

Latham Letter

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PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

Angel Unlikely

Carol Shiveley

A concerned mother of a summer day camper at the Oregon Humane Society greeted me early one morning and told me about a dog she and her children had noticed on their way in for breakfast at a fast food restaurant down the street. She noted it was still there later when they left. It was obviously in distress, crying pitifully on a narrow green island parkway that was surrounded by zooming traffic. I asked her to see if she could capture it. She returned soon with the dog, saying it had willingly complied and welcomed her gentle command to "Come," jumping in the car with her two young children.

Now what? The little white dog with giant black patches (including one over his right eye) and the big square jaw looked just like "Petey" in the *Little Rascals*. Petey calmly sat by our feet as we talked about his fate. He was a pit bull or American Staffordshire Terrier. This comical, gentle looking dog had a genetic history developed for strength, stamina, fighting, and killing small animals. Yet this unneutered male dog didn't seem to fit the mold! He was friendly, not the least bit aggressive toward other dogs or people and was very well

ANGEL, continued on page 10



Rory and Ed, an American Staffordshire Terrier.

MONICA WEITZEL

This issue is dedicated to all animal-facilitated therapy animals and their owners.

JENNI'S JOURNAL – Part 8 (Diary of a Therapy Dog)

My name is Jenni Dunn and I am very friendly and very obedient. Ever since I began visiting patients in hospitals, I've been keeping a journal of my thoughts and experiences. From time-to-time I share them with *Latham Letter* readers.

Since my last journal entry dated March 1994, our family has moved from Golden Colorado to Jacksonville, Florida where the hospitals don't have pet therapy

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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

WHY?

Hugh H. Tebault, President



Among the early vocabulary acquisitions of many children, is their frequently used, and favorite word, "WHY?" Although its constant repetition can be annoyingly monotonous, every thoughtful adult understands the importance of an intelligent and honest response. It's interesting to note however, that though a need for the word "WHY" is never outgrown, replies to many an adult's question, unlike those to a child's, are either frequently unsatisfactory or remain unanswered.


It would seem axiomatic I'm sure, to assume that if given the opportunity, each of us can and would re-express a wide range of previously unanswered "WHY" questions. Most certainly, with Latham's and my own conviction regarding the value of human and nonhuman benefits to be realized from an understanding of mankind's factual, interrelationship with and interdependence on all other life, my inquires in that regard would be to ask:

"WHY?" – in view of the undeniably valuable service regularly demonstrated and given to sightless individuals by trained guide dogs, is there a reluctance to provide other needed human - companion animal bond support benefits to hospital patients, otherwise handicapped persons, rest home residents and

penitentiary inmates, etc?. And then:

"WHY?" – when the dictionary lists but one spelling as well as one listing (not two) for the word cruelty, and provides its legal definition as: "conduct that causes grievous bodily harm or mental suffering," isn't the cruelty perpetrated by an individual against non-humans considered to be sufficiently serious and socially deleterious, to require the same punishments as those adjudged for cruelty to humans? And for that matter:

"WHY?" – is cruelty tolerated, when it is almost always the result of the recognizable cowardly actions of a stronger assailant, progressively taken against a small child, the elderly or disabled person, a spouse or a defenseless animal? And, lastly:

"WHY?" – in addition to the number of misconceived relationships with our fellow creatures, do designated authorities endeavor to accomplish needed improvements to failed social programs by means of ever larger and *more of the same activity*? The construction and operation of more and larger penitentiary facilities has proven ineffective in reducing criminal activity, perhaps recidivism would be materially and cost effectively lessened by means of well conceived correctional, educational programs. 

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programs. Also, as the movers were moving us into our new house Mom found me out in the back yard having a seizure. Needless to say, she had to find a Veterinarian very quickly and rushed me to the doctor. It has taken some time for me to get my medicine regulated to keep my seizures under control but I think I am doing fine now. In fact, Mom



Jenni Dunn, Therapy Dog.

has even taken me to a Nursing Home to visit residents. I love visiting anybody so I enjoyed myself there too.

Another thing I have done is to be on a National TV program called "Company of Animals" on the Home and Garden Network. The TV crew came to our house and filmed Mom and me in our own family room. We first aired the third week of March 1995 and were seen by more than nine million viewers. Since my debut, the station has gotten quite a few inquiries about the hows and wheres of Therapy Dogs.

May 1, 1994

Mom took me to a place where I have never been before. I recognized it as being a hospital and when we walked past the information desk, my nose automatically searched for the smell of a "doggie treat jar." To my disappointment there was nothing there. Mom took me up the elevator and down a long corridor into a brightly decorated room. I was excited because the scent of children was in the air. Finally, three more dogs and their persons arrived and we all seemed to be waiting for something. The other dogs and

I sniffed each other out and were getting familiar when a man without a dog came bounding through the door. I immediately recognized him as being my new veterinarian, Dr. Williams, but wondered what he was doing there. This wasn't his office! I soon found out that he was there to do a pet screening. It seems that Mom had

been working for months giving presentations to local hospitals to try to get a Pet Therapy Program started somewhere and Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville had decided that it would be of great benefit to their patients and had

*Now every time
Mom grabs her car keys,
I run to the door
just in case we are going back
to the Children's Hospital.
I want to be ready!*

agreed to let Mom help them get their program started. All four of us dogs passed our screening and even though it was Dr. Williams first screening, he did a wonderful job. My first visit will be next week.

Tuesday, May 9, 1994

I made Wolfson Children's Hospital's first Pet Therapy visit today. Everyone knew I was coming and the President of the Auxiliary even

JOURNAL, continued on next page

took our picture. Jackie, the lady who is going to be the Chairman of the program, followed us around to observe how Pet Therapy visits are done. I was so excited to be back visiting patients; I had really missed making regular visits. I especially love visiting children and couldn't wait to see each patient. This was a very busy hospital and there were lots of things going on. As I was making my rounds, I noticed two giant clowns in colorful costumes with their faces painted bright colors and went directly over to them to get petted. Mom thought they might scare me but I didn't even

Some of the guys even got down on the floor with me. This was heaven and I was a star!

The parents of the kids were especially glad to see me. One daddy helped his little girl to play ball with me. I would catch the ball when she threw it up in the air and would chase it down the hall and bring it back to her. She and her daddy thought this was great fun. This was a hospital ball and Mom was afraid I might pop it with my strong jaws so she said she would bring my own ball next time. We ran into the JU baseball team again and one of the guys told me he was "real sick"

As I was making my rounds, I noticed two giant clowns in colorful costumes with their faces painted bright colors and went directly over to them to get petted. Mom thought they might scare me but I didn't even notice that they looked any "different" from anyone else.

notice that they looked any "different" from anyone else. The Jacksonville University baseball team was also visiting the kids and those college boys thought I was hot stuff. They would wait outside the room for their turn while I was visiting the kids and commented on how each of the kids responded to my visit. As I came out of each room they took turns petting me, too.

and needed a special visit so I rolled onto my back so he could pet my tummy. He was great but he didn't fool me. I hope his baseball playing is better than his acting.

