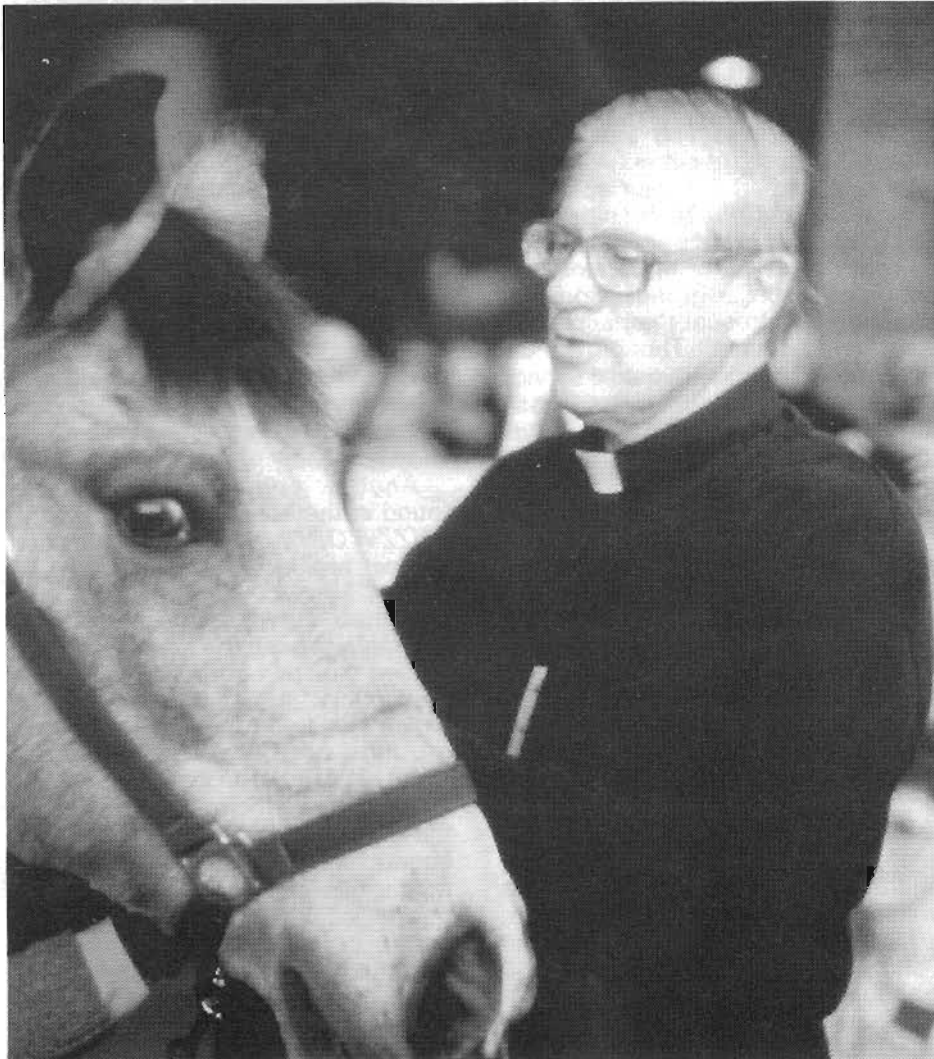


The Latham Letter

Vol. XII, No. 3

ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA

SUMMER, 1991



Pet Ownership and Stress Over the Family Life Cycle

Janet Haggerty Davis, Ph.D., R.N.

Reprinted from Holistic Nursing Practice, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 52-57, with permission of Aspen Publishers, Inc. © 1991.

Family-centered nursing care focuses on the promotion, maintenance, or restoration of a family's well-being. This focus is emphasized in a number of nursing clinical specialties. It is so important that professional standards for community health, maternal-child health, medical-surgical, and psychiatric mental health nursing practices all make reference to family centered care.^{1,4} Example mandates from these standards include: "The nurse assists families to achieve and maintain a balance between the personal growth and needs of individual family members and optimum family functioning"^{2(p11)}; "The nurse intervenes with vulnerable clients and families at risk to present potential developmental and health problems"^{2(p12)}; "The nurse reviews and revises interventions based on individual and family response."^{1(p11)} As these examples illustrate, family-centered care is concerned with the total balance of family life and encompasses well families, families at risk

Continued on page 20

Blessings and Burials: Meaning and Conduct of Ceremonies for Companion Animal Burials

The Rev. Robert M. Kidd

In our present ongoing quest for more and more knowledge and understanding, we become more and more certain that humankind's attachment to animals is older than the written record of history. And perhaps our attachment is why human respect for the living and how we respond to the presence and then the early loss of our animal friends and companions is probably best demonstrated in the various ceremonials of blessing as

well as in death and mourning rites and burial customs throughout the world.

Man is the only animal known to bury his dead. This is of fundamental significance because the practice was not originally motivated by hygienic considerations, but by primitive ideas of nature and destiny. The archaeological evidence makes quite clear that disposal of the dead from earliest times was ritualistic. The paleolithic

Continued on page 16

**The Latham Foundation
Promoting Respect For All
Life Through Education
Since 1918**



In this issue

1. Blessings and Burials — Rev. Robert M. Kidd
1. Pet Ownership and Stress Over the Family Life Cycle — Janet Haggerty Davis, Ph.D., R.N.
2. Worthwhile Reading
3. Circle the Wagons, The Arrogant Are on the Warpath — Mike Burgwin
4. The Wolf Hybrid—Should You or Shouldn't You? — Nancy J. Taylor
5. How High the Price? — Terry Jenkins
10. In Defense of Wolf Hybrids — Mary Harper-Bellis, M.S.
11. Of Wolves, Wolf Hybrids and Children — Monty Sloan
13. Wolf Behavior Seminars
14. The Facts About Dangerous Dog Laws — Stephanie Robinson
22. Pet Alert
23. "Your Humane Society" Latham's Newest Production



Latham Foundation extends its warmest congratulations to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on its 125th Anniversary of service. Established in 1866 originally to "provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty throughout the United States," the ASPCA has expanded to over 400,000 members throughout the nation.

In celebration of this anniversary, the ASPCA has adopted a new logo, reproduced above, to illustrate its commitment to protection and care for *all* animals.

Worthwhile Reading

We learn much by regularly reading the publications of other service organizations. For the most part, they are interesting and informative and, occasionally, the knowledge obtained prevents duplicated efforts. The concerns expressed and corrective actions reported upon are directed to the wide spectrum of serious problems which confront the world's inhabitants. Some articles describe the progress achieved in promoting their mandated mission, through membership participation and its outreach. Others recite facts and figures that confirm the need for either financial or volunteer support for their activities. Still others, explain in detail why or how their philosophies and objectives are more practical or important than those of dissimilar groups, some of whom merely present their appeal by using lurid pictures. Though the undertakings of legitimate public service organizations are numerous, most, quite properly, work and solicit support in alleviating various forms of suffering or deprivation of human or non-human life, or preservation of the world's non-renewable resources and vitally important life-supporting global ecosystem.

We do not always see "eye to eye" with our sister organizations, but we most certainly applaud their motivation and many beneficial accomplishments. At the same time, however, we know that each could be so much more effective through cooperative efforts engendered by an understanding of the relativity of their various interests. They are indeed myopic for the failure to realize that the problems which they work so hard to rectify are, in fact, interrelated. For in truth, the world's great problems can be likened to the individual pieces of a giant jigsaw puzzle which, when assembled, presents a picture containing answers for the solution of most major dilemmas.

A particularly interesting and well written article was found in the spring 1991 issue of *SUPRESS* Students United Protesting Research on Sensitive Subjects titled "Animal Rights: The Suicide of a Movement." The writer unemotionally and quite rationally addresses the highly controversial subject of vivisection. As the title suggests, the thought provocative article presents commentary critical of those organizations opposed to vivisection which justify their position on the basis of an "animal rights" appeal. Regardless of that criticism, the author is, however, no less opposed to the practice of vivisection than those with

whom issue is taken. The objection to an animal rights approach is expressed with such emphatic pronouncements as: "...'animal rights activists' automatically become anti-human, since they are perceived as wanting to liberate animals at the expense of human health...the animal rights movement, with its high visibility...has made it practically impossible for anyone else to expose the medical and scientific fraudulence of vivisection."

Having presented such criticism of the Animal Rights Movement, the author categorically states, "Vivisection is, if anything, a pseudo-science." That declaration is then predicated on the contention that despite agreement as to the existence of "many" biological similarities between humans and other species, "yet they do not exist to the degree of biological complexity and consistency required for vivisection to work." This argument and others are then expanded upon at length in what appears to be a very knowledgeably prepared treatise.

Another engrossing article was found in the May/June 1991 issue of *BUZZWORM: The Environmental Journal*, entitled "The Rights Stuff." Its author, Margaret L. Knox, first asks and then discusses the question: "Animal rights incite a riot of emotions, but are they part of the environmental movement?" After a brief introduction which speaks to the origin and backgrounds of the conservation and animal welfare movements in America, the article takes issue with the more bizarre and illegal activities conducted under the aegis of animal rights. Interesting and cogent information is included concerning the personal, political, philosophical and religious histories of animal rights principles as well as their compensations.

"The Rights Stuff" fairly comments on the fact that "The animal rights message is essentially just" and recognizes that "Unnecessary cruelty is wrong." In doing so, examples much in need of correction are cited. Author Knox's excellent article attests to painstaking research and provides many engrossing details concerning the areas of agreement as well as the differences between the animal rights proponents and those of the environmental movement. In answering the article's prime question, the author states, "Environmentalists and animal rights activists share a whopping guilt complex, but environmentalists still rest their case on science, while animal rights is essentially a religion."

Hugh H. Tebault

The Latham Letter, Summer, 1991



THE LATHAM LETTER

© Latham Foundation 1991
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

Madeline C. Pitts

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Aline H. Kidd, Ph.D.

EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Robert Ziegler, Ph.D.
Ex Officio, Hugh H. Tebault

PHOTOGRAPHS

Unless otherwise noted, photographs were taken by Kathleen Henderson.



The Latham Letter is printed on recycled paper.

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 Foundation is a non-profit, operating foundation that makes grants in kind rather than monetary grants but welcomes partnership with other institutions and individuals who share its commitment to furthering humane education.

The **Latham Letter** welcomes manuscripts relevant to the Foundation's interests and concerns, but reserves the right to publish such manuscripts at its discretion.

The Foundation offices may be reached by telephone at (415) 521-0920, FAX and Modem, (415) 521-9861.

The Latham Letter, Summer, 1991

Circle The Wagons, The Arrogant Are On The Warpath

Mike Burgwin

Do you feel as though you are being attacked from all sides? For instance:

Animal Rightists demand that the "Bill of Rights" cover all animal life.

Anti-vivisectionists state their way is the only way.

Vivisectionists state their way is the only way.

Vegetarians claim those who eat meat are destroying the environment.

Vegans call Vegetarians too liberal.

Hunters think those who oppose them are unbalanced.

Cattlemen want you to eat more meat.

Fur wearers are said to be cruel.

Trappers see no wrong in what they're doing.

The list goes on forever, it seems.

Most of the people in each of these categories appear to listen but their replies indicate that they do not hear each other. This type of behavior is best described as arrogance (self importance). When you are so convinced that your beliefs are much more important than anyone who opposes you and therefore refuse to consider their beliefs, you are arrogant.

Name calling has become a ritual. Believers attack those who disagree with them as crazy, stupid, cruel, dishonest, wasteful, etc. This type of behavior is often defended as necessary if the believer is to make converts. After all, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution grants them the right to say anything to anybody. Correct? Correct.

Even strong supporters of the First Amendment occasionally give some thought to the Fourth Amendment (the right to privacy) and it would be nice if more of them did so more often.

"ALF" (Animal Liberation Front) is out there breaking into buildings and demonstrating a complete disregard for law and order. Until they surfaced, I thought ALF was a funny-looking, hairy thing on TV. Members of "ALF" and others of their ilk demand freedom for animals while they trample all over other people's rights.

It is very difficult for people who want what is best for all concerned to know what they should do. I've always been skeptical of those who verbally tell me one thing and their actions tell me another. Some animal rightists say they are against animal suffering at the hands of experimenters but they have been known to let animals continue to suffer while they document their case. Meanwhile, instances of proven cruel-

ty by experimenters abound. The government, in some instances, has covered up these expensive and foolish experiments but the wilful destruction of property by animal action groups causes the cost to climb higher.

Foolish animal experiments (apparently in the high percentiles) and the disregard of constitutional rights cannot be forgiven and must be discontinued. Two wrongs do not make a right! This is the United States. We believe in debate on any issue and majority rules. So debate and stop being criminals. Both sides of these issues should stop calling each other names, manufacturing statistics, making insupportable statements, committing crimes and generally acting like juvenile delinquents. Present your case calmly, honestly and passionately and the American Public will render its decision.

Mike Burgwin is the Executive Vice President of the National Animal Control Association (NACA) as well as Editor of its publication, The NACA News. The above is an editorial which appeared in the March/April 1991 issue of that newsletter and is reprinted here with permission.



The American Kennel Club reports a drop in the number of individual registrations in 1990. However, the number of litter registrations increased by 1.26%.

For the eighth consecutive year, the Cocker Spaniel was the most popular breed in the United States. The top ten rankings for 1990 are as follows:

1. Cocker Spaniel
2. Labrador Retriever
3. Poodle
4. Golden Retriever
5. Rottweiler
6. German Shepherd Dog
7. Chow Chow
8. Dachshund
9. Beagle
10. Miniature Schnauzer

The bottom five rankings, "The Last-But-Not-Least Breeds," are:

127. Otterhounds
128. American Foxhounds
129. Sussex Spaniels
130. English Foxhounds
131. Harriers



The Wolf Hybrid—Should You or Shouldn't You?

