

Latham Letter

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PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

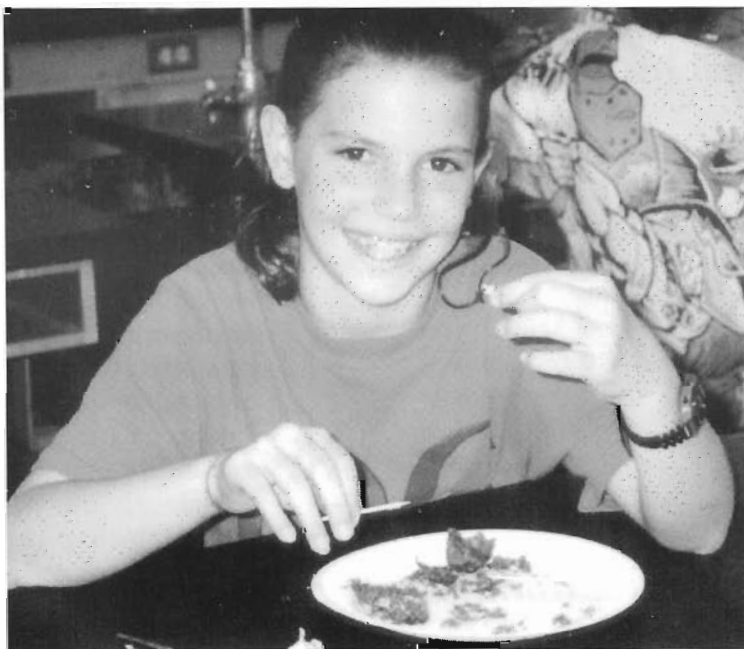
Humane Education at Hawaiian Humane Society Takes a New Direction

Pilot test of academically-based, integrated curriculum materials is overwhelmingly successful

The Hawaiian Humane society has long recognized the importance of education - *The Humane Educator* was published by the society almost 100 years ago. Humane education programs changed through the years, and in 1994 the Hawaiian Humane Society contracted with the Pacific Region Educational Laboratory (PREL) to analyze its existing humane education programs and determine how well they were fulfilling the Society's mission. The result of this analysis is moving the Society's

NEW DIRECTION, continued on page 4

In "Animal Explorers," a science class, this fifth grader learns about animals' diet and how it fits into the environment by studying the contents of owl pellets. Students learned not only about respect for owls, but also the importance of preserving species that are a food source for other creatures and how we are all interdependent in the web of life.



INSIDE

- Phil Arkow's perspective on animal welfare around the world (Page 7).
- NYC Bar Association's conference on legal issues pertaining to animals (Page 9).
- A year in the life of the Latham Foundation (Page 12).
- Learning to walk with a gentler step (Page 17).
- Animal cruelty and domestic violence in Utah (Page 18).



Coming in the next Latham Letter: Exciting news about Latham's 1st Annual Video Award Program



Domestic Violence and Cruelty to Animals

Study examines animal maltreatment in a sample of women seeking shelter from domestic violence

Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D.

Introduction

Although there are anecdotal references to animal maltreatment in cases of domestic violence (e.g., Adams, 1994), it has been difficult

to gauge the prevalence of the overlap between violence to pets and to partners by batterers (a study by Renzetti [1992] of battering in

VIOLENCE AND CRUELTY, continued on page 14

IN THIS ISSUE

Humane Education at Hawaiian Humane Society Takes a New Direction	1
Domestic Violence and Cruelty to Animals <i>Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D.</i>	1
EDITORIAL: Big Deal, It's Only a Cat <i>Hugh H. Tebault</i>	2
OPINIONS	3
What is Humane Education?	7
Animal Welfare Around the World <i>Phil Arkow</i>	7
Conference on Legal Issues Pertaining to Animals Attracts 200 in New York City <i>Jill Mariani</i>	9
About the Legal Issues Pertaining to Animals Committee	9
LATHAM LAUDS	11
Spay Day USA '96	11
A Year in the Life of the Latham Foundation ...	12
Master of Science Program Underway at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine	12
Spay/Neuter Stamp Proposed	16
They Have Taught Me to Walk with a Gentler Step <i>Su Schlagel</i>	17
Animal Cruelty IS Domestic Violence <i>Cheryl Smith</i>	18
BOOK REVIEWS	20
New Video Now Available from <i>Latham</i>	23

Edith Latham's Mandate:



"To promote, foster, encourage and further the principles of humaneness, kindness and benevolence to all living creatures; the doctrines of universal brotherhood and justice; the prevention and eradication of cruelty to animals and all living creatures, with particular emphasis on the education of children in justice and kindness to animals."

EDITORIAL



Big Deal, It's Only a Cat

*Hugh H. Tebault,
President*

Most will agree that it is not necessary to be a professional psychologist to understand that the importance of ego to everyone's karma (that secret, judgmental, self image which only we can see, as it looks back at us from a mirror) is evidenced by both good and evil behavior. And, it's not unusual for those of us who become aware of what we conceive to be an uncomplimentary image, to subconsciously develop an egotistical facade which shields the truth from both ourselves and others. Such subliminal charades frequently, manifest varied behaviors, none the least of which is wanton cruelty. Upon thoughtful consideration, cruelty can only be recognized as an attempt to prove the perpetrator's superiority over the abused. Paradoxically though, if superior self image is the objective, how does an abuser justify the cowardliness which always victimize weaker and/or defenseless, women, children, animals and the aged?

We have recently been informed of a senselessly brutal incident involving four US Navy enlisted men

and a cat. The sailors on leave in Northern California, after first fortifying themselves with alcohol, engaged in what they considered to be an enjoyable diversion. They tied a cat to the back of their auto with a rope and drove off dragging it down the highway. Neither the fact that the cat terribly injured and in excruciating pain, was ultimately rescued, nor that the perpetrators have since, been charged with cruelty to animals, is of basic importance. The significant implication of such an inexcusable action is that it demonstrates society's continued failure to understand the direct connection which animal cruelty has to that of humans. Malicious viciousness is never justified regardless of its victim and most certainly not relatively unimportant because IT'S JUST A CAT, it is always of equal importance to the same action involving humans. If deterrence of such action is the objective of adjudication, then punishment identical to that involving similar action to a human, is both justified and necessary in all cases.



***Have You Moved?** Please 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.*



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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.

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OPINIONS

A Blast from the Past!

Gentlemen:

Thank you and the Latham Foundation for the Certificate of Merit which I received in 1941 for a poster picture I drew of a Blue Jay from an old (pre-1920's) Grollier Book of Knowledge that my parents had. I was in the 3rd grade at Perris Grammar School, Perris, California.

I wish I had thought to thank Edith Latham in her lifetime.

Respectfully,

John Koch, Jr.

Setting the Record Straight

Dear Latham:

David Selby made a significant error of attribution in his article "Humane Education: The Ultima Thule of Global Education" in your Fall 1995 edition, probably because he used Richard Stanford's letter to the Toronto Globe and Mail as his source instead of tracing Stanford's source. There was no "1991 survey of Canadian animal advocates by Canadians for Health Research." The statistics Selby and Stanford cited are from Rebecca Templin Richards' Ph.D. dissertation, "Consensus Mobilization Through Ideology, Networks, and Grievances: A Study of the Contemporary Animal Rights Movement," completed at Utah State University Logan, Utah, in 1990. The group surveyed were 1,000 subscribers to the Animals' Agenda magazine, for which Animal People publisher Kim Bartlett was editor, while I was news editor. Both Kim and I participated in developing that survey and in analyzing and publishing the results (the latter independently of Templin-Richards' own analysis and publication, which focused on different aspects of the findings).

Merritt Clifton, editor,
Animal People

Concerning Early Age Spaying/Neutering

Dear Latham:

Just finished reading "Early Age Spaying/Neutering Endorsed by the American Veterinary Medical Association" in the Latham Letter, Fall 1995. Bravo!

I want to mention the work of Dr. Marvin Mackie, who produced an amateur video (circa 1989) on request from interested people and groups that documents his developed anesthetic protocol, and to demonstrate that the skill required (for early age spaying/neutering) is not extraordinary. The video shows that recovery of the youthful patient IS extraordinarily quick, leaving them unaffected by this important event in their early lives.

Dr. Mackie's Clinics are proof that low-cost, high volume spaying/neutering centers can fill a community need and still be sound financially. Dr. Mackie makes himself available to other vets who are interested in learning how he faces the challenge of quality surgery efficiently - where every movement counts. Dr. Mackie and his associates know the need for cutting the pet surplus is great and that the only way it can be addressed is by doing many efficient and effective early age spay/neuters. You can reach Dr. Mackie at Animal Birth Control, 450 Arcadia Drive, San Pedro, CA 90731. Tel: 310-547-4750.

Also, California Veterinarian Report devoted an entire issue to this topic in 1993. Reprints are available upon request.

Thank you for your kindness to all beings.

Kat Chaplin
Roanoke, TX

OPINIONS, continued on next page



Remember To
Recycle

Thanks for Videos

Dear Latham:

Thank you very much for sending the video tapes following my inquiry about tape rental. I feel at least three of them will be enjoyed by our residents. They always seem to feel close to animals and will enjoy the training and care given them on the videos.

Thank you again for your generosity.

