

T H E

# Latham Letter

VOLUME XX, NUMBER 1

WINTER 1999

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION



Single issue price: \$4.00

## Born to Abuse?

**Why boys are more likely  
(than girls) to hurt animals  
and others**

by Marsh Meyers, Manager of Humane Education,  
Humane Society of Southern Arizona

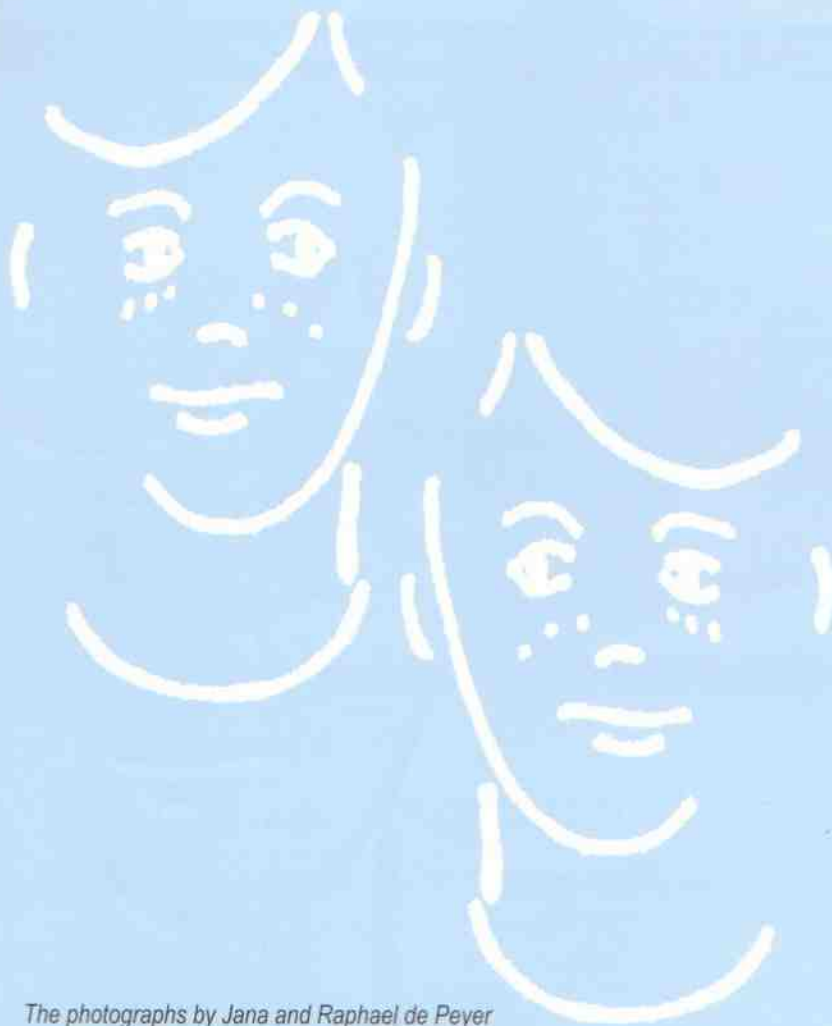
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*The photographs by Jana and Raphael de Peyer on pages 15 and 5 respectively are from greeting cards reprinted courtesy of Angel Canyon Enterprises, P. O. Box 123, Kanab, Utah 84741. A portion of their sale goes towards helping animals at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, a lifetime companion animal sanctuary. You may call 435-644-3004 to request a catalog.*

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# The Latham Letter

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**Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities**



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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."*





## Editorial

# EXPECTATIONS

*Hugh H. Tebault, III, President*

I was on a trip this week to Atlanta and had the opportunity to wake one morning to a fresh layer of snow. Now I don't associate Atlanta with the winter snow belt, but there it was lying on the flowers and plants outside my hotel. Walking to the MARTA (train) station was beautiful and later that day the temperature did climb and melted the snow.

I heard a report about a boy in the hospital after a beating for apparently refusing to join a gang. A later report suggested the police were investigating the home situation, but had ruled out the initial gang-beating story reported by the boy's mother. The gang-beating story unfortunately met my expectations.

Too often we hear about gangs fighting gangs, or attacking people and animals in today's society. When this gang violence story was later changed to a possible home violence report, I was saddened again to think that a parent could harm a child and blame this on "them".

This event was one isolated case in a city I find very friendly and beautiful. This is not a report from a feudal land, or from far away, it is right here in North America, a country with thousands of government programs spending untold billions to "solve" issues like this. I am more and more convinced spending by the government is actually making things worse by lulling people into a false sense of security when there is no security at all.

It is up to each and every one of us in our own towns and cities to raise the bar of acceptable behavior back up to the level it must be. This is my expectation, and I hope it is yours.



# WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Nathania Gartman,  
Director of Education,  
Best Friends Animal Sanctuary

One of the dilemmas humane educators' face when teaching about wildlife issues is the question of captive wildlife. What should we tell students about the lives of animals in zoos, wildlife parks and museums? Are captive animals appropriate teaching tools or another form of animal exploitation? And what about endangered species? Does keeping animals in captivity and breeding them to protect the species justify keeping them in cages?

When we take a non-releasable animal into a classroom, what message do we give the students? The magnificent Great Horned Owl that was hit by a car or the bobcat that was picked up as a pet and then declawed are engaging in the classroom. The children are awed and interested in what you are saying. Surely, this is humane.

