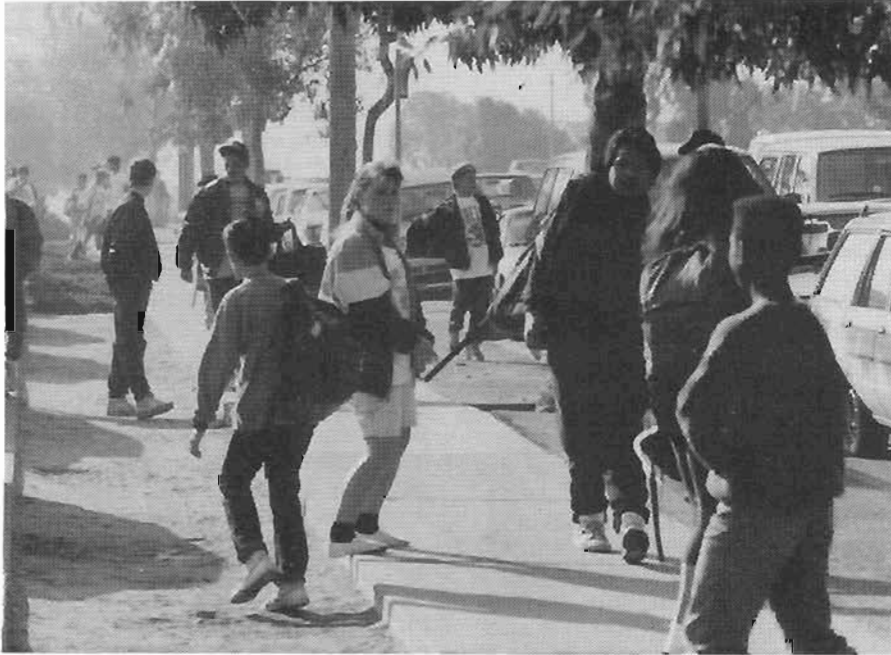


The Latham Letter

Vol. XI, No. 1

ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA

WINTER 1989/90



Kidding the Kids: Our Students Aren't Learning

Sanford M. Dornbusch, Ph.D.

Our society faces a shortage of trained and competent young workers. Beyond the demands of equity, there will be a need for training students who come from minority groups and from poor families. The number of adolescents and young adults in the United States will be smaller as we hit the 21st century. Add to the shrinking work force that so large a proportion of our youth are relatively unskilled, and the result is that we are unprepared to face the competition from other societies.

Our current concerns about education over-emphasize the dropout rate. The American job market relies on "years of school completed" as a screening device; therefore, dropouts do not fare as well as graduates in obtaining jobs. Most dropouts pay a personal price for not staying in school. But America's education prob-

lem goes beyond whether students leave school. The issue is rather that so many youth who do remain in school learn little as they sit in classes. A recent study at Johns Hopkins University showed that poorly-performing students who quit school learned only slightly less in two years after dropping out than students whose performance was equally poor, but remained in school. What kind of an education is that?

In a study of Mexican-American high school students at the Stanford Center for the Study of Families, Children and Youth, the students were interviewed about their systems of social support. In particular, students' sources of academic information were investigated. More than half of all Mexican-American high school students reported that at least one school employee was a potential source of information. However, 43% did not name anyone from their school. It is

Continued on page 18

CAPE: Children's Alliance for Protection of the Environment

We recently learned of CAPE through the United Nations Environment Programme newsletter. We requested further information and received a very impressive informational packet which outlined the goals and philosophy of the organization. We certainly commend their efforts and wish them even more success. A portion of the material is reproduced below:

Mission

The global environment today is subject to unprecedented pressures — and to unprecedented damage. The effects of human disregard are evident in the worldwide problems of ocean pollution, depletion of the ozone layer, acid rain, and an alarming rate of species extinction. In both "advanced" and "underdeveloped" countries, rivers, beaches, and city streets become the dumping grounds for society's waste; air is contaminated; life-sustaining wetlands and forests are destroyed; and short-sighted land use practices promote desertification and erosion.

Countless research programs, conferences, treaties, and laws in the adult world of government, science, and technology seek to measure human destruction of the environment, to predict the rate and consequences of environmental decline, and to devise means of repairing existing damage and preventing further, possibly irrevocable, damage. Private conservation organizations campaign for a myriad of causes — some global in scope, some focusing on a single issue, species, or plot of ground. Much of this worthy activity flies over the heads of our children. For this reason, these efforts often fail to

Continued on page 15



In this issue

1. Kidding the Kids: Our Students Aren't Learning - Sanford M. Dornbush, Ph.D.
1. CAPE: Children's Alliance for Protection of the Environment
2. An Invitation
2. "Humane Is a Big Word"
3. Preschool Programs, Not Prison Cells
4. A Special Animal Visit For Hospitalized Children - Debra Fila, RN and Joan Kazerounian, M.Ed.
5. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
6. Fur Facts and Fallacies
8. Me and You and a Dog Named ... - Mary Rohrer-Dann, MA and Dan Lago, Ph.D.
9. Factors in Adults' Attitudes Toward Pets - Aline H. Kidd, Ph.D. and Robert M. Kidd, MA, M.Div.
10. California's Impressive Consumer Affairs Division - Patricia Urena
11. California Course on Companion Animal Bereavement
12. P - AT Visits Bring Love
12. Dog, Cat Ownership Show Steady Growth
13. The Anti-Cruelty Society Dispels Spay/Neuter Myths
14. A Productive Alternative to the Throw-Away Philosophy
14. Friends For Folks - Stephen Bradley
16. We're Here to Serve You!
17. America's Drug War: A Holding Action - Robert C. McGuire
22. "WITHIT" Is Back on Television

An Invitation

Because *The Latham Letter's* primary purpose is to chronicle the worthwhile endeavors of individuals and public service organizations, its Editorial Committee welcomes the submission of manuscripts for publication consideration. Preferred subjects are those dealing with unique human/companion animal bond activity, human (youth or adult) and/or animal welfare activities as well as ecological programs concerned with life support.

The Latham Foundation was formed in 1918 with its roots in the promotion of Respect for All Life Through Education. It was not limited strictly to animal concerns; its founders, Edith and Milton Latham, intended its outreach to extend to concern for children, the elderly, the earth, animals, interactions of animals and people, and all areas wherein respect for life could be and must be exercised.

We ask our readers to suggest topics germane to the intent of the Foundation. As with most Foundations, Latham depends on its supporters and would appreciate your assistance.

Submissions should not exceed 1200 words in length although in special cases, exceptions can be made. If an academic or other affiliation is given, proper clearance from that affiliation must accompany the manuscript. Black and white photographs which enhance subject matter of a submission will be appreciated, and will be returned.

For those interested in learning about membership in the Foundation or more about its services, please fill out the form below.

Please send information about the Latham Foundation's services.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____

Please mail to: The Latham Foundation
Latham Plaza Building
Clement & Schiller Streets
Alameda, California
94501

"Humane" Is a Big Word

Remember the riddle about the longest word in the dictionary? "Smiles," because there is a mile between the first and last letter?

Humane is a big word too. There is no riddle about it because it is not easily defined. Everyone likes to be thought of as being "humane," but few people are — entirely.

Christ was humane; so were others among the really great founders of religions. Unfortunately, this cannot be said of many of their followers. Perhaps the most outstanding of the modern philosophies is that of Albert Schweitzer. His profound and deeply sincere "reverence for life" encompasses compassion, moderation, forgiveness, justice and mercy. Each of these words describes a quality, which of itself is worthy, but all together they do not yet constitute the word "humane."

Schweitzer goes further though. His concept of "humane" implies more active humaneness. It includes providing relief at the expense of self. It includes protection even at some personal risk. It even includes punishment when punishment is indicated.

Is this a paradox? Both forgiveness and punishment in an analysis of "humane"? Well, punishment is often protective and preventive, as with a mother's punishment of her offspring. There is a nice balance, of course, leavened by justice.

Let's not overlook kindness. It belongs with the other words. It, too, is an active rather than a passive word when included in "humane." But we must exercise care if kindness is to be included. It is often misplaced, misinterpreted and misapplied. We want our kindness to be of the quality that can truly take its place with the others which make up the word "humane."

There are a great many other qualities described by a great many other words which must be included with those already named in order to complete the full meaning of "humane." Two, which must not be overlooked, are "responsibility" and "judgment."

Well, we have only scratched the surface of the qualities which are necessary for one to be truly humane. To achieve those qualities is probably the ultimate goal of mankind. Perhaps it is "humane" which is the longest word in the dictionary!

The above piece was authored by the late Charles W. Fredericks of the San Francisco SPCA and appeared in Our Animals, the newsletter of the San Francisco SPCA, in 1973.

The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90



THE
LATHAM
LETTER

© Latham Foundation 1990
Published Quarterly By

THE LATHAM FOUNDATION
LATHAM PLAZA BUILDING
CLEMENT & SCHILLER STREETS
ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA 94501

Annual Subscription Rate \$10.00

PUBLISHER

Hugh H. Tebault

FOUNDING EDITOR

Wallace Ness Jamie
1909 - 1989

EDITOR

Madaleine C. Pitts

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Aline H. Kidd, Ph.D.

EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Joseph Meeker, Ph.D.

Robert Ziegler, Ph.D.

Ex Officio, Hugh H. Tebault

PHOTOGRAPHS

Unless otherwise noted, photographs were taken by staff.

Concerning Reproduction of Material
Published in the *Latham Letter*

Permission from the Latham Foundation to reproduce articles or other materials which appear in the *Latham Letter* is not required. If, however, such material is attributed to another publication and/or authors other than the editors of this publication, permission from them is necessary.

When republishing, please use this form of credit: "Reprinted with permission from the *Latham Letter*, (date), quarterly publication of the Latham Foundation for Humane Education, Clement & Schiller Streets, Alameda, California 94501."

Latham would appreciate receiving two copies of publications in which material is reproduced.



The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90

Preschool Programs, Not Prison Cells

Picture the children in an inner-city neighborhood. Three out of four have serious dental problems. Eight out of ten live in single-parent homes, supported by welfare. Lessons in crime and drugs are learned early.

Now, picture a school, open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., where the teachers not only teach, but link up children (and their parents) with social services in the community. If a child needs eyeglasses, she gets them. If the parents need counseling on, say, marital problems or finances, they get it. If the parents are embarrassed because their children can read and they can't, they can sign up for the school's adult literacy and high school equivalency programs.

Readers who picked up the September 18th issue of *Forbes* or watched Dan Rather (CBS News, October 26) recognize the school. It is the Corporate Community School in Chicago's North Lawndale district, an area of urban blight as severe as any in the nation. The driving forces behind the school are Joseph Kellman, owner of Globe Glass and Mirror Co., and Vernon R. Loucks, Jr., chairman of Baxter International.

Mr. Kellman voiced strong opinions in replying to the September Forum. "We are seeing the maddening of America...the creation of a permanent underclass, unable to compete, and driven to violence and self-destruction." The madness is evident in our "misplaced" (and rapidly escalating) social costs. Kellman notes, for example, that in 1988 Michigan spent \$1 billion on new prison cells, and only \$2 million on preschool programs. Yet widely publicized research by the Department of Education shows, convincingly, that every dollar spent on preschool learning saves \$5 in social costs. According to the Committee for Economic Development, each year's class of school dropouts costs the nation \$240 billion in lost wages and foregone taxes. Yet one year of preschool education can lower the dropout rate by 30 percent.

The madness is akin to schizophrenia, in that it represents a nation that has lost its grip on reality. "We have the know-how for reform," states Kellman, "but we are not using it." That know-how can come from business, the same hard analysis and planning used in a business turnaround, or in bringing an unprofitable division back in line. Kellman's agenda for reform includes taking school oversight and administration out of the

hands of "unpaid volunteers with no background or expertise in the area" and placing it in the hands of a "full-time, paid central board and executive management team." Most important, that team "must be given the power to do the job unencumbered by present constraints."

