

T H E

# Latham Letter

VOLUME XIX, NUMBER 1

WINTER 1998

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

## Wildlife Conservation, Rehabilitation, and Education



*Linda Searles comforts a patient at the Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Foundation. For article, see page five.*

### Also Inside:

- *Zoos and the fundraising challenges they face today, page 10*
- *More on the importance of marine biodiversity, page 16*



# The Latham Letter

Vol. XIX, No. 1, Winter 1998

Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

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#### ABOUT THE LATHAM FOUNDATION:

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."*



*Hugh H. Tebault II*

## **WELCOME TO LATHAM'S NEW PRESIDENT**



*Hugh H. Tebault III*

*It is with a great deal of pleasure that the Latham Foundation's Board of Directors introduces Latham Letter readers to Hugh H. Tebault III, the Foundation's newly-elected President and Chairman of the Board.*

*Hugh is married, the father of two adult children, a U.S. Air Force veteran, a computer industry executive, and a dedicated Presbyterian Church Elder.*

*His lifelong relationship with the Foundation was presaged by that of his grandmother Gwyn J. Tebault's Foundation directorship and her strong belief in the importance of humane education, as well as an early family background that always included a beloved companion animal. Also, in his youth, he performed many years of faithful film cleaning, inspection, and distribution services in connection with Latham's eminently successful humane educational TV series, *The Wonderful World of Brother Buzz*.*

*1998 is off to a wonderful beginning with Hugh's election.*

*Hugh H. Tebault  
President*

# Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Foundation Helps Wildlife in the Sonoran Desert

Alligators in swimming pools in Florida, a Peregrine Falcon hunting between high-rise apartment buildings in Chicago, mountain lions in California, a rattlesnake on a patio in New Mexico, even those pesky and relentlessly clever raccoons in one's suburban garbage make it impossible to ignore the fact that humans and wildlife are competing for the same space.

Development – whether residential or commercial – is responsible for an increasing number of “encounters of the wild kind.” In those encounters, more often than not, it's the wildlife that end up injured, orphaned, or homeless. As a result, more and more wildlife rehabilitation and education organizations are cropping up all over the country. Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation and Educational Foundation (SWREF) is one of many through which volunteers and donors give wildlife a second chance. It is unique in that it specializes in mammals native to Arizona and the Sonoran Desert.

The work at Southwest Wildlife usually starts with a phone call – a driver finds a fox struck by a car; a hiker finds an injured deer; the state Department of Game and Fish needs someone to care for a baby javelina; a homeowner saves a ringtail from his dog.

That's when the Foundation goes into action. A volunteer hurries to pick up the animal, a vet

evaluates the injuries and a Foundation team decides on a long-term plan to get the animal back to the desert. The Foundation recently completed a major expansion to meet the ever-increasing demands caused by development and human encroachment.

The Foundation is also participating in the federal effort to breed Mexican Grey Wolves for reintroduction into the wild by providing homes for several wolves in the breeding program.

Most of the animals spend a few weeks or months at the center preparing for return to the wild. The Foundation staff makes sure the animal can return to the wild through minimal human contact, wild based

diet, and even foster parenting by other animals. If possible, the animals are released near where they were found. Relocation, it should be noted, doesn't always solve the problem.

Some of the animals can't recover fully – and so they become lifelong residents of the center. Many of these animals are used in the educational programs, which involve numerous local schools. These programs help people appreciate wildlife – and encourage them not to try to make pets of wild animals. The educational animals live in large enclosures with runs, dens and natural vegetation. They're never overworked, and so don't participate in programs more than three



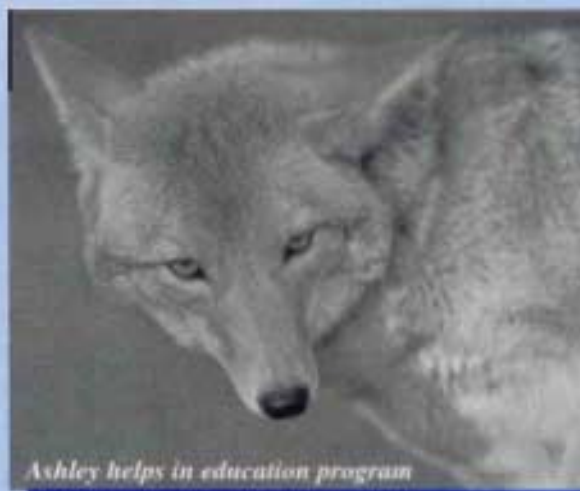
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Continued on Next Page

days a week. Sometimes, they serve as foster parents for orphaned animals.

Local veterinarians and animal hospitals donate tens of thousands of dollars' worth of time. Surgery for coyotes with shattered hips, foxes with splintered legs, raccoons with dog bites, javelinas with broken legs, and ringtails with shotgun wounds is all in a day's work. In fact, the Foundation has treated every Arizona animal you can think of, including badgers, deer, squirrels, and a host of others. Recovery often involves complicated surgeries and months of recovery and most of the money for the expensive surgeries and rehabilitation comes from private sources and individual donors. The medical team make each animal's comfort and well-being the priority and all treatment is non-invasive and humane. Their clear-sighted compassion has resulted in exciting treatment advances. For example, they developed a redesigned "break-away" radio telemetry collar that doesn't burden the animal when the battery eventually dies.

Volunteers also play an important role at SWREF. After training and medical precautions such as pre-exposure rabies shots, they clean enclosures, feed the animals, and participate in educational presentations. The corps includes retired and semi-retired corporate executives and other professionals, teachers, students, housewives, secretaries, and veterinary technicians. In several cases their work at SWREF has inspired them to pursue additional education and careers in biology.



*Ashley helps in education program*

When firefighters found the coyote pup with the burned feet and the ruined lungs in the smolders of the desert wildfire, they knew where to take him. Linda Searles, director of the Southwestern Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Foundation, has made a career of giving wildlife a second chance. The pup received round-the-clock care with oxygen therapy at the Foundation's medical center at the heart of the complex of pens, enclosures and corrals.

Dubbed "Ashley" by the firefighters, the pup sparked some rare publicity for one of the most innovative, privately-funded animal rescue efforts in the Southwest. Searles and the volunteers licensed to rehabilitate and release wildlife by the Arizona Department of Game and Fish and the United States Department of Agriculture nursed Ashley back to health – although lung damage prevented her release. Ashley will have a home at the Foundation for the rest of her life.

The Foundation grew out of one woman's vision. Linda Searles was raised on a ranch near Scottsdale, and once she reared her own family she devoted her life to this cause. The Foundation aids more than one hundred animals each year and, unfortunately, the numbers keep growing. As for the future of wildlife rehabilitation, Searles says she sees it becoming more professional and including advances such as speciality surgery. She continues, "People need to see the beauty of wildlife in order to appreciate

how wonderful it is and to care. Most importantly, if we're going to save wildlife, we have to save their habitat."



Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation and Educational Foundation is a non-profit organization that specializes in rescuing and rehabilitating injured and orphaned wildlife native to Arizona, educating today's youth on the importance of native wildlife and the environment, and encouraging educational career opportunities in environmental science.

