

# The Latham Letter

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ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA

WINTER 1990/1991

## Sharing the Earth

Stephen Sacks

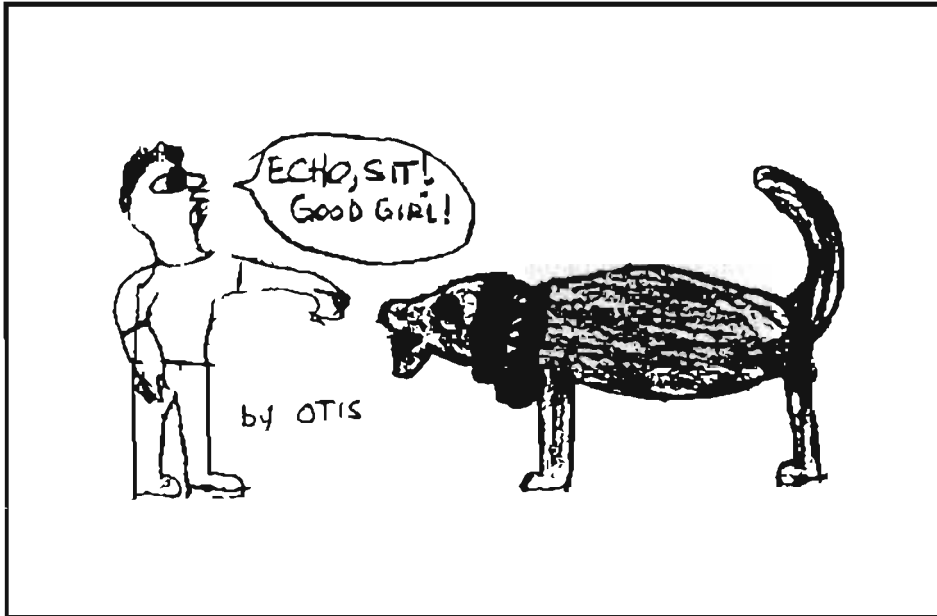
The Helen Woodward Animal Center was founded in 1972 by its late namesake and is located on 12 acres between Rancho Santa Fe and Fairbanks Ranch in North San Diego County, California. Her vision was to create a Center that would provide refuge and care for unwanted pets and injured wildlife, and to provide a wide range of educational experiences, for children, which concentrate on the teaching of a humane philosophy toward all living things.

Since opening in 1976, the Center has expanded to include a state-of-the-art large and small animal veterinary facility, therapeutic horseback riding for disabled humans, pet encounter therapy, workability for the disabled, meals on wheels for pets, and a boarding facility called Club Pet. Our pet surrender-placement and wildlife rescue-treatment and release program continue to be innovative and successful but at the heart of all the Center's activities is Education.

The Helen Woodward Animal Center strives to help children learn about and care for animals and the environment in many ways. Its after school enrichment programs and summer day camp sessions feature hands-on adventures in environmental education. On our nature hikes we emphasize looking more closely at things we take for granted: look at patterns, colors, and textures; describe how

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



## Therapy Dog in the Classroom

### What the Students Say

*Dee Press, M.A. is a teacher of emotionally disturbed children. She has produced a newsletter, Paw Power, for her class and in it the children described their feelings about the Therapy Dog, Echo, who assists Ms. Press in the classroom. We felt it would be of special interest to Latham Letter readers to view pet-facilitated therapy from a different perspective — that of the children's. Ms. Press graciously granted us permission to reproduce the letters and drawings and provided an update which appears following the letters.*

Echo is a highly trained Golden Retriever who has been coming to "work" in my classroom every day for over five years. She is a registered Therapy Dog through Therapy Dogs International.

My self-contained Special Day Class here at Camarillo State Hospital consists of 8 severely emotionally disturbed children who range in age from 9 - 13 years. They function at a second-

third grade level, and they exhibit a wide range of extreme social and emotional problems. Their behavior may be intrusive, aggressive, defiant, destructive, withdrawn, or otherwise negative for a variety of reasons. They come to us when they have failed to respond to the best resources their communities could offer, including counseling, therapy, special teachers, and other professional intervention. Whatever their problems, their communities have determined they need treatment around the clock with specially trained staff to help them make a change in their lives for the better.

The Therapy Dog in our classroom greatly enhances warmth and therapeutic opportunity. Echo provides loving, non-judgmental interaction, sometimes called Pet-Facilitated Therapy. She helps break through the isolation and loneliness common to emotionally disturbed children. The students here have had to leave their friends, family, and pets,

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# Why — Humane Education?

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*The following essay was written in 1932 by Edith Latham, then President of the Latham Foundation. Its message, which is as timely today, provides the basic motivation behind the formation of the Foundation in 1918.*

It is impossible to understand the need for Humane Education without a knowledge of the causes which have created that need. Cruelty has been well called the "basest of crimes" and it is the only crime which has never been dealt with on a broad scale. It is an ugly subject. The press will not disturb its readers with details of it. Clergymen, with few exceptions, will not preach against it and the man on the street will not believe it exists because he does not see it perpetrated. The animals are its greatest victims because, inarticulate, they can be trusted to withhold facts.

But the infringement of moral law often brings material consequences. The devastating destruction of bird life foreshadows the doom of agriculture and the extinction of the human race if the wholesale slaughter of previous years is permitted to continue. Many species of wild life have already become extinct through human ardor to kill. Thousands and tens of thousands of men are being debauched because they are committed to occupations which promote ruthlessness. It was found that many murders committed in Chicago betrayed the characteristic use of the knife which only men in slaughterhouse butchery understood. We are creating in industries a pariah class which through familiarity with the torture and killing of animals steps lightly from the infliction of death upon these victims to its infliction upon humans whom it is found desirable to them to remove.

The inexorable hand of Fashion, with its iron grip of coercion upon women of all classes and utterly unheeded of the kind and degree of cruelty its mandates involve, has in one year immolated on its altar 100,000,000 creatures for the fur traffic, whose unspeakable agonies as they languish for days in the lacerating jaws and double jaws of the vicious steel trap, have moved the eloquence of some of the greatest writers in pity-inspiring prose and verse of the wilds. *Needless tragedy!* The marvelously beautiful new fabrics, innocent of cruel origin and rich and warm enough for any purpose, should appeal to the tender heart of womankind as a glorious substitute.

It would be utterly impossible to enumerate in an article the many kinds of cruelty with which the sick world seethes.

It is the popular writer, Edward Carpenter, who voices what is in the heart and mind of a growing number of people: "Behold the animals. There is not one but the human soul lurks within it, fulfilling its destiny as surely as within you." This consciousness of Universal Kinship which Carpenter proclaims, is borne in so strongly upon progressive minds that there is an utterly intolerable burden in the knowledge of the unnecessary destruction of creatures, many of them of surpassing beauty and charm and intelligence done to death in the air, on the land, in forest, jungle and stream; in physiology laboratories; and worst of all in commercialized amusements like bullfights and rodeos.

It is predicted, however remote it may seem today, the "the twentieth and twenty-first centuries are going to see sweeping improvements in the realm of morals. The doctrine of the Unity of Life which has become the accepted creed of Science, is going to force itself on the attention of man as never before. And the inevitable corollary of the Unity of Life is the Brotherhood of Life."\*

Animosities dwindle and die as our vision of Brotherhood of all life becomes a part of our perception and practice. We shall no longer love our hatreds and cradle our prejudices. It will then become repugnant to us to wound by word or thought. In ever expanding circles we shall enlarge our sympathies to include all the creatures of the earth as we perceive the similarity of emotions and impulses which govern all life.

The innocent animals whom we hound and destroy through all the highways and byways of the world, we shall prefer to protect and save than to unnecessarily slaughter, as we realize their capacity to share the happiness which is their right on earth even as it is ours.

The work of the Foundation is dedicated to the great effort, practically carried forward through many diversified channels, of helping to establish the splendid program of universal, recognized relationship.

*Edith Latham, (1870-1952) President of the Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education.*

\*J. Howard Moore



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**PUBLISHER**

Hugh H. Tebault

**FOUNDING EDITOR**

Wallace Ness Jamie  
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**EDITOR**

Madeleine C. Pitts

**CONTRIBUTING EDITOR**

Aline H. Kidd, Ph.D.

**EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Robert Ziegler, Ph.D.

Ex Officio, Hugh H. Tebault

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

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Photograph courtesy of the Animal Rescue League of the Palm Beaches

## Effective Humane Education



*George Hulme*

What a challenge! What rewards! Both are an integral part of any good humane education program and staff members, volunteers, and members of a humane society have this great opportunity of helping not only children, but also older folks known as Senior Citizens.

At the outset, I wish to explain that everything done at a humane society shelter and/or clinics is humane education, i.e., the usual reception, accommodation, caring, finding good homes, caring for abandoned animals, reuniting pet owners with their animals, preventing or reducing the pet overpopulation through an effective spay/neuter program, etc., etc.

It is to be noted that we strive to familiarize our location with the populace and that we must keep on reminding everyone where we are, what we do, teaching kindness to both animals and people.

Our experience has shown that group visits to the shelter and clinics are more important and effective than classroom visits, which often takes time for transportation to and from a presentation usually to a class with perhaps only 30% to 45% of the students interested in listening to the presentation.

By taking groups for guided tours and visual presentations at the shelter, you are making it known where the humane society, SPCA, animal rescue

league is located. Many times adults have said, "I remember you from when I visited the Humane Society with my school group for a guided tour and visual presentation." The more that can be done to plant the location of your shelter and your work, the better; and here is one program that accomplishes that important factor. Visitors will remember where to call for help and who offers the help that only humane societies can and do.

When you arrange a group visit of 30 to 50 children the following plan affords a great opportunity to teach outside of the classroom. The group teachers and leaders are met and the humane society representative is introduced to the children and asks how many have dogs, cats, puppies, kittens, fish, birds, etc. The staff member has fun and gets to the level of the children (a good P.A. system or traveling mike is useful) and asks them questions and often repeats the answers. Try to remember the names of the children, get down to their level, ask them what they call animal doctors — when they tell you, ask them to spell veterinarian! Give as many children as possible the opportunity of participating in the program. Tell them why we have humane societies, our role in the community, our shelters, our veterinary services. Explain how they can help — collar and tags, leads, exercise dogs, make sure water is available and feed at right times, brush coats, be

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# Unexpected Teachers: A New Look at Our Pets

Karen Kaufman Milstein, Ph.D.

