

Latham Letter

VOLUME XIX, NUMBER 3

SUMMER 1998

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

Single issue price: \$4.00

Latham Announces Recipients of 2nd "Search for Excellence" Video Awards

Congratulations!

The Latham Foundation, a long time leader in the production and distribution of videos about humane education, the links between child and animal abuse, and the human companion animal bond, announces the winners in its second "Search for Excellence" Video Awards.

The purpose of the competition is to recognize and encourage excellence in videotaped productions promoting respect for *all* life.

See pages 12 and 13 for complete details.



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The Latham Letter

Vol. XIX, No. 3, Summer 1998

Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

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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.

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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 Spiritual Side of Animal Welfare

Marsh Myers, Manager of Humane Education, Humane Society of Tucson,
Tucson, Arizona

When the English writer Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) completed his *Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, he began what would eventually codify into the modern animal welfare movement. Although not a theologian, Bentham's affection for animals prompted him to address one of the oldest religious questions: "Do animals have a soul?"

For centuries, the prevailing Western belief was that non-humans were organic machines, without feeling or reason, set on earth to provide labor, food, and raw materials for humanity. As such, humanity had no obligation to treat animals in a conscientious manner. Bentham dismissed earlier assertions that an animal's lack of speech and "conscious reasoning" proved its mechanical nature and asked a simpler question: "Can they suffer?" Using empirical science as his support, Bentham proved that many non-humans could feel pain, happiness, sorrow, loss, and love; and must therefore possess some form of higher consciousness — a soul.


With this vision of our human past, it is impossible for the animal welfare worker not to recognize its own connection to religion or spirituality in whatever form. Virtually every modern religious text attempts to define the human relationship with other forms of terrestrial life - precisely the dilemma animal welfare advocates have been trying to resolve

in the United States for at least 125 years. The shelter worker may even find his job stymied by various religious philosophies. Personal beliefs of the public may thwart the shelter worker on issues ranging from the controversial (euthanasia, surgical sterilization, the legal rights of animals), to the seemingly mundane (identifying microchips and basic medical care). As a result, it becomes yet another challenge of the animal welfare advocate to find common ground among the countless religious beliefs in our world.

Regardless of where you stand on the issue of "animal souls," it is an indisputable fact that the world's religions have cherished and persecuted animals almost as much as human beings. Sometimes conflicts arise even within the same faith. Consider, for example, the differing philosophies of two Christian saints: Thomas Aquinas and Francis of Assisi. The modern Christian may find himself caught between their respective animals-as-machines and animals-as-individuals philosophies. Likewise, the concerned Jew may become embroiled in the debate of whether kosher slaughter methods for animals are truly humane; and the faithful Muslim may question the use of animal sacrifice in his spiritual practices.

The benefit of openly sharing different religious beliefs is in find-

ing common ground on larger societal issues which affect animals, including abuse, overpopulation, and the responsibilities of the pet owner. It is unreasonable and unrealistic for any animal welfare advocate to expect total understanding on the issues they champion. A simple history lesson illustrates how many of these topics have been espoused, dissected, championed and vilified for thousands of years by our predecessors without a consensus ever being reached. Much of this stagnation is attributable to the inherent intractability of religion, and the unreasonable and unrealistic belief that faith is both unquestionable and unadaptable. A quick look at human history reveals this fallacy as well. (The religious arguments for human slavery are the most dramatic expression of how faith can be seriously misguided.) Still, the very purpose of religion is to encourage humanity to behave in an ethical and compassionate way toward others. The sticky part has always been in defining exactly who those "others" are, both within and outside of our species. Alas, enlightenment - spiritual or otherwise - would seem to be an evolutionary process, and a painfully slow one at that.

Reprinted courtesy of the author and Issue 3 of Our Village, a Newsletter for the Humane Educator published by the Humane Society of Tucson, 3450 N. Kelvin Blvd., Tucson, Arizona 85716. 

A Lesson from a Cockroach

by Joanne E. Lauck



Joanne E. Lauck

In one of my classes on “Thinking Like a Bug,” after a general orientation and discussion about how to enter a positive and respectful relationship with insects, I scheduled a young arthropod enthusiast that I had met at a local insect fair to come and bring a variety of creeping creatures. He brought a Giant Madagascar Hissing cockroach, among others. As he talked about the cockroach, my class clown Brian asked with one eye toward me, “If I step on it, will its shell crack?” The class laughed giving Brian the response he wanted. I interrupted the speaker to admonish Brian for the way he asked his question about the strength of the shell. Fully aware of what he had done, he just grinned sheepishly and assured me he was just kidding around.

After the presentation, I decided to take the cockroach, called Cedar because of his coloring, around the room while the guest speaker let some of the

children hold his tarantula. Most of the children wanted to pick Cedar up, but I suggested that we could best demonstrate our respect for him by letting him choose to be

their hand, or not. They liked that idea and lined up for a turn.

Brian was first in line. I told him since he couched his question about the strength of Cedar’s shell



Thinkin’ Like a Bug Class at Booksin Elementary School in San Jose, California.

held or not. I asked them to hold their hand palm up next to mine. Cedar, at ease in the palm of my hand, might choose to walk over to

in an aggressive manner, Cedar might not go on his hand. Although I had shared the story of Freddie the fly with them, I could tell that



The children with their insect masks enjoy a moment in the Booksin Butterfly Garden, a special site created by Joanne Lauck as a haven for all creatures.

Brian didn't really believe that the cockroach might have been aware of his attitude—just as Freddie the fly seemed to know that one of his visitors didn't like flies and routinely killed them.

Brian held his hand, palm out, next to mine. Cedar crawled to the edge of my open palm until his antennae briefly touched Brian's hand. Then Cedar withdrew and turned around, walking away. Brian was disappointed and suddenly not so sure that I hadn't been right. He stayed and watched as child after child came up and put his or her hand next to mine. The cockroach moved slowly, without hesitation, onto each child's hand, exploring.

After a short while, Brian was back in line, asking for another chance. He reached Brian's hand, he stopped and turned around, moving away. Brian was visibly upset now. I suggested that he make his peace with the insect by sending him his sincere apology and desire for connection.

More children lined up for a chance to have the cockroach on their hand. Each time he obliged. Then one little girl approached, exclaiming: "Ooh! He's ugly, he's ugly!" Nothing I said got through to her or stopped her from reciting this shrill chant of distaste. But despite her words, she held her hand next to mine. Cedar refused to go on it—wouldn't even move toward it. She left without absorbing the fact that the cockroach acted as though



he knew she was insulting him—for the insect crawled without hesitation onto the hand of the next child in line. It was a powerful lesson for all of us.



Native American insect Mandala.

When the class period was almost over, I told them we had to stop. Brian begged for one last chance to have Cedar walk on his hand. He said he had been really working on his thoughts and was ready. He held his hand next to mine. Cedar again moved to the edge of my hand and then crawled onto Brian's hand. Judging from the look of pleasure and triumph on the boy's face, you would have thought that he had just received a great gift—and he had. This discerning insect had honored his efforts and let him know that trust was restored.

