

Latham Letter

VOLUME XV, NUMBER 1

WINTER 1994

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

INSIDE

- Facts of Life from a Zoo Director (Page 9).
- A Call for Professional Recognition of Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitators (Page 6).
- Child and Animal Protection Legislation (Page 18).
- How to Order Latham's New Back Issue Index (Page 18).

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..."



Photo Credit: LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

Los Angeles County animal control officer Mark Frey picks up a cat that survived the recent fire in the Malibu area.

Animals as Symbols

Pets and the Southern California Wildfires

Bob Ballenger

On November 2nd, a dry and windy day in Southern California, an arson-caused fire was touched off in the Topanga-Malibu area of Los Angeles County. A week later, when the blaze was finally doused, more than 19,000 acres had been charred, 390 homes were destroyed or damaged and three people were dead.

The most notable of the deaths — and one that received world-wide news media attention — was that of Duncan Gibbins, an English-born screenwriter and film producer. Gibbins, 41, was the first victim of the flames. He died when he delayed fleeing from the rapidly advancing flames to look for "Elsa," his three-year-old, seal-point Siamese cat.

Two days later, when sheriff's deputies were on routine patrol through the fire-ravaged area, they heard the mewing of a cat. Poking through the charred remains of the house where Gibbins lived, they discovered his cat. The deputies

FIRES, continued on page 8

How Well is it Working?

A Survey of Skilled Nursing Homes and Health Related Facilities in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester County Regarding Pet Visitation and Resident Pet Programs

Cira Fraser, R.N., M.S.

Animal visitation and resident pets are common in skilled and health-related facilities across the country. The purpose of this paper is to report a survey conducted of all the skilled and health-related facilities in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester in the summer of 1991 to determine the prevalence, program specifics and perceptions of animal visitation and resident pet programs.

Questionnaires were sent to the administrators of all the skilled and health-related facilities (N=259) in New York City, Long Island and Westchester. The survey was funded by Alpha Affiliates, an all volunteer, non-profit organization based in Morristown, New Jersey, dedicated to education and scientific studies involving the human/animal relationship as it relates to health.

WORKING, continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Animals as Symbols <i>Bob Ballenger</i>	1
How Well is it Working? <i>Cira Fraser, R.N., M.S.</i>	1
Jigsaw Puzzles <i>Hugh H. Tebault</i>	2
OPINIONS	2
A Call for Professional Accreditation of Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitators <i>Pearl Salotto</i>	6
Zoo Director Reminds Us That What Goes In Must Come Out <i>Jack Lacroix Throp</i>	9
Milwaukee's "PALS" Are Learning Respect Through Dog Obedience <i>Phil Arkow</i>	12
Latham's Latest Video Project	13
Communicating With Your dog — Canine Language <i>Myrna Shibolet</i>	15
Army Veterinarian, Dr. Lynn J. Anderson Receives 1993 Award for Excellence in Allied Health Care	17
Child and Animal Abuse Prevention — Legislative Update	18
The Latham Letter — Back Issue & Subject Index Now Available	18
The Pros and Cons of Live Animal Contact <i>Nancy A. Hotchkiss</i>	19
Beavers Get a Boost from the American Humane Association	21
BOOK REVIEWS	22
The Latham Foundation Needs Your Help	23



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

EDITORIAL



Jigsaw Puzzles

Hugh H. Tebault

It's been many years since I last assembled a jigsaw puzzle, though I can well remember that those with numerous pieces while enjoyable, proved to be both time-taking and challenging. And what a let down it was to discover that one or two of the pieces needed to complete the picture were missing.

I don't remember when I first encountered an expression that likened life to a jigsaw puzzle, but in my view, it's a good analogy. No two pieces needed to complete the jigsaw's picture are the same, nor does one find that needed resolutions for any two of life's situations are exactly alike. And the disappointment experienced in belatedly discovering a jigsaw piece missing is not unlike the uncomfortable feeling of the person who retrospectively recognizes an overlooked or missed rewarding opportunity.

There are many pieces i.e., experiences, needed for a full and satisfying life. Certainly it is necessary that we take care of our own basic needs, but to be truly happy we can't stop there. The aged, the physically handicapped, abused and or neglected children, the economically under-privileged and the untold numbers of mistreated companion, domestic and wild animals, to name but

a few, are all, constantly and desperately in need of help, be it direct, in kind, or financial. Paradoxically, those who voluntarily provide such needed aid find that there is not one, but two beneficiaries: those receiving the assistance and the fortunate one who recognizes the need and provides it. For the latter, that benefit can be likened to the inner satisfaction experienced when a lost jigsaw piece is unexpectedly found.

The Latham Foundation's operational philosophy can be seen as compatible with the apparent nonuniform elements of life's jigsaw puzzle. Because it assiduously 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..." Accordingly, Latham's primary objective is, through education, to encourage public recognition of mankind's interrelationship to and interdependence on all life, human and nonhuman. And, to present its educational efforts in such a way that the attendant human responsibilities for the welfare of fellow life forms will, through better understanding, be more willingly and happily undertaken.



OPINIONS

Dear Mr. Tebault:

Thank you for another excellent edition of the Latham Letter, read cover to cover with great enthusiasm by all of us here at laJoie.

I was especially impressed with your response to the recent letter about the Foundation's purpose in the "Opinions" column. Your words reflect our sentiments exactly: We are all very concerned with such issues as hunting, trapping, research, factory farming etc., yet from the beginning have just as strongly felt that laJoie needed to concentrate on encouraging people, in a positive way, to respect and appreciate all life forms. Schweitzer's Reverence for Life has, since early childhood, had a tremendous impact on my beliefs and actions regarding animals, trees, plants, and humans. I personally feel we need to be gentle and understanding with each other, rather than so combative, especially in the name of human and animal rights! We need not condone the inhumane action of others, but we can educate others, through our own highest possible example. I am also a fan of Bronson Alcott who strongly believed every human being has at least a spark of integrity and morality within him or her, and education should be a process of appealing to that spark, drawing it forth, and building on it. As we here at laJoie move more and more into the realm of humane education, we are applying the principles and examples set forth by such leaders as Schweitzer and Alcott and so far, with noticeable success.

I am also very interested in the work Latham is doing regarding animal and child abuse and wonder if you would consider including the older population as well? Abuse of older people more often than

OPINIONS, continued on page 5



© 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.

Photographs
Unless otherwise noted, photographs were taken by Kathleen Henderson.

The Latham Letter is printed on recycled paper.

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

Permission from The Latham Foundation to reproduce articles or other materials 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.

WORKING, continued from page 1

Survey Results

A total of 52 facilities responded, representing a 20% response rate for this mail survey. The majority of the questionnaires were completed by Recreation/Activity Directors (67.3%). Others completing the questionnaires included Administrators (16.3%), Activity staff (6.1%), Social Worker (4.1%), Staff Development Coordinator (2%), Program Specialist (2%), and Pet Therapist (2%). Of the 52, three (6%) indicated that they did not participate in an animal visitation program nor had a resident pet, therefore did not complete the remainder of the questionnaire. This resulted in a sample of n=49 facilities who currently participate in an animal visitation program, with 22 (45%) facilities also having a resident pet.

The number of residents at these facilities ranged from 40-480 with an average of 200 residents. The length of time facilities participated in an animal visitation program ranged from one month to 15 years, with an average of four years. Staff was identified as being very supportive of animals visiting or residing in the facility.

The types of animals included in animal visitation varied. Dogs were indicated by 47 (95.9%) and cats were indicated by 30 (61.2%) as visitation animals. Also included were birds, rabbits, ferrets, zoo animals, and other small animals. Dogs were identified as being the most beneficial for the residents, followed by cats. Birds, snakes, rabbits and turtles were identified as being among the least beneficial for the residents.

Visitation animals were reported as coming to visit the residents on an average of 2.93 times per month. The total length of each visit was an average of 1.92 hours. The length of time

each resident was able to pet or hold the visiting animal ranged from less than five minutes as indicated by 14 (28.6%) of the respondents to as long as needed by 16 (32.7%). The percentage of residents who were able to

more alive, calm/relaxed, happy, and increased verbalization. (See Table 3). Most respondents indicated they observed the residents' behavior as a means of evaluating the effects of animal visitation.

Respondents were asked to list the three outstanding behavioral changes most often seen in residents during and after their interactions with animals. Cheerful and smiling was the most common response, followed by more responsive/more alert, increased verbalization, and being calmer and cooperative.

Respondents were asked to identify what residents verbalize to animals and people during animal visitation. Most indicated residents reminisced about their past animals. Other verbalizations included comments to the animals about their appearance, such as being pretty, beautiful or cute, terms of endearment, such as calling the animal "honey", "baby", or "little fellow", and that the residents talked to the animal like a baby or child. (See Table 4).

TABLE 1

Most Beneficial Animals	N	%
Dogs	40	81.6
Cats	27	55.1
Birds	5	10.2
Puppy	1	2.0
Kitten	1	2.0
Rabbit	1	2.0
Snake	1	2.0
Missing Cases	7	14.3

interact with the visiting animal ranged from ten to 100 per cent, with an average of 57.6%. Respondents reported that the resident's behavioral changes following animal visitations were indicated as lasting from less than two hours to more than two days. (See Table 2). The residents' behavioral changes included being more alert/

TABLE 2

Time Behavioral Changes Last Following Animal Visitation	N	%
Less than 2 hours	20	40.8
More than 2 hours/less than day	5	10.2
1-2 days	3	6.1
More than 2 days	4	8.2
Missing Cases	17	34.7

TABLE 3

Behavioral Changes Associated With Animal Visitation	N	%
More alert/more alive	17	34.7
Happy/smiling	17	34.7
Calm/relaxed	16	32.7
Increased verbalization	14	28.6
Nurturing	11	22.4
Reminiscing	8	16.3

WORKING, continued on next page

TABLE 4

Verbalizations Made by Residents During Animal Visitation	N	%
Reminisce	16	32.7
Comments on animal's appearance (<i>pretty, beautiful, cute</i>)	13	26.5
Terms of endearment (<i>"honey", "baby", "little fellow"</i>)	12	24.5
Talks to animal like baby/child	11	22.4
Talks to handler about animal	9	18.4
Comments on softness of animal	5	10.2
Tells animal <i>"I love you"</i>	3	6.1

TABLE 5

Outstanding Behavioral Changes	N	%
Cheerful/Smiling	33	67.5
More responsive/More alert	26	53.1
Increased verbalization	25	51.0
Calmer/cooperative	25	51.0
Nurturing/affectionate	7	14.3
Reminiscing	3	6.1
Behavior more appropriate	3	6.1
Other	8	16.0

Eleven (22.4%) of the respondents indicated there were increased interactions between residents and staff as a result of animal visitation at the facility. Seven (14.3%) indicated that the staff was able to see the residents from a more positive perspective during and after the residents' interactions with the visiting animals, although the duration of the positive effects was not specified.

Most respondents indicated there were no problems regarding animal visitation. A few indicated that allergies and fears has been concerns but were managed by identifying residents who had allergies or were fearful of animals.

