

T H E

Latham Letter

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PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

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Terri Crisp, President of United Animal Nations, and Wendy Baroski (EARS Volunteer), Red River Flood, Grand Forks, North Dakota, 1997

What happens to animals during disasters?

This is a question you may have asked yourself as you watched the dramatic pictures of past floods, fires, hurricanes, and earthquakes as they unfolded on the evening news. United Animal Nations, a non-profit animal welfare organization, headquartered in Sacramento, California, asked this same question 10 years ago.

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The Latham Letter

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Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

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Publisher and Editor
Managing Editor
Contributing Editors

Mr. Hugh H. Tebault
Judy Johns
Phil Arkow, Jenni Dunn,
Jennifer Dustin-Hinze,
Aline H. Kidd, Ph.D.
Composing Arts, Inc.
Scottsdale, AZ
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The Latham Foundation is a 501(C)(3) private operating foundation founded in 1918 to promote respect for all life through education. The Foundation makes grants-in-kind rather than monetary grants. Latham welcomes partnerships with other institutions and individuals who share its commitment to furthering humane education.

TO CONTACT LATHAM:

Voice: 510-521-0920
Fax: 510-521-9861
E-mail: Lathm@aol.com
http://www.Latham.org

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*"To promote, foster, encourage and
further the principles of humaneness,
kindness and benevolence
to all living creatures."*



Denise Cahalan with her cat, Tribbie, and Bodie, her dog

Guest Editorial

Guest Editorial

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Letter to Dr. Laura Schlesinger

"Dear Dr. Laura:

I have listened to your program for several years now and I respect your continued support of family values and morals. You have a common sense approach to many moral issues that helps many people sort out their own dilemmas.

I have never written to a talk show host before. In this instance, I am compelled to write to you to comment on your recent show in which you suggested that it is fine to skin a cat because they are coyote food, and therefore, lower in the food chain.

I am neither an animal rights activist nor an individual who values animals more than people, although there are some exceptions. I do, however, have animals (a dog and cats) whom I value as part of my family. Animals including cats are part of our world, to be protected, valued and cherished just as any other living species. Domestic

animals help teach children how to care for, nurture, and love other living beings.

When there are proven studies on the connection between animal abuse and child abuse and other domestic violence, I think it extremely irresponsible of you to go on public air and suggest that it is OK to skin a cat.

Regardless of your personal feelings about domestic cats, you should have kept your own personal feelings to yourself and considered the implications of such an off-hand remark on your listeners who might find such behavior excusable because you condone it.

While your remark may have been made in jest, I think you owe many of your listeners an apology."

Denise Cahalan is a member of the Latham Foundation's Board of Directors. She lives in Alameda, California.





*ANIMAL
DISASTER
RELIEF
SITE,
CENTRAL
FLORIDA
TORNADOS,
1998*

The Animal's Red Cross

What happens to animals during disasters?

This is a question you may have asked yourself as you watched the dramatic pictures of past floods, fires, hurricanes, and earthquakes as they unfolded on the evening news. United Animal Nations, a non-profit animal welfare organization, headquartered in Sacramento, California, asked this same question 10 years ago. As they searched for an answer they were alarmed to discover that no national organized disaster response and recovery effort existed for animals. The animals were indeed the forgotten victims.

United Animal Nation's search led to the development of the Emergency Animal Rescue Service in 1987. The anticipated benefit to animals that this program has been able to deliver, exceeds the organization's expectations. EARS has become an absolutely essential component in America's disaster response and recovery efforts. Without it,

animals suffer and die. No longer a concept, but rather a vital service during disasters, EARS has developed into being the only program in the United States entirely committed to providing animals with the full range of services they deserve during both natural and man-made disasters.

When EARS director Terri Crisp was asked what the program's mission is, she replied, "It's simple. We want to guarantee that during disasters animals are rescued, provided with food, shelter, medical care, and placed in foster or adoptive homes. The Red Cross is there for the people. We want to be there for the animals."

EARS was onsite during Hurricanes Andrew, Hugo, Opal, and Fran. As flood waters rose, EARS was here to retrieve stranded animals during the 1993 Midwest flood and the recent floods in California, generated by El Nino. Fires in Alaska and New Mexico displaced a lot of animals, and EARS was there to help them. When the Northridge earthquake struck Southern California in 1994, EARS volunteers helped dig animals out of the rubble. With close to 40 disasters behind them, this

program is able to respond quickly and with the experience they have gained, it's the animals and their caregivers who benefit.

The program's greatest asset is their ever growing number of incredibly dedicated disaster response volunteers located throughout the country. To become an EARS volunteer requires attending an eight hour disaster preparedness workshop. Twenty of these workshops are offered a year in different parts of the country, targeting those parts of the United States most prone to be hit by major disasters. Patterning themselves after the American Red Cross, EARS has now trained close to 2,500 individuals, who have proven time and time again their commitment to animals. Without these people, EARS could do no more than put forth a token effort to remedy a serious deficiency during disasters.

It is always the goal of EARS to work with existing animal welfare agencies and veterinarians to ensure that the animals are helped in each disaster. When an animal shelter does not exist, EARS is prepared to set up temporary shelters. During the floods that struck

Northern California in January of 1997, EARS set up a temporary shelter for animals at the fairgrounds in Placer County. For 22 days, volunteers, under the leadership of the EARS director and 14 of their highly trained coordinators, took care of 868 animals. Without this safe haven many of these animals probably would have perished in the flood. Funded entirely by donations and receiving no government support, this growing organization has been able to accomplish some amazing things.



EARS rescue team evacuating animals during the flood in Grand Forks, ND, 1997

During the 1997 flood in Grand Forks, North Dakota, the EARS rescue teams retrieved 503 cats that had been left behind by their caregivers. The remaining 260 animals that were rescued and taken to the Grand Forks Humane Society, included dogs, birds, rabbits, ferrets, fish, lizards, snakes, and turtles. EARS focuses primarily on domesticated animals, but they have also assisted with the rescue and sheltering of cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and a variety of other animals that are not usually kept as companion animals. EARS feels that all animals, no matter who they belong to or what their purpose is in life, deserve our help.

As EARS consistently proves their effectiveness in reducing the suffering and deaths of animals in one disaster after another, the request for their services continue to increase. The requests for help are not only coming from humane societies, animal control facilities, and SPCA's, but also from emergency management agencies, law enforcement personnel, fire departments, and other human disaster response agencies. In addition, EARS has worked with the Federal

Emergency Management Agency in recent years to help develop materials to benefit animals and their caregivers. The growing awareness on the part of these people, has been extremely encouraging.

When not responding to disasters, EARS works equally as hard to educate people about the importance of being prepared to take care of their animals when a disaster strikes.

People have domesticated the animals that they share their lives with, making them very dependent on their human companion for their daily survival. They need even more



Terri Crisp, Earthquake, Kobe, Japan

help, though, during disasters, and it's alarming how few people are prepared to meet the needs of their



Whale Rescue, Pt. Barrow, Alaska

animals during a disaster. This results in the needless suffering and death of animals in every disaster. EARS is working very hard to ensure this does not continue.

For more information about the Emergency Animal Rescue Service you may visit their website at www.uan.org. Included on the site is extremely helpful information on how to get better prepared to take care of animals during a disaster. It also provides information on how you can become a trained EARS volunteer and a supporter of this program.

Another resource for learning more about how animals are affected by disasters, is the book *Out of Harm's Way* (Pocket), written by EARS director Terri Crisp. The last 63 pages of the book provides more detailed information on ensuring the survival of your animals during a disaster, whether you have a hamster or a horse. The stories that fill the rest of the book are heartwarming and heartbreaking, but definitely inspirational. It is a reference book that all animal caregivers should have.