Experiences like this one in the classroom raise more questions than they answer. Perhaps they merely serve to orient us correctly. A feeling for cockroaches is both the path into the mystery of our connection with other species and the lantern that lights the way. There is much to know about these creatures and the resiliency they embody—secrets accessible through intuition and empathy, delivered like pearls when least expected.



Special License Plates Benefit Animals

Six states have laws allowing citizens to buy special license plates to benefit animals. Five states programs designate that a large portion of the proceeds are to fund spay/neuter surgeries - New Jersey, Virginia, New York, Connecticut and Texas. A license plate program was also authorized in Delaware in 1995 with proceeds to be provided to advocacy groups with an interest in animal welfare and animal population control.

New Jersey was the first state to enact this innovative system. Crafted by a committee composed of The HSUS, American Kennel Club, local animal shelters, cat fanciers, and the New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association, the bill passed within five months of being introduced. The New Jersey program is considered a huge success by all concerned. Their license plate design is very appealing as it includes both a dog and a cat and the words "New Jersey - I'm Animal Friendly" on each tag.

Enacted in 1993, the New Jersey legislation authorized the sale of vanity license plates with the proceeds to go directly into the state Pet Overpopulation Control Fund. This successful program was authorized by laws enacted in 1983 and 1986.

Virginia's law was the next to be enacted early in 1996. A portion of the fees will be paid directly to the localities in which the vehicles are registered with the funds to benefit animals in that area. A non-reverting fund known as the Dog and Cat Sterilization Fund will be created to allocate the money as no state-wide animal population fund exists in Virginia.

The New York program is very similar to New Jersey's. In 1995 the legislature

authorized a Pet Overpopulation Control Fund. Twenty dollars from the sale of each plate in New York will be placed directly into the fund to prevent unwanted births of dogs and cats.

Connecticut and Texas both passed animal friendly plates in 1997. In Connecticut the initial license plate fee is fifty-dollars with a biennial renewal fee of fifteen dollars. Thirty-five dollars of the initial one-time fee and ten dollars of the biennial fees will be deposited into an animal population control account. The law states "this money will be used for the low-cost spaying and neutering of dogs and cats adopted from municipal pounds."

In Texas the plate fee is twenty-five dollars annually with twenty dollars of this money going into an animal friendly account. After at least \$500,000 has been credited to the account, grants will be made to charitable organizations that sterilize animals at minimal or no cost. An Animal Friendly Advisory Committee will meet regularly to establish guidelines for spending the money credited to the account.

Vanity license plate programs are a win/win effort. People who want to financially help animals can, but are not required to do so. The license plates teach the public that spaying and neutering animals is important. And the license plates also show how much and how many people care about animals.

*For more information please contact
The Humane Society of the United States,
Office of State Legislation, 2100 L Street,
NW, Washington, DC 20037
or call (202) 452-1100.*

Confronting Abuse

Nancy Craig, VMD and
Lynn Loar, Ph.D., LCSW

**Dr. Craig, a veterinarian
in California, writes:**

Abuse—a simple word that conjures up inevitably terrible images. More often, the abuse we confront in our daily lives is only an interpretation of events, a possibility; too nebulous—or perhaps too subtle—to be positively identified. Learning to respond constructively to our uncertain “suspicions” is the first means of preventing the eventuality of those terrible images.

A rabbit with a broken back. I am a veterinarian, and this was the first call of the morning, before scheduled appointments had even begun.

I have learned that such calls are either the beginning of a frustrating and serious case that will upset the rhythm of the rest of the day or, like this one, apparently straightforward, requiring only a fairly simple act of kindness. I told the new client to come in with the rabbit immediately.

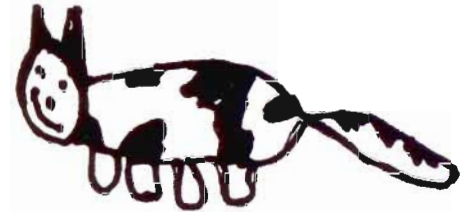
The client arrived, a woman with her young son in tow, the rabbit in a cardboard box. I sought to reassure them, as well as myself, to establish some understanding, some mutual empathy and support for the proposed euthanasia. I asked what had happened. The woman explained that her son had gotten angry at the rabbit the night

before—the rabbit had scratched him—and he had thrown the rabbit to the ground. Three times. Three times? I felt a sinking in my stomach. Still, the mother held her son’s head, stroking him in comfort, as she reported this history. The son, in turn, gently stroked the rabbit throughout, his eyes red and miserable. The woman was obviously distraught by what her son had done.

She was torn between the desire to praise him for the courage of his truthfulness, and at the same time punish him for what he had done. She was worried for his future. I was worried for both their futures. And vaguely unquiet about my now inadvertent role in that future.

Still, the rabbit had no use of its hind legs. “Relieve suffering” is a concept I am certain about, so I agreed that euthanasia was probably the kindest solution. I thought I could comfortably ignore the history behind the necessity of euthanasia as long as I was on firm philosophical ground concerning the alleviation of suffering.

Then, the mother requested that I euthanize the rabbit in the exam room, in front of her son, so he would witness the result of his anger. The son, still red-eyed, still



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

Jennifer, Age 8

gently stroking the rabbit—who was contentedly munching on fresh grass—seemed oblivious to the import of this request. I, on the other hand, was now totally unnerved, certain that I needed not only time but help for both the mother and the son.

*"Learning to respond
constructively to our
uncertain "suspicions" is the
first means of preventing
the eventuality of
those terrible images
of abuse."*

I bought time. I suggested to the mother that she leave the rabbit to be examined by a colleague, due to arrive later that morning, who had more expertise in rabbit medicine. Although I expected intransigence, the woman easily—gratefully?—acquiesced to the delay. When told the rabbit would be staying at the hospital, the son informed me anxiously that the rabbit was fed grass

and carrots with his pellets, obviously concerned about the rabbit's welfare and contentedness.

Fortunately, the rabbit had some pain response in one of its legs. More fortunately, one of my clients, Dr. Lynn Loar, was at home and answered my call for advice about handling the situation. She immediately concurred that the history was of concern and graciously agreed to talk to the mother. Dr. Loar had, in the past, been instrumental in encouraging my staff and me to learn about abuse, emphasizing that abuse often starts with animal victims.

Dr. Loar writes:

I first met Nancy Craig in 1989 when she made a house call to examine my then twelve-year-old dog. She explained the philosophy behind her hospital's house call practice, that animals should be able to die at home in familiar surroundings. My first and lasting image is of her sliding under the coffee table and up along the couch, where the dog was comfortably sprawled, in an effort to slide the stethoscope under the dog's chest without disturbing her.