Since 1994, Southwest Wildlife has rehabilitated more than 1,000 sick, injured, and abandoned wild animals on its 10 acre desert habitat facility, and has successfully released 90 percent of those wild animals back into the wild.

Southwest Wildlife's facility provides areas for wild animal rehabilitation for both releasable and non-releasable wild animals, an on-site medical care center, full-time consultation services, and a volunteer dispatch team that immediately responds to wildlife emergencies.

Southwest Wildlife actively works with many private, commu-

nity, and governmental agencies in solving wildlife situations as well as planning the re-introduction of wild animals. We also serve as a holding facility for the recovery program for the Mexican Grey Wolf.

The all-volunteer organization offers several engaging "real-life" animal presentations that educate today's youth on the importance of native wildlife and the environment while also encouraging career opportunities in environmental science.

*For further information about Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation & Educational Foundation, write 8711 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, #115, Scottsdale, AZ 85255 or call 602-471-9109.*

[www.extremezone.com/SWREF/](http://www.extremezone.com/SWREF/) 



## HOW TO HELP

To locate licensed wildlife rehabilitators and organizations in your area, call your State Game and Fish Department or contact the National Wildlife Federation. Additionally, there are many sites on the web. A good one to start with is the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association at: <http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/4470/NWRA.html>

The NWRA office is located at 14 North 7th Avenue, St. Cloud, Minnesota 56303-4766. The phone number is 320-259-4086. The office is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

all photos © Peter Aleshire

# Dr. Frank Ascione is First Visiting Scholar at Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy



Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D.

The Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy has instituted a visiting scholars program that will bring internationally known researchers to the Center throughout the academic year. During their stay, each scholar will present their work to students, faculty, and community members and meet informally with students in the Center's MS program.

**The first visiting scholar was Dr. Frank Ascione, Professor of Psychology at Utah State University and member of Latham's Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Project Committee.** Dr. Ascione has published a number of articles on the development of antisocial and prosocial behavior in children and is co-editing a book on cruelty to animals and interpersonal violence for the Latham Foundation. More recently, he has focused his attention on child and adolescent cruelty to animals. This research examines the common roots of violence toward people and animals and is directed at identifying an early indicator of at-risk status in children. Dr. Ascione has collaborated with human services, social work, and child development staff working with abused children, with youth corrections personnel, and with state shelters for battered

women. He has also provided information or testimony for the state legislatures of Utah, Ohio, Colorado, and Washington regarding cruelty to animals legislation.

The Center's unique master of science degree program in animals and public policy continues to flourish. Initiated in 1995, this is the only graduate degree in the United States in the field of human-animal relationships and related public policies. The quantity, quality, and diversity of applicants to the Program have confirmed the Center's belief that there is an un-met demand for graduate level studies in the field of human-animal relationships and related public policies. Applicants represent a wide variety of professions and backgrounds, with almost half having already earned another graduate degree. Applicants have included social workers, veterinarians, educators, research and laboratory technicians, animal trainers, marketing and sales associates, animal welfare specialists, and an attorney. Previous fields of study include psychology, political science, sociology, nursing, education, art, pharmacology, English, biology, zoology, environmental studies, marketing and music, to name several.

Faculty for this one-of-a-

kind program are drawn from Tufts Veterinary School and Tufts Graduate School of Arts and Sciences as well as from the many other area universities and unique facilities such as Northeastern University, Brandeis University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Connecticut, Rhode Island College, the New England Aquarium, and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

It is a full-time program taking ten to twelve months to complete. Although relatively little time is spent "in class," a substantial amount of reading, independent research and writing are required. Students take core courses in Animals and Society, quantitative and qualitative methods, two to three elective tutorials, and complete an independent project. Some recent examples of the independent study project include: an analysis of elephant management strategies in South Africa, a sociological evaluation of people surrendering animals to shelters, an epidemiologic study of animal cruelty and abuse in Massachusetts, a comparison of stereotypical behaviors in zoo animals in enriched versus non-enriched environments, a survey of the impact of service dogs on the lives of their owners, the development and

evaluation of a teaching program in veterinary ethics and public attitudes to animals and the factors that influence people to become animal activists.

Masters program graduates continue to find exciting employment opportunities after graduation. Graduates have joined the staffs of many prominent animal welfare and animal rights organizations.

As part of the Center's development, a new full-time staff member was added. Dr. Gary Patronek's area of expertise is companion animal epidemiology. He has authored numerous studies on community pet populations, animal shelters, and pet relinquishment issues. His background includes expertise as both a small animal veterinarian and as the Director of the Chester County SPCA. He earned a VMD at the University of Pennsylvania and his PhD in epidemiology at Purdue University working with Drs. Larry Glickman and Alan Beck at the Center for Applied Ethology.

Other staffing changes have occurred more recently. Dr. Rowan left Tufts in 1997 to take a new position as Senior Vice President at the Humane Society of the United States in Washington, DC. Dr. Rowan has spent over fourteen years at the veterinary school and established the Center, as well as developed the MS degree program. He will continue his association with the Center and his teaching in the Master of Science degree program. Also in 1997, sociologist Dr. Arnie Arluke was named by the Center as a Senior Fellow. He will serve as program coordinator for the Fall semester. He has written many articles on human-animal relationships in biomedical labs and animal

shelters, and co-authored (with Clint Sanders) a book on the ways in which people in contemporary societies manage their contradictory treatment of animals (*Regarding Animals*, Temple University Press). He earned his PhD in sociology from New York University and did post-doctoral work at Harvard Medical School. He currently is professor of sociology at Northeastern University.

The Center continues to sponsor conferences on public policy issues relating to human-animal relationships. In the past, these conferences have focused on policy issues relating to wildlife, animal protection in zoos, and animal experimentation. Publications re-

sulting from these conferences can be purchased through the Center, including: *Living with Wildlife Report: Analysis of the Biology, Sociology and Ethics of the Beaver and Deer Issues*, *The Animal Research Controversy: Protest, Process and Public Policy*, *Wildlife Conservation, Zoos and Animal Protection: A Strategic Analysis*, and *Companion Animal Demographics for Communities and Shelters*. Several new conferences are being planned for 1998, including one on the health benefits of pet ownership (See Box) and another on animal collectors.

The Center welcomes visits on its web site: [www.vec.tufts.edu/vetadmission/mspubpolicy.html](http://www.vec.tufts.edu/vetadmission/mspubpolicy.html)



## Conference at Tufts University

**Enhancing human health and quality of life through companion animal interaction: Achieving positive outcomes for the elderly, people living with cancer or HIV, and people with low social support**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1998**

**Tufts University Boston Campus Sacker B Auditorium**

**Health Sciences Building • 145 Harrison Avenue Boston MA**

**Cost: Registration: \$50.00 Student with ID: \$20.00**

The purpose of this conference is to increase appreciation of the powerful role companion animals can play in enhancing human health and well-being, to promote the clinical value of this interaction by highlighting innovative programs in both community and institutional settings, to facilitate collaboration among caregivers, clinicians, health care providers, volunteers, program administrators, and researchers in New England and beyond, and to increase understanding of the methodological rigor necessary to convincingly establish a beneficial effect.

**To register contact Kim Trombley, Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy, 200 Westboro Rd., North Grafton, MA 01536 or e-mail: [CFAAP@Tufts.edu](mailto:CFAAP@Tufts.edu)**

# THE NEW BREED OF ZOOS

*Greater emphasis on fundraising and wildlife conservation reflects urgency in starving off extinctions*

*Stephen G. Greene*



As more and more kinds of animals face extinction, scores of zoos are stepping up efforts to preserve the wildlife that is left.

A growing number of American zoos now support nature preserves in foreign countries, study and breed endangered animals, and use their exhibits to teach visitors about the threats facing many species. Only by expanding their missions to encompass such efforts, say officials at many zoos, can they insure their own long-term survival as institutions.

But raising money to save rare animals can be a hard sell. Donors by and large are still more interested in seeing their name on a new exhibit hall than in trying to save obscure creatures halfway around the world.

What's more, zoos' efforts to reposition themselves as conservation organizations come as they face mounting capital needs and shrinking government support. Many of the institutions are in need of expensive renovations to update their exhibit areas, replacing small, sterile cages with more spacious and naturalistic habitats that house multiple species.

For many zoos, the result is a juggling act in which they must try to balance the long-term survival of endangered wild populations against the competing needs of the animals in their care and the people who have flocked to see them. But a new breed of zoo officials has embraced a challenging mission for institutions that until fairly recently were widely dismissed as mere animal jails or warehouses.

"We're seeing an evolution of thinking at zoos that recognizes that part of their role is to do something to save animals in the wild and to educate the public about what is happening," says Russell A. Mittermeier,

president of Conservation International in Washington, which works to save endangered species and habitats around the globe.

## Studying Frogs in Surinam

Mr. Mittermeier, a primatologist who began his career at the New York Zoological Society (since renamed the Wildlife Conservation Society), now collaborates with several zoos in ways that seldom occurred previously. The Cincinnati Zoo for example, has sent staff members to help study the blue poison-dart frog in Surinam, where Conservation International has been active for many years. The zoo also has underwritten the production of a video about that country's biologically rich but fragile environment.

To support that work and similar projects in four tropical rain forests, the Cincinnati Zoo last year raised \$70,000 for its Conservation Fund. It also has created a Center for Research of Endangered Wildlife, which seeks better ways to propagate endangered plants and animals and preserve their genetic material.

Bigger zoos have devoted considerable resources to conservation. The San Diego Zoo is contributing \$1 million a year to help protect the habitat of giant pandas in China, where fewer than 1,000 of them are left. The zoo recently received a pair of pandas in a 12-year loan from China's government. Scientists in San Diego plan to study the pandas' behavior in hopes of improving the species' chances of survival.

The Wildlife Conservation Society, which runs the Bronx Zoo and three other wildlife centers in New York, last year spent \$8.6 million of its \$62.7-million

operating budget on in international conservation, compared with \$1.9 million in 1987. In the past seven years it has helped 11 countries protect 115 million acres of national parks.

Zoos' growing commitment to preserving species from extinction is driven by a sense of urgency, since biologists estimate that 75 to 100 species of plants and animals are vanishing every day. The next five or ten years, they say, will determine the fate of thousands more.

For some rare animals, zoos are the final way station on the road to oblivion.

"About 200 species of animals are now wholly dependent on breeding in captivity for their existence because their habitat is gone," says Brian A. Rutledge, the new president of the Commonwealth Zoological Corporation, which runs the Franklin Park Zoo and Stone Zoo in metropolitan Boston. "We're their last best hope in many instances."

## Not Just Entertainment

Entertaining the public, not protecting animals' habitats or providing them with a refuge of last resort, was the principal objective when most U.S. zoos were built. Many of them are public institutions, supported in large part by municipal or state governments. But in the past decade or more, cities like Atlanta, Boston, New Orleans, and Toledo have turned over their zoos to non-profit organizations in an effort to revitalize what had become woefully obsolete facilities.

The result has been much more emphasis on raising money privately – and a spurt of investment in development activities.

After decades of depending on government subsidies and gate receipts to cover their costs, "zoos are just starting to get into more sophisticated fundraising," says Cynthia Holter, director of development at the St. Louis Zoo. "Now there's a race to be the best marketers and fund raisers."

As a result, many zoos are seeing big increases in donations. The Toledo Zoo's 41,000 memberships last year generated revenue of \$1.8 million, for example, compared with \$190,000 from 10,000 members in 1982. Private contributions in the same period grew from \$132,000 to \$515,000.

Raising money for saving animals has become old hat for the Wildlife Conservation Society, the 800-pound gorilla of conservation in the zoo world. The charity for

years has cultivated two distinct groups of donors: those who support its New York zoos, and those more interested in its international conservation work. The society runs nearly 300 projects in 52 countries, focusing on species as diverse as forest elephants in Central Africa, Magellanic penguins in Argentina, and Monarch butterflies in the United States.

While the society has been slowly building its base of zoo supporters for more than a century, its fund raising for conservation has quintupled in the past decade. Last year, 24 per cent of the \$18.3 million in private contributions it received were restricted to international conservation.

As the New York zoos try harder to integrate conservation into their activities, the boundary between conservation work inside and outside the zoo has blurred. The society is now testing whether it might be able to merge the donor groups: A letter combining a conservation message with an offer of an introductory zoo membership is going to prospects in several states.

Although the Wildlife Conservation Society still has more field projects than all other U.S. zoos combined, zoos across the country are devoting more resources to conservation than ever before. At about a dozen of the 175 institutions accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, managing conservation grants requires all of a staff member's time.

Much of the conservation work dovetails with a particular zoo's own interests and assets. The Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley has "adopted" national parks on the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra in an effort to protect the habitats of the highly endangered java rhinoceros and Sumatran tiger.

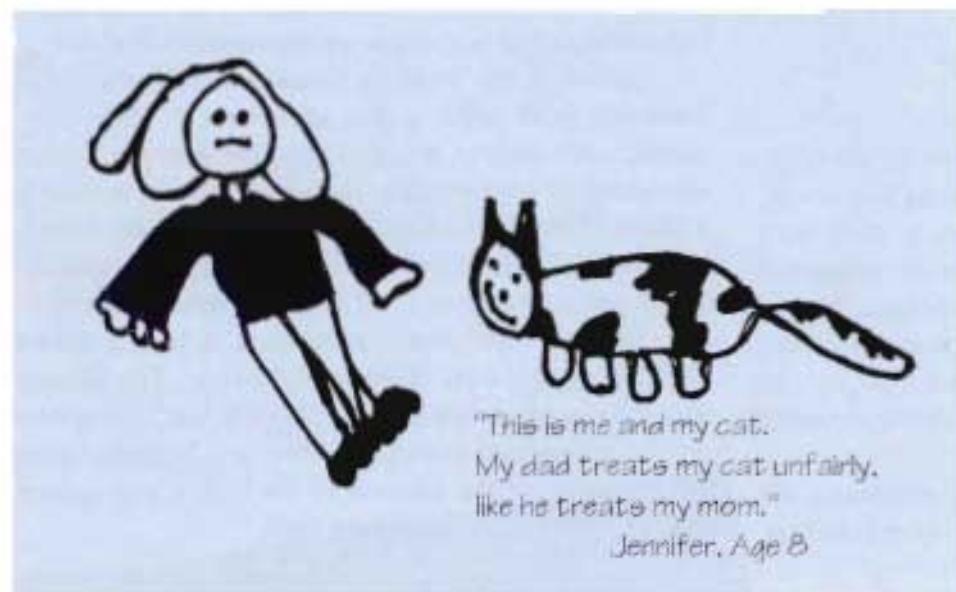


ZOOS, Continued on page 14

## LATHAM PROVIDES INFORMATION

In its role as a clearinghouse for information, Latham was gratified to fill hundreds of requests for printed information and videos about the human companion animal bond, animal assisted therapy, the prevention of child and animal abuse and domestic violence, and humane education. These requests came from students, veterinarians and other in

Awards, and links to other organizations. Anyone searching the Internet for any of the topics on which we have information, such as the human companion animal bond or animal assisted therapy, will discover the Latham Foundation and all its materials and projects. As a result, Latham has received many requests and orders for selected studies and videos through this widely available on-line presence.



dividuals, the media, and a wide variety of human service and animal welfare organizations.

The Foundation's Home Page on the World Wide Web [www.Latham.org](http://www.Latham.org) continues to be met with much enthusiasm and success. The site contains a description of services, history, details of the videos and printed materials available through the Foundation, an update about new projects such as the "Search for Excellence" Video

## A LEADER IN THE PREVENTION OF CHILD AND ANIMAL ABUSE

Orders for the *Breaking the Cycles of Violence* video and its accompanying training manual (now in its second printing) continued at an encouraging rate. The set, a 26-minute video and 62-page training guide, is the world's first such project. It was designed to help child protection, domestic violence, and animal welfare professionals recognize and report each other's forms of abuse and neglect.

## NEW BOOK COMING IN '98:

Phil Arkow and Dr. Frank Ascione, prominent members of Latham's Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Committee and highly respected authorities in their fields, are co-editing a major publication for Latham as a follow-up to the *Breaking the Cycles of Violence* Video and Training Guide.

*Linking the Circles of Compassion* is a unique, 400-page anthology on The Link (between child abuse, animal abuse, and other forms of domestic violence). It is a collection of original essays by more than 40 internationally-recognized experts representing such diverse fields as animal welfare, veterinary medicine, child protective services, the law, and domestic violence protection. It includes theoretical and

## THE LATHAM LETTER

*The Latham Letter* presents balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities. Approximately 10,000 veterinarians, students, writers, educators, animal and child welfare professionals, and those persons interested in the interdependence of human and nonhuman animals read each issue.

historical perspectives, practical information on violence prevention and coalition building, and moving reports from victims who survived multiple dimensions of family violence.

Chapters in *Linking the Circles of Compassion: Preventing Child Abuse, Animal Abuse, and Domestic Violence* will contain an Introduction, Resources for further information, a Bibliography and chapters on:

- *Evolutions of the Link*
- *Connections and commonalities between Child Protection, Domestic Violence Prevention, and Animal Protection*
- *Legislative and Legal Contexts*
- *Applications*

Latham is honored to have the continuing support of the members of its Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Committee: Phil Arkow and Dr. Ascione (mentioned above) and Mary Pat Boatfield, Executive Director of the Toledo Humane Society. These highly respected professionals have represented Latham at many national and international conferences and in the media.

## SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE VIDEO AWARDS

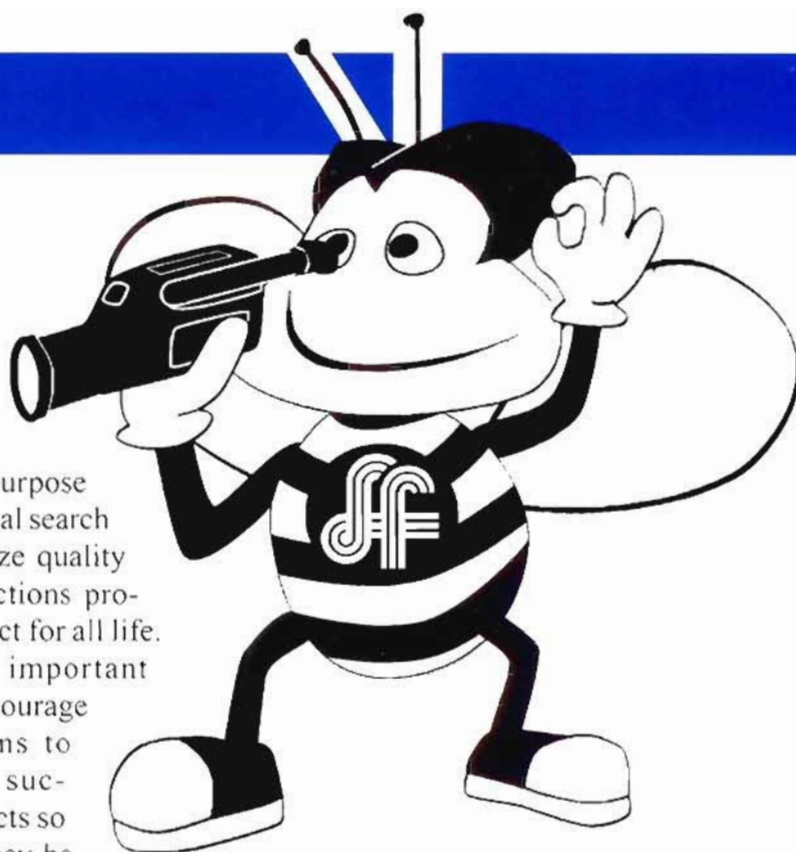
Latham has received many awards throughout the past 78 years for excellence in radio and video tapes. It recently launched the "Search for Excellence" Video Awards to

honor and encourage the accomplishments of others. One purpose of this national search is to recognize quality video productions promoting respect for all life. An equally important goal is to encourage organizations to share their successful projects so that others may be inspired to initiate similar projects.

In 1997 Special Awards included:

- *The Edith Latham Award for Excellence in Video Productions Promoting Respect for all Life -- a \$500 Cash Prize and Award*
- *The Gwyn Tebault Award for Humane Education Videos -- \$300 Cash Prize*
- *The John and Miriam de Lemos Award for Artistic Achievement in Videotaped Productions -- \$300 Cash Prize and Award.*
- *The Grizzard Advertising Media Award -- \$300 Cash Prize and Award Plaque*

(For additional details about Latham's Video Awards see the Summer '97 *Latham Letter*)



## VIDEO PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

During the past year the demand for "Breaking the Cycles of Violence" continued. (The package consists of a training manual and a video). In addition to child and animal abuse prevention agencies, selected police departments expressed interest in acquiring the program for interdepartmental use. Such interests confirm belief that there is continued concern for the elimination of abuse and violence at all levels.

"Canine Good Citizen" and "Dog Bite Prevention" videos were ordered by groups and individuals who are concerned about the proper care and behavior of their pets and by humane societies and SPCA's to enrich their educational efforts.

REVIEW. Continued on Page 19

The reason: One of its exhibits features animals from Southeast Asia, and its conservation director, Ronald Tilson, has done extensive field work in Indonesia. The zoo has committed \$25,000 a year to each of the projects, which equip and train park guards to deter poachers more effectively. Although the sums involved are not large, resources can go much further in the tropics, says the zoo's executive director, Kathryn R. Roberts. "Indonesia can only absorb so much money a year," she observes. "We make a huge impact for that \$25,000."

## 620 Million Visitors

In addition to helping save wildlife in the field, zoos have access to the public in numbers conservation groups can only dream about. That makes them uniquely positioned to become vital centers of conservation education, their supporters believe.

Every year the world's 1,000 or so zoos attract 620 million visitors – including more than 120 million in the United States. Many of those people have had little exposure to wildlife.

"The vast majority of people in this country will never get to Africa," says R. Michael Wright, president of the African Wildlife Foundation in Washington, which works to save rare species of animals. "What they learn will come in large part from nature specials on TV and from zoos."

The Minnesota Zoo expects 1.4 million people to pass through its gates this year. "We want to have every one of those people moved to take action on the part of the environment," says Ms. Roberts. "It could be as simple as feeding the birds in the backyard or recycling cans" – or it might mean enrolling as a zoo volunteer or embarking on a career in conservation biology.

The Brookfield Zoo outside Chicago is in the midst of a \$55 million campaign to underwrite new exhibits intended to show people the impact humans are having on the world's wildlife.

For the past four years, a charity called the Center for Ecosystem Survival in San Francisco has been trying to get zoos and aquariums more involved in preserving habitats overseas. In that period it has raised \$1.4 million, mostly in nickels, dimes, and quarters dropped into its "Conservation Parking Meters" placed in nearly 50 zoos around the country. The money goes

to help the Nature Conservancy and other groups protect rain-forest and reef habitats.

## Work With Wildlife Charities

Many zoos are also forging links with wildlife-protection-charities like Conservation International, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Nature Conservancy. More conservation biologists are joining zoo staffs, where they and other colleagues share their expertise with groups working in the field.

In fact, techniques developed in zoos for handling, breeding, and caring for wild animals are becoming increasingly useful in the management of wild populations. As more animals are crowded onto smaller fragments of land and populations are getting isolated from one another, their habitats are becoming, in effect, very big zoos.



"Zoos aren't going to save anything by themselves," says Rich Block, vice-president of the Indianapolis Zoo, "but zoos are great partners, especially in education, for other organizations doing the work."

Working with groups doing field conservation abroad, they can relay information about those projects to tens of thousands of visitors, he says, while emphasizing the links between animals in their collections, those still roaming free, and actions that people might take to help them.

"It's our hope that children catch a passion

for wildlife at the zoo and grow up into adults who see the importance of preserving the wild relatives of animals they have seen at the zoo," says Dana Loren West, a spokeswoman with the World Wildlife Fund in Washington. "That's where we come in."

## Rare Species in Captivity

Because the public may be slow to demand that habitat be protected, however, some zoos are hedging their bets. They have collaborated in drafting plans to save scores of rare animals inside their fences. The idea is to maintain populations of some particularly endangered species indefinitely in captivity – both to insure that zoos continue to have specimens to exhibit and to prevent extinction if the animals disappear in the wild.

The goal is to keep captive populations healthy by avoiding problems caused by inbreeding. The plans, which now cover 134 species, propose breeding strategies for insuring sufficient genetic diversity within each species. Among the animals covered by the plans are many of the so-called "Flagship species" – attractive or arresting creatures like giant pandas, Komodo dragons, tigers, or rhinoceros – as well as more prosaic animals like the Virgin Islands boa or Chinese alligator. The effort requires a high degree of collaboration among participating zoos, which manage the collections as if they were one single population, shipping animals or their eggs or sperm around the world as needed.

Obtaining financial support to put the plans into effect is much easier for some species than for others. The Exxon Corporation, for example, has pledged \$5 million over five years to try to save the five remaining species of tigers. Cheetahs, elephants, gorillas, and other large mammals have attracted support from schoolchildren.

Other species do not fare as well. We work with lots of insects, reptiles, and amphibians," says Tony Vecchio, director of the Roger Williams Zoo in Providence, R.I. "To find supporters for those programs is a bit of a challenge."

His zoo is owned by the City of Providence, which wants to see its money spent within the city limits. So for capital projects and field conservation work the zoo turns to its fund-raising charity, the Rhode Island Zoo Society, and other donors.

Yet those donors, too, can be choosy about which species they will support, which tends to skew conservation projects toward certain animals. "You've got to be out there pitching to corporations to get money to build a new gorilla habitat," says Richard H. Farinato, who spent 15 years working at several zoos before joining the Humane Society of the United States. "That leaves you as a sideline to look at centipedes, snail darters, or tree snakes. You're making your money off one kind of animal to go off and do work on other animals." The effect is predictable: an over-representation of some species, which take up precious space that could be devoted to others.

"We have many more lowland gorillas than we need to maintain a viable population in captivity," notes Michael Hutchins, director of conservation science at the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. "But gorillas are great fund raisers."

## 'That's a Lot of Money'

Despite the growth in conservation efforts, critics like Mr. Farinato believe that zoos should be pouring more of their resources into protecting animal habitats. He notes that the combined annual operating budgets of institutions that belong to the zoo association is \$1.14 trillion, which supports just 913,000 captive animals.

"That's a lot of money that could do a lot of good stuff in the real world," he observes. "It's a huge amount of money to support a relatively small number of animals, of which conservation beyond the cage is only a tiny part."

But many zoo officials counter that their efforts are vital to mobilizing public concern about the threat of extinction.

"We're raising a whole generation of people whose contact with animals is limited to the cat, rat and pigeon," says Mr. Rutledge, who returns to his family's Texas ranch every spring to help brand several hundred calves. Direct encounters with living animals in zoos can stimulate an appreciation for the beauty and variety of wildlife, followed by a passion to preserve it, he says.

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The Chronicle of Philanthropy.*



# WATER EVERYWHERE... HOW LONG CAN IT SUSTAIN OUR LIFE?

*Aline H. Kidd and Robert M. Kidd*

*Center for Animals in Society  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of California – Davis*

Following up on our recent study of adult men and women who told us they had acquired most of their information and formed most of their perceptions and attitudes about the importance of marine biodiversity from regular visits to aquariums whenever and wherever they traveled nationally or internationally (Latham Letter, Vol. XVIII, #4, 1997), we wondered whether their amount of information and survival awareness was more than the average citizen understood about the enormous importance marine life has for the ultimate survival of all life on earth. We were concerned about the average person's awareness or lack of awareness that the continuing destruction of the oceans and oceanic ecology by over-fishing, garbage dumping, and toxic pollution eventually will destroy humankind and the lives of all our planet's flora and fauna. We wanted to learn whether people really knew about the dangers of over-fishing, of the end results that the continual dumping of sewage, dredged materials, and wastes into the oceans will have on oceanic and terrestrial ecology.

We therefore interviewed 200 adult men and women (100 of each) at fast food restaurants, coffee shops, health clubs, shopping malls, and at coffee hours following church services. Like most of our Aquarium Study people, these average citizens also visited aquariums and had very little formal marine biology education. Ninety-eight percent of our "average citizens"

said they knew that the oceans are necessary for human survival, and 92% knew that all marine life is necessary for maintaining the oceans' ecology. Ninety-six percent had acquired this understanding from visiting one or more aquariums, and 95% had obtained their information from watching documentary movies or video programs about the effects of the oceans and their marine life forms. Furthermore, although 6% maintained that dumping and pollution have no effect "because the oceans are so huge that they can survive whatever we dump in them", 2% held that dumping had no effect whatsoever on oceanic life or quality, and another 2% suggested that "garbage dumping would improve oceanic life by providing food for the fish". However, 67% were aware that dumping and polluting do have negative effects on all life forms, and 65% asserted that dumping, polluting, and over-fishing must be stopped regardless of the financial consequences.

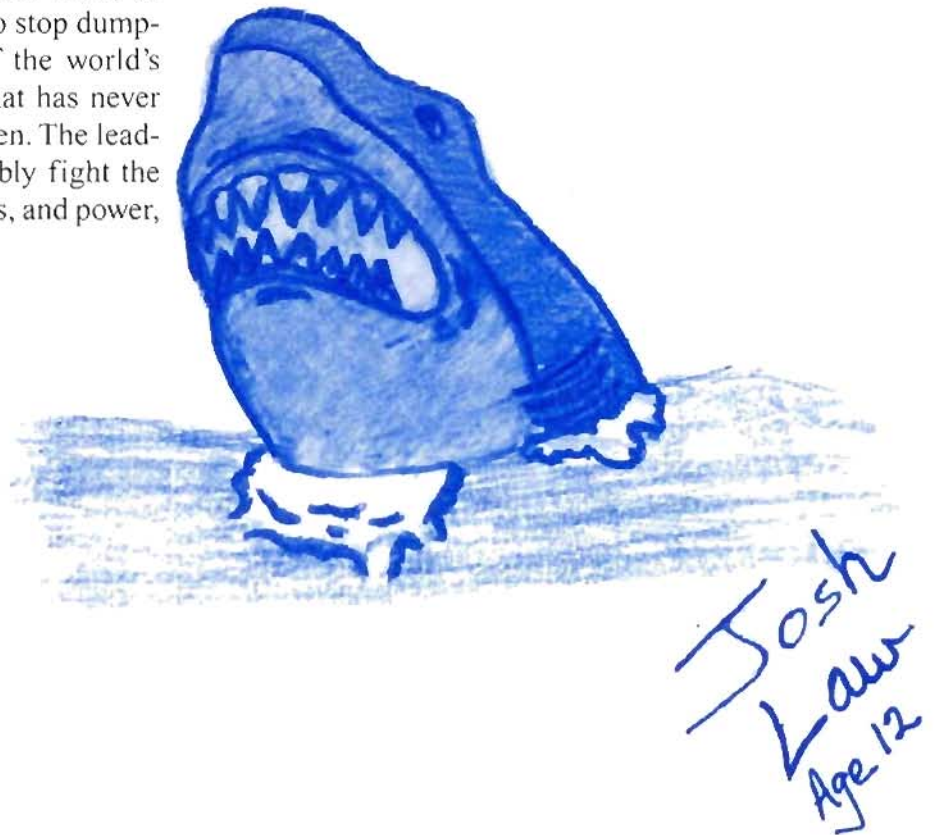
Another problem mentioned was lack of confidence in the numerous land and marine life protection and preservation organizations. Although 67% said they agreed with the ideologies and goals of such protective organizations, only 25% actually supported one or two of the major preservation societies financially. They felt that the majority of such organizations focused on one or two species (usually land or marine animals which were "cute" or "cuddly") and failed to regard the interlocking dependency of all marine and terrestrial life forms in the world-wide chain of being. They also felt that these organizations do not communicate or cooperate with one another in what should be their mutual efforts to protect and defend land and marine life all together, and so waste a good portion of their financial resources in their single-minded endeavors.

Although recognizing the severity of the problems, the majority seemed to feel that there were no realistic solutions. Four of them declared that they were counting on a Supreme Being saving the oceans. One person suggested that perhaps the leaders of the United Nations could encourage their nations to work together to solve the problems. However, most felt that "the situation is completely hopeless by now", that "the millennium and the end of the world is at hand, so why worry?" As one man phrased it: "To stop dumping, polluting, and over-fishing, all of the world's nations would have to cooperate and that has never happened in history and never will happen. The leaders of every nation in the world inevitably fight the other nations for territory, material goods, and power,

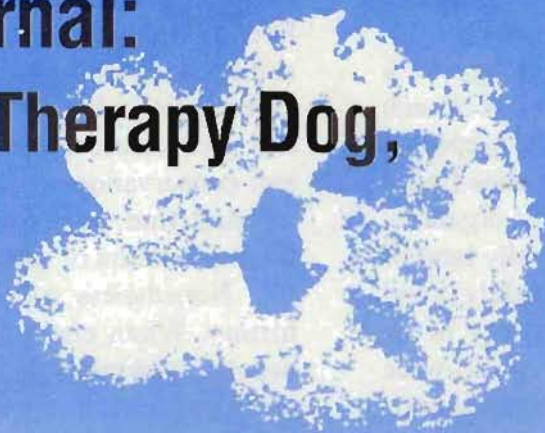
and with no regard whatsoever for future generations. Even today, in spite of international fishing agreements and Endangered Species Acts, over-fishing continues, rain forests and old forests disappear, the ozone layer and greenhouse effect arguments continue because anti-conservationists with short-term financial gains in mind find ways around any agreements limiting the exploitation of natural resources."

Nonetheless, a positive solution is suggested by history. When enough ordinary people everywhere become convinced that a problem exists and that the problem is serious enough, they band together like the big "vested interest" businessmen and lobbyists, and pressure their leaders into solving it. The United Nations was formed because enough ordinary citizens of a large number of nations decided that there must never be another world war. If the world's newspapers and mass media cooperate in publishing books and other such materials to teach the importance of healthy oceans for human survival and so inform people about activities which are destructive to oceanic and terrestrial ecologies, the oceans surely can be saved and mankind will not only survive but survive in a healthier, more peaceful environment.

✚



# Jenni's Journal: Diary of a Therapy Dog, Part 11



**Wednesday January 3, 1996**

Today was an especially wonderful day at the Children's Hospital. I met a little three year old boy who was there for cancer treatment. He was so well mannered and grown up that Mom said he was 3 going on 30. He was a very special little boy and I fell in love with him the minute I saw him; so did Mom. We have noticed in our many visits to children in hospitals that these very ill children seem to be more grown up and more serious than other children of the same age. They are not frivolous or child like; they conduct themselves as little adults. It is as if their childhood has been taken away from them due to having to cope with the many facets of their illness. My heart cries for these young warriors.