Nancy J. Taylor

Why would anyone want to own a wolf hybrid? They certainly have been in the news lately. They have been called everything from "The Pit Bull of the Nineties" to "Cujo" and have been labeled unpredictable, vicious, schizophrenic, etc. Why then would someone, like myself, want to own one or more of these animals? Let me tell my side of the story and then you be the judge. Is the wolf hybrid really that awful or is it the target of those who judge by hearsay, by childhood stories, and even by envy?

"You own a part of the 'wild,' which is a privilege not to be taken for granted."

Many people have the desire to own an exotic-looking animal that has a domesticated temperament, thus the wolf hybrid. Along with this ownership goes a tremendous amount of responsibility. You own a part of the "wild," which is a privilege not to be taken for granted. This privilege requires much patience, love, understanding, and time on your part. If you are not willing to put this type of commitment into owning one of these magnificent animals, then please DO NOT own one. There are many wonderful dogs out there that require a lot less. If you do own a wolf hybrid and you are willing to take the time to do it right, your reward will be having a beautiful, intelligent animal that will be your loyal, loving companion for life!

I bought our first hybrid three and one-half years ago after losing my beloved "Rocky," a collie mix. For the past six months, I had been reading about wolves, and the more I read, the more I wanted one. I had talked to different breeders and owners of wolf hybrids and got a wide variety of input except for one statement which was, "Once you own a wolf, you will never go back to a dog." I thought this was absurd since Rocky and I were so close. Rocky died very suddenly, and I was devastated! After several months of mourning, I had to fill the void in my life and started looking at wolf hybrid puppies. Boy, were they cute!! They looked like cuddly little teddy bears with such innocent little faces. Well, I found a beautiful silver gray little male that absolutely stood out from any-

thing else I had ever seen. I told my husband about him, and the next day we brought "Shiloh" home. My husband, Bill, carried him into the truck as if he were leaving the hospital with his firstborn son! That first month we were filled with questions about behavior, diet, discipline, etc., and the breeder was right there with the answers. Soon after we brought Shiloh home, we could see the difference between a wolf puppy and a dog puppy. These little guys were *smart*, reasoned things out and then helped themselves! For instance, we kept Shiloh up close to the house for the first couple of months; and Bill would spray down the patio, etc., every night. Pretty soon Shiloh decided he would help daddy; and when we came home from work, Shiloh had already unwound the hose and had it out on the patio ready for use. There was only one thing different now—the hose squirted from several holes instead of just one.

Shiloh, like most puppies, loved to chew so we had to make sure that everything "chewable" was out of reach. I soon discovered, however, that his favorite things to chew on was Me! I also learned that he would play bite, which was a "no-no," or affectionately gnaw on me, which was okay as this was a display of love. So, I discouraged the one but encouraged the other. The breeder also told us the best way to discipline him was by putting him on his back and telling him NO when he did something bad. Biting should be discouraged by a pinch on the nose. This form of disciplining worked very well with him. He understood it as his wolf parents used it, and it strengthened our relationship. We would always love him up after a discipline session so he felt loved and secure. We were told to discourage rough play, and I am so glad we did as Shiloh is well over 100 pounds now. He is always careful around me; and when he stands up to give me a kiss, I don't move an inch.

Almost every minute we were home, either Bill or I was with him. He would miss us when we were gone, and what a greeting when we got home! We really had to brace ourselves because he was all over us. Since wolves are very sociable animals, they require companionship. Sometimes we worked long hours dictated by owning a large insurance agency. So we decided to get Shiloh a mate.

"Shana" came to us at the tender age of 7 weeks. Unlike Shiloh, she had

not been hand raised; and we were about to learn how important that is. I held her in my arms on the way home; and, with the exception of some minor car sickness, the ride went well. When I put her down, she scurried to the farthest corner of the yard and was terrified. Next she dove under the dog house. When I tried to coax her out with some food, one of her baby teeth (thank heavens) almost went through my finger. What a shock! The breeder had not prepared us for this, and we certainly were not experienced hybrid owners by any means. Several things worked in our favor, however, and we were able to show Shana that we meant her no harm and loved her. Shiloh was the biggest help as she loved him dearly and trusted and learned from him. She would watch him interact with us and saw the love that was exchanged. I was the first one she decided to get to know, and the first time she came and laid down by me was quite a thrill. I let her make all the first moves, time passed and before long, she was mine. She was still cautious around Bill but came to realize that he, too, was a friend. Once he gained her trust, the games started.

First of all, wolves are notorious thieves; and she was no exception. Every time Bill would come with tools in hand to do some work, she was ready for him. She would lay perfectly still watching him with the face of an angel. As soon as he would lay down a tool and turn his back, it was gone! After several time consuming walks around the yard, it would turn up and she would get bawled out. Soon Shiloh learned that if he would retrieve the "stolen" tool before dad realized it was gone or had to set out to find it, Shana would not have to go through a lecture. So, she would steal and he would retrieve!

Next we decided to install a water faucet on their half acre, and they were ecstatic to see dad coming out with all sorts of tools and gadgets, all for them. How were we to know that Shana did not approve of a water faucet in HER yard. She proceeded to remove it. Before we knew it, there was a gusher out back. So Bill fixed it, and Shana took it out! Each time Bill put it back, he added another gadget to make it "impossible" for Shana to remove it; and each time it was removed. Okay, now they are down to mental games and challenges. Bill came home all smiles one day and said, "I got her. She won't undo this." He set out for the

Continued on page 6

The Latham Letter, Summer, 1991

How High the Price?

Terry Jenkins

When I was about seventeen years old, I decided to get a wild pet. I wasn't too particular about what sort, at first, so long as it was wild. I spent my childhood deeply involved with animals, and wild ones were especially fascinating to me. I had grown up with pet snakes, I had known of pet raccoons, and a pet opossum poking its head out of a knapsack had once made quite an impression on me, but that was about the extent of my experience. Finally I settled on a wolf, I think because of my particular interest in dogs. No one I knew of had ever even encountered a pet wolf, so firsthand experience was pretty much out of the question. I found very little literature about wolves, but I read everything I could get my hands on, and none of it spoke against keeping wolves as pets. I came away realizing there was really very little known about wolves, and much of what was "known" was, in fact, only assumed. There began to be more purpose behind my dream. It would be a lifetime commitment, to learn all I could and to share what I learned. It was a bigger responsibility than I ever dreamed.

"...how could anyone expect to undo in one generation, or several, what nature spent millions in perfecting?"

So I knew what I wanted before I got Bonnie. I wanted her, first of all, to really know she was a wolf, so I arranged not to pick her up from the zoo until she had opened her eyes and lived with her family for a time. I intended to raise her on my parents' farm, to socialize her to the chickens, horses, dogs, and numerous cats. It never occurred to me she might not be just another member of the family, like the dogs were. I expected she would ride in the back of my old Chevy pickup on outings to the lake with the dogs and me. And I wanted her to become an "ambassador" wolf, like a couple of other wolves of which I had heard, so that she could teach children what the Big Bad Wolf was really like.

What I got was an infant creature that knew beyond a doubt she was a wolf, that I was not, and that I was directly responsible for removing her from her rightful family! That first night



home, she mourn-howled incessantly on the vast linoleum kitchen floor; but she also knew that a seventeen-pound tom cat was easy prey for a wolf cub that was all of twenty days old (and weighed perhaps four pounds), so she bowled him over and attempted to disembowel him on the spot. The experience was one the cat and my family never forgot, and the first shadow of doubt began to creep in around the edges of my dream. On the second night, when she was three weeks old, I offered her some cooked liver from my plate "to see if wolves like cooked meat." The next moment, she had climbed up my leg like a cat, braced her back against my chest, and arrived in my plate, gobbling everything on it with terrible growls! The family was in shock. In the following days, she began to dominate me, her little body rigid as she "rode up" on whatever part of me was available, with fierce growls responding to every one of my moves. Worried, I contacted the zookeeper, some dog trainers, and a malamute breeder, wanting to know how to proceed. Their collective advice was to "treat her like a mother wolf would, pick her up by the scruff and shake her, throttle her, growl ferociously, make her know you're the boss!" There was no one else to call, no books to read, and obviously I had to do something, so I took their advice. What happened was that the small wolf that had begun

to trust me saw that I was not to be trusted, that I was unreasonably violent, and was to be avoided at all costs. Instead of submission and love I got mistrust and defiance. So I did an about-face and let things revert to the way they had been. Bonnie happily dominated me for the rest of her life.

At six weeks of age, Bonnie killed her first chicken. The act in itself was not appalling to me, since most puppies must first kill a chicken before learning it is the "wrong" thing to do. But, as I approached her to take away the chicken and discipline her, she left her prey and came after me in the most convincing display of aggression I had ever seen. It was just about five minutes before I made up my mind, once and for all, that it wasn't just a display, that it was going to be my responsibility to keep the chickens away from Bonnie, and that training her was not in the picture.

By the time she was six months old, it became obvious that she was going to be very selective about whom she liked, whether they were family members or not. Riding in the truck to the lake was another plan I scrapped in short order, and, although she enjoyed many trips there during her first two years, it was in a secure cage built onto the truck. During her third year, she became seriously aggressive to unfamiliar dogs on our outings. It became

Continued on page 7

The Wolf Hybrid

continued from page 4



Nancy Taylor with Hache Hi and Hoonakwa

back yard laughing all the way with his PVC pipe, metal stripping and "S" clamps. Shana assumed her angelic position, Shiloh supervised, and the faucet was in place. He came back into the house and we waited our usual ten minutes. My money was on Shana. After ten minutes, there was no water spouting out and he hurried back to check it. Everything was off, laying neatly beside the faucet, but it was intact. That was her way of saying the game is over and she won. From that day on, she left the faucet alone unless we changed her yard in a way she did not like. Then, out it would come!

My biggest thrill was when Shana had her first litter of pups. By this time the bond between us was as strong as a human can hope to have with an animal. She trusted me implicitly. Shiloh and Shana had dug their den, and the big day came. Poor Shiloh was restricted to a run as we soon learned she wanted him in the yard but NOT close by! I was allowed to sit by her; and for the first time in my life, experience a live birth! She had eight beautiful babies and knew exactly what to do. I know I was much more nervous than she was. After a couple of days, I was allowed to pet them but could not pick them up for about ten days. Bill was permitted to see them if he would sit down. I could see them grow and change almost daily; and when they were three weeks old, Shiloh was allowed to see his babies. What a super daddy he was. He was so gentle, and I loved to watch him kiss and play with them. We truly had a family unit now living out back. When

the babies were out playing and a threatening noise or situation came up, just one look or yip would send them running for their den. When it was time for bed, Shiloh would help Shana round them up and get them into the den. Then they would lay close by and enjoy the rest of a quiet evening with us while the little ones were tucked in for the night.

Finding good homes for the babies was so hard, and still is. When you have spent days and weeks with these little cubs feeding, protecting, and caring for them, it is awfully hard to hand them over to someone you don't know. I make sure all of our babies are well socialized so that the new

owners will not have the struggle we had with Shana. They love and trust humans when they leave us and we make it our business to find homes where that trust will not be betrayed. Most of the people who own our babies have become our friends.

Once you own a hybrid, it seems that you cannot stop with just one or two. Our third hybrid, "Hoonakwa," has not only been a wonderful addition but is also responsible for our move from Arizona to Idaho. We came to Idaho to pick her up and decided to make a week's vacation out of it. We fell in love with the area and found a perfect home. Hoonakwa is one of the sweetest animals in the world. When she was young, however, she loved to bite! She would bite any part she could get her mouth around, and this was really her only fault. She knew what "don't bite" meant, but was being a wolf and asserting her independence. After about six months and many nose pinches, she stopped biting. I guess she finally outgrew it. Hoonakwa is incredibly fast and loves to run. In fact, one day we forgot to put the lock through the latch on her pen when we left and went into town. When we came home, she was out running around visiting the other pens and oh so happy to see us. We discovered she had unlatched the gate and let herself out. We were so thankful that she had stayed home and learned a valuable lesson.

After belonging to a wolf club in Phoenix, reading many books, and owning three hybrids, we decided to purchase the closest thing to a pure

wolf that we could. "Cherish" was just what we were looking for, and we brought her home right after we got to Idaho. She was seven weeks old and very well socialized. She definitely knew what she wanted, and shortly we did too! When we came here, we brought two of Shana's babies with us and put them all together in one pen. She particularly liked one of the little males; and whenever he would lay down, she would flop on top of him with her head facing his tail and lay there for as long as he would put up with it.

I remember the time we put a well in, and the drilling was going to be right next to her pen. We moved her into Hoonakwa's pen for a few days. She, Hoonakwa, and "Hache Hi" all got along well since they were all quite young. When it became time to put her back into her pen, she thought Hache Hi was also coming. When she discovered he was still in with Hoonakwa, she threw a fit until we brought him over. She would have nothing to do with us and would charge the fence as though she were trying to go through it. She was only about three months old and already VERY opinionated!

"...Cherish shows...she loves and trusts me, it is hard to believe that I am with a wild animal."

She was, and still is, a lover, though, and is very generous with her kisses. She loves to have her belly rubbed and have us chase her when she steals her food dish. She is a year old and still very friendly to most strangers. She is very open with me but a little more cautious with Bill, simply because he is a male. She plays very rough and I am constantly on guard when I am with her. As she advances toward maturity, she is becoming more aware of her strength and actions and is learning to be more careful around me. Again, once the initial greeting is over when I first see her, she settles down and we can get into some serious hugging and belly rubbing. When Cherish shows me how much she loves and trusts me, it is hard to believe that I am with a wild animal.