Dr. Craig is as accommodating during office visits. She shuts the door to the examination room and lets the animal roam freely. She does the exam on the run, following the animal as it explores because "you can do a lot to an animal without upsetting it as long as you don't restrain it." As a social worker, I have used this observation often in discussions with parents who are harsh, punitive, and unnecessarily coercive with their children.

A few weeks ago, Dr. Craig phoned, told me about the injured

rabbit, and asked if I would talk to the mother while she and her colleague assessed the rabbit at the animal hospital. Dr. Craig asked the mother if she would be willing to speak to me. The mother was expecting my call and was glad to be able to talk the situation over with somebody. She told me that her son had had minimal exposure to animals as pets were not allowed in the apartment they had been renting. They had just been forced to move and, unable to find a place of their own, were house and pet sitting for a friend for a month. The boy had been shooed away from the rabbit a few days earlier because he was being rough, and then, the day before, had misinterpreted the rabbit's attempts to protect itself, responding violently when scratched. Moreover, the boy had not immediately told his mother that he had hurt the rabbit. Instead, she noticed it was not moving when she went to feed it that evening and confronted her son. When she arrived at Dr. Craig's office, she was furious as well as scared by his aggression and seeming callousness to the animal's suffering.

I commended the mother for taking the situation so seriously. She replied that many people told her she was making too much of it but she did not see it that way. I agreed with her that aggression against animals was very serious; if trivialized or ignored it might well recur and the boy would have gotten the awful lesson that he could get away with cruelty. I mentioned to the mother that children sometimes hurt or killed animals in an attempt to understand violence or death and asked if that might be a concern of his. The mother replied that the boy's father had committed suicide when the

child was two years old. She added that he had received some counseling then which had been very helpful, but she wondered how much could really be worked through with such a young child. I described how children often had to revisit upsetting things as they reached new developmental milestones and could see additional significance to past events.

"In the space of a few hours we were able to change a distressing situation into one in which a troubled boy and frightened mother received support and guidance, addressing the family's needs and reducing the likelihood of injury to other animals."

A seven year old would be in second grade, noticing other children joining the cub scouts or little league with their fathers. Birthday parties and father-son activities would show a school-age child what it meant not to have a father. Anger at such an enormous loss might need to be dealt with time and time again.

The mother said she was aware of the link between cruelty to animals and other sorts of aggression but had not thought of the developmental significance of an early loss. She readily agreed that counseling would be beneficial and was glad to be referred. Additionally, I suggested that once the child had established a good relationship with

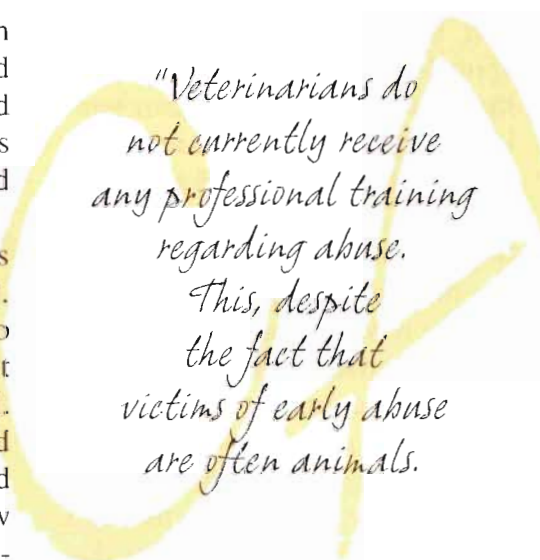
the therapist, I and the humane educator at our local humane society would help them plan a structured intervention to teach him gentleness and consideration for animals. The mother was very pleased with the outcome of her talks with Dr. Craig and me, and in the space of a few hours we were able to change a distressing situation into one in which a troubled boy and frightened mother would receive support and guidance, addressing the family's needs and reducing the likelihood of injury to other animals.

There are a number of reasons this intervention was successful. First, the veterinarian was willing to confront the abuse and ask direct and specific questions about it. Second, she had already educated herself about animal cruelty and its links to human violence, knew officers who could investigate reports of animal cruelty and humane educators at the humane society. She also knew a social worker willing to consult on cases, and was familiar with social services in the county. When dealing with a difficult case she would not have to go it alone. Third, based on her interview with the mother, the social worker was able to make recommendations to the veterinarian about limiting the child's participation in the future care and possible euthanasia of the rabbit, and give some guidance and reassurance to the mother. She was also able to link the mother with appropriate resources in the community.

Neither the veterinarian nor the social worker had to go beyond the limits of her professional knowledge and expertise. Rather, they complemented each other and provided a prompt, focused and effective response.

Sometimes people avoid diffi-

cult situations out of feelings of inadequacy or fear that they will mushroom and take up inordinate amounts of time. It is important to stress that our entire involvement took no more than an hour or two after the veterinarian performed the initial examination.



"Veterinarians do not currently receive any professional training regarding abuse. This, despite the fact that victims of early abuse are often animals."

She wisely requested a consultation both for the rabbit's sake and to have a few moments to think more clearly. She explained the situation to me in a brief phone call. I spent approximately half an hour on the phone with the mother and then a few minutes with Dr. Craig to update her. We each checked in with the mother later that weekend to see how things were going, reducing her isolation and fear. Because the veterinarian and social worker worked together, neither felt isolated or overextended. Our collaborative response facilitated humane treatment for both the rabbit and the child.

Dr. Craig:

Veterinarians do not currently receive any professional training regarding abuse. This, despite the fact that victims of early abuse are

often animals. Veterinarians are not required to report possible abuse except as it relates to animals used for fighting. Veterinarians are therefore not free of liability for reporting their suspicions, as teachers, social workers and even crossing guards are.

I still do not know if this event was a matter of extreme anger, without knowledge of consequence, or if the injury was intentional. I will leave it to the professionals to ascertain if this gentle, emotional seven-year old was capable of conscious and purposeful injury.

This history is set forth to alert veterinary practitioners to possible abuse, and to encourage them to become aware of client, county or state resources that are available to them if they suspect abuse. I encourage all veterinarians and others who work with animals to become informed, and to support local and state statutes that require reporting of cases of potential abuse.

The next call, early one morning, might be theirs.

Dr. Craig can be reached c/o the Linda Mar Veterinary Hospital, 985 Linda Mar Blvd., Pacifica, California 94044. (650) 359-6471.

Dr. Loar can be reached at P.O. Box 248, El Granada, California 94018. (650) 726-0356.

