse* as defined by Trollinger (2001):

Knowingly and/or with criminal negligence overworking, torturing, tormenting, or depriving an animal of necessary sustenance; cruelly beating, needlessly mutilating, needlessly killing, or otherwise mistreating or neglecting any animal; failing to provide proper food, drink, or protection from weather. (p. 31)

Researchers continue to study this concerning behavior in youth for several reasons; prominent among them, as noted by "First Strike" (n.d.), a resource published

by the HSUS, animal abuse, cruelty, and neglect are signs of psychological distress; it often indicates past and/or current experiences of abuse and violence, and could signal a developing pattern of power-seeking and control by way of inflicting suffering.

This relatively new area of research has prompted questions and concerns with regard to properly addressing the needs of children exposed to domestic violence. This paper seeks to determine whether a relationship exists between pre-pubescent children witnessing violence in the home and engaging in animal cruelty. Three research questions will be answered, in hopes of best addressing the scope of this issue and providing some viable solutions for children adversely affected by exposure to violence against animals:

1. What are estimated rates of children witnessing domestic violence in the home and engaging in animal cruelty?
2. What effect(s) does growing up in a home where the abusive parent uses threats of or actually abuses, harms, or kills companion animals, as means of coercion and control, have on a child's development?

3. What interventions, such as treatment and/or therapy, exist for children exposed to this environment, as well as those who have already begun imitating the violent behavior?

The primary hypothesis in conducting this research states domestic violence in the home is a direct influence on a child's abusive behavior towards small and/or companion animals. Additionally, the author predicts witnessing an abusive parent engage in animal maltreatment, as a way to control the victimized parent, teaches an observing child such behavior is acceptable and a normal aspect of "loving" and intimate relationships.

Estimated rates of children engaging in animal cruelty (as related to domestic violence exposure)

Deviney, Dickert, and Lockwood (1983), Ascione, Weber, and Wood (1997), and Ascione (1998) are among the earliest studies of children who perpetrate acts of animal cruelty following exposure to interparental violence. Evidence was found which suggested a relationship between a child's exposure to domestic violence and violence against animals:

- *Deviney et al (1983) interviewed battered women residing in a local shelter; 71 to 83 percent of the participating women stated their partners either physically harmed and/or killed the family pets.*
- *Ascione (1998) conducted similar interviews with 38 women (local shelter): 71 percent stated their partner threatened to harm the*

family pet, 57 percent of these confirmed their partner had harmed and/or killed the pet. Most concerning, of the 22 women who had children, 32 percent reported the children had hurt or killed small animals (1998).

Effects of witnessing the abuse and/or killing of companion animals on childhood development

Children who witnessed domestic violence are very likely to have also witnessed animal abuse by one or both parents (Ascione, 2007; DeMello, 2012); most concerning, homes in which domestic violence *and* animal abuse are present are often those in which children have been physically abused, emotionally traumatized, and neglected (Becker, 2001; Goodman, 2006; DeMello, 2012). Goodman (2006) estimates 3 to 10 million children per year are exposed to physical and verbal spousal abuse, and in 30 to 60 percent of those homes, child abuse also occurs.

Children who are cruel to animals often exhibit more severe psychological, emotional, and behavioral problems, and, as previously stated, they are likely to have been abused themselves by a violent parent (Ascione, 2007; DeMello, 2012). As such, children are likely to model the abusive behavior on both animals and, in later years, romantic partners (Ascione et al, 1997; McIntosh, 2004; Goodman, 2006). Research conducted by Lockwood (2007) documented six adverse results of a child's exposure to animal cruelty in the context of domestic violence. Prominent among these, children are likely to become *desensitized to violence* and their capacity for empathy is severely damaged; *accept physical harm as normal* within "loving relationships"; *seek power by inflicting pain and suffering*; and *imitate the abusive behavior* demonstrated by their parents (2007).