I spent quite a bit of time with a 17-year-old boy who had all the skin torn off his elbows and his head was shaved. It was obvious he had been seriously injured. The hospital was trying to make arrangements for him to have a tutor to help him keep up with his school work. However, he wasn't interested in anything but me. Even though he

was flat on his back and unable to sit up, he gave me lots of treats and even tried to get me to kiss him on the lips! As much as I stretched I couldn't get close enough to kiss him on the lips but I kissed him on the hand. As we left his room he was already busy trying to make arrangements with the nurses for more dogs to come visit him.

My next patient was a little girl who was in a bed with the head way down and her feet way up. Even though this position was difficult for her, she managed to lean forward enough that when I put my front feet on her bed she could feed me my treats. Even though I was really tired today from getting up at 3am to go outside, I did my job really well. On the way out of the hospital, one of the lady doctors saw me and stopped to give me treats, too. Boy! I am really full.

**Wednesday, August 28, 1996**

As you can tell by the above date, it have been a long time since I have done my Pet Therapy work. The reason is that we moved from



*Jenni, Dunn*

Florida to Richland, Washington where I was born ten years ago. We have moved into our new house and for the first time since 1989 I have a really big back yard – big enough to chase frisbees!

It took Mom quite a few months of calling the three local hospitals to get anyone to even talk to her about Pet Therapy. On one of her doctor appointments, she mentioned it to her doctor and he suggested we call the hospital in the town across the river, so she did. They were more receptive and made an appointment to meet with us. It had been a long time since I have worked but today Mom gave me a bath, and I should have suspected something right away, but I didn't. I jumped in the car thinking I was just getting to go for a ride. Mom had my Therapy scarf with her but hid it from me so I wouldn't get excited about thinking I was getting to go visit patients; because we were actually just going to meet with a lady at Lady of

Lourdes Hospital to see if we could talk her into letting me do my Pet Therapy visits at her hospital even though they didn't have a Pet Therapy Program.

Mom put my scarf on me in the car before we went in to meet with the lady. I started trembling all over with excitement thinking I was going to get to visit patients. We met with two ladies while Mom explained to them the benefits of Pet Therapy. I lay quietly on the floor while Mom told them all about me, my experience and expertise. They were so impressed with me and our story that they said Mom and I could visit patients in their hospital without the benefit of having to start a Pet Therapy Program as we usually do. They said they would let us visit Rehabilitation and Restorative care at the beginning to see how we were received by patients and staff. Then after we proved ourselves (not really knowing anything about us except what Mom told them) we maybe could visit other parts of the hospital.

They were so excited to see how we worked that they immediately took us right over to the hospital, showed us around, introduced us to some of the nurses, and watched as Mom and I visited several patients in their rooms. They were more excited about my visiting than I was! As soon as I recognized the hospital sights, sounds and smell I was "ON". I knew why I was there. I made Mom proud. This was going to be great! I was going to work again.

*Jenni's continuing adventures as a Therapy Dog will follow in future Letters. Stay tuned!*



Other Latham videos like "Your Humane Society", "Dolphin Swim" and the "Nature" type Humane Educational Programs, (Reptiles and Amphibians, The Forest, National Parks, etc.) are continually used by school systems.

During 1996/1997, the Ophra Winfrey show used two Latham produced segments, one from "Living with HIV and Pets" and the other from "Breaking the Cycles of Violence." Courtesy credits were provided to Latham.

The "American Indian Project", a documentary video tape that reports about Indian life, continued during the past year. Initial photographic work on the Blackfeet reservation was accomplished during July, 1997. The Latham Foundation was invited by the Blackfeet Tribal Council to facilitate this work. The possibility to include other Indian nations is being explored. The production department is working with the Navajo Nation to make arrangements for photography on their reservation. A short "Blackfeet Napi (Creator) Story" was edited from the video, which was televised on the Blackfeet reservation recently and is currently used for humane education in Blackfeet Schools. The State Humane Organization of Montana plans to include this video in their educational efforts to Indians and non Indians alike.

Indian life today is often filled with grief, abuse, and violence, which includes animal abuse and neglect as well. The use of drugs and alcohol continues to influence life on the reservation. Animal Control efforts have been only partially successful.

Through the "American Indian Project" Latham is attempting to enlighten educators to look upon animal control as a need, not as an interference into their lives. Times changed since Indians existed harmoniously with all living things but it may require only a little nudge to make their life better again, hopefully, that is what Latham's role will be.

Another cooperative video in progress is with U.C. Davis on "Zoonotic" diseases. This video is intended to inform transplant patients, cancer patients, AIDS patients and their doctors about the benefits of animal ownership when proper hygiene is practiced. People with such diseases are often informed by their physicians to get rid of their pets, the very pets, which provide company, comfort and unconditional love to them. Latham and U.C. Davis hope that patients and the medical community will view the tape and recognize that animals in the lives of people may be just what the doctor ordered, if proper hygiene is practiced.



## “Butterflies Are Free” -- An Amazing Humane Education Program

By PHIL ARKOW

When I was a humane educator, I admit I had a fairly narrow focus. I thought the best way to teach children about being kind to animals was through pet care. Most children can relate to dogs and cats because they're such common denominators. New AVMA figures tell us that almost 3/4 of homes with children also have pets. Then I met "The Butterfly Lady," Judy Levicoff, of Jenkintown, PA. She found dogs and cats too limiting and has what may be the ultimate "kinder, gentler" humane education curriculum.

Building upon her experience at the Philadelphia Zoo, Judy started a program called Habitat Helpers to involve children and adults in reversing habitat destruction. They worked with *Danaus plexipus*, alias the common but beautiful Monarch butterfly. She began studying the fascinating migration process and teaching people to build butterfly gardens.

### The Butterfly Garden

By Judith Levicoff  
with Mark Steilen



Illustrated by Ben and Tina Garrison

Monarchs are the only North American butterfly to migrate; they commute 2,000 miles to Mexico. That's pretty amazing, but consider this: the ones that finish the trip in Mexico aren't the ones that started it up north. The average monarch lives only five weeks, so it takes five generations to complete the annual cycle.

How does the fifth generation read the genetic roadmap to go back to the same wintering site in Michoacan, Mexico? How do 70 million Monarchs, who can't stop and ask a friendly falcon for directions, know where and when to go? No one knows. Is it genetic coding? Magnetic fields? Smell? Your guess is as good as the experts, of which Judy is certainly one.

Her program, "Magical Migrating Monarchs," integrates music, math, science and art. Butterflies are hatched in the classroom and released to the wild.

Children learn about beauty and fragility, geography, environmentalism, responsibility, and how one person can make a difference. Children find hope in metamorphosis and the shedding of old ways to find life underneath.

"Animals can teach us more about ourselves than we'd ever imagine. They

also help us think globally and act locally," says Judy.