Despite all of the explanations that we have state and federal permits and that the animal cannot be released, has the program subtly undermined a basic message that wildlife do not make good pets? What do we tell the students about the housing and feeding of these animals? Do they learn that the owl or the bobcat is more important than the mouse or the chicken that are food?

For that matter, how does a lifetime care facility explain that hundreds of cows, chickens and turkeys are killed to feed the animals that are in the care of the sanctuary? The destruction of wilderness, polluting of water, suffering of animals in agribusiness: all of these are environmental issues. Are the animals that are killed in agribusiness any less important

than the animals that are being cared for by the sanctuary? And what if that sanctuary has a non-euthanasia policy regarding healthy, adoptable animals? Is a wildlife rehabilitation program compatible with that mission especially if state and federal permits require euthanasia of non-releasable animals?

Many humane societies and sanctuaries have struggled with these questions. Pam Patek from Peninsula Humane Society says, "After struggling with these issues for several years, I decided to stop taking non-releasable wildlife into schools. Disappointed teachers and students understood after I shared

*continued on next page*



Photograph © Raphael de Peyer for Best Friends

Mountain Lions, which are found mainly in the western United States, lead solitary and elusive lives.



these quandaries with them and told them about the stress placed on the animals to transport them to school. But even more important, I looked at the educational objectives of the wildlife programs and decided that these objectives could be met with exciting programs that did not use live animals."

### ***Alternatives to Live Animal Programs***

For an in depth environmental program, look at Camp Crawling Critters developed by Carol Waitman of Hunt Elementary School in San Bernardino, California. The program encourages children who might not be able to attend a private camp to learn about wildlife and environmental issues by attending a school based camp.

Students participate in six weeks of preparatory classes about environmental issues before attending the camp. At Camp Crawling Critters the children set up tents on the school property. They learn about insects, observe wildlife in the area of the school, hike various trails set up on school grounds, and learn about Native American perspectives on animals.

For some already made to use activities, contact Kids and Critters for many fun wildlife games, animal word search puzzles, fact sheets and library activities about wildlife. (You can contact Charlotte Moore at Kids and Critters, 518 Lorraine Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93110).

### ***Living Your Ethics***

Whatever the educational approach you choose to discuss these issues, there are no easy answers. Many environmental activists who eloquently decry clear-cutting of precious rainforests are

not vegetarian. For that matter, many animal welfare activists are not vegetarian. The simple act of changing to a vegetarian diet or at least changing to a few vegetarian meals a week would decrease the demand for agribusiness, end the suffering of thousands of animals, clear up the watershed, and protect forest land from clear cutting.

So how do we deal with these inconsistencies when teaching about wildlife or environmental issues? There are no simple answers to any of these issues – even recycling. While large cities may have curb side mandatory recycling, rural desert areas may use more water resources to clean cans for recycling and more gas to take cans to a recycling center two hours away than is saved by recycling a few cans. The net affect may be to waste more resources. Even so, we should not stop trying to solve these complex problems.

Humane educators can bring to these discussions an ethical perspective that is often missed in programs presented by conservation or environmental education agencies. Balanced presentations that present all sides of an issue and teach students the consequences of their decisions provide reality based education. Life is full of complicated decisions that require informed citizens.

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*Reprinted courtesy of The Packrat, Newsletter WHEEA, Petaluma, California.*

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*Best Friends Animal Sanctuary is located in Angel Canyon near Kanab, UT. It is the largest life-time care companion animal sanctuary in America.*



## ***Sobering Facts About Dog Bites***

The U.S. Center for Disease Control reports that of the roughly 4.5 million bites reported annually, almost 800,000 require medical attention.

Approximately 18 people die from dog bites every year. About 26% of dog bites in children require medical care. A child is brought to an emergency room every 76 seconds for a dog bite. About 60% of dog bite fatalities are in children ten years old or younger. About 12% of dog bites in adults require medical care. From 1986 to 1994, the rate of dog bites requiring medical attention increased 37 percent.

### ***Latham's video Dog Bite Prevention***

***is available  
for sale or rent.***



***Call the Foundation at  
510-521-0920  
for further information.***



# BORN TO ABUSE:

## WHY BOYS ARE MORE LIKELY TO HURT ANIMALS AND OTHERS

Marsh Meyers

*"Of all the animals, the boy is the most unmanageable."*

**I**sometimes think that males - whether they be boys, teenagers or young adults - should be placed on the Threatened Species List. Threatened, rather than Endangered, because while it is highly unlikely that boys are in imminent peril or disappearing as a group, the way they are reared, socialized, and engendered relegates too many of them to lives which are destructive and self-destructive.

Consider the statistics on boys. Although most children - regardless of gender - are likely to go through an early developmental phase known as "innocent cruelty," males do seem to be more prone to continue cruel acts later in life. Most violence in our society is perpetrated by young males against young males, with more and more violent acts being committed by adolescents and boys. In fact, a recent study found that about one-third of all victims of violent crime are males between 12 and 19 years of age. Young males are also much more likely to

commit acts of cruelty toward animals; and if left unchecked these assaultive patterns may culminate in worse crimes as the boy matures. For parents, teachers, sociologists and law enforcement personnel, the question about male violence has not been about its existence, but rather how it can be predicted and controlled.