We acquired "Timber" a short while ago, and he is Cherish's mate. We rescued Timber from the Humane

Continued on page 8

The Latham Letter, Summer, 1991

How High the Price?

continued from page 5

impossible to take her out by myself since she was so strong I could not hold her back, even though I was more than double her weight. On the last occasion I did take her out alone, two foolish and unleashed Dobermans approached us down the beach. Bonnie gleefully dragged me toward battle, and my only recourse was to head out to deep water, where she swam strong circles around me, with her head, hackles, and tail high above the water, roaring all the while. The Dobermans' owners, eventually seeming to sense there was something not quite right, loaded up their dogs and left. Finally, her future as an ambassador wolf was not bright. Children always made her act like a big bad wolf, and she was suspicious of adult strangers.

So there I was, with a maturing wolf that fit none of the roles I had laid out so nicely for her. I found myself in the position so many disillusioned exotic-pet owners reach—stuck with the prospect of keeping for life a wild animal that was costly, assertive, dangerous, and destructive and, although friendly to me within limits, not at all a "pet." It was unthinkable to destroy or get rid of Bonnie. We had grown very close. I had learned many lessons during my friendship with her. I knew now that wolves, regardless of birthplace, are as wild as the storm blowing over the mountains, that they are undeniably formidable predators, and that they are *not* suitable as pets! I felt bad about having gotten a wolf in the first place and wanted to do something to help keep other wolves out of the nightmare of pet situations.

So what did I do? I launched into a wolf-hybrid breeding program that was to span a number of years and more lives than I care to place on this paper. At least two wolf-wise friends advised against this venture, one out of hard-learned compassion, the other out of concern for the reputation of wolves and the safety of children. But I believed I could do better than the dark scenarios they forecast. What follows is only a small portion of my experiences as a wolf-hybrid breeder.

My intention was to find a mate for Bonnie that could produce pups that were very wolflike in appearance, so they would satisfy the urge to have an exotic pet, yet also very doglike in temperament, and therefore suitable as pets. He must be able to produce hybrid pups that were "safe" pets, since I knew now that wolves were not. At last I found him. Togiak was one

of the sweetest, gentlest Alaskan malamutes I've ever met, as well as an AKC champion with an excellent background. I felt certain this distinguished dog would leave his desirable genetic stamp on a litter of first-generation wolf hybrids. Of the five resulting exquisite pups, one male was very wolflike and wild. After his new owner took him, he was never heard from again and could not be traced. One female, which I kept and of whose sweet nature I never had a doubt, was also exceptionally wolflike. Sadly, she figured out how to climb over the overhang on the wolf pen and was killed on the highway. My heart aches for her still. About the remaining three I expect you will form your own judgments.

***"I knew now that
wolves, regardless of
birthplace, are as wild
as the storm blowing
over the mountains..."***

Alphie failed in her first home as a pet, turning terribly shy by three months of age. Her second home, as a companion to an adult pure wolf, lasted only until she began nipping at her owner's legs when he cleaned the pen. Her third home lasted a full year. She lived with Arrow, a three-quarters-wolf male that had been rescued but was too shy to touch, as was she. They made a happy couple. Nothing was expected of them. But, one day while the family was gardening, the baby toddled over to the shy animals unnoticed. Alphie grabbed him through the wire and shredded his arm. One hundred stitches on a soft, tiny arm. Alphie was killed. I could only fault his owners for not having a safety fence to keep the child away.

Storm was big, soft, and beautiful, and his human family was wonderful. He enjoyed free run of a large yard, got lots of house time, and played gently with the children. But the owners never built the maximum-security pen I made them promise to build, and, as luck would have it, Storm turned out to be one of those hybrids that did everything in the book. He jumped over, then ripped through the fence to play with the neighbors dog. He ignored "hot" wires. When his owner chained him as a last resort, he ate not one but

two holes in the family's (rented) house large enough to admit him. His second home was in a large, wolf-proof, L-shaped kennel with a pure wolf companion. Not shy of strangers, he readily accepted his new owners. The entire yard was enclosed in six-foot chainlink, but neighbors were over for a barbecue within the yard, and their unattended child was climbing the kennel fence, when Storm grabbed him and severely mangled his leg. Storm was spared the bullet and given to a breeder. He lived for eleven years and sired hundreds of puppies. What are their stories?

Blue was the most doglike of the litter but, from the age of three weeks, his temperament was cold steel. He was cautious of new people but feared them not a bit. At three months of age, he began lifting his leg to urinate. At six months he had begun testing any adult but me, looking into their faces while jabbing and pinching their legs. At nine months, I knew beyond doubt that he was dangerous to children. When he was a year into his life, people were often terrified of him—even though he was securely penned: his defiant stance and cold, pale yellow stare could make your skin crawl. More than one person advised me to destroy him before "something happens." I refused—I loved him and knew he liked me. Besides he was Bonnie's favorite! Beautiful he was, so powerful in a slate blue coat. Destroy my Blue? Never! But, during his third year, he began to threaten me when I spent daily time in the wolf pen. He was second ranking in a group of seven other wolves and hybrids. My routine involved cleaning up the large wooded pen, then just sitting and visiting or watching the animals, sometimes joining in their games. Long before, I had learned (the hard way) to stay out of dominance struggles, so I was no threat to Blue. But he began circling me, staring in my eyes and waiting. It got to where I had to sit with my back against a fence and always carry the poop scoops, to brandish and keep him back. I had a cold, sick feeling in my gut. My husband, Dan, was worried about me going in while he was at work. Finally Blue fought, beat, and nearly killed the alpha Diamond. With Blue as alpha, I could never enter the pen again, and I knew he would shortly finish off the ever gentle Diamond. I shot him as he stared down at me from the highest platform, his new throne. When I entered the pen to

Continued on page 9

Page 7

The Wolf Hybrid

continued from page 6

Society. To make a long story short, his former owners called me and asked if we could take him. Bill and I went to see him and found a beautiful animal, with a wonderful disposition and the saddest yellow eyes I have ever seen, in a small pen. We were fortunate to be able to obtain his background information from both the owners and the breeders. Timber, who is only seventeen months old, fit into our family as if he were here from day one. He is just as happy as all the others to see us, gives his share of kisses, and crowds in for his share of hugs and petting. He enjoys his freedom now, and most of the time we will see him and Cherish running and playing.

When we come home, we are always greeted with the most beautiful serenade of various howls. Sometimes they will howl if a visitor comes, especially a regular visitor. The other day the Schwan Foods representative came and they did not make a sound. He has been coming for quite awhile and always enjoyed hearing them and felt welcomed onto the property. His first comment to me was, "Where are the wolves?" "Are they okay?" Everyone enjoys their uniqueness, and first-time visitors can't wait to go out and see them. They also enjoy the company and enjoy the oohs and aahs and petting through the fence.

If you are going to own a wolf hybrid you MUST have the proper facilities in which to keep them. Some prefer to have them in the house with them.

This does not always work out, especially with your higher percentages [closer to pure wolf]. If you always remember that you own a wild animal, and not a dog, you will stay out of trouble. They need a large fenced-in area with some trees, lots of water, and some sort of shelter. The pen should be escape-proof with either hot wiring it or having ground wire attached to a seven to eight foot high fence. They do not belong on a chain or in a well-groomed back yard. Wolves love to dig, eat trees, chew, and climb on everything imaginable. You cannot change this instinctive behavior so put them where you will all be comfortable. They will be happy and so will you.

As a rule, wolf hybrids love children but should NEVER be left alone with them. They play rough and may innocently hurt a child, or the child may unknowingly tease or hurt the animal. Why take a chance of allowing an accident to happen? Remember, a wolf hybrid is a part of the wild.

Responsible ownership is what owning a wolf or wolf hybrid is all about. Responsible breeders sell well-adjusted and socialized animals with lots of follow-up and information to the new owners. If these two requirements are not met, accidents, bad headlines, and heartbreaking stories are the end result. In all the time we have owned our animals, they have never threatened us. We have never had any "close calls" involving anyone else. Strangers do not belong in their

pens. This is their territory, and they have the right to protect it! We don't take chances.

A wolf is a very independent animal; if you want to own one, you have to have a lot of patience and understanding. They learn very quickly but may not always respond to the command. They are not being bad, they are being wolves. Can you put up with this? Will you mistreat them if they don't always obey? This animal may not be for you.

The wolf hybrid is not the proper animal for everyone. Many people today still fear the wolf because they do not understand him. He is a very curious animal that will trash a home if left unattended in it or get into trouble is allowed to run loose. He has an incredible amount of energy and strength and does not mature until two years of age; so the "puppy stage" lasts for quite awhile.

"As a rule, wolf hybrids love children but should NEVER be left alone with them."

The wolf is a pack animal; and you, as owner, will become a member of the pack. It is important that you are the "alpha" member so that you will be the one calling the shots.

If these animals were bred by responsible breeders and sold to responsible owners, would they be in the news today as "the pit bull of the nineties?" Is it the animal or the people? I would like to see the blame applied to the proper source. I recently saw an advertisement that stated: "Use teeth instead of bullets!" Is it the wolf hybrid? You be the judge!

Will I ever be without a wolf hybrid? Never! They are magnificent animals that never cease to amaze me by their beauty, grace, and intelligence. With a quick glance from their enchanting eyes, they tell me that I am their friend, their companion, their master—for life!

Nancy J. Taylor is the President of the Inland Empire Wolf Association (IEWA) in Coconino, Idaho, which is affiliated with the American Wolf Hybrid Alliance. The stated objective of IEWA is dedication "to the future of the wolf and wolf hybrid as a viable alternative to the domestic dog." ♣

The Latham Letter, Summer 1991

Cherish; photographs for this article were provided by Nancy Taylor



How High the Price?

continued from page 7

remove his, finally, "safe" body, the wolves were all gentle and mellow. It seemed they had expected this.

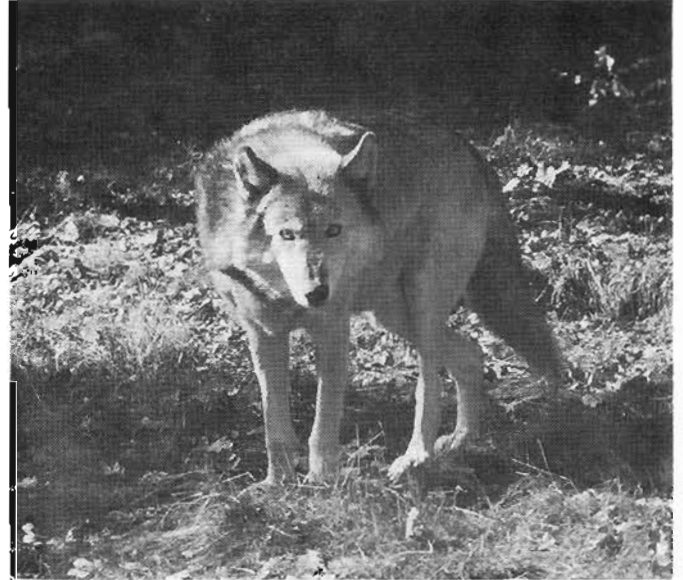
It wasn't Togiak's fault. It wasn't Bonnie's fault. It wasn't even the puppies' fault. It was mine, for selling wolf-hybrid time-bombs to people who refused to believe the warnings I steadfastly sewed into each sale. I was so picky in selecting the right homes! I was so careful to educate prospective buyers about what they were getting, or might be getting. But even as I chose this huggy-soft malamute sire, I guess I knew deep inside he couldn't do magic. Beyond a doubt, he was safe. His hybrid puppies were not. There is no such thing as a "safe" animal to cross with a wolf. The wolf is first and foremost a formidable predator, and if not even thousands of years of domestication have made him thoroughly safe (as evidenced by the many unsafe dogs we all have known) how could anyone expect to undo in one generation, or several, what nature spent millions in perfecting?

"...I now voice a strong opinion about hybrids not being suitable pets..."

My career as a breeder came to a close. More often than not, I now voice a strong opinion about hybrids not being suitable pets and try to convince other breeders to see the tragedy their programs are causing. I have kept my own animals all these years (Bonnie died just shy of sixteen years) but not without price. After seeing all the trials and tragedy we imposed on the wolves—and they imposed on us—friends and family members made it clear they felt we were foolish to drag around "those animals." Finding a home where you may keep them is not easy, whether renting or buying. Every place we lived with the wolves and hybrids—and, I regret to say, there were many—we had neighbor trouble. Wolves cause suspicion in neighbors, whether they are next door in town or twenty miles down the mountain and just happen to own a wilderness parcel near yours! Permits to keep the wolves do not protect you from neighbors who are either unnerved by the presence of wolves in the area or object to their singing. We were called on

to defend the wolves in court, public hearings, and in the local newspaper. They were accused of howling (true), getting loose and wreaking havoc (false), causing chickens a mile away to die of fright (false), and of causing the bears, mountain lions, and golden eagles to leave the vicinity (preposterous)!