Nurses at the facilities were involved in animal visitation programs by interacting, petting and holding the animals and escorting residents to the program. Thirty eight (77.5%) of the respondents indicated nurses did not document the

residents' responses to their interaction with animals.

Twenty two facilities had resident pets. The most common residents pet was fish, followed by cats and dogs.

Recreational staff provided care for the resident pets in most facilities. Others who provided care included dietary, nursing, administration, and an outside company.

Discussion

Research studies have suggested that animal visitation serves to increase social interactions in nursing home residents (Hendy, 1984; Jendro, Watson & Quigley, 1984; Robb, Boyd & Pritash, 1980), although the improvements tends to be short lived. Increased social interactions indicated by the survey respondents included residents being more alert/alive, happy/smiling, calm/relaxed, increased verbalization, nurturing, reminiscing, and most often indicated these improvements lasted

two hours or less.

Recent research has challenged the generally accepted idea that the visitation animal alone elicits increased social interactions. It has been found that people-alone, people with animals, and animals-alone all work equally well to increase sociability among nursing home residents. (Wallace & Nadermann, 1987; Hendy, 1987).

Visitation animals have been described as child substitutes (Messent & Serpall, 1981; Perin, 1981; Savishinsky, 1983). Verbalizations identified in the survey included residents calling the visitation animal "baby", "little fellow", and "honey" suggests that the residents may perceive the animal as child-like. Visitation animals have been described as fulfilling the need for an outlet of gestures of affection (Cain, 1985; Robin & ten Bensel, 1985). Survey respondents indicated that the residents demonstrated nurturing behaviors and frequently verbalized "I love you" during animal visitation.

and make the nursing home happier and more like home (Salmon & Salmon, 1982).

Respondents indicated there was increased interactions between the nursing home residents and staff during and after animal visitation, although the duration of this increased interaction was not specified.

Animal visitation and resident pet programs seem to promote positive and increased interaction between staff caregivers and nursing home residents. The staff caregivers see the residents more alert, more alive, happy, smiling, calm, relaxed, and nurturing and hopefully recognize that the resident is an individual capable of caring and nurturing another living creature.

Reminiscing and increased verbalization were noted behavioral changes during and after animal visitation. Burnside (1984) states that reminiscing can: a) increase self esteem, b) increase self expression/body image and ability to communicate, c) empathize the individu-

Respondents were asked to list the three outstanding behavioral changes most often seen in residents during and after their interactions with animals. Cheerful and smiling was the most common response, followed by more responsive/more alert, increased verbalization, and being calmer and cooperative.

Animals have been described as a socializing catalyst for nursing home residents and staff (Corson & Corson, 1981) and a cross-generational communication catalyst for nursing home residents and nursing students (Lapp, 1991). Both residents and staff consider a resident dog a topic of conversation

ality of the person reminiscing, d) permit the aged to assume a teaching role, e) promote and retain family tradition, pride, cultural beliefs and meaningful moments in life, f) be positive, g) provide a means to cope with failing memory, h) promote adaptation, i) be a developmental task, j) cause

a resurgence of dormant hobbies, and /or interests, and k) be a learning experience.

Nurses were described as being supportive of animal visitation and resident pet programs by 93.9% of the respondents and actively participating during animal visitation. The surprising finding was that although nurses support and actively participate in the human/companion animal relationship, 77% did not document the residents' responses to their positive interactions with animals.

Implications for Nursing

Animal visitation and resident pets are a common sight in many skilled and health-related facilities. Nurses should consider becoming more involved when the animals are brought to the facility, thereby promoting positive interactions between the staff care givers and the residents. Since behavioral changes for most of the residents last less than two hours, nurses need to be aware of the transient effects on the individual.

Animals have been described as a socializing catalyst for nursing home residents and staff (Corson & Corson, 1981) and a cross-generational communication catalyst for nursing home residents and nursing students (Lapp, 1991). Both residents and staff consider a resident dog a topic of conversation and make the nursing home happier and more like home (Salmon & Salmon, 1982).

Limitations of the Survey

Although the survey was mailed to the entire population of skilled and health-related facilities in New York City, Long Island and Westchester, the overwhelming majority of those that responded did also participate in animal visitation and resident pet programs. This is a major limitation of this survey. Another limitation is that respondents did not identify anything they didn't like about animal visitation. The nature of a survey is a limitation in itself, but can provide a sense of what is occurring in regards to animal visitation and resident pet programs in a populated area of the United States.

Well designed qualitative research is needed for a contextual perspective. A phenomenological study could reveal the experience of human/animal relationship from the elderly resident's perspective. A hermeneutical approach could provide the meaning of the human/animal relationship for the elderly. Much of the research on the human/animal relationship has been quantitative. It is now the time for nurses to consider qualitative approaches for rich and contextual perspectives.



OPINIONS, continued from page 2

not, takes the form of neglect and disparagement, denying them as intelligent individuals. I regularly visit the residents of a local, state supported nursing home, often taking one of my dogs with me. Over the three years that I have been doing this, I am appalled at the treatment they receive, not only by staff (although they are pleasant and attentive when I am there, but I hear a much different story from the residents) and the families who may visit once a year. Some residents never see their families again. Again, it's a question of reverence for life.

We all feel such a rapport with the Latham Foundation—the first organization we have come across that speaks so clearly to our own goals and visions. Thank you for being such a valuable voice for all to hear. We wish you continued success in all you do, and will support you in every way we can.

Rita M. Reynolds
laJoie

Dear Steve (Nagy),

This letter is to extend my warmest personal thanks for your work on "The Garden Therapy Project" videotape. I have had the opportunity to show the video several times to current YWCA staff, members of the Board of Directors, former Board members, and corporate representatives from local businesses who are seeking avenues for increasing their community involvement. Everyone, without exception, has been impressed with the quality of the presentation and content. You and The Latham Foundation have provided the YWCA with an effective education and marketing tool.

I also want to take a moment to thank you for your sensitivity to the nature of the subject of child abuse and incest and your respect for the participants in this project.

On behalf of the staff and the Board of Directors of the YWCA

of Sonoma County, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for your interest in this program. And to The Latham Foundation, I also extend my thanks for supporting this project.

If there is any way for the YWCA to return the favor, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working with you again.

Very truly yours,
Lisa G. Carreno
Executive Director,
YWCA of Sonoma County

Dear Mr. Tebault,

Many thanks for the tapes you have sent. They have been received extremely well by the people who have seen them (those working privately out in the field helping stray animals and members of a disabilities support group). Like myself, they have found them most informative and very well presented and far superior to any material currently available in New Zealand.

I am going to look at ways in which I can take the videos out into the public more, and I am working on this at the present time and shall keep you informed of the end results.

Once again, my sincere thanks for your kindness.

Diana Gokalp
Auckland, New Zealand

Dear Editor:

This is in response to the article by Toni Gudish Frohoff, "Research Assesses Welfare of Dolphins in Swim Programs." (Volume XIV, Number 4)

I am a subscriber to the Latham Letter and a financial supporter of the Dolphin Research Center. I have participated in their Dolphin Swim Program, and last December served a two week Internship under their Volunteer's Program. I worked eight hours a day with the dolphins, staff, and trainers. What I observed was a place of

OPINIONS, continued on next page

cooperation, self-sacrifice and a genuine out-pouring of love and affection for all the dolphins. The first goal of the Dolphin Research Center is to provide a home for the dolphins.

Dolphin Research Center's history goes back for more than 30 years. It began with Milton Santini the fisherman who accidentally caught a Dolphin named "Mitzi" who later starred in the "Flipper" movie. Some of her children and grandchildren live at DRC. Some are retired Navy or show dolphins, a few were sent there to recover from ulcers, a byproduct of the show-biz industry.

The Dolphin Research Center has never and will never participate in a program to capture as Toni Frohoff put it, "free ranging dolphins."

At DRC the dolphins live in a natural environment. The dolphins can easily leave anytime they wish. When Hurricane Andrew hit south Florida all fifteen dolphins were led out into deeper water. After the hurricane was over all came home except for Anessa. A feed bucket is still put out for her everyday; in the hopes that she'll still find her way home. Anessa was born at DRC in 1984.

As far as Toni Frohoff's

research, she said: "A literature review revealed that dolphins exhibit characteristic behavioral responses to certain disturbances." Also, "This study identified dolphin actions that may be indicative of negative states of well-being from videotaped swim sessions at Dolphin Research Center...however, all of these behaviors were infrequently observed, brief in duration..."

I can speak for other swim programs or centers. However, since the Dolphin Research Center was specially singled out, I must take issue with her article.

My observations include the experimental Dolphin/Child program, conducted at DRC by Dr. Dave Nathanson, a child psychologist. This is very rewarding work for all participants including the dolphins. They know these children are special. How do they know? Only contained research will tell, and people's hopes and expectations have brought them to the Dolphins; from as far away as Ireland and Israel.

Only someone who has been there can speak for the non-profit Dolphin Research Center. These people do wonderful work and should be a model for any association with dolphin care.

Candice Dyer
9427 Parkman Road
Jacksonville, FL 32222 

A Call for Professional Accreditation of Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitators

Paws on the Path to a Profession

Pearl Salotto

At a recent gathering of individuals who are concerned about the well-being of people and animals, I found myself explaining the Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitation (PATF) Certificate Program that I developed for the State University of New York.

As I went on to talk about not only the first class, which was a basic introductory course covering history, benefits, model programs, ethics, and safety; the second course which was a "hands on - "paws on" training of therapy dogs; and the third course which was a 200 hour internship with the student and the dog working, if possible, under the supervision of a Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitator, a member of the group listening commented, "That's an extremely intensive program. You take this very seriously, don't you?" My spontaneous reply was, "I can't overstate how seriously I take this." Indeed, working toward the development of PATF as a profession is a very serious and important endeavor.

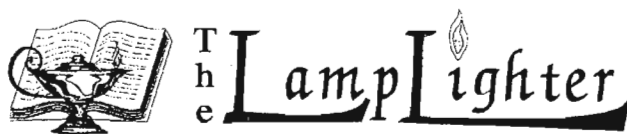
Despite the fact that good hearted and caring volunteers have been taking animals into nursing homes and agencies for years (leading to much joy, many smiles, and medical benefits, as well) society needs to move Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitation from volunteerism to professional status. Those of us working toward building a solid, ethical and effective foundation for this emerging and unique profession want the educational requirements

and licensure safeguards that come with any profession.

The benefits of PATF encompass all aspects of human existence including social, physical and psychological. Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitation interactions can have a tremendous impact on the health and well-being of individuals in nursing homes, hospitals and treatment facilities for those who are developmentally and physically challenged, mentally ill and for those (all too many among us) that have been battered and abused, and even for those in prisons.

*Those of us
working toward building
a solid, ethical and
effective foundation
for this emerging and
unique profession
(Pet Assisted Therapy)
want the educational
requirements and
licensure safeguards
that come with any
profession.*

But as quickly as that statement is uttered, those of us working in Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitation, are also aware of potential issues (i.e. allergies), potential concerns (i.e. whether the needs of the therapy animals, as well as clients are considered in



Latham congratulates The Volunteers of Vacaville on their 33rd Anniversary.

They proudly continue the philosophy, "fiat Lux" — to bring light through the transcribing of books onto tape.

Charge-It



For your convenience you may now charge subscriptions, renewals and video orders using your MasterCard or VISA.



Stacey and Ross Salotto and D.J. Not only do Stacey & Ross enjoy D.J.'s company, but each other's as well. Research has demonstrated that in families where pets are considered members of the family, children develop higher levels of sensitivity and empathy for others.

program planning) and potential problems (differing standards, breaking of bonds that have been developed when programs cease, lack of overall accrediting bodies and differing means of documentation). The list is endless.

We, therefore, as responsible professionals, who know first hand how much PATF can mean to clients and animals, have the awesome responsibility of helping to professionalize this magical interaction between people and animals.

There is a need to develop Undergraduate or Continuing Education Programs in Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitation. Undergraduate Programs could provide PATF as a "minor" to compliment a major in education, social work, occupational therapy or whatever. Education Departments of Universities could develop PATF programs for health professionals and educators that have an intuitive understanding of the benefits of animals and people working together. We, therefore, need to begin educating and certifying (hopefully) enough PATF's to meet the needs of the institutions across the country. The goal is that in the near future each hospital, agency and nursing home could have a full-time PATF on staff, so that individuals who have had pets in their past, can again have regular contact

with friendly therapy animals.

These PATF professionals will set up a variety of programs to meet individual treatment needs and to enhance quality of life. In addition

Mary Ionata and D.J. enjoy each other's company at Mary's home in Warwick, Rhode Island. Mary is a life-long lover of dogs and cats and a firm believer in the building of the profession of pet assisted therapy facilitation.



tion to working with appropriately evaluated and certified therapy animals (i.e. dogs and cats), aquariums could be built. Programs could also be planned around birds. Other projects at client's choosing could be developed. Bird feeders could be made. Dog biscuits could be baked. Relevant movies could be watched. Field trips (depending on health and abilities of clients) could be taken. The list goes on and on.

The full-time PATF would

of course be part of the Care Plan Team, to develop objectives and methodology via PATF, as well as documenting interactions, writing reports and evaluations, conducting staff in-services and

working with families, etc.

In addition to educating enough PATF's to service clients, another outgrowth of University Programs, would undoubtedly be the formation of professional organizations which in turn would (as other professions have) set professional, ethical, and educational standards, credentialing requirements, re-credentialing requirements and provide professional development opportunities and licensure.

Following educational programs and development of professional bodies, the decision-makers in our society would undoubtedly pave the way for the opening of funding sources, so that clients receiving Medicare or Medicaid could receive reimbursement for Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitation treatment services. Also, insurance companies would be required to cover Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitation treatment when physicians prescribe that PATF be part of the discharge plan.

Thus, just as all professions have moved along a long, but worthwhile path from a Dream or Good Deed, to a profession, which is accountable, PATF needs to gradually move from a volunteer effort to a duly licensed profession.

It is my fervent hope that by the time my grandchildren Stacey, Ross and Francesco (ages 8, 6, and newborn) enter the job market, that Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitation will be not only the newest health profession, but also one of the most effective — leading to great benefits for the individuals and animals involved.

Pearl Salotto, who lives in Rhode Island, has a background in special education and social work. She received her Certificate from Mercy College (Dobbs Ferry, New York) in Pet Assisted Therapy Facilitation in 1987. Since then she has been working full-time with her Samoyed D.J. in this field. She developed a certificate program for health professionals and educators in PATF for the State University of New York Continuing Education Program. She has written numerous articles on PATF and is currently working on a comprehensive book on the history, benefits, and underlying foundation of pet assisted therapy with other prominent individuals in this field. For further information contact Pearl Salotto at 401-463-5809.



drove Elsa to the Los Angeles County Animal Control Shelter in Agoura Hills, where she received emergency veterinary medical treatment for her badly burned footpads and singed fur. Elsa made a full recovery from the fire and was adopted by close friends of Gibbins. But Gibbins's death, while trying to save his pet cat, captured much public and media attention.

Television news crews, radio reporters and print-media journalists interviewed animal control officers, Gibbins's friends and acquaintances. News footage

Elsa had gone from being a cat to a symbol of something far larger — the intimate bond between humans and their companion animals.

of Elsa was shown on network television in the United States and Europe. The Agoura Hills Shelter received more than 500 telephone calls from as far away as Germany, Spain, Canada and more than a dozen states, all expressing concern about Elsa. The New York-based American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals created an animal heroism award and named it after Gibbins. Elsa had gone from being a cat to a symbol of something far larger — the intimate bond between humans and their companion animals.

While the director-screenwriter died trying to rescue his pet, he was not alone when it came to deciding that pets were high-priority items to be saved from the fast-moving fire. Many of the



Photo Credit: LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

Los Angeles County animal control officer Ron Edwards (left) and Animal Shelter Aid Frank Rangel examine a deer injured during the fire.

hundreds of persons who fled the fires bundled their pets into cars, along with treasured family pictures and any other valuables they could grab before heading to safety. Often, residents of areas threatened by swiftly advancing flames would leave with little more than the clothes on their bodies and their pets cradled in their arms.

Not everyone had time to do so. Some Malibu and Topanga residents who got out just ahead of the flames would frequently visit our Agoura Hills Shelter, looking for pets left behind during the frantic rush to escape the firestorm. Men and women, their clothing still smudged with soot and smelling of smoke from the fire, conducted near-frantic searches of the kennel runs for missing pets. Some of these people confessed to shelter employees that they felt guilty about not being able to take their pets with them and were hoping and praying the animals were safe. On more than one occasion, a home owner who had lost everything to the flames would see his or her dog or cat in the shelter and would burst into tears of relief.

For many people who visited the Agoura Hills Shelter, their pets were all that survived the lives they

had enjoyed before the fire.

Our Department was very sensitive to those concerns. County animal control officers conducted daily sweeps throughout the fire region, looking for pets that survived the blaze. They also set food out for animals and handed out free pet food to persons returning to homes in fire-swept regions.

The devotion of people to their cats and dogs is not something that can be easily understood.

Some of the phone calls to the shelter about Elsa had a "what's-the-big-deal?" undertone to them. One caller wondered whether the film rights to Elsa's story had yet been negotiated.

There seems to be a real divide between persons who love pets almost with the same intensity as they love their children and those who regard animals as ranging from tolerable nuisances to pointless extravagances.

The love that prompted Duncan Gibbins to sacrifice his own life to save his cat may well be incomprehensible to those who don't own pets or share such feelings

Duncan Gibbins, an English-born screenwriter and film producer, died when he delayed fleeing from the rapidly advancing flames to look for "Elsa," his three-year-old, seal-point Siamese cat.

about animals. But, the fact is, even days after the fire was out, the Agoura Shelter was still being visited by fire victims seeking missing animals.

As one man put it, his



Photo Credit: LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

"Bingo," a domestic long-haired cat, suffered severe burns on its footpads as it dashed across the fire-ravaged area. Bingo, impounded at the Los Angeles County animal shelter in Agoura, made a full recovery.

missing dog was as much a part of his family as his own children. And he would devote about as much time and energy to trying to find that dog as he would to tracking a missing child.

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



Zoo Director Reminds Us That What Goes In Must Come Out

Zoo Poo Poopee Doo

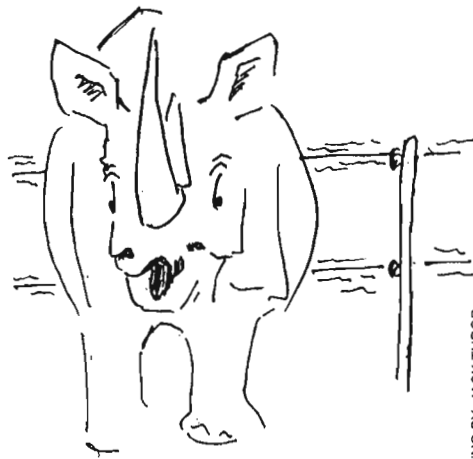
Jack Lacroix Throp

How do you remove cow dung pats and the stains they leave behind on lounge room carpets? That was a question put to an agent of a science bureau in Australia recently. The astounded agent's reply is unfortunately not recorded. Wouldn't you love to know more about how the cow pat came to be in the lounge room? Was it a first party mishap? A second party intervention? Or a third party's attempt to confound our imaginations? Might not the cow have come to the carpet through french doors off the veranda and just stood there eating dried flowers? Or did the carpet go to the cow? It might have been some impeccable farmer with elaborate taste has decorated and carpeted his cow barn only to find it patted upon by his unimpressed cow.

The subject of today's lecture is upon the only squeezable, ponderable by-product of the zoo, animal waste. Zoos are actually in the manufacturing business of producing vast quantities of this variously named by-product. Heaps and heaps of it are groaned out daily yet it is a subject that seldom finds its way into print, or on the leeward side of the fan.

Years ago San Diego Zoo had a hippo named Rube that used to create a great deal of panic among zoo visitors by casually backing against a low pipe rail on the public side of his exhibit. That in itself caused little public concern but when he violently wagged his tail as he defecated, loose greenish material flew wildly in all directions and so did the freaked

visitors. Rube knew exactly what he was doing. Not only did the physical side of the act satisfy a certain biological need but the aspect of those ducking and diving people gave him lots of pleasure. He repeated it often. Ordinarily hippopotamus do most of their "job" while they are in the water. One zoo built a



ye Gods! It was only hay when I ate it.

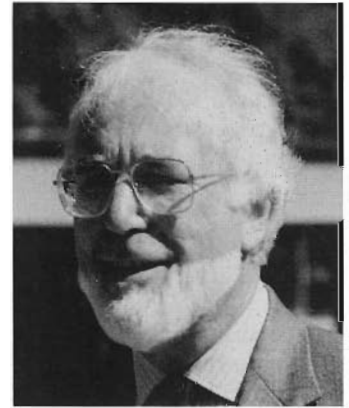
huge underwater viewing panel in their hippo exhibit only to find that the crystal clear viewing was marred by great clouds of pea soup green within minutes each morning. By noon the hippos were obliterated from view totally. The windows were a study of floating desiccated fibre.

In Honolulu we acquired a pair of white rhinoceros for a new exhibit. I asked the keeper where he wanted the rhinos to pile their manure for his convenience. He laughed as though it couldn't be seriously conceived that the animals would be considerate of the poor keeper. "Right there," he said and

pointed, "Have them put it right there." And they did. We just started the pile for them with their own manure before they were moved into the exhibit and they took over from there. The keeper regretted later that he hadn't pointed to his wheel barrow and saved himself a whole step in the operation of cleaning the exhibit each day.

