International Conference Chairman Describes Program

Dr. Aaron H. Katcher, chairman of the committee organizing the International Conference on the Human/Companion Animal Bond, scheduled for October 5, 6, 7 at Philadelphia, recently provided the Latham Letter Editor the following statement on program plans.

"The conference comes at the right time, for a critical mass of scientific knowledge about the human/companion animal bond has only recently been developed. Not only will the conference present new research, but it will also synthesize research data and clinical experience in important areas of interest related to companion animals and their meaning both to the general population and to people with special needs."

"The conference will answer the needs of scientists seeking to understand the scope of the field, of health professionals who want to understand how they may use companion animals to help people with specific problems, and to the general public which is interested in the companion animal concept as a means of helping others and facilitating the humane treatment of our pet population."

"A multi-dimensional approach will be used in the conference. There will be review papers which will summarize our current knowledge in important areas such as pet-facilitated therapy; positive benefits of companion animals, what we know about the way people mourn animals and how their grief should be managed; the results of programs bringing companion animals to the aged, the way anthropological evidence indicates how the human/companion animal bond varies in different cultures, and the state of teaching programs which treat this bond in veterinary schools and schools for the health professions."

For people who need clinical insights and state-of-the-art knowledge about starting pets-for-people programs, there will be poster presentations which will permit the conference participants to sit down and share experiences with the people who are conducting programs in facilities for the aged, mental institutions, prisons, centers for handicapped children, and senior citizens' centers. The interactions will continue in workshops where people with common interests can come together to talk about issues such as control of behavior problems, criteria for euthanasia, and evaluation of pet-facilitated therapy.

The research of more than fifty

(Continued on page 2)
INTERNATIONALLY known scholars who will participate in this meeting will be summarized in twelve review papers that are being presented to the two plenary sessions of the Conference. These twelve papers will be recorded on audio-cassettes which will be available within one month after the end of the Conference.

The complete proceedings will be published within one year of the Conference. This volume will contain the review papers as well as thirty or more research papers and the summaries of the workshops and the poster presentations.

Time will also be provided for relaxed fellowship. There will be a cocktail party in the Egyptian Room of the University Museum, and an awards dinner featuring a talk by Boris Levinson on the future of the human/companion animal bond.

**Our Bond with Marine Mammals**

**Jim Nollman**

Tantalizing recent research into communication between man and dolphin and man and whale is known worldwide, the qualities of whale and dolphin intelligence are increasingly respected. High-profile media coverage is elevating these flesh and blood marine mammals to the level of a modern totem-myth and may be beginning to qualify both species as wild animal companions. Both are mentors, educating us about our own relationship with planet Earth.

To what factors is the acknowledged remarkable intelligence of dolphins and whales attributed? Some point to the fact that many whales and dolphins possess a brain far larger and more convoluted than humans. Some dolphins hint at possessing a true complex language. Contact with whales is sometimes akin to "close encounters of the third kind." That irresistible dolphin smile is as beautiful, as mysterious and as photogenic as Mona Lisa.

The provocative yet still unknown qualities of dolphin intelligence have already begun to alter the way we humans have been educated about what an animal is. Dolphins possess little or no fear of humans. Nearly every wild animal has a healthy fear of human beings as a factor in its survival, but dolphins are somehow different. Once in Hawaii I attracted twenty dolphins by playing music out on the water. A hundred yards away, up on the shore, a group of humans gathered to witness this unusual interspecies concert. After a while the dolphins began to leap out of the water, sometimes just a few feet from my head. The human audience clapped wildly. This, in turn, prompted the dolphins to leap even higher, ever more gymnastically.

Perhaps these mammals are simply hams in the tradition of our human theatre. Perhaps they are, as some believe, the last of the great animal innocents. There is one last explanation which many dolphin trainers talk about matter-of-factly. These marine animals know some things about life and environment that we don't. They are doing their best to teach it to us while the planet is still intact.