No one knows when or where the next disaster will strike. Who will be the next disaster victims is another unknown. If it were you, wouldn't you want to know that a program like EARS existed to take care of your animals? We thought so.



WHAT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PET POPULATION STUDY & POLICY IS DOING TO SOLVE ANIMAL OVERPOPULATION



Aline H. Kidd and Robert M. Kidd

Center for Animals In Society
School of Veterinary Medicine
University of California-Davis

The escalating overpopulation of pets in the U.S. became a prominent issue in the animal welfare community in the 1940's, and this spiraling surplus of owned and discarded animals resulted in the annual euthanization by veterinarians and animal shelters of millions of cats, dogs, and other injured and unwanted pets and wild animals kept as pets or being used commercially.

The extent and reasons for the problem have been difficult to characterize. The total number of shelters in the U.S., the demographics of the various species of animals passing through them, and the characteristics of the owners disposing of animals were inadequately understood. Why, how, and where were the animals acquired to begin with? Were they purchased, accepted as gifts, deliberately adopted from shelters or as strays? Why were they turned over to shelters for disposal by adoption, or euthanization? And what of the unknown number which were sold for laboratory use? These are all questions for which there have been little data, and we are just beginning to close in on

answering the fundamental question of why so many animals are covertly abandoned "to the wilds" or overtly to shelters each year, and how many have to be "destroyed" or euthanized by the shelters.

popular press articles during the 1970's inspired efforts to settle the overpopulation problem.

The widespread belief was that most of the animals coming to Pet Relinquishment Surveys shelters

"We are just beginning to close in on answering the fundamental question of why so many animals are covertly abandoned 'to the wilds' or overtly to shelters each year."

Until we began our series of scientific research projects into the cause and effects of personality characteristics and animal preference factors of pet owners in 1980, no genuine scientific research had been done to investigate the causes nor evaluate the effects of suggested solutions to the problem, although a number of scientific and

and subsequently euthanized were puppies and kittens. The solution was assertive spaying and neutering programs to decrease the birth rate. Other solutions included sterilization and enhanced pet owner education programs, and tougher enforcement of animal control ordinances. Although shelter euthanizations have declined over the past

20 years, we still do not know which, if any, of these options has been most effective, or whether factors of human characteristics and changes in cultural attitudes toward excess animal elimination solutions are responsible.

Individuals in shelter communities reported that while shelters euthanized large numbers of kittens, most dogs in shelters were young adults exhibiting potentially resolvable behavior problems that owners seemed ill-equipped to handle. Anecdotal and unsubstantiated reports stated that 50% to 70% of all euthanasias were the result of owner-defined behavioral problems. Recent studies of individual shelters, however, finally have begun to

explore these concerns and coordinate data from three studies: 1) The *National Household Survey*, designed to characterize the population of dog and cat owners and the acquisition, ownership, and disposal of such pets; 2) The *Regional Shelter Survey*, designed to characterize dogs and cats entering shelters, the type of people abandoning them, and the reasons for disposal; and, 3) The *Shelter Statistics Study* which created and continues to update a list of all shelters and impoundment facilities in the USA and collect statistics on the number, as well as the *Pet Relinquishment Survey's* final disposition, of animals entering these facilities.

"Anecdotal and unsubstantiated reports stated that 50% to 70% of all euthanasias were the result of owner-defined behavioral problems."

identify both human and animal characteristics which may put all pet animals at increased or decreased risk for such disposal.

But even broader data bases are needed to characterize the pet animal surplus in the USA. Different groups are now attempting to provide solutions but have not yet appropriately coordinated their efforts or provided relevant evaluation of the success of implemented programs. The National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy (NCPSP) was created in 1993 to

Among the problems found so far among pet owners are: 1) lack of awareness of the amount of money and work successful pet care needs; 2) such false beliefs as "each pet deserves to produce a litter" before being spayed or neutered; 3) little or no personal knowledge of pet training and unwillingness to consider professional training; 4) problem changes in owner's life style such as working and living situation, relocation, number of family members, etc.; and 5) landlords who prohibit pets.

Direct problems with pets include: 1) breed differences in amount of activity needed, passivity, and ease of training; 2) amount of care needed; 3) amount of noise (barking, howling); 4) destruction of house interior furnishings and/or yard landscaping; 5) attacks on other animals, or biting/scratching owners and children; and 6) pet-adult and pet-child interaction conflicts. The NCPSP is continuing to study these problems. The more knowledge and understanding about all the factors involved in human-animal interrelationships that can be obtained from such studies, the faster the Committee and concerned people will be able to design effective programs which can help reduce the pet overpopulation problem. With all this data, the NCPSP can help establish appropriate educational programs especially focused for children, but also for responsible adults, through veterinarians, shelters, docents and outreach programs from animal and marine life centers designed for public and private schools, and all pointed at teaching respect for all life through sound and solid education.

For further information, please contact Dr. John New, Jr., Department of Comparative Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, P.O. Box 1071, Knoxville, Tennessee 37901-1071



The Human-Animal ABUSE CONNECTION

Moira Anderson Allen

Tamara Barnes knew someone was abusing her cats. Tom-Tom suffered a broken leg and burned paws; Miranda had a broken tooth and a swollen eye; and someone wrapped a rubber band so tightly around Jeepers' neck that it had become embedded in the skin.

Someone, but who? Despite the evidence, Tamara was reluctant to face the truth – until the day she came home to find her husband wrapping Tom-Tom in duct tape. When she threatened to call the police, he warned her, "I'll kill this cat if I want to, and I can kill you, too."

WHO'S AT RISK?

Tamara's situation has become far too common. Increasingly, animal welfare agencies and social service agencies are recognizing the connection between animal abuse and domestic violence. In homes where humans are suffering abuse, their pets also are in danger, and vice versa.

"Society has traditionally compartmentalized acts of violence – separating definitions of child abuse from domestic violence or street violence or cruelty to animals," reports A. William Ritter, Jr. in a recent issue of "The Prosecutor" magazine. He notes, however, that "Evidence is mounting that violent acts are not separate and distinct, but part of a cycle. The forces and influences that foster violence toward humans and animals spring from the same roots."

A study by Dr. Frank Ascione of Utah State University confirms

that in households with domestic violence, pets are 15 times more likely to be harmed or killed than in households with no domestic violence. But the danger to pets is only half of the story. While those who abuse people also are likely to abuse animals, the reverse is true as well. Research indicates those who abuse animals are far more likely to commit acts of violence against people.

A study by the Massachusetts SPCA, for example, examined records of individuals who had committed acts of animal cruelty, and found 70 percent had committed at least one criminal offense and 38 percent had committed violent acts against people. In addition, abusers were four times as likely as non-abusers to commit property crimes, and three times as likely to be arrested for drug related offenses or disorderly conduct.

An even more frightening aspect of domestic violence is its self-perpetuating nature. Those who begin to abuse animals early in life are at high risk of moving on to other violent crimes. Quite often, such individuals are abuse victims themselves: a study of convicted murderers found that of those who had been sexually abused as children, 58 percent also had committed acts of animal cruelty (compared to 15 percent of convicted murderers who had not been abused).

Childhood animal cruelty is regarded as a key predictor of future violent behavior. That's not to say every child who is abused or witnesses abuse will become an abuser, criminal or mass murderer. Statistics like these are the "narrow end" of the funnel. They don't indicate how many (or how few) abuse victims actually go on to commit acts of violence in later years – only

that a history of domestic violence is an important risk factor in those who do. And with 969,000 cases of child maltreatment confirmed by child protection service agencies in 1996 alone, there's a lot of risk.

HOW BAD IS IT?

Tamara became aware of her husband's abusive tendencies within weeks after they married, yet she didn't leave the abusive environment until nearly two years later. Why did she stay? "Because no resources were available to help me care for my pets," she says.