But implementing such reform would, itself, bump against considerable impediment, in that school boards operate under their respective state charters. Rather than wade through the bureaucracy, Kellman and Loucks took the path of showing everyone-educators and business leaders alike-how it could be done. As a result, the Corporate Community School opened its doors to youngsters ages 2 through 13 several years ago, thanks to contributions from some 60 Chicago businesses.

Although the school has had widespread publicity in the media, Kellman's message to AMA [American Management Association] members is very specific. "Surely," he states, "AMA has other CEOs who can emulate what Vernon Loucks has done in Lawndale....We would be delighted, at no charge, to convey to such individuals all that we have learned in the last five years....thus putting them in the school business."

"But isn't that a pretty expensive proposition?" our reporter asked. Kellman concealed his irritation. Had we somehow missed the point of social costs vs. investment in early childhood education-or the madness of continuing on our current course? It would take 15 companies pledging \$100,000 each toward school support-not a large sum by most corporate standards. "It would take a prominent CEO less than a day to make some phone calls and arrange the financing."

To date, Mr. Kellman has had "a lot of inquiries, but no takers," a situation he hopes will change soon. To drive home the point, he cites an article from the New York Times related to the attack, last April, of a Central Park jogger by 12 Harlem teenagers. "The state of New York has responded with an anticrime plan," states the Times story. "Its cornerstone is the building of 9,000 new prison cells."

"Reprinted, by permission of publisher, from Management Review, December/1989 © 1989. American Management Association, New York. All rights reserved."



A Special Animal Visit For Hospitalized Children

*Debra Fife, RN
Joan Kazeroonian M.Ed*

Child Life Services at Children's Medical Center at the University of California, San Francisco provides activity and play programs. These services promote optimal growth and development and minimize the stress and fears often experienced by hospitalized children and families. The department is staffed with Child Life Specialists and provides therapeutic, developmental, recreational and educational activities. These essential life experiences foster normalcy and mastery of difficulties during hospitalization. The department offers familiar home and school activities in the playroom, schoolroom and at the bedside. One of the most popular and well-attended activities is the San Francisco S.P.C.A. Animal Assisted Therapy Program. Many children on the pediatric unit are separated from normal life experiences including contact with their friends and their own

Page 4

pet. Several children have extended or repeated hospitalizations for chronic illnesses. For these children, the opportunity to interact with non-domesticated animals would be slim.

Twice each month, AAT volunteers bring screened animals to visit the children and families. Animals in the program range from small animals such as guinea pigs, turtles, rats, birds and snakes to medium sized dogs. The children are given the opportunity to interact with the animals in the playroom or individually in their room. The specially trained volunteers provide educational information about the animals and demonstrate how to pet, hold and feed them. The Child Life Specialist, who understands the unique needs of hospitalized children, facilitates the interaction between the AAT volunteer, the animal and the child.

The objectives of the animal visits are 1) to provide an opportunity which offers education, play and normal life experiences, and 2) to promote com-

fort, self esteem, independence, and the freedom of expression. The objectives concur with the philosophy of Child Life Services.

At times there are children who are not interested in the animal visit, however, the majority of the children welcome the animal visits with open arms. Common responses from the children are in reference to their own pets at home, seeing animals at the zoo, and at school. Other children speak about their hospitalization as they gently pet, hug and play with the animals. It was this positive feedback that laid the foundation for our next very unusual animal visit.

In February of this year, a photo of The Medical Center at UCSF Valentine's Day AAT visit appeared in a local San Francisco newspaper. This prompted Mrs. Kaliski of Winners' Circle Ranch in Petaluma to call the Medical Center's Volunteer Animal Therapy Coordinator, Mrs. Kaliski owned a ranch specializing in miniature horses. She asked if one very special miniature horse could visit the children at UCSF.

The volunteer Coordinator first met with the Child Life Specialist on Pediatrics to discuss the appropriateness of such a visit, as well as the needed guidelines for a horse to enter the unit, where children were acutely ill. It was decided to pursue the special visit idea by submitting a proposal to the hospital's Infection Control Committee.

The first step in preparing the proposal involved outlining the necessary issues to be addressed and documented. These included 1) safety; 2) infection control; 3) screening procedures for allergies, decreased white blood cell counts, infections, and present illness; 4) physician and nursing specifics; 5) behavior screening of the animal; and 6) documented plan for the one hour visit on the unit.

The AAT Coordinator met with Mrs. Kaliski at the ranch to screen the horse chosen for the visit and to request the necessary forms. These included 1) a certificate of health from the veterinarian; 2) a letter stating the horse had never injured anyone; and 3) two letters from their local nursing homes where the horse had visited without incident.

The horse chosen for the visit was Lakeville Laddie. This friendly, beautiful stallion held the record for being the smallest in the world at only 25 inches tall. He was gentle and small enough for younger children to be at eye level with. Mrs. Kaliski and Laddie made a fine team; Laddie looked to her appropriately for his commands.

*Continued on page 19
The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90*

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: An Opportunity for Advocates

On October 20, 1989 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, a new international treaty for the protection of children.

This new piece of proposed international law contains 54 separate articles that detail both the civil and political rights of children and their social, economic and cultural rights. Included in these provisions for the first time, will be the establishment of an international panel of experts who will be responsible for assessing the condition of children worldwide, publicizing their plight, and recommending action on their behalf.

The power and strength of this document, however, will be dependent on the support that it receives from the concerned people of the world. It is vital, therefore, that the text of this treaty is carefully studied and that people form their own opinions as to the significance of this document — and evaluate its importance not only to the children of their own country, but of the world.

"... the analysis of the global balance sheet indicates that over the past decade the situation of children has deteriorated."

And while no international treaty should be seen as a panacea for solving all the ills that beset children, consideration should be given to the potential of this *Convention* as the clarion of a worldwide movement that will grow stronger and louder; a grassroots movement of adults demanding that children receive the standards of care and protection to which they are entitled.

For all of those dedicated to the pursuit of peace and justice, the passage of this *Convention on the Rights of the Child* marks the pinnacle of an international effort to promote the basic needs of children as fundamental human rights, and will provide the legal framework under which advocates will demand the level of investment required to support the services necessary for the wellbeing of children — especially for the children of the poor.

From another perspective, the advent of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* is another landmark in a

century-long struggle for social reform, a struggle that began with such pioneers as Charles Dickens, Bramwell Booth, Sidney and Beatrice Webb, Heinrich Pestalozzi, and Eglantine Jebb.

The Need for Protection

That there is a need for protection for children is beyond a doubt. For more than a decade we have been faced with the unfortunate reality that while politicians pay lip service to the condition of children in the rhetoric of public debate, the analysis of the global balance sheet indicates that over the past decade the situation of children has deteriorated.

The evidence is overwhelming: children, as a sub-class, have experienced a devastating downturn in social mobility. Poor children have become poorer, and many children of the lower-middle class have become poor. Even more disappointing is that the development has been greeted with a stunning degree of apathy on the part of many of those responsible for framing social policy. For many others, such developments have been welcomed and deliberately used as a means of social control.

What Rights are Contained in the Convention?

The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* touches on just about every aspect of the lives of children imaginable. It offers an agreed, international definition of child. It provides for the right to a name and nationality. It sets three, basic underlying principles: first, that all children are entitled to these rights irrespective of their race, color, religion, sex, language, political opinion or national, ethnic or social origin; second, that in all actions concerning children it is the best interests of the child that must prevail; and, third, that where a child is capable of forming his or her own views, then due weight must be given to them.

Under the provisions of the *Convention*, governments agree to respect the rights and responsibilities of the family, to offer support to the family when their means are insufficient to provide an adequate standard of living, and to help with family reunification when the family is separated. Provisions are also made with regard to health care; day care; education; abuse, neglect and exploitation; adoption and foster care;



custody disputes and prevention and treatment of narcotics use.

"... the strength of the Convention will lie in the support it has among ordinary people."

The document does not, however, examine children's rights in just social and economic terms. The *Convention* recognizes that children should have identical rights to adults to be free from torture, political assassination and kidnapping, and arbitrary arrest and detention. It prohibits the death penalty for minors and directs that rehabilitation must take precedence over punishment in the disposition of a child convicted of a crime. It also recognizes that children should have special protection in times of war and armed conflict.

How Will the Convention Help Children?

In the first instance, the *Convention*, once ratified by a minimum of twenty nations, will become the definitive body of international law on children's rights. Several governments have already indicated their intention to ratify it, and by doing so they have signified their determination to ensure that their domestic laws meet the standards set in the *Convention*, to enforce these laws and to establish the recommended services.

Depending on the constitution of the ratifying country, the *Convention* itself may become part of the national

Continued on page 13

Page 5

The Latham Foundation with its roots in humane education commends the efforts of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) in its widespread attempts to educate the public in the cruelties suffered by animals prized for their beautiful skins.

WSPA has been joined in this endeavor by humane societies throughout the world. Like WSPA and its colleagues, Latham feels that educating the public is the answer. We abhor violence and certainly cannot condone any violent acts or intimidation or force in achieving an end. Education and publicity have already achieved great success. According to a recent article in a widely circulated news magazine, the anti-fur movement has already caused a serious downward trend in the fur business. This we feel can be directly attributed to the campaign of educating people and causing us to rethink our values. Most of us did not consider the origins of furs or the methods of obtaining them. By learning about the horrors involved in the fur trade, most cannot support it.

The following fact sheet provided by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), is one example of the campaign literature aimed at educating the public about fur. Another example is the poster which appears on the opposite page. We encourage those of you who support an end to the idea that fur is fashionable to assist in the effort of publicizing these facts.

—MP

Fur Facts and Fallacies

TRUE OR FALSE?

It takes 10 — 15 raccoon pelts to make a full length coat.

FALSE. The number of skins required to make a fur coat is much greater than most people would imagine. It actually takes 40 raccoons (10 lynx, 25 opossums, and up to 65 mink) to make a coat.

Most animals used for fur coats are ranch raised.

TRUE. Over half the estimated 50 million animals used for fur in the United States each year are ranch raised. Mink, chinchilla, fox and rabbits are the most commonly ranch raised species. But life on a fur ranch is hardly the idyllic outdoor existence the name implies. Ranch raised minks spend their entire lives confined, usually in isolation, in small wire cages not much

larger than the minks themselves. Deprived of the opportunity to exercise or engage in any normal behavior, the animals frequently resort to self mutilation and compulsive movements. Moreover the genetic manipulation necessary to produce specialized fur colors also produces animals with major physical defects, such as deformed genitals and susceptibility to miscarriage and internal bleeding.

Finally, the methods used to kill the animals are often painful and there are no specific laws regulating the methods which may be used. Some of the primitive techniques commonly employed are suffocation through exposure to chloroform or car exhaust, electrocution and neck breaking.

Besides providing us with furs, trapping is necessary to control wildlife overpopulation and disease.

FALSE. Trapping, the other major means of obtaining furs, is often touted as a valuable wildlife management tool. The evidence shows, however, that the availability of food in an area serves as a natural limiting factor for wildlife populations — trapping is not necessary. As for disease, most scientists and wildlife managers do not consider it a real threat. In response to a recent survey, one wildlife biologist stated:

"In my experience these diseases (rabies, leptospirosis, and distemper) have seldom developed into serious problems. When they have, natural mechanisms usually operate to bring the disease under control in the wild population more effectively than any 'control' programs of which I am aware."

Moreover, there is little evidence that trapping is an effective means of controlling wildlife diseases. Because diseased animals move around less, they are actually *less* likely to be caught in traps than healthy animals.

Traps may be uncomfortable, but they are not really painful for the animals caught in them.

FALSE. The trap most often used to catch furbearing animals, the steel-jaw leghold trap, is a simple device consisting of two spring-loaded jaws with a pan to hold the bait in the center. When an animal steps forward to get the bait, the steel jaws snap shut on his paw. The initial impact crushes skin and soft tissues, sometimes cutting all the way to the bone. As the jaws continue to press on the limb, they cut off the blood supply to the portion of leg below the trap. When the terrified animal struggles to free itself, further damage, such as broken bones, may occur. Some animals are so desperate that they actually gnaw

off the paw, leaving it in the trap. But their freedom is short-lived as they succumb to gangrene, infection or loss of blood.