Finally, in 1982, I came to work at the Folsom City Zoo, a small zoo in Northern California which houses a number of non-releasable North American native wild animals and, notably, discarded wild-animal pets. Here I have been witness to the tragic stories of countless unfortunate wild-animal pets. My experience with wolves and hybrids and, now, the zoo, has led me to realize that the majority of exotic pets (and here I include hybrids) are dead before they reach the age of three. Although this is a home for refugee animals, it is still a zoo, not a refuge, operated with city dollars, and under a master plan, which means we can offer refuge to perhaps a lesser number of animals than could a private refuge. Most of the animals living here had only euthanasia in their future, and most of the hundreds of animals we turn away are killed. During the first three years, the animals most often offered to the zoo were yearling raccoons, but, over the last five years, the wolf hybrid has risen to this ill-fated station. Frequently we receive requests for information about how to handle a difficult situation with a wolf hybrid. More often it is a desperate plea for a home for an animal that has turned out to be nothing like the owner expected, more like a wild animal than he/she is prepared to handle, and a big problem the owners need to unload. The zoo now has a permanent exhibit of wolf hybrids as an educational public service. Signs on the exhibit tell the true, unhappy, stories of hybrids within and stress the serious drawbacks of such animals as pets. I know the strategy helps, but it reaches so few, and most of those it does reach believe, as I did, that they can do it better.



The strongest and most painful lessons I have learned are the ones I am most grateful for. Now I know the far-reaching responsibilities one assumes when one "owns" an animal, especially a wild one, and I am committed to sharing that knowledge for the good of people and animals alike. Mine is a personal hell, for not only do I have many regrets about what I have done, but often the animals I must turn away are, in fact, descendants of pups I once sold. I am directly responsible for their tragedies, but the only atonement I can offer is in speaking out against the animal I so dearly love.

How High the Price? appeared in the Winter 1991 issue of HSUS News and is reprinted with permission of the author and the magazine. Ms. Jenkins, with her husband and two daughters, and remaining wolf hybrids, lives in California, and is employed at the Folsom City Zoo in Northern California.

✻

The wolf may lose his teeth, but ne'er his nature.

— Scottish Proverb

In Defense of Wolf Hybrids

Mary Harper-Bellis, M.S.

Due to recent media attention and increasing popularity of the breed, wolf hybrids have suddenly become the pit bulls of this season. Fraught with great emotion on both sides, the controversy seems to have reached the proportion of a good prairie fire and is fueled with equal measures of myth and misconception.

A wolf hybrid is a canid with a direct line to both *canis lupus* and *canis familiaris*. And, herein lies the first problem. Many people find mixing wolves with dogs offensive for a variety of reasons. The most common objections are that crossbreeding negates 10,000 years of evolution of our dear friend, *canis familiaris*, while disturbing *canis lupus*' instinctive aversion to humans. Both of these are arguable but the rationale is that what you end up with is a large aggressive predator who exhibits no fear of humans and, therefore, is dangerous. However, as we know, things are rarely so clear cut.

First of all, wolf hybrids, like all other creatures, are a curious mixture of heredity, instinct, upbringing, culture, health, and individual personality. Each factor contributes to the behavior of an individual in response to events in the environment. While we may predict what the behavior of a dog is likely to be in a situation, individual dogs may display an amazing variety in response to a single stimulus. When it is observed that wolf hybrids display this same individuality, they are criticized as "unpredictable."

Another criticism is that, when one buys a hybrid, he or she has no real way of knowing how much wolf and how much dog exist in the animal. This is probably true to some extent. It is extremely difficult to determine the exact coupling of genes in a particular zygote. Even if an animal is the offspring of a pure wolf bred to a pure dog, that animal is quite unlikely to be 50% wolf and 50% dog in any true sense. But this is a problem for breeders and registries rather than the world at large.

Being neither a breeder nor responsible for a registry, I would like to pass on what I have learned firsthand from wolf hybrids. As a Rehabilitation Counselor, I am trained to enter into relationships by establishing three necessary conditions for growth: empathy, congruence, and unconditional positive regard. That is how I approach humans and other creatures and it works very well in most cases. It has worked extremely well in allowing me

to enter into relationships with well over one hundred wolf hybrids of varying "percentages."

At the risk of negating everything I just said about individuality, I would like to state at the outset that, like Mae West, I have never met a hybrid I did not like. Those I know display an intriguing mixture of independence, affection, shyness, and a sense of self. They are not indiscriminately affectionate and thus allow a human to feel a certain challenge in being able to win them over. Of course, for every generalization, there is an exception. The exception to this one is Hong Kong Louie. Louie was given away by a breeder because of his looks. He is wolf, Rhodesian Ridgeback, and Chow Chow. Sound like a dangerous combination? The breeder thought so and gave him to the first people to show an interest in him. As it happens, Louie is the only hybrid I know who is indiscriminately affectionate, is afraid of ducks and loud noises, and tries to steal chewing gum out of the mouths of his many visitors.

"... wolf hybrids, like all other creatures, are a curious mixture of heredity, instinct, upbringing, culture, health, and individual personality."

In my profession, I work with veterans—primarily Vietnam combat veterans—who have various psychiatric disabilities. Most of the veterans I work with are just not going to relate all that well to cocker spaniels and poodles. They are combat experienced warriors who require special kinds of healing. They are attracted to and interact with animals in whom they can see a bit of themselves. I have seen these veterans healed simply through their relationships with hybrids. If you were lucky enough to see a PBS documentary entitled "Peacock's Grizzlies," you will remember it as the story of a bitter, disillusioned Vietnam veteran who healed himself studying the grizzlies of Yellowstone. Those bears made great therapists for David Peacock because he was able to accept in them the qualities he was unable to accept in

himself. Perhaps the hybrids offer the same opportunity.

My husband and I belong to the American Wolf Hybrid Alliance, an organization for people who live with wolves or hybrids. Even in our own organization, there are people who raise and breed hybrids either to enhance their own status or simply to make money. Although the organization works diligently to educate members, sometimes breeders sell animals to people who are wholly unprepared to deal with a large canid who requires as much love and attention as a child and who is likely to develop many of the habits of *canis lupus*: chewing, digging, climbing, marking territory with urine, protecting territory, and being truly happy only in a pack. These breeders also fail to inform buyers that hybrids must never be chained, need a large escape-proof space where they can be protected from potential harm, and can almost never be trained in the same way that dogs can be trained. None of these problems are the problems of the hybrids. They are human problems.

It has been reported widely that hybrids will only bond once and that, if the original owner for some reason cannot keep them, they must be destroyed. My husband and I have rescued five adult hybrids over the past few years and all five are well-adjusted animals today. They live in safe compounds and act as therapists for some of my clients who suffer from depression and bipolar disorder. We cannot take our rescued animals for romps in the city park because it is too stressful for them, and they have had enough stress in their lives. But my clients are perfectly safe with them and are allowed to freely love them.

Wolf hybrids need to share their lives with committed, responsible human companions. In return for the love and concern of their humans, hybrids share their unique personalities and love. They are probably not the best family pet available and should not be allowed with small children for safety sake. But they certainly have much to offer humans who take time and make the effort to get to know and understand them. Our first hybrid, now a beautiful 140 pound adult male, has eaten his way through an entire living room set trying to locate mice. But last month, as I cried inconsolably after learning of the death of a family member and Shaka sat with me, resting his huge paw on

Continued on page 12

The Latham Letter, Summer 1991

Of Wolves, Wolf Hybrids and Children

Monty Sloan

In the state of Michigan, wolf hybrids are less common than in other states, but they do exist. One such hybrid was kept on a chain in the back yard, but well away from the house. The animal was reportedly 7/8 wolf, although according to one very knowledgeable person who has seen photos and video footage of the animal, he is much lower in wolf content. At best he could be 1/2 wolf. This animal was reportedly good with children and the owners had no reservations about allowing children to play with or around him.

On the 15 of March, 1990, a friend of the animal's owner came over to visit and brought her 2-year-old child. The child had previously "played" with the hybrid and there had been no problems. While the mother was visiting, she put her child into the back yard. Shortly afterward they noticed the animal shaking something—that something was the child. Most of the throat was torn out; the child was nearly decapitated!

So what happened? How could such a tragedy take place? Wolves, dogs and hybrids all have the potential for killing. It is part of what they, as predators, do for a living. However, with many breeds of dogs we have greatly modified predatory behaviors through centuries of selective breeding. Some breeds such as the livestock guarding dogs (Anatolian shepherds, Italian Maremmas, Great Pyrenees, etc.) show diminished predatory behaviors. Yet the most trustworthy breed, the Maremmas, are only 65% trustworthy with sheep. Other breeds, such as the livestock herding dogs (border collies, German shepherds, etc.) or hunting dogs (pointers, hounds, terriers, etc.) display various modifications of the complete hunting behaviors seen in the wolf.

There are two important things that go into eliciting a response from an animal. One is the threshold, or level, at which the response is triggered, and the other is the intensity of the evoked behavior. When it comes to the wolf, the dog, or the hybrid, and their reactions around livestock, small pets, and even children, it's all a matter of degree to how they will react given a specific situation.

Have you ever wondered why children are told *never* to run around dogs, especially if they are strange dogs? Running is one of the things that elicits or "triggers" predatory behavior. Crudely put, a "trigger mechanism" releases a specific innate *The Latham Letter, Summer 1991*

(or instinctive) response to a specific environmental stimulus. Also, there is a specific threshold for the elicitation of the behavior that varies from animal to animal.

There are many examples of such trigger mechanisms in the animal world. With wolves, pups food-begging from adults will trigger regurgitation; a perceived threat to the den, such as by a bear or man, will trigger barking; hearing a distant howl will trigger howling, and so on. Just from these few examples one can see how we have altered dogs' behaviors through selective breeding. In general, it's much easier to trigger a barking response from dogs, and much harder to trigger howling, regurgitation, and most importantly, predatory behavior. In the latter case we have either selectively bred against predatory behavior, as in most livestock guarding dogs, or have altered the "threshold" for the elicitation of predatory behavior, as in most other breeds. In fact, the threshold for the elicitation of predatory behavior towards children in many dogs has been raised so high, again through selective breeding, that the likelihood of it ever being evoked is very small. In pure wolves, it hasn't been altered at all; hybrids are anyone's guess. Although a wolf hybrid's behavior and appearance will generally fall somewhere between those of a wolf and those of a dog, an individual's behavior can actually be better or worse than either parent.

Selective breeding has also changed the context and intensity of behaviors that are shown. In predatory behavior the usual routine is to give eye, then stalk, chase, catch, kill, and finally eat. Border collies will eye, stalk, chase, and then loop back to eye. At least that's the usual and desired routine. (Shepherds get a bit peeved when the border collie kills one of the sheep, which does happen on occasion.) As with border collies, all dogs' predatory behavior has been modified in intensity.

In most breeds, the motivation to hunt has been lowered. A dog that sees a running child may chase it, but even then, it will rarely follow through. Once a wolf is chasing a child (remember we have not done any significant selective breeding on wolves) the likelihood that it will complete the normal sequence is much, much greater than for a dog.

So, can a "pet wolf" be good with children? Well, that depends on what one means by "good." There are many

wolf hybrids, and some pure wolves for that matter, that have shown great tolerance and even pleasure in interacting with kids. However, at least in the sense that a dog that is good with children, can be fully trusted with them, a hybrid often cannot, a wolf never so.

The reason you *cannot ever* trust a pure wolf with children is because of the aforementioned threshold for the trigger mechanism regarding predation and the lack of any alteration of their predatory behavior once the trigger is released. Importantly, I must emphasize that these behaviors are genetically encoded—they cannot be eliminated by "proper socialization" or "training": at best they can only be suppressed.

"... these behaviors are genetically encoded—they cannot be eliminated by 'proper socialization' or 'training'; at best they can only be suppressed."

As an example of the power of this behavior, at Wolf Park we have a wolf, Imbo, who until he was six years old, was exceptionally good with children. He essentially viewed kids as super puppies—they would scratch his ears, rub his back, and wouldn't even food-beg! Then one day, late in the summer of 1987, Imbo saw a young child throw a tantrum. Imbo watched with interest as this child, about 20 feet away, was on the ground kicking and screaming. Then, only a week later, a child with Tourettes syndrome visited and Imbo watched as she flailed her arms about and made interesting noises. Again, this was from a distance. Since we only allow wolves to greet children while we walk them on leashes, Imbo had no opportunity to "test" either situation further. Soon after this, we could see a change in Imbo. A friend brought her infant and laid the child on a blanket within sight of the wolves. A few weeks before, Imbo would have approached the fence, head lowered, ears back—in a submissive manner as wolves typically do when they are approaching puppies. However, this time it was different. Imbo rushed up,

Continued on page 12

Page 11

In Defense of Hybrids

continued from page 10

my shoulder, I knew I could have no better friend.

So, as the controversy rages on, let us remember that our animals share our lives. If we are irresponsible or treat our companions as objects which enhance our own image or status, it is not the animal who should be blamed, criticized, or banned. Hybrids, like all of our animal friends, have a special contribution to make to our lives if we are willing to accept their gift unconditionally.

Mary Harper-Bellis is a Rehabilitation Counselor at Ramsey Canyon Hospital and Treatment Center in Sierra Vista, AZ and is the founder and acting director of Comin' Home Veterans Residence in Tucson, AZ. Mary received her Master of Science degree from the University of Arizona. She lives with her husband, Art, two packs of wolf hybrids, and three horses in Hereford, Arizona.



? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

The following are notices which appeared in local newspapers within a two day period. They are reproduced here as they appeared except that the telephone numbers have been deleted and the underlines added.

WOLF PUPPIES Very Friendly, intelligent, beaut. colors, 82%. Can deliver. \$350.

WOLF Cubs. 3rd generation. Timber Gray. 5M. Shots. \$175.

WOLF MALAMUTE Mix pups. 3rd generation. \$475 ea.

PUPPY LOST blk. & grey. M w/red collar. Tam junction area. Nds. special care & handling. Wolf hybrid.