### Nature versus Nurture?

As with most human conditions, the factors behind male aggression can be as much physiological as environmental. Testosterone tends to make the male crave physical acts that can verge on violence. This is why men - particularly young men - seek out action and excitement more than females. Portions of the brain also function differently between genders, making males less verbal and more aggressive. Despite these physiological characteristics, it is important to note that the male's desire for action does not mean he

is automatically programmed for violent acts. Nor is it appropriate to assume that all forms of action must be violent. After all, chasing someone across a field is action; chasing someone across a field with a knife is violence. Most boys will still prefer the former.

So what makes a boy cross that line from action to violence? When does roughhousing with the dog suddenly become an act of cruelty? In many, if not most cases, the tendency toward violence may be ingrained in a boy at an early age through the conditioning of his parents and his society. In America and in many other cultures, anger is often portrayed as the only acceptable male emotion, and violence

*continued on next page*





is viewed as its inevitable consequence. Among adolescents and young adults, violence may even be seen as a way of bonding emotionally. Acts of cruelty - whether against animals or people - can be a means by which to boost social standing or thwart shame or dishonor. The most profound example of this is found in youth gangs, societies in which committing violent acts are not only accepted but encouraged.

Although only a small percentage of males perpetrate cruel acts against others, they are constantly inundated by violent influences. The media is particularly guilty of perpetuating the male "ideal" of a laconic, tough, unemotional, and violent individual. (Schwartzenegger anyone?) A study by the National Institute of Mental Health found the children who see kindness on television or movies tend to imitate it. The reverse is also true. But once desensitized, the young male may not only expect violence, but prepare for it or react violently in situations which could be handled in other ways. Although parents and lawmakers are quick to blame the media for the violence in America, studies indicate that such images in television, movies, magazines, or video games do not necessarily create violence. Boys and teenagers who have been reared with a sense of compassion and humane ethics are much less likely to behave violently, regardless of how many acts of aggression they witness in the media. In the end, they are able to distinguish real violence from dramatic violence, and generally do not injure other people or animals.

Contrary to some beliefs, boys

are not naturally deficient when it comes to compassion ... they are merely more practiced at suppressing it. Unfortunately for the boy and society, empathic feelings are widely considered feminine characteristics, and the boy may be ridiculed for his sensitivity. Mothers may be just as likely to perpetuate this as fathers, as in admonishing their sons that "boys don't cry" when he's upset or injured. By forcing their sons to repress their natural emotions, parents may be planting the seeds for more destructive behavior when those feelings inevitably resurface.

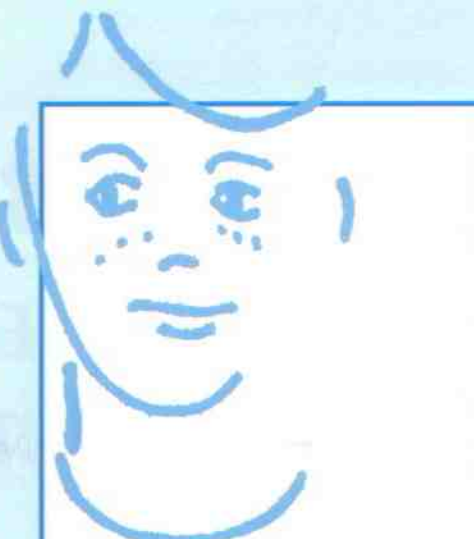
In the end, the key to creating a more caring society is by providing all children with the skills, support, and encouragement to openly express their more compassionate natures ... which is the very foundation of humane education. Parents should reassess whether they are equating force with strength of character when they try to shape their son's behavior; and attempt to envision him as an adult. A caregiver, a provider. The boy and the society he lives in, will ultimately benefit more if he can abandon the "male ideal" for the "humane ideal."

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For more information, contact  
Marsh Meyers, Manager of  
Humane Education, Humane  
Society of Southern Arizona  
Education Department, 3450 N.  
Kelbin Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716.

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School Year.



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## *Praise for "Hi Ya, Beautiful"*

(Latham's film about Lima Hospital for the Criminally Insane)

Dear Steve,

I thought I would write you, to thank you for all your help when I first started the pet therapy program at Lima State Hospital back in 1975. Now it is 23 years later and I am preparing to retire in about a week. I want to thank you and Hugh Tebault for supporting the program and giving it the exposure it needed to become successful. You and Latham were the first to believe that his program had merit.

There have been a lot of changes since you were here. Besides the birds and hamsters, we keep many pets outside including a llama, a small herd of fallow deer, and goats. Our biggest change occurred more than three years ago when we began bringing in puppies from the humane society, training them for a year, and then placing them in homes for disabled people. We also train dogs especially for wheelchair assistance and as hearing dogs. All dogs that are not qualified for assistance dog training are placed with senior citizens or in nursing homes as companions. For example, in 1997 we placed twelve dogs in a variety of homes where there were people with special needs. In 1998 we placed twenty-seven dogs in an even larger variety of settings including nursing homes, a residential center for the retarded, and a residential center for sexually abused children. One of our dogs was even part of the "Make a Wish" program. It's a wonderful addition.

I have always enjoyed my work here and its early success would not have been possible without your help.

Sincerely,

Dave Lee, LSW

Pet Therapy Coordinator, Oakwood Correctional Facility

## *Latham responds:*

Dear Dave:

It is hard to believe that it was nearly 25 years ago that we met. I feel as strongly today about the importance of the program you pioneered as I felt when I saw it for the first time.

I very much admire your commitment to the patients/inmates and to their animals. When your work started in Pet Facilitated Therapy, it was totally unexplored territory. But in a few years it became known to academics and practitioners alike. Today, PFT and AAT are part of the daily vocabulary and is used by many, to the benefit of both humans and animals.