Many non-target animals are caught in leghold traps.

TRUE. The leghold trap is non-selective — it will snap shut on any animal strong enough to activate the spring mechanism. Non-target animals, called "trash" by trappers, include eagles and other endangered species, songbirds, dogs and cats. It has been estimated that up to 70% of the animals caught in traps each year are non-target species.

Animals are a renewable natural resource. As long as they are not endangered species, there is nothing wrong with raising or trapping them for their fur.

TRUE and FALSE. It's true that animals are renewable (so are people, for that matter!) but that doesn't make it all right to harvest them like crops or to subject them to cruelty. While it was once necessary to wear animal skins for warmth, today's synthetic materials make it easy to keep warm and look fashionable without harming animals. By contrast, there is no way of obtaining furs that does not involve animal pain and suffering.

People have worn furs for centuries. There is nothing we can do to reverse this trend.

FALSE. There is a lot that each of us can do to help stop the suffering:

- Don't buy or wear fur. The most important thing you can do to show your concern is to set an example for others. If you wear a fake fur that looks real, make sure to let people know that it's not.
- Write letters of protest to companies and TV game shows that offer furs as contest prizes. Ask your local department stores to stop selling furs.
- Urge your national and state legislators to support bills to ban the leghold trap and other cruel trapping devices.
- Write letters to the editor in response to pro-fur articles and advertisements in newspapers and magazines.
- Let people know about the pain and suffering that represent by showing them copies of this flyer.

For copies of the above fact sheet, contact the ASPCA at 441 East 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128. Further literature and campaign materials are available through WSPA, 29 Perkins Street, P.O. Box 190, Boston, MA 02130.



The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90

DOES YOUR MOTHER HAVE A FUR COAT?



HIS MOTHER LOST HERS

Me and You and a Dog Named ...

A Volunteer Sponsor's Reflections on Her Relationship With an Elderly Pet Owner

Mary Rohrer-Dann, MA
Dan Lago, Ph D

Introduction

Case studies represent an additional, useful way to describe aspects of particular human-pet animal relationships, and to identify some of the important differences among owners. Case studies are especially appropriate for intervention studies (Zeglen, Brudvik, & Lee, 1984). But, while newspaper feature writers have portrayed innumerable cases over the past seven years, surprisingly few detailed cases have appeared in the scientific literature to date.

This paper reports the case of an older owner, her poodle, and a younger volunteer "sponsor" who entered into the relationship five years ago, as part of the pet placement program of a community group named PACT (People and Animals Coming Together). The organization, intervention process, and quantitative findings are reported elsewhere (Lago et al. 1982; 1983; 1984; 1985a; b; 1988). We selected this owner because her story was completed, and because of her close relationship with the first author. Her case represents a successful placement, and we felt it should be reported in a narrative man-

ner. In the discussion section, we summarize with several points drawn from this qualitative analysis that might guide future study.

Case Presentation

An intelligent, quick-witted woman with a strong sense of identity and independence, Virginia Becker (Names and some identifying details of persons in this report have been changed or omitted to protect privacy) was ninety when she became a PACT client. As a young woman, she taught school; later she owned and operated a small, successful shop. She enjoyed the autonomy of having her own business and the traveling that her buying trips required, and never married. After she retired, she also helped care for her relatives' children while their mothers worked. She was close to eighty before she owned her first pet.

I became Virginia's PACT sponsor in 1983 when she contacted us to help her find a new pet. Her dog had died two weeks earlier, and she found that not only did she miss her pet considerably, but, much to her surprise, she wanted another one. She'd acquired the previous dog when a friend couldn't care for it; she had never considered herself a "dog person." But the small black poodle she called Pepper had provided a quiet source of companionship for over a decade. Now

that Pepper was gone, Virginia found she had difficulty sleeping at night.

During our first few meetings, Virginia was not especially warm or talkative. She certainly did not fit the stereotype of the grandmotherly, slightly dependent old woman I expected. Part of this reflected her natural reserve, but I also suspect she felt uncomfortable asking for help from people she didn't know. Although her first PACT placement failed (primarily because of behavior problems she was unable to cope with), we tried a few weeks later with Hobo, a small black poodle whose ailing elderly owner had recently died. He had learned to walk behind his owner so as not to trip her, and this trait was one of the first that Virginia noticed and appreciated. She continued to praise this behavior for the five years she had him.

"My five-year relationship with Virginia was very much reciprocal."

The placement was not without difficulties, however. Hobo was not completely housebroken, and continued to leave messes on her rugs from time to time, even after PACT animal workers came in and worked with both owner and dog to try to correct the problem. In spite of this, Hobo, now renamed Pepper, (Virginia said she could not break the habit of that name), completely endeared himself. Quietly affectionate, he curled himself up in her lap whenever she sat down. Although he weighed just ten pounds, his presence gave her a reassuring sense of security. She liked the fact that he barked whenever anyone came to her door. His protectiveness did have its negative side, however, which became more evident during the last two years of Virginia's life as she grew frailer. If a visitor moved quickly, especially in her direction, Pepper was instantly alert and barking; occasionally, he snapped. Once my daughter was able to walk, I had to be careful that her quick movements didn't startle him, and I never left her alone with him.

During the first three years of the five that I knew her, Virginia had a fairly extensive social network, especially considering that her immediate family and many of her friends had long since passed away. She played bridge regularly, frequently hosting the group. Much of her extended family

Continued on page 20

The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90

Photograph courtesy of PAW



Factors In Adults Attitudes Toward Pets

Aline H. Kidd, Ph.D.
Robert M. Kidd, M.A., M.Div.

"My parents ate dogs. I don't eat them, but I don't want one for a pet. My kids like them, however, and will probably have pets after they grow up and are on their own," reported a male non pet-owner. "Contrariwise," responded a male pet-owner, "I've always had dogs and it wouldn't be a home without one!"

"I don't want a pet. It might get sick and die. I had lots of pets as a kid and it hurt too much to lose them," explained a female presently a non pet-owner. "Well," retorted a female pet owner, "We have four kids, two cats, and two dogs. Each child considers one of the animals his or her special pet. I do most of the caretaking, naturally!"

Such comments illustrate the great range in attitudes found in our recent study of adults and their pets or lack of pets. Previously, we had found a number of studies dealing with the elderly and the mentally or physically challenged and their attitudes toward pets, but found very few dealing with the attitudes towards pets of adults who are engaged in productive work and who have no more than the usual average number of mental or physical problems.

We wanted to learn the effects of pet-ownership or non-ownership, of sex, of marital status, and of family structure on the average American adults' attitudes toward pets. To answer our questions, we gave pet-owner and non pet-owner inventory questionnaires to adults through day-care centers, schools, churches, Sunday schools, singles groups, and special interest groups. We received completed pet-owner inventories from 229 men and 269 women, and completed non pet-owner inventories from 175 men and 229 women. 80% of the 900 adults who returned the questionnaires were white (excluding Hispanics), 9.7% were black, 6.6% were Asian, and 3.8% were Hispanic. A much higher percentage of whites than of the other three groups owned pets, possibly because more whites than blacks, Asians, or Hispanics lived in single-family housing. Our pet-owners averaged about two pets per family, but two-parent families and white families were more likely to have two or more pets than one-parent families, or than black, Asian, and Hispanic families.

Our statistical analysis of the inventory responses showed that pet-owners were much more attached to pets than were non pet-owners. Having a pet in a home seems to increase an owner's attachment to a pet. Actually, pet lovers probably become pet-owners and then become strongly attached to a particular pet. This is possibly the best explanation because we found that 88% of current pet-owners, but only 66% of non pet-owners, had owned pets during their childhood and/or adolescence. Further, 75% of the pet-owners presently owned the same type of animal they had loved while growing up. When asked to give all their reasons for getting a pet, three-fourths reported that a family member had wanted a pet, one-third held that a particular pet was cute, one-fourth indicated that they had wanted companionship for their children, and one-fourth thought that pet ownership would teach their children responsibility. Only 6% wanted the animal to show in competition, and 3% bought the animal for breeding purposes.

Among non pet-owners, however, 40% had never owned a pet and nine-tenths of these were very satisfied with being non pet-owners! Half of those who were previous pet-owners regretted being unable to have a pet at present, but asked to give all of their reasons why they did not currently have pets, 50% said they did not want the responsibility at present, 37% were not permitted to keep pets in their present living quarters, 33% said they did not like animals, 29% reported personal or family allergies, 18% said that other family members disliked animals, 7% stated that they could not afford a pet, and 7% had recently lost a pet and felt it was too soon for a replacement. All those reporting recent pet loss indicated a feeling that they needed more time to mourn.

Along with finding that present and past ownership are major factors in adult attachment to pets, a person's sex and marital status also proved to be very important factors. Women were more attached to pets than were men, single adults were more attached than married adults, and adults without children were more attached than adults with children. But the most attached were single women and the least attached were single men!

The fact that women in our culture are trained to care more for others,

especially for those who need them, may account for these differences between men and women. Too, women are more apt to be involved with pets because most of the pet care devolves on them. However, single adults may well have fewer objects of affection and attention than married adults, and childless adults may have more time and energy to invest in pet care than adults who must also nurture children and/or aged parents. Clearly, an adult's attachment depends in part on the time and energy available to the adult as well as on the amount of care and nurturance demanded by specific types of pets.

Although this study identified some of the complex interrelated variables which are important influences in attitude formation, further research is needed to clarify changes in the important variables as well as changes in a person's attitudes as the individual matures from early adulthood to old age.

Dr. Aline Kidd is a Professor of Psychology at Mills College in Oakland, California. Reverend Robert Kidd serves as the Chaplain at the V.A. Medical Center in Martinez, California and is greatly involved in research on the human/companion animal bond in conjunction with Dr. Kidd.

✦

Photograph courtesy of PAW



California's Impressive Consumer Affairs Division

Patricia Urena

Mankind's association with the dog began so long ago that it is among the secrets of the ages. There are those who believe that the dog as man's helper must be nearly as old a phenomenon as the friendship between man and dog, and may have commenced concurrently. As for guide dogs, we believe this kind of service has been used commonly through the ages. The art of many ages and cultures provides telling evidence: Rembrandt depicted the blind Tobias accompanied by his faithful dog; an elderly blind man is led by his dog in a 13th Century Chinese scroll painting; and on the walls of Pompeii, a blind man and his dog are featured in a beautifully preserved mural.

Whether their task be leading a blind person, or acting as watchers, guards, or herders, dogs have been integrated into the human story so completely that often we are not conscious of their roles in our lives. We tend to focus on the dog as a satisfying companion providing unconditional love and affection. But clearly, dogs are partners as well as companions, and our relationship to them is one of the more gratifying chapters in the human/dog story.

While artistic depictions have celebrated the role of the dog as helper to the blind man, our recent history has seen a marked change in the man-

ner in which this helping has occurred. Thus in the wake of World War I, with its terrible toll in deaths and casualties, many veterans were left blind. What has previously been an informal, ad hoc arrangement with widely varying effectiveness and results has gradually evolved into a formalized and sophisticated process. This refinement has continued for decades. It has resulted in a highly professional, painstaking approach to animal training in the licensed occupation, guide dog instructor, and in the licensed institutions themselves, the guide dog schools. There is certainly an enhanced degree of reliability for the blind person/guide dog teams trained in our guide dog schools (this may hold true for schools in other parts of the country, but that area is outside the writer's expertise). It may be stated with certainty that guide dog training and use have flourished in a California system where the industry has been regulated through an occupational/institutional licensing process which has emphasized minimum standards, responsible treatment of the guide dogs, and participatory interaction between the providers of the dogs and the blind people who are the clientele.