She's not alone. In Dr. Ascione's study of women who entered a Utah shelter for battered women, "nearly one in four reported that concern for their pets had kept them from coming to the shelter earlier." Almost as many reported "coercion" as the partner's primary motive for threatening or harming a pet. Often, perpetrators make such threats – and carry them out – to keep a partner from leaving or reporting the abuse.

Dr. Ascione's study found 71 percent of battered women who owned pets reported threats against them, while 57 percent reported actual harm. While Dr. Ascione warns against applying these figures to the nation as a whole, additional studies confirm the high percentages of threats and abuse to pets. Another Utah study indicates as many as 1,000 women in that state alone "may experience partner abuse of pets."

Other studies confirm the relationship between animal abuse and domestic violence. A report from Great Britain, for example, found that of 23 families being investigated by the Royal SPCA, 82 percent also were on record with social service agencies as having "children at risk."

In one of Dr. Ascione's studies, nearly 70 percent of children whose mothers had sought refuge at a "safe house" reported they had witnessed animal abuse. Most of those incidents involved "pain, discomfort, torturing or killing the pet." In many cases, the perpetrator was a father, stepfather or mother's boyfriend.



- *Problems with coping and self-control*
- *Lack of understanding of child/pet development leading to unrealistic expectations*
- *Acceptance of violence as a solution to problems*
- *Belief that children and pets are property*
- *Substance Abuse*

At the heart of the issue lies the question of control. Batterers



"This is me and my cat.
My dad treats my cat unfairly,
like he treats my mom."

Jennifer, Age 8

Pets often are the victims of a domestic violence "pecking order." In one study, 16 percent of the women interviewed reported having at one time or another, "directed their anger" at children or pets. Several women also reported that one of their children had inflicted harm upon a pet.

ROOTS OF VIOLENCE

The factors that contribute to the abuse of children and of pets are remarkably similar. According to 80 year-old Latham Foundation, (Dept. CM, Latham Plaza Bldg., Alameda, CA 94501, 510-521-0920), a non-profit organization that promotes respect for all life through education these elements include:

- *Physical, emotional or sexual abuse as a child*
- *Lack of parenting or interpersonal skills*

typically demonstrate an inability (or unwillingness) to control their emotions and behaviors. According to the Latham Foundation, they often lack impulse control, respond to the emotion of the moment and have "limited tolerance of frustration." These problems often are compounded by alcohol or drug abuse.

Because they lack coping skills, perpetrators often feel "victimized" by the world around them, and at the mercy of events or circumstances that seem out of control. Inadequate parenting (and pet care) skills can increase this sense of victimization: Rather than understanding that it's normal for a 2-year old to spill milk or for a kitten to climb the drapes, a perpetrator becomes enraged by these actions and regards them as "deliberate" disobedience.

When the world seems out of control, the perpetrator's response

is to attempt to impose control – on everything and everyone except himself. Lacking the ability to manage anger, the perpetrator's unresolved rage builds up from one event to the next, until it explodes – often out of all proportion to the trigger event. When that same individual regards violence as an acceptable solution to “problems”, that explosion is likely to be destructive. Often, the perpetrators will lash out at the nearest (or most vulnerable) target.

Such was the case with Tamara's abusive husband. “He was a walking ball of anger, mad at the world,” she says. “He felt the world was out of control.” The one part of the world that he could control and attack without risk was Tamara's pets and, by extension, Tamara herself.

The Latham Foundation cites nine common situations in

which this lack of control translates into animal abuse:

1. To control an animal's behavior. Cruel or excessive punishment is often used in an attempt to modify a pet's behavior, or to eliminate unwanted behaviors. In many cases, correction is administered impulsively rather than as part of any consistent training effort.

2. To retaliate for a perceived wrong. Those who seek retaliation or revenge often believe an animal misbehaved “deliberately” or “out of spite.” The perpetrator takes satisfaction in “getting back at” the pet and “making it pay.”

3. To retaliate against another person. An abuser wishes to inflict pain and suffering upon a human victim, and does so by inflicting harm upon a beloved pet. Batterers may use threats of retaliation against a pet to control the behavior of a spouse, partner or child.

4. Out of prejudice against a species or breed. Some perpetrators abuse because they “hate cats” or “hate dogs” or hate a particular breed. In some cases, this is based upon cultural or social biases.

5. To express aggression through an animal. Some abusers train animals to attack other animals or even humans. In this case, the abuser is literally using an animal as a weapon to inflict harm and vent anger.

6. To enhance one's own sense of, or experience with, aggressiveness. For some, abusing animals provides a sense of strength and power. For others, it's a way of “training” aggressive skills and, in many cases, “working up to” acts of violence against humans. In gangs or cults, members may be required to demonstrate their commitment and aggression by killing or maiming animals.

Continued on Page 14

If You're A Victim

IS VIOLENCE DESTROYING YOUR LIFE? IF SO, TAKE THESE STEPS TO REGAIN CONTROL:

Don't ignore the signs of abuse. Remember abuse doesn't “go away” by itself; instead, it generally becomes more dangerous over time.

Don't accept excuses for violent or abusive behavior. Abuse is wrong; it is never “deserved.” In particular, don't accept excuses that blame the victim. “If the animal/child/partner would just behave better, I wouldn't have to do this.”

Don't imagine that if you (or your child or pet) could just “try harder” or “do better,” the abuse would stop. It won't. Changing yourself won't change your abuser. It will only demonstrate to the abuser that violence works.

Don't believe promises that “things will change” or that it won't happen again. Unless the perpetrator takes active steps (such as counseling) to deal with the problem, it will only get worse.

Don't be lulled by emotional apologies. Remember this is a person who acts upon the emotion of the moment. The perpetrator may feel (and act) genuinely sorry now – but that won't prevent him from acting upon feelings of anger later.

Don't allow yourself to become isolated. Stay in contact with friends and family members, and seek support from agencies and support groups trained to deal with abusive situations. “Don't think you can get out of this alone,” says Tamara Barnes. “You need as much support as you can gather.”

Locate resources and agencies. Organizations in your area can help you with support, counseling, pet care, and other services. Make arrangements to provide for your pets if you are forced to leave home.

Don't wait. You may think things will get better by themselves. They won't.



Hugh H. Tebault, III, President

EXPECTATIONS

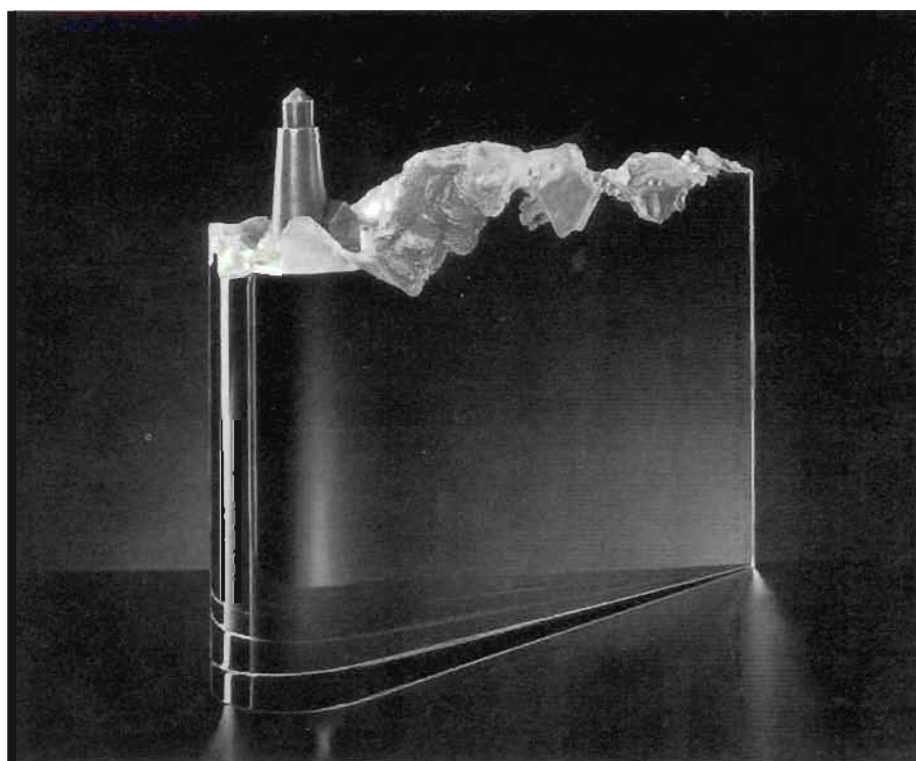
Life is a series of expectations, some met and some unmet. Have you ever wondered where these expectations are set? As I penned my first column for the *Latham Letter* as the new President, I began to examine how the Foundation has impacted my life. The more I reflected on this, the more I was struck that the major thrust of the Latham message is aimed at setting the social expectation where kindness to animals, kindness to each other, and ultimately a vastly improved world, are the normal expectation.