DeLoris J. Kraus
Activities & Social Services
Secretary
Trego Lemke Memorial Hospital
and Long Term Care Facility
WaKeeney, Kansas

Does the Punishment Fit the Crime?

Dear Latham Friends:

Enclosed is the Ann Landers column ("Human life worth less than life of an animal?") that I spoke to you about. If possible, could you please respond by letter to the Editor?

Thanking you, and also thanking you again for the excellent information in "Breaking the Cycles of Violence" kit.

For the animals,

Anjelica Erickson
Prince George, B.C.
CANADA

Letter to the Editor of the Prince George Citizen

Dear Editor,

This communication is in response to a request by a concerned reader of an Ann Landers column which appeared under the heading "Changes are coming. Human Life Worth Less than Life of an Animal?" that appeared in The Citizen's September 14 issue.

We'd appreciate an opportunity to express an answer to the question posed by Miss Lander's reader. First however, we should disclose a basic concern for the well being of all life, as well as a firm

conviction that life itself, it precious beyond monetary appraisal. And further, a belief whether we like it or not, that because of the basic interrelationship of all life, humans are a species of animals.

Having stated the above, we wish to express complete agreement with Miss Lander's correspondent, in questioning the reported disparity in punitive judgments. "A (potential) \$1,000 fine for battering a human being and a (potential) \$20,000 fine for cruelty to animals?" The fine in our opinion should be \$20,000 in both cases as cruelty, regardless of the victim and its perpetrator, is always a cowardly individual who seeks a weaker, defenseless prey.

Society will not realize deterrence of human violence through tolerance in cases of animal cruelty. Those who find pleasure in insensitive brutalizing of a sentient being, care little whether the life involved, is human or nonhuman.


Hugh H. Tebault, President
The Latham Foundation



Concerned about who will care for your pets in the event of your sickness or death?

Providing For Your Pets

In The Event of Your Death or Hospitalization



The Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Committee on Legal Issues Pertaining to Animals

For information about a helpful booklet, contact The Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Office of Communications, 42 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036-6690. 212-382-6695.

education programs in a different, and exciting new direction.

Prior to the study, the Society had some very good programs in place - educational tours of the Society and classroom presentations (which included an animal experience), pre-school training shops, and a one continuing education course for teachers offered through the University of Hawaii. The study pointed out that these were good "awareness" programs, but they only went part way to helping achieve the humane education department's mission to teach compassion and respect for all living things, promote responsible pet ownership, and create a community that embraces humane values.

PREL's recommendations started the Hawaiian Humane Society moving toward an integrated community-based program and away from

The single most exciting aspect of the new program is the development of academically-based, integrated curriculum materials for grades Kindergarten through 8th grade.

the awareness programs. An administrator of humane education with the necessary qualifications was hired in July and the programs now under development focus more effort on teachers and less on direct involvement with the children. This is already making a far greater impact than the Society's previous approach.

The single most exciting aspect of the new programs is the development of academically-based, integrated curriculum materials for grades Kindergarten through 8th grade. Classes in reading, math, science, art, ecology and social studies have been developed to enhance the general academic curriculum while strongly supporting the principles of humane values.

The theme for the Program is: **"COMPASSION AND RESPECT FOR ALL LIVING THINGS—For Plants, For Animals, For You and For Me!"** All materials are provided for the teachers.

Classes Designed for students in Grades 1-3 include:

ANIMAL EXPLORERS: (Science) A fantastic hands-on science class packed with exciting activities designed to enhance the student's knowledge of science and the "Web of Life." Learn about the living creatures we share this planet with and learn how each of us can make a positive difference in the world.

FROM ALLIGATORS TO ZEBRAS: (Phonics and alphabet review) An A, B, C, approach to building phonetic skills with a review of phonics or basic letter and word recognition skills. Every day three letters of the alphabet are covered. The sounds that each letter makes are explored along with animals that begin with each letter.

"IF WE COULD TALK TO THE ANIMALS": (Communication skills) In this class students learn how animals communicate with each other and with humans, as well as how humans communicate with each other and the world around them.

"IMAGINE": (Reading) For students who like to learn and read



Part of the "Critter Crafts" art class was making animals out of paper and other materials. Children made animals that can be found in Hawaii and learned about the needs of the animal they created and whether that animal is appropriate as a pet.

about animals in a class full of fun activities, games, opportunities to read aloud and share with a group, regardless of reading level. Students discover new and interesting facts about the animal kingdom and learn many valuable lessons from the animals.

"THIS LITTLE PIGGY": (Basic math skills) In this class students learn about sorting and grouping things in nature, addition and subtraction, graphing, and number puzzles. It's a class full of hands-on, creative activities that support age-appropriate math skills.



A half-hour "Animal Experience" was an option for the children on the last day of the program. Here a young fellow learns that there is more to a rat than a creature to fear.

Classes open to all grade levels:

ALOHA 'AINA: (Hawaiiana) This class teaches appreciation, love, and respect for the land by discovering the living treasures of the Hawaiian Islands. Included are how the Hawaiian Islands were formed, how plant and animal life began, what the future holds, the Hawaiian names of plants and animals, Hawaii's endangered wildlife, and what can be done to save the environment.

LIVING GREEN: (Ecology) Discover organic gardening, vegetarian cooking, and recycling in this environmentally friendly class. For example, learn what flowers will keep a cat from digging in a garden, what plant will keep ants away, and what vegetable contains more protein than red meat.

CRITTER CRAFTS: (Arts and Crafts) Hands-on arts and crafts such as projects made from recycled materials and bird feeders that are totally edible teach shapes, sizes, colors, characteristics and needs of animals.

COMPANION ANIMALS: (Responsible pet ownership/companion animals) Learn about the variety of pets in Hawaii, which make the most appropriate pets for given lifestyles, and the proper way to care for each of them.

Classes designed for students in Grades 4 to 8:

ANIMAL EXPLORERS II: (Science) An opportunity for students to "spread their wings" and discover amazing facts about the animal kingdom. Activities include exploring owl pellets, testing for acid rain, cleaning up an oil spill, learning about animal defenses

NEW DIRECTION, continued on next page

and animal senses, building a coral reef, and exploring the unknown.

1 X 1 = 12,680: (Math) Find out how biologists, environmentalists and animal lovers alike use math skills to make the world a better place for animals. Compile statistical data, graph results, and report findings. Discover how overpopulation of one species can effect the lives of others. Build addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, graphing, and charting skills.

Classes in reading, math, science, art, ecology and social studies have been developed to enhance the general academic curriculum while strongly supporting the principles of humane values.

"FOR KIDS WHO LOVE ANIMALS": (Reading and Speaking skills) This is the title of the book students will read together to learn amazing animal facts and features including profiles of animal crusaders. The course also deals with issues of pet control and responsible pet care and discusses current environmental concerns.

ANIMAL RAP: (Communication skills) In this class students learn how animals communicate with each other and with humans. They may also learn better ways to communicate with their pets, friends, families, and themselves.

SAFARI: (Social Studies) A holistic look at the world by means of social "studying" including world politics, customs and cultures

throughout the world, concerns about the growing number of animals on the endangered species list, and the needs of pets.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE: The Shelter Experience (An intense, two week opportunity for 7th and 8th Graders) Students get an inside story on issues that affect the lives of animals in Hawaii and see how they can make a difference. Discover the many services offered by the Hawaiian Humane Society, take a behind-the-scenes tour of the zoo, document the differences between wild and domestic animals, and work together to design a t-shirt with a humane message.

rently 23 year-round schools in Hawaii and that number is expected to double next year). Although the teacher training and curriculum materials were introduced during the intersession, the ultimate goal is to have the materials accepted as part of the regular school's curriculum.

Principals and teachers in Hawaii that have reviewed our test materials are very enthusiastic about incorporating our humane education classes into their regular course of study. We are delighted about the acceptance being expressed.

Please Note: Although this program is not available to humane educators on the mainland at this time, Hawai-



The bulletin board says it all: compassion and respect were themes brought out in all the classes, whether their focus was science, literature, art, or math. Darla DeVille, the Hawaiian Humane Society's administrator of humane education stands in front of the bulletin board that students from all the classes contributed to.

These new curriculum materials were pilot-tested in October at one public and two private schools and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The pilot testing was conducted during the three schools' intersessions - part of the year-round schedule. (There are cur-

ian Humane Society's Administrator of Humane Education, Darla DeVille, (a former school principal) will be happy to talk to anyone wanting more information. You may phone her at 808-955-5122 or write: Hawaiian Humane Society, 2700 Waialae Ave., Honolulu, HI 96826.



Animal Welfare Around the World

Veterinarians Explore Changing Values

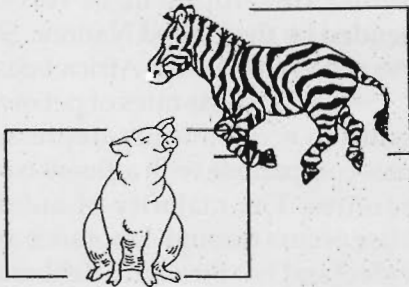
Phil Arkow



What is Humane Education?

According to the *Hawaiian Humane Society*:

- 1) Humane education is a process through which we assist children in developing *compassion*, a sense of *justice* and a *respect for all living things* (Ourselves, other human beings, animals and the earth.)
- 2) Humane education provides the *knowledge and understanding* necessary for children to behave according to these principles
- 3) Humane education helps foster a sense of *responsibility* on the part of children to *affirm and act* upon their personal beliefs.



on-line
news

Check out the Latham Foundation on the Internet at WWW.Latham.org.

Please note that Latham's e-mail address (America Online) does not have a final "a" in Latham.

Lathm@AOL.com

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN - In 1991, the World Veterinary Association determined that animal welfare issues were of such significance that an entire section of its quadrennial international conference in Rio de Janeiro was dedicated to animal well-being. The XXV Congress of the World Veterinary Association and the XX Congress of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association, meeting here in September 1995, continued this commendable emphasis with 44 animal welfare presentations from 18 nations given to more than 10,000 veterinarians from around the globe.

The audience, which included 6,500 veterinarians from the host nation of Japan, listened attentively as veterinarians described animal welfare and protection efforts in such nations as Estonia, the Czech Republic, Brazil, and Italy. The welfare of draft animals was given particular attention, with presentations on the use of elephants in Nepal, cart-drawing animals in Sudan, and equines in Mexico.

I had the honor of opening the animal welfare track with a keynote presentation on the application of ethics to animal welfare. My premise was that although veterinarians are not well-trained in ethical issues, it is incumbent on the profession to assume the moral high ground and provide balance to the cacophony of activism in the field. In particular, veterinarians have a moral responsibility - and will achieve an economic payoff - for prioritizing the welfare of their patients over the considerations of their clients. In an increasingly urban environment, pet-owners see veterinarians not as a service

profession to agriculture, but rather as benevolent caregivers and participants in the community health care system, almost akin to family physicians. In this new paradigm, the public expects veterinarians to express profound concern for animal welfare. Unfortunately, interspecies ethics are a new, uncharted frontier, but veterinarians have unique opportunities to become leaders in this field providing they can recognize and accept the social forces changing around them.

Dr. John Seamer, from the United Kingdom, noted that concern for animals' welfare emerges only "when a civilized social order has developed, with a stabilized government and economy. We cannot expect people who are hungry and cold to extend to animals that which they themselves do not enjoy," he said. He, and Dr. Eli Mayer from Israel, described the difficulty of trying to define "welfare" in English, let alone various connotations in other languages. Seamer advanced a definition of "animal welfare" as "a state of animal well-being which flourishes when physiological and psychological requirements are met continuously and adverse factors are controlled or absent." Under this definition, welfare encompasses both physical and behavioral needs and can be impacted by both intrinsic and extrinsic factors, whether positive or negative.

Dr. Shozo Watanabe described Japan's new animal welfare law which he helped co-write and traced the historical origins of animal welfare under both Oriental and Western philosophies from hunter/gatherer societies to the present. Animal welfare has a long tradition in Japan,

ANIMAL WELFARE, continued on next page



Human-animal interactions in Japan are remarkably comparable to those in North America. Department stores sell puppies, kittens and ferrets in their pet departments; people are observed walking small dogs on leashes; and people feed pigeons, as this elderly woman does in Yokohama's Yamashita Park.

including religious doctrines introduced from Confucianism in 513 and Buddhism in 538, and imperial decrees protecting animals dating back as far as 675. Tombs have been unearthed from circa 1650 of dogs buried alongside their masters, proof of the Japanese people's love of dogs and their belief in a common afterlife, he said.

Dr. Catherine Smith reviewed the New Zealand Veterinary Association's role in animal welfare. Even "down under," society's values and expectations regarding humans' treatment of animals is evolving rapidly and volatile issues continue to emerge, she said. Our domestication of animals is a contract with them, with their being guaranteed certain freedoms. Citing what has long been noted in the U.S. - an increasing gap between rural animal producers and urban animal consumers - she noted that conscience, not economics, is now guiding buying decisions in New Zealand. New legislation is granting animals the rights to be free of pain and suffering, replacing traditional animal welfare laws that merely prohibited wanton and willful mistreatment. Consequently,

veterinarians have special responsibilities to animals including: preventing their suffering; ensuring all staff members abide by animal welfare laws; handling animals gently and setting examples for others; insuring the humane handling and transport of animals bound for slaughter; and not performing any surgery which is purely cosmetic. In response, a 1994 survey found New Zealanders respected veterinarians widely and regarded veterinarians as the standard-setters and the ones to turn to for animal welfare advice.

"The veterinarian is the professional person with the most comprehensive training, the natural mediator between animals and man," she said. In this capacity, New Zealand veterinarians are increasing their educational interventions and support a nationwide Animals in Schools Education Trust which provides humane education materials for use by teachers, SPCAs, zoos, kennel clubs, municipal animal control agencies, museums, farmers, and veterinarians. More than 50% of New Zealand veterinarians have increased their educational roles over the past five years, she said.

Dr. Eberhart Stephan of Germany

described veterinarians as "the natural attorneys for animals" who must use their positive powers of vision to improve the fate of animals worldwide. On a pessimistic note, he doubted that effective animal protection would ever occur as long as helpless people are being suppressed with cruelty and military force. Nevertheless, ethical advancement of animal welfare is necessary and must be pushed forward step by step by veterinarians, he said.

A similar concern was echoed by Dr. Cheryl McCrindle of South Africa. "It is difficult to motivate the use of donor funding for animal welfare on a continent where there is human starvation, unless the promotion of animal welfare has spin-offs for human welfare," she said. Her solution is to make animal protection succeed through a paradigm shift which makes animal welfare people-centered rather than animal-centered. Animal welfare should be a part of the social aspects of community development as recommended by the United Nations. She also noted that South Africa boasts 105 SPCAs and has rates of pet ownership in economically-depressed areas comparable with affluent communities. The majority of animal abuse occurs through ignorance and neglect and not through a deliberate intention to inflict pain and suffering, she observed.

Other events at the Congress of interest to animal welfare proponents were a benefit jazz concert to aid animals displaced by the Hanshin earthquake in Kobe, Japan, earlier in the year; and the demonstration of a new software program which incorporates a color photo of a pet into its license as another identification procedure to help owners reclaim lost animals.

Phil Arkow chairs Latham's Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Advisory Committee



Conference on Legal Issues Pertaining to Animals Attracts 200 in New York City

Jill Mariani

On October 28, 1995, the Committee on Legal Issues Pertaining to Animals ("Committee") of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York ("ABCNY") presented its first day-long conference entitled "Animals and the Law," in midtown Manhattan to an audience of approximately 200 professionals and lay members of the community, covering aspects of the law as it pertains to the humane treatment of animals.

This unique Conference assembled speakers from a broad spectrum - practicing lawyers, prosecutors, veterinarians, animal rescuers, legislative activists, university professors, authors, representatives from the judiciary, the police department and those entrusted with the regulation of the animal and the enforcement of anti-cruelty laws including the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and New York City's Center for Animal Care and Control (CACC), thereby presenting balanced issues. (A fee of \$15 for non-members and \$10 for members and students was charged).

Dr. Frank Ascione, professor in the Department of Psychology and adjunct professor in Family and Human Development at Utah State

University, discussed animal abuse and its relationship to human violence. He explained that animal cruelty is a signal to child abuse, domestic violence and serial murder. In a dramatic and sobering presentation, assisted aptly by powerful visual slides, he reviewed studies of violent criminals including juvenile sex offenders who have history of animal abuse and highlighted the relationship between childhood cruelty to animals and concurrent and later antisocial behavior.

Committee member Lisa Weisberg, Esq., Senior Director of Legislation and Senior Legislative Counsel to the national ASPCA Office, guided the audience skillfully through the development of anti-cruelty laws, placing the enforcement issues addressed in the later portion of the program in perspective.

Committee member Jane Hoffman, Esq., a private practitioner who has contributed a substantial portion of her time to pro bono animal litigation, moderated a one hour panel discussion devoted to enforcement of issues and the handling of animal cruelty cases and addressing in part weaknesses in the existing laws, particularly in the adequacies

of certain legal definitions such as "care" and "shelter". The panelists included Robert O'Neill, Senior Vice President, ASPCA, Karen Pakstis, Esq. Special Counsel, the Deputy Commissioner on Legal Matters, New York City Police Department, Todd Davis, Esq. an Assistant District Attorney, Kings County District Attorney Office and Justice Carol Berkman of the Supreme Court of New York County, Criminal Term. When asked what can be done to get the legal system to take cruelty cases more seriously, Justice Berkman suggested that the community should "ask your legislators to enact statutes which go into the Penal Law, not in the Agriculture and Markets Law... as penal law crimes. Judges will see the cases as more serious." Each panelist in their own way reminded the audience that the burden of proof in animal cruelty cases, as in all criminal cases, is proof beyond a reasonable doubt and that persons witnessing the cruelty must be willing to testify if these cases are to result in convictions. Ms. Pakstis reported on the efforts of New York City Police Commissioner William Bratton, who is well known in the Metropolitan area for having taken anti-cruelty initiatives.

CONFERENCE, continued on next page

About the Legal Issues Pertaining to Animals Committee

The Committee, presently under the chairmanship of Lawrence M. Levinson, Esq., was formed on January 3, 1991 by the ABCNY Executive Committee. The Committee currently numbers approximately twenty-five members from law firms, the Legal Aid Society, the District Attorneys Office of Manhattan and Brooklyn, the Association for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ("ASPCA"), Corporation Counsel, the judiciary, the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, as well as a veterinarian, a Vice President from the Bronx Zoo and a medical doctor. It has seven working subcommittees: Companion Animal-Landlord/Tenant and Estate and Trusts; Wildlife Protection; Veterinary Legal Issues; Animals Protection Enforcement; Animal Legal Issues Conference; New York State and City Legislation Affecting Animals and the Use of Animals in Testing, Research and Experimentation.

Todd Davis detailed efforts by representatives from the five District Attorneys Offices to prosecute animal cruelty cases.

Steven Wise, of the Boston law firm Fraser & Wise, active in animal rights and animal welfare litigation for over a decade, gave his perspective on the recognition of rights for animals. He presented an insightful and thought provoking legal argument justifying the extension of two basic rights to the Chimpanzees, that of "liberty" and "freedom from bodily intrusion". *

The Conference included a series of substantive lectures on every day legal issues confronting guardians of companion animals. Committee member, Frances Carlisle Esq., a specialist in trust and estates, advised pet owners planning for the care of their pet upon their death or incapacity. She and former committee member Paul Franken are the primary authors of an ABCNY pamphlet entitled "Providing for Your Pet in the Event of your Death or Hospitalization". Committee member Darryl Vernon, Esq., a partner in Vernon & Ginsburg, concentrated on the issues of pets and housing. He and his subcommittee are preparing a pamphlet for publication

which will be submitted to the Committee and the ABCNY later this year. Committee member David Wolfson, Esq. a litigation associate in a Manhattan firm, outlined for the audience an owner's rights *vis a vis* their pets' veterinarian.

The Conference concluded with a two hour panel discussion addressing a variety of issues related to the care and protection of homeless animals, focusing on the pros and cons of pending spay-neuter legislation, the advantages and disadvantages of cat licensing, private rescue efforts, and the initiatives that can reduce the euthanasia rate while increasing the quality of "adoption" homes. David Wolfson, Esq. moderated the six person panel which included Julie Morris, Vice President, National Shelter Outreach, ASPCA, Andy Kaplan, DVM a board certified San Francisco veterinarian specializing in internal medicine, Jenny Ripka, DVM, a veterinarian at Bide-A-Wee in New York, Holly Staver of City Critters, a private rescue organization in New York City, Kathy Savesky, Executive Director, Peninsula Humane Society in San Mateo, California and Martin Kurtz, Executive Director of the Center for Animal Care and Control.

One of the concepts discussed is what is "an Adoptable animal". Ms Savesky stated that "In our shelter we refuse to use the word. Every animal is potentially adoptable with the exception... where euthanasia is truly a release from suffering.. or those animals that present a danger to themselves or people or other animals."

The Committee plans to organize such conferences as an annual event. For further information contact the Office of Communications of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, (212) 382-6692.

* The Committee acknowledges the support of the Animal Legal Defense Fund ("ALDF"), a national legal organization devoted to animal welfare, for covering the expenses of Dr. Ascione and Steven Wise. See the Summer 1995 *Latham Letter* for further information on the ALDF.

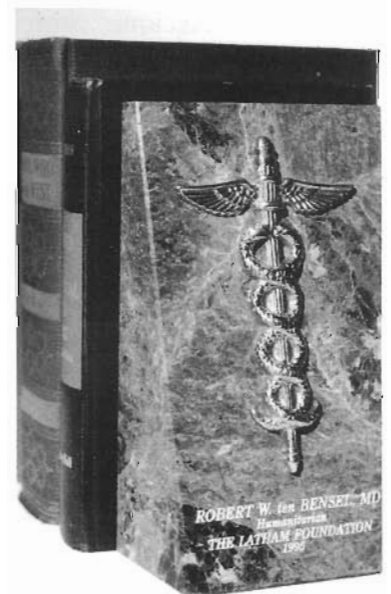
Jill Mariani, chair of the subcommittee Animal Legal Issues Conference of the Committee on Legal Issues pertaining to Animals, is the Chief of the Crimes Against Revenue Bureau in the New York County District Attorneys Office.



Robert ten BenseL, M.D. Retires

Latham congratulates and sends best wishes to Bob ten BenseL who recently retired as Chair of the Maternal and Child Health Major in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. Bob is a member of Latham's Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Advisory Committee.

Dr. Bob ten BenseL, one of Latham's Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Project Advisors, at his retirement party in October, 1995.



Latham Lauds

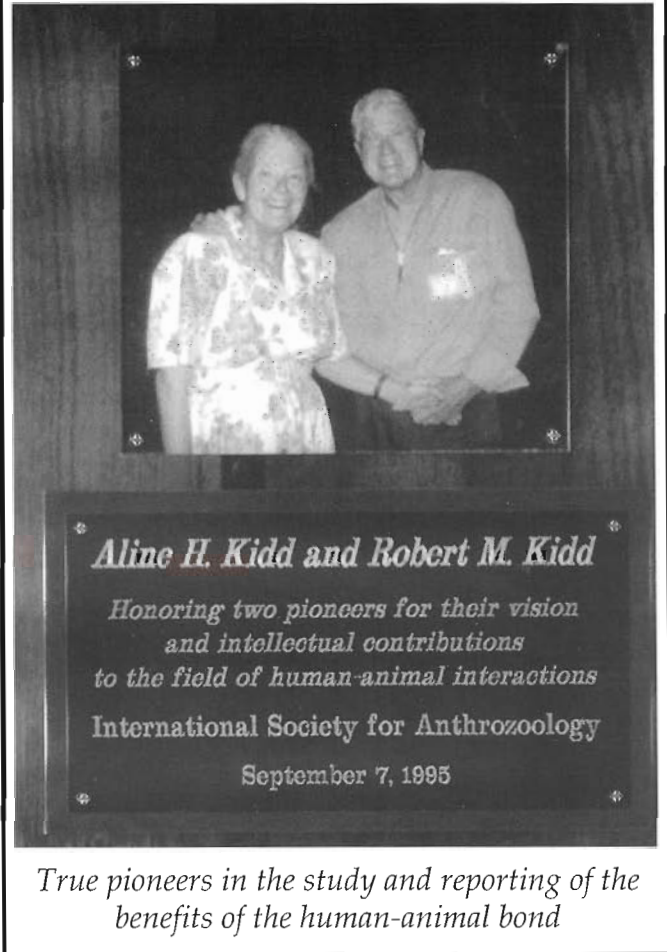
A Shelter for Battered Women's Pets

Thanks to an innovative agreement between three agencies in Loudoun County, Virginia, abused women have one less thing to worry about when fleeing domestic violence: their pets.

The program, a joint initiative of the county Abused Women's Shelter, Animal Care and Control, and the Humane Society, was created because many women are reluctant to leave an abusive situation for fear a pet will be harmed in their place. These enlightened agencies recognize that some women needing shelter from an abusive situation are unwilling to leave a companion animal or animals behind. They may fear for the animal's welfare, or simply be unwilling to leave behind a loved companion. The agencies also recognize that animals living in violent homes often are also victims of abuse. Additionally, animal abuse is a recognized indicator of child abuse.

Pets are picked up and delivered to a foster care situation where they can stay for up to one month while the woman makes other arrangements. According to Barbara Cassidy, former Director of Animal Care and Control for Loudoun County, "It gives the woman breathing room while the animal is safe, and she can do what she needs to get out of an abusive situation, which is very complicated."

Congratulations Aline and Rob!



Spay Day USA '96 will be held February 27, 1996

The national program aims to eliminate pet overpopulation.

Doris Day Animal League's Second Annual Spay Day USA participants include vets, local communities, humane societies and others determined to top the 28,000 spays and neuters performed in 1995 as part of the effort to reduce the tragedy of pet overpopulation.

What can you do?

- **Alter an Animal.**
Take responsibility for having a dog or cat altered – yours, a friend's, a relative's or a shelter animal.
- **Encourage your Local Veterinarian to Participate**
Special information packs for veterinarians are available.
- **Get Involved!**
Contact the Doris Day Animal League for a Spay Day USA Action Pack and promote the special event in your area.

**Doris Day Animal League • Suite 100 • 227 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. • Washington, DC 20002
Tel: 202-546-1761 • Fax: 202-546-2193**

SPAY DAY



U★S★A



A Year in the Life of the Latham Foundation

The Latham Foundation, established in 1918 through the vision and generosity of Edith and Milton Latham, is the first national organization devoted exclusively to humane education.

It is a nonprofit organization that makes grants in kind (rather than financial awards) and it welcomes joint ventures with other organizations or individuals who share Edith Latham's commitment to the following purpose:

- *To foster a deeper understanding of and sympathy with man's relations — the animals — who cannot speak for themselves,*
- *To inculcate the higher principles of humaneness upon which the unity and happiness of the world depend,*
- *To emphasize the spiritual fundamentals that lead to world friendship,*
- *To promote the child's character through an understanding of universal kinship.*

The Foundation is a clearing-house for information about humane issues and a source for cost-effective video tapes and publications. In 1995 the Foundation filled hundreds of requests for printed information and videos about animal-assisted therapy, the prevention of child and animal abuse, the human-companion animal bond activities, and humane education. These requests come from students and other individuals, the media, and organizations. The *Latham Letter*, the Foundation's quarterly newsletter, continues to present balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities. More than 10,000 veterinarians, students, writers, educators, animal and child welfare professionals, and those persons interested in the interdependence of human and non-human animals read each issue.

VIDEO PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

The Foundation, which now produces all of its audio visual material

on videotape, is proud to report that during the past year one of its public service documentaries titled "Living with HIV and Pets" received three awards from the Dog Writers' Association of America: Best video of 1994, the first-place "Maxwell" award for excellence in videotape production, and the Job Michael Evans Humanitarian Award.

It is gratifying to report that Latham's video and training manual "Breaking the Cycles of Violence," has been featured at a number of human/animal welfare conferences throughout the United States and in Japan. Forward looking agencies in various regions of the country have implemented its suggested program. Further, hundreds of copies of the video and training guide have been purchased and distributed.

Latham's most recently produced video is "Kerry." It documents the career and personal achievements of Kerrill Knaus-Hardy who works in innovative human-animal programs. She is co-founder and an

Master of Science Program Underway at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine

There are 315 students attending classes on the Tufts Veterinary School campus in North Grafton, Massachusetts this fall but only 307 are enrolled in the veterinary medicine program. The other eight are members of the first class in a unique new graduate program studying human and animal relationships and related public policies. The diverse

backgrounds, careers, and interests of these eight students reflect the broad appeal of the program. They have backgrounds in nursing, marketing, writing, veterinary medicine, animal advocacy, clinical data collection, and pharmaceutical research. Since the degree program was announced in October, 1994, Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy, developers and admin-

istrators of the program, have received more than 300 requests for information.

The new degree, the only one of its kind, is a full-time, one-year program that not only introduces students to a wide variety of animal issues and related philosophies, but, just as importantly, stresses the development of critical thinking skills.

for the Promotion of Humane Education



original principal participant in Canine Companions for Independence and presently she is the co-founder and motivating force behind H.O.R.S.E.S. (Horseback Outdoor Recreation and Specialized Equipment and Services) a remarkable program that makes it possible for physically challenged individuals to enjoy horses, camping, and bivouacking. The "Kerry" video is complemented by the participation and commentary of her friend and admirer, television star and author Betty White. Betty White's sincere and truthful observations concerning Kerry, serve as an inspiration to every viewer.

Other Latham videos that continue to receive popular attention are "Garden Therapy," "A Family Chooses a Pet," "Just a Little Hope," "Dog Bite Prevention," "Canine Good Citizens," "Animal Control, Who Needs It?" "Your Humane Society," and "Dolphin Swim."



CHILD AND ANIMAL ABUSE PREVENTION (C.A.A.P.)

The purpose of Latham's Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Project is: *To promote and implement cooperative programs involving child and animal welfare and domestic violence prevention agencies.*

In 1995 the Foundation's efforts in this area culminated with the completion of a 26-minute video and 62-page training guide called "Breaking the Cycles of Violence." This is the world's first such project, having been designed to help child protection, domestic violence, and animal welfare professionals recognize and report each other's forms of abuse and neglect. The manual, written by Phil Arkow who chairs Latham's Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Advisory Committee, is a practical, "how-to" guide. The video is a sensitive, interview-based production promoting awareness about the links between child and animal abuse. It is appropriate for presentations to

community groups, coalition-building, and as a resource for educators as well as for training and cross-training agency personnel.

PUBLICATIONS

In 1995 Latham's 24-page newsletter, *The Latham Letter*, was joined by "The BUZZ," a newsletter for Latham Foundation Members. *The Buzz* is an informal, quick read designed to foster two-way communication between the Foundation and its members and directors, encourage philosophical and financial support of Edith Latham's mission, and to keep Latham's loyal friends involved in its activities between meetings.

The Foundation took a step toward its future in electronic publishing with its presence online. You can contact Latham at its e-mail address: Lathm@AOL.com and in 1996 on the Internet at WWW.Latham.org.



TUFTS UNIVERSITY

School of Veterinary Medicine

Anyone interested in receiving information about the program should contact the Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy, 200 Westboro Rd., N. Grafton, MA 01536. Telephone 508-839-7991.



Fascinating Facts

- Although only 25 percent of the practicing veterinarians in the United States are women, 68 percent of the U.S. veterinary school students are women.
- Pet owners spend approximately 20 billion dollars on their pets each year.
- Sixty-nine percent of dog owners and sixty percent of cat owners give their pets as much attention as they would their children.

Source: American Pet Products Manufacturers Association and the American Animal Hospital Association

lesbian relationships is an exception). Information about threats to or actual harm of pets is not routinely obtained when women enter shelters for battered partners. This information would be valuable for establishing the prevalence of another form of violence (cruelty to animals) in families where partner battering occurs, and alerting social service agencies that exposure to such animal maltreatment may be an additional source of trauma for women and children. This study examined the prevalence of animal maltreatment in a sample of women, most accompanied by their minor children, seeking shelter from domestic violence.

Nearly three-quarters (71 %) of the women with pets reported that their male partner had threatened to hurt or kill and/or had actually hurt or killed one or more of their pets.

Background

In an earlier paper (Ascione, 1993), I reviewed existing research on childhood cruelty to animals and its relation to various forms of family and community violence, and to Conduct Disorder in children and adolescents. The clearest evidence for this relation is found in studies of the effects of physical and sexual abuse on children. Relatively less information is available on the effects of witnessing domestic violence on children's relations with pets and other animals. Anecdotal reports are common (e.g., Dutton, 1992; Gelles and Straus, 1988; Walker, 1979) and include references to partners torturing or killing

animals and forcing women to engage in bestiality. In one of the rare empirical studies including examination of the domestic violence/animal maltreatment relation, Renzetti (1992) found that 38% of women, with pets, in abusive lesbian relationships reported maltreatment of pets by their partners. The effects of witnessing both parent and pet abuse on children's mental health warrant more focused research attention.

Objectives

The objectives of this study included determining 1) the prevalence of pet ownership in a sample of women entering a shelter for battered partners in northern Utah, 2) the prevalence of threatened and/or actual harm to pets by the women's partners, and 3) evidence for animal maltreatment by the women's children. In addition to quantitative information, we examined qualitative information on the types of animal maltreatment described. We also explored ways that information about cruelty to animals could assist professionals who serve families experiencing domestic violence.

Methods

Sample. Thirty-eight women seeking in-house services (as distinct from crisis telephone services) at a shelter for battered partners in northern Utah agreed to be interviewed by shelter staff about their experiences with maltreatment of pets. The women ranged in age from 20 to 51 years (mean age = 30.2) and reported the following marital status (N = 37): married - 57%, separated - 3%, divorced - 8%, single - 32%. This was the first visit to the shelter for 54% of the women; the remaining women reported an average of 1.9 prior visits (range 1 - 6). For the 58% of women with children,

mean number of children was 2.8 (range 1 - 8) and their ages ranged from 8 months to 20 years.

Twenty-two women had children and 32% (N = 7) of these women reported that one of their children (three girls and four boys) had hurt or killed a pet or pets.

Procedures. Women were interviewed by shelter personnel within a few days of their entry into the shelter and after the initial crisis circumstances had subsided. It was stressed that participation was confidential (only shelter staff would know participants' identities) and voluntary, and that decisions to agree to or refuse participation would not affect shelter services. None of the women approached declined participation.

The interview used an early version of the **Battered Partners Shelter Survey (BPSS) Pet Maltreatment Assessment** (Ascione and Weber, 1995). Given the stress associated with entering a shelter, the number of questions was kept to a minimum. Interviewers did report, however, that many of the women were appreciative that someone had finally asked them about concerns they had for their pets.

The BPSS included the following questions:

- *Do you now have a pet animal or animals?*
If yes, what kinds?
- *Have you had a pet animal or animals in the past 12 months?*
If yes, what kinds?

- *Has your partner ever hurt or killed one of your pets?*

If yes, describe.

- *Has your partner ever threatened to hurt or kill one of your pets?*

If yes, describe.

If client has children:

- *Have any of your children ever hurt or killed one of your pets?*

If yes, describe.

- *Did concern over your pet's welfare keep you from coming to this shelter sooner than now?*

If yes, explain.

Completed BPSS forms were coded by shelter staff and then provided to the author for tabulation and analysis. Shelter staff also provided information on participants' marital status, presence and number of children, and women's reports of prior visits to the shelter.

Results

Seventy-four percent of the women reported current pet ownership or pet ownership in the 12 months prior to the women's entry into the shelter. Of these women, 68% owned more than one pet. Dogs and cats were most common; one woman reported horses as pets, and fish, birds, chickens, rabbits, and a goat were also mentioned.

Nearly three-quarters (71 %) of the women with pets reported that their male partner had threatened to hurt or kill and/or had actually hurt or killed one or more of their pets. Examples of the former included threats to put a kitten in a blender, bury a cat to its head and "mow" it, starve a dog, and shoot and kill a cat. Actual harm or killing of animals was reported by 57% of the women with pets and included acts of omission (e.g., neglecting to feed or allow veterinary care) but most often acts of violence. Ex-

amples reported included slapping, shaking, throwing, or shooting dogs and cats, drowning a cat in a bathtub, and pouring lighter fluid on a kitten and igniting it.

Twenty-two women had children and 32% (N = 7) of these women reported that one of their children (three girls and four boys) had hurt or killed a pet or pets. Behaviors ranged from sitting on a kitten and throwing a kitten against the wall to cutting a dog's fur and tail, pulling a kitten's head out of its socket, and sodomizing a cat. For 5 of these 7 cases (71 %), the mother had also reported that her partner had threatened to or actually hurt or killed pets.

Eighteen percent of the women with pets reported that concern for their animals' welfare had prevented them from coming to the shelter sooner. Their concerns included worries for animals' safety, fear of relinquishing pets to find affordable housing, placing pets with neighbors, and abandoning a pet to keep it away from the partner.

*Eighteen percent
of the women with pets
reported that concern for their
animals' welfare had prevented
them from coming to
the shelter sooner.*

Discussion

The results of this study suggest that a significant proportion of a sample of women seeking safety at a shelter for battered partners have experienced their partners' threatened and/or actual maltreatment of pets. This potential source

of trauma compounds the emotional and physical abuse these women experienced in their relationships. Worry over their pets' safety was reported by nearly one in five of the women with pets suggesting a possible obstacle preventing other women from seeking shelter assistance.

The reported prevalence of cruelty to animals by children in this sample is further cause for concern and is comparable to levels reported for clinic samples of children, assessed with the Child Behavior Checklist and its variants (Achenbach and Edelbrock, 1981; Achenbach, Howell, Quay, and Conners, 1991) including a sample of children who had been sexually abused (Friedrich, April, 1992, personal communication). Although causal relations cannot be determined given this study's descriptive strategy, children's witnessing of partners' abuse of animals (along with other forms of violent and destructive behavior) may foster imitative cruelty.

In addition to replication, further study of the association between domestic violence and cruelty to animals should explore the following questions for research and practice:

- *Does a partner's severity of cruelty to animals add to predictions of dangerousness (e.g., by indicating access to and willingness to use weapons)?*
- *We know that domestic violence and child abuse often co-occur. When children both witness and directly experience abuse, they are at greater risk for externalizing disorders (O'Keefe, 1995), one symptom of which is cruelty to animals. Are battered women aware of the diagnostic value of such cruelty in assessing children's mental health?*

VIOLENCE AND CRUELTY, continued on next page

- *There have been recent efforts to cross-train child welfare and animal welfare professionals about the association between child abuse and animal maltreatment. Should these efforts be extended to include domestic violence professionals?*
- *If animal shelters offered free or subsidized care for women's pets while the women were in a shelter, how often would this service be utilized?*

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Frank Ascione is a professor in the Department of Psychology at Utah State University in Logan, Utah 84322-2810; 801-797-1464; Fax 801-797-1448; E-mail FRANKA@FS1.ED.USU.EDU 

Spay/Neuter Stamp Proposed

Animal lovers and other concerned citizens are encouraged to circulate petitions and write cards or letters urging consideration for a 32 cent stamp depicting a puppy and kitten with the notation, "Spay/Neuter - Save Lives." The citizens stamp advisory committee has acknowledged the suggestion, but it must look at thousands of others.

Write of send petitions to:

**Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee
Attn: James C. Tolbert, Jr., Manager, Stamp Management**

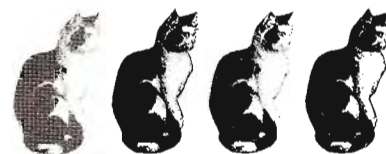
**U.S. Postal Services
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-2435**

Brochure on Feral Cat Colonies Available

Knowing that there are divergent views within the humane community about whether trap, sterilize and release programs or euthanasia are the best mechanisms for protecting feral cats, the Doris Day Animal League has produced a



S t a n d a r d s



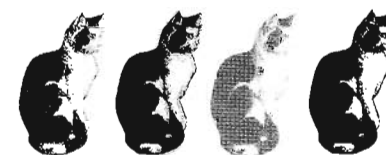
f o r M a i n t a i n i n g



F e r a l C a t



C o l o n i e s



brochure to educate the public and to evaluate the options available. "Standards for Maintaining Feral Cat Colonies" is available from the Doris Day Animal League, 227 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 100, Washington, D.C.20002. 202-546-1761.

They Have Taught Me to Walk with a Gentler Step

Su Schlagel

Editor's Note: This article was originally published in the Spring 1988 Latham Letter. We are reprinting it here and feel it deserves a second look because of its continuing relevance.

Man can no longer live for himself alone.

We must realize that all life is valuable and that we are united to all life.

From this knowledge comes our spiritual relationship with the universe.

- Albert Schweitzer

It was just a day at the zoo and for those with me it may have remained so. But for me it was a path-maker day.

We moved on through several "houses" of animals, birds and reptiles to the lions and other big cats. The house was like a barn with caged stalls along the tiles to the other habitats. Here the cages seemed smaller and less furnished than some of the other habitats. Most were empty. The smell of cement floors, still wet from a recent hosing, mixed with the odors of urine and popcorn.

I heard a soft pattering sound, rhythmic and restless, and turned to see a white snow leopard measuring his cage with counted steps; four lags long and two lags wide. He looked at me. Our eyes met and I understood his thoughts. We shared an experience I don't ever want to lose or analyze too closely.

My heart went out to him. He never paused in his pacing, but in the moment that we touched one another he told me of his life. I saw through his eyes the plateau where he had lived freely. I saw what it was like for him to become the hunted. Men in fast moving vehicles, with nets and ropes had run him down. I saw him stumble and fall as the nets wound around him. I heard his scream of terror. He was caged, transported, flown and trucked. He had been here ever since. I know he knew it was a life sentence.

He spent his days here listening for the keeper which meant food. The leopard heard him before I did and paused in his pacing but not his panting. The keeper did not come near his cage. There would be no food today. This was a "fast day", instituted to keep the larger animals from getting too fat with too little activity.

I tried to apologize. I wanted somehow to make it all better. We both knew there was nothing to be done.

Today I work as an office manager for the Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Respect for All Life. My encounter with the leopard didn't send me looking for that position, but it has influenced all the work I'm able to do there.

Neither did my encounter with the leopard send me looking for human prisoners to minister to but I have seen the same look in their eyes as contract chaplain for a maximum-security federal prison. In my weekend job as associate pastor I specialize in crisis counseling and I've seen the leopard's look in hospital wards, frightened children and people in conflict. A fear brought on by the fact that each is no longer in control of his or her environment. The spirits of people and animals have much in common, and it shows in that look of helpless fear.

The premise of the Latham foundation is that if we can learn to respect the animals, we can learn to respect one another, other peoples,

our world and our universe. My premise as a Christian minister is the same: to learn to see, to treasure and to teach others the value of every living thing, that one day we may again be in harmony.

The hope for that harmony freshens as I recall the looks I have seen in other eyes, the eyes of humans and animals as they look at one another in friendship. Truly, for some humans there was no meaningful life until an animal shared its own life with them. A dog pulls his young mistress's wheelchair, helps her get to classes, picks up her pencil and pushes elevator buttons. A horse becomes gentler when a handicapped child is placed astride her back to learn balance and coordination and to see the world from more than a few feet off the ground. The resident dog at a nursing home has become the physical therapy for a man who has had a stroke. He wouldn't use therapeutic machines, but he would pet the dog. He is now able to type. Children who have withdrawn until there is no life in their eyes have responded to a kitten placed in their lap. In a dolphin tank, the patients of a therapy session become the playthings of the dolphins as they swim and bump and nuzzle. The look for unconditional caring and respect in both sets of eyes. A bond has been established. They need no longer be alone.

GENTLER STEP, continued on next page

Animal Cruelty /S Domestic Violence

Cheryl Smith

The relationship between people and animals has endured not because the humans have done such a good job at mastering animals but because many animals genuinely like us. Animals don't care what you are wearing. They don't care that you don't live up to everyone's expectations today, again. They listen with an ear that doesn't turn away. They are not aware of your color, social, sexual, political or religious preferences. They have the ability to simply care. Archives of deeds done by animals for humans attest to the fact that the bond, once established, is stronger than life itself. When either member of the bond will give its own life for the other, that is a very strong bond indeed.

It has been my privilege to be permitted for brief moments to "see" through the window-eyes of others into the spirit/ souls of many animals, birds and even a butterfly and a goldfish. They have shared a part of themselves that have had profound effects on me and the way I now look at other spirits/ souls. They have taught me to walk with a gentler step and listen. They have taught me to open my spirit and let others in. And someday, when I see him again, I'll share the hope of a better day with a snow leopard I know, and he'll know that at least he's not alone.

Su Schlagel is the former office manager for the Latham Foundation and is a minister in The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She is presently serving as the pastor of the Christian Church of Vacaville in California.



Mounting evidence suggests that childhood acts of cruelty to animals, especially if the juveniles get away with it, often lead to later violent crimes against humans. Further, it's often an early indicator of other abuse going on in the home. Even so, animal abusers are rarely convicted in Utah, partly because the acts aren't perceived by parents, prosecutors and judges as crimes and because cruelty laws in Utah and many other states are notoriously lax. Despite the violence involved, they are punishable as simple Class C misdemeanors in Utah, the lowest possible crime. However, to intentionally kill, mutilate, or cause pain to an animal has been made a third-degree felony in 15 other states, according to the Animal Legal Defense Fund, based in California.

When Sean Dougherty, 32, of Sandy, Utah murdered his young Rottweiler dog in front of neighbor children last summer, the case prompted unprecedented media attention and public outcry throughout the state.

"Dougherty became enraged with Daug for urinating on the living-room floor. While his two stepchildren watched, Dougherty choked and kicked the dog, stomped on its chest and sprayed water into his eyes before throwing it into a canal behind his home."

Salt Lake Tribune

As psychologists and sociologists now know, cruelty toward animals is a form of domestic violence. They warn parents, teachers, sociologists, and law enforcers that this type of violent, anti-social behavior should not be overlooked, ignored, or dismissed. In fact, in a recent study of 38 abuse victims at a northern Utah crisis shelter, Psychologist Frank Ascione found that nearly three-

quarters of the women with pets reported their partner had threatened, hurt, or killed the animal. Ascione, one of the leading experts in the country studying incidences and consequences of animal cruelty (and a member of the Latham Foundation's Child And Animal Abuse Prevention advisory committee), presented these findings at the Fourth International Conference on Family Violence in New Hampshire last summer. If Dr. Ascione can secure funding, he hopes to launch a statewide survey to better document the correlation between domestic violence and animal abuse.

On August 17, largely as a result of group protests and a "friend of the court" brief filed by the Utah Animal Rights Alliance and hundreds of people who called the Sandy, Utah prosecutor's office, Dougherty was sentenced with 60 days in jail, a fine of \$750, 200 hours of community service, and therapy. Dougherty became the first Utahn ever jailed for animal cruelty. In response to it and three other recent high-profile cases in other parts of the state (and many others that go unreported), a coalition has been formed to upgrade Utah's cruelty statute during the 1996 Legislative Session, January 15-February 27, to make the punishment more befitting these crimes of violence.

In the aftermath of the Dougherty and other high-profile cruelty cases, several animal and human welfare organizations have created the Voices Against Violence Coalition for the purpose of amending Utah's archaic animal cruelty statute. To date, the Coalition is comprised of Wasatch Humane, Animal Rights Alliance, Salt Lake County Animal Services, Humane Society of Utah, Utah Animal Control Officers Association, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, and C.A.M.P.S., with endorse-

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ment from the American Humane Association, Utah Domestic Violence Advisory Council, District Attorney Neal Gunnerson and other prosecutors, the Sandy Police Department, Utah Attorney General Jan Graham, the Utah Women's Lobby, the Victim Recovery Center, and others.

In January, at the recommendation of the Coalition, Frank Pignaneli (D-Salt Lake City) will introduce a bill to amend Utah's cruelty statute, assigning varying degrees of penalties depending on the seriousness of the abuse, ranging from a third-degree felony for aggravated, intentional cruelty to a Class C misdemeanor for unintentional neglect. Dr. Ascione and a spokesperson from the American Humane Association are expected to testify. Importantly, in a move to abate their predictable opposition, the bill does not impact hunters, rodeos, circuses, or livestock producers, as long as legal permits are obtained, existing state or local regulations are followed, and humane animal-husbandry methods are practiced.

Advocates for children and battered women may be hesitant to support this effort to upgrade Utah's animal cruelty laws because the penalties that the coalition, Humane Society of the U.S. and the American Humane Association advocate are higher than those on the books for child abuse. But Ann Church, HSUS director of state legislation, quickly dismisses that excuse, "If your child abuse laws are that low, fix them, too," she says.

While most Utahns have shown unprecedented concern for Daug and others who have silently suffered the same fate – calling in to radio shows, writing letters to the editor, calling the police and prosecutor, signing petitions, demand-

*"Instead of debating
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who the victim is."*

Ed Sayres, Director,
Animal Protection Division, AHA

ing fair punishment – some people have criticized the attention the case has received, accusing animal lovers of "overreacting" to "just a dog," especially since 17 children died in Utah from abuse last year, many of them in silence, with no media attention, no candlelight vigils, no protests. I can't explain this phenomenon, except that perhaps animal-advocates are, by nature, more willing to step forward and speak up. It's also the "nature" of the system to keep families together at nearly any lengths, by offering intervention like parenting classes and counseling, rather than mandating jail time or stronger punishment and removing the children from the home. Animals, by contrast, are still legally treated as personal property, with no inherent rights or protections. Perhaps many of us have responded to this particular case so loudly because we want to make sure that Dougherty and others like him don't continue to get away with their violent, anti-social crimes as they have been doing for far too long. Our reaction has also been fueled by years of frustration and helplessness: people having little or no legal recourse when they see an animal being kicked, hanged, stabbed, starved, or permanently chained, often in front of children and even by children. Under current

laws, to intervene on behalf of the animal would result in harsher penalties (for trespassing or theft) than the abuser himself would get.

The members of the Coalition do not want law enforcement to put animal abuse cases ahead of human violent crime. Randy Lockwood of HSUS agrees. "Don't drop your investigations of murders, rapists and robbers and go after the cat killers. Just having these laws on the books sends an important message, and makes it easier to investigate some of the instances of violence."

Since enacting tougher laws two years ago, Washington state has been able to convict several violent young men on animal cruelty charges, including one man who'd been suspected of raping a woman, but who could not be convicted of rape because the victim refused to testify. He's now in prison for five years.


"Recognizing animal abuse as a consequential offense in no way negates other abuses," states Ed Sayres, director, Animal Protection Division, AHA. "Instead of debating which type of victim gets which type of treatment in court, our society must understand that we simply cannot afford any type of interpersonal violence. . . no matter who the victim is. Current discrepancies in fines and sentencing only illustrate the urgent need for unilateral action." By adding a felony provision, prosecutors will be able to plea bargain the offender into treatment or get him or her off the street.

Clearly, parents, teachers, social workers, and prosecutors—not just those of us who love animals and work toward their welfare—should recognize the implications of animal abuse: for the family, society, and for animals themselves. For additional information about the prevalence of

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, continued on next page

BOOK REVIEWS

animal cruelty, the correlation with other forms of domestic violence, and to support this important legislation, call the Voices Against Violence animal cruelty hotline at (801) 461-9032.

Cheryl Smith is the executive director of Wasatch Humane, based in Salt Lake City, Utah. She is a free-lance writer whose work has been published locally and nationally. 

If you suspect abuse against children, the elderly, or animals, report it to the police. It is a crime! Be sure to give your name and phone number, otherwise they can't investigate. Request a follow-up report and offer to testify in court, if needed.

For help with your state's cruelty laws, contact:

The American Humane Association
1-800-227-4645

State-by-state comparison of cruelty statutes; public service announcements, brochures, literature about "The Link."

Animal Legal Defense Fund
1-415-459-0885

Resources for prosecuting animal cruelty cases

The Latham Foundation
1-510-521-0920

A clearing house for information on child and animal abuse prevention including conference summaries, Latham Letter reprints, and the video and training manual, "Breaking the Cycles of Violence."

My Greyhound Friend



A children's story for all ages that explores a seven year old boy's exposure (through his enlightened grandmother) to the world of dog racing, greyhound adoption and the issues inherent in both. This twelve-page booklet by Nora Star with black and white photographs of her graceful dogs beautifully illustrates the need for greyhound adoptions and their potential as wonderful pets.



The proceeds from sales of MY GREYHOUND FRIEND benefit an organization in Kelseyville, California called Greyhound Friends for Life.

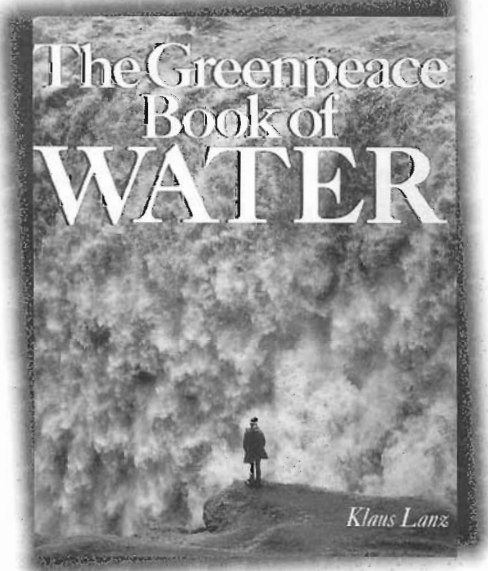
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The Greenpeace Book of Water

Water, cool water!

Though it is axiomatic that all life including human, is vitally dependent upon water, its abundance and purity is generally taken for granted. And ironic, that as society becomes more technologically advanced, it is also increasingly at risk of destroying the very element that allows it to flourish by polluting, exploiting, and abusing the world's water supply.



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Conversely, a reader will witness through word and picture, the damage being caused by pollution, contamination, acid rain, inefficient sewage systems, phosphates from

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detergents and cleansers, and the simple overindulgence of people who believe their water supply is infinite.

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Current Issues and New Frontiers in Animal Research

Current Issues and New Frontiers in Animal Research is the proceedings of a conference sponsored by the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas on December 8-9, 1994. Editors are Kathryn A.L. Bayne, M.S., Ph.D., D.V.M., DipACLAM, Molly Greene and Ernest D. Prentice, Ph.D.

Chapters of the scholarly book include Updates on Research Animal Regulations, Current IACUC Issues, Biocontainment, Biosafety & Biohazards in the Laboratory Use of Animals, and New Frontiers of Animal Research and Well-being.

The Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW), founded in 1978, is a unique, non-profit association of persons and institutions who study, or are concerned about their responsibilities toward all research animals. Through educational activities

and scientific scholarship, SCAW promotes responsible and humane treatment of laboratory, farm and wild animals involved in research, testing and education.



SCAW serves as a forum, through workshops, conferences, publications, and contact with scientists and the general public, where current issues pertaining to animal well-being can be discussed. SCAW's approach is objective and based on the presentation of scientific and empirical evidence to optimize animal well-being.

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Attorneys for Animals Michigan Animal Law Handbook

Finding the law concerning animals in the State of Michigan is easy with this handbook. Thirteen chapters provide humane societies,

animal control agencies, individuals, and the attorneys who represent them, with the statutes that currently address either animals or the human entities with which animals are intimately bound. A partial list of contents includes:

Dogs, cats, and "companion animals"

Food animals

Wild animals, including those called "domestic" for financial reasons

Veterinary standard of care

Sodium Pentobarbital: use by humane societies

Nonprofit corporation standards and guidelines.

The valuable handbook is a 3-ring binder with a pocket in front, arranged for easy insertion of updates. It is the first compilation of laws related to all Michigan animals and to the humans who provide for them.



It is available at special prices to humane societies and animal control agencies. To qualify, order on your Society's or governmental agency's letterhead and include the name to whom the book is to be sent.

Humane Societies/Animal Control Agencies \$30.00

Members of Attorneys for Animals \$45.00

General Subscribers \$55.00

BOOK REVIEWS, continued on next page

Michigan Animal Law Handbook

Attorneys for Animals
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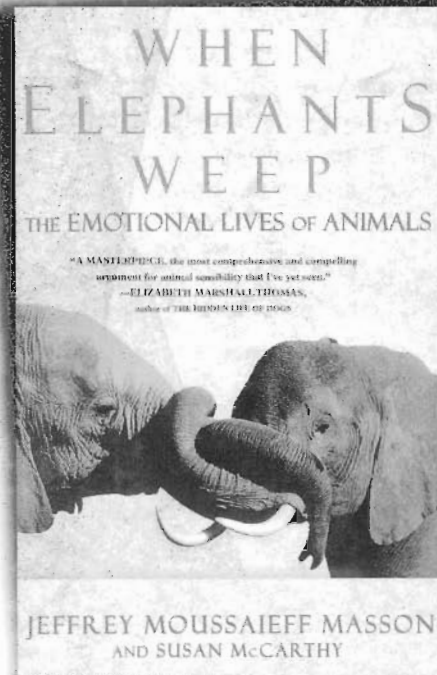
Note: Readers are asked to contact Latham if they have information about similar handbooks for other states.

For example, *Laws Protecting Animals in New York State and New York City*, the 10th edition of laws, updated through 1994, is available for \$35.00. Price includes automatic annual updates. For more information, contact the ASPCA Legal Dept. 212-876-7700 ext.4555.

**When Elephants Weep:
The Emotional Lives
of Animals**

Do nonhuman animals love and suffer, cry and laugh? Do their hearts rise up in anticipation and fall in despair? Do they feel disappointment, curiosity, and anticipation? "It's obvious," says the pet owner; "It's an enormous claim," says the scientist.

Authors Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson and Susan McCarthy succeed admirably in their attempt to



"bridge the gap between the knowledge of the person who has always observed animals without prejudice, and the scientific mind that does not want to venture into such emotional territory." They devote a great deal of attention to the issue of anthropomorphism (attributing human characteristics to nonhuman animals), giving the rightful concerns their due, but trying to get

beyond fear and avoidance so animal emotions can be studied on a scientific basis, freed from a bogus fear. They also try (and again succeed) in looking objectively at the arguments of evolutionary biology and ask, when do they help explain the real emotional lives that animals display and when are they used to dismiss that reality?

With chapters on love, joy, anger, fear, shame, compassion, and loneliness, all framed by a provocative reevaluation of how we treat animals, *WHEN ELEPHANTS WEEP* is the first book since Darwin's time to explore the full range of emotions throughout the animal kingdom. It is an engaging and authoritative portrait of animals' emotional lives and it is sure to affect not only the way a reader thinks about animals, but how one treats them.

When Elephants Weep
The Emotional Lives of Animals
Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson and
Susan McCarthy
\$23.95
Delacorte Press
Bantam Doubleday Dell
Publishing Group, Inc.
1540 Broadway
New York, NY 10036



Hotels Cater to New Breed of Responsible Pet Owners and Their Pets



Leaving a pet in a kennel or with a sitter is no longer the only option when a family travels. Well-behaved pets are being welcomed at more and more hotels and motels every day.

Ruth Hershey, Director of Public Relations at the swank Four Seasons Hotel in Philadelphia, for example, knows that being kind to animals makes good business "cents" in serving her customers' needs. Hershey said the hotel allows pets because, "If a pet is traveling with an individual or family it is because that animal is part of that family. We do everything we can for the pet as long as it is well behaved."

When arranging a trip, make reservations by calling the chain's reservation number and letting them know a pet will accompany you.

Here is a list of reservation numbers for some of the major nationwide chains where pets are welcome.

Choice Hotel Intl. • 800-228-5050 • (Econo Lodge, Sleep Inns, Quality Inns, Clarion Hotels, Comfort Inns)

Holiday Inn Worldwide • 800-HOLIDAY

Hospitality Franchise System • 800-654-2000 • (Howard Johnson's, Ramada)

La Quinta Motor Inns • 800-531-9000

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Kerry

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Have you ever wondered why some people seem destined to make a difference no matter what obstacles they have to overcome?

Kerry Knaus-Hardy was born with a serious neurological disability and not expected to live past her sixth birthday but she did, and did she beat the odds. Kerry overcame seemingly insurmountable physical difficulties and grew into a talented woman determined to serve the needs of other physically challenged individuals. With an indomitable spirit, the help of an assistance dog, a power wheel chair and a specially equipped van, she has done exactly what she set out to do. First, Kerry co-founded Canine Companions for Independence, which is one of the pioneering organizations training service dogs for people with physical disabilities, signal dogs for the deaf or hearing impaired, and

social dogs for pet-facilitated therapy. Later she moved to a ten-acre horse ranch in Oregon from which she operates HORSES, which stands for Horseback Outdoor Recreation and Specialized Equipment and Services. HORSES services include weekly horseback rides at the ranch and special summer trail rides and camping trips.

"Kerry" documents these summer activities and delivers a candid insight into what it's like to have one's abilities and intelligence questioned because of a physical challenge. This is an encouraging and inspiring story. There is something in this video for everyone.

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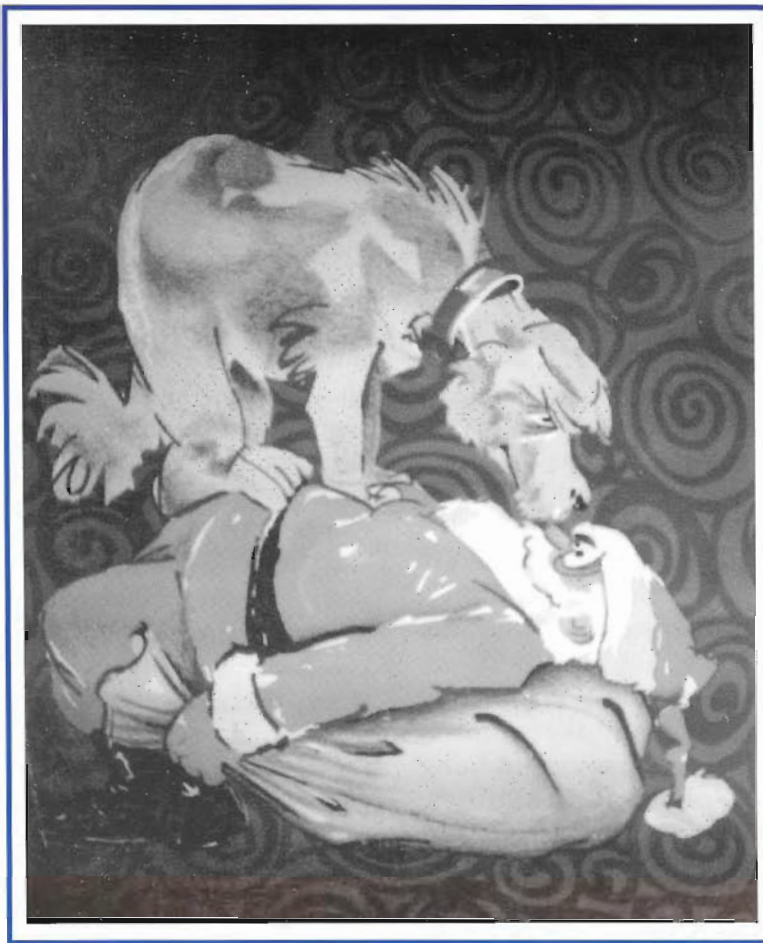
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