The formalized approach exemplified in the guide dog "school" system has certain benefits which have not been ignored by those concerned with other groups of the disabled. Such persons, wishing to pro-

vide the disabled with increasing independence, have come forward and applied their talents and energy to other endeavors featuring man's best friend. Here in California, we have witnessed the remarkable development of the service dog concept, wherein the needs of the orthopedically disabled are interfaced with specially prepared dogs who are trained to provide specific kinds of assistance, performing such tasks as retrieving dropped items or pulling a wheelchair. But while service dog training organizations have observed the guide dog model and profited from such observations, this program has flourished by finding its own way and developing its own unique approaches and solutions.

"... training of the dogs and the blind was nonexistent too often ..."

Signal dogs for the deaf has developed along two major lines in California. The first is incorporated into the service dog training model, including specialized breeding. The second combines filling the needs of deaf and hard of hearing person, and at the same time rescuing animals from shelters where the dogs' futures are less than secure. Both models work, and certainly both enjoy a high degree of praise from the persons they serve (and our observations make it clear the dogs are happy too).

Guide dog usage, of course, is the most well-developed of the three kinds of helping dogs considered here. The first guide dog schools appeared early in this Century and by the 30's and 40's California had a number of organizations claiming to provide guide dogs. By the mid-1940's, some 20 groups were claiming to be guide dog "schools" with widely differing results: while one of the most respected guide dog schools had established itself in the State, elsewhere totally unqualified scoundrels were advertising themselves as guide dog trainers. In one instance, a "snake charmer" from a traveling carnival opened a guide dog school. The results were predictable: training of the dogs and the blind was nonexistent too often; dogs were shipped without any preparation; blind people were brought to "dormitories" only to sit around for days waiting for a guide dog. Those in the field have long been aware that no charity excites more sympathy than guide dogs, combining

The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90

Photograph courtesy of Purdy Women's Correction Center



as it does the stereotypes of blindness and dogs. Thus, the motives of some seemed more concerned with donations than delivery of services.

Out of this plethora of failed promises a coalition of interested people emerged: blind individuals, including one remarkable young blind mother whose sad experiences trying to get a guide dog only hardened her resolve to clean up the field; organizations of the blind, who understood the problem all too well; the media, and in particular, one small newspaper with the will to crusade; and a group of enlightened legislators who saw a way to solve the problems. In 1948, as a result of the efforts of this coalition, the State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind began operations with a clear mission: to develop standards for guide dog schools and guide dog instructors which would guarantee effective training and insure that funds raised for guide dog schools would actually support training.

"... clearly, dogs are partners as well as companions ..."

The Guide Dog Board was placed in what is now called the Department of Consumer Affairs, where it remains today. The Board is one of 38 boards and bureaus regulating various occupations and professions, from medical doctors to barbers. This seven member Board (one is permanent, six are gubernatorial appointments, two must be guide dog users, and none can be associated with the licensed guide dog schools) operated with a modest budget and a part-time staff. The Board itself is involved in its functions, and Board members themselves participate in the examination of candidates for the instructor's license and inspections of the licensed facilities. The Board offers consultation, referral, and some mediation services for problems in access to public places for guide dog users and others.

In 1987, the California Senate's Committee on the Rights of the Disabled held interim hearings on problems in the use of guide dogs, signal dogs and service dogs, and concluded that sufficient problems existed to warrant an in-depth survey of issues involving guide, signal and service dog usage. As a result in 1988, the Legislature mandated the Guide Dog Board to undertake such a study, including such aspects as the feasibility of expanding the Board to include licensing providers of signal and service dogs, and improving the access of guide, signal and service dog

users to places of public accommodation.

"... we have witnessed the remarkable development of the service dog concept ..."

The Guide Dog Board commenced the public hearing phase of its study in January, 1989, and will complete it in January, 1990. Following this task of developing, its report will commence; the report must be delivered to the Legislature by June 30, 1990.

The public comment phase of the study has made it clear there is general support for licensing providers of service and signal dogs, but not all are in total agreement on the efficacy of licensing. At this time there does not seem to be abuse in practice or fundraising such as that which resulted in the creation of the Guide Dog Board. However, proponents of licensing assert that there is a need to assure competence and reliability which a licensing program could provide.

More general agreement seems to have been reached about a second issue: accessibility to places of public accommodation. There have been strong assertions from public transit companies and their employee unions about the need to provide a quick, reliable method of identifying those individuals with dogs entitled to ride buses. Sadly, too often guide, signal and service dog users are denied access to numerous places of public accommodation, including local bus systems, food service establishments of all kinds, and many other places to which the public is commonly invited. One viable alternative would be to have a statewide identification system to eliminate, or at least minimize, the problems guide, signal and service dog users have in gaining access to places of public accommodation.

Guide, signal and service dogs provide significant, and sometimes crucial, services to their respective users. Encouraging these wonderful special relationships has been incorporated into the laws of the State of California, and other states, through provisions providing guide, signal and service dogs to accompany their users into all places of public use as a matter of public policy.

Mrs. Patricia Urena is a Staff Assistant for the California State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

California Course on Companion Animal Bereavement Provides "Hands-on" Opportunity

It's well known that there is a real and growing need for professional, responsible, and sensitive intervention at the time of pet loss and death with the subsequent grief and bereavement. The legitimacy and severity of grief related to pet loss has been increasingly described in both the literature (professional and lay) and at conferences. What isn't available is access to learning to intervene in ways that are responsible, professional and sensitive.

Dr. Cecelia Soares and Dr. Betty Carmack, RN offer a Certification Course on Grief and Bereavement with particular emphasis on that loss specific to pet death. In addition to a theoretical overview related to grief and bereavement, special attention will be given to that grief which is directly related to the loss of companion animals. In conjunction with this theoretical perspective, the course will provide multiple experiential learning opportunities so the participants will gain "hands-on" skills in knowing how to intervene with pet owners, both during the anticipatory period as well as after death. Another focus will be on stress management skills for those care givers who are involved in working with pet owners. Because the dying/grieving process is continually demanding and emotional, care givers must know how to manage their own stress related to this role and learn ways of caring for themselves.

The twenty four hour course is appropriate for staffs of veterinary hospitals, veterinarians, volunteers, humane educators, staffs of humane societies, as well as those persons who seek to grow in their confidence and ability to intervene in this particularly challenging situation.

Given under the auspices of Viewpoint Consultation and Seminars, the course will be offered in Walnut Creek, California over two weekends, Saturday and Sunday March 3 — 4, and Sunday, March 18. Charge for the course is \$200 with a \$10 discount for registration prior to February 15th. Full-time students or interns with proof of student/intern status may receive a 25% reduced course fee. A Certificate of Completion, suitable for framing, is awarded upon successful completion of the course. For details, call Dr. Soares at (415) 932-0607 or Dr. Carmack at (415) 334-5036.

Therapy Programs Proliferate

A most pleasantly satisfying element for Latham's staff, often occurs at the time of our daily postal delivery. For so frequently, those deliveries, bring the reports of various public service agencies whose endeavors include successful human/companion animal bond programs. Having worked for so many years "selling" the beneficial aspects of H/CAB, it is particularly gratifying to know that that dedication has born fruit.

One such report was recently received from the venerable (established in 1880) and progressive San Diego Humane Society and S.P.C.A. We are pleased to share it The Latham Letter's readers as follows:

P-AT Visits Bring Love

Since 1971, the San Diego Humane Society and S.P.C.A. has provided free pet-assisted therapy visits to convalescent homes, psychiatric and veterans' hospitals, Alzheimer and child abuse centers and other rehabilitation facilities throughout San Diego County. Sharing love and affection with recovering patients and residents who need a little lift, the Society's Pet-Assisted Therapy ("P-AT aPet") animals make two visits per day, Monday through Friday. During the '88-'89 fiscal year alone, the Society's P-AT animals visited 9,805 people in 357 visits. As of November 1989, the program increased its number of visits by 64% over these impressive figures. The program includes rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, a chinchilla, a chicken, and of course, puppies and kittens.

Specially chosen by the Society's staff for this important work, these animals enjoy receiving lots and lots of attention from many different people in a variety of environments.

The puppies and kittens who are included in the program's visits are those who are temporarily at the Society's shelter waiting of adoption. To prevent over tiring any particular animal, they are rotated on visits.

In May 1988, the P-AT program was converted to an all-volunteer effort. Presently, there are over 50 dedicated volunteers who come to the shelter, prepare the animals for visits, and take them to their scheduled facility in one of the Society's specially equipped vans. For the comfort and safety of its occupants the van is air-conditioned

and the floor rubber-matted to prevent the animals' traveling cages from sliding about. Usually, two or three volunteers work together on each visit. And, all visits are scheduled by the Society's staff volunteer coordinator, who personally trains every P-AT volunteer. The volunteers are always amply compensated for their visitations by welcoming smiles and bright eyes.

Residents, who were sitting expressionless come alive. Eyes twinkle, and sometimes, there are tears. They're tears of joy, or even of sadness, for the memory of beloved pet. Everyone's curiosity is sparked by the variety of pets who visit. The patients or residents meet the animals and volunteers in an activity room or area. After which, the volunteers take the pets from room to room to visit with each person individually. They can pet or hold the animals; occasionally, they just want to look at them.

"Eyes twinkle and sometimes, there are tears."

The Humane Society's staff and volunteers realize that pets are real ice-breakers. The animal's presence encourages patients and residents alike, to talk with volunteers and each other; they smile and laugh as they do. Most of those visited at some time or another, has had a companion animal that was a very important part of his or her life. And certainly, the need to hug and express affection for another living being never disappears, no matter how elderly or infirm one becomes.

Typical among the rewarding comments reported by the Society's volunteers are these:

"One lady wouldn't acknowledge our presence - but after we put a kitten in her lap, she quietly started petting it. Soon, both were sound asleep."

"Our puppy reminded a man of his dog that he was obliged to give up when he moved into a nursing home. He held the puppy, and with tears in his eyes, thanked us for coming."

"A patient was reluctant to hold our kitten, but when it licked her cheek, she was overwhelmed.

She didn't want the kitten to leave."

The San Diego Society began its P-AT program to help people in the communities it serves and also to reinforce the benefits of human-animal interaction. Since its inception, the P-AT program continues to satisfy both of these objectives. For most facilities, visits are now scheduled for an entire year in advance. Recreational therapist, nurses and doctors recognize the Society's visits as a material

benefit to their patients' well being and recovery.

Phil Arkow's excellent booklet "How to Start A 'Pet Therapy' Program - A Guidebook for Health Care Professionals" is available from The Latham Foundation, to all who request it. Please enclose 75 cents in stamps to cover the cost of mailing.

#

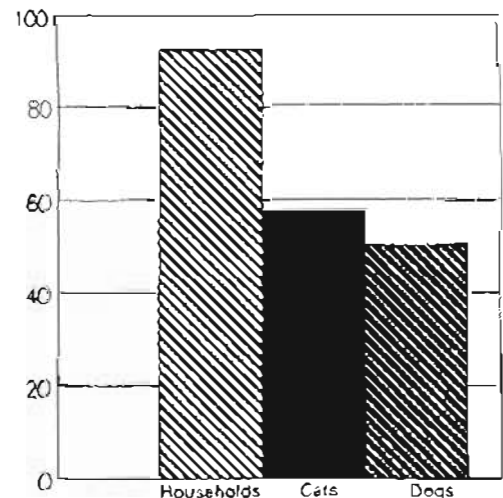
Dog, Cat Ownership Show Steady Growth

The number of dogs and cats owned by American pet lovers continued to grow in the last year, with cats maintaining their lead over dogs.

The new figures, from an annual survey by the Pet Food Institute, show that 52 percent of all households own at least one cat or dog. Our 92.5 million households now account for 57.9 million pet cats and 50.5 million dogs. In each case, the figures are up approximately one half million from 1988.