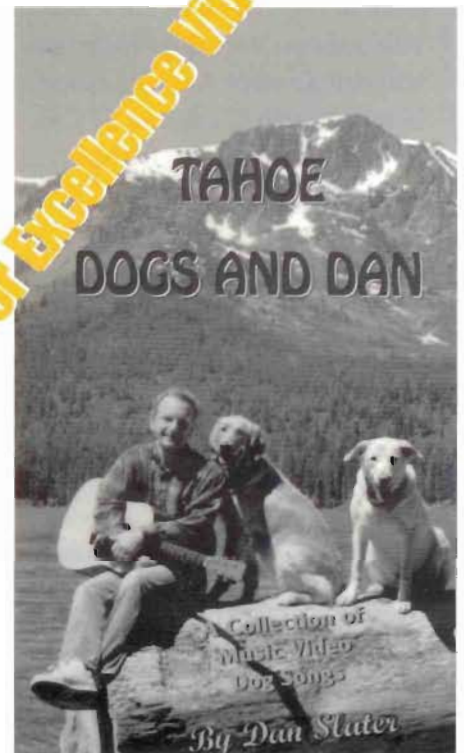
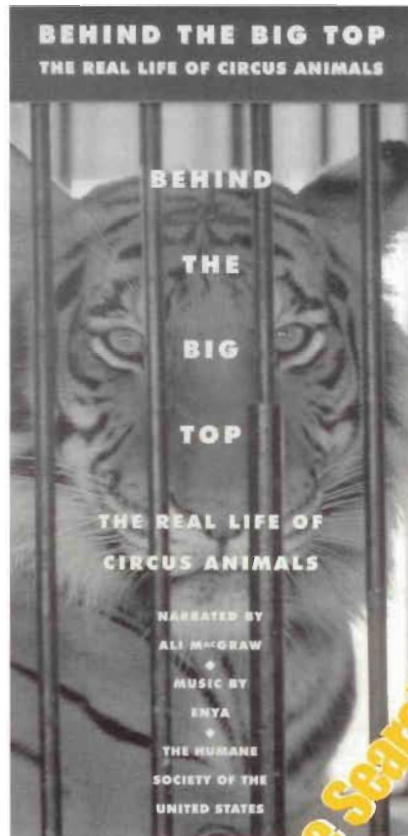
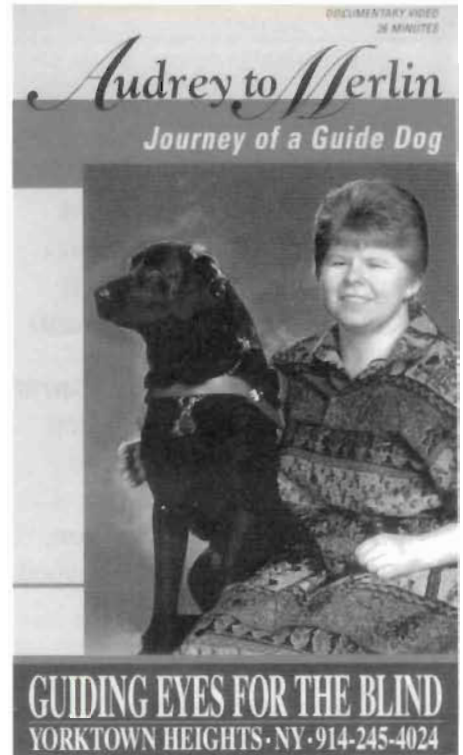
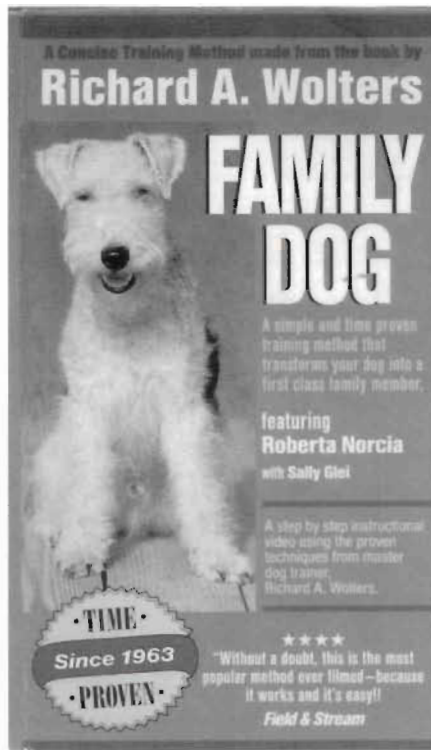




*A new book
coming from
Latham
later this
year!*

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

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



Entries in the Search for Excellence Video Awards

1997 Winners ... Search for Excellence

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS:

plus The Edith Latham Award for Excellence in Video Productions promoting respect for all Life (\$500 Cash Prize and Award)

Satos—The Stray Dogs of Puerto Rico The plight of Puerto Rico strays and the work of several organizations helping them. American Humane Association, 63 Inverness Dr. East, Englewood, CO 80112, 303-792-9900.

HUMANE EDUCATION—RESPONSIBLE PET CARE:

plus The Gwen Tebault Award for Humane Education (\$300 cash prize and Award)

Bite Free teaches children how to be safe around dogs. Filmed from a dog's point of view, this video shows why dogs may bite and simple steps to avoid being bitten. British Columbia SPCA, 322470 Granville St., Vancouver, BC V6C 1V5. 604-681-3379.

GENERAL HCAB APPRECIATION:

plus The John and Miriam de Lemos Award for Artistic Achievement (\$300 cash prize and Award)

Puss 'N Books A documentary about cats that live in libraries throughout the United States. Iron Frog Productions, 9 Townsend St., Waltham, MA 02154. 781-8914507.



Founded in 1869

Women's Humane Society

For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals

3839 Richlieu Road • P.O. Box 1470
Bensalem, Pennsylvania 19020-5470
(215) 750-3100

July 17, 1998

Mr. Hugh H. Tebault
Chairman Emeritus
Latham Foundation
Latham Plaza Building
1826 Clement St.
Alameda, CA 94501

Dear Mr. Tebault

We recently received the good news that our 30-second video P.S.A. titled "Heartbreak Hotel" won First Place in the Public Service Announcements Category and the prestigious Grizzard Advertising Award.

If you saw the P.S.A., you will remember that the song "Heartbreak Hotel" plays in the background as a kennel attendant puts the leash on the dog and takes the dog away from the owner. The dog sadly looks back at his master, who is walking away. The attendant and dog walk down a long hallway between kennels filled with barking dogs. The dog is put in a kennel and tries to exit with the attendant, but the kennel door clangs shut in front of him. We see the adoption-card on the door that says the owner was "Too Busy" to care for his pet. The camera tilts down to show the sad and puzzled face of the dog. The next frame shows the WHS logo in the background and the words over it are "A pet is a life long commitment." The last frame shows the words, "Message by the Women's Humane Society and the Mayor of Philadelphia's Animal Advisory Committee."