Jim Nollman is the director of interspecies Communication, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancement of environmental consciousness through direct relations with wild animals. The organization's intriguing logo is reproduced here with permission. Nollman is best known for his musical communication with orcas which was recently documented on the national TV series "Those Amazing Animals." He is writing a book about dolphins at Iki Island, Japan, where he spent two winters working with fishermen and dolphins.
Hawaiian Veterinary Medical Association; and the Cooperative Extension Service, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources of the University of Hawaii, and by the Delta Group of the Latham Foundation. Funding was provided by the Mcinerney Foundation and the Public Health Committee of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Laura Thompson, left, observed dubious reaction as Marianna Burt tries exotic native Hawaiian fare. Wallace Jamie, right, abstains.

Speakers included four members of the Delta Group of the Latham Foundation. Delta Group Chairman, Michael J. McCulloch, M.D., described "The Pet as Prosthesis: The Adjunctive Use of Pets in the Treatment of Chronic Illness." Robert J. Schroeder, D.V.M., spoke on "Facts and Myths about Diseases Transmissible from Animals to Man." Dr. Schroeder is past president of the AVMA, retired Deputy Director of the Los Angeles Department of Health, and Emeritus Professor of Community Medicine and Public Health, University of Southern California.

Alan M. Beck, Sc.D., Director of the Center on the Interaction of Animals and Society, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, spoke both on "Treatment of Animal Behavior Problems" and "Research in the Center on the Interactions of Animals and Society." Leo K. Bustad, D.V.M., Ph.D., Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Washington State University, described "Animal Facilitated Therapy: Selection and Evaluation."

Aaron H. Katcher, M.D., Chairman of the Organizational Committee of the International Conference on the Human/Companion Animal Bond, spoke on "The Human/Companion Animal Bond: Form and Function." Alton F. Hopkins, D.V.M., explored "The Companion Animal Veterinarian's Responsibility in Human Mental Health." Dr. Hopkins, past president of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association, is a member of the Executive Board of the AVMA and of the committee planning the International Conference.

Marianna R. Burt, M.A., Associate Editor of The Latham Letter, presented material on "Comparative Medical Ethics - Veterinary and Human," and Linda M. Hines, M.A., Director of the Washington State University People-Pet Partnership Program, described "The People-Pet Partnership Council: A Community Experiment."

The Latham Foundation film, "The Phenomenon of the Human/Companion Animal Bond" was shown at each symposium session. Coffee breaks, Friday lunch with the speakers, and a reception at the Humane Society on Saturday afternoon provided opportunity for good fellowship and the exchange of ideas. Program participants were dinner guests of Dr. and Mrs. Miyahara at their home on Saturday evening.

(Continued on page 4.)
On Monday, May 4, Latham Foundation officers Hugh H. Tebault and Wallace Jamie participated with Linda M. Hines in a Workshop on Establishing a People-Pet Partnership Program Convened by Mrs. Thompson, this meeting described the steps in starting such a program and explained the resources offered by the Latham Foundation. Three project options were explained: a school program; arrangements for visiting or resident pets in nursing homes, housing units and institutions; and therapeutic horseback riding.

According to Dr. Miyahara, feedback from the Symposium and workshop has been highly favorable, and individuals are already volunteering to participate in a people-pet partnership program in Honolulu. The Humane Society feels that the meeting has helped to increase public consciousness of the impact of pets on contemporary society.

Latham Letter Readers are Encouraged to Write the Foundation

Latham Letter editors solicit input from newsletter readers. We'd like to know:
- If you know of programs involving the Human/Companion Animal Bond, pet facilitated therapy, prescription pets, and people-pet partnership programs that our research-oriented readers would also like to know about. (If any of the material in our library relating to these areas may be of interest to you, you may request a listing of 100 available documents.)
- How you feel about the Latham Newsletter. How relevant is its content and slant for you?
- If you wish to suggest that our publication deal with topics which we have thus far not addressed.

-- The Editors

Focus on Film

“Animal Control--Who Needs It?” Achieves Record Placements

Jamie Accepts Award for Latham.

Latham Foundation's recently completed 23 minute film, “Animal Control--Who Needs It?”, jointly committed with the National Animal Control Association, (NACA) which depicts ways in which animal control officers serve animals and the public, has only been available for distribution for 7 weeks. In that period, 40 of the documentaries have been sold at cost to humane organizations and the film has been lent to 40 SPCA's and humane organizations.