We were visiting one little boy on the cancer floor when one of the male nurses came in to try to give him his medicine. The little boy didn't want any part of it but decided he would be more coopera-

tive and agreed to take his medicine after watching me take MY medicine (my doggie treat) right out of the nurses own mouth! I was very cautious as I gently tugged the doggie treat out from between the nurse's teeth while everybody laughed.

On the cancer floor kids don't have to stay in their rooms and are allowed to play in the playroom or visit each other in the hall. I approached a group of about five or six kids about the same height as me. We could look each other straight in the eyes. They all hugged on me and loved on me at the same time. I didn't know who to give my attention to first. One of the little boys put his arms around my neck and gave me a big hug. I loved being there with those brave kids.

When we went back to the volunteer office to sign out and fill out our visit report, several ladies wanted to see me and talk to Mom so I crawled under a table and tried to take a nap. Gosh, it was good to be back visiting patients again. When we got back to the car I was so tired that Mom had to lift me up; I was too tired to jump in by myself. But I can hardly wait to go back again. Now every time Mom grabs her car keys, I run to the door just in case we are going back to the Children's Hospital. I want to be ready!

Jenni Dunn is a Contributing Editor to the Latham Letter.



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For Your Consideration: A Pet Assisted Therapist Facilitator Code of Ethics

Roberta J. Preziosi

1. The Therapy companion animal's welfare must be the priority of the pet-assisted therapy facilitator (PATF) at all times, ensuring the animals's complete safety when working within the therapy field. The PATF must never put an animal in a potentially dangerous situation and some precautions to take include:
 - *Understanding the mental and physical condition/ stability of the clients with whom the animal will share space with during a therapy session, by thoroughly reviewing the client's medical record with a physician;*
 - *Insisting that the animal is respected and accepted as a professional by a visiting facility staff and patients;*
 - *Making every effort to avoid accidents during a facility visit by securing the therapy animal to a leash or harness, using a carrier (particularly with a cat or rabbit), and training for nonviolent reactions if, for example, a cane is dropped near the animal;*
 - *Carrying adequate insurance because an animal may elect to defend himself/herself or protect PATF if a client should become violent or aggressive during a therapy session - people nor animals cannot be completely predictable in any given situation; and;*
 - *Analyzing undesirable behavior of an animal, such as bites, nips, or growls (unless the animal is acting in defense) then humanely training - not punishing - for correction or electing to return the animal to the family environment and retiring him or her from the therapy field.*
2. The therapy companion animal must never be forced to leave the home to go to work. A therapy animal should show desire and excitement to leave the home or automobile to visit a therapy facility; otherwise, the PATF must cancel the session. Occasional cancellations are unavoidable but if the animal shows a frequent lack of motivation and illness or aging is not a factor, perhaps the companion animal is no longer interested in therapy work and prefers being in the home with its family; the PATF must respect this desire.
3. Within the therapy environment, an animal must never be forced to perform an action that he or she does not initiate willingly.
4. Know your animal extremely well and do not put a therapy companion animal in a situation where

he or she is not comfortable. Some animals prefer one-on-one therapy work exclusively and it is the responsibility of the PATF to make this determination and use consistent good judgement with the animal's safety and comfort in mind as the priority. The therapy animal should initially be approached by one person at a time then move to group sessions gradually.

5. Adjust the animal to the therapy field gradually. This includes getting the animal used to traveling in an automobile for long periods of time beginning with short increment rides. Strange surroundings, sounds, smells, and people can frighten an animal putting him or her into a defensive mode of behavior when instincts trigger "beware, caution," and defense responses, which can be dangerous for clients and very stressful for the animal. Stress compromises the immune system and creates unhealthy functioning; therefore, brief visits are recommended until the PATF sees that the animal is not stressed after spending 45-60 minutes in a facility room. Pacing, thirst, fast heartbeat, excessive panting, sudden urine or bowel movements, tail down and stiff, crying out or barking uncomfortably, or uncooperativeness are signs that an animal is stressed. The PATF should bring the animal out-of-doors for quiet, comfortable relaxation.
6. Companion animals generally enjoy play, touch, and activity of most sorts with its human family. Safe fun, love, respect, and human socialization will be the fundamental motivation necessary for a born therapy animal.
7. The therapy animal must be given a quiet time period during each therapy session to rest; this quiet time will vary depending upon the animal's age and overall health, climate, facility room temperature, and type of therapy session.
8. The PATF should never leave the therapy animal alone or out of visual range during a therapy session.
9. The PATF must protect the health of the therapy animal by inspecting the premises in which the animal will enter to verify cleanliness, particularly the floors. Blankets can be taken to lay down for the animal's

CODE OF ETHICS, continued on next page

comfort and for sanitary purposes. Animals walk on floors and may lick the hands or face of a client (although the PATF should discourage licking). Medicine or chemical residue on the client's body or on the floor could easily be ingested by the animal through licking of its paws. Human shoes collect, transfer, and deposit a variety of viruses and bacteria onto floor surfaces where animals collect the same onto their paws then lick off, making them very susceptible to disease (this is a primary means by which parvo is spread). Animal booties can be purchased to protect the animal from chemicals, medicine residue, and viruses or to improve footing on slippery floor.

10. The PATF must not allow any-one to offer food to the therapy animal, unless permission is granted by the PATF. Animal food/snacks can be one of the supplies carried by the PATF.
11. A client must never be allowed to contact or share space with an animal if that client is diagnosed with a disease or illness that could be transmitted to an animal. The PATF is responsible for investigating the health conditions of all clients prior to each therapy session and for understanding which human illnesses are transmittable to their animal(s). Requiring clients to wash their hands prior to each session is not an unreasonable request; packaged towelettes or antibacterial soap can be carried by the PATF.
12. The PATF must schedule regular inoculations to

protect the animal and clients. Personal animal health care practices (traditional or holistic) and therapy facility policies will differ but compliance with local laws mandate rabies inoculations at minimum. Homeopathic remedies are available through licensed holistic veterinarians in place of conventional medicine if desired, and animal's health and professional requirements are met.

13. An ethical PATF does not "use" a therapy animal. An ethical PATF recognizes the traits of a born therapy animal then incorporates those traits into the therapy field by simply bringing along the animal on a therapy visit to do what comes naturally to the animal, enjoy the human voice, touch, and companionship, during which time the PATF consistently ensures this interaction takes place within a safe, healthy environment. If the necessary traits do not exist within an animal's natural temperament, then forcing such an animal to work within the therapy field constitutes "use" or "abuse" of that precious life, which is definitive incompetence on the part of the PATF. In order for PATFs to succeed as professionals, we must demonstrate competence and respect for our animal companion friends and the humans with whom they interact.

Roberta J. Preziosi is enrolled in Pearl Salatto's Professional Pet Assisted Therapy Certificate Program at the Community College of Rhode Island.



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Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) in the Hospital Environment

Phil Arkow

As animal-assisted therapy (AAT) has proliferated, it has moved beyond its initial interventions in nursing homes into an exciting array of other therapeutic venues. Many AAT practitioners, however, have encountered unexpected resistance from administrators in hospitals, largely due to fears raised by their infectious disease control departments.