Society staff member Shawn Reilly came up with the idea of using the music "Heartbreak Hotel," and I, Janice Mininberg, wrote the script and illustrated the storyboard. "Heartbreak Hotel" was put on video with the help of Kyran Connolly as producer, Robert Larr as producer/director, Jack Bromiley as steadycam operator, and Larry Thorne as lighting and camera assistant. Sony-ATV donated the rights to use "Heartbreak Hotel," and the band the "Flamin' Caucasians" brought the whole thing to life with a great rendition of the song. The actors were "Crunch," a 5-month-old chocolate Lab owned by Al Corney, who played the "owner," and the "attendant" was played by one of the Society's own kennel workers, Donna M. Jacobini. All these people donated their services to make this P.S.A. possible, which meant a savings of nearly \$20,000 for the Women's Humane Society!

We are very proud to receive such an honor from the Latham Foundation. Thank you very much for making this opportunity possible.

Sincerely,

Janice Mininberg
Director of Education and Legislative Action
Editor: *The Guardian*

ANIMAL SHELTER • PET ADOPTIONS • ANIMAL HOSPITAL & CLINIC



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS: plus The Grizzard Advertising Media Award

Heartbreak Hotel Women's Humane Society Empathy images from a dog's point of view, its abandonment by owner and loneliness in kennel. Women's Humane Society, 3839 Richlieu Rd., Bensalem, PA 19020-5470. 215-750-3100.

Video Awards

Judges in the Search for Excellence Competition include humane educators, film and video professionals, teachers, and consumers.

Many thanks to you all!

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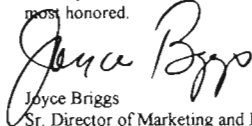
Dear Mr. Tebault,

I am so, so pleased to hear that *Sato's, the Stray Dogs of Puerto Rico* will be awarded the prestigious Edith Latham Award in your "Search For Excellence" Video Awards, as well as first place in the Advocacy/Public Awareness Category. Support and recognition from the Latham Foundation is so appreciated as a way to raise awareness and bring more aid to these animals.

Tens of thousands of stray dogs roam the island of Puerto Rico, a territory of the United States, visibly suffering from malnutrition, mange, injuries and other results of neglect or abuse. Abandoned or loosely owned, their suffering is mostly overlooked. This video not only sheds light on their fate, but profiles several small, mostly volunteer groups that are trying to do something about it. The \$500 cash award is much appreciated. It will be divided among the groups profiled in the video to continue their good works.

Although I took on this on as an individual volunteer project, I appreciate the American Humane Association's support of my efforts. I encourage your readers to contact me through AHA for a brochure, the video or other materials about how they, too, can help these dogs.

Thank you so much, for selecting this video to receive Latham's top award. I am most honored.



Joyce Briggs
Sr. Director of Marketing and Public Relations
American Humane Association

Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877

HUMANE EDUCATION— ORGANIZATIONS:

A Quarter Century of Caring

The history of an organization promoting humane care of horses and other large animals through education, investigation, and legislation. The Hooved Animal Humane Society, 10804 McConnell Road, Woodstock, IL 60098. 815-337-5563.

HCAB-ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY: *Audrey to Merlin*

A year in the life of a black lab from birth to graduation as a Guide Dog, based on a true story. Bill Jensen/Jennifer Jorgenson Producers, 2430 Medway Dr., Raleigh, NC 27608. 919-833-7508.

SCIENCE AND NATURAL HISTORY: *The Urban Coyote*

This video explores attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors toward urban coyotes in Vancouver, British Columbia. SPCA, 322470 Granville St. Vancouver, BC V6C 1V5. 604-681-3379.

CHILD AND ANIMAL ABUSE PREVENTION: *First Strike*

An introductory video about the connections between animal abuse and other forms of violence. HSUS, 2100 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20037. 202-452-1100.

HUMANE EDUCATION— INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS:

Remote Area Vet Volunteers

The benefits of and "how to" provide veterinary medicine in remote areas. Elizabeth DuVall, Producer, 1524 Princes Dr, Glendale, CA 91207. 818-548-0499.

Other Winners in
their Categories ...

Animals In Poetry

The Sarasota Poetry Theatre Press is currently running an anthology poetry competition called ANIMALS IN POETRY, which is open to poets of all ages. Poets may enter as many poems as they wish about animals providing the poems are not over 50 lines. All submissions will be considered for publication. The reading fee is \$4 per poem or 3 for \$10.00. First prize is \$25.00. Honorable Mentions will also be named. All published poets will receive a copy of the anthology. Entries must be postmarked by April 30. Poets will be notified by July 31 providing they include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. No poems will be returned. Please include name, address, and phone number on each poem. Mail your entries to SPT/ANIMALS, P.O. Box 48955, Sarasota, Florida 34230.

The Sarasota Poetry theatre is a non-profit corporation founded in 1992 to promote, foster, and

encourage poetry; to promote poetry in collaboration with the other arts, to foster education programs and preserve the art form; to increase public awareness of poetry and make it more accessible to the community. It makes poetry available to the young, the elderly, minorities, at-risk populations, and the general public. It does this through "Soulspeak" performances and workshops at schools, colleges, minority neighborhoods, festivals, rehabilitation facilities, libraries, and elderhostels. The Theatre also conducts national and local poetry competitions and houses a library of over 500 volumes. In addition, it has an extensive youth program and has developed a therapeutic version of Soulspeak for working with at-risk children.

For more information, contact Scylla Liscombe, Managing Director, at 941-366-6468 or soultalk@aol.com



Sprout decked out for the holidays.

Christmas in July?

No, it's Sprout, a lama in Mona Sams' animal-assisted therapy program, with student Kyle and his teacher's assistant, Jennifer.

In response to many requests for information about animal-assisted therapy, Latham is producing a video featuring this innovative program in Roanoke, Virginia.



Roger Minor feeding "Megan" the llama

Photo credit: Mona Sams

Frances Speaks Her Mind



ANIMALS ARE NOT GARBAGE!

Frances is the official spokescat for the Hawaii Island Humane Society.

Hi, everyone! This is my first column, and I'm going to write about my favorite subject: me. I'm a big calico cat, which means I'm orange and black and white and beautiful. I live with my mom, and she's a calico too. We have a human to wait on us, and I have to admit, we have a pretty soft life. But I wasn't born in the lap of luxury. Nope, there was a time when my prospects were bleak.

Our human likes to call me and my mom dumplings. Some people think she's referring to our shape. Very funny, I'm sure. No, she calls us dumplings because we came from the dump. When people find out, they shake their heads and say, "What kind of person would leave such beautiful cats at the dump?!" Good question.

The humans who abandoned us knew what they were doing was wrong. They waited until no one was around before they pushed us out of the car and drove off. It was awful. For days we hid in the bushes, afraid to come out except at night. I was hungry enough to eat anything, even a rat, but my mom couldn't catch one. Humans think all cats can hunt, but that's just not true. My mom never learned how, and I was only a kitten.

A few people left us food and tried to get close enough to pet us, but we were too scared to trust anyone. If those humans who

dumped us thought this was a good way to get us a new home, they should have thought harder.