Of Wolves

continued from page 11

ears pricked, and then ran excitedly back and forth along the fence, as though he were expecting food! It was very clear that Imbo's perception of children had changed, dramatically so—and this change occurred just through observation. He was simply exposed to the proper releasing stimulus and bang!: what he had treated as wolf pups, he now viewed as prey. Of course his days as a P.R. wolf were over. The important thing to realize is that your pet, or your friend's pet, may change. It may do so very quickly and it may do so with very, very tragic results.

One of the most difficult things to understand, but something that is very important when attempting to understand your pet's behavior, is that the behaviors that we all exhibit, our wolves and ourselves, fall under separate categories and are separately motivated. Just think about it for a moment. Do you know anyone who likes to hunt, or do you even hunt yourself? Do people hunt because they are hungry? Of course not. They hunt because they are separately motivated to do so, and they find the act of hunting reinforcing in and of itself. In other words, people hunt because they enjoy the act of hunting, the results are just a bonus. Wolves are much the same. They don't hunt because they are hungry, nor do they hunt because they are mad at their prey. Wolves hunt, catch, and kill prey, (and prey is often perceived as anything that acts like prey, running, struggling, etc.) simply because that is what wolves do for a living. What all of this means is, a wolf who is very friendly and sociable with people still has the potential of attacking if the proper trigger is released.

Of course there are many more accounts of children being attacked, even killed, by pet dogs. But you have to realize that not only are there many more pet dogs in this country than hybrids, but there is, overall, a big difference in how they are kept. Most people do not expect their dog to ever cause any problems, especially around children. On the other hand, most of the people I know are, to some extent at least, cautious about allowing their hybrids access to children. Those with pure wolves are even more so. Many with pures do not allow any contact with children at all, those that do hold the wolf on a leash. Overall, there are many more opportunities for dogs to attack children than there are for wolves or hybrids.

Of course, there are many hybrids that are good with children, even some pure wolves (as was Imbo). However, of the animals that I've seen or have heard of that are (or were) good with children, most are low in wolf content or are very young. The few exceptional animals are just that, exceptional. One of the problems I've seen in many people's perceptions about wolves is generalization. Just because some hybrids are good with kids, does not mean that all hybrids are good with them, or even that any particular animal will be safe and trustworthy around kids for all its life or under all circumstances. Any pure wolf has the potential of attacking, even killing a child. As for wolf hybrids, who would honestly be willing to take that chance with their children, not to mention the often fatal consequences if a hybrid should ever bite anyone? (Keep in mind the current rabies hysteria and how wolves and hybrids are often immediately killed for testing every time one bites a human.)

Everyone has probably seen newspaper ads describing hybrids for sale with one of the selling points being that they are "good with children." Some breeders will also claim this point in person. Keep in mind that there are a lot of breeders out there that are in it for the money. They look for means of selling animals and this is one. It's also important to realize that there are many hybrids being sold by inexperienced owners as well. Ignorant of their animals' potential and having never been informed themselves that there could be a problem, they in turn will sell animals that are "safe with children."

If you question any of this, bring a small child over to visit someone's animals. Now *through the fence* (and make sure the animal cannot get over the fence) let them see the child. See how they react. Of course if the animals are shy, your presence will affect their reaction and you will need the animal's owner to be the one to show your child to the wolves and you can watch from a window. If the animals take a keen interest in the child, orienting to it with an intense stare, or even if they just have their ears pricked, their tails up, their hackles up, or they run along the fence excitedly, those animals are potentially dangerous around small children. If, on the other hand, the animals make a slow submissive approach, ears laid back, tail partially tucked and show all the friendly behaviors that they show

The Latham Letter, Summer 1991

when they are shown pups, the animals are probably safe at least under supervision. However, I must emphasize, this does not mean that they will also be safe around children who run, fall, scream, or in any way trigger that predatory response, or that they will be safe around children all their lives. (Again, remember Imbo was six years old before he changed and he is but one of many "P.R." wolves that I know of that has "changed" and can no longer freely greet the public.)

"Any pure wolf has the potential of attacking, even killing a child."

Getting back to the child recently killed in Michigan: imagine a hybrid who is good with children, yet is kept chained up—a very important part of what happened. Any animal on a chain is deprived of any normal social needs. Many of the chained animals that I have seen show marked signs of social deprivation. They are easily excitable, very rough and sometimes aggressive when approached. This is just speculation but when the child walked up, the hybrid probably became very excited. Someone was coming over to socialize with him! Now imagine what happens when a large animal, weighing many more times more than a small child, in all his excitement accidentally knocks the child down. What do children do when toppled, and perhaps scratched? They scream and kick. This is just the thing that will trigger a predatory response. The animal does not mean to do it, *it is programmed to do it.*

The really tragic thing is that this was fully preventable. The mother should have known better than to leave a small child unsupervised in a back yard with any large dog. The owner should also have known better than to allow anyone to leave a child with the animal, and *most importantly, the hybrid should not have been on a chain in the first place.*

An animal, any animal, that was always good with children suddenly finds itself with its chain wrapped around a panicked, screaming kid, the situation could either trigger a critical reaction in the animal (it bites in fear, snapping anything nearby), or trigger predatory behavior. Either way, the

child is severely injured. Worse yet, unsupervised children in the neighborhood may find that teasing the animal gets an interesting reaction, the animal in turn is conditioned to become aggressive with kids. In fact, chaining used to be part of "agitation training" of attack dogs. The animal would be put on a chain and someone would dart in and out of its range teasing it to bite. Before long, the dog would become very aggressive.

All this does not mean that your animal will attack your child one of these days. It's more analogous to riding a motorcycle without a helmet. Of course you won't necessarily be killed if you ride without a helmet, but does that make it safe? No, it's a matter of chance, but with a much greater probability of being seriously injured, or even killed.

As tragic as this was for all the people involved, and for the animal as well, it is also tragic for all those who *do* keep their animals responsibly. Right now, Michigan is trying to pass a law prohibiting hybrids in that state. Following this tragedy, what do you think are the chances for the Michigan legislature to change its mind on the matter? Several other states are either passing or enforcing laws prohibiting hybrids, how many others will follow?

The *Anchorage Daily News* recently reported that a 4-year-old child was also mauled by a hybrid that was kept on a chain. She was severely bitten on the face and scalp, but did survive. A couple months ago a free-running hybrid in Colorado bit a running child. Last year two chained hybrids attacked children in Minnesota, one little girl was killed. A chained hybrid in New York severely mauled the owner's son. Another hybrid was adopted from an animal shelter, was not placed in a secure yard or pen and got out. A good samaritan found the hybrid and out of ignorance placed it in her yard with her own child. While she was calling the owners (the animal had tags) her child was killed. All these animals, and many more, were killed for their owner's mistakes. Like Michigan, many of these states have or are passing laws prohibiting hybrids. As for you, the owners and breeders out there, how many other states will also ban hybrids. Only time will tell.

What can we do? We can police ourselves. We can do all we can to convince people to be responsible owners and to build pens for their animals and get them off chains. Hybrid organizations can put clauses

in their registries requiring (as do lowlanders) that no animals are to be kept on a chain. Breeders should only sell to people that have already built a pen for their animals. If they can't afford a pen, then they can't afford the animal and we can't afford any more tragedies like these.

Monty Sloan is the Staff Photographer, Wolf Specialist, and founder and keeper of the Wolf Literature Search Service, at Wolf Park, Battle Ground, IN.

Wolf Park, established by Erich Klinghammer, Ph.D., is a 75 acre wildlife park where wolves live in large, semi-natural enclosures in large and smaller packs. See the related item below.

✦

Wolf Behavior Seminars

Erich Klinghammer, Ph.D. will conduct 6-day wolf behavior seminars for those interested in wolves and wolf hybrids.

Dr. Klinghammer, an ethologist, studies the behavior of wolves and American bison at Wolf Park. Wolf Park, in Battle Ground, Indiana, was established by Dr. Klinghammer in order to study wolf behavior in depth to augment the field studies of wolves in the wild. The wildlife park is utilized by animal behaviorists, researchers, zoo personnel, veterinarians, and students.

Dr. Klinghammer teaches ethology, animal behavior, applied ethology and psychology at Purdue University. His research program includes the study of aggressive and hunting behaviors in dogs, the social behavior of wolves, and he studies wolf and bison interactions—the only place in captivity where this kind of research is conducted.

The wolf behavior seminars are based upon the behavior research conducted at Wolf Park since 1972. They consist of lectures, discussions, films, audio-visual presentations, extensive observations of wolf behavior and hands-on experience with wolves. Attenders will learn proper handling and training procedures and the care requirements of wolves and wolf hybrids.

The 1991 seminars (each six days in length) are scheduled August 2-7 and October 4-9. For additional information, please contact Dr. Klinghammer at: Wolf Park, Battle Ground, IN 47920; (317) 567-2265.

✦

The Facts About Dangerous Dog Laws

Stephanie Robinson

During the spring and summer of 1987, dogs made national news. The media had discovered a seemingly unlimited source of horror perfect for exploitation in the headlines. They discovered that dog bites and dog attacks, when magnified and coupled with graphic pictures, capture the public attention. And if one report of such an attack was good, then obviously two was better, and so on.

Newspapers, television, and radio ran and reran clips of dogs engaged in the illegal "sport" of dog fighting. The public was given the message that something had to be done about these dogs because of what could happen if they were allowed to remain in society.

Unfortunately, no distinction was made between family pets and the tortured and crazed creatures of dog

fighting training. It was never mentioned that dogs are a product of their environment. If they are taught to commit acts of aggression, they will.

Local governments, bowing to pressure from the media-incited public, began to enact ordinances to ban dogs of a particular appearance. The "look" could apply to any of at least thirteen recognizable breeds, and any number of mixed breeds.

The American Kennel Club began a program to halt these discriminatory dangerous dog laws being enacted. The program was begun for two reasons. First, it was obvious that local governments did not understand enough about dogs and their behavior to draft reasonable and enforceable laws sufficient to protect the public. Second, if the discrimination was allowed to stand unchallenged, it would

only expand to include other breeds, resulting in a spread of anti-canine feeling throughout the country.

A packet of informational materials was developed and sent out to the governors of all 50 states, as well as to all 3,000 AKC clubs. The response and interest in the subject was overwhelming, and has been ever since.

The packet continues to evolve as more materials are uncovered. It presently contains policy statements from the AKC, National Animal Control Association, American Veterinary Medical Association, and four state veterinary societies. The policies all favor dangerous dog laws that apply to behavior, over those that legislate by appearance. Examples of model state, county, and municipal ordinances are included, as well as an article detailing some of the issues to be considered when drafting dangerous dog laws.

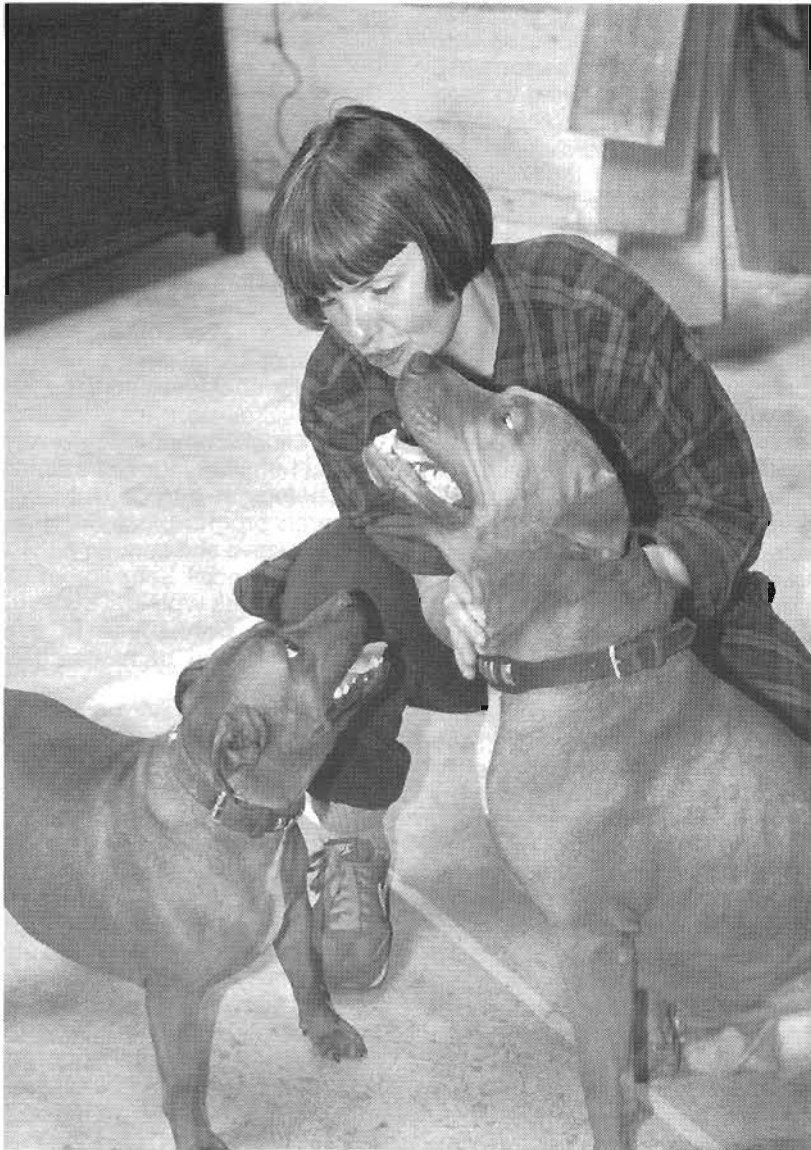
The American Kennel Club believes that no one breed of dog is inherently vicious. Individual dogs with individual circumstances make up the statistics on dog bites, attacks, and fatalities caused by such attacks. It is the AKC's policy to support reasonable, enforceable, and non-discriminatory laws governing the ownership of dogs. AKC believes that dog owners should be responsible for the actions of their dogs and laws that should first impose penalties on irresponsible owners and second, establish a well-defined procedure for dealing with dogs proven to be dangerous, which includes, if necessary, the destruction of such animals.