The same rhino pair after some months took to a second convenience place at the other end of their enclosure. This spot was not a convenience for the keeper. In a staff meeting it was decided to try to unlearn this second relief station by putting up a temporary electrified fence around the spot. Once done the rhinos

in turn backed up to the wire and received a snap of charged electricity. It didn't take more than twice to convince them of the error of their choosing. Similarly, a place of the keeper's choice was made for the Honolulu hippopotamus' new exhibit for use when they were out of the water by trowelling onto the walls in an off exhibit location the soft pliable hippo manure. It looked a terrible thing to do to new clean walls but it worked. The hippopotamus cooperated by never defecating in their outside yard. This saved the keepers untold hours of washing and the city of Honolulu millions of mega-



Jack Lacroix Throp

litres of water for washing down the whole exhibit. Over the years the hippos confined their need to one convenient off exhibit location.

Not all animals are obliging unfortunately. Many just let fall where ever their backsides happen to be. Deer liberally pepper their yards with a petinia of pellets like sprinkles on a child's birthday cake. There is nothing for the keeper to do but to rake from one side to the next. I once experimented with a vacuum to lift the pellets which it did marvelously, along with everything else including substrate. In a relatively short time the deer and I would have been wandering in the Garden of Knowledge in China at the rate the vacuum was going.

A zoo keeper's work is never done, for as surely as one task is completed, the process of undoing it begins over again. A fair amount of the daily activities of the keeper is cleaning up after the animals. The pleasure of contemplating a spotlessly clean exhibit is usually short lived. Nature bids its creatures to go forth and fertilize the earth, a hundred times over, in a multiple of fashions: in pats, piles, little blops, great lumps, in scats, pills, capsules, pellets, balls and chips. There is something for everyone. The keeper must seek out these contributions and remove them.

DIRECTOR, continued on next page

A fellow working behind the elephant line in a circus was kept constantly busy with a shovel picking up after the ponderous animals. In a rare moment of inactivity he rested against the handle wiping his forehead. A relative confronted him. "Look John, you are a high school graduate. You could do whatever you wanted. Why don't you quit this job and go out into the real world and make your mark." "What?" exclaimed John, "and give up show business?!"

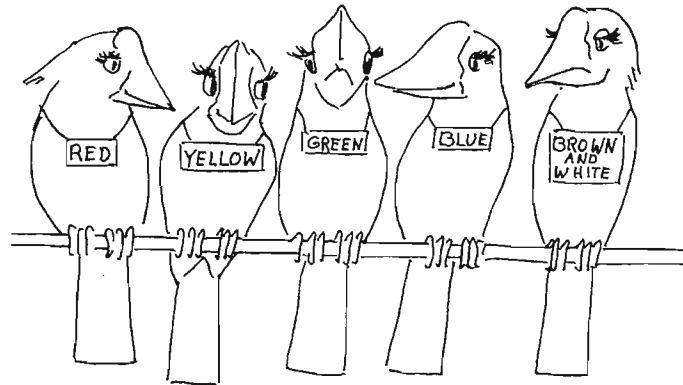
The keepers of Taronga Zoo Sydney have initiated an annual awards night, similar to that of the movie and television industry to recognize special achievements in the propagation and care of the animals. There is a selected panel of judges and the entries are carefully reviewed before final selections are made. They are called the Silver Shovel Awards, for good reason, the keepers recognize the shovel as the single most important tool of their profession. Without the shovel it would all be hand work.

Depending on the selection of the zoo there are different methods used to attack the clean up problem but in one way or another the shovel plays a lead part. The bird keepers use light rakes to scarify the surface of the aviaries under perches and roosting places. The material is then removed with a shovel. Hoofed stock keepers use rakes and shovels, one in each hand, an acquired art, in picking up and transfer of faecal materials to wheelbarrow or manure cart. Carnivore keepers don rubber boots (called Wellingtons in England and gum boots in Australia) and hose down their hard surfaced enclosures. Where there is natural substrate in the exhibits they too go armed with shovels.

Even reptile keepers use little shovels and tongs to clean their exhibits. About the only section of the zoo that does not regularly use the pick up implement are the Aquarium and marine mammal keepers. They just pull

their own water reclamation areas where bacteria attack the effluent water and make it fit for irrigation or other disposal conditions. Solid wastes are either incinerated or composted.

Years ago at the Honolulu



DRAWING BY JACK THROP

The artists palette

the plug. Still there is a certain amount of debris to be scooped up when the tank is drained so even they are not excluded the bending of the elbow in a lifting projectory effort. The Silver Shovel Awards are practically, if not artfully named. Recently, I overheard the senior bird keeper of my zoo who had a new trainee keeper in tow ask "did the trainee know what the white stuff in bird droppings was called?" "No," said the trainee "What is it?" "That's bird crap too and you can start your career right now with this rake and shovel." As unceremoniously as that did most of us begin in the zoo. It is a fact that it is 'exotic' crap that keeps us intrigued for a life time.

What to do with all that daily accumulation of manures after it is picked up presents some administrative problems. In most communities the material that is washed out of exhibits goes into the municipal sewer system to mix with the domestic, or as one engineer put it "to lend a little flavor to the brew." Some zoos have

Zoo I gained approval to offer the composted manure to the community. I put a large sign out on the street side perimeter of the zoo fence which read:

**ZOO MANURE
FREE FOR THE GRABBING**

It is great on Strawberries
(though some prefer cream & sugar)

When the zoo's compost pile got of a decent size the zoo's driver would use the tractor scoop to take a few loads out to the base of the sign. Like magic the pile disappeared within hours. People got to driving past daily with shovels and bags in their cars in anticipation that manure might be put out. For our own sanity we never telegraphed the day because a traffic jam would be created if set times were announced. Putting the composted manure out had to be pot luck to make it work. Even so our phones regularly jumped to enquiries as to when the next loads were coming out. In the end we stopped this idea in favor of a preferred gardener scheme.

There was a wide strip of park land on two sides of the zoo which had no positive use other than as a buffer between the zoo perimeter fence and the street. It was kept mown but was otherwise unloved. I got the notion that apartment dwellers in the Waikiki area would appreciate having a small plot of ground to garden. This marginal parkland was divided into small plots and offered to the residents. In no time at all gardens flourished. There was soon a domestic need for all the zoo manure available and we took down our "Free for the Grabbing" sign. I have never seen vegetables grow like they did in those plots. Some of it can be attested to the quality (and variety) of zoo manure but most go to the loving care that the people gave to their gardens. Those plots were one of the most gratifying things I have ever done.

Many zoos have taken to packaging the composted 'hard stuff' and selling it for fund raising purposes. Under such titles as ZOO POOZ and ZOO DOO attractively packaged quantities find its way under the christmas tree, as the "thought you have everything didn't you" gift. One company owner bought a bag for each of his employees after a particularly difficult year. He was obviously making a statement. The next year they had a record breaker. The fertilizer must have worked.

The packages are usually covered with funny slogans that add to the sales value such as "thanks to those who gave their all, elephant, rhino, giraffe, antelope, deer and zebra."

"Hand packed"

"Nitrogen 1.5% Phosphorus 1.25% Potash 1.25%, just plain crap 96%"

"This 100% natural compost product is the result of team effort."

"Please use sparingly, that

is unless you want your African violets to be as tall as an elephants eye."

"This product is guaranteed not to be effective in the dish washer or to be an alternative coffee sweetener."

"If you would like the crap you put on your plants to be tough, sincere, with no frills and complete with expletives, then this is the brand you have waited for."

"Imported from darkest Africa, darkest Middle East, darkest Asia, darkest South America and from other very dark recesses."

In Sydney, we had an excellent testimonial presented for our product over the National news media by Governor Sir James Rowland and who said in a speech that he could personally vouch for the effectiveness of ZOO DOO that the gardens around Government House have never flourished as well as they are this year with ZOO DOO. That his initial fears that ZOO DOO would lead to ZOO UNDONE were ill founded.

A lion trainer years ago told me that he did a lively business in suburban California in the wealthy foothill district around San Fernando Valley by selling lion and tiger scat to keep deer out of gardens. The deer probably thought that M.G.M. had moved into the neighborhood.

I got a bit of local reputation in the 60's for having founded a new school of art, though it was short lived. It was called Ejectamenta Art, or later in mid-summer it came to be known as Ordurant art. I was managing a large privately owned bird collection at the time. There were thousands of birds of a great many species. Daily I prepared the feeds for the birds. Those requiring fruits or vegetables were fed a variety according to the availability on the market. There were always a staple supply of bananas, apples and oranges but during

different seasons there could be pomegranates, berries, grapes, avocados and many other seasonal offerings. I was struck by the fact that different fruits created different effects of color or texture in the bird's droppings.

With some expressed doubts by my loved ones at home as to the appropriateness of such thoughts, I began experimenting on canvas with this mixed media. By maneuvering canvases under bird perches and feeding regimens I began to get some pretty exciting results. The boss was mildly interested and mildly concerned for the state of my health but I promised him a hand signed original which placated him temporarily. Moving canvases became a part of my daily routine. It was necessary that the materials were not laid on too heavily and that they dried slowly lest they curl at the edges. A finished canvas took weeks of careful attention but fortunately I could have dozens of paintings under way at one time. There was strong resistance at home when I baked them in a moderately warm oven and then after cooling applied a fixative in our car port. The real work was to give the paintings colorful titles, that detracted the viewer from the medium such as "The Room in the Rue de Barri," "The Harbor of Ville France," "Smites of Opal Evening Sky," "Evening Light in the Piazza at Venice," "Mosaics of San Marco," "Roman Sunset Seen from the Pincio" and one very provocative figure painting titled "Short Barmaid with a Tall Beer."

On first exposure to the critics the paintings were viewed with disdain. One such person said that I did not belong in the Impressionist School, in fact I was a founder of the Unimpressionist Movement. Another said that though his first thoughts that I couldn't draw flies were wrong, that in fact he thought my painting would

draw flies. The more critical they became the more attention was drawn to Ejectamenta Art. I was on my way. As long as the birds continued to eat there never would be a time when I would run out of inspiration. Oh, sweet life. Unfortunately at the height

from the other end. The result of all that love and care for the front end is excrement from the distal half. Then one day I heard on radio that orange peels kept cats from defecating in your garden, and to keep dogs' droppings out of your yard to use soft



DRAWING BY: JACK THROP

"The Zoo didn't have to come to me. I would have gone to it."

of my being found we experienced a dreadfully wet Spring and paintings began to slump in the dampness. My "Mosaics of San Marco became the M o o s a i i c c c s s O f f f S a a n M a a ____." It lost its sharpness of line, colors muted and got fuzzy white molds on the building tops. It was also at this time that the term ordurant art was coined. During the height of fame I took to wearing a bandage over the ear like Van Gogh but now I gave up all of the frivolous stuff and went back to just caring for birds and they were left to defecate any old way they wanted without my artful direction.

After years of working with animals, I had come to the conclusion that there was no way of preventing the inevitable. As long as we put food in one end of the animal then there would be just cause to expect a result

drink bottles filled with just plain water as a deterrent. Why? Why would that keep dogs from making house calls? I thought that if dogs were going to go they would do what they liked wherever they liked. A number of people that I asked had theories on the subject. One fellow said that plastic bottles of water, no lids on top, gave a little electric shock to the dog in a delicate place when he lifted a leg. Modest experiment showed this to be unfounded. Another person said that the water keeps the bottles from blowing over "Yes but why bottles at all?" "I dunno."

Still another said that the water ferments and molds and the dog thinks it is a large beasts territory which has fouled the water before and won't go near it. And yet another said that maybe

DIRECTOR, continued on page 14

Milwaukee's "PALS" Are Learning Respect Through Dog Obedience

Phil Arkow

Editor's Note: As we have often mentioned in previous Latham Letters, the Foundation is looking for innovative approaches to problems so that we can share them with our readers. Here is an example of a successful project in Wisconsin that pairs at-risk youths with "castaway" dogs.



Alex Wade, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Humane Society and director of the successful pilot program People and Animals Learning.

Communications are stressed with lessons that teach that while some aspects of life are frustrating, one must take control and deal with it, without anger and violence. They learn that life is like dog training: a lot of hard work, patience, and respect is needed.

One of the on-going and unresolved debates in humane education is whether you should "count the people you reach" or "reach the people who count." Humane educators often brag about how many classes or students they visit each year, but can't say with certainty whether the visits achieve any lasting behavioral changes which translate into a better appreciation for all living things. A pilot program in Milwaukee, Wisconsin however, is challenging traditional humane education by concentrating intensely on a smaller audience, with marked successes.

The Wisconsin Humane Society initiated a pilot program last summer called PAL (People and Animals Learning). Twenty at-risk inner-city students, aged 10-13 who were identified by school officials as having behavioral problems, dysfunctional families, and reading two years or more below their grade levels, were paired with 10 "at-risk" shelter animals who had been relinquished for behavioral problems. The goal: to teach the children dog obedience. The results: they learned individual responsibility and

non-violent ways to solve problems.

"We don't have an over-population problem with dogs as much as we have a recycling problem," said Alex Wade, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Humane Society. "Most of the dogs in our shelter are between one and three years old with behavior problems. You could call them 'at-risk' dogs."

The children were certainly at-risk. They included: Shandel, who was having a difficult time because an aunt she cared about deeply killed herself in jail; Teresa, who was described by a teacher as "making up her mind whether to be a success or not;" and Hector who cannot go outdoors because his neighborhood is very dangerous.

Ten students met daily from 9 a.m. to noon for three weeks under the tutelage of Kathryn Haydon, a professional dog trainer, who taught the students to teach the dogs basic sit, stay, walk, and heel commands. Throughout the training, the children learned that life takes perseverance to succeed. Through role-playing, the children developed

an understanding of dependent and inter-dependent relationships and had the experience of being needed.

The program is based upon the philosophy that a successful PAL:



PALS learn that life is like dog training: a lot of hard work, patience, and respect is needed.



- will remember that my word is my bond
- will be attentive when others are speaking
- will respect peers and activity leaders
- will treat animals with respect

In addition to learning dog obedience, the children also conducted pet visitations to day care centers where they taught other children how to approach a strange dog, and fed orphaned wild baby birds and weighted and charted their progress. They

"We've been talking for years about how humane education should be more than just awareness, but also a behavioral change. The way to get there has been under our noses all along and we never saw it. What better way to teach it than to have kids teaching dogs?"



better way to teach it than to have kids teaching dogs?" asked Wade.

Linking inner-city children from dysfunctional families with throwaway dogs was particularly poignant. "These kids are castaways themselves. They know they can be thrown away, too. They learn, though, that they can make a difference," said Wade, describing this highly successful way to put worthwhile human and animal lives back in the community.

The Humane Society provided bus transportation, journals, and t-shirts for the students and estimated a cost of \$450 per student. The Society is seeking grants to expand the program next summer.

For information about the PAL Program, Write:

*Wisconsin Humane Society,
4151 N. Humboldt Avenue,
Milwaukee, WI 53212.*



completed journals describing their activities. Throughout the entire process, camaraderie, teamwork, and the human-animal bond were stressed. All 10 dogs from the two sessions were subsequently adopted into good homes after graduation, although Wade admitted they were prepared to explain

what would have happened had the dogs been euthanized.

"We've been talking for years about how humane education should be more than just awareness, but also a behavioral change. The way to get there has been under our noses all along and we never saw it. What

Have You Moved?

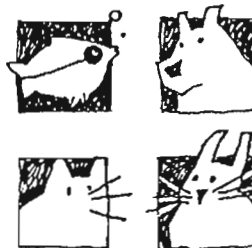
Please use the envelope inserted in this issue to notify the Foundation of your change of address. Avoid missing an issue of the

Latham Letter



and save us from paying postage on your returned newsletter.

Thank You



Latham's Latest Video Project

The Latham Foundation and the San Francisco organization Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) are cooperating on a documentary about PAWS and the importance of animal companionship for persons with AIDS. PAWS is a volunteer group that helps improve the quality of life for persons with HIV disease (AIDS/ARC) by offering them emotional and practical support in keeping the love and companionship of their pets and by providing information on the benefits and risks of animal companionship.

For further information about PAWS, call or write:

**P.O. Box 460489,
San Francisco, California 94146-0489.
Telephone 415-241-1460.**

it is the water itself, that they once had a dog that went all over the place, frequently, but in a boat didn't defecate for five hours. That maybe water was the difference between life and death and no way would the dogs spoil the water by evacuating nearby. That was theory, but maybe it was close to the truth. A shop owner in a small town put a dish of water at his doorway each day. A lady customer said

topped with a garbage can lid painted orange. He told stories better than listening to the radio and I went there often just to listen to him. I asked once what that thing was for at his gate? The old fellow took a draw on his pipe, studied the monument a moment and replied, "to keep elephants off my place." I looked incredulously at the thing, thinking he must be pulling my leg. "Does it work?" I asked. He took another long moment to let me puzzle and then said,

A fellow working behind the elephant line in a circus was kept constantly busy with a shovel picking up after the ponderous animals.

In a rare moment of inactivity he rested against the handle wiping his forehead. A relative confronted him. "Look John, you are a high school graduate. You could do whatever you wanted.

Why don't you quit this job and go out into the real world and make your mark."

"What?" exclaimed John "and give up show business?!"


"You must like dogs to put that dish there so faithfully." "Well yes and no" he replied; "I like dogs but not having a mess on my sidewalk. By putting the dish there, they never soil where the water is near." When I asked a patriarch about this he said "Yes, but why bottles of water? Just a plain dish under the tap for all dogs to use and they never mess the yard. That's much better than bottles all over the place." So there are ways of preventing what seems the inevitable.

When I was a kid in Arizona, an old fellow lived down the road from our property. On one corner of his entry road, he had a peculiar pillar of Coca Cola bottles filled with sand and

"Must work, I ain't seen no elephants round here, have you?" Not to be out done I said, "Well, matter of fact I did last week and he come s... in your well." He looked sharp at me. A smile edged in around the pipe stem "I thought the water was tastin' a little funny."

Jack Lacroix Throp is a retired Director of the Honolulu, Hawaii and Sydney, Australia zoos and was an administrator in several other zoos in the United States prior to that. Currently he is a consultant to the Nashville Zoo, the newest zoo in the nation. Throp's articles and stories have appeared in magazines, newspapers, and trade publications for more than thirty years

and have been reprinted in Japanese, French, and German.

He explains to the Latham Letter, "I was raised in Arizona where I apprenticed as a saddlemaker after high school. How I got into the zoo business is still something of a mystery to me, it just happened. Though I have worked in such diverse places as Phoenix, San Diego, Nashville, Hawaii, Australia, and live in Birmingham, I feel a Westerner at heart. My experiences as a saddlemaker are a real and integral part of my being and I can't help but take great pleasure in writing of the people and times as I knew them during that period." Throp is at work on a book about an old cowboy he calls "The Rootinist, Tootinist Cowboy in the West." 

We're Sorry ...

The author's credit was inadvertently omitted from the article in Volume IV, Number 4 of the Latham Letter, "Close Encounters of the Wild Kind - What to do with the Critters You Find" by Laura I. Simon. Ms. Simon graduated from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and is president of the Connecticut Wildlife Rehabilitators Association.



Associated Humane Societies

The Associated Humane Societies is the largest humane society in the state of New Jersey. They operate three animal care facilities, two veterinary hospitals, and Popcorn Park Zoo, a haven for handicapped, injured, abandoned and elderly wildlife, exotic and farm animals.

Their beautiful four color calendar is one of their major fundraisers — all the animals featured in it are residents of Popcorn Park or their Animal Haven Farm, or have been adopted from one of their shelters. The calendar is available for \$10.00 and includes a year's subscription to their nationwide publication, the HUMANE NEWS.

Please send your request to:

*Jeanne Balsam, Fund Raising Manager,
Associated Humane Societies
124 Evergreen Avenue, Newark, NJ 07114.*

Communicating With Your Dog — Canine Language

Myrna Shibolet

Learning our dog's language requires only the ability to pay attention and to relate properly to the dog. The result can be a new dimension of communication, control and understanding between us and our dogs.

A lot of the problems that people have with their dogs are the result of poor communication.

When we communicate with one another, we make use of a language that is primarily verbal, but that is also, in part, made of physical signals. Though many of us don't think about it, facial expressions, postures, and movements of the body and limbs are an important part of the way we express ourselves. When we try to communicate with someone from another country or another culture, in many cases it is not only the language we don't understand, but some of those expressions and gestures as well, which may be very specific to a particular culture. It is quite possible that what is proper and acceptable in one culture may be insulting in another.

Animals also have their own language. Although there are general principles that seem to be common to many species, each species has its own way of communication with others of its own species. Dogs have a language of their own, and although most dogs have a talent for learning to understand parts of our language, most people make little attempt to understand the language of their dogs.

Canine language is made up of vocalizations—everyone is familiar with the barking, growling, whining, and howling which are the most common expressive sounds that dogs make. But dogs also “speak” in great part with their bodies. Everyone knows that a wagging tail means that a dog is happy and friendly. When he meets

a strange dog, however, he holds his tail erect and wags it slowly, indicating that he is self confident but “open to negotiation” as to the development of the relationship. If it turns out that the stranger is a female, the male will start wagging more eagerly to show his enthusiasm. Different tail positions can signify anything from aggression to fear. The way a dog holds his head, his position, posture, and so on are to another dog a very clear indication of the dog's feeling and intentions.

So how does this relate to us? Many of our dogs learn to communicate with us through what they have learned about our language. The dog may come over carrying his empty food dish – obviously, he is hungry. He may scratch on the door to show us that he wants to go out. He can learn, even without formal training, to make a connection between words and actions – “let's go for a walk!” – or between objects and actions – picking up the car keys.

The most effective way of training - or rather educating - our dog, aside from making use of his great natural talent for learning our language, is to make use of signals that he will clearly understand, which are based on his own language. If the new puppy stands over his food dish and growls (which in dog language means that he is trying to assert himself as a potential pack leader), he will understand very clearly that this

is not allowed when we stand over him, scold him and if necessary take him by the scruff of the neck and shake him lightly. This is what one dog does to another to assert dominance. If you have ever seen two dogs meet in the street, they will circle each other, smell one another, and then one dog will probably lay his head on the other dog's back or even climb on the other dog's back with his front paws to show that he is the stronger. When one dog is not readily submissive to the other, the stronger may grab the weaker by the scruff to assert his position. A bitch will also do the scruff shake to her puppies if they annoy her and need discipline.

On the other hand, trying to influence a dog's behavior or correct him by striking him (and here I am referring to cruelty or excessive force - beating, kicking and so on - which under no circumstances is justified) is not nearly as effective. The dog does not have hands; while a monkey will easily understand the threat of a raised hand, dogs do not interact with hands, and the results of using hands to punish the dog, in the form of slaps or blows, will probably result in the dog being confused and learning to be afraid of hands.

Our dogs can read our body language very well. They are aware of the slightest changes in expression and in body posture. The dog who hides when we come in the door is not “feeling

guilty” but is responding to the tension in our posture when we open the door expecting to find that he has been “bad.” He can easily tell when we are seriously annoyed with him or just putting on a show from small signals of facial expression and body posture and will react suitably. We may not even be aware of giving those signals. He learns to read us - putting on our shoes may mean going out for a walk, picking up the car keys can mean a ride in the car, packing a suitcase may mean to him going off to the boarding kennel, and he will disappear under the bed in the hopes that you forget him.

Since dogs manage to learn our language so well – as well as learning to respond to signals, dogs can learn to associate words with actions and build a vocabulary of fifty to one hundred words easily – then why shouldn't we make the effort to learn the language of our dogs?

Let's start with facial expression. Dogs have very expressive faces, and can produce a wide variety of expressions by making use of ears, eyes, lips, and head position. A very dominant and self confident dog will look you straight in the eye – this is a challenge. This can be a test of who is stronger. A self confident dog who does accept your authority may look straight at you, but with his ears thrown back or lips drawn back in a “smile.” An insecure or submissive animal will lower

LANGUAGE, continued on next page

his eyes, turn his head sideways, and may completely pull his lips back from his teeth which is a submissive grimace. This is quite different from a snarl signifying aggression, where the lips are lifted up to expose the teeth,

The most common behaviors have a basis in dog language – the giving of a paw, the most common trick of proud dog owners, is a natural action based on the puppy paying his mother while he nurses. It is an expression of non-fearful submission, affection and

The most effective way of training - or rather educating - our dog, aside from making use of his great natural talent for learning our language, is to make use of signals that he will clearly understand, which are based on his own language.

the nose wrinkled, eyes narrowed but looking straight at you, and ears flattened. This dog is exhibiting serious aggression.

By being aware of our dog's behavior, we can see that, aside from a wagging tail meaning that he is happy, a tail held stiffly erect can mean aggression or assertion of dominance, a tail held down tightly to the legs or even pressed against the belly will signify fear, insecurity, and subordination; stiff legged erect posture indicates dominance and self confidence, while a crouched posture and head lowered and turned sideways indicates submission. The most submissive posture is, of course, lying on the back with legs in the air.

the desire for receiving care. Licking or shoving of the nose under a hand or arm is a similar gesture, also based on care-seeking behavior of puppies.

Learning our dog's language requires only the ability to pay attention and to relate properly to the dog. The result can be a new dimension of communication, control, and understanding between us and our dogs.

Myrna Shibolet is a dog-trainer, animal behaviorist, Canaani breeder, and author of "The Israel Canaan Dog." (Alpine Publications, USA)

Reprinted courtesy of Pro-Animal (Number 1), an independent, non-profit bulletin for animal lovers in Israel. (See below)



Pro Animal

Independent, non-profit Bulletin for Animal Lovers in Israel (in English)

Israel has now its own magazine on animals and their welfare!

- Topics:** Animal Welfare and rights •
- Human-animal bond • Pet health •
 - Pet ownership • Pet behavior • Vegetarianism • Wildlife •
 - Stories • Book suggestions • Useful addresses and events.

Order From: **Pro Animal, P.O.B. 2039, Rehobot, Israel**

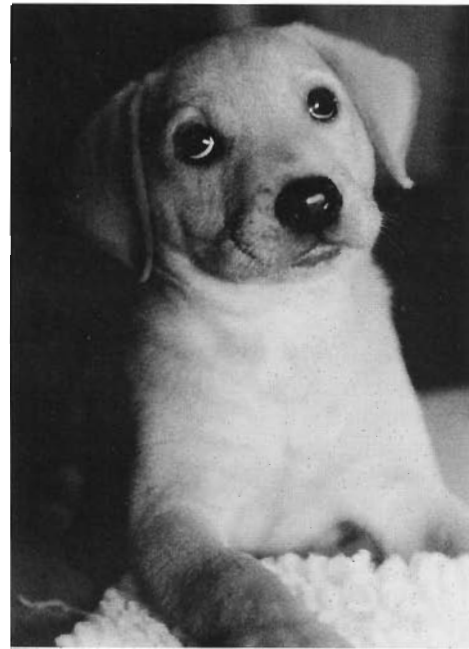


Photo Credit: DR. ELLEN K. RUDDOLPH FROM THE SPCA COLLECTION (1979-92)

What Goes Around, Comes Around ...

The Latham Foundation directs *Latham Letter* readers' attention to an organization with whom we share much common purpose and philosophy, The Seventh Circle.

The Seventh Circle, formed in January 1990, is an association of individuals and organizations who work with and/or for animals including, among others, the Caring for Creatures Animal Sanctuary in Fluvanna County, Virginia; the National Animal/People Support Team, and the bi-monthly publication, laJoie. laJoie is dedicated to promoting, through responsible journalism, human appreciation for all animals. laJoie serves as a forum for communication between those who love animals, and in their compassion, find ever increasing joy. laJoie is nonsectarian and nonpolitical.

Subscriptions are \$10 per year U.S.; Canada \$12 for six issues and other foreign countries \$15 for six issues.

For further information write or call:

laJoie Journal
P.O. Box 145
Batesville, Virginia 22924
Telephone 703-456-6204.

Army Veterinarian, Dr. Lynn J. Anderson, Receives 1993 Award for Excellence in Allied Health Care

Fort Knox, KY —

An Army veterinarian who has 12 pets of his own Received recognition recently for his longtime work on the benefits of human/animal interaction.

Lt. Col. Lynn J. Anderson, deputy commander for veterinary services at the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Fort Knox, was named by the Army Surgeon General to receive the Army Medical Department Regimental Award of Excellence in Allied Health Care for 1993.

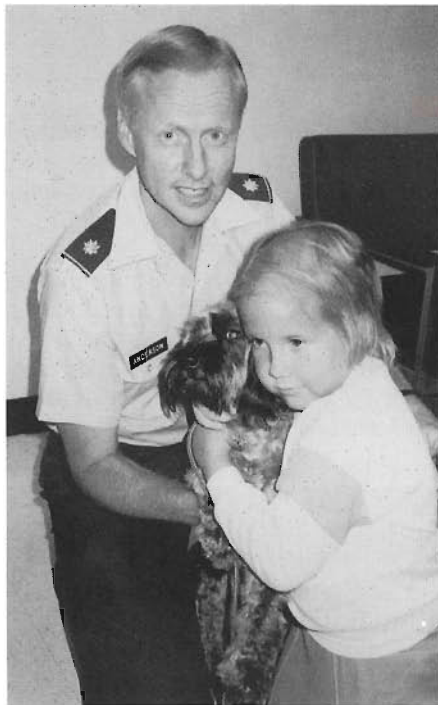
The award, presented July 28 to help observe the AMEDD Regiment Anniversary, recognizes outstanding service by AMEDD soldiers. Anderson also received the Steuben Crystal Eagle statue, donated by the National Museum and Educational Center for Allied Healthcare Professionals.

Anderson is the "foremost authority within the AMEDD on human/animal bond (HAB) issues," according to Col. William L. Lumpkin, deputy commander for veterinary services, MEDDAC, Fort Eustis, VA, who nominated Anderson for the award.

Lumpkin stated that Anderson is "nationally recognized for his work in the HAB field and has been personally responsible for the development of operational programs throughout DoD. These programs focus on the use of animals in a variety of clinical environments."

Anderson's research in the HAB "contributed directly to the Military Airlift Command (MAC) decision to authorize shipping of military pets on MAC flights," Lumpkin said.

HAB combines "the tal-



Army veterinarian, Dr. (Lt. Col.) Lynn J. Anderson shares some human-animal interaction between Dr. Polly Dog and an unidentified young patient at Ireland Army Community Hospital, Fort Knox, Kentucky. Anderson was named by the Army Surgeon General to receive the Army Medical Department Regimental Award of Excellence in Allied Health Care and the Steuben Crystal Eagle statue, donated by the National Museum and Educational Center for Allied Healthcare Professionals, in recognition of his long-time work with human-animal interaction.

Photo Credit: U.S. ARMY

ents of veterinarians, physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains and other health professionals, along with a facilitating animal for the benefit of patients," Lumpkin said.

Anderson wrote the standard DoD reference on the HAB, Technical Bulletin MED 4, "DoD Human/Animal Bond Principles and Guidelines." He helped start HAB programs at 21 military treatment facilities.

Anderson is co-founder of the International Council on the HAB, which has since become the International Association of Human/Animal Interaction Organizations.

He helped the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, the Graduate School of Public Health and the Graduate School of Social Work establish a two-year Master of Public Health program focusing on the HAB. It is first of its kind

in the world, according to Lumpkin.

Anderson started and taught an educational program for the multidisciplinary members of the Army Family Advocacy Case Management Teams concerning the role of the pet in families in sickness and in health, according to Lumpkin.

"Anderson is truly a pioneer in the development of Human Animal Bond programs."

"He is truly a pioneer in the development of the previously untapped potential of HAB programs within the military health care system," Lumpkin said. "His impact has been of immeasurable benefit."

Anderson was appointed

in 1986 as the first ever advisor to the Army Surgeon General on human/animal bond issues. He continues to serve in this role.

He helped start and is the first president of the American Association of Human/Animal Bond Veterinarians which was formed July 20, 1993.

Anderson started and taught classes on the HAB to all entry-level military veterinarians and advanced enlisted veterinary technicians, and to chaplains and chaplain assistants who enter military hospital ministry.

Anderson earned Bachelor of Science degrees from Brigham Young University and Washington State University, the Master of Social Work with human/animal bond specialty from University of Hawaii, and the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Washington State University.

Anderson's other awards include two Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, Secretary of Defense Customer Service Honor Roll for HAB contributions to DoD, two listings in Who's Who in Veterinary Science and Medicine, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society and Psi Chi National Psychology Honor Society.

He is involved in local community activities and he serves as the bishop of the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Anderson resides with his wife, Julie and four children, Janzen (18), Mindy (15), Trustin (12), Kalani (10), in Elizabethtown, KY. The family shares its home with two dogs, two turtles, five gold fish, two mice and a parakeet.



Child and Animal Abuse Prevention — *Legislative Update* —

WELCOME COLLEAGUES!

California State humane and animal control officers, along with fire fighters, become mandated reporters of child abuse on January 1, 1994 (SB 665). Joining teachers, day care custodians, medical and mental health personnel, they must report to their local child protective or law enforcement agency when they suspect or observe child abuse or neglect.

Mandated reporters are given confidentiality and immunity for reporting, and are provided with feedback on the outcome of their report; they may also be liable for failing to report (a misdemeanor).

In recognition of the professionalism and expertise of animal welfare workers, the San Francisco Child Abuse Council and the California Consortium for the Prevention of Child Abuse were proud to sponsor this legislation. *For additional information, contact Lynn Loar at 415-668-0494.*

The Latham Letter: Balanced Perspectives
on Humane and Related Environmental Issues and Activities

Back Issue and Subject Index Now Available 1987 - 1993

An index of articles that have appeared in the Latham Letter is available, arranged both by subject area and chronologically beginning with Volume VIII (1987). We hope you find this index helpful in selecting back issues that you may want to add to your library.

- Subject areas are:
- * Humane Education
 - Human/Companion Animal Bond and Pet Facilitated Therapy
 - Child and Animal Abuse Prevention
 - Debates
 - Pet (Over) Population
 - Medical and Scientific News
 - Dogs
 - Horses
 - Cats
 - Miscellaneous Other Animals
 - Theology
 - Environmental Issues
 - Research
 - Grief/Pet Loss Counseling
 - Volunteering

We would be glad to send you a copy of the Index upon request.

Write, call, or fax the Latham Foundation at:

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

The Pros and Cons of Live Animal Contact

Nancy A. Hotchkiss

As Ya-El and his family approached the North American tidepools exhibit, his sister exclaimed, "Oooh! This is where we can pick things up!" Though the area was crowded, Ya-El managed to make his way to the exhibit guide, who was holding a horseshoe crab in his lap. The guide explained the proper way to hold the animal and handed it slowly to Ya-El. "Cradle the animal's body with both hands, like you would carry a bowl of soup," he explained. Ya-El hesitated and made a face before taking the strange moving object. The animal's stiff tail was moving, and Ya-El had heard that was its stinger. Sensing the child's anxiety, the guide explained that many people thought the animal's tail could hurt them, but it really couldn't. Cold salt water dripped from Ya-El's hands as he listened to the guide describe the animal's eyes and mouth. He was amazed to learn that horseshoe crabs have been around since the age of dinosaurs. The guide asked if someone else wanted to hold the animal, and Ya-El gently handed it back. He and his family then moved on to the tropical rainforest exhibit.

Ya-El's encounter with the horseshoe crab was an ideal educational experience: Seeing the "real thing" up close had a positive effect on the young boy, perhaps even for a lifetime. All around the world in zoos, aquariums, nature centers, and museums, live animals are being used as educational tools. The innate fascination that animals hold is being channeled to focus visitors on a specific educational message. By meeting and touching live animals, visitors are learning about life cycles, natural habitats,



Photo Credit: MARGE BEASLEY

Not all animals are suitable for direct contact. Sometimes the soundest lesson to learn is "hands off."

and food-gathering strategies, as well as about the environmental pressures on animal species.

Some critics question the value of animal contact activities, asking for proof that touching animals does make a difference. After all, television, movies, and books are tremendous sources of information and images. Can't they do the same job? This article examines some types of live animal contact, discusses the pros and cons, and notes a few of the research efforts that have addressed the benefits.

Educators have long maintained that seeing (and often touching) the real and unique article has a significant effect on learning and attitudes. Museum educators and classroom teachers alike use object-centered learning as a basis for many lessons, beginning with "show and tell" in the early school years. We know from attendance figures that visitors will line up for hours to see a rare diamond, sculpture, or painting. The same is true for koalas, pandas, and white tigers. People are fascinated by the rare and the real.

Zoos and aquariums have multifaceted missions that include education, conserva-

tion, species preservation, and recreation. Given these high-minded goals, why should zoos have animal contact areas? Robert Bendiner correctly points out that: "If the breeding of threatened species were the sole purpose of zoos (and aquariums), they would do well to say so and then proceed to close their gates to the public. Thus freed from the expense and concern of having to serve the needs and pleasures of zoo-goers, they could devote themselves solely to the art of animal husbandry. But to reduce all zoos (and aquariums) to this single role, vital as it is, would be to cancel out an equally vital purpose, indeed a major reason for their existence. That purpose is to stimulate the feelings for wild animals, which in an increasingly urban society grows fainter by the decade.... Without the occasional eye-to-eye contact with wolves, bears, tigers and such, (people) will see their pictures in an encyclopedia with no more emotion that (they) get from those of archaeopteryx or mastodon."

Visitors to any zoo, aquarium, or museum must become personally involved

in order to care about what they are seeing. Without that uniquely individual experience, visitors may just as well be reading a book or watching television. We have the rare and the real, and we owe it to our audience to share our excitement. In zoos, aquariums, nature centers, and museums, animal contact areas are often the central places for activity, touch, interaction, and discovery. Close-up experiences with live animals can occur in a variety of settings and forms, ranging from highly intimate interactions to programs in which most of the participants are merely spectators. The most common types of interaction include:

- Casual visitor interaction in free-ranging "petting" areas. Children's zoos or touch tanks sometimes feature domestic or hardy animals that can be handled or touched. Interaction usually is free-form, with no assistance from a guide or teacher. Some of these areas may have volunteer interpreters.
- Small classroom programs for a targeted audience. These programs usually are directed at a single age group, such as a school class or scout troop. The classes focus on a theme, with a teacher directing the pace of the lesson and the animal interaction. In classroom programs domestic or exotic animals may be handled or touched in a controlled fashion.
- Auditorium programs or amphitheater shows. Large mixed groups are the audience for these events, which can be held either at the zoo or off site. They may be

PROS & CONS, continued on next page

multimedia programs involving large, dramatic live animals. Selected audience members may have direct animal contact, called "token touch," and then relate the experience to the entire group.

- One-to-one interaction. People interact with animals in the animals' own element or on a one-to-one basis. This type of contact typically occurs in therapy situations such as phobia desensitization programs.

Educators believe that encounters with animals in an animal contact area - whether positive or negative - can have a lifelong effect on visitors. Properly conducted animal encounters encourage positive attitudes toward wildlife in general while increasing the visitor's understanding of the individual animal. Such experiences can generate affection, caring, and concern for the animal on the part of the visitor. Sometimes a visitor's previous negative experiences or phobias are counteracted. And on a practical level, animal contact areas promote proper handling of animals.

Poorly conducted encounters, in contrast, can have long-term negative effects. Let's revisit the tidepool exhibit with Ya-El under different circumstances:

Ya-El and his sister came around the corner into the North American tidepool exhibit. The guide was holding a horseshoe crab in his lap and talking with other visitors at the exhibit. Although the area was crowded, Ya-El made his way to the front to get a closer look. "Would you like to hold it?" the guide asked. Ya-El hesitated. The tail was moving around and he had heard that it could sting you. The guide held the dripping animal in front of Ya-El's face and said, "Can you find the eyes? They are very dif-

ferent from ours." Ya-El jumped back and grimaced. "Oh, gross! Does it bite?" The guide had started a conversation with another family and didn't hear Ya-El's questions. Ya-El turned to his sister and said, "Let's go to the rainforest and see the piranhas!"

This description illustrates some of the misgivings educators have about animal contact. An inappropriate encounter with a live animal

animal stress or health risks, improper handling of potentially rare specimens, inappropriate signals conveyed by having animals present for touching?

- Do the educational benefits outweigh the potential costs?

Many studies of human-animal interaction have raised questions about the mechanics and the effectiveness of animal interaction. In the early

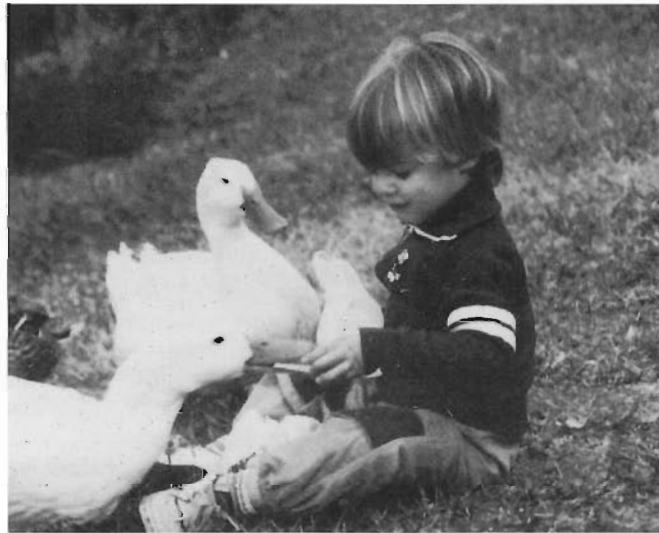


Photo Credit: SHIRLEY ROBINSON

Learning about an animal's needs early in life enables children to relate to animals in a very personal way.

can be more harmful than helpful, even leading to fear or aversion on the part of the visitor, and it can place stress on the animal. In addition, the way in which the animal is used or the inconsistency of the visual message and the guide's oral message can produce inappropriate results.

Just as museum educators are sensitive to the complexity of handling museum objects, many zoo educators are concerned about the proper use of live animals. To ensure that this form of object-centered learning is appropriate and effective, they consider three important questions:

- What types of messages are conveyed to the participants in animal contact areas?
- What "costs" are involved:

1970s Stephen Kellert of Yale University conducted the landmark study *Activities of the American Public Relating to Animals*. This broad study outlined nine types of attitudes toward animals, ranging from naturalistic (a primary interest and affection for wildlife and the outdoors) to esthetics (a primary interest in the artistic and symbolic characteristics of animals), to negativistic (an active avoidance of animals due to indifference, dislike, or fear). Kellert's research revealed that various activities can encourage or counteract various attitudes. According to his study, people visiting zoos and aquariums were no more likely to care for the animals and their habitats than people who did not visit. These findings led

zoos to ask what they were doing to send an inappropriate message to the public and how they could correct the problem.

Other research results offer a few guideposts for educators who are planning animal contact activities. Some studies have examined the "attractiveness" of certain species over others. Can you encourage someone to care about bat conservation in the same way he or she would care about the giant panda? Does touching a tarantula evoke the same emotional response as holding a baby duck? Do educators always have to pick the cute, fuzzy animal to make their point?

Other studies have looked at the use of live versus preserved specimens as educational tools. Must the visitor touch a live animal in order to become emotionally involved or will a model or preserved specimen have the same impact? Can a stuffed mechanical tiger instruct the visitor on the power of this predator as effectively as the (sleeping) real thing can? Kenneth Sherwood's study at the Mystic Marinelife Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut, seems to show that students involved in a live animal interaction may not retain more content, but they do show marked changes in attitudes toward animals.

Institutions that present amphitheater shows or programs are beginning to look at the effectiveness of the "token touch" system, in which a volunteer from the audience interacts with the animal and describes the experience to the rest of the group. Zoos and aquariums have often chosen this type of animal contact activity as a compromise between the public's desire to touch the animals and the professionals' concerns about animal stress. Does distant, secondhand interaction evoke the same response as direct participation? Are we essentially

frustrating those audience members who are not chosen? Other short-and long-term research projects are examining such subjects as the use of video versus the use of live animals, audience size and setting, cognitive versus affective learning, and the appropriate visitor age for the first animal encounter.

Outside traditional zoos and aquariums, animal interaction is being used as a form of therapy. Pets on Wheels programs bring domestic animals to health care facilities for interaction with patients. It has been documented that such interaction can improve patients' recovery rate, speech patterns, and socialization. Swim programs with dolphins have been used as therapy with severely handicapped people. At the Dolphin Research center in Marathon, Florida, David Nathanson is conducting a study to determine the holding power of live animals for people with special educational needs. His results show that students answer questions correctly two to ten times more often when interacting with the dolphins than they would in a conventional setting.

My own feelings about animal contact are born out of 11 years of working at four institutions, visiting many others, and realizing that I was affected by the early animal contact at my local parks and zoo. I have seen some of the best teaching anywhere connected with an animal interaction. Conversely, I have seen poorly staged interactions that did more harm than good to the visitor as well as to the animal.

A word of caution when considering research results: I believe that a good educator can teach well in any setting as long as he or she is creative and flexible. On the other hand, a poor educator can take the best set-

ting and ruin it. Unless testing and evaluation procedures are tightly controlled for variables, their outcomes must

with them. We can only hope to be a positive link in a chain of events that will lead them to become caring indivi-



Visitors to any zoo or aquarium must become personally involved in order to care about what they are seeing.

be carefully weighed. We do not know about the intellectual and emotional "baggage" that our visitors bring

duals. Each of us must examine animal contact programs in our own settings and draw our own conclusions. The

challenge is to ensure that the positives far outweigh the negatives, that these teaching tools are used with respect and encourage the proper attitudes toward wildlife.

Nancy A. Hotchkiss is Director of Education with the Zoological Society of Florida at Miami Metro Zoo.

Reprinted from *Progress in Humane Education* (Michael E. Kaufmann, Editor) with permission of the American Humane Association and the author.

For further information, contact the American Humane Association, 63 Inverness Drive East, Englewood, Colorado 80112-5117, 303-792-9900.

The article originally appeared in the *Museum Education Journal*.



Beavers Get a Boost from the American Humane Association

In the Denver area where AHA is headquartered, the beavers have become a nuisance and the residents are fed up. However one group, *Wildlife 2000*, has devised a unique solution to the problem: birth control.

With AHA's backing, *Wildlife 2000* is capturing the adult female beavers and placing a small, permanent implant under their skin that prevents the birth of kits for five years. The female is then released back to the same area to rejoin her mate. In the meantime, all of the other family members have been removed to be relocated. "The older siblings will care for the younger ones," says Sherri Tippie, president of *Wildlife 2000*. "So we just release the family members together in a new location. In fact, because of

the beaver's ability to replenish an overgrazed area, we've got a rancher requesting beavers on his land."

When a beaver builds a dam, it raises the water table and gives vegetation a chance to grow, stopping the erosion of soil and improving crops and grazing in the surrounding area.

Tippie says that beavers should be worth their weight in gold. "The U.S. Forest Service is supporting the program and using beavers in Colorado to replenish an endangered species of trout." The dams built by beavers slow down the water velocity in mountain streams enough for fish to survive.

AHA wholeheartedly supports this humane and mutually beneficial method of wildlife management. So putting our money where

our hearts are, AHA donated \$2,000 to the project. "It's wonderful to find a grass roots organization making such a difference," says Dennis White, director of AHA's Animal Protection Division. "Instead of just wiping out a 'nuisance' specie, we're using their natural tendencies to enhance the environment and our own agricultural needs."

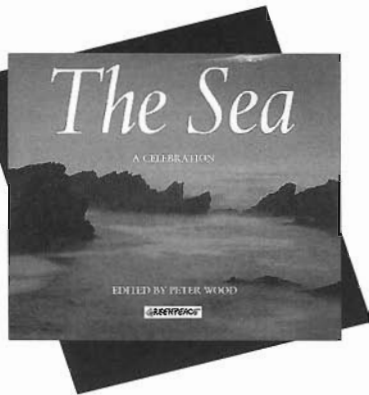
AHA is supporting a unique program to control the population of urban beavers through implants and relocation. The beavers that must be removed are relocated in dry areas where they are recreating wetlands by building pools and slowing the velocity of streams.

Reprinted from *The Advocate, The American Humane Association*.



Book Reviews

The Sea: A Celebration



Celebrate the beauty and majesty of the sea with Greenpeace, creators of the most beautiful, evocative, and moving collection of images and words ever published in praise of the sea. The world-renowned environmental organization has called on 100 contemporary contributors, including leading painters, poets, writers, and photographers, to create this large-format, high-quality, full-color showcase.

The purpose of the book is to help the Greenpeace campaign save our threatened oceans by dramatizing how something so huge can be so fragile. Yet each work of art stands alone in tribute to the majesty of the waves, the mystery of the coastline, the rich variety of the life that inhabits our oceans, the myriad ways our lives depend on it, and the all-too-many ways we are threatening it.

Not one page contains an ordinary seascape image. A striking double-spread drawing of a whale by Ralph Steadman proves unforgettable. And so do absorbing photos of a Maine fisherman at first light, ceramic sculptures of a variety of seabirds, fantasy paintings of Poseidon emerging from the sea and Venus rising in Pisces. Pro-

vocative, eye-opening essays by environmental leaders depict the crisis of endangerment, and deeply caring poems evoke the sensuous watery world we all cherish.

All royalties go to support Greenpeace environmental preservation activities. It is both a visual treasure for anyone who loves the sea and an active means of supporting the future of the environment.

The Latham Foundation staff agrees that *THE SEA: A CELEBRATION* is a collector's item and excellent value for the money.

The Sea: A Celebration

Edited by: Peter Wood

\$29.95 hardcover (\$39.95 in Canada)

ISBN: 0-7153-0036-9

128 pages; 85 color and 12 black & white photographs and illustrations

Paws, Claws, Feathers & Fins

A Kid's Video Guide to Pets



This beautifully-produced video with songs and lively graphics was a big hit with Latham staff. It's message

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

about the pleasures of responsible pet ownership is in full accord with the Foundation's purpose of promoting respect for all life through education. Several youngsters tell why they picked their companion dog, cat, hamster, fish, bird, or other creature and explain what kind of feeding, care, and training is involved with each. Dr. Aline H. Kidd, Contributing Editor to the Latham Letter, served as a consultant to the project.

Paws, Claws, Feathers & Fins was also a hit with its intended audience (children ages 4-12). Four-year-old Emily Law who watches the video over and over with her friends says, "It's really great! The song 'They All Go Poop' is really funny. I learned to take care of animals and give them everything they need and love them and give them hugs all day. They need shots to keep them healthy. They need water and food. Parrots need lots of air. I like the doggies and kitties and fishes. They're all so cute."

Michael Kaufmann, the American Humane Association's Education Coordinator, reminds us, "Bringing pets into children's lives can be the key to developing confidence, self-control, and a life-long concern for all living things."

Paws, Claws, Feathers & Fins

30 minutes

\$14.95

Ages 4-12

KIDVIDZ

Special Interest Videos for
Children

618 Centre Street

Newton, Massachusetts 02158



The Koko and Camille Books

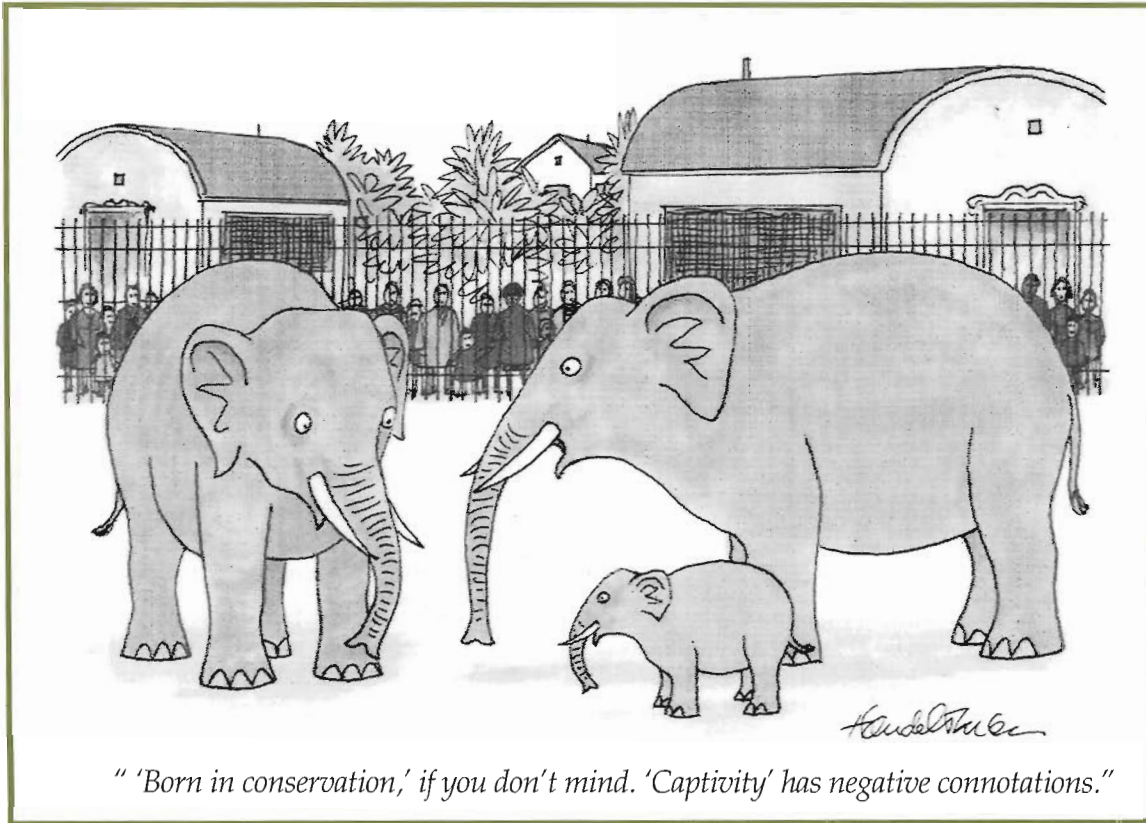
— Correction —



The phone number for Barndoor Publishing Company in Calgary, Canada, publishers of the Koko and Camille series of illustrated children's books is 403-239-7276. We regret any confusion that our error might have caused.



One of Associated Humane Society's calendar animals. (See page 14.)



DRAWING BY HANDELSMAN © 1993 THE NEW YORKER MAGAZINE, INC.



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