There are several excellent hospital models for AAT, and practitioners trying to expand into these arenas would do well to contact these sources for expert guidance. Reluctant administrators appreciate when someone else in the same field who "speaks their language" has solved the problems they fear.

One of the oldest and best programs of this type is at the Children's Hospital in Denver, Colorado. The Prescription Pet Program (PPP)

Many AAT practitioners, however, have encountered unexpected resistance from administrators in hospitals, largely due to fears raised by their infectious disease control departments.

brings screened and trained volunteers and animals into many environments, including the special care nursery, in-patient child and adolescent psychiatry, medical and psychiatric day treatment, dialysis, oncology, and an ambulatory out-patient care unit for cardiac, burn, respiratory, and abused-child patients.



A patient at West Jersey Hospital enjoys a visit from a friendly pet. More and more hospitals are discovering that AAT works in their environment.

A key to PPP's success is its Mission Statement, which emphasizes that PPP: is supportive and supplementary to traditional therapies; maintains high standards for safety and efficiency; considers its participants visitors who are behaviorally and medically qualified and part of a team; and is available only to patients who are consenting and eligible. The Mission Statement cites specific rehabilitative benefits: reducing the stress and anxiety of hospitalization; providing unique sensory stimuli; increasing verbal and non-verbal communication and social interaction; promoting a sense of responsibility and purpose; and experiencing unconditional affection. Significant provisions include:

- *To minimize risk of infectious disease, dogs must be over two years of age and must pass behavioral and medical screenings every six months, conducted by both the dogs, private veterinarians and by volunteer vets. Medical tests include*

throat culture swabs for Strep Type A and fecal samples for shigella and campylobacter, which are processed in the hospital's lab.

- *To reduce risk of allergic reaction, and to impart a sense of friendliness and therapy, the dogs wear lab-type smocks and are bathed before each visit. The dogs and their people also wear photo ID's so they're seen as part of the hospital team.*

A video describing PPP is available for \$15, as is a 35-page protocol which includes dog etiquette, restrictions, screening and training requirements, and sample forms. There is no charge for the protocol, but a donation would be appreciated. Contact: Association of Volunteers, The Children's Hospital - B465, 1056 E. 19th Ave., Denver, CO 80218, (303) 861-6286.

Another excellent hospital model is the visiting pet program at West Jersey Hospital in Camden, N.J. An

AAT, continued on next page

interdisciplinary team worked for two years to guide the program through administrative concerns. Today, trained and screened volunteers from Camden County College's Veterinary Technician program make weekly visits to many areas of the hospital.

Hospital staff evaluate each visit, including pre and post-visit blood pressure readings.

These consistently confirm that animals have a calming effect, reduce anxiety, and provide social stimulation.

One highlight is that hospital staff evaluate each visit, including pre- and post-visit blood pressure readings. These consistently confirm that animals have a calming effect, reduce anxiety, and provide social stimulation. Many encounters are photographed with Polaroid cameras, giving patients happy mementos of their hospital stay.

A 40-page information kit and sample forms are available. A donation to offset printing and mailing costs would be appreciated. Contact: Althea Miley, R.N., Asst. Dir. Of Nursing, West Jersey Hospital, 1000 Atlantic Ave., Camden, NJ 08104.



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the many generous supporters
whose contributions make it possible for us
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"links"- related materials to schools, libraries,
and organizations.*

Strong Animal Cruelty Bill is Signed into Law in Michigan

(Lansing, Michigan) — Penalties against people in Michigan who abuse or mistreat animals were strengthened in December when Governor Engler signed House Bill 5561 into law. The bill makes a second or subsequent offense of the current misdemeanor animal cruelty statute a felony. Previously, individuals who habitually neglected or mistreated animals were subject to relatively minor fines that did little to discourage repeatedly cruel acts.

The new law, which takes effect on April 1st, provides judges with more discretion upon sentencing, including the ability to permanently revoke animal ownership privileges. It also provides that any individual accused of animal cruelty may be required to pay or otherwise secure the payment of costs for housing the animals during the trial, if he or she wishes to maintain ownership interest.



Larry, Curly and Moe: adopted. See Preview page 21.

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Dundee's Story: Horses as reflective mirrors of interpersonal relationships

Barbara Kathleen Rector, M.A.

The summer of 1996, while facilitating a pilot project incorporating the Adventures in Awareness model into an Arizona camp curriculum, I had the opportunity to work with two remarkable Arabian horses, and two charismatic ponies, a POA and a mixed Shetland/Welsh. The campers this particular week were older adolescents about to enter their senior high school year, or be freshman at college, or embark on a full work week.

The Adventures in Awareness model promotes work with horses as reflective mirrors of our interpersonal relationship dynamic; an interesting and fun process for awakening to our personal capacity for empowerment. The specially designed interactive exercises develop communication skills (including interspecies communication). They also promote team building and strengthen our ability to be self-responsible.

The group of 18 young people this particular morning appeared frozen in their "hip, slick and cool" postures. They seemed not willing to fully participate. Yet, they were listening. Involved in their individual worlds as they groomed the four animals tied in a circle to a huge oak; they had not yet connected to each other or joined in a group.

We moved to the round pen and the congruent message sending exercise. I demonstrated the significance of a focused mind, sending clear thoughts fueled with conscious heart-energy. Dundee, a young six-yr-old attractive bay Arabian gelding pranced and danced around the pen; he appeared to delight in being admired for being his

magnificent self. Matching my inside deeply-felt appreciation for a creature able to so easily display such joy and enthusiasm for being his best real self with my expressed message was easy. We found it to demonstrate our connection as we began to 'lock on' and play with each other a short game of 'cut the cow.'

The group began to come alive as the notion of frolicking with a large animal such as the horse took shape in their consciousness. When I requested one of them to join me, nobody wanted to be the first volunteer. As the silence lengthened, J spoke up. "Is this something I can try?" He created a positive surprise.

J, blind since birth, was 17 years old. He went everywhere with his cane, and in new situations, a volunteer on his arm assisting him with the sighted-guide technique. "Of course", I responded. A staff person assisted J into the arena and acted as his sighted-guide helping J move through the exercise. J's enormous willingness to participate fully in the experience of interacting with Dundee, regardless of how foolish he might have appeared in his awkward efforts at a new activity (never mind, the young man being blind) - his bravery for trying began to excite his observing peers.

The group grew quiet and attentive as J demonstrated moving Dundee out to the rail at a walk, a trot, and a reverse. Then, J paused and disengaged himself from his sighted-guide assistant. "This is pretty flat even ground?" he inquired. "Yes. We've put the pen on



a sandy ball field," I replied.

"Well, can I try it alone? Just walking around by myself?" J asked.

"OK", I answered. We stepped to the center and allowed J freedom to move around the pen. He dropped his cane. He intended to move around freely, on his own. Now, the group watching became very still. Dundee at a halt on the rail eyed him curiously.

J was stumbling. He was not practiced at moving freely about on strange ground alone. Dundee moved in next to him. The bay Arab placed his withers in the same position a sighted-guide assistant would take. Each time J stumbled, the horse moving next to him, provided his body as balance.