In addition, AKC encourages the adoption and enforcement of leash and "running at large" laws, laws against dog fighting, laws governing unsanitary conditions caused by irresponsible dog owners, vaccination and quarantine laws, maintenance and care laws, and laws governing local dog licensing.

In the four years that the AKC has taken an active part in dangerous dog legislation, one fact has become clear. Enforcement of local and/or state laws is the key to controlling a dangerous animal problem. In too many cases, local animal control is lax or nonexistent, and a tragedy inevitably occurs. Rather than act to correct that laxness, local governments give a knee-jerk response: a breed or group of dogs is banned or severely restricted.

That kind of reaction will always quell the immediate public outcry by getting rid of the offending dog. It also gets rid of numerous inoffensive dogs,

The Latham Letter, Summer 1991



Photograph courtesy of San Francisco SPCA

most of which are beloved family members. It sets neighbor against neighbor, and clogs the system with nuisance complaints.

It does not, however, get rid of the dangerous dog problem. This is because the owner is usually allowed to escape with a meaningless small fine. The problem dog may be gone, but the owner who created the problem dog still exists. And there is nothing to dissuade him from getting another dog and perpetuating the problem.

His second dog is bigger than the first and has different ears, and so does not conform to the description of the "forbidden" breeds. The second dog causes a second tragedy, and suddenly its description appears on what is to become a long list of "forbidden" dogs.

The AKC encourages local and state governments to legislate against the deed, not the breed. Threatening dogs are removed, regardless of what they look like. The family pets that physically resemble dangerous dogs are allowed to stay as family pets. With continued enforcement, a second incident from the same owner can be avoided altogether. Furthermore, the owners of dangerous dogs would be fined a significant amount, and maybe jailed as well. A second offense, if one somehow occurred, would be met with a larger fine and longer jail term. In cases involving a fatality, charges of manslaughter have been invoked.

Good dangerous dog laws also provide exemptions for dog attacks due to provocation. A dog that has been teased, tormented or abused cannot be expected to behave in a rational fashion. Nor should an abuser/victim assume that the dog will always be considered at fault in such an attack. Similarly, a dog that bites or attacks to protect its home or family from a criminal intruder should not be penalized. For a loyal family pet, such behavior is a natural defensive reaction.

The determination that a dog is dangerous and in need of special restriction or humane destruction must be made by those familiar with canine behavior. One court judge, one animal control officer, or one health commissioner should not be given total power over such determinations. A panel of volunteer canine experts should hear the evidence in the case and decide the dog's fate. Such a panel can consist of dog show judges, dog obedience instructors, humane society officials, dog breeders, animal control agents, and veterinarians.

The Latham Letter, Summer 1991



Photograph courtesy of San Francisco SPCA

These are the people who understand what motivates a dog; they can objectively separate fact from fiction and come up with the truth concerning an alleged attack or bite.

Dangerous dog laws should uphold the constitution right of appeal for the dog owners. If the owner disagrees with the decision made by a panel, the law needs to provide the mechanism to appeal it.

The issue has become serious enough for state governments to become involved. There are currently six states with reasonable, enforceable, and non-discriminatory dangerous dog laws, all enacted since 1989. These state laws in Minnesota, California, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Illinois, are distinguished by a clause in each that prohibits local municipalities from regulating dangerous dogs by breed. These states have recognized and identified the true problem as the owner, not the dog. They have taken steps to ensure the rights of the thousands of responsible dog owners while punishing the irresponsible ones. At least eleven other states will be or have considered similar legislation during the 1991 session. The statewide trend is clearly leaning toward ending the banning of breeds.

On a local level, the AKC has a listing of nearly 550 known ordinances to regulate dangerous dogs. Of these, nearly 300 are enforceable and non-discriminatory ordinances. Almost 130 of that 300 started out as breed-

specific proposals, and ended up as fair laws defining dangerous by deed, not breed. Another 25 breed-specific proposals were killed in favor of enforcing existing laws.

The AKC will continue to assist local and state governments in drafting dangerous dog legislation. In the past, the AKC has been invited to speak at local committee hearings, giving expert testimony. The AKC maintains a 24-hour toll-free hotline number for individuals to call in with reports of legislation or requests for help. A lobbying manual is available to teach the dog fancy how to work with their local and state governments to get good laws passed and bad laws stopped. We have donated \$350,000 in matching funds to the Canine Defense Fund, which funds legal challenges to unfair ordinances, and participated as witnesses and plaintiffs in the trials.

It is our hope that in the future such actions will be unnecessary. With proper enforcement of existing leash laws, the elimination of illegal dog fighting and continued education on the serious responsibilities of dog ownership, the tragic events that lead up to unconstitutional breed banning can be stopped.

Stephanie Robinson is the Legal Strategist/Public Affairs Coordinator for the American Kennel Club. For further information regarding the lobbying manual and informational packets, she may be contacted through: The American Kennel Club, 51 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010. ✻

Blessings and Burials

continued from page 1

peoples buried their dead and provided real food and such other life-supporting objects as tools, servants even workhorses and companion animals—implying a grave belief that the dead still needed such things in death.

Ritual burial stems from an instinctive inability or refusal on mankind's part to accept death as the definitive end of life. Despite the objective evidence of the physical decomposition caused by death, the belief persists that something of the individual being survives the experience of dying. In contrast, the idea of the extinction of the individual personality through death is a sophisticated concept unknown until the 6th Century BC metaphysical thought of East Indian Buddhism, and which finally appeared in the ancient Mediterranean philosophy of Epicurus sometime between 341 and 270 BC.

This belief that living creatures, especially sentient beings, survive death in some form has profoundly influenced human thought, emotion, and behavior. The belief occurs worldwide in most past and present religions and definitely shapes their evaluation of life, both human and animal, and its place and destiny in the universe. Mortuary rituals and funerary customs reflect these evaluations. They represent also the practical measures taken to help the dead achieve their destiny, and under certain belief systems, protect the living from the feared molestation of those whom death has transformed into a different state of being.

You'll have noticed I've been hedging my words a bit to include the so-called lower animal life within the scope of my commentary. That's because, with very few exceptions, the literature and archaeology, tends to lay the whole load of the meaning of life, death, spirituality, and the hereafter on the human animal. But by and large, beastly life and death are seen only in their relation to that superior being: man. (And dare I remind you that even today in some backward countries, "beasts" include women and children!?)

The evidence of the earliest deliberate burial lies in some Neanderthal graves dated to about 50,000 years ago. They were, in fact, the first people known to bury their dead in a manner that suggests that they may have believed in spirits and perhaps in an afterlife. In some of the graves, stone tools and other objects were

juxtaposed in a manner suggestive of special concern for the departed: goat horns circling a child's skull in Soviet Uzbekistan; huge cave bear skulls with a burial at Regourdou in France, and a circle of stones around a skull at Monte Circeo in Italy.

Other funerary customs, however, indicate a variety of notions about existence after death, about the destiny and potential of the dead. Contagious magic is suggested by bodies stained with blood-colored red ochre in an attempt to return a life force to them. Skeletons found buried on their sides in a fetal position were seen as evidencing a belief in rebirth. Or, if found tightly bound in a crouched position, were interpreted as signifying a belief that the dead might be spiteful and have power to harm the living.

"...by and large, beastly life and death are seen only in relation to that superior being: man."

Indeed, that the experience of death sometimes transformed the person into a state of being malevolently different from the still living person is an idea which shows in later mortuary rites and customs. And the proper funerary rite and ritual was held to be essential to permit the dead to depart to the place and condition to which they properly belonged. Failure to expedite their departure could have dangerous consequences. Ancient Mesopotamian texts stressed a belief that disease and other misfortunes could be caused by the improperly buried dead. Greek and Roman texts suggest undesirable otherworld fates for the unburied dead. (Antigone, e.g., suggests the unhappy fate of her two unburied brothers, and leads to the equally tragic fate of both her and Haemon, her fiance's, lives. As a matter of fact, the Hades and Purgatory of Graeco-Roman theology were baldly accepted into Christian theology when Dante made appropriate translations in his Divine Comedy! And, of course, the idea that the dead had to cross some barrier that divided the land of the living from the land of the dead occurs almost worldwide. The Graeco-Roman world believed the dead were ferried across the river Styx. Zoroastrians believed the dead crossed the Bridge of the Requirer;

Muslim and Scandinavian eschatologies have the dead crossing a bridge into heaven or paradise, and again, Christian folklore mentions a Brig 'o Dread, or Bridge of Death in order to "cross over.") Stemming largely from the middle ages and before, the demon and witchcraft mythoi (mythology) deal heavily with the results of imperfect and unholy burial rites. As currently portrayed by our demon movie and TV media, the horrors usually take on highly distorted beastly forms—a not-too-subtle acknowledgement of our basic animal nature kinship, however misleading and perverse it may appear.

For that matter, significantly few religious systems have regarded death as a natural event. Usually death is considered to be an overt attack on a life form by some demonic power or god of death, usually in some beastly form: Egyptian tomb art, for example, depicted Anubis, the god of death, either as a Jackal or zoomorphically as a jackal-headed human; the Etruscans depicted a fear-inspiring figure as striking the death blow, medieval Christian art depicted a skeleton wielding a dart, later a scythe; the "four horsemen of the Apocalypse" still used today depict Red War, Black Famine, Skeletal scythe-wielding Death itself, and a White Horseman usually interpreted as Christ, as causes of death.

In any case, death is believed to be unnatural, and all stories of the origin of Death begin with a belief that the physical as well as the spiritual "body" was literally immortal. And the desperate refusal for most human beings to accept a cardinal condition of existence is one of the most pathetic in the history of the race. The best known type of origin of death story is in Genesis 3: disobedience to Divine Command—a not at all uncommon cause of death story throughout the world. Among more primitive groups, death results from a god's curse unconnected with an act of disobedience, or the enmity or slackness of one of the lower animals is regarded as the cause.

In any event, it is this disbelief in the necessity of death and the attitude that death is unnatural which together create the problems associated with disposal of the corpses inevitably produced by the cardinal condition of existence we call "Death."

Ultimately it is the particular view held about the constitution of animal nature in relation to form or cause of death which produces the problem of

The Latham Letter, Summer 1991

rite and ritual in the disposal of the corpse. The chief object of disposal is to free the living from the "defilement" of death and to give rest to both the deceased as well as the living left behind. During the long slow rise (and fall) of civilizations, therefore, funeral rites were awarded or denied certain classes of the dead. Babies and children under the age of puberty or those uninitiated by tribal or social group rites (Christian baptism, Jewish Bar and Bas Mitzvahs spring to mind) were exposed, thrown on garbage dumps, or buried without rite or ceremony. Slaves and common people were similarly disposed of. But because the manner of death determines the fate of the deceased in the world of the dead, those who die a "bad death" had some specific non-rites coming to them. Number One, of course, was suicide and "maimed" rites (as in Hamlet for Ophelia) or none at all were the norm in both Christian Europe and pagan Africa. Death by lightning received mere burial since it was caused by direct action of a god. Any accidental death, attack by a wild beast, snake bite, fall from a tree, was caused by Divine anger, therefore given a hasty burial and no ceremony. Death by drowning was seen as a seizure by a water sprite or caused by witchcraft and given the same unceremonious disposal as the corpses of executed criminals, outcasts and women dying in childbirth. Those who died in debt went unburied until the debt was paid by relatives or friends. Interestingly enough, sacrificial victims, animals and persons held in reverence were anathema or tabu—their sacred qualities set them apart from the ordinary and therefore they were buried without rite or ceremony after their decease. Jesus of Nazareth fell into this category. Need I say more?

With or without ceremony, modes of disposal changed with the rise of civilization. Cannibalism and other economical use of the remains was obviously first. The sub-aerial disposal; body merely left on the ground away from the living quarters for action by hyenas, dogs, or vultures. Some Amerindians and Pacific islanders exposed them on scaffolds or in trees. Caves, either natural or artificial came next, with Egypt being the prime example. Water burials were easy for seafaring peoples, though mostly used for slaves and commoners. (Nobility were floated out to sea as their ships burned under them.)
The Latham Letter, Summer 1991

Inhumation came in early, actually, but its use and the position of the corpse was determined by such various factors as convenience, local custom, and the current philosophy concerning the nature of the life form. Preservation in the hut, or house, the corpse lived in gave way quickly and economically to the tomb, either above or below ground and usually a copy of the house. Cremation is also very old and in some ways, very new—again its use in combination with the other methods is determined largely by philosophy and local custom.

Now let's look at some prime examples of the results of such worldwide philosophy on death and burial of man and animals.

The graves and findings in the Old Crow area of North America, controversially dated to between 20 to 30 thousand years ago, give us our first indication of attitude and/or respect for companion animals. Canby (1979) described the find as "Our most surprising discovery...the jaws of several domesticated dogs, some of which appear to be at least 30,000 years old. This is almost 20,000 years older than any other known domesticated animal anywhere in the world.(p. 348)" His reconstruction of a theoretical log the hunter's chieftain might have kept suggests that perhaps "Our camp of 50 men, women, and children has several husky-like dogs to serve as beasts of burden, as hunters, or as mobile sources of food, since virtually all of our material needs are met by a single source—the animals we kill."