Trollinger (2001) supported these findings, emphasizing children will abuse pets and/or small animals as a way of expressing distress or releasing their anger. Consequently, this behavior should not be dismissed or ignored, but instead considered a symptom of distress worthy of immediate attention (Ascione et al, 1997).

Interventions and therapeutic solutions for children who abuse animals

Several programs currently exist to address animal cruelty in the context of domestic violence. These programs work to educate the public, provide therapy to children who have been exposed to this violence, and conduct interventions with children, of all ages, who have begun perpetrating violence against animals:

- *AniCare Model of Treatment for Animal Abuse*
- *AniCare Child*
- *Project Second Chance*
- *Forget-Me-Not Farm*
- *People & Animals Learning*
- *Strategic Humane Intervention Programs*

It should be noted, as best worded by Ascione & Shapiro (2009), “persons presenting with the problem of animal abuse vary in degree of psychopathology; no one treatment fits all” (p. 581).

In addition to the therapeutic element, several researchers have called for social solutions to address and combat the problem:

- *Ascione et al (1997) advocated for better understanding amongst organizations of the connection between domestic violence and animal abuse, and argued such essential knowledge should serve as a widespread and connecting theme amongst agencies.*
- *Becker (2001) argued the need for closer collaboration between child welfare and animal welfare organizations, as animal abuse very often is an indicator of child abuse in the home.*
- *McFarlane et al (2003) vouched for early detection and intervening treatment, stating it had the potential to interrupt and prevent behavioral problems later in life.*
- *Ascione (2007) noted sensitive methods needed to be developed when asking children about their experiences with animal abuse, witnessing and/or perpetrating.*

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
estimates 1 million animals
are abused or killed every year
in connection with domestic violence.

Conclusion

Studies conducted in recent years (between 2000 and 2015) have continued to support the findings of early research. Three consistent themes have been found:

1. Children raised in a violent household may suffer from physical abuse and/or neglect (Goodman, 2006) which may lend itself to feelings of neglect and rejection and displaced anger, which is then redirected at small and/or companion animals (Ascione & Lockwood, 2001; McFarlane et al, 2003; Ascione, 2007; Henry & Sanders, 2007; Schwartz et al, 2012).
2. Children who witness DV in the home are at an increased risk of abusing, harming, and/or killing animals (Flynn, 2000b; Ascione & Lockwood, 2001; McIntosh, 2004; Goodman, 2006; Schwartz et al, 2012).

3. Children who abuse animals may also demonstrate other concerning behaviors, such as bullying (victims and perpetrators), internalizing and externalizing behavior problems, emotional disorders, power-oriented criminal thinking, difficulty with perspective taking, and lack of empathy (Ascione & Lockwood, 2001; McFarlane et al, 2003; Ascione, 2007; Henry & Saunders, 2007; Schwartz et al, 2012).

In conclusion, the following are suggested improvements for future research and successful future treatment, as evidenced by the reviewed research:

1. Therapy for child witnesses to domestic violence and animal abuse
2. Rehabilitation and counseling programs for at-risk youth
3. Training for law enforcement on animal cruelty investigations
4. Spreading social awareness

While animal abuse does not necessarily lead to interpersonal violence (Becker, 2001), it has been demonstrated, through the gathered research, witnessing and perpetrating animal cruelty is concerning in and of itself because it showcases an implicit lack of empathy for nonhuman animals, which can easily lead to a lack of empathy towards fellow human beings. Combating this problem will require complete collaboration amongst all existing agencies, and this type of successful collaboration will only work if all involved parties are aware of the intricate threads connecting violence against humans and violence against animals.

Author Noelle Hollar earned her Bachelor's degree (Sociology with a concentration in Criminal Justice/Criminology) at Colorado State University in 2011. From 2012 to 2014, while working full-time at a non-profit community corrections facility, she enrolled in the Criminology Masters of Science program at Regis University. Noelle's academic work at Regis was heavily focused on Domestic Violence (otherwise referred to as Intimate Partner Violence) in a various areas of life, including (but not limited to): Domestic Violence in the lives of police officers; Teen Dating violence in high schools; and a drafted proposal of advanced Domestic Violence training for the police academy. Her thesis was a concentrated literature study concerning male victims of female-perpetrated Domestic Violence and the detrimental effects Intimate Partner Violence can have in the lives of children in the home.