I grew up with pets, had a wonderful extended family, at home and at church. The expectations of behavior were clear for me from all sides. I took a great deal from those lessons.

As I grew to raise my own children, how to teach and share the "right" expectations were brought home to me again and again. The precepts of Latham are central in my expectations.

Latham's members and staff take a rightful pride in their work. The *Latham Letter* is one outreach we hope provides you with an insight into the better set of expectations for us all.

Latham Foundation News



The Lighthouse by Steuben. Presented to Hugh H. Tebault II on the occasion of his appointment as Chairman Emeritus

A LOOK BACK -- Latham in the '20's and 30's

*Excerpts from the Foundation's Minutes
by Hugh H. Tebault, II*



San Leandro, California resident John Giminez holding the certificate he received from the Latham Foundation in 1938 for his winning entry in the International Poster Contest. John recalls that the certificate was presented in a ceremony at the Latham Building in Oakland. He painted a nature scene in oils.



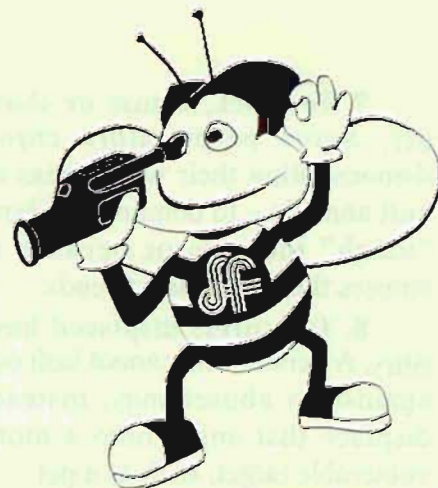
"In 1925 the First Annual Poster Contest was conducted at the California School of Arts and Crafts.

The 1926 minutes contain an interesting guide to Edith Latham's basic philosophy. Thousands of young people were enrolled in the Kind Deeds Club with membership cards that read: 'I will try to be kind to every living creature and to cultivate a spirit of protection towards all who are weaker than myself. I will try to treat animals as I would wish to be treated if I were in their place.' A club requirement called for the performance of two kind deeds each day, one to a human and one to an animal.

The 1931 minutes noted that the poster contest was greatly enlarged and the remark, "Why haven't we heard of the Latham Foundation before?" was first encountered.

In 1933 more than 4,000 posters were submitted for judging. One year later between 4-5,000 posters were received, resulting in twenty boxes of posters for the popular traveling exhibits that reinforced the messages of respect for all living things.

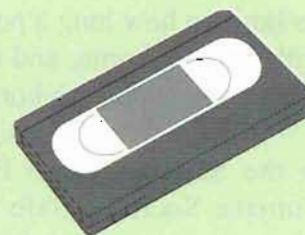
The poster contest was expanded to include entries from China, Spain, the Soviet Union, Canada, South Africa, Java, the Canal Zone, Cuba, and Mexico in addition to those from the United States in 1938. There were thirty traveling exhibits that year and by 1941 between 125-200,000 viewers saw the messages expressed in forty traveling poster exhibits."



*Update...
Search for
Excellence
Video
Contest*

The judges scores are being tabulated. Results will be announced in the Summer **Latham Letter.**

*Don't change
that dial!*



7. To shock, amuse or show off. Some perpetrators enjoy demonstrating their willingness to hurt animals – to demonstrate how “tough” they are or because it amuses them and their friends.

8. To express displaced hostility. A person who cannot lash out against an abuser may, instead, displace that anger onto a more vulnerable target, such as a pet.

9. Out of sadism. In some cases, perpetrators commit acts of cruelty simply because they derive

pleasure from the pain, suffering or death of the victim.

Batterers typically demonstrate an inability to control their emotions and behavior, but is abuse simply a matter of losing control? Carol Adams and Delora Wisemoun, writers for “The Animals Agenda” magazine, think not. “Many people want to believe the batterer’s story – he beat his wife because he lost control,” they note. However, “when a man batters a family animal, his purposefulness is exposed. He is

much less convincing ... Harming or killing the family animal demonstrates precisely how conscious deliberate and willful the batterer’s intentions are.”

Some acts of abuse are the result of a moment of uncontrolled rage. Many others, however, are deliberately performed as an attempt to impose control upon those who will experience the greatest degree of psychological suffering from the act: Women and children who love their pets.

Shelters Making A Difference

Tamara Barnes’ abusive husband tortured her cats in an effort to threaten her. If she could have found a safe haven for her pets, she believes she would have left her abuser much sooner. But at the time, no such haven existed.

Now it does. Determined to channel her anger into “something positive,” Tamara set out to find a way for battered women to leave their abusers and take their pets to safety as well. She contacted the Greenhill Humane Society in Eugene, OR (Domestic Violence Assistance Program, Dept. CM, 88530 Greenhill Road, (541) 689-1503) and found a responsive ear in director Kimball Lewis, who also was searching for a way to help abuse victims and their pets. Six months later, in February 1997, the humane society launched what may be the first program of its kind: a safe haven for battered pets.

While women seek help through social service programs and safe houses, their pets will receive housing, care and emergency health services at the shelter and through a network of confidential foster homes. Though the program is no longer unique, Lewis claims its services are still among the most extensive. There’s no limit on how long a pet can remain in the shelter or with a foster home, and the program will accept pets of all sizes, including horses.

In May 1997, a similar program was launched in the San Francisco Bay Area by the Peninsula Humane Society, (Safe Pets, Dept CM, 12 Airport Blvd., San Mateo, CA 650-340-8200) and Burlingame

Center for Domestic Violence Prevention. The “Safe Pets” program offers a minimum of two weeks’ care, including veterinary care and emergency services. This period may be extended if the owner needs more time to find a new home.

Other shelters in the Bay Area have quietly offered such services, but have been reluctant to publicize them because of concern that the batterer may locate the pet and use it as leverage against the victim. In a community property state, a pet may be considered as belonging equally to the victim and to the batterer; theoretically, either person could claim the pet from the shelter.

Safe Pets has resolved this problem by developing a contract that appoints the shelter as the pet’s legal custodian, and that transfers ownership of the pet to the humane society if the woman is unable to find a new home for the pet or doesn’t return for it. Safe Pets and Greenhill also ensure the victim’s anonymity.

No one wants to leave a loved one behind in a dangerous environment. Now, thanks to the cooperative efforts of social agencies and shelters like these, many women won’t have to.