"Look", called out one of the boys. "That horse is acting as J's sighted guide" and, indeed Dundee stayed at J's elbow with his withers exactly placed so J could balance himself and not fall. Together they walked, they jogged, they ran. They did circles and figure eights together.

Many of us were crying. There were clamors of "J teach me how to do it", "I want to try". J became the peer coach for the others as they took turns in the round pen with Dundee, Voo Doo Dream, Tops, and Alf.

At the end of our session, 18 individuals had come together and

HORSES, continued on page 15

mannered. The mother agreed to take Petey home temporarily while I worked on a home for him.

I rehashed what had happened. The restaurant staff volunteered that a man left the dog at least a day before, probably on a "down stay" command. This dog definitely displayed loyalty and obedience for his master to the max. Further checking

*Who would consider giving
a home to this
(by many standards)
unadoptable abandoned dog?*

revealed that Petey's owner had inquired at the Humane Society about giving the dog up for adoption but when he was told what it's fate was likely to be, he obviously opted to give chance a shot. But who would consider giving a home to this (by many standards) unadoptable abandoned dog?

Just then a lady approached me and told me her son was signed up for next week's camp. She explained that her son, Rory, loved animals and the plan was to find a dog (preferably a lapdog) of his very own during our camp. She also mentioned that Rory had cystic fibrosis and was a bit concerned about having an attack and being unable to breathe during camp. For his peace of mind and to avoid drawing attention to him, we agreed to stash his oxygen tank in our projector room. Suddenly I had a burst of thought, "I know the perfect dog for him!" Rory's mother agreed that they would come the following morning to meet and check Petey out.

Meanwhile, I got a distress call from Petey's rescuer who had taken him home temporarily. Her husband had come in the family

*Rory's very own dog's unconditional love
will always be a permanent imprint etched in the memory
of everyone who knew Rory and Ed.
Rory's final days on earth were gently caressed
and fulfilled by his unlikely angel, Ed.*

room and was shocked to see his beautiful children playing with a strange pit bull! He angrily accused, "Had she lost her mind? All rational and common sense? I want it gone by tomorrow!" But later in the evening, he calmed down and remarked, "This is really a great dog. He's lots more responsive and loving than our dog."

The next morning Rory and his mom met Petey and it was clearly a mutual admiration and love connection. Both "loved each other up" and Petey soaked up the petting and kind words. Rory renamed his new best friend "Ed" because the family already owned a dog named Petey and they all went happily home.

Unfortunately, the dreaded day when Rory's cystic fibrosis took hold came sooner than expected. It was necessary to rush him to intensive care at a nearby children's hospital. But first, Rory insisted, he

*Finally, as Ed nestled in the
crook of his arm, Rory's body
gave up the long fight*


had to have a few more minutes with his new dog. Rory and Ed soaked up the moments together until the ambulance arrived. Later that first day as Rory lay with tubes connected everywhere, Rory's sister Marisa and her family snuck Ed up the stairs and into Rory's hospital room. Ed seemed to know Rory was

very sick. He crawled up and snuggled next to him and gave him lots and lots of comfort with his licks. Rory's salty skin was a great incentive.

Luckily, the doctors and nurses recognized the valuable therapy this unlikely dog – a pit bull – gave Rory. They didn't restrict or ban Ed's visits; rather, they welcomed him. A week passed while Ed laid like velcro near Rory and faithfully and loyally comforted his young sick master with his presence and warmth. Finally, as Ed nestled in the crook of his arm, Rory's body gave up the long fight

At Rory's funeral, photos of Rory and Ed were proudly displayed along with family photos arranged with loving hands by his sister. Rory's family, classmates, and teachers all supported and loved him during his short life. But nothing compared to Ed's devotion. Rory's very own dog's unconditional love will always be a permanent imprint etched in the memory of everyone who knew Rory and Ed. Rory's final days on earth were gently caressed and fulfilled by his unlikely angel, Ed.

Ed continues to live happily with Rory's family.

Carol Shiveley is Education and Pet Facilitated Therapy Director at the Oregon Humane Society P.O. Box 11364, Portland, OR 97211, Phone 503-285-7722 Ext. 206., Fax 503-289-6860. Carol is a frequent contributor to the Latham Letter. 

Interspecies Support Team: A Call to Compassion

Rita M. Reynolds

I really didn't want to answer the phone that time - had gathered a few precious hours to work on my book and there were deadlines to consider.

Fourth ring; the machine should have picked it up, but once again, malfunctioned. "Hello?" I said rather abruptly but immediately took a deep and centered breath. "There's a reason for everything," I assured myself.

Sure enough. The almost imperceptible catch in the soft voice on the other end of the wire instantly alerted my heart. Brain, of course, was still functioning in the "Oh no, another interruption will I ever get to write" mode, but my softer side won out and I opened to the moment's need.

"Is this the Interspecies Support Team? Rita Reynolds? This is Sue Brown and oh, is this a good time to call?"

"Yes," I heard myself reply, "It's perfect. How may I help you?"

I will never say that one call is like another, or more appropriately, one's needs and concerns are similar to any other. What did ring familiar was the agony that seeped from every cautiously offered word and the obvious intense effort to hold back emotion.

"I hope you don't think I'm crazy," the lady said, "but my dog is very old and sick; I think maybe I should put her to sleep but I just can't bring myself to do it. My family says I'm making her suffer, but we've been together nearly 18 years and I just don't think she's ready to die yet. Can you tell me, please, how do you know when it's time?"

Granted, I had heard these words said in slightly different ways, many times from many people for the past

few years. But this woman and this dog were unique by simply being themselves, simply because they existed, and if for no other reason they each, and together deserved my complete attention and clearest help. The foundation of the Interspecies Team work is compassion without judgment, love for all life based on a deep sense of reverence. While we offer suggestions based on personal experience, we help others come to their own decisions, what feels appropriate to their own senses. This call would be no different, requiring time and patience. All other commitments or desires set temporarily to the side, I offered the best I had in knowledge and beliefs.

We spent the next hour in companionship - sharing dog stories, exploring thought systems, possible choices, visions, hopes and dreams. I encouraged her to speak openly with her animal friend, and to just as openly, listen and accept the answers she received. We discussed

non-attachment, angels and guardians, and somehow, quite naturally and easily, diverged into an exchange of animal jokes. Our laughter sparkled amidst shared tears as our words spun effortlessly across the phone wires.

Spontaneously we ended the conversation. "Thank you," she said, her voice stronger than before. "It's time for me to speak with my dog."

"Yes," I replied. "I am reminded that I have some more listening to do with my own crew."

She promised to let me know about her decision, and because she lived in the area I offered to accompany her to the vet office should euthanasia be necessary, or come to her home and help in any way I could, including staying with her for support should her dog die there. I reaffirmed that I would be on call if she needed a shoulder to cry on afterwards. It does take an awfully long time to get over these

INTERSPECIES, continued on page 14



The Beagle Brigade: When a research program was terminated, a university planned to euthanize its 100+ dogs. Word leaked out, and instead the school turned the animals over to area shelters. Pups pictured were adopted. See Preview page 21.

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Philadelphia Architects Design Doghouses for *Pals For Life* Fundraiser

Phil Arkow

When Pals For Life, an animal-assisted therapy program in Bryn Mawr, PA, decided to hold a fund-raiser, little did they expect their novel idea would raise \$10,000.

They invited ten architects from Philadelphia and the suburban Main Line to donate their services to create unique designer doghouses which would then be auctioned off. The idea had been tried only a few times before,



Judith G. Repp of Villanova created the **Temple to the Noble Spirit of the Canine**, which elevates its inhabitant to an exalted platform to survey his world. Note how the portico columns are stylized Milk-bones and the ceremonial fountain doubles as a water bowl.



ABOVE: Alvin Holm's **Home for a Mongrel Mastiff** is built "in the Doric style of Apollo: four-square, cruciform, clear and simple, without frills. The four gable points are set out to the cardinal points with the entry facing east to maximize the flow of Chi according to the principles of Feng Shui."

Charles Carter Newman of Bryn Mawr designed **A Summer House for Bracken**, his late vizsla. "While mausoleum architecture was not an inspiration, Bracken is bounding across the broad plains of that portion of Heaven set aside for Hungarians," said Newman. The design is reminiscent of the classic doghouse and the Classical temple, as well as Hungarian vernacular architecture: the arched colonnade of columns is borrowed from a farmer's house in Vavsir, while the cornice came from a stable in Sumeg. "The thick sheltering walls attempt to recreate the sense of security Bracken found in the bathtub," said Newman, "to which he retired during his bouts of fear and self-doubt."



with modest success for humane societies in Atlanta and San Antonio. The Pals For Life auction exceeded everyone's expectations. The resulting exhibit, Architecturally in the Doghouse, was displayed at the American Institute of Architects, Philadelphia Chapter.

Unencumbered by such mundane constraints as budget and time, the architects attacked their challenge with wistful romance, irrepressible cheer, and radiant delight. As architect Alvin Holm said, "The designs are all whimsical, to be sure, but never just witty. All are very studiously conceived and detailed, light and pretty.

"It remains for us to see how frequently and how fully delight may be infused into the rest of our work, or whether this may just land us in the doghouse of architectural discourse. Could this be the wave of the future? Or just this century's wag of the tail?"



This Japanese **Doggie Daimyo** was built by Tony Atkin of Philadelphia, possibly for an akita or Japanese chin.



Lyman Perry of Bryn Mawr recalled the breed's history of service on fishing boats to create a nautically-themed **House for a Labrador Retriever**. The house is an abstract ship with mast, cabin-type portal, fish-scale shingles, and portholes. Note the waves painted on the hull.



Phil Arkow is a Latham Letter Contributing Editor. He chairs Latham's Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Project (CAAP) and serves as Communications Officer for the Philadelphia Foundation.








Video Awards Update



Alameda, California - It's official.

Latham's First Annual "Search for Excellence" Video Awards Competition is a resounding success. Entries are in the Judges' hands (or VCRs).

Categories include:

-  **Humane Education:** Videos that teach responsible pet care, respect, and interconnectedness of life.
-  **Human Companion Animal Bond (HCAB):** Videos illustrating the benefits of the human companion animal bond, including animal-assisted therapy, service animals, "hero" animals, and pet loss.
-  **Advocacy/Public Policy:** Videos related to issues concerning cruelty to animals.
-  **Science & Nature/Animal Behavior/Natural History:** Videos documenting behavior of four-footed animals.
-  **Technical Assistance:** Instructional and "how-to" videos.
-  **Demonstration Projects:** Innovative programs in Humane Education that are worthy of replication.
-  **Public Service Announcements** for radio & TV.

Winners will be announced in a Special Issue of the Summer Latham Letter.

things, but I assured her if she left her heart open, another tail-wagging, fur-bearing soul would find her.

When I finally put down the receiver, I felt a strong pull to walk in my flower garden, to touch the purple echinacea and stand close to the towering hollyhocks. Sage leaves, crushed gently by my old hens dusting themselves, offered a soothing fragrance, and a jewel-like Indigo bunting hovering over the bird feeder charged the air with a flash of fiery blue. I sprawled on the ground next to the water garden and thought about Sue Brown, her dog, the family that pushed her sorrow into insignificance, the importance of needing one another, of giving to one another...

Three o'clock, feeding time for my own animal companions. I hadn't written a word that afternoon, the book sat on the table with all the patience of Job. But in the face of my profound experience of helping to ease another's suffering, in the connection made with another human being, and through her, with her dog and ultimately all life everywhere, deadlines quickly lost significance and those few precious hours became lifetimes of enrichment, growth and healing.

When the familiar sound came later that evening, just as I sat down after many hours of hard work, I knew one thing for sure:

I really did want to answer the phone this time...

Each call such as the one from Sue Brown, that I receive reinforces in my own mind the absolute essentiality of the Interspecies Support Team a prototype organization formed by laJoie and the Caring For Creatures Animal Sanctuary in 1992. Still very much in the groundwork stages, the Support Team was not so much a conscious decision to organize then, as a need to be filled and

being filled, as we could. People, knowing we worked with animals, quite naturally called when crisis came to them or their animal companions. Cancer, feline leukemia, parvo virus, road accidents, the concerns of old age, dying and death... not only were we experiencing (as we had for years) these situations with the creatures in our own care, but more and more people were asking us to help them understand, cope, move through such crises with as much ease and sanity as possible.

And these have not always been immediate problems. There is the recent case of a woman who called to find out if I gave animal communication consultations. No, I told her, though I wished I had that ability. I assumed that would be the end of our conversation, as disappointed as she was. Then somehow, as is so often the case with me, we began talking about nature and other life forms and animals and dogs ... at this point she had that small choke in her voice. Seems she had "recently" lost a beloved German shepherd and was still having a difficult time with it. We spoke openly about death and dying, about the wondrous attributes of her dog and dogs in general and throughout our conversation she wept. "In time," I assured her from my own experience, "this will heal for you, but it may take awhile. How long has it been since he died?" I was not surprised to hear her reply, ten years. Hers was not a unique situation.

Nor are they always women who suffer from the disability or loss of a companion animal. While many appear to have more difficulty in openly expressing their feelings, men also grieve deeply. A year ago I met an old friend at our tiny village post office; we had not seen each other for two years since he had moved to Connecticut to attend

Yale. I had bought my first three goats from him 17 years ago and I clearly remembered his dog, Yetos, a big-pawed, exuberant, shaggy delight who herded goats and greeted visitors with equal pleasure. I asked Jim how Yetos was, knowing he must be very old by now. Jim's eyes filled with tears and he could barely tell me of his friend's passing a few months before.

All animals are precious beings as are the people who so tenderly care for them. When crisis comes, when death is nearing, the animals and their people deserve the best from those who can, willingly, offer the means to alleviate all possible suffering. While veterinarians are able to end physical suffering, who is fully present, in mind and heart, to help the animal prepare for death (as momentous a process as it is for us humans) and help those who are the care givers? As the hospice movement believes no person should die alone, no family should be without support, so do we feel no animal should die without a personal support and comfort and their families should not suffer alone. For many people, their animal companions mean as much, sometimes even more, than even their own friends and family.