Latham sent a number of interested people your way; some did research in the field and others gave it added publicity, such as "60 Minutes." We are proud to have had something to do with the reporting of your activities, which became instrumental in starting many other programs around the country and the world.

Our best wishes for a happy retirement.

Sincerely,

Dezsoe Steve Nagy

Executive Producer

## **CORRECTION:**

Dr. Frank Ascione's phone number at Utah State University is 435-797-1464, not 1446 as listed on page 17 of the last *Latham Letter*. Our apologies to any of you who may have been frustrated trying to reach him with information about domestic violence programs for sheltering battered women's animals.

Dr. Ascione wants to survey existing programs or coordinated efforts for sheltering animals of women fleeing abusive relationships to determine which types of programs work best and what protocols and consent forms should become models. Frank R. Ascione, Department of Psychology, Utah State University, Logan, UT 48322. Ph: 435-797-1464, e-mail: [FrankA@fs1.ed.usu.edu](mailto:FrankA@fs1.ed.usu.edu)





# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

## California and Oregon Enact "Link" Laws



treatment of animals. Oregon joins Arizona, California, Idaho, and West Virginia as states where veterinarians are protected from liability arising from a report made in good faith. (West Virginia and Idaho also provide veterinarians who report suspected abuse with protection from criminal prosecution. West Virginia, Minnesota, and Quebec mandate that veterinarians must report suspected animal abuse. Vets in Wisconsin, California and



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

Phil Arkow

California and Oregon have joined the growing list of states to enact laws that include the animal protection component in inter-disciplinary interventions against family violence.

On Sept. 14, 1998, California Gov. Pete Wilson signed into law Senate Bill 1991, which took effect Jan. 1, 1999. The law mandates that anyone who is convicted of animal abuse and who is placed on probation must undergo psychological counseling to evaluate and treat behavior or conduct disorders. The law creates a state-mandated local program for this counseling. The counseling is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other conditions of probation. It amends Sec. 597 of the California Penal Code which includes individuals convicted of "maliciously and intentionally" maiming, torturing, wounding or

killing animals, and individuals who violate the general animal cruelty and neglect standards. State Sen. Jack O'Connell, who introduced the bill, said, "Although clinicians know that future dangerousness is difficult to predict, probably one of the best predictors of future violence is a history of violence toward non-human animals." Nine other states' anti-cruelty statutes mention counseling, but in most of them, as was the case previously in California, judges decide solely on their discretion whether or not to require psychological interventions.

Colorado enacted House Bill 1181 in 1997 that similarly mandates mental health treatment and anger management into the penalty phase for adults and juveniles convicted of animal abuse. Meanwhile, a new law enacted in Oregon provides veterinarians and veterinary technicians with civil liability if they make a report of suspected animal abuse to peace officers, animal control officers, or other representatives of organizations devoted to the humane

Arizona must report suspected organized dog fighting, and those in California and Colorado must report suspected child abuse.) The new Oregon law also provides civil immunity to veterinarians and technicians for liability arising out of treatment or euthanasia of animals brought to the veterinarian by a person other than the owner when the owner cannot be contacted before a decision must be made concerning emergency treatment. This good Samaritan law does not protect veterinarians against acts of gross negligence in the performance of their duties. It is hoped that laws like this will inspire other state legislatures to take the issue of animal abuse more seriously and to recognize it as a key component and signal indicator in family violence.

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





## Are puppy lemon laws lemons in themselves?

Robert Blizard

If your organization is lobbying for a state "puppy Lemon Law" in hopes of ultimately constraining the business of puppy mills, you may want to take a closer look at the law's wording. Poorly drafted provisions often lead to pitfalls that may render such laws ineffective, or worse, counter-productive.

In theory, puppy lemon laws protect consumers who purchase pet-shop puppies suffering from disease or genetic defects. (The term stems from other laws that protect consumers who have purchased poorly made products, or "lemons".)

In most states, these laws also apply to the purchases of cats; in New Hampshire, the law covers ferrets as well. Methods of recourse vary among the 15 states that have adopted some form of this consumer remedy, but typical provisions allow consumers to "exchange" the animal, receive a refund, or obtain limited compensation for veterinary bills. Of course, an animal should never be viewed in the same way as a defective toaster, but the unique approach was one that animal activists thought would directly impact the business of puppy mills.

"These laws were originally drafted to make it easier for consumers to take action against pet

retailers," says Ann Church, HSUS government affairs director. "At the same time, the laws should make it financially unfeasible for merchants to continually sell sick dogs to consumers. The hope was that these laws would lead pet retailers to purchase only healthy puppies bred in facilities with good living conditions."

Unfortunately, too many of these laws accomplish little for animals and consumers because most laws give pet owners one to two weeks from the purchase date to visit a veterinarian and seek refunds for necessary treatment. Many new pet owners are so pre-occupied while nursing an animal through an illness that they fail to file a claim in time.

In some states, laws require retailers to post information about where the pet store acquired the animal rather than where the animal was born. Consequently, consumers may believe they are purchasing an animal bred locally when the animal was, in fact, born at a puppy mill hundreds of miles away, then purchased and resold by a local broker.

Merchants selling animals may view the occasional complaint about or return of a sick animal as simply the cost of doing business, rather than good reason to pressure

suppliers to improve conditions for their animals.