Not long after we arrived, an old one-eyed tomcat limped over to introduce himself. "I'm sorry to see you in this place, ma'am," he said to my mother. "It's a bad spot for a cat. I've out-lived all the others that were here when I came."

"What happened to them?" my mother asked, her voice gone all shaky.

"Well, I don't want to scare the kitten," he said, nodding at me, "But I should warn you of the dangers.



Stay away from the trash container - many's the creature that's died in that evil place. They fall in trying to find a meal and

never get out. And look out for cars; there's humans who will try to run you down on purpose. Keep away from sick animals, too. Disease spreads fast here, and a lot of cats don't pull through."

When we had been at the dump for a month, a man came with a trap that can catch an animal without hurting it. We were like wild animals by then, and we didn't go into that trap the first time he came, nor the second. But one day we were so hungry that we forgot to be suspicious, and he caught us.

Do you realize how lucky we

were? My mom and I would have died there at the dump if he hadn't been so persistent.

Listen up, all you humans: Animals Are Not Garbage! If you have an animal you don't want, take it to a humane society or animal shelter. Healthy, tame animals are put up for adoption, and believe me, they have a lot better chance there than they do at the dump.

If you see someone in the act of abandoning an animal, get their license number and call the police immediately. Abandoning animals in Hawaii is not only cruel, it's illegal.

Remember my motto: It's not that hard to do the right thing!

Frances loves to get mail. Send your letters to Ms. Frances, Spokescat, c/o Hawaii Island Humane Society, 74-5225 Queen Kaahwanu Hwy, Kilauea-Kona, HI 96740.



"Frances Speaks her Mind" is transcribed (because Frances' handwriting is very bad) by Christina Heliker, the outspoken feline's human. Heliker is a geologist by profession who lives and works on Hawaii's Kilauea a Volcano, where she has rescued many cats from active lava flows. She has served on the board of directors of the Hawaii Island Humane Society for the last eight years.

Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS) Educators Address Milwaukee Public School Psychologists

On Friday March 27th, WHS Educators Jill DeGrave and Lynn Derr spoke to a group of Milwaukee Public School Psychologists about the Coatie Project, in which school psychologists use dogs in therapy sessions. Already eight school psychologists and their dogs are qualified to participate.

An attentive and receptive crowd of nearly 100 people learned about the benefits of animal assisted therapy and witnessed a training demonstration by dogs and psychologists currently involved in the program.

Studies have shown that having a dog assist in therapy sessions with a qualified school psychologist

can help to open the channels of communication necessary for treatment. School Psychologist Karen Smith reports that one student was “a totally different person, much more responsive” when her service dog, Abi was introduced into therapy. Karen added that the Coatie Project gave her an opportunity to network, share ideas and connect with others using animals in therapy.

The program also helps children develop awareness and empathy toward animals. The excitement and possibilities for helping children in Milwaukee with animal assisted therapy have just begun!

Coatie Kids Club

The Coatie Kids Club, comprised of 10-15 fifth graders from the Westside Academy II, is an offshoot of the Wisconsin Humane Society’s Coatie Project. The Coatie Project trains school psychologists to use dogs in therapy sessions. Research suggests that animals are the best ambassadors to help children develop feelings of compassion, learn cooperation and enhance self-esteem and communication skills.

The Coatie Kids club has been meeting one hour; twice a week after school since the beginning of the 1997-98 school year. At each meeting, the group discusses animal welfare issues and learns dog training techniques with the help of Molly. Molly is club facilitator Robin Squire’s Labrador Retriever.

Robin has been teaching in the Milwaukee Public School system for many years and is an active humane educator.



The Coatie Project aims to promote care and respect for all living things.

She feels that there is a definite need for humane education in our schools to help break the cycle of violence plaguing our community.

Students and teachers are excited about the club and report that everyone is having a lot of fun!

Reprinted courtesy of the Wisconsin Humane Society's Critter Chronicles, Spring 1998.



Jeremiah and Molly.

"Studies have shown that having a dog assist in therapy sessions with a qualified school psychologist can help to open the channels of communication necessary for treatment."

Neighborhood Meeting Develops Solutions to Dog Fighting

Inspired by their participation in the Coatie Kids Club, a Wisconsin Humane Society sponsored after-school program, students wrote letters to the WHS asking for its cooperation to end dog fighting in their Northwest Milwaukee neighborhood.

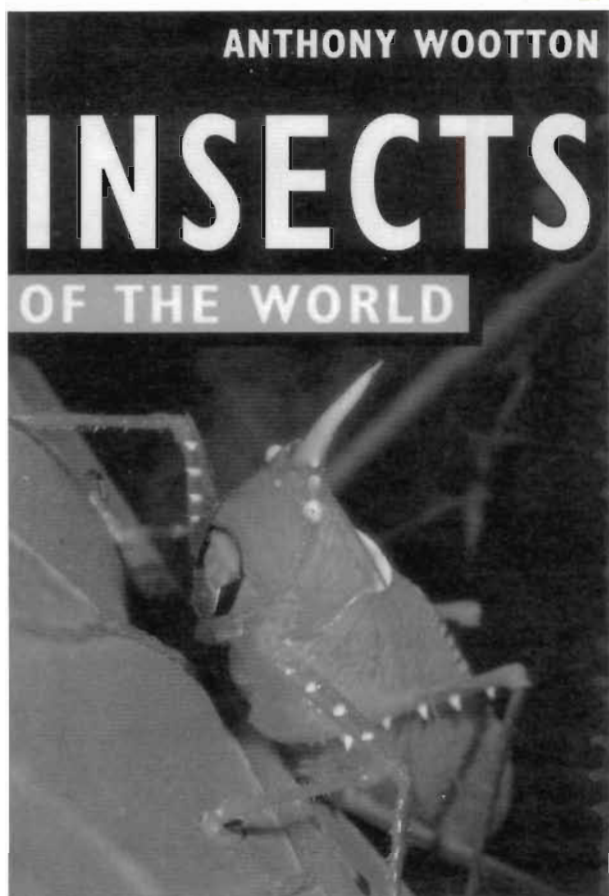
The children's letters contained appalling stories of dogfights they witnessed. One child wrote:

One day while walking to the store I noticed a dog fight! It was horrible. It was two dogs that were being beaten by two owners. They were betting that their dog would beat the other dog. I saw bloody legs and horrible things. I was very sad!

In response to the children's letters, the WHS organized a "town hall" meeting attended by neighborhood residents, representatives from the police department and local media.

Stories were shared, concerns were aired and solutions were offered to end dog fighting in the area. Suggestions included using a neighborhood organization as a clearinghouse for reporting dog fights and having residents serve as "animal ambassadors" in the area. The WHS is planning future meetings to continue brainstorming ways to implement the ideas.

Explains Jill DeGrave, "By continuing to work together we can reverse the effects of irresponsible attitudes toward animals and build a community where all animals will be valued and treated with respect and kindness."