One interesting aspect of the new study: despite the old adage about mixing cats and dogs, approximately 14 percent of U.S. households did just that: owned at least one of each type of pet. Those families mixing cats and dogs are about one third of all pet owners.

Cat ownership continued to increase among persons living alone, whether male or female. Twenty three percent of singles now own a cat, and 17 percent a dog. Dog ownership remained strongest among families with children; 47 percent of families with children aged 6 - 12 had at least one pet dog, while 35 percent of families with children in the same age bracket had one or more cats.



The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90

Rights of the Child

continued from page 5

law and be cited in the courts by judges and attorneys. If enough countries ratify the *Convention*, it will become a guide to interpreting law even in those countries that do not ratify it.

Second, the *Convention* creates a permanent international forum that will force a protracted discussion on the rights of the child. A monitoring system written into the *Convention* provides for the appointment of a committee of ten experts, to be elected by the ratifying countries. This committee will review the obligatory progress reports from ratifying nations on their compliance with the *Convention*. To help with this review, the opinions of specialized organizations may be sought. The committee will report to the U.N. General Assembly on countries' compliance and make recommendations for improving performance and obtaining assistance. This information may be relayed to UNICEF, other U.N. agencies or donor countries, with a view to promoting international cooperation in the resolution of acknowledged problems.

Third, the *Convention* becomes a vehicle for mobilization. The *Convention* will be used for teaching children about their own rights and about the rights of children in other lands; it will be used by grassroots organizations to demand justice for children; and it will unite people everywhere, mobilizing them for action in a worldwide movement for the rights of the child.

The Need for Public Support

The U.N. *Convention on the Rights of the Child* promises to be a milestone in a global strategy aimed at changing our attitudes towards the needs of children. The thrust of this document is to move away from the old, paternalistic attitude that blames the children of the poor as the creators of their own situation, toward an approach which recognizes the basic needs of every child as fundamental human rights, rights recognized under international law.

The *Convention* in itself will solve nothing. It is, however, a tool that can be effectively used by parents, members of the extended family, child service professionals and advocates on behalf of the child who has suffered an injustice. Its merit lies in the fact that the standards it contains are common to every culture, society and ideology that make up the nations of the world. If any government says that these

standards are too high, it runs the risk of abandoning its legitimacy to rule.

Human rights law is made to be in the service of the public, and a restriction on the license of governments. It follows, therefore that the strength of the *Convention* will lie in the support it has among ordinary people.

Defense for Children International-USA (DCI-USA) is developing a coalition of individuals, non-governmental organizations, the religious community and professional associations to work toward educating the public about the Convention and pushing the U.S. government to ratify it. Any individual or organization interested in joining the coalition should write DCI-USA, 210 Forsyth Street, New York, NY 10002. DCI-USA has published an informative 56-page book on the Convention, In the Child's Best Interest: A Primer on the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is available for \$5.95, plus \$1.75 for postage and handling, from the DCI-USA office.

Note: The book mentioned above is a comprehensive review of the Convention. It contains the draft of the Convention as well as highlights with illustrations drawn by children in many countries of the world. It certainly explains the aspects of the draft itself as well as providing statistics on conditions that have made a statement of rights for children necessary.



The Anti-Cruelty Society Dispels Spay/Neuter Myths

Recently we received an informational packet prepared by The Anti-Cruelty Society. To be distributed by various outlets, this packet contains clearly stated corrections to many misconceptions about the effects of spaying/neutering, some of which are reprinted below. For further information on this packet and also about their new low cost spay/neuter program, please contact The Anti-Cruelty Society at 157 West Grand Avenue, Chicago, IL 60610.

Spaying or neutering does not make a pet fat and lazy. Proper amounts of commercial pet food and adequate exercise will keep your spayed or neutered pet healthy. Improper diet and lack of exercise will make animals fat and lazy; sterilization will not.

Spaying or neutering does not affect your pet's personality, spirit, or temperament.

A female need not have one litter before she is spayed. In fact the health risks rise dramatically as unspayed females grow older.

Even if homes are found for all of your animal's litter, not spaying your animal will intensify competition for homes. Ten animals compete for every home. As for those animals placed, many people would be distressed to find how few of them (less than 50%) are still in those homes a year later.

Books, films and classes are available to teach your children about birth. Breeding your animal for the sole reason of teaching your children about birth is irresponsible, and that is what you are really teaching your children.

Sterilizing your pet is not prohibitively expensive. Spaying and neutering is a one-time-charge only, done once in an animal's lifetime. Also because spaying or neutering one's pet can dramatically reduce its chances of developing tumors or cancers, one can actually save money through the operation, since treating diseases is very expensive. The cost to care for unwanted litters is also reflected in your tax dollars.

Allowing your pet to have litters does not provide humane societies with a way to make money. Humane societies don't make money from adoptions. The cost to care for an animal prior to its adoption far exceeds the low cost that the adopter actually pays for it. Unwanted litters are a financial burden for shelters, not a source of fund-raising.

A Productive Alternative to the Throw-Away Philosophy

Few Americans will take issue with the fact that our society has too many unhappy, elderly people - too many recidivist criminals - too many unwanted cats and dogs.

Though there is a great disparity of opinion among those who express solutions to these challenges, society's expedient answer is simple: for the surplus elderly people, warehouse them in rest (?) homes and forget them; for recidivist criminals, incarcerate them and "throw away the key;" and for the overpopulation of pet animals, simply catch and euthanize them. Right? - Wrong! Because, whether we choose to recognize it or not, much of our society's present and future happiness and welfare depends on a more humane and practical resolution to these challenges. It makes little difference whether corrective action is motivated by selfishness or a sincere concern for others, the need is equally imperative.

A wonderfully innovative activity and solution to these basic problems is conducted at a women's penitentiary in the State of Washington. There, a beneficial program complements the life of the physically impaired citizen as well as that of the elderly. In addition to providing a basis to expedite the rehabilitation of inmates, it opens welcome homes for homeless dogs. And, it has greatly enhanced the public image of the participating humane organization, serving the public by saving money and lives.

A major Latham Foundation service is, to publicize and promote replication of worthwhile humane activities through the production of filmed/videotaped documentaries. Washington State's recently implemented program, entitled Prison Pet Partnership, provided an opportunity to tell of a practical resolution of important problems. Accordingly, a documentary was produced and videotapes made available for viewing by individuals and organizations involved. We are gratified by the fact that after learning of the program, several progressive penal institutions have organized and implemented similar programs.

Following is the self explanatory letter and program outline, received from Sergeant Stephen Bradley of Oklahoma's progressive Lexington A & R Center.

Dear Mr. Tebault:

Thank you for sending the VHS tape *Prison Pet Partnership*. We have learned several things from watching it.

We are interested in the human-animal bond, and what it can do for the Senior Citizens and disabled in our state.

The inmates in this institution will also be affected by the human-animal bond. Our program will help them as well. Enclosed is the Program Description for Friends of Folks.

Our program is going well. We are in the process of building a kennel for the dogs. We are anxiously waiting for them to be completed, and for the training program to start. The goal we have set for the training classes to begin is the first week in January.

This pace-setting program is expected to be the Department of Corrections program of the nineties.

Sincerely,

Sgt. Stephen Bradley

Lexington Assessment - Reception Center

Lexington, Oklahoma

Friends For Folks "Man's Best Friend Wants To Make You Happy"

Friends for Folks is a program in which the inmates at the Lexington Correctional Center, on Unit 3, Programs Unit, will be involved. This program will make a lasting impression on the inmates, the institution, the Department of Corrections, and the State of Oklahoma. The Friends for Folks program has four main purposes: the first purpose is to give the inmates a "friend" that could care less about their past, how much time they are doing, the crime they are incarcerated for, or their sex or race. During the time the inmate will have this "friend" it may change their outlook on life and they way they do their time. The Friends for Folks program will create the opportunity for a human animal bond that will grow as each inmate develops a caring attitude, and an overall better self image as a result of having been involved in the program. The program will also help inmates to develop a positive caring attitude and feeling toward other people.

As a correctional officer, one of the benefits I feel the institution will enjoy from the inmate as a result of the program, is a modified behavior. Pets in a prison environment tend to lower the inmates' tension problems. Animals promote cooperation among inmates and offers strong incentives for

responsible behavior. Research indicates the human animal bond is effective in helping people focus outside themselves. Behavior becomes more responsible, communication increases, and hostility decreases. This opens the way for cooperation and behavior modification from the inmates to the staff. This is the first purpose of Friends for Folks. It may well be that because of this program the inmates will have at least one good memory from the Department of Corrections to look back on later in life.

The second purpose of the Friends for Folks program, is to give the inmates a chance to put something back into the community by doing a public service. The "friends" that the inmates receive will be trained. After their training is completed they will be given to the public free of charge as companion animals for Senior Citizens. We are working with various Senior Citizen groups within the State of Oklahoma. These groups are very excited about these companion animals and what the pets can do for their clients. They agree that a pet can indeed increase a Senior Citizen's desire to live by helping to cope with their loneliness and the need to show affection. A trained and caring animal will give them a companion to help fill the void left by the death of a loved one. This new "friend" will be a companion to be petted and pampered and will provide company for the Senior Citizen, and yes, this will have the same affect on the new owner as the inmate that trained the animal. This new "friend" will help keep the Senior Citizen's blood pressure down by helping them to relax in times of deep depression, and if the program helps make just one Senior Citizen's life a little better, then it will be worth all of our time and effort.

It is my belief that the Senior Citizen's of Oklahoma made this state. They are the backbone or foundation of Oklahoma, and they have worked hard all of their lives to build what we as Oklahomans enjoy today. It would be a great crime to forget about them and their needs during the last years of their lives. We are determined to fulfill one of those needs through Friends for Folks.

The third purpose of Friends for Folks is to train dogs for the deaf and hearing impaired. The "friends" will be constant companions for these people. They will let their master know when someone knocks on their door or rings the doorbell. If an alarm clock, smoke alarm, telephone, or any other sound out of the ordinary occurs, they will let them know about it. The beauty of it is that many Senior Citizens need

Continued on next page

The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90

Friends For Folks

continued from page 13

companions that can perform these tasks, thus serving a dual purpose.

The fourth purpose of Friends for Folks is that the inmates will be given the training needed to properly care for and train these friends. An inmate will be given a dog which will be their responsibility; to see that they are fed, groomed and kenneled properly. The inmates will learn how and when to give vaccinations; how to administer the proper treatments for parasites such as worms or fleas; and learn to recognize the signs of diseases or poor health. They will also learn how to correct these symptoms, and if not corrected, what can happen to the dog if left untreated. They will receive instructions on the proper way to feed their dogs. It is hoped that everything the inmates learn through this program will help them with their own pets when they leave and also give them a vocation they can practice when returned to society.

"Pets in a prison environment tend to lower the inmates' tension problems."

The dogs the inmates will be training will be friendly, outgoing, very socially oriented, and intelligent. A dog's greatest desire is to please his master. When a dog is taught good manners through training, his pleasure in living increases. He is given a greater opportunity to be with and serve his master. The dog will have a great feeling of confidence in himself and his master. Every minute the inmate spends training his dog will be repaid to them and will give the people of Oklahoma hours of enjoyment. The time they spend with their new "friends" will create a bond between the two of them that cannot be broken. Once a dog understands what is expected of him, he will be happy to give back to his master and others his unending loyalty and trust.

As we begin this new program that is named "Friends for Folks," our motto that we will use and practice in every aspect of our training is: "Man's Best Friend Wants to Make You Happy." 🐾

We can't help but wonder why more organizations don't take advantage of such a wonderful service opportunity. How about your organization? We'll be pleased to send a videotape for your consideration.

Hugh H. Tebault

The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90

CAPE

continued from page 1

recruit perhaps their most important allies.

The best of current environmental restoration and resource programs will be futile unless future generations appreciate their importance and see them through. To ensure the preservation of a healthy global environment, conservation education must begin with children, and it must be a unified international effort.