Consumers who take their cases to small claims court have found judges unwilling to award compensation above the very low guidelines established in many lemon laws.

In some cases, merchants may present puppy lemon laws as special "money-back guarantees" to encourage consumers to purchase from pet stores rather than other sources.

The news isn't all bad, however. In many cases, puppy lemon laws inform consumers of their rights with provisions for special hotlines as well as educational literature that pet retailers must provide at the time of sale. Connecticut's law even gives animal control officers access to breeding facilities.

But as electronic commerce emerges with the explosive growth of the Internet, breeding facilities have begun selling companion animals directly to the public, sight unseen, making strict regulations even more critical. If your state is considering a pet lemon law or reviewing existing legislation, examine the provisions carefully before throwing your support behind it. Call the HSUS Office of Government Affairs at 202-452-1100 for more information

*LEMON LAWS, continued on page 14*



# Presented at the 12th National Child Abuse and Neglect

the developing brain." Perry [The Feigin Center, S-715, 6621 Fannin Street, Houston, Texas 77030] has become internationally renowned for his work demonstrating relations between abuse experiences and neurological change.

These are just two examples of the "joining together" of the legal profession, the medical and psychiatric and psychological communities, child welfare, and domestic violence professionals to address the *needs of children and women who are abused. The animal welfare community is becoming a more integrated element of these efforts and was acknowledged by a number of plenary speakers, including Perry.*

In the words of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala, "This conference is a living example of how the federal government, states and localities, and the private sector are working together to meet the needs of children and families." It is clear that Latham's fostering of collaborative approaches to prevention and intervention for child abuse, animal maltreatment, and domestic violence will continue to be a critical focus in the future.



## Search for Excellence Video Awards

### CALL FOR ENTRIES

**Win cash prizes, awards, and recognition.**

The Latham Foundation invites entries in its Search for Excellence Video Awards. The purpose of this program, which is held every two years, is to locate, honor, publicize, and encourage videos promoting respect for all life.

**Entry Deadline:** December 31, 1999. *Videos must have been completed in the two years prior to the deadline.*

**Entry Fee:** \$20.00

#### CATEGORIES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Child & animal abuse/domestic violence prevention
- Humane education and responsible animal care
- The human companion animal bond
- Advocacy/public policy
- Animal behavior/natural history
- Innovative humane education programs and projects worthy of replication
- Public Service Announcements



For submission guidelines and an entry form, visit Latham's web site at [www.latham.org](http://www.latham.org) or contact The Latham Foundation: Latham Plaza Building, 1826 Clement Ave., Alameda, CA 94501 • Phone 510-521-0920, Fax 510-521-9861.



## Frances speaks her mind:



## TAMING YOUR TERRORIST

**I** was talking to a tomcat who wandered by the other day, and although he seemed friendly, I was keeping my distance, because these guys can turn mean in a minute.

"What is it with you toms," I asked him, "How come you roam around so much? Don't you have a home?"

"Yeah," said he, "I got a home, but it's been so long since I been back there I don't know if I can still find the way."

"I don't get it," I said, "I was rescued from the dump myself, and I am so glad to have a human to deliver my meals that I don't ever let this place out of my sight. And you sure don't look like you've been having a good time."

It was the truth. His tabby-striped coat was greasy and dull, his ears were covered with scabs, and one of his eyes was swollen half shut. It hurt just to look at him.

"No, it's not that much fun," he said, "But I just can't seem to settle down. Every time I decide to head home, I meet another babe and I forget where I was going. I get tired of being all torn up, but when I see another tom I'm in a fight before I have time to think. That's just the way I am."

"What do you do for food on these walkabouts?" I asked.

"I look for houses with other cats and steal their food," he said, and gave me a look that made me back up fast.

"We get fed inside," I said in a hurry.

"Well, that's too bad, sister," he hissed, "You might just have to help me slip inside the door at dinnertime."

I was all ready to abandon this interview and scream for my human, when the tom settled back down.

"Nope, it's not a great life," he went on with a sigh. "Sometimes I hang around a house hoping a kind human will take me in, but for some reason they always chase me away." He backed up to the side of the porch and sprayed it up and down.

"I even been shot at," he said, pointing to his wounded eye. "People just don't like tomcats."

You know, readers, some of these toms are real sweethearts at home, but around the neighborhood, they're terrorists. They beat up other cats, both male and female, and they spray everywhere. A lot of them end up being trapped and taken to the shelter, or worse yet, dumped in someone else's neighborhood.

So do your male animals a favor and get them neutered. Not only because of the horrendous pet overpopulation problem, but also just to give the guys a better life. It's not fair to them, your neighbors, or your neighbors' pets to let them roam around wreaking havoc. Cats may seem independent, but we're not wild animals; we're your pets and your responsibility.

Listen up humans, get your pets fixed! And repeat after me: It's not that hard to do the right thing!

*Frances is the official spokescat for the Hawaii Island Humane Society. Christina Heliker is her translator.* 

*LEMON LAWS, continued from page 11*

or for help designing effective legislation.

The following states have enacted puppy lemon laws or similar legislation:

Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, S. Carolina, Vermont and Virginia.

*For further information contact The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037. Phone 202-452-1100, Fax 202-778-6132, [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)  
Author Robert Blizard is HSUS's Companion Animal Care Associate. He may be reached at 301-548-7789.*







## TIMOTHY'S TROUBLES:

*The true story of a therapy cat who has troubles of his own*

Denise Cahalan

*NOT Timothy and Emily, but two of their "kitten cousins" rescued by Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Kanab, Utah*

**I**n August 1997, Timothy (now over a year old) and his litter-mate, Emily joined my household which consisted at the time of a nine-year-old female feline, Tribble and an eight-year old German Shepherd mix Bodie.