While there are no burials as such as in the Lascaux caves (Rigaud, 1988), the numerous 17,000 year-old drawing on the cave walls give us some indication of their attitude and

respect for the usefully real and symbolic spiritual essence of the beasts they lived among. And the pictorially slaughtered beasts, like the beasts in the Old Crow findings, served to "glorify" their master's status and perhaps served equally well in the after-life.

On the other hand, a less useful, more companion-able burial by the Natufian (Davis & Valla, 1978) in what is present-day Israel and dated at about 12,000 years ago is described as: "A human skeleton of indeterminate sex because the pelvis is damaged, elderly as judged by the dentition, lay flexed on its right side. The left wrist is partially under the forehead with the hand on the thorax of a 4 or 5 month old puppy, evidently buried complete with the human. Puppy is either a dog or wolf, but not a jackal." Certainly the Natufian and "its" puppy probably died simul-

Continued on page 18



Blessings and Burials

continued from page 17



taneously and this rare evidence of tenderness and respect for pethood was covered by a slab limestone "blanket."

Actually, the origins of animal worship go back to very early time, when the creatures themselves were the objects of religious devotion and different beasts may have been the local fetish or totem of individual groups. Later, the beasts serve only as representatives of particular gods and they are sacred because of their association with the creative divinity, not in their own right. Indeed, this is indicative of mankind's early acceptance of his own basic "animal" nature and equality with all animal life through a creative deity. It also partly accounts for the anthropomorphism (or zoomorphism) with which humans still express their attitudes and affection or disaffection for both wild and domesticated beasts.

All of which brings us to the most famous inhumations of sacred and pet animals in history (Spencer, 1982). From about 4000 BC, the Egyptians of the dynastic period worshipped specific gods and goddesses who happened to have links with certain animal species. Even those gods who were normally represented in fully human form had their own sacred animals. Amun, e.g., was represented by the ram and the goose, while Mut, his wife, was linked with the vulture. Temples for the gods included quarters in which the god's animals could be kept in captivity. Current findings list about 7000 species of such "sacred" animals. Heading the list of thousands, of course, were those animals representing the hierarchy of Egyptian deities. The Apis bull, the

Page 18

Amun ram, the Bast cat, the Hathor cow, followed by ibises, baboons, hawks, crocodiles, jackals and so on. And each of these animals had its own form of burial ceremony which depended on the importance of the deity and the special nature of the animal. The major cult animals had their own sacred cemeteries: The Serapeum, individual sarcophagi and linked in underground galleries where the embalmed sacred Apis bulls were interred with most of the pomp and ceremonial bestowed on pharaohs; rams, cats, dogs and jackals (Anubis), ibises, falcons, hawks, vultures, ichneumons (mongooses) snakes, cows and baboons in profusion, embalmed, mummified, wrapped and accorded the same honors an inhumation as that of Egyptian noblepersons put to rest. Whether all of these animal burials were sacred or whether some were companion animals and household pets sneaked into the burial honors disguised as sacrificial funerary offerings to the gods we are not prepared to say. Certainly, animal life was well thought of and considered on more equal terms with humanity by dynastic Egyptians than did their paleolithic predecessors and were more respected and valued for their particular beastly natures than they have ever been since about the third century BC and the rise of so-called Western Man. Certainly nowhere else in all the world has such respect and consideration for animal burial been seen.

Even the discovery of a carefully wrapped "favorite" dog included at the feet of a servant killed and buried with other typical funerary offerings of the newly discovered 1500 Moche Warrior-Priest's tomb in Peru does not indicate comparable attitudes toward useful or pet beasts (Alva, 1988; Donnan, 1988). The ornaments, tools and food were typical "thing" offerings, the servants and the dog were killed and buried with their "master" as useful sacrifices because they would be equally needed beyond the grave. Typical of inhumation customs and practices from Neanderthal times, but not necessarily typical of the reasons for Egyptian animal burials.

The archaeology of ancient China bears witness to similar typical burial practices with respect to inclusive animal inhumation (Watson, 1974). Paleolithic "Peking Man" finds included live and dead animal parts used to their most efficient extent and the residue all buried together in formal

graves. By Neolithic times, special housing for domestic animals were in evidence and a respectfully inclusive attitude toward beasts can be seen in the stylized anthropomorphic portrayals of men and beasts on the tolls and bronze ornaments and vessels found with the human burials.

In a 13th Century BC bronze age nobleman's tomb, a chariot and horses' skeletons still in harness, their charioteer, killed along with the horses during the funeral and buried behind the chariot, demonstrate the typical concepts and doctrines concerning the status of man and beast in nature and destiny. There are also ox scapulae with incised pictorial markings for oracle taking, stylized animals carved on the bone, pictures similar to carvings on the jade ornaments and tools also found in the tomb.

In a Shang tomb of the same time period, there is a dog in the sacrificial pit under the chief occupant of the tomb, and there are beheaded human victims, and skeletons of horses and dogs, obviously killed *in situ* and buried along the approach to the burial chamber. Actually, there is considerable evidence throughout the world that such slaying of companion persons and animals and entombing them along with their lord was a fairly common practice during the early periods of civilization. Chinese, Scythian, Scandinavian, Celtic and Egyptian examples spring most readily to mind.

More humans and economical, of course, was the next step where wooden, clay and metal models of the living "servants" and their useful tools and artifacts were substituted for the live sacrifices. Currently most memorable are the hundreds of horses, warriors, and servants cloned in clay and buried around the main tomb in the recently highly publicized Xiang excavation. Late dynastic Egyptian tombs used such non-living substitutes. The paper reproductions of the emblems of a person's "wealth" which are burned at Chinese funerals today are noteworthy.

Given all these descriptions and the basic reasons for burying dead animal life forms, the hard evidence for historic psychological reasons for burying beasts, with or without their owners, is difficult to determine. Perhaps, suggests an anonymous writer for U.S. News & World Report (Mar. 20, 1989), a need to survive the ice age and other natural upheavals spurred wolves and cat-family creatures to cast their lot with mankind's which would

The Latham Letter, Summer 1991

help them spread over the face of the earth as no other species' social order as their own and a competitor became a partner whom they would serve as hunter, herder, guard and, eventually, beloved companion. In return, they gained an insurmountable advantage in the Darwinian struggle. Certainly as domestication moved them inexorably up the scale of social intercourse, many humans accepted them more and more as equals until, currently, most of us tend to accord them full family status and, at least in our hearts, grant them the same spiritual feelings and attributes.

"Our own conception of human and/or animal nature ... determines the manner or mode in which we envisage the postmortem survival of ourselves and our companion animals ..."

Our own conception of human and/or animal nature, therefore, is presently on the line and it determines the manner or mode in which we envisage the postmortem survival of ourselves and our companion animals as well as less domesticated but useful food, laboratory and wild animals. Where the body is regarded as an essential constituent of individual personal existence, belief in a significant afterlife always entails the idea of the reconstitution of a decomposed corpse and its resurrection to what we think of as "real" (genuine) life. But the current dualistic concept of human and/or animal nature regards the "soul" as the intrinsic nonmaterial and immortal part of the body or life form and envisages postmortem "life" in terms of a disembodied existence for the soul. This dualistic concept, in many religions, also involves the idea of rebirth or reincarnation. Belief in postmortem survival also produces a variety of ideas concerning the destiny of the dead, again closely related to one's total concept of what is animal-life's ultimate destiny and meaning.

The inhumation of beasts, however, whether wild or domestic, with or without cremation, and with or without consideration and compassion for their spiritual rights and

privileges, has been controversial for millennia. Typically, the currently growing practice in the U.S. of treating household pets as full family members has created some sticky legal, political and religious problems for what used to be an almost private matter which was accepted and handled with dispatch and common sense until just a few decades ago. Most people who loved their animals, their pets, quietly buried them or had them interred with decent care and respect. Animal hospitals would quietly dispose of remains in keeping with current attitudes and desires. Animal cemeteries are almost as numerous as were the Egyptian ones I mentioned previously. For hundreds of years, special pets have even been cremated and/or interred with their (usually wealthy) owners without much fuss or furor from civil or religious authorities.

What all this ultimately boils down to, however, is probably best expressed by this little known section of a pseudepigrapha which is this magnificent summary of where things stood then and how things stand today. Certainly it puts our current human anthropocentrism into better perspective:

"It has come to pass that I, the Lord thy God, failed thee. For out of love I bestowed upon man the power of mind and choice above all other living animals and things. But this blessing has caused him to be imperfect and carries with it the seeds of his own destruction. From the Life-giving time of Adam, these creatures whom I created in my own image and likeness have perverted this gift of intelligence. They sacrifice spirit in the pursuit of matter. Their wisdom has turned to cunning. They heed not my commandments and, in fear of their transgressions, seek redemption through burnt offerings and the ritual prayers of priests. May they finally come to know that priests cannot absolve their transgressions. Mortal beings cannot grant mortal beings salvation in My Name.

"And say this unto the priests: Though you cloak yourselves in purple and fine linen and stand before splendorous altars, you have no power but to teach My Law. You cannot truly heal men or beasts nor redeem their children. The true redemption of living beings is reflected in the mirror of the individual soul, for in that sacred place do I dwell and no other. Not in your temples, or shrines, or tabernacles, for only in the mirror of the individual's own soul will the truth of that life be

seen. And though men have become imperfect creatures, still do they possess the power of choice. And in the goodness of that choice lies their own salvation—and the resurrection of My Love."

Readings

- Alva, Walter (1988) Art treasures from the ice age: Lascaux Cave. *National Geographic*, 174(4), 482-499.
- Arden, Harvey (1989) Who owns our past? *National Geographic*, 175(3), 376-392.
- Budiansky, Stephan (1989) The ancient contract. *U.S. News & World Report*, Mar. 20, 1989, 75-79.
- Canby, Thomas W. (1979) The search for the first Americans. *National Geographic*, 156(3), 330-363.
- Davis, Simon J. & Valla, Francois R. (1978) Evidence for domestication of the dog 12,000 years ago in the Natufian of Israel. *Nature*, 276, 608-610.
- Donnan, Christopher B. (1988) Unraveling the mystery of the Warrior-Priest: Iconography of the Moche. *National Geographic*, 165(5), 550-555.
- Gore, Rick (1984) The dead do tell tales at Vesuvius. *National Geographic*, 165(5), 556-613.
- Gore, Rick (1988) The eternal Etruscans. *National Geographic*, 173(6), 696-743.
- Mehringer, Peter J. jr. (1988) Weapons of ancient Americans. *National Geographic*, 174(4), 500-503.
- Putnam, John J. (1988) The search for modern humans. *National Geographic*, 174(4), 438-481.
- Rigaud, Jean-Philippe (1988) Art treasures from the ice age: Lascaux Cave. *National Geographic*, 174(4), 482-499.
- Spencer, Alan J. (1982) *Death in ancient Egypt*. New York: Viking Penguin, Inc.
- Weaver, Kenneth F. (1985) The search for our ancestors. *National Geographic*, 168(5), 560-623.
- Watson, William (1974) *Ancient China: the discoveries of post-liberation Chinese archaeology*. Greenwich, CT: New York Graphic Society.

Reverend Robert M. 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 Aline H. Kidd, Ph.D. The photograph on page one was provided by Reverend Kidd.



Pet Ownership and Stress

continued from page 1

for health problems, and families with acute needs.

Since it has a holistic scope, family-centered nursing practice might consider the implications of pet ownership for family health, especially given survey findings that consistently indicate pet owners classify their pets as actual family members.⁵ These perceptions are clearly evident in the family life activities shared with pets such as keeping pictures of them, celebrating their birthdays, giving them gifts on holidays, and sleeping with them.^{6,7} After a pet is adopted into a family it can begin to fill a variety of roles and functions within the family unit. For example, a pet might be treated like a child or could serve scapegoat functions.^{8,9}

Family Stress, Coping and Adaptation

Over time, all families will experience change. Both external, situational demands and internal, maturational demands stimulate change in families.¹⁰ Stress arises when a family appraises a demanding situation calling for change as threatening and does not have appropriate coping or adaptation resources for the situation. Characteristic effects of stress include negative affect, elevation of physiologic responses, and behavioral adaptations.

Identifying and considering a family's developmental stage is an important component of family-centered care. The family developmental framework targets sources of developmental stress over the family life cycle. This cycle consists of a sequence of characteristic stages beginning with family formation and continuing through the life of the family to its dissolution. According to Duvall,¹¹ the eight stages for the nuclear family are

1. Married couples
2. Childbearing
3. Families with preschool children
4. Families with schoolchildren
5. Families with teenagers
6. Families launching young adults
7. Middle-aged parents stage
8. Aging family members

At each stage of the family life cycle, the family encounters different developmental tasks. A family developmental task is defined as a growth responsibility that arises at a certain stage of family life, achievement of which leads to success with later tasks.¹¹ Developmental changes can lead to a variety of health problems

for the unprepared family. For instance, lack of anticipatory preparation for parenthood can affect adjustment to parenting role expectations. Failure of developmental tasks stymies family growth, which hinders and compromises family well-being.

Developmental stress is considered to be an expected part of family life transition and change. In contrast, situational sources of stress are unexpected events not related to the maturational process, such as divorce, disease, and bereavement.¹² In general, families cannot plan and prepare for situational stresses in the same way they can plan for developmental changes.

Because different strengths, resources, and concerns surface at different points in the family life cycle, developmental stage is an influential factor in the way families respond to stress. Furthermore, at different stages of the family life cycle a family may respond quite differently to the same type of situational stress.^{10,12} For instance, the implications of divorce differ at the newly married and childbearing stages.

Coping involves manipulation of the environment to benefit the family while adaptation involves change in the family to improve its fit within the environment.¹³ Stressful situations are controlled by families overcoming, postponing, preventing, or tolerating stressors.¹² Some research indicates that family pet ownership may be a viable resource for coping with, adapting to, and controlling stress.