The Children's Alliance for Protection of the Environment (CAPE) is a nonprofit organization formed to meet this need through the sponsorship of conservation action programs for children around the world. By making children allies in a global conservation movement, CAPE will teach them about the interdependence of the world's diverse natural systems and the interdependence of its people. They will learn to view themselves as world citizens with common interests that transcend political or geographic boundaries and cultural differences.

CAPE seeks to instill in children a respect for the natural world; an understanding of threats to our planet's air, land, and water resources; a feeling of responsibility for the preservation of environmental health, safety, and beauty; and confidence in their ability to fulfill this responsibility.

Origins

In 1988, Ingrid Kavanagh, honorary consul to Costa Rica from Austin, Texas, proposed a beach cleanup agreement between a Texas school enrolled in the state's Adopt-A-Beach Program and the schoolchildren of Costa Rica. Her hope was to make a contribution to the advancement of international cooperation in combatting marine debris and beach litter in the wider Caribbean region. She did not realize she was about to ignite a chain reaction that would lead to the birth of CAPE, the Children's Alliance for Protection of the Environment.

Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, the Costa Rican Ministry of Natural Resources, and CANATUR, the country's private chamber of tourism, were quick to realize the environmental and economic benefits of a beach cleanup program and immediately endorsed the children's compact. Their enthusiasm was exceeded only by the enthusiasm of the Costa Rican children themselves.

When the first joint cleanup with Texas was held in April of 1988, 2,000 Costa Rican schoolchildren — assisted by teachers, parents, and

municipal workers — cleaned trash from beaches at four locations on the country's Atlantic and Pacific coasts. By the following September, the program included seven communities, and 5,000 children took part in the country's second beach cleanup, which coincided with a gulfwide cleanup in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida.

"CAPE seeks to instill in children a respect for the natural world ..."

First Lady Margarita Penon de Arias formed a national cleanup commission to extend the effort to cities and parks, and on April 1, 1989 — declared National Beach Cleanup Day by President Oscar Arias — 7,000 young Costa Ricans swarmed the beaches and parks of 19 coastal communities. This time the Costa Rican children had not only volunteers in the United States as their partners, but 1,200 schoolchildren in Puerto Cortes, Honduras. Witnessing the success of the Costa Rican program, the Honduran Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the national chamber of tourism had appealed to Ingrid Kavanagh for help in inaugurating a beach cleanup program in their country.

It was this appeal that prompted Ms. Kavanagh to found CAPE, building on ideas she had developed twelve years earlier as a student in the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. In CAPE she saw the means to make a practical reality of her early vision of children as leaders in environmental diplomacy. Just as children had carried the beach cleanup campaign from country to country, so they would serve as ambassadors for other conservation causes.

CAPE was incorporated in March of 1989, making the children's beach cleanup in Honduras its first official project. Already Panama, Belize, the Cayman Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Barbados, and Guatemala have shown interest in organizing beach cleanup programs. Several of these countries, as well as Costa Rica and Honduras, are also eager to organize children's tree-planting projects to heighten awareness of the need for rainforest protection.

The rapid spread of the beach cleanup campaign and its immediate endorsement by the highest levels of government caught the attention of the United Nations Environment Programme. UNEP is now working in partnership with CAPE to promote the children's conservation movement

Page 15

worldwide. The Center for Environmental Management at Tuft's University, the Costa Rican government, and CANATUR — among CAPE's earliest and strongest advocates — have already begun to help extend CAPE programs throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Initial Goals

- Expansion of the beach cleanup campaign throughout the wider Caribbean region.
- Sponsorship of cooperative tree-planting programs for children to raise the awareness of the global importance of rainforests.
- Establishment of a model research station in Costa Rica as a base for field study by children and college students in the country's diverse natural laboratories.
- Promotion of children's community cleanup, beautification, and recycling projects and nature study programs.
- Sponsorship of an International Beach Appreciation Day in 1990 to accelerate progress against ocean and shoreline pollution worldwide.

For further information, contact CAPE at: 8117 Greenwich Meridian, Austin, TX 78759

We're Here To Serve You!

At the time of Latham's 1918 organization, its founders, brother and sister, Milton and Edith Latham, endowed it with the long but succinct name: THE LATHAM FOUNDATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF HUMANE EDUCATION. That name gave the foundation a title as well as its operational direction. For many years the foundation engaged in providing various humane educational services in the San Francisco Bay Area. These included school lecturers, poster and essay contests, publications, radio and television programming. When, through experience, it was found that humane educational materials were mainly nonexistent, Latham determined to become their producer and supplier.

Among the educational services available are classroom films and videotapes, television programming. *The Latham Letter*, selected studies on the Human/Companion Animal Bond, (available by computer/modem/telephone line or as reprints) and its book *"The Loving Bond: Companion Animals in the Helping Professions"*.

In concert with our desire to fill a need, we are deeply gratified by the following comments, which appeared

in the New York Humane Association's Summer 1989 newsletter.

Hugh H. Tebault

Council on Pet Assisted Therapy Sponsors Booth at 5th Annual International Cat Show

The fifth annual International Cat Show, the most prestigious feline event of the year, was held at New York City's Madison Square Garden in early March. ...

A major highlight of the Show was the information booth sponsored by the Council on Pet Assisted Therapy (PAT), a state-wide coalition of organizations working to promote the development of high-quality pet assisted therapy programs in nursing homes and other types of health care facilities.

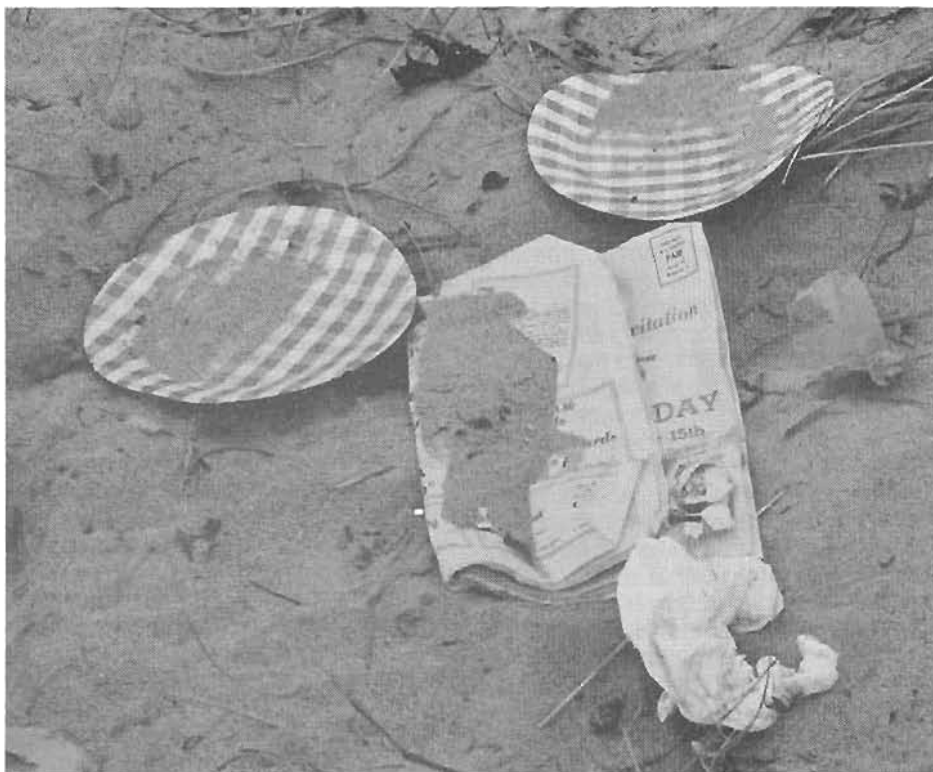
Guest speakers at the Council's information booth included several people with extensive experience in the field of pet assisted therapy, such as Louise Litke (Love Unlimited), Sue Sternberg (ASPCA), Debra Feliziani (Bide A Wee Home), Annabell Washburn (PAWS), and Richard Brodie (PAT).

Many attending the Council on Pet Assisted Therapy presentations expressed eagerness to become involved with pet assisted therapy programs in their communities. Strong interest was shown in the Latham Foundation's publications on display, especially *The Latham Letter* — one of the most authoritative newsletters in the field of pet assisted therapy — and the excellent Latham Foundation reference book, *The Loving Bond: Companion Animals in the Helping Professions*.

For additional information write: Council on Pet Assisted Therapy, P.O. Box 8003, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150; or call: (212) 535-3917. The Latham Foundation can be contacted at: Latham Plaza Building, Clement & Schiller Sts., Alameda, CA 94501 (415) 521-0920.



The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90



America's Drug War: A Holding Action

Robert C. McGuire

Wars are fought by men, shooting bullets, and taking objectives. To date, America's "war on drugs" has been fought by politicians, spouting rhetoric and groping for a direction. This is not surprising, given human nature. From time immemorial, old men have declared war, and young men have died fighting them. Our politicians just now are becoming convinced that drugs threaten the very future of our nation. They have declared a war on drugs; the youth of America have been called upon to fight it.

The men and women of American law enforcement have been claiming for over twenty years that drugs are threatening the very fabric of the nation's future, its youth. Because of law enforcement's education of the American public concerning drug abuse, and the electorates insistence that something positive be done, elected officials and other authorities are starting to take stronger stands against drug use; especially after their children become victims of the drug scourge.

Law enforcement is familiar with the violent, irrational behavior of individuals who are under the influence of drugs (legal and illegal). It only takes a police officer a week, on the job to become convinced that drugs are at the root of most family and individual violence, robberies, automobile accidents, and other more violent crimes. Intellectuals, many politicians, and others in the public sector merely debated the realities — until their homes were robbed and they themselves became living examples of the drug epidemic.

Belatedly, a consensus is forming that the greatest challenge to America's future is drug abuse. Slowly, legislation is being passed, businesses are realizing that they are losing huge profits, and intellectuals are becoming convinced that drug crazed thugs hurt and rob people for their next fix. Now that people's attention is focused on the problem, solutions can begin to be presented.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has taken a leadership role in fighting drug abuse as a war. Along with its other federal, state, and local law enforcement counterparts, DEA has been educating the American public about drug abuse for the last three decades. Many law enforcement officers have been killed and maimed in this very real drug war. Most have

The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90

been young. Their lives and sacrifices have been significant. Their lives and sacrifices have given new meaning to our country's drug war. Though acknowledged as a war by many, virtually no legislative or budgetary support has been given this war until recently.

DEA's position has been that until people's values and attitudes concerning drug use change, America's drug problems will continue. Law enforcement efforts alone will not solve the problem. Though essential, enforcement of drug laws is merely a holding action. A holding action which is attempting to slow down the rapid rate of drug abuse until the next generation can be educated to becoming drug free. Drug free human beings is the real answer.

Policemen protect and serve. They are not the primary educators, definers of values, or molders of consciences and attitudes. Those are the functions of schools, churches, and most importantly, parents. The fundamental institutions of American society must reassume their traditional positions of influence, and actively reduce the next generation's demand for drugs by word and example. The reduction in the demand for drugs is the only long term solution to America's drug problems.

DEA, and other law enforcement agencies, are spending their already scarce resources in the area of demand reduction education. Though not formally trained as educators, law enforcement officers and agents are

educating the American public about the devastation of drug use. It is a fight for the next generation of Americans. It is a war that will take a number of years and much soul searching.

Because so many adults and young people have substance abuse problems, the best that law enforcement can hope for is a holding action. In order to see real progress in solving America's drug epidemic, the next generation must be convinced that drug use is unacceptable. DEA's goal is for a drug free generation. It will be difficult, painful, and there is no guarantee of success.

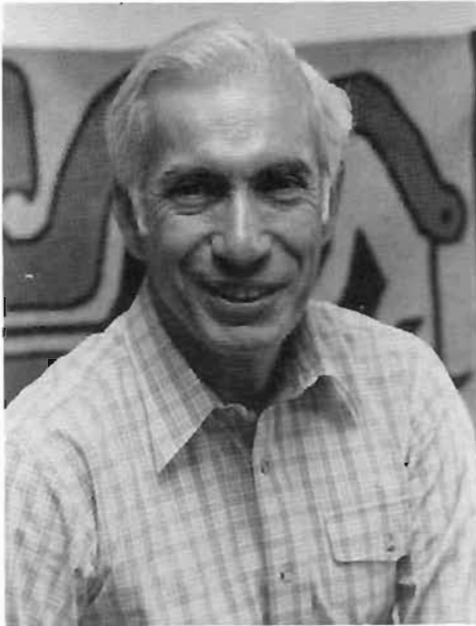
Some may ask why cops are taking the added burden of drug prevention education. The answer is simple. Policemen have credibility. No one can argue with someone who intercedes in numerous drug induced fights, arrests violent drug users, and gets killed and wounded by drug traffickers. Like the soldier, the policeman would rather do that for which he is trained. But until the rest of American society become cognizant to its imminent destruction through drug abuse, the police officer will continue to bridge the gap in educating and assisting the next generation to be participants in a drug free America.

Robert C. McGuire is a Special Agent within the Drug Enforcement Administration office located in San Francisco, California. He is also the DEA Demand Reduction Coordinator for the San Francisco Field Division. #



Kidding the Kids

continued from page 1



Sanford M. Dornbush, Ph.D.

startling to reflect that almost half of the Mexican-American high school students did not name a single teacher, counselor, or administrator to whom they would turn for information. Is the glass half empty or half full? Certainly, less advantaged students do need sources of advice as they move through the school system, and too many are not being well served.

This finding parallels an earlier result at our Center which indicated that the higher the proportion of Black and Hispanic students in a class, the less the teachers felt it was necessary to know the rules of admission to various types of colleges and universities. Those students with fewest resources and greatest need for academic information are the most likely to be left unserved by school personnel.

Minority students, relatively uninformed about college requirements, often do not take required courses and are unaware of the importance of the curricular decisions they are making. One study (not conducted at our Center) found that 40% of Hispanic high school graduates in California who had grades and test scores good enough to enter the UC system were ineligible to attend. Why? Because they had not taken one or more required courses. These are not students who are low in ability or unwilling to expend effort in school. Rather, these are students who lack information and guidance to progress through our educational system. The waste of their talents and potential represents a tremendous loss to society.

Page 18

In response to this finding, our Center has been considering co-producing instructional videos for high school teachers and students about going to college. In addition, we want to emphasize to the schools the role of personal support and encouragement as a key ingredient in assisting minority students. For example, Gene Laing's success in motivating students to go to college by offering financial support to all who graduated from high school was rooted less in the money than in his providing a counselor to serve as a continuing mentor. Schools need to restructure so as to show a personal concern for each student. Teaching the material is only part of the educator's task.

The Stanford Family Studies Center is also concerned about the over-representation of minority students in the lower curricular tracks. We are studying transcripts of 1,200 high school students from diverse ethnic backgrounds. By 8th grade, the test scores and grades of Black and Hispanic students, on the average, are low. As a result, without overt discrimination, one ends up with a discriminatory pattern of track assignments. You never need look at ethnic background and, just using grades and test scores, you would have ethnic differences in track placement. From 8th grade test scores and grades, the pattern of high school assignment is fairly predictable all the way through 12th grade. One can predict almost 70% of the variation in senior year track just by looking at the 8th grade pattern.

"The waste of their talents and potential represents a tremendous loss to society."

Since it is more difficult to move up in track than down, the increased proportion of minority group students assigned to low tracks effectively prevents those students from ever attaining a high level of academic performance. The standards for courses in the lower track are so minimal that even getting an A in a course does not enable a student to move up to the next course in the higher track. Teachers' expectations for minority students tend to be low, and peer pressure does not reinforce academic goals.

Michael Rutter, a distinguished British researcher in the education field, concludes that academic tracking helps good students a little, and hurts poor students a lot. There is no reward for the teacher who exerts energy to bring a high school student reading at the 4th grade level up to the

8th grade level. The entire school system needs to take responsibility for this tracking dilemma, without making it exclusively the problem of high school counselors.

Why don't schools work more closely with parents? The spheres of family and school are too often treated as mutually exclusive. School personnel could be teaching parents about what happens at school and raising educational expectations of the family. However, the current school system provides no funds and gives little encouragement for teachers to work with the families and peers of students.

This finding also raises questions about the lack of flexibility in the school system. There is considerable inertia, a tendency to keep doing things the way we did in the past. For example, we provide no opportunities for turned-off students to come back to high school later and be re-integrated. Rather, we hold many unwilling teenagers hostage in classes where they are likely to learn little.

In other areas, however, our Center's research reports are encouraging. Parenting styles can make a difference in adolescent school performance. In our studies, we have identified several powerful family processes that affect adolescent outcomes. These include parenting styles (authoritarian, authoritative, neglectful, or indulgent), family decision-making (youth alone, parent alone, or joint discussion) and monitoring, the ability of parents to know their child's activities. Authoritative parenting (which combines behavioral control, warmth and psychological autonomy), joint decision-making and parental monitoring of adolescent behavior are all associated with a host of positive outcomes for youth, including higher grades and less frequent misconduct.

Research in Wisconsin finds that parenting styles are malleable. Parents are not fixed in their behaviors. During adolescence, faced with changing issues, about half of all parents change their style of parenting within a single year. And if they shift towards a more authoritative style of parenting, their child shows improved performance in many arenas. So we know that parents can change their behavior and often do, and the changes can have positive results for their children. What we must now explore is ways to get the message to the parents. It is encouraging to find that parental behaviors can have immediate and powerful impacts, so that some improvement in our schools can occur because of changes beyond the school boundaries.

The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90

When we look at adolescent deviance (stealing, cheating, substance abuse, etc.), we found it, too, was related to school performance. One fascinating finding concerns the impact of deviant behavior on other domains of adolescent life. We thought that lower-status students would show a closer relationship between deviant behavior and low grades than would higher-status students. This was emphatically proven false! Student from every social group who engaged in deviant behavior tended to have lower grades. All parents, including affluent parents, would be well advised to be concerned about their adolescent's deviance and not view it as a separable phase of a child's development.

"Why don't schools work more closely with parents?"

We are somewhat skeptical of current reform movements. Tinkering at the margin will seldom make a big difference in education when problems are deeply rooted. For example, our research shows that schools are well advised to work closely with parents, not treating school and family as two separable entities. Yet when we ask teachers whether they will devote more time to working with parents, most refuse. They consider themselves already overworked and view their classroom activities as their central task. Indeed, the system has tended to decrease the number of counselors and has downplayed activities that provide helpful guidance for individual students and parents. Similarly, students whose academic careers are jeopardized by inappropriate tracking usually come from those segments of society least capable of voicing their displeasure to school personnel. Schools are bound by inertia and by contracts. Teachers should be paid more, predominantly to attract better people to a teaching career. However, the problem for our schools is not just a financial one. We need a fundamental reorganization of our schools, and that will only occur when informed citizens negotiate changes that are dramatic and far-reaching. As we move towards a global marketplace, our society faces strong challenges. We need to ensure that our educational system is up to the task.

Dr. Dornbusch is the Director of the Stanford Center for the Study of Families, Children and Youth; Reed-Hodgson Professor of Human Biology and Professor of Sociology and Education at Stanford University in California.

The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90

A Special Visit

continued from page 4

After the proposal was submitted and approved by Hospital Administration, Physicians, Nursing, and the Infection Control Committee, the special horse visit date was set. Laddie would be allowed to visit all the pediatric patients including the children in the Pediatric Intermediate Care Unit as well as the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. The mid-summer date chosen facilitated the anticipation and excitement on the units.

The horse would be accompanied by the owner, AAT Coordinator and Child Life Specialist at all times. The locations of the visit included the playroom, bedside and window visits for those children requiring isolation for immunosuppression. The visit would start in the playroom with those children able to mobilize themselves independently or with assistance, followed by individual children at bedside. The final stop would be the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. Here the children would visit nose to nose with Laddie through the glass window barrier. For the benefit and privacy of the children and their families, the media coverage of the event was kept to a minimum and out of the playroom.

The roles of those involved in Laddie's visit were discussed and agreed upon in advance. The volunteer AAT Coordinator would meet the Kaliskis and Laddie in the hospital lobby and accompany them into a designated elevator to the playroom. The owner and Coordinator would be responsible for assessing Laddie's tolerance of the visit. He relied on those he trusted to alter the visit if he became fatigued.

The Child Life Specialist's role included making assessments regarding individual needs, preferences and limitations of each child. Her relationship with the children would facilitate a comfortable, trusting and safe atmosphere. She would also assess and monitor the children's activity level and tolerance of the visit. Everyone would share in educating the children about the special guest on the unit. The role of the nursing staff included assessing and facilitating interactions between their primary patients and Laddie.

The unit was filled with anticipation and excitement when Laddie's visit came to pass. After months of careful planning, the event was deemed a success by the visit planners, children, parents and hospital staff.

Several children and parents expressed an interest in having Laddie visit again. Others expressed an inter-

est in visiting Laddie's ranch and in acquiring a miniature horse. Mrs. Kaliski reported that Laddie was his normal, gentle self after the visit and she expressed an interest in repeating the program. The Child Life Specialist was also very pleased with the visit noting that the unusual animal chosen increased the receptiveness by the children and parents to participate. The volunteer AAT Coordinator's report to the hospital's Infection Control Committee stated that all guidelines were met and due to the success of Laddie's visit, an additional proposal would be submitted requesting another visit later in the year. The Infection Control Committee agreed to this with enthusiasm.

"Several ... expressed an interest in having Laddie visit again."

In conclusion, the authors have described a successful unusual animal visitation program for hospitalized children. They have attempted to put to rest the frequently held opinion that animals have no place in an acute care facility. Careful multidisciplinary planning made the visit not only a possibility, but a positive child and family centered activity.

Joan Kazerounian, M.Ed., has been employed at The Medical Center at the University of California, San Francisco the past 3 years as a Child Life Specialist. She has a Masters in Early Childhood Education with an emphasis in Child Life. Her training is in Child Development, the needs of the sick child under stress, and the family.

Debra Fila, RN, was employed as a Head Nurse at The Medical Center at the University of California, San Francisco. She has founded the Institute of Animal Assisted Therapy (I.A.A.T.) in San Francisco and has organized successful seminars focusing on various aspects of the Human/Companion Animal Bond. For further information she may be contacted at the I.A.A.T., 823 Shrader Street, San Francisco, California 94117.



And a Dog Named ...

continued from page 8

family lived in town, and she saw them often. She was close to her next-door neighbor, and also visited several friends who lived in nursing homes. One of her closest friendships was with Harry, a man in his early sixties whom she had known since he was a boy. In many ways, they considered each other "family." Harry routinely had supper at Virginia's a few times a week; on Sundays they often went out for dinner. He mowed her lawn for her and did odd jobs around the house. Many times she commented that it was Harry who enabled her to live alone for as long as she had. She could count on him, knowing she could call him in the evening if some small emergency occurred, even if only to open a jar that her arthritic fingers couldn't manage.

Interestingly, Harry was the one person, other than strangers, at whom Pepper always barked. As soon as he heard Harry's truck in the drive, he'd bark, continuing to do so for a good five minutes after Harry came in and sat down. We could determine no other reason than jealousy (Pepper never barked at male family members or at the man across the street who used Virginia's garden plot each summer). It was as if Pepper knew that Harry was his only serious rival for Virginia's deepest affections. Fortunately, Harry generally thought Pepper's barking was funny too.

Once the emotional bond between Virginia and Pepper was firmly established, and the housebreaking problem minimized, my role as sponsor changed. Initially, I accompanied Vir-



Page 20

ginia on one or two veterinary visits, but it was clear that she intended to assume full responsibility for Pepper's care. As long as she continued to drive, she was minimally dependent on others. Later, when she agreed with her family that she should sell her car, she enlisted their help, or Harry's, in taking Pepper to the vet or groomer. Had I not lived a good twenty minute drive away, I believe she would have found it easier to ask me for help.

"Maintaining the relationship with the house pet can be interpreted as reaffirming the symbol of home and security."

Initially, Pepper served as the focal point of our conversations when I visited, but gradually, a friendship developed that had very little to do with him. After the trial placement ended, I visited Virginia about once every two months. Usually she invited me for lunch or a light supper; a few times she also had dinner with my husband and me at our house. When my daughter was born, she gave Chelsea a crocheted sweater and cap.

When Virginia eventually lost interest in cooking and began receiving Meals on Wheels, it was my turn to bring a casserole for our lunches together. Once, when I asked her how the Meals on Wheels food was, she said, laughing, "It's not bad, but it's not home cooking either." But, I believe, it was the social aspect of mealtimes that she missed most. When Harry no longer came to dinner; when she found it increasingly difficult to get around in the kitchen and so could not invite other friends over for lunch, a meaningful, pleasurable part of her daily life was gone.

Virginia's house had been her home since she was a young girl, and except for an occasional boarder or visiting relative, she'd spent most of that time alone and in complete control of the house. But traveling the stairs to reach the bathroom and her bedroom had become increasingly difficult, and, although she had not been hurt, an inner ear problem affected her balance, causing her to fall a few times. When she was about 93, a family member, genuinely concerned for her safety, proposed that he buy her house and convert it to two apartments. Two other family members would occupy the 2nd floor apartment, and Virginia would have the first floor as long as she wanted it or was able to stay.

Deciding to give up her house, even to relatives, was difficult, and she did so reluctantly. She acknowledged that

her new living quarters were safer and much easier to navigate, but the house symbolized her autonomy. While relinquishing ownership and part of the house certainly put off the eventuality of living in a nursing home, it probably also signalled the end to her independence, and ultimately, to her life.

In preparation for the renovation, she had to sell her dining room suite (the setting for so many social gatherings), much of the upstairs furniture, and years of accumulated possessions in the basement. Many things dated back to her girlhood, and she found it especially upsetting to see them sold to strangers. It was about this time that, wanting me to have something of hers, and knowing I liked old-fashioned linens, she gave me a set of embroidered dinner napkins.

Over a two or three month period, her dining room was converted to a bedroom, the hall closet was made into a bathroom, and other necessary adjustments to the first floor were made. Although fairly minimal, the changes upset her. Many times she remarked that she no longer felt the house was her home. By necessity, other people had more say over her life. Looking back at my five year friendship with Virginia, I believe that this marked the beginning of the end. While she was also becoming physically frailer, the real change came in her emotional health. Virginia had always struck me as being a pragmatic optimist, a survivor. She didn't believe in complaining, or regretting what could not be undone. But she was no longer happy, content; she stopped looking forward to each new day.

Coupled with what she felt was the loss of her home was her increasing isolation. Having sold her car, she had to rely on family members to take her places; this cut back the number of visits she made to friends. Her balance deteriorated and she went from using a cane to a walker. She no longer felt up to her daily visit with her next-door neighbor (also a housebound elderly woman). But perhaps the most difficult social loss was the change in her long-standing friendship with Harry. For whatever reasons, Harry did not get along well with the family members who now owned Virginia's house and the garage he had rented for decades. As a result, he disliked coming to the house, and visited much less frequently, although he still continued to check in on her every few days, and took her out for Sunday dinner when the weather was good.

My visits continued to be satisfying, and she especially enjoyed my daughter, noting with delight the changes as she grew. Watching Chelsea

The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90

play on the floor spurred reminiscences about the various children she had cared for at different times in her life. Despite the fact that she clearly was not as upbeat or as strong as she had been, and that frequently she dozed in her chair during lapses in conversation, Virginia was interested and interesting, asking me about my family, my work. She remained articulate, and retained her keen, though quiet, sense of humor.

But her life was much more circumscribed than before, and her conversation reflected that, focusing often on friends who were sick, or who had died. Now, she found it even more painful to visit those friends who were in nursing homes. We had often talked about nursing homes, and she had always maintained that she would never go, that if she did, she wouldn't last long.

I believe Virginia felt she could talk frankly with me about her feelings. She was careful not to overwhelm me with complaints, but knew she could let off some steam without worrying I might take offense or discount her discontent. She was fond of her family, but her increased dependency on them had added to her relationship with them an inevitable element of resentment, and perhaps even fear. The family did include her frequently — she always spent holidays with them, and many Sundays — and they visited and checked in on her regularly. In the autumn before she died, they held an open house for her so friends and neighbors could drop in, visit, and share an informal buffet supper.

As time went by, Virginia moved more and more slowly, and spent most of her time in her chair on the enclosed sunporch, Pepper tucked up like a little black pillow on her lap. Because her eyes required very large type, she read little. Our last visit together took place about a week before Christmas. Chelsea wore her Christmas dress (Virginia enjoyed seeing her dressed up) and we brought lunch and a plateful of cookies. Before we left, we kissed her and told her how special she was.

Virginia died a few weeks after the holidays. She had fallen out of bed and broken a rib. She very reluctantly consented to give the nursing home a trial stay after she was released from the hospital, but once there, she refused to eat or speak to anyone. She did ask about Pepper once or twice and was reassured that he was being looked after. Being in the nursing home was simply intolerable to her, and she died within a week.

A photograph I had taken of Virginia sitting in her chair in the sunlight, with Chelsea and Pepper in her lap, was
The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90

used by the funeral director to help prepare the body. At her viewing, several people mentioned Pepper and his role in her life, and expressed hope that he would find a good home. He has since been placed with another Pact client, which I'm sure would have pleased her.

My five-year relationship with Virginia was very much reciprocal. In addition to warm friendship and good company, she gave me the rare opportunity to know someone who grew up in a time vastly different from my own. Her stories made the past tangible, and showed me how different life was then, how much the same it still is. Knowing Virginia also reminded me that the elderly (as are members of any group that, for convenience, we lump together) are individuals. Her curiosity, wry sense of humor, and strong sense of self reinforced my belief that, with the luck of good health, old age can be a rewarding, alive time of life. Witnessing her ultimate decline also made me realize how fragile we are then, how what might seem small changes in health, circumstance, or living arrangements can defeat even the hardest, most vibrant of spirits.

"Her relationship with the pet did not replace human social relationships, but supplemented them ..."

Discussion

This case adds to the array of findings that argue pets provide valuable social support to older owners. The pet was acquired as other, earlier forms of social activity became less feasible, and became progressively more important as the woman's social opportunities narrowed. While there is little doubt that the affection the woman gave and received was the most important aspect of the relationship, she also enjoyed and was reassured by the dog's constant companionship and protective behavior.

Her relationship with the pet did not replace human social relationships, but supplemented them, and provided opportunities to expand her social network (i.e., her resulting friendship with the sponsor).

This owner did not conform in many respects to the stereotypes of older women and their pets. Pet keeping was not a life long activity, but was consciously adopted as a coping strategy late in life. The pet was not addressed or treated like a child substitute. The woman was not a lenient or "spoiling" owner, but insisted on certain standards of conduct from the

pet. Despite increasing debility, she was able to manage the pet until the final weeks of her life, without neglecting the animal, allowing extensive damage to her home, or requesting undue amount of help from her family and sponsor. Her individuality was reflected in the way she related to Pepper.

This case highlights again the need to consider individual differences among older pet owners. Generalizations about older owners should be carefully examined before they are accepted.

The woman's pet, and the volunteer sponsor, appeared to buffer some of the social tension inherent in the family's provision of informal care at home. The family solution was realistic and considerably implemented, but its implications and the loss of control of her home deeply disturbed the older woman. Confiding in the dog and volunteer provided a safe and comforting outlet. While the details are different for each person, we feel that a change or loss of familiar surroundings is a common crisis for impaired older persons. Maintaining the relationship with the house pet can be interpreted as reaffirming the symbol of home and security.

It does appear that the pet's role and provision of social support are complex and depend on the relationships the animal has with other humans in the network. This tentative observation suggests that analysis of the effects of animal ownership should identify the pet as an individual in the social network of the owner, and should examine the social roles and functions the animal performs, rather than rely exclusively on the affection for one animal as reported by the owner, or as perceived by observers.

Finally, this case demonstrates an observation made repeatedly in the limited number of successful long term volunteer sponsor/owner relationships. The early phase of assisting an older owner is "pet-centered," concerned with animal behavior, care, and establishing effective ownership practices. This provides an opportunity for trust between volunteer and owner to develop. The later, longer phase of the relationship is more "person-centered," concerned more with the needs and functioning of the older owner than with the pet. The pet's needs are met, but they do not dictate the timing and content of most calls, visits, and mailings between the volunteer and owner. This notion should be followed up in systematic research, and may have implications for the training of volunteer sponsors.

Continued on page 22

Page 21

WHAT? A SERIES AND NO BAD GUYS?

Catch *Withit* and be absorbed in the world that nature intended.

This half-hour series, presented in color and live action, is at once entertaining and educational.

Without cops 'n robbers.

You'll learn about dolphins, a dairy, people — make friends with seals, even witness the destructive fury of a forest fire.

Withit is laughing, living and learning with nature. And you'll love every exciting minute. A weekly series for everyone presented by the Latham Foundation.



"WITHIT" is Back on Television!

It's a new decade; a series of 26 programs has become 52. And, *WITHIT* is still entertaining. This time it's thanks to Low Power and Cable Television stations across the country. These outlets bring the message of respect for all life to millions of our youth. The Latham Foundation is concerned about many things — educating our young is one. But a very important and necessary one: this is our future and we need to teach them

Page 22

something of a deeper concern about this life — more than just the fabric of technology that enhances our economic posture. *WITHIT* does just that.

This is the first in a series of announcements about the Latham Foundation's continuing involvement with the broadcast media that began in 1922. The advertisement shown above is currently appearing in the *LPTV* [Low Power Television] *Journal*.

And a Dog Named ...

continued from page 21

We urge other practitioners and investigators to write-up case studies of experiences with human/animal relationships, to provide a source of descriptive information and grounded theory.

References

- Lago, D., Connell, C.M., & Knight, B. (1983). A companion animal program. In Smyer, M., & Gatz, M. *Mental health and aging: Programs and evaluations*. Sage Publications: Beverley Hills, CA.
- Lago, D., Connell, C.M., & Knight, B. (1985). The effects of animal companionship on older persons living at home. *Human Animal Relationship*, Vienna, Austria: IEMT. Presented at the International Conference on Human Animal Companionship held in Vienna, Austria, October 26 - 28, 1983.
- Lago, D., Kafer, R., Delaney, M., & Connell, C. (1988). Assessment of favorable attitudes towards pets: Development and preliminary validation of self-report pet relationship scales. *Anthrozoos*, 1(4), 240-254.
- Lago, D., Knight, B.L., & Connell, C.M. (1982). Placing companion animals in community settings: Organizational structure and operating policies in promoting health and well-being among older people. *Proceedings of Pets in Society: The social importance of pets in an aging society*. Toronto, Ontario: Pet food manufacturers Association.
- Lago, D., Knight, B.L., & Connell, C.M. (1983). Rural elderly relationships with companion animals. Feasibility study of a pet placement program. In Katcher, A., & Beck, A. (Eds.), *New perspectives on our life with companion animals*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Lago, D., Knight, B.L., Rohrer-Dann, M., & Friends, G. (1985). *The PACT Manual*. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University.
- Zeglen, M., Lee, R., & Brudvik, A. (1984). The Delta Society Invitational Conference for Research on the Interactions of Animals and People. *Journal of the Delta Society*, 1 (1), 6-20.
- Ms. Rohrer-Dann holds a masters degree in English from Penn State and is co-author of the *PACT Manual*
- Dr. Lago is the Assistant Professor of Human Development at Penn State University. Reprint requests should be addressed to him, c/o Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802

The Latham Letter, Winter 1989/90