Timothy is Mr. Mellow on our therapy visits but very busy at home. The first incident that caused my concern was when I found a little "pile" on the floor, which wasn't a hairball, but looked similarly raunchy. In the pile was a bra strap, including an eye and hook and red fuzz from something that I didn't recognize. Happily that is the only time he has thrown up. I should have figured that he had dog-like qualities when I noticed large holes in my socks, slippers, T-shirts, night shirt, underwear, and dishtowels. Anything Timothy can reach and sink his teeth into is a possible target. While on vacation, in a quiet moment, I started a list of the items he has had a go at: 36 was the last count which includes mostly clothing (and usually soft items) but also pillow cases, the corners of my

flannel sheets, drapery cords, Sony Walk-man headphones, phone cord, fax cord, TV antenna wire, lamp wire, shoe laces, etc.

You are probably by now thinking, what an idiot owner (or parent, depending on your perspective). Hasn't she cat proofed her house? I thought I had, but he seems to outsmart me. He has opened a kitchen drawer to chew the Walkman headphones; he has pulled the bedspread back to get at my night shirt which I found later on the floor with a round hole in it. He also stuck his paw into the washing machine past the agitator, into the machine to grab a shirt, which he removed, again leaving it on the floor with a hole in it. Recently he got into another kitchen cabinet, which has (now, had, past tense) some thin rubber tubing for the drip system for my yard. He left a little trail in the wake of destruction.

### *The diagnosis?*

This repeated ingestion of non-food objects is called "Pica." It is a psychological condition, which

is more common among Siamese and Burmese cats than other breeds. It appears during the cat's first year of life and can persist several years until it may dissipate. There is no cure although substituting alternative edible objects and digestible treats will sometimes help.

So wish us luck! We hope to be back on our pet therapy visitation schedule soon.

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*Denise Cahalan is a member of Latham's Board of Directors and a volunteer with The Friendship Foundation.*

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The Friendship Foundation is an animal assisted therapy (AAT) non-profit charity located in California. Since 1987, volunteers have been visiting various facilities including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and convalescent homes. The Friendship Foundation is in partnership with Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation. If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation, please call 510 528-9104 or write to P.O. Box 6525, Albany, California 94706





# UPCOMING: Conferences - Workshops - Events

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We are glad to publicize relevant conferences and workshops when space and publication schedules allow. Send information to The Latham Foundation, Attn: Calendar, 1826 Clement Ave., Alameda, CA 94501. Phone 510-521-0920 Fax 510-521-9861. E-mail [Lathm@aol.com](mailto:Lathm@aol.com)



## APRIL

*April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.*

**April 2-4: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Animals,** Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Kanab, UT. For details on this and other humane education weekend workshops including Creating a Humane Culture, How to Start a Humane Education Program, and Humane Education One on One, call 435-644-2001.

**April 8-9: Violence Against Children – Innovations in child abuse intervention and treatment,** Kentfield, CA (Marin County). Practical interventions for professionals who work with at-risk families in a culturally competent context. Sponsored by the Marin, San Francisco, Napa, and Sonoma Child Abuse Prevention Councils. For further information or to register, call the Marin Child Abuse Prevention Council at 415-507-0179.

**April 11: Clicker Magic with Karen Pryor** – humane and effective ways for animal trainers, pet owners, parents, teachers, and others to elicit appropriate behaviors, set limits, and replace punishment with positive reinforcement. San Francisco, California. Presented by the Humane Society of Sonoma County. 707-526-5312.

**April 11-16: Advanced Training in Animal Law Enforcement,** Marin County, California. Offered in cooperation between the Marin Humane Society, the San Diego Humane Society, the Humane Society of Santa Clara Valley, and the State Humane Association of California. For more information on this and other training opportunities including livestock handling and basic animal law enforcement training, call 831-647-8897.

**April 26-28: Technical Animal Rescue** - for professionals who rescue animals caught in disasters or

emergencies. Bakersfield, CA. American Humane Association 800-227-4645.

For further information about this and other training opportunities including *The Manager's Toolbox*; *Dealing with Dysfunctional Behavior in the Workplace*; *Shelter Planning, Design & Construction*; *Chemical Capture*; and *Humane Education*, call AHA.

## MAY

**May 2-8: Be Kind to Animals Week**

**May 2-3: Pet Adoptathon,** Sponsored by North Shore Animal League and PETsMart. A nationwide event. During last year's Adoptathon, 20,674 animal's lives were saved. To find out how you can participate, call 516-883-7900 Ext. 318.

**May 17-21: Sixteenth Annual Conference on Infancy and Childhood,** Ogden, UT. Details? Visit the Infancy & Childhood Conference web page at: <http://ext.usu.edu/confer/confeat.htm>

**May 27: Activity Programming for Senior Adults** (including animal-assisted therapy), Los Angeles, CA. To register or for further information, contact Karen Russell, M.A. 818-349-0973, Fax 818-349-0974.

## JUNE

**June 2-5: American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children's 7th Annual Colloquium,** San Antonio, TX. 312-554-0166, Fax 312-554-0919.