Historically and cross-culturally, people have related to animals in a variety of fashions, often inconsistently. Animals have been seen as gods, slaves, workers and companions (Levinson). Within any given culture, the valuing and the treatment of animals is extremely variable, differing both from one individual animal to the next, and from one species to another. In our relationships with companion animals or pets, they are generally perceived as friends, though almost never as equals. Seeing eye dogs and other animals with which we have therapeutic (for us) relationships also serve as esteemed workers. Co-existing with our positive attitudes toward these companion animals is our ambivalence toward, maltreatment and abuse of other, generally non-pet species. This is only too apparent as we examine the very indifferent and often cruel treatment of lab and factory-farmed animals.

Shifting our focus now to planetary conditions, we see thoughtlessness and ruthlessness similar to what many

animals and species must endure being acted out on a global, environmental level. The 20th century has proven to be one of the most violent ever, with a major problem being our relentless, unceasing attempts to intensify production and increase consumption. We are finding, however, this greediness and shortsightedness cannot be continued without courting ecological disaster.

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***"... whatever happens to the animal kingdom also happens to man ..."***

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If we are to pull back from such impending disaster, one of the needed solutions may be to "make reparation" (Serpell) to the earth. This might include increasing our concerns for the animals, people, and the planet, and changing the underlying myths and values by which we live. To do so, we need to alter our perceptions and our philosophies of us vs. them, and of

man vs. nature. It is essential that we recognize that "together we form one living, morally significant and worthy community of interest on this planet" (Sapontzis). Otherwise stated, whatever happens to the animal kingdom also happens to man (Knight). From both ethical and practical standpoints, it is incumbent upon us to act accordingly, rethinking our often automatic and frequently exploitive responses to the animals around us. As expressed by a long-ago Lakota chief, man's heart away from nature becomes hard; a lack of respect for growing, living things leads to a parallel lack of respect for humans (Nollman).

What do pets and our relationships with them have to do with the major challenges related to our views of nature and to planetary survival?, potentially, a good deal. Obviously, our companion animals are important to us, are valued. We see in our relationships with them the possibility that "human ascendancy is a phantom, an egotistical myth" (Serpell), and understand that animals are truly worthy of our caring. The risk remains, however, that we value only those animals we know personally and love as individuals, disregarding both other animals and the world itself from which all of us spring. Nevertheless, animals, as representations of nature which are brought into our immediate environment, can be a stimulus for a higher level of learning, and for our personal growth.

Animals we care about can serve as our link with the earth and with natural processes to the extent that we are conscious and thoughtful in our relationships with them. If we treat our pets merely as "animated toys" (Katcher and Beck), without recognizing the reality of their own existence, then our current destructive perceptions continue, we do not see beyond ourselves, and we are likely to persist with our ruthless ravaging of our world and its inhabitants. If, on the other hand, we interact with our companion animals with real respect, acknowledging their differences from us even as we love them and live with them, then by extension we have the capacity to care about and value other species than our own, both plant and animal. We become more capable of respecting, protecting and nurturing our planet. Through the sensitivity which this higher level responsibility for and love of our pets can develop in us, we may learn to relate to the

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natural world more intimately and responsibly. We benefit both through the healthier world which we then inhabit, and also through our own greater awareness and our ensuing development as spiritual beings. In order for this to happen, it is crucial that we be attentive, conscious, and thoughtful about the significance of pet care, beyond the custodial responsibilities of food, water, and shelter which obviously we owe to our non-human friends. Always it is important to recognize their "other" reality and their connections with the natural world. Then we can learn more about our own nature and our intimate connections with our Earth, with our consciousness growing accordingly.

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**"... animals, as representatives of nature which are brought into our immediate environment, can be a stimulus for a higher level of learning, and for our personal growth."**

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As well as being a potential stimulus for the development of more constructive attitudes and actions as described above, pet care offers us a wonderful opportunity to learn in another kind of way to care for our ultimate home, the natural world. In the concrete and practical arena of daily life with our pets, we engage in several kinds of transactions with our companion animals, through which they can help us to preserve our mental and physical equilibrium (Katcher and Beck). Foremost among these for our purposes is constancy. As we care for our pets, we share with them, their daily cycles of feeding, excreting, playing, sleeping, etc., and we may also live through the life cycles of numerous pets, given their relatively short life spans. In this process, we experience some of the varying cycles of nature, and of constancy and continuity despite change, upheaval or loss (Katcher and Beck). We may appreciate more the ebbs and flows of our own experience, and the rhythms of life. Again, our appreciation and understanding of our natural world and of our place in it may be enhanced.

Thus through our interactions with the nonhuman creatures in our lives, we may receive as much as or more than we give. We have the opportunity

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of becoming more sensitive, more perceptive, more thoughtful. A shift in consciousness can occur, bringing with it increased awareness and a resultant spiritual gain, as our connections with our planet and universe become more relevant and clear to us.

In summary, in their oftentimes delightful and sometimes trying fashion, our pets may invite and stimulate us to understand better ourselves, other species with which we share this planet, and our world itself. Our experience of the rhythms of life and of the interconnectedness of all its forms may be enhanced. For each of us, these learnings can be occasions of significant personal and spiritual growth. The necessary condition for this to occur is that we move beyond relating to our pets as cute and novel personifications of ourselves, existing primarily for our pleasure. Rather we must come to know them as individuals with unique natures and needs. They can, as indigenous people have long known, truly be our guides to other worlds and realities, if we allow ourselves to be fully attentive and open to their essential natures.

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*Karen Kaufman Milstein, Ph.D. holds a Master's degree in social work and a doctorate in human development. Dr. Milstein has many years experience working as a psychotherapist and resides with her family and pets in the Philadelphia area.*



## **An Important Animalport May Close**

Since its 1959 opening, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' (ASPCA) Animalport accommodation at New York's JFK International Airport has provided a much needed, trauma reducing home away from home for as many as 10,000 animals each year. The two-story, one acre facility is the first and largest shelter in the United States to attend to the commercial and private boarding needs of animals involved in airline transportation.

A combination of circumstances now has placed in question ASPCA's continued sponsorship of the vitally important Animalport service. First, the Port Authority of New York's decision to use the existing site for runway-related purposes makes it necessary for ASPCA to either abandon its service or build a new facility at a cost in excess of \$2,000,000. Secondly and paradoxically, since March of this year, the Animalport's transient animal population has been reduced by approximately 60% as a result of ASPCA's discovery of a rare, deadly virus, the Ebola Virus, in at least six shipments of imported monkeys which passed through the Animalport. Those findings, reported to the federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, were responsible for "an immediate and hopefully permanent national embargo on the importation of some subspecies of wild monkeys which harbor the virus," according to ASPCA's President, Dr. John F. Kulberg.

In an effort to continue its Animalport service, presently operating at a severe deficit, the ASPCA is soliciting operating funds from key airlines. If the appeal is not successful, the important facility is scheduled to be closed after January 1st.



## Face the Reality



Sherry M. Richert

Every year in the United States nearly 10 million cats and dogs are killed because no one wants them. Think of these ten million individuals crying out for life. One striped tabby who loves its belly rubbed ... one little poodle who curls up snugly in laps ... one soft white kitten who rubs up against your leg. If ten million is a hard number to comprehend, think of just one innocent animal losing its life.

During an average summer day PHS [Peninsula Humane Society] receives between 25 and 50 kittens. People bring them in because they're cute and cuddly and "surely the humane society can find them homes." People don't realize that ten others are bringing in cute and cuddly kittens. They don't realize that 25 or 50 people each day never walk through the doors wanting kittens.

People think it's fun for their children to see the miracle of birth. Their children don't have to see the agony of death.

The first campaigns to combat the tragic problem of pet overpopulation began in the early seventies. PHS spearheaded those efforts by building the first low-cost spay/neuter clinic in the country. We authored and successfully lobbied for state legislation which required all shelters to take monetary deposits for spaying and neutering all animals adopted. We

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joined with other groups to develop ad campaigns and educational promotions.

But there was little change.

The numbers of animals we've had to kill decreased significantly during the decade in which our spay/neuter clinic opened. But in the past ten years, despite all efforts at education and legislation, the numbers of animals euthanized remained steady.

We don't know why society refused to acknowledge the problem. We don't understand why the problem stagnated. We thought there was no way to get our country to take notice of the problem.

Until now.

Recently PHS began our most intense Pet Overpopulation Campaign ever. And finally, it appears that the nation is ready to act.

On October 23, 1990 our no-holds-barred, graphic advertising insert appeared in three local papers.

PHS held a press conference at the humane society two days later. Representatives from all of the major television stations and newspapers were there to record ground-breaking news: County Supervisor Tom Nolan proposed a nationally unprecedented ordinance, authored by PHS, which would put a moratorium on breeding cats and dogs. The media was invited to view euthanasia — a daily tragedy at PHS — so that they could understand firsthand, why the ordinance was necessary.

The news spread quickly.

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***"... it's fun for their children to see the miracle of birth. Their children don't have to see the agony of death."***

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By the next day, the story was everywhere. The TV stations presented their viewers with the same painful reality that PHS employees see everyday: animals being killed for no reason except no one wants them. Local papers ran front-page stories announcing "PHS Ban on Breeding." Radio hosts discussed the ban.

The nation took notice. Cable News Network (CNN) picked up footage

from the press conference and euthanasia and ran the story nationally for an entire weekend. ABC Network News visited the shelter and aired their report on the Sunday national news. CBS Network News interviewed Kim Sturla [Executive Director of PHS] in Washington D.C. to produce two eight-minute segments on pet overpopulation. The *New York Times* ran the story. Paul Harvey detailed the ordinance on his show. Dr. Dean Edell discussed the merits of our ordinance on his national radio show. National Public Radio (NPR) covered it. Countless other radio and television stations began calling from across the U.S. to talk to Sturla. We even got word that the story was appearing in European papers!

We found out how much people care.

The phones have been ringing off the hook and letters keep streaming in. Public supporters from all over the country are writing or calling to offer their time or money in assistance. Animal groups have been notifying their members and are offering help with the campaign. Humane societies from across the country are requesting copies of our ordinance because they are committed to introducing something similar.


On November 13, PHS hosted the first public hearing on the proposed ordinance. More than 250 community members packed our education center. The organized opposition, made up primarily of purebred breeders, loudly voiced their outrage. The American Kennel Club (AKC) even flew in representatives from New York to give negative testimony! (See opposite page)

But the Board of Supervisors held fast. At the end of the grueling four-hour testimony, the ordinance (with proposed amendments) passed.

Once again, PHS is setting the pace for progressive animal welfare action.

Please join us in this campaign to end pet overpopulation. Encourage everyone you know to spay and neuter their animals. Tell people about the tragic numbers who die each year.

Together, we can create a new reality for the animals.

Sherry M. Richert is the Public Information Manager of the Peninsula Humane Society. For further information, she may be contacted through the Peninsula Humane Society, 12 Airport Boulevard, San Mateo, CA 94401-1098 (415) 340-7022, Ext. 313. 

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# The American Kennel Club's Viewpoint

Alan J. Stern

The American Kennel Club is pleased to present a different perspective on the ordinance which had been proposed in San Mateo County regarding the problem of pet overpopulation.

Since we were first informed of this ordinance early in November and attended the first hearing November 13 and the second hearing on December 11, we have seen it twist and turn in the wind. The sponsor, Supervisor Tom Nolan, aided and abetted by the Director of the Peninsula Humane Society (PHS), Kim Sturla, has tried to do an end-run around some of the legal booby traps built into the proposed ordinance, and they have tried to deal with a problem that they do not even seem to recognize.

In proposing an ordinance which decrees a mandatory moratorium complete with penalties on breeding, one that requires mandatory spay/neuter or some yet-to-be-decided method of handing out breeding licenses, the framers of this shoddy work have pinned their hopes of its success on the attainment of not one single adoptable animal in San Mateo County being euthanized. They call this "zero population." When looked at in the cold light of reality, what it means is that if there is one single cat in the Peninsula Humane Society which has not been adopted in five days, there is not a single dog in the county which may breed; not a single dog in the county which shall go unsterilized; not a single dog in the county which shall come into San Francisco International Airport; not a single dog in the county which shall attend dog shows held at the Cow Palace or other dog show events.

In their eagerness to be "first in the nation," they have chosen radical solutions which do not address the problem.

It is obvious that their arguments are insupportable. They have resorted to rock stars, media-hype and other press-grabbing techniques, rather than the basic common sense of dealing with problems which all other humane societies in the area seem to have handled successfully.

What are the real problems?

For one, San Mateo County does not enforce its leash law. Obviously, if you pick up stray dogs and cats when possible, you are going to reduce random breeding. However, as long as the leash law remains unsupported,

any ban on breeding or any enforceable sterilization is not going to work.

The policies of the Peninsula Humane Society also need to be addressed, since we believe they can contribute largely to their own problems. For example, their attitude on the rescue of pure-breds runs counter to those of most other humane societies. Most others will call the rescue groups on the first day an easily identifiable pure-bred dog is brought into the shelter. It seems to be the practice of Peninsula to only call a rescue group the day the needle goes into the animal. Also, a former program to screen the dogs, run by a highly competent behaviorist and training group for increased adoptability was working very well. The dogs so screened were able to be adopted out at a much higher rate. When the present Director came on board, she killed this program for reasons as yet unexplained.

While PHS complains about the lack of progress, they have at the time of the filing of this ordinance just begun mandatory spay/neuter of adult animals going out through the shelter. In other words, when they felt that nothing was working over the past ten years, they themselves were contributing to the problem by failing to spay/neuter adult adoptions leaving the shelter.

The ordinance in its latest form would give the right to issue licenses to responsible breeders to the management group of PHS. It is our feeling that this is a case of putting the fox in charge of the hen house. We keep asking for real numbers regarding the euthanasias and we get different answers every time we ask.

The real problem of pet overpopulation in San Mateo County is one of cats. As best we can determine, and these figures will change daily as we ask for them, 9100 animals were euthanized last year. 7600 of those were cats. Based on the average percentage of pure-bred dogs in the shelter, the proportion seems to be about 350 pure-breds a year compared to 1150 mixed breeds. But, what PHS does not tell you is that these numbers include animals that are brought in from highways, that have been hit by cars, involved in other accidents, the sick animals, the aged and the animals left there for specific euthanasia. All go into the totals, but these are not all adoptable pets without homes.

Giving PHS the benefit of the doubt, 1150 or 13% of the total animals they

euthanize are mixed breed dogs, and without a leash law, and without better adoption policies, this is their problem. Aiming at a breeding ban and a mandatory spay/neuter is not going to affect those owners of these mixed breed dogs who allow their dogs to breed randomly.

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***"What we would like is a solution, rather than pie-in-the-sky ... laws."***

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It is important for San Mateo to look within themselves, to develop policies which encompass the knowledge, help and enthusiasm of the pure-bred animal owner in San Mateo, instead of rejecting them. The Supervisors need a better understanding of the socio-demographic profiles of their own community. Daly City and East San Mateo probably contribute the majority of these 13% mixed breed dogs that they euthanize, and I'm sure that in those communities the leash laws are not being enforced properly.

It would appear that the management of PHS has no ideas how to deal with the cat problem and the mixed-breed dog problem, which make up 96% of their euthanasia statistics. With their ideas bankrupt, they've turned to a radical law which, even at one point, was aimed at shutting down commercial breeding and the one retail pet store in the county, although this would be highly questionable legally. It is particularly irritating to see them take this tack of alienating the responsible breeding community, when other humane societies in California have done a much better job with the same problem without the use of rock stars and media-hype.

This is a national problem. It is one that requires knowledgeable, objective people who have a record of success, not those with a record of failure. Perhaps the time has come to reconvene the discussions and conferences which took place on surplus dogs and cats, sponsored by the American Humane Association, the American Kennel Club, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Humane Society of the United States and the Pet Food Institute. These conferences were useful and had specific results in California itself, as well as nationally.

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# San Mateo County's Proposed Ordinance

*The possibility of increased abandonment of unwanted pets to avoid punishment/fees is a strong possibility with any mandate. While we feel that Peninsula Humane Society's effort is commendable, there are other methods worthy of consideration, such as tax incentives for those pet owners who can provide proof of spaying or neutering, reduced licensing fees or even free licensing for a period of time, among other positive incentives.*

*For the consideration of others interested in introducing a similar ordinance, we provide the text of the Proposed San Mateo County Ordinance.*

## DRAFT OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

### FINDINGS

(a) Approximately 10,000 healthy but abandoned dogs and cats are euthanized annually in San Mateo County by the Peninsula Humane Society.

(b) Due to the large numbers of stray and abandoned cats and dogs, euthanasia is not a cost effective, acceptable or ethical solution to the threats to public health and safety posed by large populations of stray domestic animals.

(c) Stray and abandoned pets, specifically cats and dogs, create numerous public health and safety problems, including transmission of disease, attacks by stray dogs on people, livestock and pets, and traffic hazards created by stray dogs and cats running loose on public streets.

(d) A moratorium on breeding of cats and dogs owned or harbored in San Mateo County, combined with a contingent program for mandatory spaying/neutering, is a reasonable and effective means of reducing the population of abandoned or stray cats and dogs.

### DECLARATION OF INTENT

The Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County hereby finds and declares that it intends to provide for the public health, safety and welfare through a temporary moratorium on breeding of cats and dogs owned, harbored or kept in the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County in order to bring the population of abandoned and stray animals to an acceptable level for

the protection of the public health, safety and welfare. Further, if the moratorium does not achieve this goal within one year, a program for mandatory spaying/neutering will be instituted in order to attain an acceptable population level.

### DEFINITIONS:

(a) "Animal Control Program" means the program defined by Section ... of this Code.

(b) "Person" shall include any individual person, partnership, corporation, trust, or association of persons.

(c) "Zero growth" shall mean that level of population growth of cats and dogs at which control of the population of stray or abandoned cats and dogs can be accomplished without the necessity for euthanasia of any healthy dog or cat in San Mateo County.

### MORATORIUM ON BREEDING OF CATS AND DOGS

(a) There is hereby established a moratorium on breeding of all cats and dogs owned, harbored or kept within the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County. This moratorium shall become effective four months from the effective date of this ordinance and shall remain in effect for eight months thereafter.

(b) No person shall cause or allow any cat or dog owned, harbored or kept by that person within the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County to breed or reproduce during the moratorium established under Subsection (a) of this Section.

(c) No person shall transport any dog or cat to, from or within the unincorporated area of San Mateo County, for the purpose of breeding such dog or cat, during the moratorium period specified by Subsection (a) of this Section.

### MANDATORY SPAYING/NEUTERING

(a) This section shall become effective after expiration of the moratorium established by Section ... of this Chapter, unless the Board of Supervisors determines that the population of dogs and cats owned, harbored or kept in San Mateo County has reached zero growth.

(b) No person shall own, harbor or keep within the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County any cat or dog over the age of nine months

which has not been spayed or neutered, unless such person holds either a permit for breeding cats or dogs issued by the Animal Control Program under Section ... of this Chapter or a written certification from a licensed veterinarian that, due to health considerations, the animal should not be spayed or neutered.

### PERMITS; ADMINISTRATION

(a) The Animal Control Program shall administer a permit program to allow breeding of cats and dogs consistent with criteria and according to procedures adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

(b) Each applicant who is issued a permit to breed cats or dogs under this Section shall pay a permit fee according to the fee schedule adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

(c) The Board of Supervisors shall appoint an advisory committee to recommend criteria, procedures and fees for the issuance and revocation of the permits provided by this Section. Such advisory committee shall include representatives of the Peninsula Humane Society, Pets in Need, the Animal Control Program, local animal breeding organizations and local veterinarians.

The advisory committee shall also recommend solutions to the problem of "puppy mills," mass breeding facilities which transport young puppies to pet dealers over long distances, resulting in a substantial increase in the population of unhealthy dogs offered for sale to consumers.

*The sections that follow this proposed ordinance provide for penalties, waiver of penalty upon demonstration of spaying/neutering within a specified period of time, as well as the designation of responsibility for its enforcement.*

*(Ed. note: On December 18, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved this ordinance, supporting a six month moratorium on the breeding of dogs and cats to begin in July, 1991, and calling for mandatory spaying and neutering of dogs and cats. By January 1, 1992, only dogs and cats owned by professional and hobbyist breeders holding permits will be allowed to reproduce. Those who don't have their animals sterilized will receive one warning ticket and then will receive fines up to \$500.)*

*The Latham Letter, Winter 1990/91*

## American Kennel Club

*continued from page 7*

Certainly it is not possible to expect to attain reduction in euthanasia of adoptable dogs when the blackmail of an undoubtedly unconstitutional and punitive ordinance sits over the heads of a county task force, made up, in part, of responsible cat and dog owners and breeders.

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***"This is a national problem."***

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Since "zero population" is a fantasy and this ordinance is based on "zero population," it is time for the Board of Supervisors to become serious about the problem. What we would like is a solution, rather than pie-in-the-sky "first in the nation" laws. It should be caution enough to the Supervisors to realize that no other humane society has recommended such a law and it should have cautioned them not to pass such a law.

We believe that there are solutions, but they can only be developed in good faith on all sides. The actions of several of the Supervisors in trying to force this legislation through, under the insistence and goading of PHS, can only interfere with that process.

*Alan J. Stern in Vice President of Communications of the American Kennel Club. For further information, he may be contacted through The American Kennel Club, 51 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10010.* #

### Can You Help?

If you have recently adopted a stray animal which did not come from a shelter or veterinarian, your help is urgently needed for a study which will help discover ways to make pet adoptions a success, and cut down the number of "throw-aways," and destroyed or euthanized animals!

Please send us your name and address, and we will send you a brief questionnaire for your answers and opinions which will help this study of humane and caring adoption practices.

Aline H. Kidd, Ph.D.  
Mills College  
Oakland, CA 94613.  
To call: (415) 430-2141 or  
(415) 932-4620.

## Killing Pets to Control Surplus Breeding - A National Disgrace

*Lewis R. Plumb*

Ours is a nation that loves dogs and cats. Half the homes in the country have at least one of these pets. Donations for animal causes probably exceed half a billion dollars a year. Yet shelters are killing some 16 million pets per year that are not adopted. With some 54 million dogs and 56 million cats in the country, we find an estimated 10.5 million puppies and 19.5 million kittens born each year, twice as many as are needed to maintain the population. Allowing 2 feet per pet, this amounts to killing over 6,000 miles of pets per year. The line reaches clear from Los Angeles to Boston (sic), and moves 20 miles a day to extinction. The total cost to taxpayers from general tax revenue is around \$50 per animal, or a total cost of nearly a billion dollars a year.

This mountain of killing is large because dogs can breed twice a year with some 5 in a litter. Cats can breed three times per year with 6 in a litter. One dog can produce 10 plus a year, and one cat can produce 18 kittens a year. But this sword cuts two ways. One dog spay can reduce the surplus by 10 a year, and one cat spay can reduce the number of excess kittens by 18 per year.

One way the problem is now attacked is by urging shelter adoptions. This arm twisting to get more homes to take pets is self-defeating. There are only so many arms to twist. After that, an adoption from a shelter means not taking from a neighbor's litter. It is saving Peter to kill Paul. The problem of surplus births can never be solved by the adoption route. We must prevent unwanted births if we would stop the killing.

There are some 40,000 veterinarians in this country. If each veterinarian were to do 1.55 additional spays each week for six months, nearly equal dogs and cats, in six months there would no longer be a surplus of pets. The shelter killing of surplus pets would essentially disappear. This shows the problem manageable — a molehill, not a mountain. That is what simple arithmetic teaches us. It is undeniable, based on bedrock fact, even though the numbers are, as yet, rather soft and best called estimates. They are in the ballpark, and they are sufficient to prove the point.

How much money would we save by vigorous spay/neuter programs? Since an average spay costs about the

same as an average stray (caught, sheltered, killed and disposed of), and since five or more strays are prevented for each spay, we save \$5.00 for every dollar spent on spay/neuter programs. In the nation, this amounts to the billion dollars of tax money now spent. Pets that are redeemed pay their own way through licenses, fees and fines. The cost of animal control to taxpayers is all the surplus, unclaimed and unwanted strays.

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***"This arm twisting to  
get more homes to take  
pets is self-defeating.  
There are only so many  
arms to twist."***

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The age old excuse for the situation is "irresponsible" owners and "greedy" veterinarians. There are enough poverty level pet owners, that cannot afford to pay spay charges, to account for the entire surplus. Given the choice, feeding children has a higher priority than altering pets for any responsible parent. And a veterinarian's average earning are in the \$50,000 to \$60,000 range — hardly ground for being called greedy, considering the education required, facilities and staff, liability insurance and other expenses.

Examine the figures for the percentage of families living below poverty level. Very few localities can report less than 8%, with the national average at around 14%. Half of these are pet owners. If we provide adequate means to have these pet owners get their animal spayed, we will have solved the problem. We conclude that it will pay for taxpayers to fund a six month program to get pets spayed free of charge, with a saving of \$5 for every \$1 spent. We need to furnish whatever it takes — money, transportation, help to catch semi-wild cats.

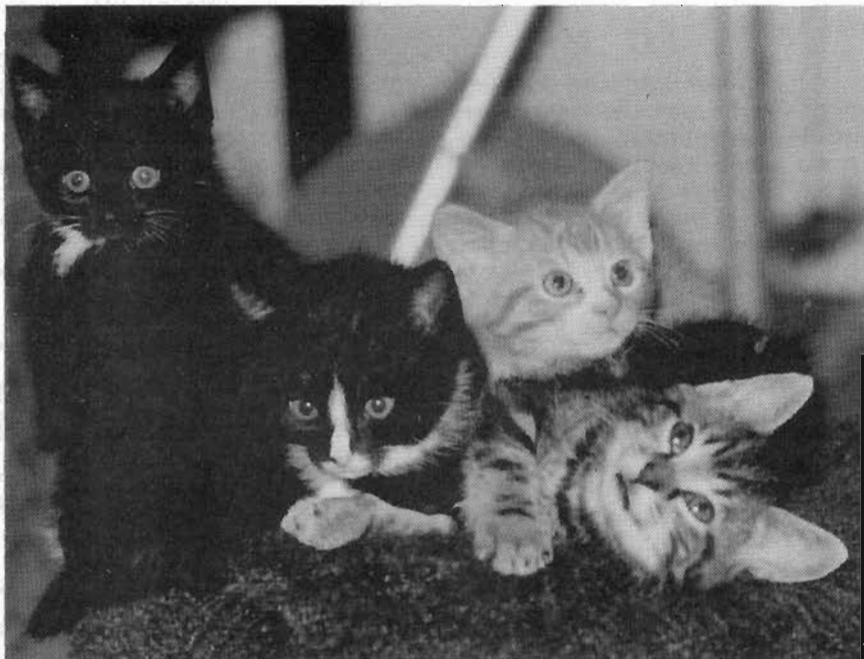
It will be necessary to improve procedures for home-to-home adoption, otherwise an apparent shortage may develop, and this could lead to additional breeding for profit. At present, surveys show that home-to-home adoptions are around 80% of total adoptions (nearly half involve payments). Shelter adoptions are approximately 7%. Frequently published lists of available pets need to be spon-

*Continued on page 10*

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## A National Disgrace

continued from page 9



sored by government, personal interviews consisting of both screening (for cruelty, resale, cult activity, etc.) and education in responsible pet care should be arranged. Education is necessary to ensure that there is much less chance that the adoption is temporary.

It is also highly desirable to get humane education into mainstream education. As we teach Writing, Arithmetic and Reading, so we should teach humaneness as part of the basics, if we expect to have a civilized society.

There are additional measures that help. Large differentials in license fees for altered and unaltered animals would encourage adoptions and put the costs more squarely on the shoulders of those responsible. Requiring costly breeders' permits for those that have more than one litter in a number of years, and further requires display of this permit number in any advertising, is indicative of additional ways to discourage breeding. Follow-up on unclaimed spay/neuter deposits to make sure that shelter-adopted pets are not adding to the breeding problem is needed until the time prepuberty spaying is universally accepted.

The hundred year old problem of shelter killing is largely unsolved, not because there has not been enough money available to solve it, but because the money has been largely used in wrong ways. Running shelters is very expensive. Using donated funds to run shelters uses up the funds

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to spay/neuter pets. Free spaying should be as far away as the nearest telephone — paid for by a combination of government and humane groups. Why should government pay for it? Because it saves money. And why should humane groups pay for it? Because it is more humane, both for animals and for those who are called upon to do the killing.

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**"... we should teach  
humaneness as part of the  
basics ..."**

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If a call comes in to the fire department, the caller is not told, "If you can't afford to put out the fire, you shouldn't have a house." Yet this is largely how we are responding to those that are unable to pay for veterinary care. Their similar predicament regarding human health care is provided for by Medicare and similar programs. And lest the argument be heard that any available funds should be spent on people, not animals, let us consider that it is really people who benefit from proper, humane treatment of animals.

Lewis R. Plumb is the President of the Promotion of Animal Welfare Society. For further information Mr. Plumb may be contacted through the Promotion of Animal Welfare Society, 488 Pearson Road, Paradise, CA 95969 (916) 872-7297.

## Ethical Issues of Animal Experimentation Course

The Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University announces a course "Ethical Issues of Animal Experimentation" to be held on campus, Washington, D.C., March 24-28, 1991. Despite the activity in the political and legal arenas and the important social changes in attitudes in animal experimentation has heretofore been neglected. The purpose of this academic course is to address these ethical dimensions of animal experimentation, to convey information, and to provide a forum for discussion. The course is aimed at members of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees, biomedical scientists, philosophers, bioethicists, administrative officials, members of the public, and others interested in these issues.

Topics to be addressed include the moral standing of animals, rights and obligations, the application of moral standing to individual species (speciesism), the roles of animal pain and suffering, trading harms and benefits, trading species such as a primate versus a rat, and government responsibilities to rights and obligations, among others. Various viewpoints will be presented by nationally renowned experts.

The faculty includes Tom L. Beauchamp, Ph.D.; David DeGrazia, Ph.D.; Rebecca Dresser, J.D.; Ruth R. Faden, M.P.H., Ph.D.; R.G. Frey, Ph.D.; Franklin Loew, D.V.M., Ph.D.; Charles McCarthy, Ph.D.; F. Barbara Orlans, Ph.D.; Edmund Pellegrino, M.D.; Robert M. Veatch, Ph.D.; Leroy Walters, Ph.D.; Thomas L. Wolfle, D.V.M., Ph.D.; and others.

For details, contact Ms. Michelene Sheehy, Course Administrator, Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. 20057, Telephone: 202-687-6766.

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*The most solid comfort that one can fall back upon is the thought that the business of one's life is to help in some small way to reduce the sum of ignorance, degradation and misery on this earth.*

— George Eliot

The Latham Letter, Winter 1990/91

# Direct Mail: Boon or Bane

Holly Hazard

The use of direct mail by charities as a means of raising money, increasing membership, and educating members is an option that many of us concerned with social justice issues have mixed feelings about.

Recent criticism regarding the use of direct mail by the Doris Day Animal League has caused us some reflection as to what the benefits are, as well as the draw-backs, of the use of the direct mail. The draw-backs are rather obvious. Direct-mail is exceedingly expensive, it consumes vast quantities of paper, it tends to reduce issues to descriptions of emotional and anecdotal information, and it creates a subtle form of harassment for all of us who must reach into our mailbox and sort through it at the end of a long day.

However, the benefits, particularly for causes that have not yet caught on with the general public, the media, and the people in power, seem to outweigh the costs. First, although it is expensive, it is also the most efficient and economical way of getting our message out to the numbers of people we need to reach.

The Doris Day Animal League is in a relatively unique position in relation to other animal welfare groups in that we must have the support of a broad cross section of people in order to do our job effectively. Unlike an organization set up to develop a park or even feed and shelter animal, our very purpose is to contact our members and to have them, in turn, contact their Representatives. If we were an organization concerned with developing a park, it would make no difference whether we got one \$10,000 contribution or one thousand \$10 contributions to help our cause. It would have the same effect in terms of our achieving our goal. However, because the League is a legislative advocacy organization, one check worth \$10,000 is not worth nearly the same as 1,000 checks worth \$10 when these \$10 checks turn into membership and support of our organization through Congressional contacts.

Our mission is to enlighten the public and legislators so that new laws will permanently protect animals from all manner of torture and abuse. When imploring harried legislators to reorder their priorities to do something about ours, it is essential to have experts, knowledgeable about the legislative process and the issues, who can effectively make our case. And, even *The Latham Letter*, Winter 1990/91

more important, we must demonstrate broad constituent support for our cause. The best way to solicit this support is through the mail.

One criticism of direct mail activities is that charities use some of the information from direct mail pieces as part of their educational program for the purposes of filing state and federal reports. There is nothing unethical or inappropriate about allotting costs this way if educational material is provided in the mailings. When a four page, single spaced letter is sent out to millions of individuals and spends three pages informing the public about the LD-50 and Draize atrocities — which are not well reported in the press — one page explaining and asking for a signature on a petition to Congress and soliciting membership and when thousands of people do both and thousands more sign a petition, isn't it clear that some very effective information has been conveyed about our cause?

I frequently receive letters from people who have read our mailings and, for the first time, have found out about toxicity testing, puppy mills, or other animal atrocities. I've even gotten letters from people who have stated that they didn't know animals were being used in laboratories until they received our mailings.

It would be nice to be able to get our message across by taking out a full-page ad in *The Wall Street Journal* or *The Washington Post* or by running an ad on television. Certainly, this is an avenue open to our adversaries who have limitless funding. However, these methods have not proven to be effective either for gaining new membership or for obtaining the funding necessary to continue our programs.

It is true that the league could have decided when it reached 10,000, 20,000 or 50,000 members that this would be the core group of individuals that we would use as our membership base and that we would turn our fund raising efforts into hiring new staff or developing or expanding our projects. This certainly appears, at first glance, to be a more efficient spending ratio. However, in the long run, a lobbying organization with 10,000, 20,000 or even 50,000 members simply is not going to be the effective voice necessary to change the laws in this country to better protect the animals. Instead of using the money collected from our members to hire new staff or purchase the equipment necessary to carry out our job, we turn that money into creat-

ing more members so that our voice is even stronger when we present our issues to Capitol Hill.

When we reach our membership goals, we will no longer need to send out mailings to individuals outside of our membership, which are very expensive and invariably lose money for an organization. Instead, we can turn to our membership to fund or expand our programs.

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***" ... charities use some of the information from direct mail pieces as part of their educational program ... There is nothing unethical or inappropriate about allotting costs this way if educational material is provided ... "***

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Direct mail is not a perfect medium for addressing the issues of animal rights or other social justice issues. However, we know that we cannot count on the press to present the issues that we believe are so important and we also know that we cannot afford to use mediums available to others in our society. So we are left with a choice of communicating as best we can through this rather inefficient system, or not communicating at all. I believe we would do a great disservice to those that we seek to protect by deciding that direct mail should not be used because it is too much of a bother.

*Holly Hazard is the Executive Director of the Doris Day Animal League. Ms. Hazard graciously agreed to respond to adverse publicity which appeared in The Wall Street Journal and other publications regarding fund raising practices of non-profit organizations. For further information about the Doris Day Animal League, she may be contacted through the League at 900 2nd Street, N.E., Suite 303, Washington, DC 20002.*



DORIS DAY ANIMAL LEAGUE

# The Challenge of Humane Education

John Caruso

Students are constantly learning about the world around them, and their place within that world. Whether they live in a rural, suburban, or urban setting, each child needs to understand that he or she is a very important part of the larger whole. This "big picture" includes everything from the fly sleepily buzzing in their classroom to an 80 year old person living somewhere on the other side of the world — and all points in between.

Therein lies the challenge of humane education.

Humane education, as formal curricula, should be universal. It should teach children the all important, yet somewhat elusive, concept of "humaneness." This can obviously be a monumental task. However, the popularity and sophistication of humane education has been growing quite rapidly over the past several years.

Such programs are generally associated with animal shelters. Many people regard humane education as merely "proper pet care." Proper companion animal care and responsibility are indeed the essence of a shelter's education program — and rightly so.

By stressing these concepts to students on the primary level, children will begin to look at their animals — and their relationship to those animals — in a different way. They will begin to see that companion animals depend upon humans to provide everything they need for a good life. However, humane education is much more. By learning about such responsibilities, the student will, in turn, begin to treat and react to animals in a different way. Humane education departments have noted, with great satisfaction, a shift in students' attitudes. More and more students are becoming involved in helping stray or injured animals, as well as becoming more aware of the problems dogs and cats face, such as overpopulation and abuse.

This education need not stop with companions, however. Humane education, by extension, naturally includes wildlife. Just as dogs and cats need special care and attention, so do wild animals. Not only "zoo" wildlife and uncommon wild animals, but also "everyday" wildlife: squirrels, birds, insects, and so on. Wild animals, as distinct from domestic animals, require a different type of care. Wild animals exist outside of (but not separate from) the human world within which domestic animals live. These animals, too,

need to be respected and cared for, but in a very different way. While companion animals require human attention, wild animals require human regard. They need to be respected by being left alone. Students must know that they should not remove these animals from their environment, that they should not disturb them.

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***"While companion animals require human attention, wild animals require human regard."***

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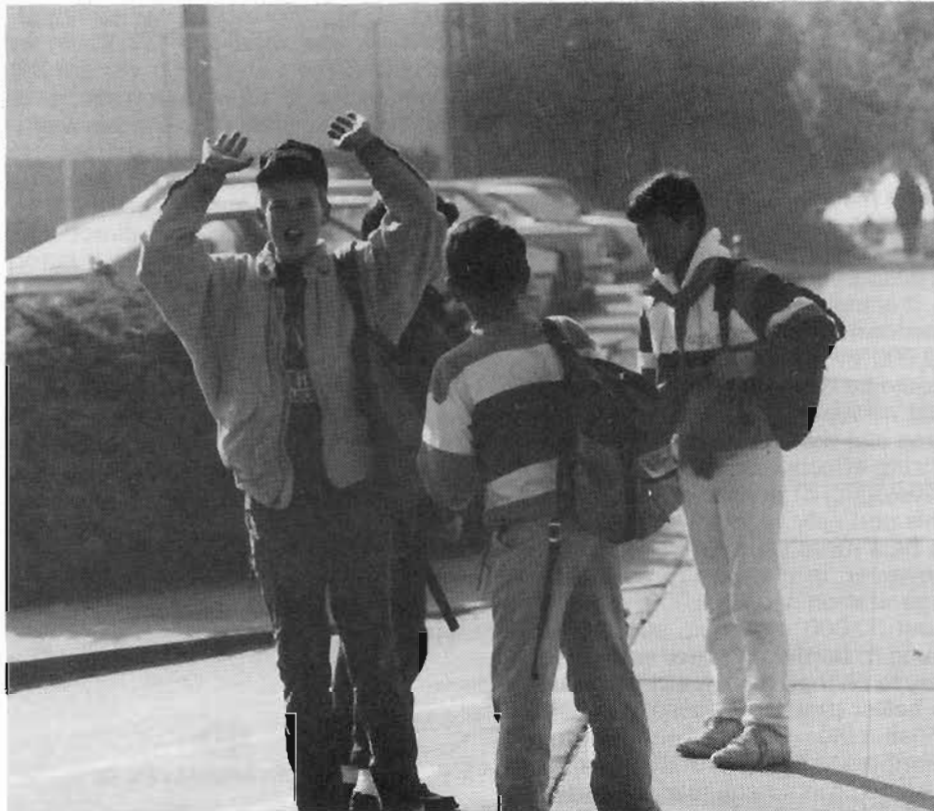
Ultimately, then, children will see that all animals need to be treated in a humane way — including humans. By cultivating a sense of respect for self, respect for others can then follow. Humane education, therefore, goes far beyond proper animal care and responsibility. It encompasses right actions towards all.

The focus of an animal shelter's education program will vary given the make-up of the area that the shelter serves. The topics covered, as well as the way they are presented, will be quite different at a school in rural Iowa than at a school in Chicago. Each poses different obstacles and rewards.

At The Anti-Cruelty Society in Chicago, the education department has been growing and evolving for five years. The special needs and circumstances of students in this urban setting had to be addressed. Cruelty may know no geographical boundaries, but "the urban condition" — intense concentration of people, a desensitization towards property and beings, etc. — certainly adds fuel to the fire. For instance, consider these actual comments which were made by students during humane education presentations:

"My mother threw my puppy out the window because it messed in the house." "My friend's dad didn't want his dog because it shed too much, so he put it in a paper bag, tied a weight to it, and dropped it in the lake." "One danger for a cat outside is that somebody will kill it with a baseball bat. That's what happened to mine." "If a pet is wandering outside alone, it could get raped." "My mom hates my cat and hits him with the broom. She hits me, too." "My friend sets cats on fire. He hates cats." "I used to have

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three cats but they died because they ate poisoned rats."

Obviously, the education department's function is not merely to promote adoptions. In fact, the addition of companion animals to the homes of many of the students visited may actually be detrimental. Instead, respect and reverence are stressed. The idea that domestication has created a high level of responsibility is introduced and reinforced. Because companion animals have become, through domestication, a part of the human world, it is up to everyone to provide all of the things that animals require. This may include making a home a proper home, encouraging the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats, or knowing how to help stray animals.

The students who already have companion animals at home are taught to recognize the significant responsibility that guardians have toward these animals. Those students without animals are made aware of these extensive responsibilities so that they realize that there will indeed be vinegar along with the milk and honey of caring for an animal. All students are made aware of the enormous problem of overpopulation and the importance of spaying and neutering.

Strays roaming the streets and alleys are in great danger. Dogs and cats die under the wheels of cars every day. The want of shelter during inclement weather is a killer. Lack of proper food and water, or the easy availability of poisons also add to the list of dangers. Often times, children are under the misconception that dogs and cats can survive on their own: that they know how to find food, water, and shelter. They believe that these animals know how to cross busy streets and stay away from people that may abuse them. These children must be taught that the city is just as dangerous for animals as it is for themselves.

When students can relate to companion animals in terms that they can understand, they become more aware of the plight that these sentient beings face. Presenting the comparison that dogs and cats are much like two year old babies that need to be cared for is quite effective. The students then begin to realize that dogs and cats (unlike the babies, who will eventually grow up) will never be able to care for themselves, no matter how old or smart they become.

The challenge in all of education is to impart knowledge to another person so that he or she can ultimately learn the essence of humanity. Therefore, in actuality, all education is "humane education". The programs which are provided by animal shelters are an important piece in a student's overall development. Through humane education, students do indeed learn about the responsibilities toward, and problems facing, companion animals. However, they learn much more. They are introduced to concepts which will flourish during their lifetime — concepts such as respect, reverence, and responsibility. Such learning will only strengthen the student's ever growing web of knowledge — and the web of life of which we are all a part.

*John Caruso is the Humane Education Manager of The Anti-Cruelty Society. For further information about The Society and its programs, write to The Anti-Cruelty Society, 157 West Grand Avenue, Chicago, IL 60610.*

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## Effective Humane Education

*continued from page 3*

coats, be affectionate and kind. This is one of the rare opportunities where you can teach responsibility for it is not taught as such elsewhere — this is most important. If the children can touch the puppy or kitten it dispels fear.

This is followed by a slide presentation (we use the fine program given away a few years ago by PAWS in Chicago — we also use Purina Pets for People Program slides). Questions are answered and that follows with a tour of our adoption area, and when possible, our clinics. Instruction is given on the correct way of holding pets, feeding, rabies vaccines, license tags, lost and found services, spaying and neutering, etc.

After the tour, the group returns to the assembly point and often will sit down and ask additional questions. They are given either a book mark or literature on the humane society and they are asked to repeat "I promise to be kind to animals and people."

*Continued in column 3*

Oftentimes the younger groups send in crayon or pencil sketches and letters on their visit which we are pleased to receive and sometimes post same for viewing.

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***"Our experience has shown that group visits to the shelter and clinics are more important and effective than classroom visits ..."***

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Other aspects of humane education which are essential parts of a humane society aims and objectives are visits to nursing and retirement homes with puppies and kittens (we do over 40 monthly visits and the residents eagerly await them). The Purina Pets for People Program — highly successful in uniting older folks with older pets through generous financing by Purina — we adopt out ten every month on this program at no cost to recipients (new parents). A direct-mail program carried out by our staff (no professional fund raisers employed) where we distributed over 150,000 pieces of four-color literature outlining our services and our need for donations (as we are not financed by any branch of government and do not receive tax monies). This is where you can effect humane education through public relations and information and show good revenue after paying all expenses. Everything we do is humane education even to our telephone operator answering the phone asking, "This is your humane society — may we help you?"

What a joy to be a small part of helping provide care, comfort and food for lost, stray and abandoned animals. And helping other animals by giving shelter.

*George Hulme is the Executive Director of the Animal Rescue League of the Palm Beaches in Florida. Recently Mr. Hulme was honored by that community for providing 30 years of service to the League. For further information, Mr. Hulme may be contacted at 3200 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33409 (407) 686-3663.*

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# Therapy Dog

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and Echo's affectionate, consistent presence is obviously appreciated by them.

Echo is always nice to me. She is my friend, and I am her friend even when I have a bad morning. She is a special friend to me. When I am lonely, she helps me to feel better. She comes over to my desk when I'm working and leans on me and makes happy noises, and then I pet her and we both feel happy. She teaches me to be kind and nice to people and animals, too. I feel happy when she wins trophies in obedience competition. She is the smartest dog I've ever known.

Mike

When I am sad, I like to sit on the bean-bag chair with Echo and hug her and pet her. She helps me to feel less lonely. My dog, Raggedy, died, and Echo helps me to feel better about it. I like it when we help train her at recess and we see how to train dogs to do new things. I feel real happy when she wins trophies at dog shows. I help her to be a winner, and she helps me to be a winner.

Ricky

It is real special having Echo in my classroom every day. My desk is very close to Echo, and she helps me to feel comfortable and more at home. She helps me feel calm and less lonely. I like it when she carries that big soccer ball in her mouth everywhere! It is so

cute! She makes me smile. I like it when her ears go up when she is listening to Dee talk to her. I like to see her try and try until she gets two tennis balls in her mouth at the same time. I like it when she goes to the gym for PE with us, and she plays so nice and runs with all of us. I like to see her chase the ball and bring it back to us. I love Echo!

Brian

Echo is the best dog I have ever seen. She lets me hug and pet her. She helps me to calm down when I am upset. She gives me attention and I like that. I am real proud of her for winning trophies. She makes me happy every day. I watch Dee comb her so I learn how to take care of my dog when I get home.

Alex

When my dog "Baby" died, I was very upset for a long time. Now Echo is a very special friend to me. I like to play with her. I like it when she wins trophies at dog shows! She is the only dog I know that is trained so well. When I get older, I would like to have my own dog and train it to be in dog shows too!

Angie

I like having a dog in my classroom. It makes me feel happy when she gets so excited when she first sees me. I like it when she comes over to me and lets me hug her for a long time! I like the way she stays right with Dee and listens to her commands during

obedience exercises. She makes me want to listen to my teacher and do good, too!

Mike

Echo is a very nice dog. I love to play with her so I try to earn all my points so we can play at the end of the day. She helps me to be good. I learn not to tease. I learn not to give them candy and to give them the right kind of food. I learn how to teach dogs things. It's fun to see her chase the ball and frisbee. I like to see Dee and Echo do obedience training. She is a special friend to me.

Martille

I think Echo is so cute! I love to play with her. She always comes over to see me. I like to give her hugs. She is nice to all of us. I'm very happy when she wins stuff at dog shows. She is nice to us at recess. I have a dog at home, and Echo helps me not to miss my pet so much because she is with me every day at school.

Tony

Echo is one of the smartest dogs I know. She does good tricks, and I am proud that she wins ribbons and trophies at the dog shows in obedience competition. She is cute and I love it when she greets us and makes that cute little noise with her voice. She makes me feel good. It's great to have a pet in the classroom.

Jeremy

Echo is a special friend to me. I like playing with her and giving her hugs. I learn not to feed dogs junk food, not to tease them, and to say "Good Girl" when she does what I ask. Even though she is not a cat, she helps me forget that my cat, "Tigger," died.

Jason

I like Echo. I like to sit on the bean-bag chair and brush her fur. She likes me. She is pretty and she is nice to me. She is smart, and she does good in dog shows. I like to talk to her. She always listens to me.

Leah

I like to watch her do obedience exercises. She makes me believe in myself, and she makes me feel happy. I like it when she obeys Dee. I like it when I pat her and she wags her tail. It makes me laugh. I help to train her to do "figure eights" by standing still with someone else so she can go around



us. She helps me calm down, and I like to hear her "talk" and "read."

Sylvia

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I was on vacation during July and August, 1990. While I was at home Echo died of a liver ailment in mid-July. She was 6 years old.

Having experienced her special contribution to so many in her role as Therapy Dog, I decided to get another Golden Retriever puppy right away while I still had a month and a half to start training and bonding before I returned to work in September.

During this time I communicated Echo's death first to the psychologist and interdisciplinary team that work with the students in my classroom, and then to the children through letter and later in person with the new therapy puppy: Echo (II) was 3 months old when I got her.

So — even Echo's death was therapeutic in that the children could deal with the loss of their special friend with support of the therapists and teacher through the grieving process. Many had the opportunity to share (often) repressed feelings dating from loss of their pets, and some related feelings about loss of a friend or relative. They sent me cards and pictures and helped me with my grief, too. It was a valuable growth experience for us all, and I'm sure none of us will forget the influence of our first Therapy dog.

A few weeks ago, the new children in my class wanted to do another Paw Power edition, but I have not yet found time to formalize it. I'm including their latest contributions.

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I knew our first therapy dog, (Big) Echo, for two years. She was in school with me every day. I thought she was the smartest dog in the world. She helped me calm down when I was "hyper." She was nice to pet when I was sad. I liked it when she ran after the ball.

When she died while Dee was on vacation I felt sad and I felt sorry for her. But I am glad she is happy again because she got a new dog and we call her Echo, too.

I think right now our new puppy is hyper and we are learning to train her. I learn that puppies act different than



older dogs just like babies act different than I do.

We get to see our puppy get new teeth. We got to see Dee pull a tooth that was falling out. I think it's funny that she puts stuff in her mouth. Sometimes she runs real fast in circles in the playground and it makes me laugh. Soon we will teach her to run and catch the frisbee. She makes my days more happy.

Bruce

I like having a Therapy Dog in our class. I like it when she jumps after the ball. I loved our first Therapy Dog very much. When she died I was very sad because she was a special friend to me. She helped me learn to be kind to animals. She made me feel happy. I am very happy we have a new therapy puppy now. When my behavior is good, I get to help to train her so my behavior gets better, too.

Otis

I didn't know the first dog. I'm sorry she died. I like having a therapy puppy in our class. She likes to play with me. I like the way she jumps around and chases her ball. I like to play with her at recess.

She is so soft, and she likes to be hugged. She makes me feel warm and calm when I hug her. She gives me puppy kisses.

I like our special time when I sit on the rug with her and brush her. Her fur is soft and warm.

I never got to have a pet before, so I am happy I have a special puppy that I can love in our classroom every day. She cheers me up and makes me want to do my best so I can play with her at "free time."

I like the way she is learning to obey rules. I learn to obey the rules, too, so I can earn time with her and go home with better behavior, too!

Tony

Our first therapy dog knew a lot of tricks. She was calm and gentle. She did everything the first time you asked her. She helped me know animals have feelings, too. She played 4-square with us at recess. She chased the ball for us but she was careful not to get in our way. When she died I felt real sad that she wouldn't be with us any more. Dee surprised us with a new therapy puppy and I felt excited about our new Echo. Our puppy is friendly and soft. We will train her to do good in dog shows, too.

Nahshan

I learned from our first therapy dog how smart and special dogs can be when they are trained with love and respect. She made me feel like I wanted to be good so she would be my special friend. Our new therapy puppy is a little hyper, but she is learning fast. We all help Dee to train her. We will teach her to "sing" with us in the Christmas show when our class sings "How Much is That Doggie in the Window?" She is learning how to do what we say. My behavior has to be calm, too, so that she will settle down, so we help each other to have good behavior.

Antwaren

Echo teaches me not to tease, to be calm around animals, to listen, not to hurt animals, and to be kind and respect animals and others. I learn by

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## Therapy Dog

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watching Dee how to train dogs so I can train my pet when I get home.

I felt sad and sorry for me and Dee when our special friend died. I hoped Dee would get another therapy puppy so we could have more fun in our class.

I don't feel so lonely with our new puppy in class. She is playful and we help to teach her not to jump and to sit before we pet her.

I like to see her get happy when she sees me. She makes me feel happy.

Jonathan

*Dee Press, M.A. has been working with children at Camarillo State Hospital for 28 years. She is an Educational Therapist and Master Teacher and has supervised students from many colleges and universities. Echo was her first dog. Ms. Press stated: "My work with my therapy dogs has been the most professionally rewarding of my career in working with these special children who need so much to learn compassion and respect for all living things — and for themselves."*



## A Dog By Any Other Name

Andrew N. Rowan

Several years ago, at the height of the pit bull terrier hysteria, *Rolling Stone* magazine published a remarkable story of two inner city youths and their dogs. The precise names of the animals escape my memory, but they were something like Buzzsaw, Murder, Deathshead or Hitler. It is not difficult to imagine the intent of the boys by naming their dogs such powerful and violent names. They wanted animals that were afraid of nothing. They wanted victorious fighters that they could use to reinforce their own street status. In suburbia, the names given to companion animals may be less aggressive, but they still tend to reveal how we view our animals and something of our interaction with those animals.

As seen from the inner city youths, naming your pet can be a very important activity. Anthropologists pay great attention to names in a culture. Members of the Beng tribe in West Africa give their dogs names but do not use Beng names or words. In that culture, the dogs are tended to when sick but are otherwise left to fend for themselves. In the film, "Local Hero," an American oil executive is sent to a village in the North of Scotland. On the way, he and his companion run over a rabbit. They rescue the rabbit, give it a name and take it to the lodging house of the village. However, a week later and unbeknownst to the American, the

rabbit ends up in a pot of stew. Upon discovering what he is eating, he spits it out in disgust and exclaims, "you don't eat an animal with a name!"

Most of us will agree with this upset American. When we humans take the time to name something, particularly an animal, we usually have found it to hold some kind of significant status in the household. One writer suggested that it is the typical pet lover's practice to give his or her animals a human name, obviously suggesting that the pet lover regards the animal as human.

To date, no systematic study of companion animal names has been undertaken. In 1987, however, I collected a random sampling of 184 pet names and analyzed them. I found one could divide the animals up into a group that had animal names — such as Brutus, Rover, Pepper, Smokey and Mittens — and another group that had human names — Cindy, George, Kathleen and Charlie. There was another group that had out-of-fashion human names (e.g. Daisy or Dora), names from foreign cultures (e.g. Heidi or Pierre), or names that were ambiguous (e.g. Tom for a cat). When I counted the number of names in each category, I found that 22% of the dogs and 10% of the cats had human names. In the other group, 59% of the dogs and 78% of the cats had animal names. Other studies have reported that owner attachment to dogs tends, on average, to be greater than attachment to cats. This quick analysis tends to confirm the statement that giving a dog a human name is an indication that it has a higher status in the household than your common Spot or Fluffy.

A further indication of intimacy is the use of nicknames. A colleague who analyzed her data on human-animal attachment found that the use of nicknames was significantly associated with how the owner viewed the animal. One young girl was found to have three dogs called Arnie, Bernie and Marnie, but she nicknamed these dogs Hunky, Bunky and Lunky! Of course, these studies tell us nothing about a particular person or the symbolism behind the name given to a pet. But, unless you want a sociologist to start assessing your character, you may want to think carefully before naming your pet after an unfavorable neighbor up the street!

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# Sharing the Earth

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things smell; take a moment to listen to the wind. Field trips to the landfill; a visit to a dairy farm; hands-on experiences with rats, snakes, spiders, horses, ferrets and rabbits. Activity sheets, arts & crafts projects, art drawings, discussions, and written compositions are ways children illustrate their feelings from these direct experiences.

Just giving children information by itself does not work. Most people who care about nature gain that sensitivity from direct contact. Learning to care develops largely through personal experiences in our lives — experiences that awaken the senses to life all around us. It is this kind of experience when a person explores his feelings, that builds a lasting sensitivity.

Feelings are vital facts. People (especially children) mostly consist of feelings and sensations. There is a feeling behind our every thought and action. Neither scientists, religious figure nor politicians invented sensations and feelings. Nature did. Without feelings we would be a lifeless mass.

In today's world of overpopulation, violence, pollution, and environmental destruction, it is essential that we invest in the development of our children's sensitivity by seeking to enhance each child's awareness, appreciation, and sense of caring for all living things.

The first six years of a child's life are his formative years. These are the years when a child's personality, character, and intelligence are usually set for life.

Dr. Benjamin Bloom of the University of Chicago has demonstrated that a child develops 50% of his intelligence — his ability to learn and grasp new concepts — by age four. By age eight his intelligence is 80% set.

Personality traits are also formed at an early age. Many behavioral authorities agree that by the time a child is six, his personality is pretty much fixed. Even such controversial thinkers as Sigmund Freud and B.F. Skinner have asserted that if they could control the teaching of a child during his first six years of life, nothing could reverse that teaching.

As you know, a child's home environment is crucial in his/her development. It therefore goes without saying that it is extremely important for educators to begin to help develop such desirable traits in children as love, respect, kindness, and consideration for animals, the environment, as well as for people, early in *The Latham Letter*, Winter 1990/91



Photograph courtesy of the Helen Woodward Animal Center

their lives. When learned, they often become part of a child's character, carrying on into adult life with very little change.

A well designed education program will provide the ingredients to nourish a "respect for life" attitude. What better gift can we as parents and teachers give this precious earth than a generation of children who have learned to understand and respect the natural world?

Dr. Albert Schweitzer stated: "It's not through knowledge but through experiences of the world that we are brought into relation with it." Our "Sharing The Earth" educational programs offered at the Center provide opportunities that enable a fresh mind to link knowledge with feelings through direct personal experiences.

The Center's 64 page "Sharing The Earth" teaching packet is designed to increase the understanding of the basic interrelationship between animals, humans, and the environment. The unit includes an overview and rationale for the program; objectives and guidelines to follow; 44 graphically illustrated reproducible student worksheets and data sheets; reproducible pre/post tests, and a poster.

Building on the common affinity between children and animals, the *Sharing The Earth* materials teach basic scientific facts and principles from the fields of biology, zoology, and ecology. Capitalizing on a child's intrinsic motivation to learn more about

animals, the materials also provide opportunities to practice basic skills in the areas of language arts and mathematics.

Our *Sharing The Earth* package contains directions for activities about how all animal life is sustained on our biosphere; activities that encourage empathy for wild and endangered animals in their activities that communicate the responsibilities of pet ownership.

The purpose of *Sharing The Earth* is threefold:

- 1 to provide children with knowledge about animals and the environment so they can understand their needs;
- 2 to develop in children a compassion for all forms of life; and
- 3 to instill in children a sense of responsibility toward all living things so they will not be content to leave any recognized need unmet.

As a consequence of having taken part in *Sharing The Earth* activities, children should begin to see themselves as part of the environment. Then they can begin to treat Planet Earth with love and respect.

One enlightened student said we should protect Planet Earth under the Endangered Species Act. As far as we know, it is the only living organism of its kind.

As an adult, when an uncomfortable entity appears that threatens our fami-

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## Sharing the Earth

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ly, health, pet, car, or bank account, we know exactly what to do, and we do it. It is about time that the same holds true for our living Earth home.

The battle that is causing global destruction and inhumane attitudes originates in each person's mind. The war can be won by illustrating to children through direct personal experiences that Earth is a living organism and to treasure our relationships with it.

After all, if we do not learn to live with the natural world — and our home, the Earth, gives out — where can we go? The moon? The moon looks like we've been there already!

*Stephen Sacks is the Director of Education & Animal Services at the Helen Woodward Animal Center. For further information about the Share The Earth program he may be contacted at the Center's address: P.O. Box 64, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067 (619) 756-4117.*



## International Society for Anthrozoology

We are always pleased to hear of advancements in the study or successful application of human-animal relationships. It is gratifying therefore, to learn of the incipient formation of a new, independent, international society to encourage the academic study of all aspects of human-animal relationships. Its announced purposes are to foster cooperation between research workers and organize meetings to facilitate the forwarding of scholarly exchange.

The International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ) is accepting membership applications from individuals and organizations who are, or have been engaged in research into any aspect of human-animal relationships. An organizational business meeting is scheduled for April 12th, 1991 at Cambridge, United Kingdom. Readers of *The Latham Letter* who desire further information may write to:

Dr. J.W.S. Bradshaw, Secretary  
ISAZ Organizing Committee  
Department of Biology  
University of Southampton  
Southampton SO9 3TU  
U.K.



## Questions and Answers on Pet Misbehaviors

*Robert M. Andrysko, Ph.D.  
Peggy Trimble*

**Q: My dog has a housebreaking problem, but only when I'm away from the house. My dog knows it's wrong. It's obvious he's doing this to get back at me. Why?**

A: Theoretically, dogs do not have a reasoning or planning process that allows them to retaliate against another "animal." The owner only has the perception that his dog knows it did wrong because he is making a judgment on the dog's physical appearance when he walks into the house upon his arrival home.

In reality, the dog is anticipating a negative response from the owner for the owner's discovery of the product of its misbehavior. This down trodden look usually results from an owner disciplining "after the fact," which does only harm, because the pet cannot correlate an act that took place hours ago with the punishment meted out upon the owner's return home.

More important is learning how to correct his problem.

Don't discipline after the fact. This is a difficult habit for an owner to break. If for no other reason, do it because what you have been doing for a period of time has not resolved the problem.

**Q: My cat is urinating out of its litter-box. What is the best way to eliminate the odor from my carpeting.**

A: There are literally hundreds of products on the market for dealing with this problem. All claim to eliminate the urine odor or to repel the cat from this spot. It's been my experience that well over 99% of these products do not work. Most claiming to eliminate the odor are discussing the human sense of smell, not the cat's. And the cat is drawn back to the spot in which its odor resides.

The best product I've found is called Outright Pet Odor Eliminator by the Braxton Company in Dallas, Texas. When properly used, this product eliminates the odor for both the cat and the human. However, in those situations in which the cat has urinated in one spot hundreds of times, it is best to replace the carpet and padding.

**Q: Is training a pet using electronic equipment a painless method?**

A: Most likely, yes. No one will ever know positively exactly what hurts a pet because we cannot get into

its mind. I require every owner using electronic equipment to feel the correction the pet receives with their own finger. Of the hundreds of clients who have done this, no one has reported pain. Instead, they say it is startling; you want to avoid it.

I work with a lot of dogs who become accustomed to the stimulus after a number of corrections. If it were painful, they should not be able to adapt to it. With these dogs, we increase the level of intensity somewhat.

I've never met a dog who fought having the collar put on its neck even after it has experienced the correction. If it were painful, they should resist having the collar put on.

The use of an electronic collar is humane. Most of the time, its use results in an increase in the quality of life for an animal.

**Q: Is using electronic equipment necessary?**

A: It is not absolutely necessary to use electronic equipment for most things. The best example for its use is the need to teach a dog yard boundaries. Although this has been taught for 50 years without this equipment, it is simply a convenience. It is the quickest way to improve and eliminate some behaviors.

Its use is necessary when:

All else has failed.

The owner has thoroughly confused the pet. An example of both occurs when teaching a dog to come when called while it is off the leash. A dog may come when called while on the leash, but bolt immediately when taken off the leash. A pet may come the wrong way. Or when it hears "Come," it may stand still and do nothing.

Owner wants immediate results. Often an owner needs immediate training results. Recently, I had a client who lived in an apartment building and his dog barked continuously and excessively when left alone. Neighbors filed police reports, and he received threats of eviction. He had only three days to correct the problem.

An owner cannot or is convinced he or she cannot physically handle the dog. For example, a 5', 100 lb. woman who is dragged down the street by her 75 lb. golden retriever whenever it is distracted.

The law requires it. Some people live in housing complexes that do not permit fences yet, although they have

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been ordered to contain a dog, want it to be able to run freely in the yard.

Using electronic equipment to break bad habits may easily prolong a pet's life.

**Q: Once I use an electronic collar will the dog need it for the rest of its life?**

**A:** This depends on how the collar is used, and the behavior the owner is working to correct. If you create a dummy collar effect first and use the equipment properly to a point when the misbehavior has been extinguished or eliminated, then you shouldn't need it again except for an occasional reminder.

However, if the dog makes the connection that the equipment is making the correction, you will probably need it for the life of the dog. It is to the owner's benefit to take the time to set up the dummy collar effect.

The equipment may be continuously needed in yard boundary teaching, in cases in which the dog has spent years wandering out of the yard or is surrounded by many distractions.

The equipment may also be continuously needed in behaviors that occur infrequently, such as once every three weeks. For example, a person may take a dog to the park or a field to run occasionally. If this is the dog's only time off the leash, the owner may wish to still retain complete control of the dog. Yet, he or she works with it too seldom to develop the appropriate conditioned response.

Some owners may need the equipment to maintain trust in the dog. One client has two pets that fight one

another to the point that one dog might kill the other. The owner wants a good backup in controlling the dog as well as a quick way to separate them.

**Q: Can other electronic things, such as remote controls or garage door openers cause the collar to be activated or stimulate the dog?**

**A:** This depends on the quality of the equipment you are using. As always, you get what you pay for. Be sure to ask those questions when making your purchase. Good quality equipment operates on a specific frequency and the chances are virtually nil that interference will occur.


Price is a guideline for good equipment. Expect to pay from \$200 - \$500 for a good remote collar and \$75 - \$250 for a good bark collar. Invisible fencing costs vary only of the owner decides to install it himself.

**Q: Why does my dog listen better to my husband than to me?**

**A:** Most people believe the husband is bigger, stronger and louder, which in most cases is probably true. But these are not the only reasons for the difference between which spouse the pet obeys better.

Most men are not home during the dog's peak energy and misbehaving hours. They come home to a worn out dog and the first thing they do is wear it out more through a long walk or rough play. Of course, they see a better behaved dog. Probably the most important factor is that dogs respect males more than females. Dogs are truly Male Chauvinist Pigs.

When studying dogs roaming in packs that have been untouched by human hands, the male dog is always in control and enforcing. Therefore, male dogs are viewed as an animal that should not be challenged; females are expected to back down more easily. This instinctive dog reaction has been proven and may be studied in *Genetics and the Social Behavior of Dogs* by John Paul Scott and *Of Men, Dogs, Wolves and Other Canines* by Michael Fox.

*Robert M. Andrysko holds an M.S. in the fields of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology and earned a Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1982. To earn his unique doctorate, he concluded a three year one-of-a-kind program, the first of its kind in the nation. He was responsible for the program's design and selection of course work. Dr. Andrysko may be contacted at 1638 Glenn Avenue, Columbus, OH 43212, (614) 486-9861* 



*Recently we received an interesting inquiry from Phil Arkow, the Education & Publicity Director of the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Portions of it follow and Latham Letter readers are asked for their assistance.*

As best as I can determine, the first 10 animal protection organizations in the U.S. were "SPCA's." From 1866-1869, the American, Oregon, Buffalo, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, San Francisco, New Jersey, Women's, Illinois and Minnesota "SPCA's" were established.

But in 1870 something peculiar occurred: on Jan. 4, the "Humane Society" of Missouri was incorporated and later that year, Congress chartered the Washington "Humane Society." From that point on, the terms were either interchangeable or, more likely, societies took on the "humane" designation to reflect their broader work of protecting animals and children, rather than the limiting "SPCA" which restricted them to animal protection. My first question is whether this is an accurate assumption to indicate why the name-change occurred.

My second question is even more unusual. Although I can find no references, even in his autobiography, as to why he used the word, it appears that "humane" originated with Massachusetts SPCA founder George T. Angell, who as early as 1868 was spreading the gospel of "humane education" and establishing ladies' "humane education auxiliaries." The problem is this: at least as early as 1819, there was a "Humane Society of St. John" in Dublin whose duties included guarding graveyards to prevent grave-robbers from stealing corpses for medical purposes. And even earlier, circa 1776, there was a "Royal Humane Society" in London which was chartered to resuscitate drowning victims.

My question is this: how did we go from life-saving to grave-guarding to animal protecting?

Any answers your readers might be able to shed on the origin of the phrase "humane society" to answer these intriguing questions would be greatly appreciated.

*To correspond with Mr. Arkow, he may be contacted through the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, 633 South 8th Street, P.O. Box 187, Colorado Springs, CO 80901 (719) 473-1741.* 