At a recent meeting of the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators in San Diego, California, Wallace Jamie, Latham Vice President, received, in behalf of Dezsoe (Steve) Nagy, Executive Film Producer and the Foundation an exceptionally beautiful award from Shelby Dow, Chairman of NACA's Education Committee. The inscription on the unique plaque with seagulls rampant, reads:

The National Animal Control Association
salutes
The Latham Foundation
For Improving Public Awareness and Helping
Animal Protection Workers

upon the completion of the film “Animal Control--Who Needs It?”

Latham Living With S.I.N.

S.I.N., the Spanish International TV Network, has chosen Latham's “Withit” programs in Spanish for telecast on KWEX-TV, San Antonio, Texas. This station beams the programs to a satellite system making it available to about 100 Spanish stations across the U.S. The first program was shown on the 2nd of May. The programs will continue weekly on Saturdays for 26 weeks.

WITHIT Series Popular In Canada

Videotheque, a subscription TV system in Quebec, Canada, has used Latham's “Withit” programs for over a year in both Spanish and English. “Police Horses” was shown 74 times. The average viewing in English is about 22 uses per program, in Spanish about 11 viewings. “Dinosaurs”, the second most popular program, was shown in Quebec 56 times.

“If You Expect to Grow Old Someday, Read On!”

Wise words from the Michigan State Veterinary Association

“Learn more,” says MSVA, about our “Visiting Pet Project” and consider initiating such activities in your own area.

The program involves veterinarians, pet owners, nursing home administrators and senior citizens. The veterinarian takes the first step by establishing contact with retirement and nursing home administrators to discover if there is interest in pets visiting the facility on a regular basis.

If the idea is acceptable, area veterinarians are contacted for a list of clients with suitable companion animals — gentle, clean,
In Great Britain, as in the United States, there has been a rapidly growing interest in the broad subject of the Human/Companion Animal Bond. The Latham Foundation has invited Clem Fennell, a U.K. veterinarian who is closely associated with this subject, to serve as British correspondent.

On March 23, the group for The Study of the Human/Companion Animal Bond foregathered at the University of Nottingham for two days of stimulating, practical and encouraging papers and discussions. Space doesn't allow more than a sketchy report, but the subjects covered and the speakers were as follows:

2) Comparative Bereavement, Mary Stewart.
3) Management of Euthanasia in Dogs, Andrew Edney.
4) Recent Studies at the PDSA (Peoples' Dispensary for Sick Animals) clinic in Edinburgh, Dorothy Walster.
5) Walking with Dogs and the Pet-Owner Bond, Peter Messent.
6) Interaction Between Pets and Their Owner, James Serpell.
7) Home Finding - Unwanted Dogs, Bernard Cuff.
9) Pro-dogs in the U.K., Development and Motivation, Leslie Scott Ordish.
10) Behavior Problems of Pets and Their Significance in the Pet-Owner Bond, Roger Mugford.

The publication of all these papers is eagerly awaited and it is obvious to those concerned in any way that the future is full of great prospects for this new discipline. One is led to wonder why it has been overlooked for so long! How can we make up for lost time?

At the open session of the Congress, matters were discussed concerning finances, affiliations, GSHCAB library service, continuing education and newsletters. One of special current interest is a development of the hearing dog program in the U.K. This subject is well established in the States and later this year a report will be published relating to programs in this country. Any comments from America on this subject would be greatly appreciated. Nottingham was great and already we are looking forward to Paris in the Spring.

Clem Fennell
M.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Surgeon
Well House, Dean Row Road
Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 2BU

Scientists Center President Visits Latham

F. Barbara Orlans, Ph.D., President of the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare, recently visited the Latham Foundation to learn more of its activities in meetings with President Tebault, Vice President Wallace Jamie, Animal Birth Control Research Foundation Administrative Assistant, Suzanne Crouch, and Associate Editor, Latham Letter, Marianna Burt. There was also an opportunity for Dr. Orlans to have a brief visit with Dr. Frank Wittwer, Foundation Director, who was in Alameda attending the Spring Board Meeting.

Dialogue at Latham Plaza
Suzanne Crouch, Administrative Assistant, the Animal Birth Control Research Foundation, visits with Dr. F. Barbara Orlans, President of the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Orlans, an endorser of the International Conference on the Human/Companion Animal Bond, is a physiologist on the staff of the National Institutes of Health.