The Interspecies Support Team offers the following services, based on what we have personally experienced for ourselves and see as a need of others and all animals:

- *On the local level, individuals on a volunteer basis are on call to offer whatever moral and physical support is appropriate to help animals and their human companions through critical illness and/or death and dying. Similar to the hospice program for people, volunteers of the Interspecies Support Team:*
- *Offer transportation to a veterinarian's office and to get medical or other necessary supplies such as*

food so that the primary care giver is able to stay with their animal companion.


- Accompany the primary care giver and his or her animal to the vet office for moral support when euthanasia is appropriate, or if a home death is indicated, remain there with the family.
- Help family members come to an understanding of the deathing process, in a manner respectful of their personal beliefs.
- Assist with the grieving process including (according to the family's desires) holding a memorial service, suggesting methods and means of creating a living memorial (such as planting a tree, making a donation to an organization in the animal's name) etc.

- Willing to be a shoulder to cry on when the need arises.

Too often people who lose an animal friend are told "You'll get over it;" "Just go out and get a new dog/cat/bird etc.;" "What's the big deal? It was just a dog..." There is little understanding or compassion offered to those who suffer the death of a non-human companion. Often people are made to feel silly or stupid if they do express grief or suffer with the inevitable feelings of perhaps not acting soon enough, or too soon, or not being there for their friend when most needed... such feelings are strong, persistent and overwhelming, even for those who try their best to do everything correctly for their animals.


On the National level, the

Interspecies Support Team operating out of our main office in Virginia, will soon begin offering a lending library of books, periodicals, and tapes as well as a list of other similar organizations and volunteers within each state who would be able to assist an individual in a particular area. We anticipate being able to offer a 24-hour 800 phone number in the near future.

Those who are interested in helping to further develop such a service, wish further information regarding the Interspecies Support Team or would like to donate books or tapes to the library may contact us at the laJoie office (540) 456-6204, or write to us at PO Box 145, Batesville, VA 22924. We look forward to hearing from you. 

HORSES, continued from page 9

found a group; coaching each other in feeling OK about feeling awkward as they helped one another learn a new and challenging activity.

Barbara Kathleen Rector is former Executive Director and co-founder of Therapeutic Riding of Tucson (TROT), co-founder of Flagstaff Equine Therapeutic Riding Enterprises (FETE), originator of Sierra Tucson's Integrated Riding Resource Program (STIRRUP), and originator and director of Adventures in Awareness. Adventures in Awareness is a model of interactive exercises that focuses on the human-animal bond. Ms. Rector facilitates work with horses as compassionate teachers about relationships to self, animals, other persons, and the planet. For further information about Adventures in Awareness workshops, contact her at 8987 E. Tanque Verde Road, #186, Tucson, AZ 85749. 520-749-2175. 



Whisper: member of surplus litter surrendered to shelter.

See Preview page 21.

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PET PROGRAMS IN PRISONS - A British Perspective

Elizabeth Ornerod

It is now over twenty years since the first planned pet therapy program was introduced to a correctional institution. That first program, introduced to the Lima Asylum for the Criminally Insane in Ohio, continues to flourish. And there are now further programs in the USA, Canada, South Africa, Australia and Europe.

Carefully planned programs have resulted in a wide range of benefits for staff, prisoners, the wider society and the animals involved. Very significant benefits have been recorded:

- *Better relationships within the prisons*
- *Reduction in violence*
- *Fewer incidence of self harm and suicides*
- *Reduction in drug taking*
- *Improved prisoner self esteem*
- *Opportunities for education; community work; training and employment; rehabilitation of stray and injured animals.*
- *Improved perception of prison by community*
- *Reduction in recidivism rate.*

The use of pet therapy in prisons is increasing. Programs have been developed for every type of establishment and each prisoner group. The majority of prisons, however, do not yet have pet therapy programs.

How does Britain compare?

Compared with most other countries, we have a large number of prisons with animals. However, the quality of most of these programs is mediocre. The animals are often introduced without due planning. There is still a general lack

Carefully planned prison pet programs have resulted in a wide range of benefits for staff, prisoners, the wider society, and the animals involved.

of understanding of the significance of the human-animal bond and its application in pet therapy.

In most prisons, the pet programs do not receive adequate recognition or support. There is always a lack of funding – and yet these programs are providing very effective and inexpensive therapy. In some quarters one can also detect an antagonism to pet therapy by those who feel that prisons are for punishment, not rehabilitation. That said, over the past few years we have been detecting a positive shift in attitude. For example 50% of governors responding to a 1995 survey on pet therapy requested more information.

Comparing the 1995 survey with a previous survey undertaken in 1989 we see that new programs have been introduced, others are being planned, but others have been closed.

Why do programs close?

In some prisons the recent emphasis on security led to closure. In other cases when a key staff member or prisoner leaves the establishment, programs can flounder. The commitment of the governor is critical to the success of the program. There is a high turnover of governors, officers and prisoners. Unless programs are strong, such

changes can seriously weaken them. All too often the prison pet program is run by one or two individuals – with insufficient involvement by others. Hence the problems when these people leave. Problems for individual prisoners can also arise when they are transferred to other establishments if they are not allowed to take their companion animal with them. In most cases this is a caged bird. Some men will give the bird to their families to await their release. However, others refuse to progress through the system rather than be parted from their companion. Britain has no national policy on prison pets. The governor decides if pets can be kept in his establishment. There are interesting differences in pet keeping practices between the Scottish Prison System and that of England and Wales.

In Scotland:

- *Fish keeping is prominent, with fish clubs in a number of establishments.*
- *There is more pet keeping in the open and semi-open prisons compared to England and Wales but fewer pets in the long term closed prisons where one could argue that there is a greater need.*
- *Pet programs have, however, been a prominent feature of the special units - small maximum secure units for difficult prisoners.*

In England and Wales:

- *Caged bird keeping is very popular.*
- *Fish programs are rarely found.*
- *One prison has a visiting PAT dog.*
- *Several English prisons help animal sanctuaries.*

Oooops. The dog ate our phone book

It is sad to record that whilst highly acclaimed dog training programs have now been introduced to the USA, Canada, Australia and Spain – no such programs have been initiated here. These programs which were first introduced to women's prisons, have now been successfully introduced to male prisoners, prison drug rehabilitation units, prison psychiatric wings and to young offenders. We are being left behind.

In prisons where there is no provision for pets, I have come across men who have captured and attempted to befriend a wide variety of wild animals and birds, such is their desperate need for companionship. Men have tried to keep rabbits, squirrels, mice, rats, seagulls and sparrows.

*In prisons where there is no provision for pets,
I have come across men who have captured
and attempted to befriend a wide
variety of wild animals and birds,
such is their desperate need for companionship.*

Feral cats and pigeons are commonly adopted. There are serious animal welfare and hygiene concerns and the possibility of zoonotic infections. The repeated attempts to befriend these animals demonstrate that the need to nurture is strong and cannot be denied.

It is clear that there needs to be a proper national policy to address pet therapy for prisoners. South Africa has recently introduced a positive policy which means that each prisoner who so wishes can have access to animal companionship.

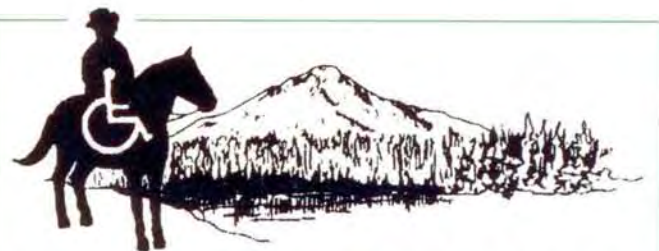
As with other institutions, before introducing a pet program careful planning is needed. The program must be designed with regard to the individual establishment and its population. Guidelines should be drawn up and consistently applied.

There is tremendous scope to improve existing programs and introduce new schemes. The benefits would be far reaching.

Reprinted courtesy of the Society for Companion Animal Study (SCAS) Journal, Winter '96 with permission of the author. Elizabeth Ormerod is a Veterinary Surgeon and an Honorary SCAS Member. This is the third of the short presentations given at the SCAC Conference "Making Space for Pets" held in March 1996.



Michigan Humane Society's wonderful CLIO-winning posters can be ordered with a donation by calling 810-852-7420. The number was listed incorrectly in the last *Latham Letter*.



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MEDIA REVIEWS

The Lost History of the Canine Race: Our 15,000-Year Love Affair with Dogs

Author Mary Elizabeth Thurston revolutionizes how we perceive "man's best friend," and empowers anyone who loves dogs with a new sense of wonder and appreciation. For of all the fellow animals kept by humans, only the dog has been our steadfast friend by choice, sometimes even at the expense of its own life. Dogs are, in fact, a distinct "race" of animals, with their own history, culture and intricately woven past.



As detailed in *THE LOST HISTORY OF THE CANINE RACE*, canines early on demonstrated their ability to play a wide range of social roles, which throughout history, have significantly influenced art, philosophy, military tactics, fashion and even our mental health.

Thurston clearly substantiates the uniqueness of canine companions and indeed, their amazing blend of nature and artifice. She notes how they candidly can be credited with

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

inspiring a compassionate human ethic that could redirect the fate of this planet, which is in fact the very definition of a "humane," or civilized society.

Mary Elizabeth Thurston is an internationally recognized authority on companion animal history. In addition to writing humane education materials, she also designs museum and gallery exhibits on the human-animal relationship.

The Lost History of the Canine Race: Our 15,000-Year Love Affair with Dogs

Mary Elizabeth Thurston

ISBN: 0-8362-0548-0

301 pages, illustrated

Hard cover \$24.95 U.S.

Andrews and McMeel,

A Universal Press Syndicate Co.

4520 Main Street,

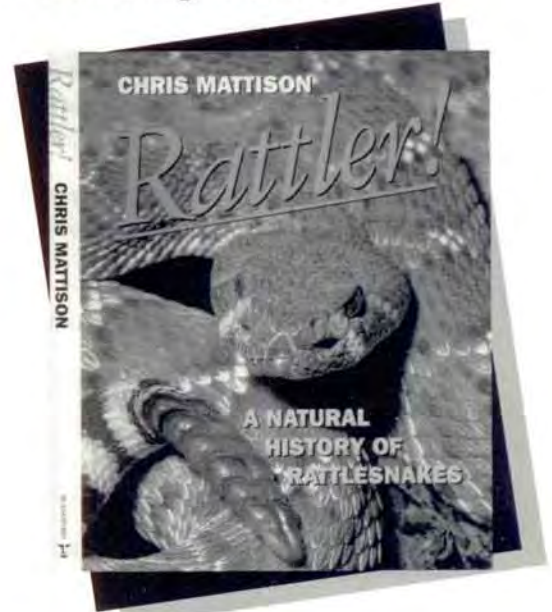
Kansas City MO 64111

Rattler! A Natural History of Rattlesnakes

Whether you think of them as vicious killers to be avoided at all costs, or enchanting reptiles that are completely misunderstood, you'll find hundreds of incredible facts about your favorite rattlers throughout the pages of *RATTLER! A NATURAL HISTORY OF RATTLESNAKES* (Blandford, distributed by Sterling, \$27.95 hardcover). From the eastern diamondback to the tiny pygmy, this colorful guide provides facts and illustrations on every single rattlesnake species in North and South America.

Just the word "rattlesnake" is enough to strike fear in the hearts of many. But rattlesnakes aren't the danger they're made out to be. In fact, you're more likely to be struck by lightning than you are to get bitten by one of these fabulous

slitherers. Rattlesnakes actually avoid confrontation with humans whenever possible. They use their venom for defense only as a last resort, when camouflage, escape, and intimidation by rattling, hissing, and mock strikes has failed. Rattlers are secret friends to agriculturists. They control the rodent population, playing a key role in local ecological balance.



Do you know who's most likely to get bitten? How about what location, time of day, and season places you most at risk? A section on 'Habits and Habitat' gives extensive insight into the distribution, behavior, and habitats of these deadly reptiles. Snakes may bring to the mind images of desert areas like Arizona and New Mexico, but did you know that the most snake bites actually occur in North Carolina!

This is your source for all the answers to the most frequently asked questions. From feeding and breeding to origins and evolution, from size and shape to how rattlesnakes developed the unique appendage on the end of their tale, it's all here. Learn about scales, species, and the venom apparatus. Pour over species-distribution maps. Get to

know these fascinating reptiles with a spellbinding guide worthy of its subject. Anything but dry, the book delivers more than just the facts – it somehow manages to capture some of the rattler spirit!

Rattler! A Natural History of Rattlesnakes

Author: Chris Mattison

Price: \$27.95 (\$38.95 in Canada)

ISBN: Hard 0-7137-2543-6

Blandford 144 pages (55 in color),

38 b/w illustrations

7 1/2 x 9 3/4

Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.

387 Park Avenue South

New York, NY 10016-8810

Pet-Oriented Child Psychotherapy Second Edition

Author Boris M. Levinson was at first ridiculed by his colleagues for presenting such a “preposterous” technique as pet-oriented child psychotherapy. Later, with understanding, he was universally revered as the first professionally-trained clinician to formally introduce and document the way companion animals can hasten the development of rapport between therapist and patient, thereby increasing the likelihood of patient motivation.

The depth of Dr. Levinson’s sincere conviction concerning the value of animal assisted therapy is accentuated by the dedication that he placed in the first edition in 1969.

*“This book is dedicated to Jingles, my co-therapist,
To whom I owe more than he owes me;
Who taught me more than I taught him;
Who unveiled a new world of experience for me;
Who doesn’t care whether this book is dedicated to him or not;
And who will never learn about it.”*

Recognizing the importance of Dr. Levinson’s serious treatise, as well as the need for its revision and updating, Professor Gerald P. Mallon in his wisdom has complimented the original text by means of valuable foot notes, current references, and subject indexes.

PET-ORIENTED CHILD PSYCHOTHERAPY’s Second Edition belongs in the library of all those concerned with the great value to be realized in human-companion animal bonding.

Pet-Oriented Child Psychotherapy Second Edition

Boris M. Levinson, Author

Revised and Updated by Gerald

P. Mallon

Hard Cover \$48.95;

Paperback \$33.95

Charles C. Thomas, Publisher

200 South First Street

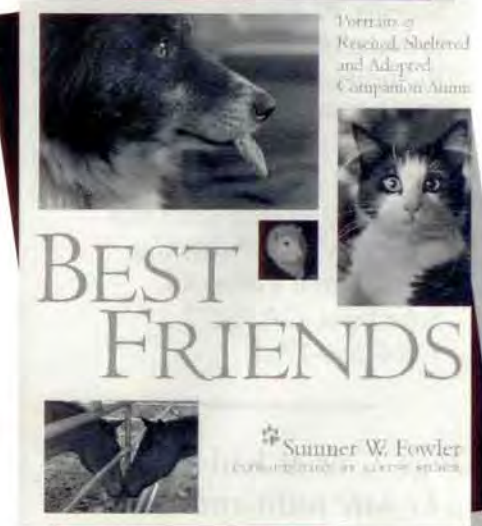
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9265

– Preview

Best Friends: Portraits of Rescued, Sheltered, and Adopted Companion Animals

Elegantly designed, expertly printed, and overflowing with heartwarming photographs, BEST FRIENDS is a celebration of compassion and a moving reminder of the singular bond we share with our animal friends. BEST FRIENDS features images of over 100 animals who have received care and a chance at a safe and secure future thanks to non-profit and municipal animal shelters nationwide. In BEST FRIENDS, you’ll meet animals saved from natural disasters, rescued from unkind owners, and rehabilitated after illness or injury. An informative introductory essay by Elaine Sichel, author of *Circles of Compassion*, quotes about our pet friends, background notes on all animals pictured, and a resource section make

BEST FRIENDS a valuable addition to the library of animal lovers, and admirers of fine photographic books.



The photographer, Sumner W. Fowler, began taking pictures with a borrowed camera as a teenager, and worked for many years as a newspaper photographer. It was in the late 1970’s when he took a job with a humane society in Michigan that he began to apply his photographic skill to documenting the animals cared for at shelters. In 1980, Fowler moved to California where he continues working at a shelter.

In addition to amassing a huge archive of his own animal images, Fowler has taught humane officers and shelter staff photography and darkroom techniques. His images have been used by prominent animal organizations and publications, and have been featured in three books.



PHOTOGRAPHER
SUMNER W. FOWLER

A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to non-profit animal care and welfare organizations by both the photographer and publisher.

MEDIA REVIEWS, continued on next page

Best Friends: Portraits of Rescued, Sheltered, and Adopted Companion Animals

Sumner W. Fowler
Introduction by Elaine Sichel
Publication date: May, 1997
ISBN: 0-9643033-6-1;
LCCN: 96-28886
Softcover 130 pp; 9 X 10
Price: \$29.95; 133 Duotones
Voice & Vision Publishing
12005 Green Valley Rd.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
1-800-560-1753

Dogs, Cats & Kids: Learning to be safe with animals

This clear and simple video shows kids how to be safe with pets.

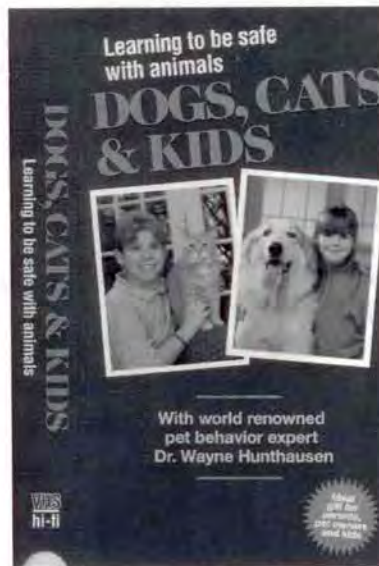


Pets and kids can be a dangerous combination. In fact, more children suffer from animal inflicted injuries than from all the childhood diseases combined. According to the Humane Society of the United States, almost 3 million children were victims of dog bites last year. Surprisingly, most of these attacks were from household or neighborhood pets. These alarming statistics prompted a new video that teaches kids how to be safe with dogs and cats.

"Dogs, Cats & Kids" features Dr. Wayne Hunthausen, an internationally known pet behavior expert and past president of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior. With the help of several young children, Dr. Hunthausen demonstrates key safety tips for kids, including: 1) how to handle and play with pets, 2) how to read dog and cat danger signs, 3) and what to do when threatened by stray animals. With lots of appealing animals and humorous sequences, this entertaining video, targeted toward children

ages 5 to 12, teaches kids respect for animals, without creating fear.

"Dogs, Cats & Kids" was produced by Donald Manelli, award winning film maker and former writer of "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom."



The video is ideal for one's own children, for children visiting a pet household, or as a thoughtful gift for anyone who loves kids and animals.

Dogs, Cats & Kids

VHS, color
Approximately 30 minutes
\$19.95 plus \$3.95 pstg. & hndlg.
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The Wolf the Woman, the Wilderness: A True Story of Returning Home

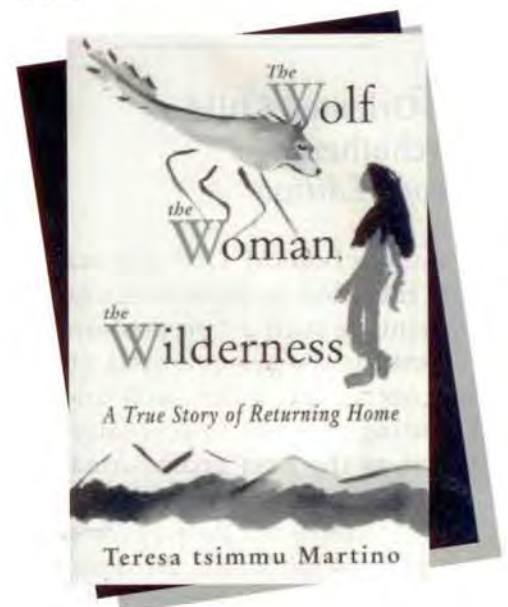
Reviewed by Dezsoe Steve Nagy

When Teresa tsimmu Martino's book arrived, I glanced at its cover and passed it on. A couple of days later it was back on my desk, without comment. I opened the book to rifle through it quickly, but made a big mistake by reading a few words.

THE WOLF THE WOMAN, THE WILDERNESS is an exciting book, it does not let you down anywhere.

It is intense, it is action and yet it is gentle. It deals with tradition, love, family, weakness, ecology and strength.

I was amazed by the torrents of words strung together, not always grammatically measured, making the story that much more graphic, understandable and picturesque. Ms. Martino is telling her story, yet her story is my story, but it is not predictable. I still had to find out how the book ended and then, how the story began. Her prose is poetry, her poetry is magic, her art is native, simplistic, yet simplicity is the most difficult to achieve in communications.



She speaks of ancestors, spirits, of heaven and earth, about relationships, emotions and feelings, not easy revelations. "Who are we?" Reading her book, we know who Teresa tsimmu Martino is.

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Teresa tsimmu Martino
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