This illustrated introduction explains classification; describes their anatomy, life cycles, and migratory patterns; and details the diversity and reproduction of all main insect groups. Diagrams and photographs present armies of ants, magnificently hued butterflies, shining silverfish, huge goliath beetles, colorful tree-hanging moths, jumping grasshoppers, fierce yellow assassin bugs, and many more in this thriving, active world.

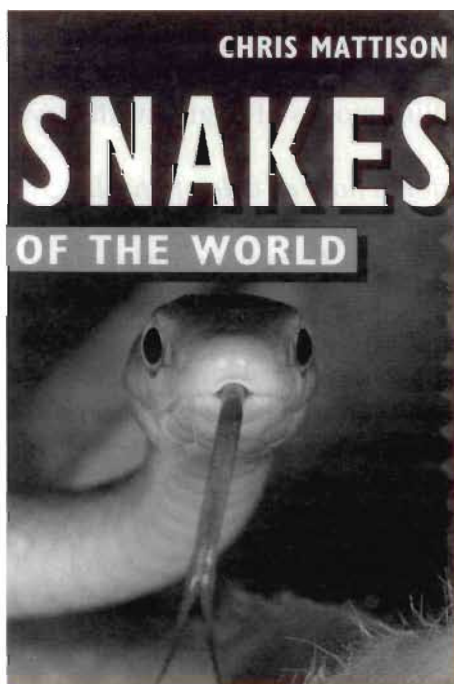
Insects of the World

*Paper 0-7137-2366-1
Anthony Wootton
Sterling Pub. Co., Inc.
387 Park Avenue So.
New York, NY
10016-8810
\$17.95 (Canada \$24.95)*

INSECTS OF THE WORLD

They make up three-quarters of the world's living creatures, and that's counting only the 800,000 types we know.

In fact, no one has the remotest idea exactly how many species of insects walk, crawl, slither, run, and fly just about everywhere, except to the sea - and some have even made great strides in that direction. Many people, of course, feel we're already too well acquainted with them. But you'll realize that insects not only have incredible resiliency (they alone could survive a nuclear holocaust), but that they're actually beneficial to humans: they pollinate our plants, produce honey and silk, and act as monitors of pollution.



SNAKES OF THE WORLD
by Chris Mattison

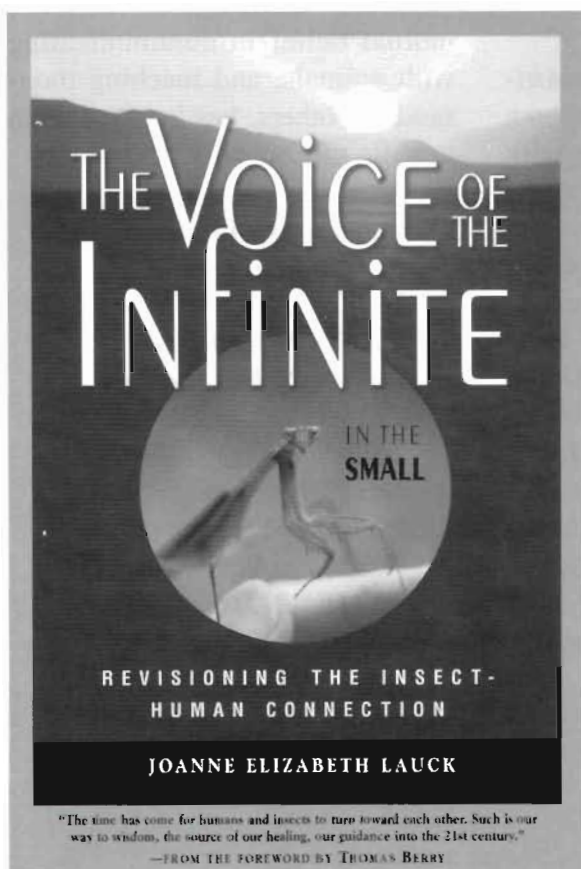
The snake's reputation has never recovered from its infamous beginnings in the Garden of Eden, when it tempted Adam and Eve to eat the apple. In reality, many snakes are beautiful in appearance, with scales forming mosaics of colors and patterns, and quite mysterious.

SNAKES OF THE WORLD (Blandford, distributed by Sterling Publishers, \$17.95 paperback) by Chris Mattison provides detailed information about all species, from the harmless grass snake to the mighty anaconda.

You'll find complete information on anatomy, methods of feeding, reproduction, behavior, and defense. Snakes' bodies have reached a high level of design economy, and they move incredibly swiftly despite the absence of limbs. Hindered solely by their inability to produce heat internally, these recently evolved reptiles have adapted to most environments. Even those that are relatively harmless can strike an imposing threat posture, with mouths agape as if to bite. Spectacular photographs and intricate line drawings reveal the full lifestyle of these fascinating creatures.

Snakes of the World

*Paper 0-7137-2340-8387
Sterling Pub. Co., Inc.
387 Park Avenue So.
New York, NY 10016-8810
\$17.95 (Canada \$24.95)*



The Voice of The Infinite in The Small

*Revisioning the Insect
Human Connection*

by *Joanne E. Lauck*

Reviewed by *Jennifer
Dustin-Hinze*

The other day I entered my kitchen to find several large house flies zooming about. Out of force of habit I reached for the swatter in order to quickly dispatch the intruders. I then stopped and reconsidered my actions, deciding to leave the flies be.

I attribute my uncharacteristic

behavior to reading *THE VOICE OF THE INFINITE IN THE SMALL*, a book that has most certainly affected the way I will forever view insects. I have been changed.

This is a surprisingly stirring book, one that causes us to look closely not only at our attitudes and feelings about insects (author Joanne E. Lauck uses the term “insects” to refer to all six-, eight- and Multi-legged creeping creatures.), but also at our relationship to the natural world itself. Blending environmental science with the spiritual, Lauck opens our eyes gently but firmly in order to reveal the ongoing injustices that we have inflicted upon insects, injustices that have inevitably been as damag-

ing to us as to them. With each chapter it becomes clearer that our culture lives desperately out of balance with these tiny creatures which outnumber us many times over.

In fact, Lauck points out, we have created nothing short of a state of war with the insect realm. Determined as we are to rid ourselves of any threat of losing crops or being stung or bitten, we have succeeded in little more than creating a sadly polluted environment and encouraging hardier, more chemically resistant insects. Sadly, despite the efforts of people such as Rachel Carson to expose the deadly threat of pesticides, we continue to manufacture and use these chemicals

at an alarming rate. While farmers apply 800 million pounds of insecticide to crops annually, homeowners use even more to insure protection from insects that might violate the sanctity of their homes.

Lauck makes it painfully clear that our refusal to develop a positive relationship with these creatures has created more harm for us than good, and that should we continue on the current path of destruction we will only succeed in creating more chaos in the natural world. Still, while at times almost frightening, Lauck’s book remains enlightening and encouraging.