The SCIENTISTS CENTER FOR ANIMAL WELFARE was formed in 1978 by a group of professional scientists who care about the welfare of animals. The Center aims to increase awareness of scientists about the ethical issues involved in our treatment and mistreatment of animals. Areas of concern include laboratory animals, agricultural animals and wildlife animals. All Board members are scientists. The Center's aim is to foster humane stewardship of animals; to advance research on animal welfare issues; to aid development of sound public policies and private practices; to stimulate universities and professional schools to include ethical inquiry regarding man's relationship with animals as part of their curriculum; and public education. A function of the Center is to compile, exchange, and disseminate scientific information relevant to animal welfare through its publications.

The quarterly Newsletter of the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare is a forum for discussion of animal welfare issues of direct relevance to practicing scientists. Topics addressed have thus far included abstracts of published recent scientific research, the results of which will benefit animals (for instance on crowding stress in cows); ideas for animal welfare topics that need to be addressed by future research; descriptions of undergraduate courses on ethics and animals; discussions of ethical costs of animal experimentation; reports of relevant conferences; information on humane laws regarding use of animals in biology education; guidelines of acceptable practices in handling wildlife animals; policies on humane use of laboratory animals; listings of free materials available from the Scientists Center; announcements of new publications; and other topics.

Further information on the activities of the Scientists Center may be obtained by writing to the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare, P.O. Box 3755, Washington, D.C. 20007.
Focus First on Jean Burden

First in our series on the Human/Companion Animal Bond in the Arts, we spotlight the works of Jean Burden; Writer, Alliurophile, Poet.

Mrs. Burden, under the pseudonym of Felicia Ames, is the author of "The Dog You Care For" and "The Cat You Care For," paperbacks prepared under the auspices of Carnation Company's Pet Foods Division. She is also the author, under the Felicia Ames pseudonym, of "The Bird You Care For" and "The Fish You Care For," published by New American Library.

"The Dog You Care For" and "The Cat You Care For" are available for 75¢ each from Carnation. Those interested may order by writing to:
Frisks Research Center
5045 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

In addition, 3 other Carnation paperbacks are available on the same basis. These are:
"Dogs, Kennels and Profit," "All About Puppies," and "The Dog For You."

Mrs. Burden has also authored an equally respected book titled, The Classic Cat. In all these works she has achieved the difficult objective of instructing while entertaining, instilling the highest standards of animal care while demonstrating the benefits for man of contact with animals.

Consider, for example, this passage from The Fish You Care For:

"Have you ever really thought of fishes as pets, not just decorations? Even the tiniest fish has its personality. Some are shy, some are bold, some lively, some graceful and quiet, while others become bullies, chasing and bossing all the rest."

"There are fish that will easily learn to eat out of your hand, while others will feed only when they think you are not watching. Catfish and other scavengers can make you laugh at their crazy antics. The male guppy's active pursuit of all females of his species put to shame the most ardent playboy. The battish can learn to come to the surface to have his nose gently rubbed."

Jean Burden's special interest is in cats, and she shares with us two very different products of her study. One is The Woman's Day Book of Hints for Cat Owners (New York: Fawcett Columbine, 1980; $5.95); the other is A Celebration of Cats, an anthology of poetry which captures the different relationships of people and cats throughout the ages (Paul Erikson, N.Y., 1974, $5.95; Popular Library, N.Y., 1976, $1.75).
"—Your cat will take its business elsewhere if you don't keep the litter pan impeccably clean."

"—On declawing: I would exhaust all other forms of training before I went to such extreme measures. But as an alternative to euthanasia, declawing is certainly to be preferred. Ask any cat."

The book provides a wealth of medical information and stresses the need for preventive veterinary care as well as prompt attention at times of real illness. It presents well-organized, up-to-date information on vaccination schedules and current treatment for old and newly recognized diseases. Mrs. Burden is at her best in describing the signs of health and illness a cat owner must learn to recognize.

Of particular interest is the chapter on "Owner Relationship and Responsibility." Under the heading "What Children Can Really Learn from Pets" we find:

"Childhood can be a mighty lonely place, no matter how many people occupy the same home."

"Most children learn from handling their pets, countless attributes that can influence larger areas of their lives."

The author lists empathy, compassion, responsibility, gentleness, patience and loyalty among these attributes. She adds:

"A sense of proportion also stands high on my list, as I remember how close to the natural rhythm of life my cats have always lived. They enjoyed simple pleasures such as chasing a ping-pong ball or a leaf. They slept when they were tired, played when they were frisky. They knew where to find warmth and comfort, and where and when to seek solitude."

She summarizes:

"Perhaps more than any other quality, pets teach children the sense of the 'other'. Naturally egocentric, a child learns that someone else—an animal with whom he cannot communicate just with words—has a life style of its own, and sometimes instincts of the wild that cannot be imprinted with those of the child."

This tremendous respect for the animal itself is one of the outstanding features of the book. Mrs. Burden says,

"Whenever I look hard into a cat's eyes, he looks unfailingly into mine. What is he thinking? I wonder. And I never know. I like that too."

The same sense of the animal's autonomy fills A Celebration of Cats. Jean Burden recognizes that cats have meant many different things to different people. She groups the poems which have immortalized them under the headings angelic, demonic, mysterious, antic, wild and undefined. Her preface is itself highly poetic, containing such thoughts as

"Only those who do not like cats know all about them. Cats speak to poets in their natural tongue, and something profound and untamed in us answers."

Exhaustive research has brought focus to a broad collection of poetry ranging from the 8th Century to the present. Famous writers such as Wordsworth, Yeats, and T.S. Eliot chose the cat as a subject, but some of the finest pieces come from those whose names are relatively obscure. Though understated, the telling quality of George Abbe's "Remembered Cat" rivals that of Thomas Hardy's immortal "Last Words to a Dumb Friend." Each reader will find his own favorite, and all are encouraged to try.

Jean Burden's unique sensibility is perhaps best captured in one of her own poems which is included in the anthology:

**For a Yellow Cat at Midnight**

As though drifted inland
In some dark current of your own,
you settle against my side,
cumbrous as clay or a warm stone,
and I wake to find you there.

Why at night, small lion,
are you so much heavier than by day?

Only this afternoon
you slept, upside down, in a lap already full of books and child,
and you were a tawny feather, a fluff of sun.

Now pulled hard to the earth's center,
as to a final piece,
(lion, are we older by a night?)
we wait for sleep,

held fast by separate stars,
ponderous with what we do not know,
caught in a common dark.

For a very special insight into the world of cats and of animals and indeed for a poignant sense of life and a sharper sense of the spirit, Jean Burden's readers are much in her debt.

Mariana R. Burt

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**American Veterinary Medical Association Meeting Features Animal Behavior Program**

The Animal Ethology Society, a subsection of the AVMA, will present a program of animal behavior papers on July 23 at the AVMA annual meeting in St. Louis. The scheduling of this program reflects the professional community's awareness of the importance of animal behavior research for both veterinarians and owners.

Results of recent studies will be described by several members of the Center on the Interaction of Animals and Society, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. Jamie Quackenbush, MSW, a member of the social work service in the veterinary school, will discuss "The Implications of Companion Animals for the Owner and Veterinarians." Using case studies, he will describe types of emotional response by owners when illness or death threatens the animal/human relationship. He will also suggest ways in which the veterinarian can help the troubled owner.

Sharon L. Smith, Ph.D., an ethologist, will present a study on "Interactions between Pet Dogs and Family Members." Seeking to understand the behavior of pets in their natural setting, she studied...
A Dog's-Eye View of Behavior Problems

Happily, with the growing interest in the Human/Companion Animal Bond, pets are being employed in increasing capacities to benefit humans. However, without a better understanding of the behavior and needs of the animals involved, many pets are likely to develop behavioral problems, which may be the dog’s way of adapting to a stressful environment because he is isolated, lonely or bored. The dog may be trying to provide a little occupational therapy to pass the time of day while his owner is away at work. It is not the dog’s fault that he has been left in solitary confinement. In this sense, it is not so much the dog’s behavior that is abnormal, but rather his activities reflect an adaptive response to cope with an abnormal environment that has been created by the owner.

Many dog misbehaviors are, in fact, normal canine behaviors that simply occur inappropriately (e.g., in inappropriate places, at inappropriate times or in response to inappropriate stimuli).

There is nothing abnormal about the dog defecating, although fecal deposits on the flokoti rug might be considered misplaced. Similarly, there is nothing wrong with chewing behavior per se, but consuming the couch is inappropriate; digging is quite normal, but digging the delphiniums is undesirable. Barking is a normal canine activity, but barking all day long? The owner should realize that these misbehaviors are only inappropriate as far as humans are concerned. From a dog’s point of view they are most probably quite normal.

It is unfair to punish the dog for normal canine behaviors without providing some acceptable alternative.

At the same time the animals is reprimanded for behaving inappropriately, an attempt should be made to redirect the behavior to a more appropriate stimulus. There is no sense in shouting at and hitting a dog each time that it defecates indoors. It is unfair to punish the dog for performing a natural and necessary act. Once owners have expressed disapproval at the dog’s choice of location for its fecal deposits, they must indicate their choice of location. It is asking too much to expect the dog to glean the identity of this secret location by some magical empathic process. Instead, train the dog to defecate upon command (a very simple endeavor), then call the
dog to the intended spot and request it to relieve itself. Similarly, if the dog is destroying the furniture, provide it with chew toys and/or bones; if the dog is ruining the garden, provide it with a digging pit (much like a child’s sandbox). Nonetheless, still keep in mind the dog’s motives for digging. If the dog is digging a hollow to keep warm in winter, there is little sense in locating the digging pit under a large tree on the northeast corner of the house. Locate the pit with a southerly exposure so that he may catch a few sun’s rays. If the dog barks all day long, in addition to training him to be quiet, train him to bark at specific stimuli (e.g. doorbell or telephone ringing), or even make a point of occasionally driving the dog to an isolated spot and allow him to have a barkathon for thirty minutes or so.

In every household the role of each dog is unique, depending on the lifestyle of its owners or handlers.

The dog will try to adapt to almost any domestic situation because the animal, like the owner, wants to establish a mutually enjoyable and harmonious relationship.

Humans must fulfill their part of the bargain. They must choose a suitable dog and then proceed to socialize and train it properly. Training involves a small amount of time and patience but a large degree of common sense. It is much easier to keep a young puppy from developing bad habits than it is to try and cure him once they have developed.

Dr. Dunbar is an internationally respected authority on animal behavior and training and an author and lecturer in the field. He was born in Hertfordshire, England. He attended the Royal Veterinary College at the University of London, where he read for degrees in physiology and veterinary science. He subsequently obtained a doctorate in animal behavior from the University of California. For eight years, Dr. Dunbar conducted research at the Department of Psychology, Berkeley, in the social and sexual behavior of domestic dogs. He is the author of a recent book titled Dog Behavior, TFH Publications, New Jersey.

Latham Letter Editors are always pleased to hear from readers. This week’s mail brought this letter from Oscar Sussman, D.V.M., M.P.H., J.D., Associate State Epidemiologist/Veterinarian, Epidemiology/Communicable Disease Program, Health Program Office, State of Florida, Department of Health and Rehabilitation Services, Talahassee:

May 12, 1981

Hugh H. Tebault, President
Latham Foundation
Clement and Schiller Streets
Alameda, California 94501

Dear Mr. Tebault:

I am extremely happy to have found out about the Latham Foundation. I agree almost 100% with your aims and methods of attacking the problem of human-animal bonding. I must, however, call to your attention one minor disagreement. I personally believe wild animals are not happy, nor are they safe to take into a normal human-animal bond relationship. Many of them are dangerous; in Florida for example, 10% of raccoons have rabies infection.

It will be a great blow, I believe, if an oppossum, as pictured on page 7 of your Winter Letter, should transmit rabies to a child like Kali Parsons. As you are probably aware there is no vaccine suitable for animals such as skunk, raccoon, and oppossum nor do we know enough about signs of rabies or infectious disease stages of rabies in such animals. Therefore it seems to me, we who believe in further cementing human-animal bonding should carefully evaluate what types of bonding we are furthering. If we are to further bonding of animals for which we as yet do not have proper information as to signs of disease, such as rabies, then we must further such research as would be indicated. I would not like to see pictures as I referred to in your letter that would be a destructive influence rather than a healing one.

I would appreciate your comment on the point I have raised.

Cordially,

Oscar Sussman

Every responsible professional we know in veterinary and humane medicine and in humane education would agree with Dr. Sussman that exotic animals do not belong in the home. SO DO WE!

In publishing the photo of Kali Parsons with a young possum on her shoulder playing a French Horn, we explain that the small creature was adopted when discovered sick, nursed to health, then returned to the wild. This could indeed encourage like handling by anyone encountering a troubled wild animal. Thank you Dr. Sussman for pointing out our error.

If a possum like Hugo, shown above, comes by your home to brush up on the best local buys, refer him, if there is one, to the wild animal rehabilitation center of your neighborhood SPCA. Hugo enjoyed his stay at the Monterey, California SPCA.

The Editors

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Macomber Farm and Education Center Opens to the Public

On May 1 Macomber Farm, a highly innovative humane education project in Framingham, Massachusetts, was opened to the public. Through the generosity of the late John J. Macomber, a 46-acre estate west of Boston has been transformed into a facility which offers visitors a new, more direct understanding of the animals they see.

Owned and operated by the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the farm contains eight barns, including one painstakingly restored 19th century structure, a solar-heated reception center, and a duck, goose, and swan pond. There are numerous exhibition areas, yet it is not a museum or model farm. It is not a petting zoo, although one can pet the animals. It is an "educational and recreational center" providing visitors with the opportunity to enjoy contact with animals by entering into their world.

The focus is the animals themselves as they go about their natural activities. More than 100 horses, dairy and beef cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, turkeys, and chickens are in residence, and visitors’ attention is drawn to little-known features about them, for example that pigs do not perspire and goats' eyes have square pupils. They can see a Corrienedale ewe and her lamb rest but never sleep; learning that sheep do not sleep: they can go on to walk like a sheep, see like a sheep with special lenses, and play an electronic game which simulates the social organization of a flock.

Guests can visit the barns and animals and select among the 78 indoor and outdoor exhibits, choosing perhaps to watch pigs play games using the same tools as humans. They can sniff the way through a scent maze to know how it feels to root like a pig, or pull hard as a horse, moving a wagon.

Each of the exhibits is based on research into the characteristics of farm animals — means of communication, gestures, sensory perception, motor patterns, intelligence, social behavior — stressing the features that distinguish one species, and even one individual, from another. Transmitting this information into participatory games helps make it easy and enjoyable for visitors to learn from their experience.

At the heart of the Macomber project is the belief that greater understanding of the behavior and needs of animals will lead to their better treatment.


The promotional flyer continues:

This group of distinguished behavioral and veterinary scientists have pooled their resources and knowledge to produce this state-of-the-art analysis of the human-companion animal bond, the relationship between people and their pets. The text is interdisciplinary as well as multidisciplinary. The contributors come from the fields of human and veterinary medicine, sociology, psychology and psychiatry, ethnology and anthropology. Their thoughts and ideas on the subject are presented along with the results of important research and recommendations for applying this knowledge to social planning, therapy, and medical and veterinary medical education and practice.

Planning for Pet Ownership in High-Density Dwellings

A. O. Griffiths, D.V.M.
Suzanne N. Griffiths, M.A., M.S.
Urbana, Illinois

The bond forged between man and animal over the centuries of their coexistence has given us a priceless symbiotic legacy. It is a paradox that the activities associated with man's social and technological development threaten this relationship, which has such great potential to assuage the stresses inherent in the new ways of life.

Over fifty percent of American households own pets—a voluntary...
involvement certainly, but one not without problems. Often the reaction to these problems has been one of regulation and suppression of pet ownership, rather than preparing solutions or facilities for enhancement of the bond.

Dealing with excrement disposal, zoonotic disease, biting, noise nuisances, and property damage are the basic concerns. The need to solve such problems is dramatized by the recent spread of fecal-vectored parvo-enteritis in dogs. Basic mechanisms for dealing with them are already in place, for example, sewer systems and waste management techniques. But the continuing change in housing toward high-rise, high-density dwelling demands further effort if the beneficial pet/owner relationship is to continue.

Appropriate solutions to waste disposal would go a long way to solving many of the problems associated with pet keeping, thereby making it a more acceptable and manageable activity. Implementation of the idea of getting excrement into the sanitary system by flushing with water is common practice in veterinary hospitals and kennels, and adaptation of these principles to patios, garages, and parking spaces, along with the construction of indoor kennels and appropriate landscaping, offers a variety of approaches.

Indoor kennels may be simple and convertible or as complex as desired or dictated by circumstances. Just as laundry facilities are supplied in multi-residence units, so could a pet bathing and grooming area be added to plans. Such arrangements strongly tend to confine the animals to designated areas and preclude the danger of pets running at large. Once such a setup is in place, there are many other programs which could facilitate pet ownership in high-density dwellings, for example, on-site contract veterinary services for routine care, as well as educational and social activities featuring the human/companion animal bond.

Dr. Griffiths is immediate past president of the Illinois State Veterinary Association. He is also a founding member and president of the Champaign County (Illinois) Pet Animal Council.

Mrs. Griffiths has been a breeder and exhibitor of Irish Terriers for more than thirty years.

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**Touch**

"Although the emotion of love, for instance, that of a mother of her infant, is the strongest of which the mind is capable, it can hardly be said to have any proper or peculiar means of expression. A strong desire to touch the beloved person is commonly felt. Love is expressed by these means more plainly than by any other... We probably owe this desire to inherited habit, in association with the nursing and tending of our children and with the mutual caresses of lovers. With the lower animals we see the same principle derived from contact in association with love. Dogs and cats manifestly take pleasure in rubbing against their masters and mistresses, and in being rubbed or patted by them."

Charles Darwin

*The Expression of Emotions in Animals and Man*. 1872.

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**Avon Calling...**

An LOL from Pacific Grove reports receiving a telephone call from the Avon company, asking for "Lisa."

"Lisa," she replied, "is my little toy schnauzer."

"But," the voice from Avon replied, "the person who called for the salesman's job gave me your number."

"Lisa will come and find me if the telephone is ringing," our LOL replied, "but she's never placed a call before."

"But I don't know what she does when I'm away?"

Reprinted from the Monterey Herald, Monterey, California

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**The Editor Regrets**

that in the Winter issue of the Latham Letter, page 7, a credit line for the photograph of Kali Parsons was unintentionally omitted. Photographer was Jane Steig Parsons.

(Continued on page 12.)
down the same road we have largely been traveling, finding and implementing ever more ways and places in which to use the H/CAB for the benefit of social or physical isolates. Those of us of more purely scientific inclination may choose to travel that road which leads to quantitative and qualitative identification of the physical and psychological nature of the H/CAB. To others of us, the more exciting and personally rewarding road may be the one which leads to discovering and quantifying the ways in which the H/CAB affects overt "normal" human behavior, with an eye toward use of the Bond for the enrichment of life for all of us, isolates and non-isolates alike.

The social and economic implications of the latter are truly enormous. Areas worthy of investigation include the effect of companion animals upon:

1) academic school performance
2) the development of social attitudes in children
3) the juvenile delinquency rate
4) the drug abuse rate
5) the venereal disease rate
6) the teen-age runaway rate
7) the incidence of child abuse
8) the teen-age pregnancy rate
9) the divorce rate
10) the automobile accident rate
11) the suicide rate
12) health performance
13) job performance
14) job satisfaction, as measured by absenteeism, turnover, etc.

Should such investigations show positive correlation between companion animal ownership and stable socially desirable behavior, as I strongly suspect they would, not only would new tools be available with which to influence human behavior when influence is indicated, and not only would new tools be available for predicting human behavior when prediction is indicated, but human recognition of and appreciation for the social and economic value of companion animals themselves would certainly be dramatically and permanently enhanced in the value systems of all.

There may be some question as to whether human feelings, attitudes, wants or needs per se lend themselves to precise scientific measurement and tabulation, but human actions, i.e., the manifestation of those attributes, can be measured and tabulated, producing a volume of solid, meaningful, no-nonsense data. The better the quality of our data, the better we can conceptualize, the better we can utilize, the better we can implement that which the data shows for the benefit of man and animals alike.

In the early 1900's, there was no shortage of things to be developed or discovered. The shortage was in the vision and imagination of the congressman who introduced that ill advised bill. Likewise, any deficit in our understanding and appreciation of the H/CAB is probably not in the nature of the Bond, rather in our ability to see, to recognize, to comprehend that which is there before us, or in our unwillingness to pay the price to identify, to quantify, to elucidate, to apply, to utilize which that we now may only intuitively suspect.

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