Editors’ Note: *If you suspect someone you know is becoming abusive toward animals or people, seek counseling in the “social services” section of your local phone book. If finances are tight, consider non-denominational counseling services with groups such as Catholic Charities.*

WHAT CAN BE DONE

Recognizing the links between domestic violence and animal abuse is the first step in bringing together appropriate agencies to combat the problem. According to the Latham Foundation, "the child protection service or domestic violence coordinator is highly likely to encounter companion animals during human service interventions. Conversely, agents from humane societies, SPCA's and animal control agencies, plus veterinarians, need to be aware of the likelihood that child or spouse maltreatment may be occurring in homes under investigation for suspected animal abuse and neglect."

Currently, most animal control agencies have no authority over domestic violence issues, while social agencies lack authority to deal with pets (except to turn them over to animal control services if no one is available to care for them). Agencies need to develop ways to work together, to report potentially dangerous situations to one another, and to coordinate services to help battering victims whose pets also are at risk.

Traditionally, the solution to a case of animal abuse is to remove the animal from the home. However, because a companion animal may be a battering victim's primary source of emotional support, this actually may provide a strong incentive for a victim not to report abuse. Animal welfare agencies in many communities are beginning to explore other ways to deal with issues of animal abuse and domestic violence.

One successful program involves combining the resources of a battered women's shelter with those of a local animal shelter. The goal is to offer a safe haven for pets,

and thus encourage the victim to leave the abusive environment. Two communities have pioneered this approach (see "Shelters Making A Difference"), and others are exploring the possibility.

Perhaps the most important step that can be taken is to increase awareness of the problem. Definitions of animal cruelty vary widely from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, as do the penalties for such actions. In many areas animals are considered property – and acts of animal abuse often are judged in terms of "destruction to property". Lawmakers need to become more aware of the social implication of abuse and the risk that youthful abusers may move on to more serious crimes.

Without increased community awareness, however, things will be slow to change. Here are some steps you can take now to help protect animals (and people) in your community:

Encourage public awareness.

Encourage local agencies to regard animal abuse and domestic violence as interrelated rather than separate.

Talk to local shelters. Humane associations and/or battered women's shelters need to know the advantages of developing a cooperative program for housing pets of abuse victims.

Make contributions. Donate your time and money to existing programs that provide safe housing for pets.

Know what's available. Familiarize yourself with the agencies that handle domestic violence and animal abuse. Learn the reporting procedures so you'll know what to do if you become aware of an incident.

Report abuse. If you see or suspect an incident of animal or hu-

man abuse, you may be the victim's only hope. Notify authorities.

Since the animal protection movement began in England in the 1820's, laws to protect animals and laws to protect women and children have evolved side-by-side, and in some cases even hand-in-hand.

Once, for example, children were regarded as little more than their parents' property, to be worked or beaten or even sold at the parents' whim. Today, women and children have rights under the law, and the community recognizes its role in protecting those rights.

Today, animals are still considered property, and crimes against them are often treated as "destruction of property" rather than as "acts of cruelty." With increasing awareness of the devastating consequences of animal abuse, however, there is reason to hope these laws and attitudes will change – just as they changed with respect to the rights of women and children.

Twenty years ago, no shelters for battered women existed; today, more than 2,000 support programs exist. Tomorrow, that same protection may be extended, at long last, to battered pets as well.

Maira Anderson Allen has been a professional writer for nearly two decades. She has written on a wide range of pet care topics and is the author of the award-winning book "Coping With Sorrow On the Loss Of Your Pet." She lives in Olympia, Washington with her husband and two cats, where she teaches professional and creative writing at several local colleges.

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309-679-5122*



Northern Iowa University's "De-Stress" Week

WHAT WILL THEY THINK OF NEXT???

The University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, IA is home to a unique program. During exams, now called "De-Stress" week, students can drop by the student union for free popcorn, their choice of stand-up comedy videos, art activities, a head and neck massage, and – best of all in our opinion – some quality time with a dog, cat, or even an iguana named Steve. Volunteers from the Humane Society bring the carefully screened animals and monitor them (and the students) for any signs of "too much of a good thing" but so far, there have been no complaints. As one very tired, but very happy student with a kitten in her lap said, "little things mean a lot."



December '97 -- Students enjoy De-Stress Week's new feature: Five-minute massage



NIU Students take a break during exams to enjoy the benefits of the "student companion animal bond"

The program originated with a faculty member who was active in a greyhound adoption program. Students could take a break from exams or studying and take a greyhound for a walk – much to the benefit of them both. During the last five semesters the program, which is coordinated by Linda Basu, Wellness Resource Coordinator, and Kathy Gulick, Director of Wellness & Recreation Services, has grown to include the "furry blood pressure lowers" and other de-stressers.

Way to go, UNI!

For information contact Linda Basu at The University of Northern Iowa. 319-273-7162, Fax 319-273-7130, e-mail Linda.Basu@uni.edu

What You Can Do About Factory Farming

See article, page 19

Consumers - Buy meat directly, or ask retailers to stock meat, from farms where hogs are raised in comfortable outdoor or indoor environments with ample bedding and the opportunity to behave naturally.

- **Environmentalists** - Join with animal welfare organizations to improve farm animal husbandry, furthering both causes.

- **Farmers** - Pressure your legislators and universities to focus research on more humane, animal behavior oriented systems.
- **Investors** - Back agribusiness ventures built on respect for farm animals rather than the fastest return or the best tax shelter.

Rhode Island Commission Sets Example for Other States --

How a single comment benefits thousands of children and animals

In January 1998, Rhode Island's Special Legislative Commission to Study the Association Between and Amongst Domestic Violence, Child Abuse and Animal Abuse voted unanimously to call upon State Senator Rhoda Perry to extend the Commission and introduce a resolution highlighting the importance of the link between child abuse, animal abuse, and other forms of domestic violence.

The 15-person official State Commission is unique among the 50 states. State Senator Rhoda Perry leads the Commission, which was spearheaded by the Windwalker Humane Coalition.

As Pearl Salotto, founder of Windwalker, explains, "A single comment by Ken White inspired me to work toward this goal. Ken, who was then Vice President of Companion Animals and Vice President of Field Services at the Humane Society of the United States, is now Executive Director of the Arizona Humane Society. He felt that cross reporting is an effective means of using our knowledge of the link of abuse to help prevent violence and he proposed that Rhode Island might be a good place to introduce this idea.

The Resolution, which was

originally introduced in the February 1997 Senate Committee on Special Legislation, reads:

WHEREAS, Members of most societies have long believed that a person's treatment of animals reflects his or her treatment of other human beings; and

WHEREAS, Scientific, social service, medical, judicial and law enforcement communities are beginning to recognize violent behavior often first reveals itself in the form of cruelty to animals; and

WHEREAS, Some of this recognition has come about through detailed profiles of violent criminals. There exists compelling circumstantial evidence linking serial and mass murderers with earlier acts of cruelty to animals; and

WHEREAS, Acts of animal cruelty are very likely predictors of both domestic and societal violence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission on and the same is created consisting of fifteen members: two of whom shall be from the senate, not more than one from the same political party, to be appointed by the majority leader; one of whom shall be a member of the Windwalker Humane Coalition;

and of whom shall be the State Veterinarian, or designee; one of whom shall be the director of the Department for Children, Youth and Families, or designee; one of whom shall be the director of the Department of Health, or designee; one of whom shall be member of the Rhode Island Animal Legislative Coalition (R.I.A.L.C.); one of whom shall be a veterinarian; one of whom shall be a mental health professional; one of whom shall be a member of the Animal Control Officers Association; one of whom shall be a member of the Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Society; one of whom shall be a member of the Volunteers In Service to Animal Society; and three of whom shall be members of the general public to be appointed by the majority leader.

The purpose of said commission shall be to study the association between and amongst domestic violence, child abuse and animal abuse to produce legislation to require cross reporting between DCYF and Animal Control Officers (SPCAs).

The Commission established four active sub-committees.

- The Data Gathering sub-committee gathers existing data

on the link (between animal abuse and other forms of violence).

- The Training (formerly called education) sub-committee works to insert training on the link into existing training for police officers, judges, child protective workers, domestic violence staff, animal control officers, veterinarians, social workers, and other professionals.

- The Pet-Inspired Values Development/Education sub-committee is attempting to develop a plan whereby all Rhode Island children would receive education in respect for all living things from a professional pet assisted therapy facilitator or other qualified professional. Ideally, such a plan will help children make connections between their respect for the therapy animal and their responsibilities to animals, other people, themselves, and the environment.

- The Legislative sub-committee examines legislative possibilities

such as mandated reporting and increased penalties for animal abuse, cross reporting between child protection, animal welfare, and domestic violence professionals.

The Windwalker Humane Coalition will continue the important work it started by working with the State Commission to enhance public awareness about the link. The Windwalker Humane Coalition will also continue to advocate for the profession of pet-assisted therapy and the importance of and potential for pet-inspired values development in schools.

Roberta Preziosi, vice president of the Windwalker Humane Coalition reminds us, "Animals are living, breathing, feeling beings with heart-beats. They are not simply objects or property and they deserve legal protection."

The Latham Foundation applauds the important work of the

Windwalker Humane Coalition and Rhode Island's Special Legislative Commission. It urges other states to follow this unique and important example.

What can you do?

For information on the Rhode Island State Commission, the state-wide Respect for Living Things Day, or to participate in national legislation protecting pets as family members, contact:

Pearl Salotto, Founder
Windwalker Humane Coalition
173 Easton Ave., Warwick, RI 07888
Fax: 401-463-3639

Roberta Preziosi, Vice President
Windwalker Humane Coalition
113 Cannon, Cranston, RI 02921
Or
Alice Babcock, Vice President
Windwalker Humane Coalition
ababcock@ids.net

American Humane Association Announces Winner of... Be Kind to Animals Contest

Jordan Ross, an eight-year-old boy with a heart as big as Texas, is this year's National Winner of the Be Kind to Animals Kid Contest.

Jordan began his love of animals at a very early age. He was born two months early and as a result, suffers from a variety of health problems ranging from severe asthma to mild cerebral palsy to a genetic heart defect. He has had to wear a back brace for scoliosis from the time he was six months old. Because of his health problems and the time needed in order

to recover from surgeries, he developed more than just a passing interest in animals and their welfare.

Dubbed "Dr. DooLittle" by his older brother, Jordan has had a great deal of experience fostering animals abandoned by their mothers. Jordan has nursed many baby animals to health, but he has also had several die in his arms.

Jordan has an ongoing debate with his grandfather and brother who like to hunt. According to Jordan's mother, the only thing Jordan would



shoot an animal with is a camera. In fact, a butterfly photo he took won a citywide contest last summer.

Recently, following surgery on his back he was told he wouldn't grow much more. "That's okay," said Jordan. "I'm going to be a vet and a photographer of animals, so it doesn't really matter if I'm small forever. The animals don't care how little I am and they never laugh at me."



FITTING THE FARM TO THE SWINE



by Marlene Halverson



In 1996, after much saving and planning, Dan Wilson and his brother Colin built an insulated, mechanically ventilated swine barn. The new barn houses the deep-straw-bedded, birth-to-adolescent stage of their Iowa hog operation and is modeled after group-nursing systems that Dan and his wife Loma saw on a 1994 trip to Sweden (see *Animal Watch*, Summer 1995, p. 26). It will add indoor winter farrowing to their outdoor summer production.

Nolan Jungclaus of Minnesota is combining the indoor Swedish system with a system in which he fattens market hogs and pasture, pregnant sows outdoors during the summer. Last spring, in preparation for expanding their operation, Jungclaus' wife accompanied me, other farmers and Iowa State (ISU) faculty on a second tour of Swedish swine farms.

These farmers are among the first in the United States to adopt Sweden's deepbedded, group-nursing system Vastgötamodellen. Built around the natural behaviors of pigs, this system makes for a cleaner, more sustainable farm and better-adjusted animals. The work of these farmers is aided by a consortium formed in 1995 between ISU, the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) and Minnesota's Land Stewardship Project (LSP). Led this year by AWI, the Consortium aims to

provide access to technical advice and support for Midwestern farmers interested in the healthy, humane and environmentally sound Swedish model of meat production.

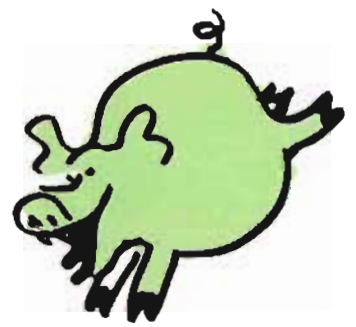
The project has been a learning experience for everyone, and the farmers are on their way to becoming mentors for others. However, would-be American users of the Swedish methods face serious obstacles.

- Take genetics. Pigs are naturally very resourceful and active animals. But the U.S. industry selects so-called "docile" animals who will not fight confinement. Most breeding adaptability to living conditions in factory farm systems, where they are stored in crates in which they can neither walk nor turn around. Males are removed only for breeding or semen collection; sows are moved to the farrowing room, where they give birth in crates, and nurse through metal bars. Sows bred to be docile often also have poor maternal abilities. They encounter problems initially in more spacious systems, where maternal abilities are critical to piglets' survival and well-being.

- Purchasing high-quality straw in sufficient quantity is also a challenge for U.S. farmers who don't grow enough small grains to produce their own.

- In the absence of strong regulations or incentives to prevent livestock production from adversely impacting the environment, neighbors and communities, there are economic disadvantages for conscientious farmers who try to farm humanely and responsibly, and who absorb the extra costs of doing so. Today's industrial pig operations too commonly ignore impacts on the environment, communities and the

pigs themselves. Some industrial farms, for



example, have caused major fishkills and surface water degradation. It is difficult, sometimes impossible for farmers who want to adopt less exploitative and intensive methods to obtain operating or construction loans precisely because they choose to absorb the extra costs of production, which makes them seem less "efficient" to agricultural lenders.


- The greatest problem may be the lack of U.S. experts on the natural behavior of pigs of the caliber of European advisors and scientists. Here, teaching and research on swine is largely geared to industrial "factory farm" models.

But improvements may come, at least in one state. In Minnesota, small farmers and rural residents, aided by the LSP and sympathetic legislators, got new language into a "swine odor control" bill this year. This would redirect a small portion of research funds for odor control in liquid manure handling systems to less-polluting, more-humane methods such as the Vastgötamodellen.

Marlene Halverson is a humane farming consultant who is working on her doctorate in applied economics at the University of Minnesota.



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See "What you can do" pg. 15. 



*Coming from
Latham in '98*

Linking the Circles of Compassion: Preventing Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Animal Abuse

**Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D.
and Phil Arkow, Editors**



media reviews

Three New Books About "The Link"

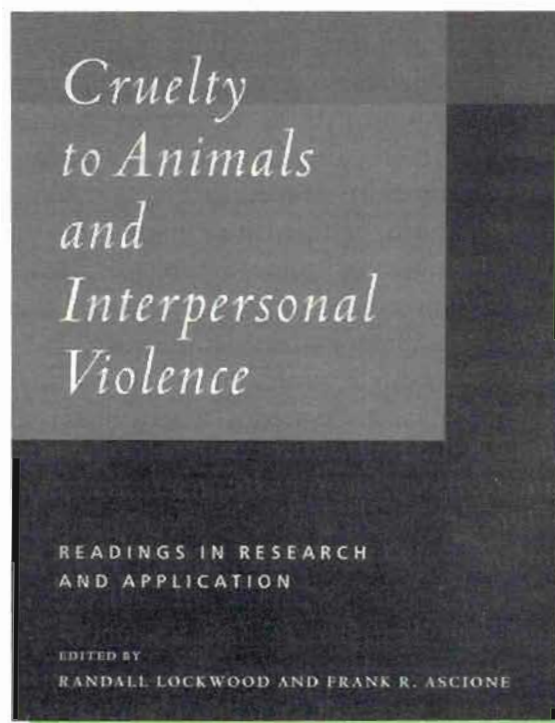
Reviewed by Phil Arkow

Readers of the *Latham Letter* are aware of the Foundation's deep and pioneering interest in how animal abuse relates to other forms of family violence. Latham's 1995 groundbreaking manual and video, *Breaking the Cycles of Violence*, began to cross-train workers in child protection, animal protection and domes-

mend three recent outstanding books. These books each, and collectively, help build the case that animal abuse does not occur in a vacuum, but rather is a significant, albeit often overlooked, component of the epidemic of violence ravaging America today.

Thanks to a grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the American Humane Association published *Recognizing & Reporting Animal Abuse: A Veterinarian's Guide* to meet a specific and

critical need. Like physicians vis-a-vis child abuse, veterinarians should be key warriors in the fight against animal maltreatment. However, they are often reluctant to get involved, citing justifiable fears of economic and legal retaliation and the lack of formal training in identifying suspected abuse. Editor Patricia Olson, DVM and the 25 contributors to this book answer all their concerns and provide the profession with an impressive and practical training tool. The book includes the first diagnostic criteria - the Tufts Animal Care and Condition Scales - to allow



practitioners to make objective assessments of companion animals' conditions and risk factors without relying on subjective guesses as to the owner's intent.

In the meantime, we recom-

Helen Munro breaks ground in North America with her landmark chapter identifying and defining a Battered Pet Syndrome, analogous to the Battered Child Syndrome

which initiated the national child protection system in 1962. Munro, a Scottish veterinary pathologist, first reported this syndrome in an Irish veterinary journal; its exposition in the U.S. (and her subsequent chapter in Latham's new book) is a major breakthrough.

Trying to find resource material in obscure Irish journals is daunting for those wishing to explore The Link and implement violence prevention programs, so Frank Ascione, Ph.D. and Randall Lockwood, Ph.D., has provided the field with a much-needed compilation of 46 key articles on the subject. Finally, in place, a researcher can gather the basic information about the benevolent and malevolent manifestations of the human-animal bond. It's an impressive collection.

A recent special issue of *Society & Animals*, published by Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, is dedicated to The Link. Editor Ken Shapiro has assembled a comprehensive and provocative mix of seven original research papers. Link literature is growing at a rapid pace. Many of the contributors to the above volumes are included in Latham's new book which will continue to inform and inspire the field.

Cruelty to Animals and Interpersonal Violence, Randall Lockwood and Frank R. Ascione, Eds. Purdue University Press. 1998. 452 pp. \$24.95 West Lafayette, IN 47907

Recognizing & Reporting Animal Abuse: A Veterinarian's Guide, Patricia Olson, DVM, Ed.

American Humane Association. 1998. 82 pp. \$25.00 Englewood, CO 80112

Society & Animals: Special Issue on Animal Abuse and the Violence Connection, Arnold Aduke and Randall Lockwood, Eds. PsyETA, 1997. \$12.00 Washington Grove, MD 20880

Animal-Assisted Therapy/ Activities Guidebook Published

Students interested in how the unique bonds between people and companion animals can be used therapeutically to help people with special needs, and persons seeking to enter this exciting field, should be aware of a new book to guide them in their research and vocational endeavors.

Pet Therapy: A Study and Resource Guide for the Use of Companion Animals in Selected Therapies, by Phil Arkow, has just been republished in an all-new, expanded and extensively rewritten 8th edition.

The book, a standard reference text in several colleges, is the definitive resource guide for animal-assisted therapy and activities. The

8th edition includes new sections on how to conduct an animal visit, insurance and liability concerns, model policies for hospitals and nursing homes, state laws, and AAT and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

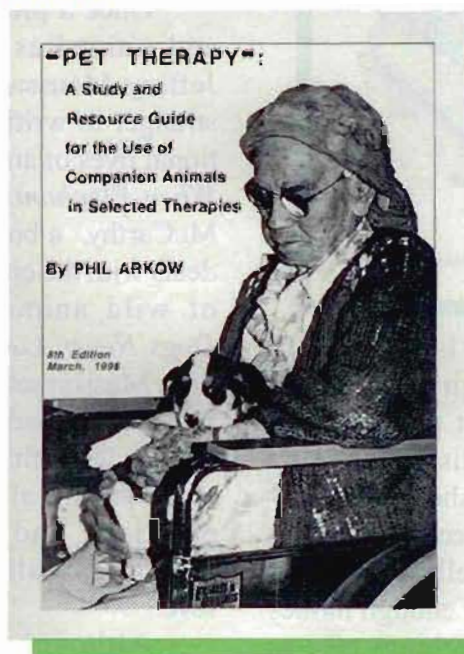
The book comprises 198 pages on the premise and promise of AAA/ AAT, guidelines for establishing programs, animal selection, volunteer training, different types of animal programs, and directions for the future. The Research and Resource Guide list academic centers, worldwide research projects and programs in action, directories of service dog programs, an extensive

bibliography of print and video resources, and samples of regulatory policies.

Arkow, a pioneer in the animal-assisted therapy field, has been updating and expanding the study and research guide continually since it was first compiled in 1977. The 8th

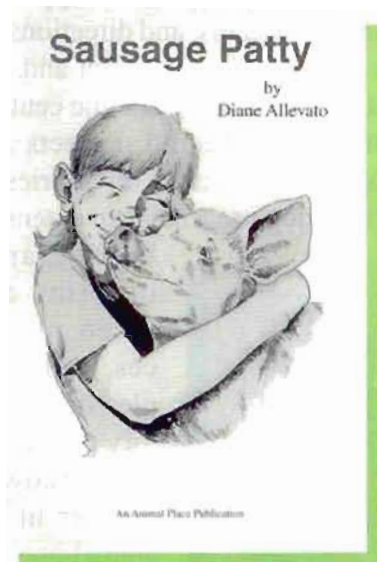
edition represents a major revision. "It is exciting and encouraging to see how the field of AAA/ AAT has blossomed and matured, and how many people are now seeking this as a viable career field and an outlet for their volunteer interests," he said.

To order the book, send \$28 to Phil Arkow, 37 Hillside Rd., Stratford, NJ 08084. For information, e-mail parkov@phlfound.org.



SAUSAGE PATTY

The new children's book, *Sausage Patty*, is a story involving a 4-H project. It is published by Animal Place, a farm animal sanctuary and education center in Vacaville, California. It is published in the hopes of filling the void of humane education materials for children that address "farm" animal issues.



Sausage Patty is the story of Sydney, a young girl who moves from the East coast to California. She experiences dislocation and culture shock until she becomes involved in 4-H and decides to raise a pig. Her goal is to sell the pig at the county fair to make enough money to buy a horse. But things take an unexpected twist when her pig takes on a new and different value.

Sausage Patty

By Diane Allevato - Illustrated

by Trish Van Den Bergh

Animal Place

3448 Laguana Creek Trail

Vacaville, CA 95688

707-449-4814; \$3.99 + \$1.25 s&h

Wholesale prices for quantities of 20 or more. Contact Animal Place for details.

DOGS NEVER LIE ABOUT LOVE

by Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson

Reviewed by Jennifer Dustin-Hinze

To find a book written as much from the heart as from the head is a rare and marvelous thing. It is a pleasure to read an engaging and intelligent work that is both thought provoking and sensitive at the same time, as emotive as it is intellectual. *Dogs Never Lie About Love* is just such a book, and it is truly a gratifying read.

Once a professor of Sanskrit, and trained as a psychoanalyst, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson is no stranger to writing about the emotional lives of animals. He authored *When Elephants Weep* with Susan McCarthy, a book that deals with the emotions of wild animals. In *Dogs Never Lie About Love* Masson sets out to prove to his readers one simple idea, that dogs are basically all about emotion, and more specifically all about love.

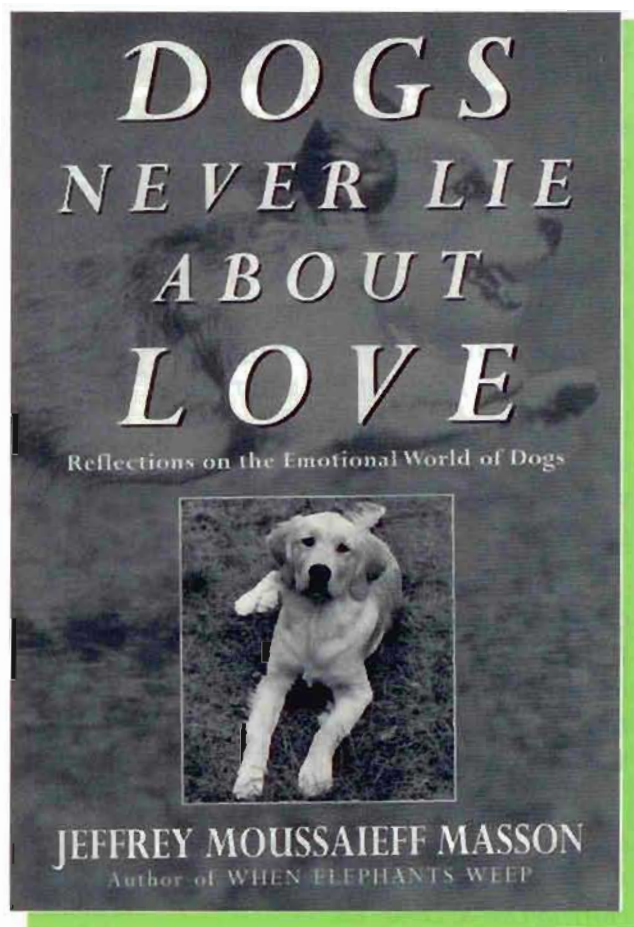
Although Masson's writing style is extremely personal in nature, this book's structure lends itself to a mentally stimulating exploration of canine emotions.

While the author does not offer us any hard evidence for the existence of emotions in the canine species, he does not pretend to make his book strictly

scientific in nature. His conclusions as to the existence of feelings in dogs come more from personal observation than from any piece of scientific data.

Masson gives many examples of canine behavior based on observations of his own dogs. He also discusses how the animals that share his home make him feel. He tells us "There is something wonderful about my dog's stretching her body along my body at night, something about the trust it shows. That is one of the most touching things about being in a deep relationship with a member of another species: the mutual trust." (p.43)

While it can be emotional, this book is not an overly sentimental. Masson explores current scientific explanations for a variety of common canine behaviors and



capabilities, such as the dog's superior sense of smell and ability to dream. He also discusses abstract concepts like the dog's experience of humiliation and disappointment.

Masson questions the existence of such things as dominance and submission, loyalty and gratitude in the canine world. It is not that he doubts that dogs lead emotional lives, but he asks whether current scientific interpretations of canine behavior are always accurate.

These concepts are questioned because there are too many aspects of canine behavior and biology that we still do not fully understand. There is still debate over why it is that dogs bark, and how they are able to find their way home over great distances when separated from their human families. Masson states that "...we must remain humble about the inner life of our canine companions. There is so much we do not know." (p.190)

For those of us who share, or have shared our lives with a dog there is no need to be convinced that canines possess feelings. To us it is a simple fact. Even so, this is a book that is sure to interest and enlighten anyone who has ever wondered about the nature and depth of the emotional lives of dogs. This book is a fascinating and heart-felt exploration into a world that we are only now beginning to acknowledge as a culture, the complex and fascinating world of animal emotions.

***Dogs Never Lie About Love:
Reflections on the Emotional
World of Dogs***

Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson
Crown Publishers, Inc.
New York
ISBN 0-609-60057-5

**GUCCI:
A Puppy's Tale
& Other Animal Stories**
by Doug James

Reviewed by Jennifer Dustin-Hinze

Horribly burned at the tender age of 20 months, a chow mix called Gucci was lucky enough to be lovingly transformed from an abused puppy into a national celebrity.

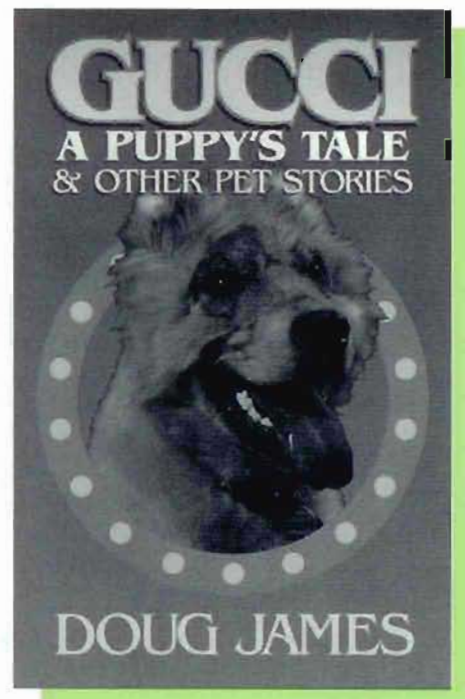
Gucci had been hung, beaten, doused with lighter fluid and set on fire before he was rescued. Happily, this dog's life has been a success story ever since, with the help of numerous fans, a skilled team of veterinarians, politicians and one especially caring and dedicated man who came to his aid.

Doug James is both author of Gucci's tale and the person responsible for taking the wounded dog in and nursing him back to health. The story is both terrible and inspiring. James offers a detailed account of Gucci's horrific abuse as well as the difficult healing process and heart warming events that followed.

Now completely healed, though still badly scarred, Gucci appears as a spokesdog against cruelty to animals. His survival and success are due largely to the kindness and generosity of many people who gave their time, money and skills to help one small dog.

Gucci's gregarious and charismatic spirit kept him alive through more than a year of surgeries and post-operative care. The story of his ordeal has touched many people and affected them strongly.

Gucci's tale was the subject of newspaper articles, television and radio coverage. The scar-faced



little dog made it all the way to *CNN*, *Inside Edition* and *The Maury Povich Show*. He even served to inspire the writing of a new anti-cruelty law in the Alabama Legislature, aptly nick-named the *Gucci Bill*. When he appeared in court in the case against his abusers, Gucci was lucky enough to be represented by a future District Attorney.

Doug James has felt strongly about animals all of his life. His book concludes with anecdotes involving the animals that have shaped and affected him. Written with an open, personal style, *Gucci, A Puppy's Tale & Other Animal Stories* reminds us of what we are all capable of, making a difference and creating a better world for both people and animals alike.

***Gucci: A Puppy's Tale & Other
Pet Stories***

Doug James
Azalea Press
24 Lancaster Road
Mobile, Alabama 36608
ISBN 0-9651695-0-2
\$9.95



Photo credit: Phyllis Weiskittel



The Latham Foundation

Promoting Respect For All Life Through Education

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