To plant the perfect butterfly garden, find a 4-by-6-foot plot that's protected from high winds and gets a lot of sunshine. You'll want to plant six New England asters, four coreopsis, and two each of bee balm, gay feather, goldenrod, milkweed, purple cornflower, globe thistle, yarrow, and wild Sweet William. Also plant herbs – sage, lemon thyme, dill, catnip, hyssop, lavender, and parsley – which will bloom through summer and fall and give butterflies plenty of places to eat and lay their eggs.

To learn more about the gentle world of butterflies, call Judy at (215) 576-1359.



## MEDICAL NEWS: Humane Society testing sterilant

The Arizona Humane Society Veterinary Clinic is the first site in the United States selected to utilize the latest advance in the war on pet overpopulation – a non-surgical method of sterilization that is cost-effective and has no major side effects.


The Society, which adheres to a 100 percent spay/neuter policy, will begin using the chemical sterilant Neutersol on male dogs aged 2-1/2 to 9 months. Initially, the Society will use Neutersol on 100 dogs with permission of the adopting

owner. There is no additional cost.

Neutersol was successfully used in cooperation with the Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society International on male dogs in Mexico and El Salvador. Developed at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine, Neutersol could reduce the cost of sterilization by as much as 50 percent, experts say.

"This is the newest tool for combating the staggering pet over-

population problem. Its implications, particularly for small animal shelters without staff veterinarians and for people who cannot afford to neuter their pets by surgical means, could be extremely significant," said Ken White, Executive Director of the Arizona Humane Society.

"Animal shelters across the country are forced to euthanize millions of pets every year because of overpopulation. Neutersol could be the key to making sterilization more accessible", continued White. 

### COMING IN JUNE:

## 15th Annual Conference on Infancy and Childhood

June 15-19, 1998 ♦ Utah State University

**Conference Director: Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D.**

#### Guest Scholars:

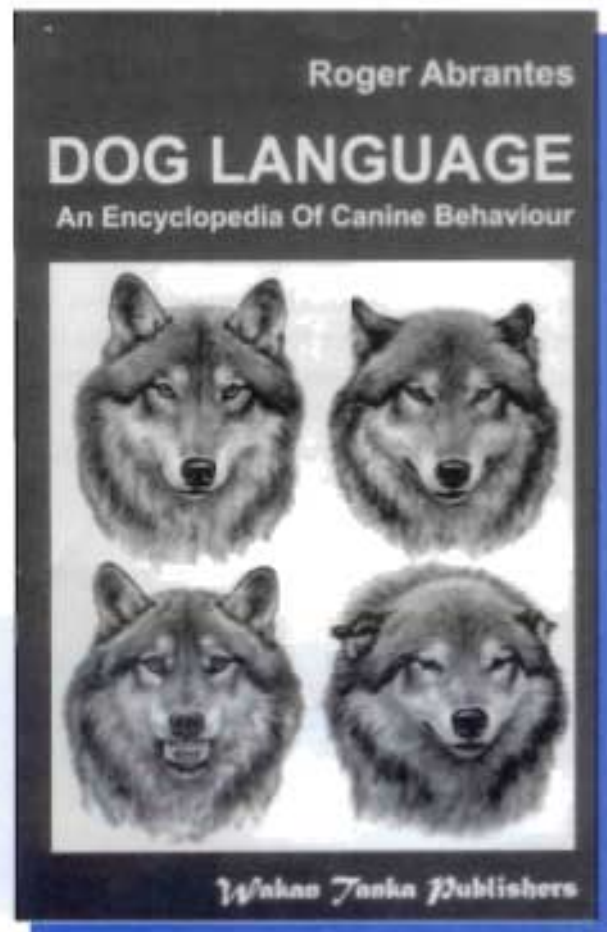
- ♦ **John E.B. Myers, J.D.**, University of the Pacific, *McGeorge School of Law*
- ♦ **John W. Fantuzzo, Ph.D.**, University of Pennsylvania, *Graduate School of Education*
- ♦ **Marilyn Sandberg, SW and Stacy Iverson, BS**, Child Abuse Prevention Council of Ogden, Utah and the staff of the National Information Support and Referral Services on Shaken Baby Syndrome
- ♦ **Karen Caplovitz Barrett, Ph.D.**, Colorado State University, *Department of Human Development and Family Studies*
- ♦ **Ken Magid, Ph.D.**, Health First Physicians Group, Golden CO, *Director of Psychological Services*

For further information contact Dr. Ascione at (435) 797-1464  
via e-mail at: [FrankA@FS1.ED.USU.EDU](mailto:FrankA@FS1.ED.USU.EDU) or visit their website  
<http://www.conted.usu.edu/FeaturedConferences/>

## Dog Language

*An Encyclopedia of Canine Behavior*

Reviewed by Jennifer Dustin Hinze



Ethologist Roger Abrantes offers his readers an approachable and informative text in *Dog Language*. First published in Danish in 1986, this is a resource book for anyone with a serious interest in understanding the true nature of canine behavior.

With work largely based on the school of ethology begun by Konrad Lorenz, *Dog Language* opens with a thorough explanation of the evolution of canine social behavior. The book then goes beyond the usual telling of why dogs might wag their

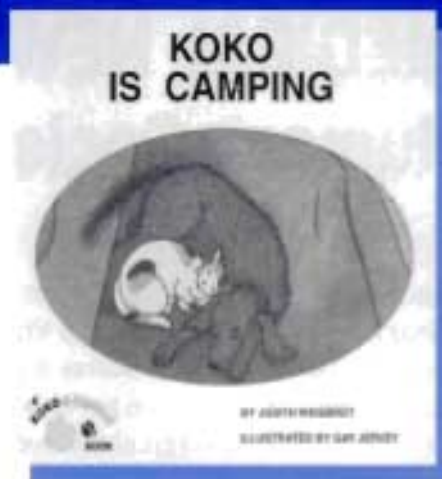
tales or lie down in submission. We are offered insight into the canine family on a deeper level, which is indispensable for anyone living or working with dogs. Abrantes establishes for us a basis for understanding not only what it is that dogs do, but why these behaviors evolved in the first place.

In order to truly understand dogs we must first have a working knowledge of their behavior and natural history. *Dog Language* serves to help explain a canine's perspective of the world and un-

lock some of the mysteries of the subtleties and complexities of a dog's language. A wealth of information can be found in this little encyclopedia for those who seek to gain a deeper awareness of dogs.

***Dog Language: An Encyclopedia of Canine Behavior***

Roger Abrantes  
Wankan Tanka Pub.  
Publishers, \$19.95  
Naperville, Illinois



## The Koko and Camille Series

Reviewed by Jacquie Pearce

Pets have needs and feelings too. This is the message imported to children through a series of books about Koko, the dog, and Camille, the cat, written by Judith Weisbrot and illustrated by Gay Jervy.

In the first book, "Koko is Lost," children learn that dogs too can be lonely and afraid. In the second book, "Koko at Home," readers learn about the food, rules, and fun that Koko finds in his new home. While in the third book, "Koko Meets Camille," kids will laugh at what happens when Camille, the cat, arrives on the scene.

The simple text and illustrations convey a positive message in a warm and realistic fashion. The stories will appeal to young children (K-2) who cannot help but feel sympathy for Koko, the chocolate colored mutt.

***Koko is Camping***

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