Stress Mediation Roles for Pets

Serpell¹⁴ has proposed that pets can affect stress reactions through the operation of several roles, including a passive and an anthropomorphic role. In the passive role a pet's rhythmical motion, entertaining behaviors, or comforting warmth promotes relaxation and pleasure. The anthropomorphic role entails perception of an animal's responses as humanlike. When in the anthropomorphic role, the pet conveys love and mutual affiliation with the family. Studies related to these roles can be found in three areas of human-companion animal interaction; statements people make about their pets.

Relative to the passive role, it has been found that talking to or petting a dog is associated with the lowering of an adult's blood pressure.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Similar results in lowered blood pressures have also been found for children.¹⁸ It

has been proposed that touching and talking to companion animals may affect stress reactions by stimulating the production of endorphins.¹⁹

Katcher and Beck²⁰ have observed the interaction between people and their pets, which they have labeled the touch-talk dialogue. This dialogue includes characteristic facial expressions: The face is composed, the brow is smooth, the nasal labial fold is flat, the eyes are partially closed. Often the person's head is placed close to that of the animal. While the voice volume is lowered, the pitch is raised. Both the rate of speech and length of sentences are decreased. The touch-talk dialogue communicates calm, relaxed interaction.

In one national survey of families,⁵ respondents identified the importance of their pet at various times in their lives. The majority (68%) said pets were of great importance when they were sad, lonely, or depressed. In addition, the majority (52%) of respondents said pets were of great importance during illness or at the time of death of family members. Half of the owners indicated the pet was important during family crises, such as separation or divorce. In another study, interaction with the pet was identified as an important stress management strategy among pet owners with high stress levels.²¹

Pet Ownership Over the Family Life Cycle

Some research has touched on the significance of pet ownership over the family life cycle. When married dog owners experienced conflict resolution in a laboratory setting, the dog's presence affected the couples' emotional and physiologic responses. Emotional rating and reactions to the situation were more positive when the dog was present than when the dog was absent.²² Attachment to pets appears to be particularly high during the newlywed married couples stage. However, when the couple is initiated into the childbearing stage with the arrival of an infant, pet attachment changes and becomes rather low. Pet ownership is high among families with preschool children, schoolchildren, and teenagers.²³ Pets are often acquired at these times to provide companionship to the children and to teach them responsibility.^{6,24} It has been found that the family dog is reported to be a source of comfort most often for children when there is tension in the household.²⁵

Of all the developmental stages, those families in the last three—families launching young adults, middle-aged parents, and aging parents—are least likely to acquire pets.²³ In one survey, the majority of mature family households that did own a pet reported that talking to and playing with the pet added to their happiness.²⁶ In addition, attachment to pets has been associated with happiness among elderly white women.²⁷ Finally, nonowner widows who reported their health as having been good prior to the death of their spouse reported their health as being poor after the spouse's death. These findings did not hold true for dog-owner widows.²⁸

The Pet as Social Support

From the work to date, it appears that the pet's stress mediation abilities vary over the life cycle. It is proposed that stress mediation roles for pets are not fixed entities. Rather, the pet provides various types of social support functions in response to the family's developmental stage and situational stress experiences.

Cobb has provided the classic definition of social support: "Information leading the subject to believe that he is cared for and loved, esteemed, and a member of a network of mutual obligations."^{13(p300)} Essentially, social support meets our basic human need for having meaningful interpersonal relationships.²⁹ Sources of social support include members of the family, school classmates, peers at work and in the community, and members of the helping professions. Pet ownership may be a source of social support as it provides a sense of continuity over the family life cycle.

Social support helps to prevent negative consequences of stress through facilitating coping and adaptation to change. It has a buffering effect on stress reactions, which helps to protect family well-being during periods of change.²⁹ In order for an available social support to provide a buffering effect, a family must perceive it as sufficient for the needs created by some stressful event.³¹ Pets would appear to provide two types of social support: esteem and social companionship.

Esteem support conveys the assurance that an individual is valued and accepted. This type of social support is likely to be responsive to a wide array of stressful events. In contrast, social companionship fulfills a specific need for affiliation and contact with

others and is responsive to stressful events related to the need for companionship.¹³

One type of social support may be more important at some times than at others, depending on the family life cycle stage and the nature of a situational stressor. For instance, the need for social companionship following the loss of a spouse would be different at the childbearing and launching children stages. The need for esteem support following the loss of a parent's job will vary, depending on the family's financial situation and the esteem support provided for the parenting role. In light of the conclusion that social support appears to reduce stress levels and improve health,²⁹ identifying and activating sources of social support for families is part of family-centered care.

Implications of Pet Ownership for Nursing Care

Family-centered nurses from a variety of clinical specialties can creatively integrate pet ownership into their patient care. In any setting, pet ownership could be a part of the family assessment data base. A pet ownership history can be as brief as: Does the family presently own a pet?" However, the comprehensiveness of assessment of the pet as a social support will be increased by expanding pet ownership questions to additional items such as

- What type of pet do you own?
- How long have you owned it?
- What is the pet's name?
- Who is the pet's primary caretaker?
- Is the pet considered a family member?
- When do you feel the need to be with your pet?
- Do you feel the need to be with your pet now?

Nursing interventions for family stress include preventive, anticipatory, supportive, and therapeutic actions. Such interventions are designed to assist in making developmental transitions and to foster the strength and growth of the family experiencing situational stress.¹⁰ Over the family life cycle, nurses can consider the pet as a social support resource. For example, the maternal-child health nurse can counsel families about changes in attachment to pets over the childbearing years and plan for meeting the dual demands of

pet and child caretaking. The medical-surgical nurse, confronted with the social support needs of the acutely ill patient, may find that having a family pet visitation program benefits pet owners (*Chicago Tribune*, December 13, 1985:32). Intermittent pet visitation provided through community groups has been evaluated as a social support resource in psychiatric mental health settings.³² In the community, nurses have observed the positive companionship support pets provide the aged.^{33,34}

Nursing care that acknowledges the important roles pets play in families is true family-centered practice. When pet ownership is a source of esteem support and social companionship, it is appropriate to incorporate the pet into intervention strategies. Sensitivity to the therapeutic ramifications of pet ownership over the family life cycle affirms the holistic nature of family-centered nursing.

References

1. *Standards of Community Health Nursing Practice*. Kansas City, Mo: American Nurses' Association; 1973.
2. *Standards of Maternal-Child Health Nursing Practice*. Kansas City, Mo: American Nurses' Association; 1973.
3. *Standards of Medical-Surgical Nursing Practice*. Kansas City, Mo: American Nurses' Association; 1974.
4. *Standards of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practice*. Kansas City, Mo: American Nurses' Association; 1982.
5. Cain AO. The pet as family member. *Marriage & Family Review*. 1985;3/4:5-10.
6. Horn JC, Meer J. The pleasure of their company. *Psychology Today* 1984; 18(8):51-57.
7. Voith VL. Behaviors, attitudes, and interaction of families and their dogs. Read before the Conferences on the Human-Animal Bond; June 1983; Irvine, Calif. and Minneapolis, Minn.
8. Bridger H. The changing role of pets in society. *Journal of Small Animal Practice*. 1976; 17:1-8.
9. Heiman, M. Psychoanalytic observations on the relationship of pet and man. *Veterinary Medicine/Small Animal Clinician*. 1965; 60:713-718.

Continued on page 22
Page 21

Pet Ownership and Stress

continued from page 21

10. Rankin SH. Family transitions. In: Gilliss CL, Highley BH, Roberts BM, Martinson IM, eds. *Toward a Science of Family Nursing*. Menlo Park, Calif: Addison-Wesley; 1989.
11. Duvall EM. *Marriage and Family Development*. 5th ed. Philadelphia, Pa: Lippincott; 1977.
12. Robinson KM, Bridgewater SC, Molla PM, Wathen CA. Concepts of stress for nursing. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*. 1982; 4(3):167-176.
13. Cobb S. Social Support as a moderator of life stress. *Psychosomatic Medicine*. 1976; 38(5):300-314.
14. Serpell J. Pet psychotherapy. *People-Animals-Environment*. 1983; 1:7-8.
15. Baun M, Bergstrom N, Langston NF, Thoma L. Physiological effects of human/companion animal bonding. *Nursing Research*. 1984; 33(3):126-129.
16. Jenkins J. Physiological effects of petting a companion animal. *Journal of the Delta Society*. 1985; 2(1):66.
17. Lynch JJ, Thomas SA, Long J, Malinow KL, Chickadonz G, Katcher AH. Human speech and blood pressure. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*. 1980; 168:526-534.
18. Friedmann E, Katcher AH, Thomas SA, Laynch JJ, Messent PR. Social interaction and blood pressure: Influence of animal companions. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*. 1983; 171:461-465.
19. Toufexis A. Furry and feathery therapists. *Time*. March 30, 1987:74.
20. Katcher AH, Beck AM. Health and caring for living things. *Anthrozoos*. 1987; 1(3):175-183.
21. Gage MG, Anderson RK. Pet ownership, social support and stress. *Journal of the Delta Society*. 1985; 2(1):64.
22. Levenson RW, Meek PS. Influence of pet dog on marital conflict resolution: A psychophysiological study. Read before the Delta Society International Conference, August 20-23, 1986; Boston, Mass.
23. Albert A, Bulcroft K. Pets and urban life. *Anthrozoos*. 1987; 1(1):9-25.
24. Davis JH. *The Role of the Family Dog in the Preadolescent's Psychosocial Development*. Chicago, Ill: Loyola University Press; 1986.
25. Soares CJ. Dogs in families. *The Latham Letter*. 1986; 3(4):4-5.
26. Stallones L, Marx MB, Garrity TF, et al. Attachment to companion animals among older pet owners. *Anthrozoos*. 1988; 2(2):118-124.
27. Ory MG, Goldberg EL. Pet possession and life satisfaction among elderly women. In: Katcher AH, Beck AM, eds. *New Perspectives on Our Lives with Companion Animals*. Philadelphia, Pa: University of Pennsylvania Press; 1983.
28. Bolin SE. Companion animals during conjugal bereavement. *Anthrozoos*. 1987; 1(3):26-35.
29. Cohen S, Syme SL, eds. *Social Support and Health*. New York, NY: Academic Press; 1985.
30. Levinson BM. *Pets and Human Development*. Springfield, Ill: Charles C. Thomas; 1972.
31. Cohen S, Will TA. Stress, social support, and the buffering hypothesis. *Psychological Bulletin*. 1985; 98(2):310-356.
32. Francis G, Turner J, Johnson S. Domestic animal visitation as therapy with adult home residents. *International Journal of Nursing Studies*. 1985; 22(3):201-206.
33. Dolan M. Home RX—Wet nose, soft fur, and wagging tail. *Nursing* 82. 1982; 12(10):112.
34. Davis JH. Implications of the human-animal companion bond in the community. *Home Healthcare Nurse*. 1985; 3(6):11-14.

Janet Haggerty Davis, Ph.D., R.N. is Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Nursing, College of Nursing, the University of Illinois at Chicago, Illinois.

Pet Alert

Animal Vues, a non-profit animal oriented educational organization has announced its new program designed to assist pets during emergencies. In the event of a sudden illness or other emergency, Pet Alert Wallet cards let rescue personnel know that there are pets who will need care. The cards list the names of one or two contacts who will act as caretakers of the animal companions during the owner's absence. There is an accompanying window sticker that identifies homes with animals that may have been abandoned during an evacuation.

For further information, write to: Animal Vues, R.D. #2, Bloomburg, PA 17815; or call: (717) 784-0374.

A VITAL BOOK:

The Loving Bond: Companion Animals in the Helping Professions

"most definitive publication on the subject yet"

PET BUSINESS

Edited by Phil Arkow

R&E Publishers

P.O. Box 2008, Saratoga, CA 95070
420 pages, soft cover, \$19.95 plus
\$2.00 postage and handling

"excellent, state-of-the-art"

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Originally published and distributed by the Latham Foundation under the title of *Dynamic Relationships in Practice: Animals in the Helping Professions*, the updated edition, *The Loving Bond: Companion Animals in the Helping Professions* continues to enjoy a wide distribution as a textbook in universities and colleges, reference material in libraries and among individuals pursuing information about the various aspects of the human/companion animal bond. One of the first books to explore the many facets of the bond, it remains one of the most definitive publications on the subjects. Its contents range from the historical perspective on the relationship between humans and companion animals through the pets' roles in society, pet behavior, pet loss and human bereavement to the publicizing and promotion of the alliance.

A vital resource for anyone interested in learning about the field as well as those involved in it, *The Loving Bond* is "an extraordinary publication...provides practitioners with reference materials to direct their efforts more effectively and efficiently"

AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION

"...contributor to animal welfare, an objective well-served by this publication"

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER



NEW

"YOUR HUMANE SOCIETY"

Now Available!

**1/2" VHS 15 Minute Videotape by
The Latham Foundation**

(415) 521-0920





*To go to school in a Summer morn,
Oh, it drives all joy away!*

— William Blake, 1790

I would like to receive
The Latham Letter
Enclosed is my subscription/sup-
porting contribution:*

\$10 Regular 1 year
subscription

\$ _____ Supportive

Please send more
information

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip

* Tax Deductible. IRS Section 501 (c)(3)
Make checks payable to: The
Latham Foundation, Clement &
Schiller Streets, Alameda, CA
94501.



THE LATHAM FOUNDATION

Promoting Respect for All Life Through Education
Latham Plaza Building
Clement and Schiller Streets
Alameda, California 94501 U.S.A.

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Alameda, CA
Permit No. 127

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED