

Latham Letter

VOLUME XV, NUMBER 2

SPRING 1994

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

INSIDE

- Photography exhibit explores relationships between people and their pets (Page 12).
- Bedwetting, Fire Setting, and Animal Cruelty (Page 14).
- The Sad Story of Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence Intake Statistics (Page 17).
- Therapy Dog is Catalyst in Miraculous Recovery: Jenni's Journal Part III (Page 19).



Trusting and nurturing friendships between children and animals are built and enjoyed at the Sonoma County Humane Society's Gardening Therapy Program (For story, see page 6.)

Photo Credit: CAROL RATHMANN, SONOMA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Picking up the pieces: Animals and the Earthquake Aftermath

Bob Ballenger

There's a joke that Southern California, the land of perpetual sunshine and year-round balmy temperatures, really does have four seasons: fire, flood, drought and earthquake.

It's a little hard to get laughs with gags like that anymore in Los Angeles. Southern California still had not recovered from last fall's series of devastating brush fires when virtually ten million area residents were abruptly

EARTHQUAKE, continued on page 4

Latham Confronts Child and Animal Abuse

Children are starving and being beaten! And some people worry about dogs and cats?!

Hugh H. Tebault

You must as I have, noticed that instead of replacing failed programs with thoughtfully conceived new approaches, a usual and seemingly politically expedient resolution, is to intensify i.e. spend more tax money on the existing program(s), oblivious to the fact that the need has remained unfulfilled. While the news media needlessly reminds us of the

pervasiveness of crime, the governing politicians' response remains monotonously the same: they propose to construct additional jail facilities, to engage more police, to increase periods of incarceration and to deny or restrict hand gun possession etc, etc. Not only have these measures proved ineffective, but they are also reminiscent of

ABUSE, continued on page 5

This issue of the *Latham Letter* is devoted to the direct relationship that non-human cruelty has to human violence.

The Latham Foundation is taking a leadership role in sensitizing its readers and various professional communities to the links between violence against children, animals, and other vulnerable members of society. It is doing this for a variety of reasons. Partly it is in response to the fact that the compartmentalized efforts of humane and human service agencies haven't worked. Partly it is a "back to the basics" approach to view child and animal abuse in the entire continuum of community violence. And finally, it is because Latham's expertise positions to make this connection and actually do something about the rising tide of violence. See pages 2, 4, 14, 17 and 23.

IN THIS ISSUE

Latham Confronts Child and Animal Abuse <i>Hugh H. Tebault</i>	1
Picking up the pieces: Animals and the Earthquake Aftermath <i>Bob Ballenger</i>	1
GUEST EDITORIAL	
Education and Violence: Where Are We Going? <i>Phil Arkow</i>	2
OPINIONS	3
A Humane Garden of Children, Plants, and Animals Grows in Sonoma County, California <i>Carol Rathmann and Lynn Loar</i>	6
Latham Wins Maxwell Award	11
Members of the Family <i>Mary E. Thurston</i>	12
Bedwetting, Fire Setting, and Animal Cruelty <i>Lisa Lembke, DVM, MS</i>	14
Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence: Intake Statistics Tell a Sad Story <i>Phil Arkow</i>	17
Therapy Dog is Catalyst in Miraculous Recovery: Jenni's Journal Part III <i>Jenni Dunn</i>	19
BOOK REVIEWS	20
Child and Animal Abuse Prevention (CAAP) News	23

**Remember
to Recycle**

*The Latham Foundation
endeavors to comply with a
clearly expressed mandate
given by its founder,
Edith Latham:
"To promote, foster,
encourage and further the
principles of humaneness,
kindness and benevolence
to all living creatures..."*

EDITORIAL

Education and Violence: Where Are We Going?

A Guest Editorial by Phil Arkow

I thought I knew humane education. For 20 years, I spent much of my working life speaking to school children about the need to care for animals and the responsibilities of pet ownership. I was into my second generation of students and was not so idealistic as to think a 45-minute presentation (which equates to 4/10,000ths of 1 percent of a student's classroom contact time over 13 years) was actually going to change the world. Despite the occasional bomb threats and fire drills that interrupted my programs, I felt I was making a difference. I frequently went beyond basic pet care into exciting uncharted areas, such as letting children compare their feelings when their parents got divorced to their pets' feelings when they were left behind during a move. A key to these 3,000-odd programs I did was to get the children to try to answer the most difficult question of all: "Why is it important for us to care for animals?"

But what had me fooled for two decades was the nature of my audiences. I would invariably start by asking the children how many of them had pets. In suburbanized Colorado Springs, Colorado, 95 percent of them would raise their hands, and I felt sorry for the few who were excluded from the majority of us who know the comfort pets bring to our lives. I always reassured this minority group that sooner or later they, too, would join the rest of us.

When I recently moved to West Palm Beach, Florida, one of my first tasks was to speak to an after-school tour of the shelter by inner-city housing project kids. It was the kind of tour every humane educator dreads: there



Phil Arkow and Benji.

was no crowd control, the children didn't know why they were there, and the bus driver didn't know either. In desperation, I innocently asked the one question I could always count on to get a response: "How many of you have pets?"

There was no response. None of them had ever had the experience. Between poverty, project policies, absent parents, and cultural prejudices, none of them had ever played with a puppy, stroked a kitten, or raised a rabbit. Nor was it likely that any of them would in the foreseeable future. And for these kids, "future" meant surviving until they were 16 without being cut down by stray gunfire. It was clear that already, these eight-year-olds had been denied the security of a family, the reasons behind the rules, parental support and affection, the interaction of education—in short, the foundations which would give them a chance. They were already lost, and learning about the importance of spaying or licensing wasn't going to save them. And it suddenly occurred to me that I didn't know what I was doing there, either.

My father-in-law works in a liquor store and was held up at gunpoint last

EDITORIAL, continued on page 10



The Latham Letter

© Latham Foundation 1994

Published Quarterly By

The Latham Foundation
Latham Plaza Building
Clement and Schiller Streets
Alameda, California 94501
510-521-0920 Fax 510-521-9861

Annual Subscription Rate: \$12.00

Publisher and Editor: Hugh H. Tebault

Founding Editor: Wallace Ness Jamie
1909 - 1989

Managing Editor: Judy Johns

Contributing Editor: Aline H. Kidd, Ph.D.



The Latham Letter is printed on recycled paper.

Concerning Reproduction of Material
Published in **The Latham Letter**:

Permission from The Latham Foundation to reproduce articles or other materials that appear in **The Latham Letter** is not required except when such materials is attributed to another publication and/or authors other than the editors of this publication. In that case, permission from them is necessary.

When republishing, please use this form of credit: "Reprinted with permission from **The Latham Letter**, (date), quarterly publication of the Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education, Clement & Schiller Streets, Alameda, California 94501, (510) 521-0920."

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

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

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

The Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education

Members of the Board of Directors

Mr. Don deLemos
Mr. Noel DeDora
Mrs. Marion Holt
Mr. Clifford Lancaster
Mr. Dezsoe Steve Nagy
Mr. Hugh H. Tebault
Mr. Hugh H. Tebault, III
Mrs. Laura Thompson

OPINIONS

Dear Editor:

With your primary focus being on the human-animal bond, I thought your readers would be interested in a bill currently trying to make its way through Congress.

I attended the press conference held at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in support of this bill, and am trying to do my part as a dog writer to publicize it.

I always enjoy your excellent publication, and hope you may find this suitable for inclusion.

Regards,

Cheryl S. Smith
Campbell, CA 95008

Dear Cheryl,

We are pleased to share your interest in H.R. 2145, nicknamed "The National Senior Citizen Pet Ownership Protection Act" with *Latham Letter* readers.

Representative Carolyn Maloney of New York has introduced **H.R. 2145 to permit elderly and handicapped residents in federally-aided housing to have household pets** by amending the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983. Nicknamed "The National Senior Citizen Pet Ownership Protection Act," it is a fine idea that is not being taken seriously by our congressional representatives.

In an attempt to gain support for the bill, Ms. Maloney held a press conference at the recent Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Also there in support of the bill were Mr. Wayne Cavanaugh, Vice President of Communications for the AKC, and Mr. Roger Caras, President of the ASPCA.

Mr. Cavanaugh began by stating that the AKC is committed to supporting this bill. The organization has already sent a letter endorsing H.R. 2145 to every member of Congress. Now the AKC is organizing its public education coordinators and AKC-affiliated clubs into a grass roots campaign. These dog fanciers will, in turn, spread the word to more dog lovers, urging each to write or call a member of Congress and press for support of

this legislation.

Ms. Maloney explained that there currently exists an unfair distinction in senior housing. In federal housing designed specifically for seniors, their right to own pets is protected. Unfortunately, 80 to 90 percent of senior housing is federally-assisted housing NOT specifically designed for seniors and in those cases there is no such protection. The managers of such housing nearly always choose to ban pets.

Studies have shown the therapeutic value of pets, especially for those older citizens who suffer increasing loneliness as spouses and friends die. Senior pet owners live longer, visit the doctor less often, recover more quickly from illness, and have a more positive outlook.

Ms. Maloney comments, "I believe that the proper role of government is to expand people's choices rather than restrict them. This bill would enable those individuals who want to experience the joys of pet ownership in their golden years to have the right to do so. This is a matter of fundamental fairness, and I hope if people agree with me that this is important, they will contact their representatives in Congress and tell them so."

Her bill currently has 13 co-sponsors in Congress as well as the support of the ASPCA, Doris Day Pet League, the American Humane Association, and the Pet Food Institute. But enacting legislation of this sort, which tends to be viewed as trivial in Washington, will require an intensive grass roots effort.

Roger Caras closed the meeting by reflecting on the plight of seniors. "The cruelest thing that can happen to the elderly is to feel they are superfluous, unneeded, unloved, and unwanted. Give them a dog and they're needed, wanted, and loved — they have a purpose for getting up in the morning. This is a civil rights issue. Bureaucrats are saying to those people, you have to go through life

OPINIONS, continued on next page

lonely and uncared for."

If you agree that seniors shouldn't have to choose between affordable housing and family pets, Ms. Maloney and the bill's supporters ask that you contact your congressperson and urge them to co-sponsor H.R. 2145.



EARTHQUAKE, continued from page 1

jolted awake at 4:31 am on January 17th by an earthquake registering 6.8 on the Richter Scale.

The trembler caused an estimated \$30 billion-plus in damage and at least 57 deaths. It was the most costly natural disaster in American history. Thousands of residents, along with their pets, became instantly homeless when the quake shattered homes and apartments. In the aftermath of the trembler, animal control officers found themselves sometimes risking their lives to search for animals left behind in the ruins of earthquake-ravaged buildings that periodically shook during the many major aftershocks that rattled through the area.

To outsiders, Los Angeles appears to be one long, seamless stretch of suburbs laced together by freeways. Those who live here know the area is, in fact, a patchwork quilt of 88 independent cities in Los Angeles county alone.

Many families, abruptly displaced by the suddenness of the earthquake, had little time to do more than snatch up a few treasured items and scoop up their pets before dashing outside to safety. They kept their dogs and cats close at hand, partly because the animals were continually spooked by the frequent aftershocks but also because their pets were among the only remnants of their pre-quake lives.

Politically, the 4,083-square-mile county looks a lot like a map of 19th century central Europe — a cobbled-together collection of principalities, duchies, and odd-ball mini-states. That jurisdictional fact of life complicates emergency service response to natural disasters. The City of Los An-

geles, which has its own municipal Department of Animal Regulation, was hit hardest by the quake. The trembler epicenter was in the community of Northridge, in the San



Los Angeles County Animal Control Officer Ron Edwards hands out dog food to a woman living in a park. Her apartment was badly damaged by the January 17th earthquake, so she and her family - including their pet dogs - set up a tent in a park.

Photo Credit: KAYE MICHELSON, LA CO. DEPT. OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles.

At first, animal control agencies — both city and county — concentrated on their own jurisdictional turf, each trying to find and round up domestic animals running at large because of the earthquake. Animal control efforts were complicated by the collapse of freeway overpasses that all but isolated two northern county shelters

facility nearest to the epicenter, had suffered no major structural damage because of the quake. But the shelter was without water or power for the first day. Additionally, some kennel

doors were knocked ajar, allowing disoriented impounded animals to roam at large inside the kennel compound.

The city shelter quickly filled up with stray animals brought in by persons who found them wandering the streets. Under an informal agreement with County Department of Animal Care and Control, the city overflow was diverted to the County's Agoura Hills Animal Shelter, about ten miles west of the city shelter.

The force of the trembler damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes and apartment houses. County animal control officers joined forces with their city counterparts to search for pets still believed to be inside damaged homes and apartments. In one case, two city and county officers cautiously picked their way through the rubble of a shattered third floor apartment. The force of the quake had trashed the interior, toppling a TV, causing the picture tube to explode into sharp fragments. As they maneuvered over and around the litter of broken furniture and shattered plates and glassware, trying to ignore the stench of rotting food fallen from kitchen cupboards, the officers could hear the mewing of a cat somewhere in the semi-darkness. They discovered one cat hiding under a ruined bed. But the apartment owner had told them there were two cats trapped in her dwelling. After searching the bedroom, the officers finally found the other cat, which had literally clawed its way inside the bottom of the box springs, seeking sanctuary from the effects of the quake. The two plucked the pets from their hiding places, and made their way out of the ruined

apartment complex just before a strong aftershock jolted the area.

Unlike the wildfires that swept through Southern California during the fall of 1993, the January 17th earthquake and its aftershocks had a different impact on its animal victims. The fires inundated animal shelters with pets flushed out of their homes by the firestorm. But the earthquakes hit as a series of unannounced sharp, noisy "Fourth of July" jolts sending some panicked pets into hiding while other fled for safety. Dogs and cats stressed by the 6.8 earthquake were repeatedly re-traumatized by aftershocks as strong as 5.0.

At one point, an estimated 30,000 Los Angeles area residents were



Photo Credit: KAYE MICHELSON, LA CO. DEPT. OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

Even though many people lost almost all their possessions, some managed to hang on to a sense of humor. This tent, with its mock "one bedroom & den" real estate sign, offers a wry comment on its owner's cramped quarters.

camped out in parks and playgrounds. Working in cooperation with Red Cross disaster shelters, the County Animal Control Department provided pet food, leashes, and collars for animals living in parks with their owners.


Many families abruptly displaced by the suddenness of the earthquake had little time to do more than snatch up a few treasured items and scoop up their pets before dashing outside to

safety. They kept their dogs and cats close at hand, partly because the animals were continually spooked by the frequent aftershocks but also because their pets were among the only remnants of their pre-quake lives.

County animal control officers paid frequent visits to the parks, handing out pet food to grateful animal owners and reminding them to make sure their pets were wearing some form of identification. "Pet identification is a theme we have hammered at for years," said Frank R. Andrews, director of County Animal Control Department. "People, especially cat owners, resist the collar-and-tag notion. But now everyone could see the need to make sure their pets were wearing some form of identification."

Despite nerves jangled by unpredictable quake aftershocks, sudden homelessness, and a rainstorm that swept through Southern California adding to the misery of persons huddled in tents in parks, people managed to retain their sense of humor. One earthquake victim put a potted plant and a portable fire extinguisher outside his small tent and stuck a sign on a pole in front. "One bedroom & den" announced the mock rental sign.

Gesturing to a row of porta-potties set up nearby, the man deadpanned, "My only fear is that I'll be sitting in one of those when the next big one hits."

Bob Ballenger is the executive assistant of the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control, the largest animal control agency in the nation. 

ABUSE, continued from page 1

the expression, "To close the barn door after the horse is gone," because they are primarily punitive, certainly not corrective!


If the present approach to crime abatement has proven ineffective, is it not logical to try another method?

Those of us who constantly petition for the humane treatment of animals, not infrequently are likened to the proverbial "little old lady in tennis shoes" or questioned in a manner similar to this article's title. Regardless, we won-

der at the short-sightedness behind the enactment of cruelty laws which tolerantly mandate a "slap on the wrist" for heinous acts of animal cruelty and severely punitive ones in cases of proven human abuse. It is high time for law makers and the general public alike to understand that violence is violence regardless of its recipient and because of that, why the humane treatment of animals is of equal importance to that of humans. Sociologist and other realistic thinkers, have long recognized the fallaciousness of the assumption that there is nominally "acceptable" cruelty in the case of animals and "nonacceptable" violence in the case of humans. Albert Schweitzer best explains why, with his remark: "Anyone who has accustomed himself to regard the life of any living creature as worthless is in danger of arriving also at the idea of worthless human lives."

The Latham Foundation has always been concerned with human as well as nonhuman welfare. Because of that concern, a major portion of its educational efforts are directed towards impressing society with regard to the mutuality of its shared interdependence with nonhuman life. This issue of the Latham Letter contains articles attesting to the direct relationship that nonhuman cruelty has to that of human violence. Further, the reader will find reports of Latham's Child Animal Abuse Prevention (CAAP) project's endeavors to promote public awareness of the important relationship and unanimity which underlie all acts of violence. With society's understanding of the motivational singleness of violence and the potential repressive effectiveness of cooperative cross-communication between human and animal welfare agencies, a valuable and cost effective crime abatement measure will be realized.

Question: If the abusive treatment of defenseless animals, children, spouses or the elderly is not a cowardly act, why then, are so few abuse cases reported which involve a strong healthy man as the victim?

Hugh H. Tebault is President of the Latham Foundation. 

A Humane Garden of Children, Plants, and Animals Grows in Sonoma County, California

Carol Rathmann and Lynn Loar

Children learn about themselves and their place in the world at home, with their parents, by exploring their surroundings under the supervision and guidance of their parents, by seeing their reflection in their parents' eyes and gauging their effectiveness and worth through their relationship with the members of their family. Children who grow up in violent, abusive or negligent families are likely to learn that the world is unsafe, and that the people they depend on for care often harm or scare them. Moreover, they learn that adults prevail, handle anger, or solve problems through force or violence, and the children's needs for safety and nurturance are sacrificed for the adults' desires.

Teachers, social workers, therapists, day care, and recreational staff members all wonder how they might assist these frightened and maltreated children, to encourage them to grow in more benign and positive ways, and to see other capacities in themselves besides the harsh ones mirrored in their homes. The Humane Society of Sonoma County has designed a program for children at risk that allows them to explore and develop their capacities for nurturance, gentleness, and friendship in a safe and bucolic setting surrounded by plants, animals and caring adults.

The Beginning of the Program

After attending a moving and provocative presentation about child and animal abuse sponsored by the San Francisco Child Abuse Council and the Humane Coalition Against Violence (a training and advocacy program of the San Francisco Child Abuse Council and the San Francisco Department of Animal Care and Control), staff members of the Humane Society of Sonoma County decided to expand their services by developing a program for abused and neglected

children in their community. Their mission statement embraced the concept: "founded in 1931 as the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Children," they work to encourage a humane society. Their facility has spacious grounds, and volunteers were eager to undertake a new challenge. Unfortunately, children in need are always plentiful.

A cautionary note about naive optimism had been sounded at the training. Participants were reminded that children who have not experienced gentleness, whose needs have been met with indifference or rejection, who have been hit instead of comforted, who have observed violence at home or in their communities, may pose a threat to the safety and welfare of animals. It was suggested that well-intended adults not allow children immediate access to small animals who could be hurt by an aggressive child. Rather, people were encouraged to consider gardening, teaching children how to be gentle with living things, and instilling in them a sense that they could nurture and cause beautiful things to grow. Also, if a child lost control and threw or destroyed a plant, the damage would be smaller, and the burden to the child of having harmed a living thing reduced. Once the children had demonstrated mastery of gentle care-taking with plants and flowers, they could then be promoted to playing with animals, ideally, large, gentle and sturdy animals at first.

The Children in the Program

Initially, the shelter director con-



In the gardening program at the Humane Society of Sonoma County, children from violent and abusive homes learn that touch need not hurt; rather, that it can be safe and nurturing, and that there is a world to explore at their fingertips through gardening and caring for animals.

Photo Credit: CAROL RATHMANN, SONOMA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

tacted the local YWCA, a non-profit community agency which runs a shelter for battered women and their children and a pre-school for abused children. Children from the county-run shelter (living there because they had been removed by the Juvenile Court from abusive or negligent families) joined the program too.

Families residing in the shelter for battered women arrive in crisis with few if any belongings and are given temporary lodging. Because of the imminent danger, the location of the house is secret, and because of their brief stay in the shelter their involvement in outside activities is minimal. For many children, their visit to the Humane Society is their only time away from the shelter. Greeted by warm, friendly adults who devote themselves to the children for the duration of their visit, the children overcome their initial nervousness and blossom along with the flowers that they tend. The safety of the setting, the constancy of the volunteers who welcome them each week, the results of their efforts in the growth of the greenery and the flowers, the companionship of the animals show the children — and let them experience — gentle-

ness and nurturing, and respect for everything that grows.

The children from the YWCA's pre-school are longer-term participants. All were abused, and a number also saw their pets abused. They learn about the life cycle and feel connected to it. The seeds they plant in the spring become their snack of watermelon in the summer and their Halloween pumpkin in the fall. They feed the animals vegetables they themselves have grown (and also even eat vegetables). Since they enjoy feeding the animals, they learn that taking care of a living creature can be pleasurable. They quickly learn the animals' cries of delight and discomfort and reshape their behavior accordingly. The animals teach the children how they like to be touched and cared for, and the children are eager learners not only of the specific way to pat the goat's ear, but also of the gentle and considerate way all living creatures deserve to be touched.

The children residing at the county shelter live in cramped and impersonal surroundings with few if any personal possessions. At the Humane Society, they have a sense of freedom and spaciousness they lack otherwise. Moreover, they receive one-on-one attention from volunteers whose singular purpose is to befriend them. Both before coming into care, and during their stay at the shelter, the lives of these children have been marked by inattention and lack of nurturance. They thrive in the caring and personal relationships with the volunteers and are thus allowed to develop warmer and more trusting sides of themselves than their other settings allow.

The Volunteers

The volunteers, including master gardeners from the University of California Agricultural Extension Program, retired teachers, nurses, pedia-

tricians and therapists, and Humane Society volunteers, are meticulously screened, interviewed, fingerprinted, and educated about the special needs and concerns of abused and neglected children. Ongoing consultation and training are also provided. Since many of the volunteers are retirees, they are like grandparents to the children, a fortunate relationship in two regards. First, most of these children come from fragmented homes and may not have, or have contact with, grandparents. Secondly, parents do not see

donate goods and supplies, and the National Guard to plow the field. The San Francisco Child Abuse Council donated training and consultation. Small grants and individual donations have provided supplies for the garden and for the care of the farm animals beyond what was donated by local businesses. People asked to contribute their time, resources or supplies immediately grasped the program's potential to break the cycle of abuse in both practical and effective ways and responded with generosity



Photo Credit: CAROL RATHMANN, SONOMA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

The children see flowers and plants thrive under their care.

these older volunteers as rivals for the affection of their children and do not begrudge their children an afternoon of gardening and caring for animals with surrogate grandparents.

The Funding for the Program

There is no funding for the program! Infused by generosity, all time and supplies are donated. The Humane Society allowed the shelter manager to adjust her schedule to include the program, and made its facilities available. She, in turn, recruited and screened the volunteers, and persuaded local business people, service clubs, and nursery men to

and enthusiasm.

The Design of the Program

The purpose of the program is to provide children from violent homes the opportunity to become a part of a nurturing series of relationships in which seeds grow into vegetables and flowers, animals grow into companions to be cared for and played with, and adults grow into trusted and protective guides to the life cycle.

1. Restorative Touch

Children who have been abused or have witnessed abuse are often

GARDEN, continued on next page

frightened of touch, worried if it will hurt or if they will get by safely. Thus, they lose a whole world of sensory information at their fingertips. In the gardening program, the children dig in the dirt, sow seeds, separate roots for transplanting, feel the difference in the textures of the roots and leaves, smell the differences in their scents, and discover through transplanting that much goes on below ground as well as above. The children prepare the soil to be a welcoming new home for their plants, water and weed them, and watch them grow. They learn to handle these small seedlings with gentleness and respect for their fragility.

2. The Cycle of Life

The children learn that they can cause something to grow and eagerly watch for developments. Initial surprise that a seed sprouted turns into expectation and anticipation of new growth each week as they care for their plants. Upon arrival, the children run to their plants to check on the progress made. They are encouraged to take their vegetables and flowers home, and these are often the only personal possessions the children have. Volunteers affectionately braid flowers in the children's hair, making them feel both special and attractive.

The children also learn the cycle of life by feeding the animals, sometimes including food they have grown. The animals eagerly await their treat, reinforcing for the children their identity as nurturing and caring beings.

The children learn compassion and empathy both through human interaction and tending the animals. A special opportunity arose when the shelter received an orphaned deformed goat. The children bottle-fed him and gave him lots of attention, and named him "Elvis" because of his wobbly back legs. For children whose homes have been disrupted, who live in a shelter, taking care of an orphaned and deformed animal shows them that such problems are

not insurmountable and can be met with affection and caring rather than with anger and rejection. The children on occasion also meet animals at the shelter available for adoption and see the care taken to insure good new homes for them, indirectly addressing concerns the children have about their own future.

3. Forming Attachments

Because instability is the hallmark of the lives of these children, every effort is made in the program to provide stability. The same volunteers come each week, as do the same farm animals and Pet-Assisted Therapy participants. The children develop specific attachments to favorite animals and adults, and these

that they are caring and attentive, that they can nurture and protect other living creatures, and that there are adults who will nourish and attend to them. They learn about the growth and development of living things and relationships, and how to tend to each. They learn that caring and responsibility can be enjoyable rather than burdensome, that the volunteers like feeding and listening to them just as they like feeding and grooming the animals. They learn that they are important to the animals and to the volunteers, and that they are effective and productive. They also learn about boundaries and limits: not treading on the plants or rushing too quickly to

The Humane Society of Sonoma County has designed a program for children at risk that allows them to explore and develop their capacities for nurturance, gentleness, and friendship in a safe and bucolic setting surrounded by plants, animals and caring adults.

are encouraged with the aim of making the children feel successful in initiating and cultivating relationships. They are prized and valued, and their specific charms and accomplishments are celebrated.

Halfway through their visit to the Humane Society, the children are given a snack. Thus, they see the cycle, that the adults nurture and feed them, just as they care for and feed the animals. Snack time also allows for sitting on laps and feeling very special, for sharing thoughts and feelings, for paying and receiving compliments—and for the volunteers to express their appreciation to the children for their work to make the garden so beautiful.

4. Lessons the Children Learn

The children take many important lessons from the program: that they are worthy of care and attention,

ward an animal, about feeding only appropriate foods, about not taking the animals home or being able to go home with a volunteer (who may look more attractive than a parent as a house-mate).

A Few Words of Caution

Because of their non-threatening nature and positive orientation, and the pleasure all the participants have in tending to gardens, animals and each other, such humane programs offer unique opportunities to address the damage sustained by children from violent or negligent homes. However, a few precautionary remarks must be included.

First, the firm commitment of time and resources is vital. These children have already sustained numerous losses, and it is not beneficial for the program, however well-intentioned,



Photo Credit: CAROL RATHMANN, SONOMA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

The children, having seen flowers and plants thrive under their care, come to appreciate the life cycle and the pleasures and responsibilities involved in caring for a living thing — whether that living thing is a ferociously-growing summer squash or a hungry llama. The children love to feed and care for the animals and learn from the animals how they like to be touched.

to compound them. Therefore, the shelter, the donors and the volunteers must all make minimum commitments of a year. Animals, thus, must be selected not only based on their temperament, but also because of their permanency. While the children in the program meet adoptable animals once in a while, their attention is focused on the farm animals who live at the shelter and were specifically designated to be part of the program, and the animals from the pet-assisted therapy program who also come weekly.

Another part of permanency includes meeting regularly, regardless of the weather. Thus program planning must include the preparation of indoor activities if the weather is inclement. Insurance coverage will need to be reviewed and perhaps increased as well.

Moreover, the volunteers must be carefully screened and continuously supervised. Not only fingerprinting and screening, but also training about the special needs of the children and the limits on appropriate involvement by the volunteers (i.e., not getting overinvolved, how to respond when the child asks why he/she cannot go home with the volunteer, etc.) are essential.

In addition, the program must be designed to insure success at every step for each child. Some of the children may be fearful of animals, and should be allowed to observe from

afar until they are comfortable with the setting, the volunteers, and with the strange creatures at a distance.

Part of success includes getting the support of the parents. The permission slip allowing the children to participate should clearly state that it is a requirement of the program that the children get dirty and wet, and that the parents understand and agree to this. Initially, many of the children were afraid to get messy for fear of being punished when they returned home. Sending the children home with plants and flowers they have grown, with photographs of them working, and with a sense of pride and achievement help the parents appreciate the program (and see it as more than just the need for a bath and doing laundry). Encouraging the parents to visit when they can, and get involved if they wish should be an ongoing project.


Conclusion

Humane societies are ideal sponsors of programs designed to help children and their families break the cycle of abuse and neglect. By teaching mastery of skills and empathy for other living things, they can instill in children the value of nurturance and gentleness. Through gardening and tending to animals in the company of capable and appropriate volunteers in a safe and relaxed setting, children learn that they are both worthy of care and capable of caring. Such involve-

ment with multisensory experiences, with seeing — and eating — the fruits of their labors, with forming healthy and joyful attachments, with nourishing and being nourished by them addresses the deficits children have who come from harmful and violent homes. Now having experienced humane treatment themselves, and having treated plants and animals with gentleness, they carry with them these new skills and ties as they face the challenges of the future.

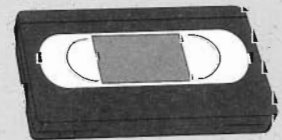
About the Authors:

Carol Rathmann is the shelter manager of the Humane Society of Sonoma County, P.O. Box 1284, Santa Rosa, CA 95402; (707) 542-5202. She is glad to share information about the program.

Lynn Loar is the educational coordinator of the San Francisco Child Abuse Council, 1757 Waller St., San Francisco, CA 94117; (415) 668-0494. Copies of her article "Safe Volunteers" are available along with information about abused and neglected children. 

Congratulations!

Sonoma County Humane Society's Garden Therapy Project recently received the California Consortium to Prevent Child Abuse "Henry Bergh Award" honoring the organization exemplifying the spirit of innovation in promoting child abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment.



A 14-minute video describing Sonoma Humane's Gardening Therapy Program is available from the Latham Foundation. Call 510-521-0920 for information.

month. The incident never made the papers. I doubt if the robber would have become a more socially acceptable member of the community if he had had a puppy when he was a child. Meanwhile, as I write this, several news reports have crossed my desk, which I present for your consideration in no particular order:

- Amid growing concern about blood and sex in home video games, the industry is considering a ratings system to keep young children from buying violent games. Targeted are such rewarding educational experiences as "Night Trap", where players try to defend sorority girls wearing short pajamas against blood-sucking assailants, and "Mortal Kombat", where the winner gets to triumphantly pluck out the spinal cord of a victim.

rampant, he argues, because the law-abiding among us are afraid to fight back. His solution: more of us should carry protective handguns, and stop relying on the police. Call for a cop, call for an ambulance, and call for a pizza, and see who comes first, he says. Columnist George F. Will responded, "It is reasonable to wonder whether a nation whose citizens cannot program their VCRs and who increasingly will not respect stoplights ... is a nation whose citizens are insufficiently dexterous and too aggressive to be safely armed."

- The Canadian government has imposed a national news blackout on the "Barbie and Ken" murders, considered too heinous for Canadian sensitivities. Any publicity, it is argued, will prevent the defendants from receiving a fair trial.
- In neighboring Stuart, Florida, a

The prosecutor commented, "It's almost absurd that we're here for someone beating a defenseless little kitten and it stirs up emotions that should be stirred up in all of our cases, especially those involving human victims."

- *USA Today* devoted an entire page to interviews with America's spiritual leaders asking how they help ordinary people make sense of the random acts of violence permeating the headlines. As New York commuters are gunned down on a train, and St. Louis schoolgirls are abducted, the newspaper wonders how its readers can feel good will to all men during this holiday season.
- Fresh from his success with passage of the Brady bill, President Clinton is seeking a high moral ground and is getting out in front of a number of other handgun control measures. Violence is "tearing the heart out of our country," says our President. "I think the American people are tired of hurting and tired of feeling insecure, and tired of the violence."
- Jeffery Snyder has written an essay in *The Public Interest*, calling America "A Nation of Cowards." Crime is

judge sentenced two men who tortured kittens in separate incidents each to eight months in jail. One man butchered a cat that had urinated in his house. The other said he didn't intend to harm the 8-week-old kitten he stomped, kicked and threw into a tree because he was drunk at the time and was from Central America where pets are not treated with the same respect as in the U.S. The judge said, "The willful torture of another living thing transcends cultural differences." The prosecutor commented, "It's almost absurd that we're here for someone beating on a defenseless little kitten and it stirs up emotions that should be stirred up in all of our cases, especially involving human victims."

Violence against children, animals and other vulnerable victims is connected and escalates in range and

severity. The Latham Foundation is taking a leadership role in sensitizing its readers and various professional communities to these linkages. We are doing this for a variety of reasons. Partly it is in frustration that the compartmentalized efforts of humane and human service agencies for 125 years haven't worked. Partly it is a "back to the basics" approach to view child and animal abuse in the entire continuum of community violence. Partly it is because Latham's expertise positions us to make this connection and actually do something about the rising tide of violence. Meanwhile, each day new information comes in drawing further proof to our intuitive assumptions:

- Here in West Palm Beach, drifters Mark Kohut and Charles Rourke were recently convicted of kidnapping, robbing, and trying to murder a black tourist by burning him alive. In 1991, animal control officers in Joliet, Illinois, seized four starving pit bulls from Rourke, whom neighbors accused of breaking puppies' necks with his hands and feeding live mice to pet piranhas.

In Savona, New York, a 13-year-old boy was charged with beating a 4-year-old to death. The boy was known around the neighborhood for having systematically strangled a neighbor's cat with a laundry hose clamp four years earlier.

Will our efforts make a difference? Certainly. Will we be able to measure any improvements? Probably not. Can we participate in changing a social paradigm by finally saying enough is enough and it's time to eliminate social and family violence? Absolutely. Will it happen overnight? Of course not. Can we save the children who are already lost? I'd like to think so, but I'm not naive.

Meanwhile, the violence against the vulnerable continues. Debbie Duel, humane educator in extremely violence-plagued Washington, DC, said it best: "How can we teach children to be kind to animals when they're afraid to go to school for fear of being shot? It's easy to wonder, sometimes, whether there aren't more laws about stray dogs than stray bullets."

Maybe another approach is needed. In looking back on the forces that shifted cultural paradigms, it seems the most effective social movements all sprang from a single, highly visible incident. The "Mary Ellen" case galvanized a floundering child protection movement. MADD was started by one woman whose child was killed by a drunk driver. Public mood about the Vietnam war shifted dramatically and irrevocably after three single incidents:

- the execution of a suspected Viet Cong official on international TV
- the death of four Kent State University students
- the publication of *Life Magazine* of the high school graduation photos of all American soldiers killed in one week

These incidents made the mind-numbing, desensitizing statistics real. They brought the battles close to home. They made ordinary people identify with the crises. Like all social issues, it's only when someone you know is affected that a problem becomes serious for you.

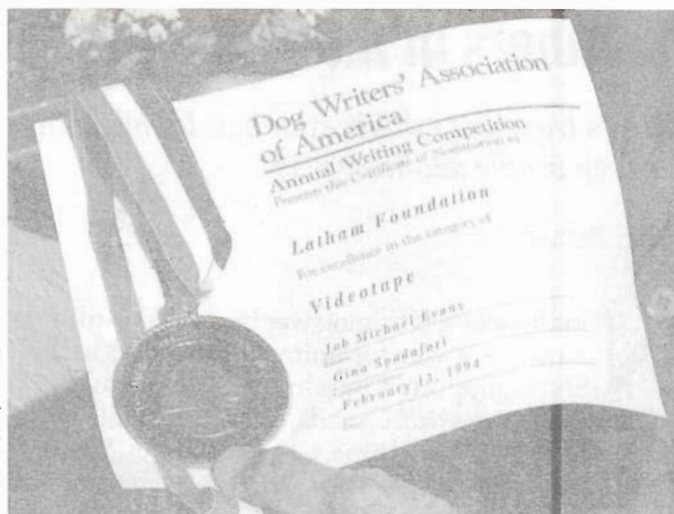
Maybe it's time for us to stop talking generalities and instead focus on specifics. Maybe it's time to stop counting the number of people we reach and instead reach the people who count. In the Winter 1994 Latham Letter you read about a remarkable humane education program in Milwaukee which zeroes in on a small core group of at-risk inner city children. Maybe, P.A.L. is the wave of the future.

We must never stop trying, and we must continually redirect our efforts with renewed energy as the social forces around us keep changing. Individually and together, locally and globally, each of us can make a difference. It won't be easy. But it will start with the children and animals.

Phil Arkow is Executive Director of the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League of the Palm Beaches in West Palm Beach, Florida, and chairs the Latham Foundation's Child and Animal Abuse Prevention project.

Latham Wins Maxwell Award

Latham's "Canine Good Citizen" wins The Dog Writers' Association of America's first place award for videotape excellence, the Maxwell.



In February 1994, the Dog Writers' Association of America notified the Latham Foundation that its videotape "Canine Good Citizen" had been nominated for Excellence in the Videotape Category.

Arlene Klein, who participated in the production, represented Latham at the recent gala awards ceremony in New York City. "Canine Good Citizen" won "Best Video in 1993" and was presented with the highly-coveted first place award, the Maxwell. Sherry Carpenter, well-known writer,

author, and broadcaster, initiated the idea for the video. Other participants in the project include Sandoz Pharmaceuticals, St. Hubert's Giralda, and the Mixed Breed Dog Club of California.

The Canine Good Citizen program advocates better understanding and responsibility "on both ends of the leash."

The videotape is distributed on the East Coast through Animal Vues, RRD 2, Box 71, Bloomsburg, PA 17815 and through the Latham Foundation on the West Coast.



Be Kind to Animals Week

May 1-7, 1994

Sponsored by the American Humane Association



Learn about one of North America's most misunderstood animals at this unique education and research wildlife park.

Six Day Wolf Behavior Seminar

For anyone interested in wolf, wolf-hybrid or dog behavior.

Consists of lectures, slide, video and film presentations, observations and hands-on experience with wolves.

1994 Dates: May 20-25; August 12-17; October 7-12

Cost \$375 (accommodations extra)

Wolf Park is open to the public daily 1-5 PM May-November plus Friday evenings year round for Howl Night.

For more info, write: Wolf Park, Battle Ground, IN 47920 (317) 567-2265

Members of the Family

CHAI's traveling exhibit examines loving relationships between people and their pets

Mary E. Thurston

Nina Natelson is waging war in Israel — a war for animals. She is supported by a legion of followers in America, Canada, and Europe, who contributed time, talents, and money to form Concern for Helping Animals in Israel (CHAI), a US-based charitable organization that is working to instill a sense of compassion in children living in the Middle East.

In 1983 Natelson visited relatives in Haifa, Israel and was deeply affected by the sight of scores of unwanted, starving dogs and cats she saw wandering city streets and beaches. "There were scarcely any humane shelters in Israel, let alone laws protecting animals from deliberate acts of cruelty," she explained. So three months later she created CHAI, the 501(C)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to instilling humane ethics in upcoming generations of Jewish and Arab citizens, as well as the establishment of spay/neuter programs and enforceable anti-cruelty laws throughout Israel.

Animal neglect, of course, occurs in every part of the world, but because Israel is a veritable combat zone, children are understandably conditioned to be less sensitive to animal suffering. "If we lose the capacity to show mercy

for animals, what makes us think we will feel any sympathy for each other?" Natelson asks. "Something has to be done to instill a sense of compassion in future generations."

To this end, CHAI is lending financial support for construction of the first state-of-the-art animal shelter and humane education center in Tel Aviv. The Singer Humane Education Center, named after late-nobel laureate (and former CHAI board member) Isaac Bashevis Singer, will contain a library of video tapes, teaching materials and writings on animals, their care and their place in the religions of the Middle East. It also will



host programs and activities that introduce children to the "new" idea of loving and caring for animals and provide a unique environment where Jewish and Arab children can come together to learn from each other as well as from pets (Jewish and Arab children often never meet because they attend separate schools or are kept apart by their parents).

CHAI believes that any opportunity for these children to interact over a common concern may be critical, as history demonstrates that opposing viewpoints between people can be set aside when a shared experience is discovered — even if the experience is as simple as childhood memories of love for a dog or cat.

Above:
American,
c. 1915

Right:
American,
c. 1920

Below:
Israel,
contemporary



CHAI believes that any opportunity for these children to interact over a common concern may be critical, as history demonstrates that opposing viewpoints between people can be set aside when a shared experience is discovered — even if the experience is as simple as childhood memories of love for a dog or cat.

The shared history of pets and people is a subject of CHAI's first humane education exhibit, titled *Members of the Family: A Century of*


"Studies indicate that children who have the experience of loving animals are more likely to become adults who feel compassion for others— both humans and animals.

In a world torn by violence and instability, fostering humane values and behavior in youth is critical to the development of a healthy society."

Companion Animal Portraits which begins touring schools, museums, and community centers throughout Israel this summer. Sixty photos, taken between 1850 and today, introduce children to positive visual images of people sharing their lives with animals, while exhibit text (translated in three languages) explains that love

Museum in Washington, D.C. (CHAI currently is scheduling a second state-side exhibit tour.) Natelson hopes the American version of the exhibit will raise awareness of the plight of animals in the Middle East, and proceeds from exhibit rental fees will go toward the construction of the Singer Humane Education Center.

Only when a society learns to express love for God's furred and feathered creatures can it hope to end decades of bloodshed. Isaac Bashevis Singer himself once summed up the importance of this work by saying: "We know now, as we have always known instinctively, that animals can suffer as much as humans. Their

*As an Austin, Texas-based cultural anthropologist and museum specialist, Mary E. Thurston writes regularly about pet history and animal welfare issues. She has curated several traveling exhibits on companion animal issues, among them *Members of the Family*.* 



Welsh, c. 1945-50

for animals is a universal human experience, cutting across barriers of culture, linguistics — and time.

The photo portraits offer unique glimpses into emotional complexities of past and present relationships with pets. The posture of a dog in relation to its owner, for instance, often says a great deal about how the two relate — as best friends, siblings, or even parent and child. Such images not only are role models for aspiring young pet owners today, but are testimony to the fact that animals have been an integral part of happy family life for generations.

A duplicate of the exhibit remains in this country and just completed its first American tour, which was launched last spring at the Children's



*Above:
British, c. 1917*

*Left:
Welsh, c. 1930*

*Below:
American, c. 1880-1900*

emotions and their sensitivity are often stronger than those of a human being. Various philosophers and religious leaders tried to convince their disciples and followers that animals are nothing more than machines without a soul, without feelings. However, anyone who has ever lived with an animal, be it a dog, a bird, or even a mouse, knows that this theory is a brazen lie, invented to justify cruelty. I think that animals are as much God's creatures as men. And we have to respect and love them."



Bedwetting, Fire Setting, and Animal Cruelty

Lisa Lembke, DVM, MS

In animal welfare work, we know intuitively there is an association between the so-called triad behaviors of persistent bedwetting, repeated fire setting and extreme cruelty to animals. We strongly suspect children who do awful things to animals grow up to be awful dangerous adults. But apart from anecdotal information, how do we know this? Is it really true? Where are the published citations—and the credibility gained from the scientific literature? Why do these children act the way they do? The answers may surprise you.

It isn't possible to run to the library to check out books on animal welfare, to look up the answers. Technical references on animal welfare make a pretty thin shelf of works, and practically none of it is readily available to the general public. There are books on animal care—but what we are concerned with is animal abuse. There are, of course, the texts (some would say diatribes) written by the animal rights folks, for example, Jeremy Rifkin's *Beyond Beef* and Peter Singer's *Animal Liberation*. These works are singularly unhelpful when one is confronted with the grisly reality of an animal cruelty case. They may, in fact, have a malign influence because the public does not separate animal rights from animal welfare—but the public is very good at recognizing and discounting the lunatic fringe.

Much of our knowledge about the causes of animal cruelty is apocryphal, its origin lost in the retelling of precious sets of facts. When the source for the information can't be verified, then two reasonable doubts creep in: is the information true; and if so, is it undistorted? What we know to be true, and what we can prove to be true, are not the same thing. So it is with the significance of the triad behaviors of bedwetting, fire setting, and cruelty to animals: we must be able to prove the association.

The ability to predict violent behav-

ior accurately is something sociologists, psychologists and psychiatrists have pursued for a very long time. The positive association between persistent enuresis (defined as bedwetting), fire setting behavior, and overt cruelty to animals was first codified in research on the prediction of dangerously aggressive behavior. Early works published by Hellman and Blackman in 1966 suggested that these three behaviors constituted a triad of behaviors useful for predicting future criminal behavior.¹

Dr. Fernando Tapia published a critical study in 1971 on children who are cruel to animals,² and a follow-up study on the same children in 1977.³ In the 1971 study, Tapia gave us the first clear description of children who commit animal cruelties, and the first systematic study of cases. For these children, animal cruelty was a specific presenting complaint (but not necessarily the only complaint). Tapia noted these children usually have other symptoms besides cruelty to animals, but that any relationship between symptoms was unknown.

Tapia's 1971 findings created a profile for the animal-abusing child:

that child is a male with average age of 9.5 years (range 5-15 years), and an average IQ of 91 (which rules out mental retardation as an etiologic factor). The childhood history was likely to include gross parental neglect, brutality, rejection, and hostility. Environmental factors in the home, and parental behavior, had significant effects. Tapias's report on the distribution of behaviors in children who were cruel to animals is reproduced in Figure 1 (below).

In Tapia's study, none of the 18 boys showed the complete triad of bedwetting, fire setting and animal cruelty. All suffered from at least two of the symptoms in the figure, and some had as many as seven. Clearly these were very difficult, emotionally disturbed children.

Tapia tried to understand the etiology of the animal cruelty in these children, and to comprehend the circumstances. Here is one of his cases:

Case 8: D.R., age 10, was distinctly cruel to animals, having tortured turtles and killed a puppy by kicking it. He stole, lied, and set fires. He was aggressive toward his siblings: he once broke his sister's arm and tried

FIGURE 1. Behaviors shown by children who are cruel to animals.

	Case Number																	
SYMPTOM:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Cruelty to animals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bullying/fighting	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X					X		X		
Temper	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X				X			
Lying and/or stealing		X				X	X	X							X	X		
Destructive			X	X		X			X					X	X			
Hyperactivity				X				X							X		X	X
Excessive interest in sex							X							X		X	X	
Night terrors				X				X										
Enuresis		X		X			X									X	X	
Sadism			X									X						
Encopresis												X						

to drown his brother; another time he was found choking his brother. In school he cut a girl with a piece of metal. The boy suffered many nightmares. The natural mother was emotionally disturbed with repeated institutionalization. The natural father was an alcoholic and a bully, and the stepfather rejected the boy. An electroencephalogram was paroxysmal and suggestive of seizure disorders. Full-scale IQ was 99, verbal 91, and performance 107. Diagnosis: Adjustment Reaction of Childhood.

behaviors as a potential early warning sign of assaultive behavior in institutionalized adolescent male delinquents.¹ The six adolescents they studied in the Southern California Youth Authority were ranked as the most overtly dangerous assaultive youth housed in the institution. All six had recent histories that included the triad behaviors. Wax and Haddox assert that the histories of these offenders show pathognomonic variables in addition to the triad.

These are reproduced in Figure 2.

FIGURE 2. Pathognomonic variable in violently assaultive adolescents.

	Case Number					
CASE NUMBER VARIABLE:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Assaultiveness	xa	x	xa	x	x	x
Sexual deviation	x	x	x	x	x	x
Family disorganization	x	x	x	?	x	x
Maternal deprivation	x	x	x	?	x	x
Psychosis/borderline	x	x	x	x		x
Affect disorder	x		x		x	
Significant drug use	x			x	x	

Key: x = present; a = suicide attempt of self mutilation; ? = no information

In 1977, Rigdon and Tapia again sought to interview the 18 children from the initial study. Thirteen were available for follow-up. Eight of the 13 were still cruel to animals. Eleven of the 13 had current histories of family difficulties: seven had divorced parents and four more lived with extreme family instability. The family chaos was compounded by mental illness in nine cases, and by alcoholism in seven cases. Four of the children had fathers with prison records. Time and maturity were not enough to stop the practice of animal cruelty by these children.

In the 1970's several researchers expanded on the early work by Hellman and Blackman. Wax and Haddox were interested in the triad

Wax and Haddox commented that physicians, school guidance personnel and others dealing with children should be sensitive to presence of the triad in children. These researchers thought that immediate consultation and therapeutic intervention was warranted when the triad behaviors occurred. They assert that adolescents with triad symptomatology have a developmental deviation with gross internal difficulties. These adolescents were both different from the institutionalized population as a whole, and highly vulnerable internally, something Wax and Haddox described as "a very singular form of handicap."

In 1977, Valerie Ann Geddes wrote her master's thesis on a follow-up study to Wax and Haddox earlier

work with adolescents.² Geddes found that five of the six individuals continued to behave in an extremely violent, assaultive manner. Because of patient-doctor confidentiality laws and inconsistencies in recorded documentation of behavior, Geddes speculated that the subjects were actually more explosive and dangerous than their case records indicated. The conclusion was that the triad behaviors are a useful and valid clinical tool for predicting violent behavior. The triad was positively associated with severe psychopathology not found in other non-violent offenders.

Geddes also noted previously unidentified sexual factors contributing to violent behavior. Two, possibly three, of the six men had been the passive recipients of sexual attacks and these same men were active participants in sadistic attacks on younger or weaker victims. All six showed some uncertainty about their sexual adequacy and identity. Two of the six demonstrated sexual perversions. Geddes surmises these men may have confused assaultive behavior with masculine behavior.

The group of children studied by Tapia had the elements of the triad, but none exhibited the full symptomatology. The adolescents, first studied by Wax and Haddox and later by Geddes, showed triad behaviors and a constellation of other pathognomonic symptomatology which was striking enough to separate them from other types of offenders. Persisting into adolescence, the triad is a serious manifestation of psychopathology, particularly when accompanied by other symptoms and a predisposing family history such as severe maternal deprivation.

Felthous built on the theory that animal cruelty is a sign of childhood aggression dyscontrol in a 1980 study.³ Two groups of male psychiatric patients were compared: one group had

CRUELTY, continued on next page

a history of animal cruelty and the other a history of assaultive behavior. There was substantial commonality in the two groups for certain historical items, including brutal punishment by a parent, temper tantrums, destructive or assaultive outbursts, childhood fights and truancy. The group with a history of animal cruelty was significantly more likely than the assaultive group to have: had an alcoholic father, set uncontrolled and destructive fires, had enuresis past age five, and been separated from the father. The triad symptoms separated the animal abusers from the assaultive patients.

The cruelty in Felthous' study was disproportionately directed against cats. Of 18 subjects in the animal cruelty group, all but one tortured cats. The single subject who tortured only dogs showed a very high level of aggression toward people, as did all six of the subjects who set cats or dogs on fire or inserted live fireworks per rectum had also been responsible for setting fires for which the fire department was called. Other sadistic exploits against animals included acts of mutilation, strangulation, scalding, and vicious beatings.

Kellert and Felthous then studied the relationship between childhood cruelty toward animals and aggression among criminals and non-criminals.⁷ The subjects for the study were from Federal penitentiaries in Leavenworth, KS and Danbury, CT. Aggressiveness was defined by behavioral criteria rather than reason for incarceration. Kellert and Felthous showed that childhood cruelty toward animals occurred much more

frequently among aggressive criminals than among nonaggressive ones. Family violence, especially abuse by a father, and alcoholism also occurred more frequently among aggressive criminals.

Motives for animal cruelty

In the study, more than 40 instances of extreme cruelty, such as pulling the wings off sparrows, were identified, allowing preliminary classification of nine different motives for the cruelty (Figure 3). Kellert and Felthous state that the variety of motives for animal cruelty is explained by the fact that the behavior is complex and multidimensional. They reiterate the importance of childhood animal cruelty as a behavioral sentinel for disturbed family relationships and a harbinger of future antisocial behavior.

In a 1986 study, Kellert and Felthous conducted extensive interviews with aggressive criminals, nonaggressive criminals and non-criminals to investigate further the relationship between animal cruelty and recurrent violence against people.⁸ They warn that the presence of the triad behaviors is not enough by itself to predict future violence. They suggest that the nature, quality and quantity of abusive acts toward animals affects the predictive value of the triad.

Using cameos, the researchers illustrated a broad range of behaviors that include hurting, injuring and/or killing animals. They state, however, that the veracity of the data is open to exaggeration. Questions of complete truthfulness, and also of interpretation arise: some acts of cruelty are controversial while others are clearly cruel and abusive. Interviews with relatives

were not consistently reliable for confirming historical information. In some cases, parents were apparently unaware of the behavior.

Certain features of childhood animal cruelty may be more meaningful to the accurate prediction of aggression. These include:

- a) *direct involvement with cruelty rather than simply witnessing the act;*
- b) *lack of self-restraint (or evidence for impulsivity);*
- c) *lack of remorse;*
- d) *variety of cruel acts;*
- e) *variety of species victimized; and*
- f) *actions directed against socially valuable animals (eg. dogs, not rats).*

Kellert and Felthous also suggest that motive, in addition to the particulars of the cruelty, plays a prominent role in interpreting the significance of childhood animal cruelty.

Felthous and Kellert, whose substantive contributions to the study of the relationship between animal cruelty and later aggression against people is by now obvious to the reader, published a study in 1987 reviewing the literature on animal cruelty and human aggression.⁹ The authors reviewed 10 studies where no clear link between animal cruelty and aggressive behavior had been established, and four that did establish the link.

Felthous and Kellert postulate that the link does in fact exist between animal cruelty and aggressive or assaultive behavior. The failure to document the association in ten of the fourteen controlled studies under review could be attributed to several research considerations:

- a) *lack of definition of animal cruelty;*
- b) *inconsistent definition of personal aggression, especially where single rather than recurrent acts were considered;*
- c) *substitution of chart review for direct personal interviews; and*
- d) *failure to systematically investigate the association between cruelty to animals and aggression.*

MOTIVES FOR ANIMAL CRUELTY

- 1) To control an animal
- 2) To retaliate against an animal
- 3) To satisfy a prejudice against a breed or species
- 4) To express aggression through an animal
- 5) To enhance one's own aggressiveness
- 6) To shock people for amusement
- 7) To retaliate against another person

Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence: Intake Statistics Tell a Sad Story

Phil Arkow

Colorado Springs, CO—Inspired and dismayed by growing evidence linking cruelty to animals with other forms of violence, the Center for Prevention of Domestic Violence initiated an on-going survey in June, 1993. Center personnel began to routinely ask intakes coming into their three programs whether there were any incidents involving cruelty to animals. After seven months the results are revealing and, unfortunately, not surprising.

In the first seven months of keeping records, 23.8% of the battered and abused women seeking refuge in the Center's Safehouse reported cruelty to animals had occurred. The Center averages 17 intakes a month, and 29 of the 122 intakes during June—December, 1993, had animal cruelty in the family histories.

In the Advocacy program, where battered women seek restraining orders, counseling, or support services, the numbers were also alarm-

ing. Of 1,175 intakes, 128, or 10.9%, reported a history of animal abuse.

In the MOVE program (Men Overcoming Violent Encounters), in which abusing men are ordered by the courts to seek group counseling, one case of cruelty to animals was noted among the 189 men brought into the program during the period. Star Jorgensen of the Center reports that even this one incident is unusual, in that men in the MOVE program generally do not report any physical violence or abuse.

Ms. Jorgensen says the numbers are probably even higher. The recorded statistics include only those from checklists completed by new clients. Not recorded are comments regarding abuse the Center receives from telephone and other conversations with clients. Of the recorded statistics, specific abuses include:

- Shooting both dogs in front of the children (one dog died)
- Shooting the pet with a pellet gun
- Kicking or beating the dog or cat

- Not feeding the animals for days (horses and sheep)
- Throwing the dog or cat across the room, down the stairs, at the wall, etc.
- Not letting the puppy out and beating it when it messes in the house
- Hitting the dog with a closed fist

Ms. Jorgensen is convinced that family violence includes physical and emotional abuse of household animals. She says she sees high levels of fear and violence spilling over to the animals as well as to the abused and fearful women and children. The Center will continue to keep records documenting animal abuse with program intakes and it is hoped that other domestic violence and child abuse centers around the country will do likewise.

For more information, contact Star Jorgensen, The Center for Prevention of Domestic Violence, P.O. Box 2662, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.



The Center for Prevention of Domestic Violence • Colorado Springs, Colorado Animal Abuse Statistics - 1993

	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
SAFEHOUSE								
Total Intakes	23	18	12	13	22	19	15	122
Animals Abused	4	5	0	4	6	6	4	29
Animals Killed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage	17.4	27.7	0	30.7	27.2	31.5	26.6	23.8
ADVOCACY								
Total Intakes	209	142	178	151	190	156	149	1,175
Animals Abused	10	18	25	14	23	19	15	124
Animals Killed	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	4
Percentage	5.7	12.6	14.0	9.2	13.1	11.4	10.0	10.9
M.O.V.E.								
Total Intakes	27	24	37	30	20	23	28	189
Animals Abused	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Animals Killed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.5	.5

The studies of childhood animal cruelty have indeed been flawed by inconsistent approaches. Without a standard definition of animal cruelty, swatting flies and dismembering cats cannot be separated. The definition of aggression must take into consideration the recurrent nature of the cruelty to differentiate accident and intent, isolated event from habit. And one misses more for not looking than not knowing — medical charts won't yield the depth and breadth of detail extracted by personal interview, and if the questions relating to cruelty are never asked, then there will be no answers.

In animal welfare, the animals are the primary concern. One of the problems Felthous and Kellert encountered in their literature review was an inconsistent definition of cruelty to animals. Mistreatment of animals, specifically including cruelty, has a legal definition in Wisconsin Statute and equivalent legal language in most other states. Borrowing from the literature on child abuse, cruelty can also be defined as an act that is unacceptable because a sufficient number of society's members define the act as such by the weight of public opinion. This social standard is important, for it prejudices the interpretation of statute by judge and jury.

Felthous and Kellert cite J. Bowlby in their text, who wrote in 1952 that "Cruelty to animals and other children is a characteristic, though not common, feature of the affectionless psychopath...." It is important to understand that a single cruel act directed against an animal fails to qualify as significant in psychological

terms (though it may well be criminally significant). The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders did not list cruelty to animals as a symptom of mental illness in the 1980's. Felthous and Kellert stress that the violence they are concerned about is characterized by its recurrent nature and dangerous quality. It is ultimately directed at people. In animal welfare we are also very much concerned about the premonitory violence against animals.

Francis Casey asserts that "In the life history of every violent person there is another violent person."¹⁰ There is a consistent finding of serious family dysfunction in the histories of children who were cruel to animals; alcoholism, brutal treatment by a parent, maternal deprivation, divorce, mental illness, and so on. The children who repeatedly commit cruelties to animals, acts that are beyond normal exploratory behavior, tend to show other abnormal aggressive and antisocial tendencies in addition to the cruelty to animals. The triad behaviors are examples of antisocial behavior — manifestation but not causation.

Recurrent violence against animals cannot be treated as an isolated problem. Prosecutors and judges tend to do just that, dismissing violent acts of animal cruelty with tiny fines and light sentences — after all, it was only a cat. The animal cruelty is in itself a horrible thing, and it is only a part of the much larger constellation of antisocial behaviors. And this is precisely what physicians, social workers, and law enforcement representatives — from investigators to judges — need to be made to understand. Repeated, overt acts of cruelty don't happen in a vacuum — there is a very sick, potentially dangerous person behind them, and very likely a highly disturbed family as well.

People who assist law enforcement officers in the investigation of animal cruelty or who hold animals following seizure in cruelty cases would do well to remember this potential danger. It is important to research the defendant before assisting with the animals. Prior criminal history, including incident report and prior convictions,

and social services contact information will alert a cautious investigator or shelter worker to the possibility of substantial personal risk. The subject of the investigation could well be an explosively assaultive, remorseless and unrepentant, dangerous individual. People assisting with the investigation or holding animals belonging to the defendant may become targets of violence.

The striking features of subjects presenting with the triad behaviors — bedwetting, fire setting, and animal cruelty — are the tender age of the subjects when the behaviors are identified; the magnitude, multiplicity, and variety of the cruelty; the presence of a dysfunctional family situation; and finally, the potential for later assaultive aggression against people. Most of the studies have been done on subjects institutionalized for psychiatric reasons or incarcerated following conviction. Animal cruelty is part of a collection of behaviors that indicate extreme personal dysfunction with poor impulse control. Bedwetting and fire setting don't predict animal cruelty — animal cruelty is integral to the triad.

The aggregate occurrence of all three triad behaviors has some value, particularly when present in adolescence, and when accompanied by other pathogenomic behaviors, in predicting violently aggressive behavior. For people in animal welfare work, triad behavior patterns should raise concern that dangerous aggression is possible, and this should be brought to the attention of the cooperating law enforcement agency. It also mandates communication with local social services agencies about potentially severe family disturbance and the welfare of children. These aren't just animal cruelty problems — they are serious people problems.

Lisa Lembke, DVM, MS is Founder of the Wisconsin Center for the Study of Animal Welfare, a small think tank providing technical resource consulting on animal issues to lawmakers, investigators, and humane groups. 1208 Sand Street, Watertown, WI 53094, (414) 261-0739.

*"Though boys throw stones
at frogs in sport,
the frogs do not die in sport;
they die in earnest."*

Plutarch

Lembke References:

1. Hellman, D.S. and N. Blackman. "Enuresis, firesetting and cruelty to animals: A triad predictive of adult crime." *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 1966, 122: 1431-1435.
2. Tapia, Fernando. "Children who are cruel to animals." *Child Psychology and Human Development*, 1971, 2(2): 70-77.
3. Rigdon, J.D. and Fernando Tapia. "Children who are cruel to animals—a follow-up study." *Journal of Operational Psychology*, 1977, 8(1): 27-36.
4. Wax, D.E. and V.G. Haddox. "Enuresis, fire setting, and animal cruelty: a useful danger signal in predicting vulnerability of adolescent males to assaultive behavior." *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, 1974, 4(3): 151-156.
5. Geddes, Valeric Ann. "Enuresis, fire setting and animal cruelty — a follow-up study to review the triad hypothesis in reference to the prediction of violence." 1977, MS Thesis, Department of Criminal Justice, California State University, Long Beach.
6. Felthous, Alan R. "Aggression against cats, dogs and people." *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, 1980, 10(3): 169-177.
7. Kellert, Stephen R. and Alan R. Felthous. "Childhood cruelty toward animals among criminals and noncriminal." *Human Relations*, 1985, 38(12): 1113-1129.
8. Felthous, Alan R. and Stephen R. Kellert. "Violence against animals and people: is aggression against living creatures generalized?" *Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law*, 1986, 14(1): 55-69.
9. Felthous, Alan R. and Stephen R. Kellert. "Childhood cruelty to animals and later aggression against people: a review." *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 1987, 144(6): 710-717.
10. Comey, Francis L. "Psychosocial Aspects of Violence" in *Violent Behavior Vol. 1*, Hertzberg, Leonard J. MD, Gene F. Ostrum, Ph.D. and Joan Roberts Field, Ph.D. ed., PMA Publishing Corp., Great Neck, NY 1990, p. 87.



Coming in the next Latham Letter:

- *Innovative Humane Education: "The D.J. Respect for Living Things"*
- *Program (Pet-Inspired Values Development)*
- *Your Cat's Wild Cousins*
- *More from Peter Gauthier, author of "Oscar", the story of a fish*
- *Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Updates*

Therapy Dog is Catalyst in Miraculous Recovery: Jenni's Journal Part III



Jenni Dunn, Pet Therapy Dog

My name is Jenni. I am very friendly and very obedient and for the last three and a half years I have been visiting patients at Lutheran Medical Center in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. I have been keeping a journal of my thoughts and experiences and from time-to-time I share them with Latham Letter readers. In the last issue I promised I would tell you the story of a real Miracle. You will recognize it when you read it.

Wednesday, January 15, 1992

Today was a little different. "Pre-Surgery" called and asked Mom if she could come in to work today as they were going to be really busy. Mom told them I was scheduled for Pet Therapy and couldn't cancel. They suggested that Mom bring me to Pre-Surgery and work until I was to visit at 10:00 a.m., do my rounds, then come back and work some more. I am such a good girl at the hospital that Mom agreed. I just lay on the floor at her feet. The doctors and anesthesiologists were surprised to see me but nearly every one of them came over and petted me. Several even got on the floor with me. They were dressed in their "surgery" garb but that didn't scare me. I knew there were some nice people under all that stuff.

On the floors, I took several "dog naps" while patients talked. We spent quite a lot of time with a heart attack patient that just needed to talk, I sprawled at his feet and went to sleep while he and Mom talked. (We have noticed that heart patients need to talk.) When Mom finally woke me up and we left, I heard him tell one of the nurses, "now, that is one fine dog"!

Saturday, February 15, 1992

We visited a lady who was curled up in a ball in a chair by the window

and was sobbing uncontrollably. During the visit, she stopped crying long enough to pet me and give me a doggie treat.

Sunday, February 23, 1992

Dad gave me a bath today instead of Mom and he took me to the hospital. I showed him the stairs the Pet Therapy Dogs are supposed to use. He took me directly to room 249 where I immediately recognized the smell on the slippers and bathrobe that were on a chair. I checked the room out and then put my feet on the bed to visit the patient. It was MOM!! So this is where she has been for two days! She was the patient this time. I got so excited I threw up. Dad cleaned up my mess then we got Mom out of bed and she put on her bathrobe and slippers and she and Dad and I visited the other patients on the floor.

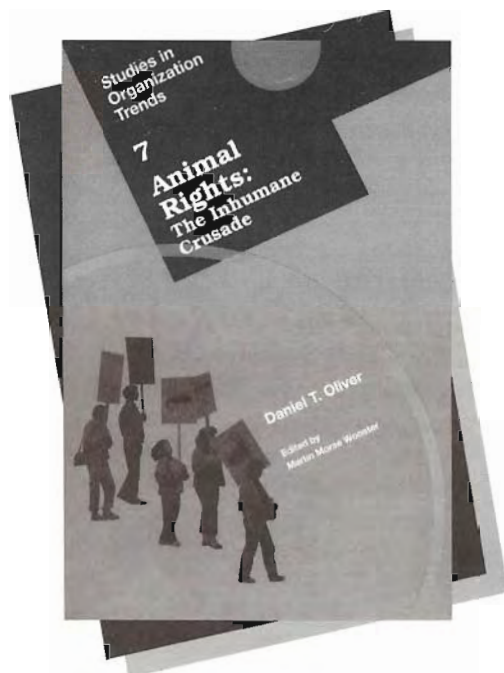
Wednesday, April 23, 1992

When I entered one patient's room today the patient said, "Well, there's Jenni!" It was obvious we had visited her on previous stays in the hospital. One young lady we visited was all alone as her parents lived out of state. She said if it weren't for me, she wouldn't have any visitors at all. Another patient was blind and had

JOURNAL, continued on page 22

Book Reviews

Animal Rights: The Inhumane Crusade



Animal Rights: The Inhumane Crusade, is a well written and organized book. Its author, Daniel T. Oliver, has provided readers with a compendium of the convictions and rationale of those who favor and advocate the use of animals for medical experimentation, hunting and trapping, factory farming, rodeos, and all other forms of entertainment and use. Further, Oliver has included detailed descriptions and listings of organizational opposition in the book's extensive indexes. *Animal Rights: The Inhumane Crusade* is highly recommended to every individual concerned with human and/or nonhuman welfare, regardless of individual conviction.

The book is devoted to the identification and summary discredit of all animal rights organizations and activity. However, this reviewer was impressed with the fact that the author, intentionally or unintentionally, painted with such a broad brush that his evaluations convey the impression that through subversion or lack of basic understanding, most individuals and organizations primarily

concerned with animal welfare are related or sympathetically disposed to the militant and illegal actions of the animal rights movement.

Animal Rights:

The Inhumane Crusade

Daniel T. Oliver, Author

Edited by Martin Morse Wooster

Capital Research Center

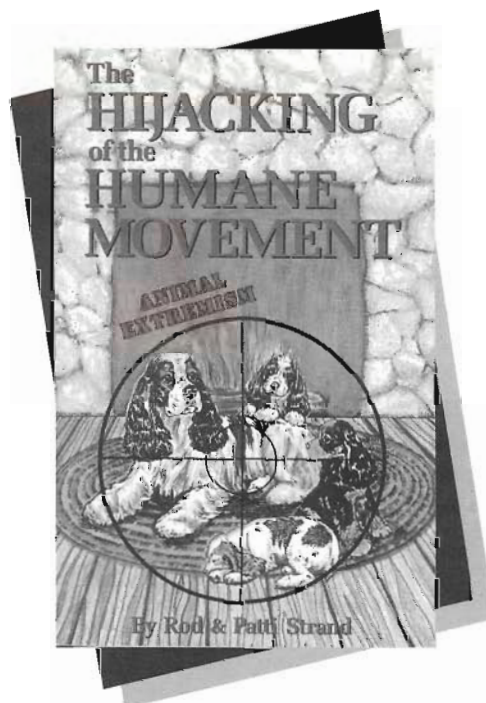
727 15th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20005

Paperback, 233 pages, \$35.00

The Hijacking of the Humane Movement

The Hijacking of the Humane Movement is a treatise not entirely unlike that of *Animal Rights: The Inhumane*



Crusade, although it is written from the sincere perspective of one concerned with animal welfare, rather than that of an animal user. It's proclaimed objective is to clarify the difference between the declared purposes and intentions of the animal rights activist and those of traditional animal welfare agencies. Co-authors Rod and

Patti Strand are professional Dalmatian breeders, deeply concerned with what they allege as the animal rights movement's contrived misrepresentations and insidious incursion into and reorientation of reputable, established humane welfare organizations. Their book includes extensive supportive reference information as well as listings of declared animal rights organizations.

The Hijacking of the Humane Movement

by Rod & Patti Strand

Doral Publishing

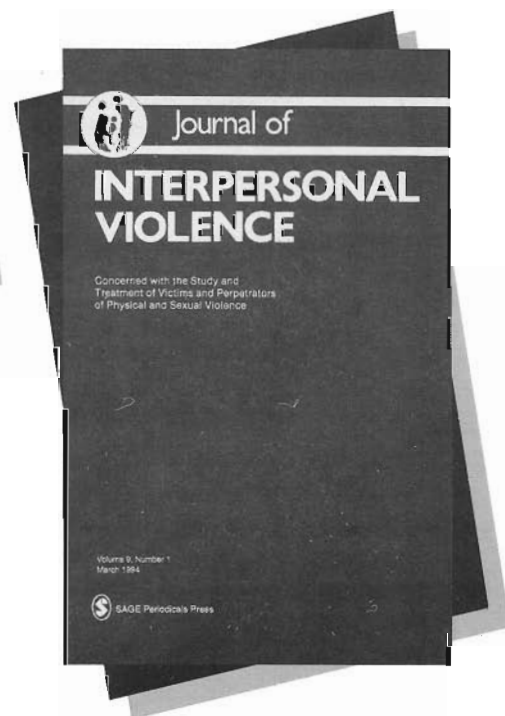
P.O.Box 596

Wilsonville, OR 97070

Paperback, 174 pages, \$16.95

Journal of Interpersonal Violence

This journal is devoted to the study and treatment of victims and perpetrators of interpersonal violence. This outstanding periodical is a source for the most up-to-date information regarding the concerns and activities of professionals and researchers work-



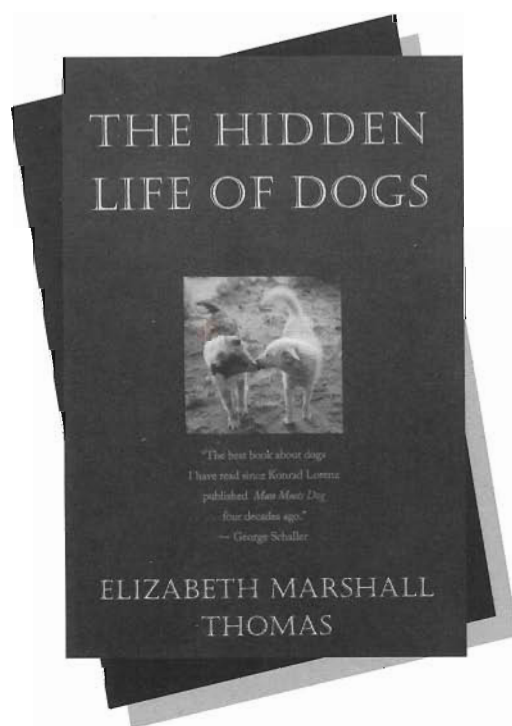
Editor's Note: *The Latham Foundation reviews humane and related environmental books.*
To order, please contact the publishers directly.

ing in domestic violence, rape, child sexual abuse, and other violent crimes.

Journal of Interpersonal Violence

Editor: Jon R. Conte,
University of Washington
Quarterly: March, June, September
December
Yearly rates: Individuals \$45/
Institutions \$118
Sage Publications, Inc.
2455 Teller Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320
Customer Service: 1-805-499-9774
Sage FaxLine: 1-805-499-0871

The Hidden Life of Dogs



In this beautiful account of thirty years of living with dogs, wolves, and dingoes and of the ways their lives intertwined with her own, the novelist and anthropologist Elizabeth Marshall Thomas brings us a completely new understanding of dogs by writing a sort of deeply truthful ethological poem, a loving yet absolutely unsentimental chronicle of the lives of a dozen dogs based on hundreds of thousands of hours of observation.

Read this book, and you will learn more about how dogs think, and what dogs want, than you have ever suspected. What matters most to dogs? Simple: other dogs. But since dogs have been living with humans for thirty thousand years, "dogs need us more than we need them, and they know it."

The Hidden Life of Dogs is a poignant, entertaining, sometimes heartbreaking book, vividly illustrated with drawings of the ways dogs behave. Whether or not a dog is part of your life, and no matter how much you think you know already, you will learn something new about dogs here — something no other book will tell you.

The Hidden Life of Dogs
by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas
A Peter Davison Book
Houghton Mifflin Company
222 Berkeley Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116
\$18.95, 148 pages

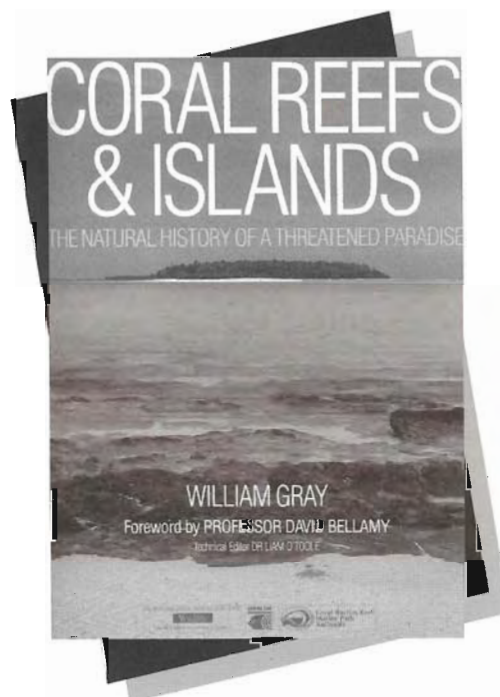
***Coral Reefs & Islands:
The Natural History of a
Threatened Paradise***

*A Glorious Look at the Beauty and
Ecology of Coral Reefs and Islands*

Coral Reefs and Islands is a unique study of the interaction between land, sea, and air above, around and near the coral reefs. It spells out the harmful effects of man's activities on precariously balanced ecosystems, and campaigns for their conservation with the support of three prominent conservation groups — the Coral Cay Conservation Society, the Wildlife Conservation Society (the New York Zoological Society), and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Combining the unique research of a young scientist who has travelled extensively in the major coral island regions throughout the world with spectacular full-color photographs

revealing their rich variety of life, *Coral Reefs and Islands: The Natural History of a Threatened Paradise* makes it easy for the concerned non-specialist to gain an understanding and appreciation of the ecological impact that coral reefs and islands have on the environment.



Presenting some of the most intriguing and diverse species and habitats, this authoritative study links the reader with today's trends in worldwide conservation. See rare turtles and seabirds that nest on remote shores, exotic fish and marine life, lagoons and seagrass meadows of surrounding tropical seas, while learning important scientific facts about this endangered environment.

Learn how man has significantly contributed to the destruction of the reefs through pollution, over-fishing, and tourism, and what can be done to stop this devastation. From the genesis of a coral island to the daily struggles of a living reef, this beautifully portrayed natural history portrait paints an intimate picture of coral reefs and the islands that will heighten

BOOK REVIEWS, continued on next page

awareness of the importance of conserving this threatened paradise.

Coral Reefs & Islands: The Natural History of a Threatened Paradise

Author: William Gray
Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016-8810
\$29.95 hardcover; 192 pgs. (all in color)
ISBN: 0-7153-0077-6

Corrections:

Our review in the Winter '94 Latham Letter of "PAWS, CLAWS, FEATHERS & FINS, A Kid's Video Guide to Pets," omitted the price for the Professional Package and shipping and handling.

This highly-recommended, beautifully-produced, 30-minute video with songs and lively graphics teaches kids ages 4-12 about the pleasures of responsible pet ownership.

The pricing for professionals is \$34.90 plus \$6.00 for shipping and handling to the U.S. and \$34.90 plus \$11 for shipping and handling to Canada. This includes the Video, License for Public Performance Rights, Leader's Guide, and 50 Activity Guides.

KidVidz

618 Centre Street, Newton, MA 02158
Phone 617-965-3345 or 277-8703
Fax 617-965-3640

The review of *The Sea: A Celebration* omitted ordering information.

This beautiful collection of images and words in praise of the sea is helping the Greenpeace campaign save threatened oceans by dramatizing how something huge can be extremely fragile.

The Sea: A Celebration

Edited by Peter Wood
Published by David & Charles,
London, England
Distributed by Sterling Pub. Co., Inc.
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016-8810
1-800-848-1186
\$29.95 hardcover
(\$39.95 in Canada)



Cerebral Palsy but when he realized I was there, he got out of bed and got on his knees on the floor, gave me a big hug, and really loved me up. I got treats off of lunch trays today. Everyone told us how great the Pet Therapy Program is. I felt like a star today.

Tuesday, June 2, 1992

I ate my way through four floors today. The nurses were as glad to see me as the patients were. One patient remembered me from when I visited her husband in the hospital several months before. She said I really made her day. I now know where all the doggie treats are stashed at the nurses' station on each floor. I go behind the nurses' desk and look hungry. It works every time.

Thursday, September 3, 1992

Last night I took my Canine Good Citizen's Test and passed with flying colors. The lady told Mom she should enter me in obedience competition. This morning at 6:30 am, Mom took me to a breakfast meeting at a local Kiwanis where she gave a talk about me and Pet Therapy Program. She must have done okay as they all applauded, gave her a present, and took our picture. We got a really nice note from one of the doctors saying, "It was the best talk he had heard since he had joined Kiwanis!"

Wednesday, October 21, 1992

I visited a severely retarded boy in the intensive care unit. He had a difficult time even realizing I was there; but the nurse propped him up and turned his head toward me. He still couldn't see me so I nuzzled his arm and he got a big smile on his face. The nurse said it was the first time he had reacted to anything.

Wednesday, November 4, 1992

We were part of a real miracle today. There was a patient in her 40's who had had a massive stroke and had been in a coma for five weeks. There was no hope for recovery so her family had made the decision to take her off of life support systems and



move her up to hospice to keep her comfortable until she died. When the nurse saw me visiting the floor, she came and got me. The nurse helped put my feet up on the patient's bed so I could get as close to her as I could. The nurse took the patient's hand and placed it on my head to help her pet me. When she did this, the patient's eyes immediately popped open for the first time in five weeks! Mom took a treat and held it in the patient's hand so that to get it I had to nuzzle in between her fingers and lick her hand. When I did this, the lady moved her mouth and tried to talk. The nurse broke down and cried and said it was the first response the patient had made since she had been in the hospital. She ran out and told the other nurses and they all came in crying. I knew something wonderful had happened but I didn't know just what.

Thursday, December 17, 1992

We made a special visit to hospice to visit the lady I just told you about. We got really worried when she wasn't in her room so we asked about her at the nurses' station. Well, it seems she had made such progress in her recovery due to the many pet visits (every dog that went to the hospital made a special visit to her) that she had been moved to Re-Hab. When we walked into her room we found her sitting in a wheelchair, talking normally, and she said she was going to walk before Christmas so she could go home. She was in the middle of Physical Therapy but the therapist stopped so she could visit me because she knew just how important my visit was.

P.S. The next Christmas (1993) I wrote her a letter and sent her a Christmas present and she wrote me back. She is almost completely recovered and doing great. This is a wonderful, rewarding job!!

Jenni's Mom, Linda Dunn, is Chairman of the Pet Therapy Program at Lutheran Medical Center, Wheat Ridge, Colorado.



CHILD AND ANIMAL ABUSE PREVENTION (CAAP) NEWS

. . . PROMOTING COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS INVOLVING CHILD AND ANIMAL WELFARE AGENCIES.

Latham's Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Advisory Committee is one facet of the Foundation's leadership role in sensitizing various professional communities to the links between violence against children, animals, and other vulnerable members of society. The committee is chaired by Phil Arkow, Executive Director of the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League in West Palm Beach, Florida. Phil is joined by Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the departments of psychology and in family and human development at Utah State University; Mary Pat Boatfield, Executive Director of the Toledo Humane Society; and Robert W. ten Bensel, M.D., MPH., Professor of Public Health and Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Future *Latham Letters* will contain details about the Committee members' activities. Additionally, each issue will feature articles promoting cooperative collaborations linking child protective services, animal welfare agencies, and domestic violence centers.

F Y I - MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Editor's Note: This feature is intended as a resource — a sampling of who is doing what where and an illustration of the wide variety of organizations who are confronting the inexorably connected issue of violence toward children, animals, and other vulnerable members of society — rather than as a calendar of upcoming events. We hope *Latham Letter* readers will be inspired to organize similar conferences. For further information including speaker referrals contact the Latham Foundation or any of the conference coordinators.

January 28th, Sarasota, Florida

Dr. Randall Lockwood from the Humane Society of the United States presented the "*Tangled Web of Abuse*" sponsored by the Sarasota County Humane Society, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Child Protection Agency, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Contact the Sarasota Humane Society at 813955-4131 or the Humane Society of the United States at 202-4521100 for further information.

March 22 and 23rd, Tel Aviv, Israel

"*Preventing Violence Through Education*" co-sponsored by Concern for Helping Animals in Israel (CHAI) and Israel's Ministry of Education. CAAP Advisory Committee Members Dr. Frank Ascione and Mary Pat Boatfield join others experts in psychiatry, education, and child abuse from the U.S. and Israel shared results of many new studies that demonstrate strong links between animal abuse and child abuse (and violence in society at large). Contact Nina Natelson, Director, Concern for Helping Animals in Israel (CHAI), P. O. Box 3341, Alexandria, VA 22302. Tel. 703-658-9650, Fax 941-6132.

March 31 & April 1st, La Crosse, Wisconsin

"*The Tangled Web: Animal Cruelty and Family Violence*" presented by Coulee Region Humane Society; Domestic Violence Intervention Project; New Horizons; Wisconsin Center for the Study of Animal Welfare; Women's Studies, UW-La Crosse; and UW-La Crosse Extension. Speakers include CAAP Committee Chair Phil Arkow and Frank Ascione. Contact Christine Keeney Miller, Coulee Region Humane Society, 2850 Larson Street, La Crosse, WI 54603, 608-781-4014.

April 22nd, Dallas, Texas

"*Links Between Child Abuse and Animal Cruelty*," featuring Dr. Randall Lockwood and sponsored by the SPCA of Texas, the Texas Youth Commission, and the Mental Health Association of Greater Dallas. For more information call Anne Ramsbottom at 214-651-9611 X 122.

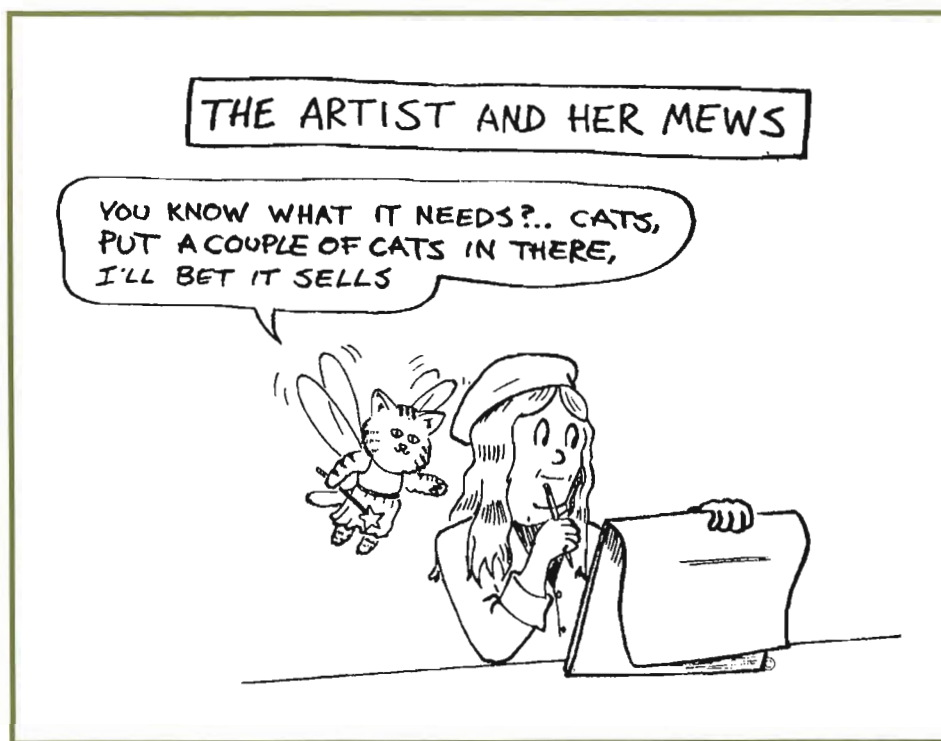
Reports on several of these conferences will follow in upcoming *Latham Letters*.

More interesting reading —

See the March 1994 Animal People for "*Hunters and Molesters: New York statistics show link.*"

Coming in the Summer *Latham Letter*

Results of CAAP's nationwide survey of child protective services, animal welfare agencies, domestic violence centers, animal control agencies, and veterinarians to determine their specific needs and concerns about escalating violence.



The Artist and Her Mews

LON SHOEMAKER © COPYRIGHT 1992 REPRINTED COURTESY OF TSA



The Latham Foundation

Promoting Respect For All Life Through Education

Latham Plaza Building
Clement and Schiller Streets
Alameda, California 94501 U.S.A.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Printed on Recycled Paper