## SEPTEMBER

**September 30 – October 3: No-Kill Conference,** Chicago, IL. For more information call 602-977-5793.







Jenni Dunn,  
therapy dog

# JENNI'S JOURNAL

## Chapter 14

### *Wednesday, January 15, 1997*

I had a really busy day at the hospital today. I worked nearly two hours and was totally exhausted when my visits were over. It seems Mom had found another whole wing on the third floor that she didn't know was there. There were lots of patients but today turned out to be "nurses" day. They were anxiously waiting for me to show up. The doctors even gave me attention today. One nurse, who had been a little standoffish on our first visit to her floor, was very receptive today. She told me, she drew energy and a new enthusiasm from me for her job when I am there.

This is a great hospital for getting treats from patients. One older gentleman took great delight in teasing me by making me work to get my treat out of his hand. When I finally got it, he would grunt to let Mom know that he wanted to do it again and again. His wife and daughter got a big kick out of it.

The ICU nurse, when she found out I was there, had to come out to visit me. She said her patient was unresponsive but she wasn't going to miss meeting me for the first time.

### *Wednesday, January 22, 1997*

It is great watching everyone's eyes sparkle and a smile come to their faces when I first enter the hospital lobby. There was an article about of me with my picture in the hospital newsletter, and as a result, people stop

to talk to me and know my name even though they have never seen me in "person" before. For example, as we were getting on the elevator, a nurse was getting off. When we got on, she decided not to get off and decided to ride the elevator back up with us so she could pet me and get to know me.

I got to play with a little girl about five years old. She had some ice cream but didn't want to share it with me. She gave me a doggie treat instead. I got a smile out of a man when I licked his toe and elderly lady asked me to stay with her until the nurse came back. She thought it was especially cute when I put my feet up on her bed to get closer to her.

### *Wednesday, February 5, 1997*

Today was a milestone of sorts. The new hospital we were working at decided Mom and I know what we are doing and allowed us to visit the Medical/Surgical floor for the first time. They all knew I was coming because the hospital had a meeting to inform them I would be visiting. The nurses were glad to see me and a couple of them even got down on the floor to pet me. Boy! Did I get lots of treats from them.

Our first visit was to a lady who was so weak she couldn't move. I don't think she could see, either. Her daughter was there and helped me put my feet on the bed. She put a treat in her Mom's hand so that I could take it from her. The elderly lady evidently

liked my nuzzling her hand and would wiggle her fingers to tell us she wanted to give another treat again and again. In a really weak voice, she told her daughter that I was "a good licker!"

On the Rehabilitation floor, one of the nurses brought an elderly man in a wheelchair to me. He couldn't see well so (it took him awhile to finally recognize I was there). He gave me a treat (with a little help from the nurse). I licked his hand and he told the nurse, "I'm all better now!"

I visited a lady who was flat on her back and had a metal halo bolted to her head. She could only move her left hand but wasn't going to let that get in the way of petting me. She was a pretty lady. She loved dogs and she wore a wide grin for me the whole time I was there. A therapist and two nurses were watching us and they seemed to be very impressed with me.

I worked a long time today and was so exhausted that the ladies at the reception desk in the lobby commented on how low my head was hanging. I slept in the car all the way home and dreamed of being a puppy again and retrieving a big green ball. I was tired, but glad I could help those people in the hospital.

*Jenny and her human, Linda Dunn,  
live in Richland, WA.*





# Baltimore Police Department Links Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence

Phil Arkow

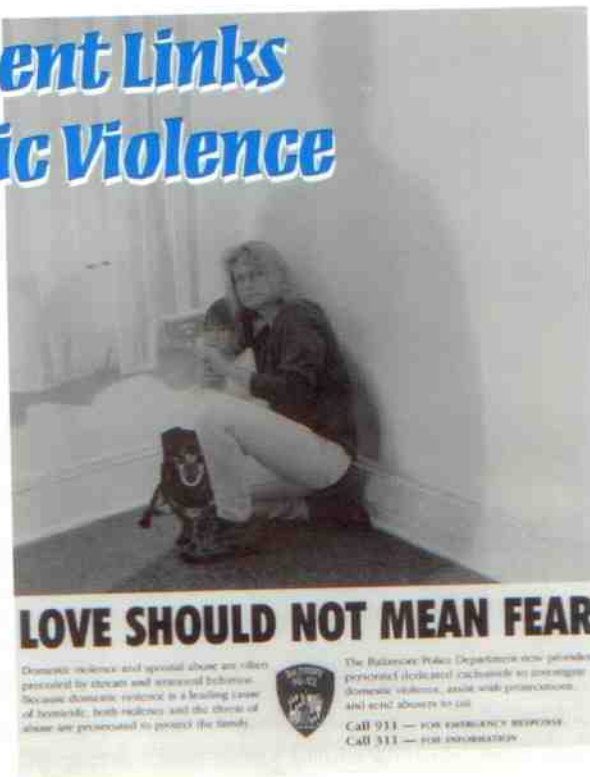
**M**ention "Baltimore Police Department" to most people and they think of the beleaguered detectives in the hit TV show, "Homicide." But the real-life Baltimore PD is taking a national leadership role in including animal welfare in its domestic violence prevention.

Under the direction of Col. Margaret W. Patten, the department in 1994 embarked upon an aggressive commitment to combat domestic abuse. As a result, domestic violence homicides have decreased from 29 in 1995 to 20 in 1996 and to 13 in 1997.