Chapters devoted to ants, bees and other creatures serve to give us a sense of the beauty and mystery of these tiny beings and their inherent worth. Indeed, they are an integral part of our global environment. There are also examples of the numerous ways in which insects can provide for us, and even help to heal us, if we only let them.

By weaving the elements of symbol, myth, deep ecology and aboriginal and native philosophy, Lauck shows us how it is possible to respect and even deeply appreciate the insect world. Not only does she offer a steadfast argument for changing our attitudes, (our very health and survival) but she also presents alternative ways of seeing and feeling for insects.

This is a book that asks something of it’s reader. Connections with insects are described that are more than respectful, they are spiritual in nature. Lauck explains that while it is possible to have a scientific knowledge of the insect

world, our cultural attitude will not really change until we accept insects in a deeper heartfelt sense. Some readers might find it difficult to imagine actually feeling for insects because they are so physically different and foreign to us. But as Lauck explains, accepting and celebrating these creatures will bring us closer to the natural world as a whole and help to heal the tear in the relationship between humanity and nature.

Once in awhile a book comes along that has the power to affect us very deeply, to provoke not only our thoughts but our spirits and move us to re-examine the ways we act in the world. Such a book can change us in a profound manner if we will only accept its message openly. THE VOICE OF THE INFINITE IN THE SMALL is just such a book.

The Voice of The Infinite in The Small

*Swano Raven & Company
Imprint of Blue Water Pub.
P.O. Box 190
Mill Spring, NC 28756
800-366-0264
ISBN 0-926524-49-6
366 pages - \$18.95*

Conversations with Animals: Cherished Messages and Memories as Told by an Animal Communicator

*by Lydia Hiby with
Bonnie S. Weintraub*

Lydia Hiby calls herself an animal communicator or an animal psychic. Simply, she talks to animals. For

nearly 20 years Hiby has worked with thousands of individuals as an animal communicator. She listens to what the animals tell her, and relays these messages of concern and insight to caring humans.

In *Conversations with Animals*, Hiby talks about her own experiences communicating with animals, which started when she was a child. She was never discouraged nor told that what she was "hearing" was ridiculous or impossible. Hiby graduated from the Agriculture College in Delhi, New York, with an Animals Science Degree in Animal Health Technology. As an Animal Health Technician, she worked in a variety of animal clinics, including the nationally known Cat Practice in New York City. Hiby later had the opportunity to study with Beatrice Lydecker, a renowned animal communicator.

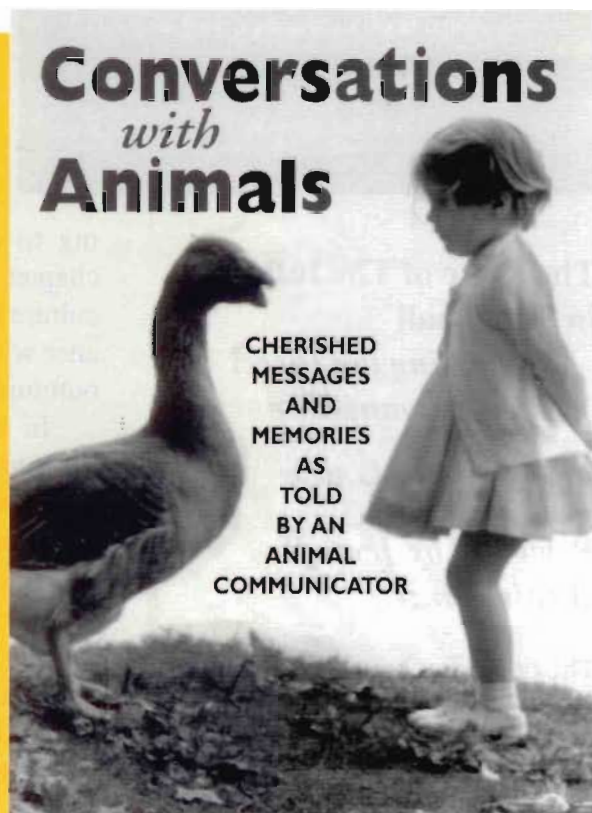
In her book, Hiby discusses ways that others can learn to communicate with their companion animals, as well as searching for lost pets, and grief counseling. Most importantly, *Conversations with Animals* reinforces the powerful connection that weaves together the lives of animals and humans.

Lydia Hiby was encouraged by her co-author, Bonnie S. Weintraub, to share inspiring stories in a book. They first met in 1994 when Weintraub's dog, Kodiak, faced a

life-threatening situation. Because of Hiby's communication with Kodiak, which ultimately led to saving the dog's life, Weintraub turned from skeptic to a strong supporter of Hiby's work. Their mutual belief in communicating with animals, and reaching thousands of others, has inspired them to write this book.

Conversations with Animals

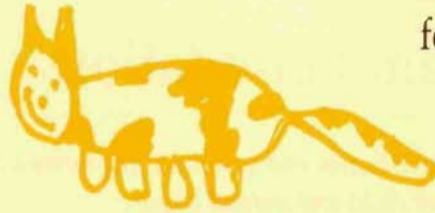
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Bonnie S. Weintraub
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P.O. Box 607
Troutdale, OR 97060
503-695-2211*



Lydia Hiby
with Bonnie S. Weintraub

The Latham Foundation

for the Promotion of Humane Education



"This is me and my cat.
My dad treats my cat unfairly,
like he treats my mom."
Jennifer, Age 8

p-r-e-s-e-n-t-s

Breaking the Cycles of Violence

A Video and Training Manual

Breaking the Cycles of Violence is a 26-minute video and 64-page training manual designed to help human service and animal welfare professionals do their jobs more effectively by recognizing, reporting, investigating, and treating their interrelated forms of family violence.

The training manual, written by Phil Arkow, is a practical, "how-to" guide that encourages the establishments of community coalitions against violence and offers practical techniques to ensure their success. Chapters include:

- *The links between child abuse, animal abuse, and other forms of domestic violence*
- *Legal definitions of cruelty, abuse, and neglect*
- *Identifying cruelty, abuse, and neglect*
(What are the signs? What should one do if one suspects abuse?)
- *Establishing cross-training and cross-reporting opportunities*
- *Historical and philosophical perspectives*
- *Resources and an extensive bibliography*

The video, through sensitive interviews with persons caught in the vicious cycle of violence and shelter and academic experts, makes a strong case for both awareness and action.

Breaking the Cycles of Violence is perfect for training agency personnel, cross-training with other organizations, sensitizing community groups to the problem and potential solutions, and building coalitions.

The video is the "why."
The manual is the "how."
Order both today.

*When Animals are Abused, People are at Risk....
When People are Abused, Animals are at Risk.*



Photo credit: Mons Sams

Cara loves bunnies. This is "Floppy Hoppy".



The Latham Foundation

Promoting Respect For All Life Through Education

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