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Training Videos Available for Law Enforcement Agencies



The National Sheriffs Association has partnered with the Humane Society of the United States to produce a series of free, short training videos that can be used during police and sheriffs' offices roll calls to assist law enforcement officers with better responses to animal abuse, based upon its links with interpersonal violence.

"The link between people who abuse animals and who go on to abuse people is well documented. The training you will receive will help you to recognize animal abuse and make your communities much safer," says John Thompson, Deputy Executive Director of the NSA and a member of the National Link Coalition's steering committee.

One 9-minute video describes animal cruelty and neglect, featuring April Doherty, lead investigator of the animal abuse unit at the Baltimore County, Md., State's Attorney's Office. She describes the standards of care concerning food, water and shelter that an officer might observe at a scene; the distinctions between felony and misdemeanor animal abuse and neglect; acts of commission and omission; the need for documentation; and enforcement options.

A 20-minute video covers dog fighting. Janette Reeve, deputy manager of the HSUS animal fighting response unit, describes common terminology in animal fighting; tell-tale scars and injuries an officer might observe on fighting dogs; conditioning equipment and medications often found at training and fighting sites; suggestions for more effective prosecutions; and resources to aid in their investigations.

To gain access to the videos, please e-mail adoherty@baltimorecountymd.gov.

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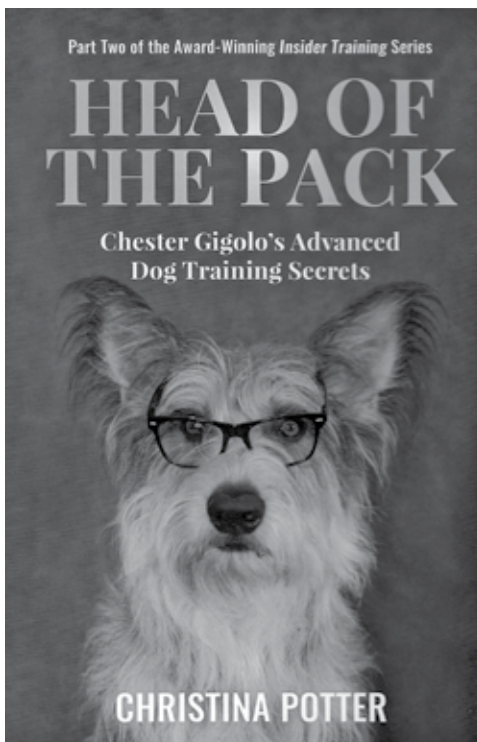
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Head of the Pack

By Chester Gigolo
with Christina Potter

Reviewed by Trekker
with Becky Bartlett

Once again Chester Gigolo – with the assistance of professional dog-trainer Christina Potter – has set paw to paper, and dogs and their people can celebrate that fact. A follow-up to *Insider Training: Chester Gigolo's Dog Training Secrets* (2016) – reviewed in Spring 2016 *Latham Letter* – *Head of the Pack* travels deeper into training territory by revealing the secrets of 25 advanced tricks. We're talking "Ring the Bell," "Hug," and (my personal favorite) "Dance." But even more important than the tricks is the book's underlying theme, which is "attention is love."

As he did in *Insider Training*, Chester Gigolo stresses the importance we dogs place on having your attention, and training is the perfect setting for that. Training, as in learning both good behaviors and tricks, is not work for us dogs, it's fun! (This is an important concept, and one that may be difficult for humans to understand – given that for humans "training" often means repetition and boredom.) Training allows us to make full use of our canine intelligence – and at the same time amaze and astonish our fellow canines and their people with performance tricks. Lucky is the dog who finds his/her home with people who get this and devote a little one-on-one time to us every day.

In discussing all the above, Chester Gigolo cites – in the last several chapters – the various scientific studies behind his book. Humans will likely find these chapters of particular interest. With this book Chester Gigolo does indeed prove himself to be head of the pack.

Head of the Pack: Chester Gigolo's Advanced Dog Training Secrets

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Total Cat Mojo The Ultimate Guide to Life with Your Cat

By Jackson Galaxy
with Mikel Delgado, Ph.D.

Reviewed by Judy Johns

Every time I hear Jackson Galaxy speak or read something he's written, I wish I still had a cat – a cat to do right by, a cat to help find his or her Mojo. Jackson defines Cat Mojo as "the confidence that cats exhibit when they are at ease in their environment and in touch with their natural instincts – to hunt, catch, kill, eat, groom, and sleep – in a territory where their ownership is assured." He explains that problems such as litter box avoidance and aggression arise when cats are not able to hook into this innate confidence they all possess but need help from their human companions to harness. In a fascinating section called the history of

the mojo-fied world, he describes today's cat's ancestral twin, who he calls the Raw Cat, and shows how closely their behaviors are still related.

This latest book, with Mikel Delgado, is truly the ultimate guide to life with a cat. It's funny, and my opinion, it's right. *Total Cat Mojo* is a must-have for any cat lover.

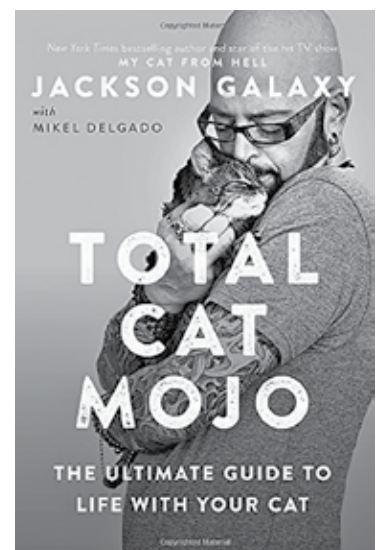
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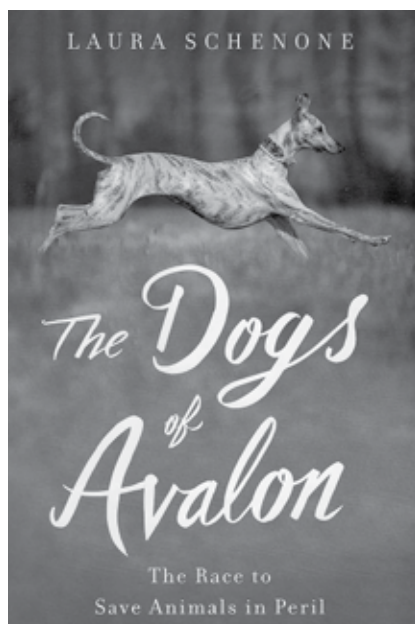
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The Dogs of Avalon: The Race to Save Animals in Peril

By: Laura Schenone

The Dogs of Avalon is a captivating story and a multi-faceted narrative full of heartbreak and triumph, setbacks and heroics. The story's hero is the unforgettable Marion Fitzgibbon who joins forces with like-minded women to form Limerick (Ireland) Animal Welfare, beginning a lifelong career of rescuing and advocating for animals.

After becoming director of the Irish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, she can no longer ignore the plight of greyhounds who are mass-

produced and exported by a government-backed industry. Thousands seem to disappear after injury or peak racing years. Her quest takes her across Europe and to the U.S. where she finds assistance from people determined to change the perception of the misunderstood breed and save the majestic dogs.

Dale Sussdakoff, author of *The Prize*, says, "Like a greyhound streaking after her prey, Laura Schenone beautifully and inexorably pursues the story of the singular Marion Fitzgibbon. *The Dogs of Avalon* is about dogs, yes, but it is also an exquisite exploration of empathy, love, and the meaning of life."

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