"Recognizing that pets are often the targets of violence in abusive homes, and that the uncertain future of these pets can be a deterrent for victims who wish to leave but cannot provide for the welfare of their beloved animals, several cities nationwide work in conjunction with their local veterinarians to provide temporary safe lodging for the pets of domestic violence victims," Patten wrote in a Maryland Veterinary Medical Association newsletter.

"But the Baltimore Police Department believes that more can be done." The Department envisions a strategy that focuses on "The Link" between domestic violence, child, and animal abuse, with a team of liaisons from law enforcement, social services and animal control

*This poster, showing a woman and her child cowering in the face of domestic violence, was modified to include the family dog as well, after a conference organized by the William Snyder Foundation for Animals sensitized Baltimore Police Department officials to the link between animal abuse and family violence.*



who are cross-trained to recognize abuse and neglect and who respond to residences where some combination of partner, child or animal abuse is evident or suspected. This partnership will provide swift and effective intervention, she wrote.

Patten encouraged veterinarians to play a role in this strategy, by providing space in waiting rooms for literature educating women about domestic violence resources. "Because abusers often do not allow their victims to go to other traditional resources, your waiting room may be a victim's only access to information," she wrote.

Veterinarians can also provide "safe cages", medical evaluation, and treatment for the pets of women in safe houses.

The department is also designing a protocol that instructs officers to be alert for signs of suspected child abuse and animal

abuse when investigating domestic situations, to document these occurrences, and to notify the animal shelter. A brochure that educates women about domestic violence will include descriptions of how pets are hurt or killed by abusers for revenge or to control their victims psychologically. It encourages women to include their pets' welfare when making escape safety plans.

Other plans include combining the domestic violence database with child abuse, elder abuse, animal control, parole and probation. This would allow the department to respond to "linked" cases in a coordinated fashion.

*For information on Baltimore's progressive approach to community policing,*





# Latham Letter BACK ISSUES containing "Links" Articles

The following back issues containing articles on the connections between child and animal abuse and other forms of domestic violence are available from the Foundation for \$2.50 each, plus \$3.00 Priority Mail Postage and Handling for up to 10 issues (U.S. and Canada).

Foreign orders please add \$10.00. California residents please add 8.25% sales tax. MasterCard and VISA accepted.

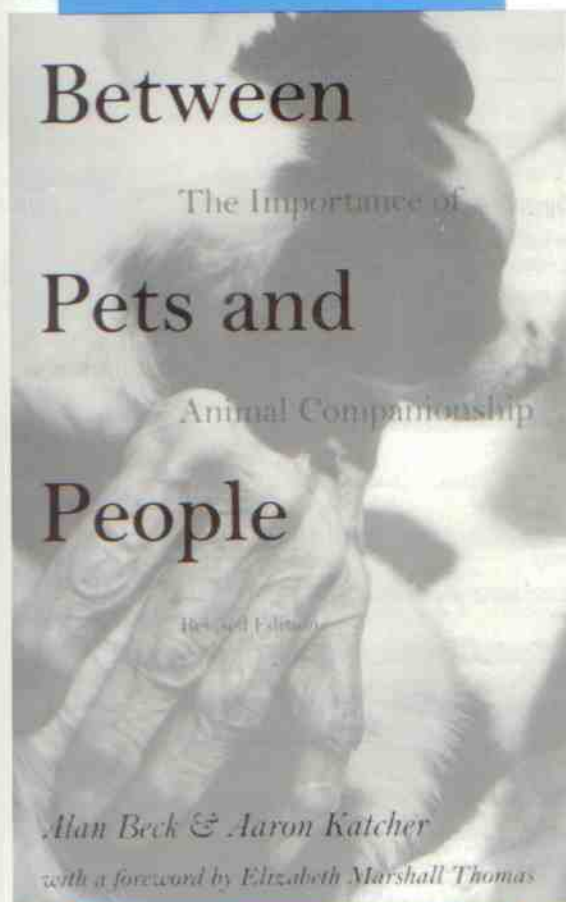
— The Human/Animal Abuse Connection	Spring 98	— Israel Conference Puts the Link Between Animal and Child Abuse on the Public Agenda	Summer 94
— The Relationship Between Animal Abuse And Other Forms Of Family Violence	Winter 97	— Wisconsin Coalition Organizes Anti-Abuse Conference	Summer 94
— Domestic Violence Assistance Program Protects Women, Children, and Their Pets in Oregon	Summer 97	— A Shared Cry: Animal and Child Abuse Connections	Fall 1994
— A Veterinarian and a Social Worker Confront Abuse	Summer 97	— A Report on Latham's October 1992 Conference on Child and Animal Abuse	Winter 93
— University of Penn. Veterinary Hospital Initiates Abuse Reporting Policy	Fall 97	— Child Abuse Reporting Hotline Falls Short	Winter 93
— Domestic Violence and Cruelty to Animals	Winter 1996	— I Befriended a Child Molester	Spring 93
— Animal Cruelty IS Domestic Violence	Winter 1996	— A Test for Determining Why Children are Cruel to Animals	Summer 93
— Gentleness Workshops (I Like the Policeman Who Arrested That Dog!)	Spring 1996	— Animal Advocates Looking Out for Children (A description of the Toledo Humane Society's child and animal abuse prevention program)	Fall 93
— Loudoun County Virginia Develops Cooperative Response to Domestic Violence	Spring 1996	— Correlations Drawn Between Child and Animal Victims of Violence	Summer 92
— And Kindness for ALL (Guest Editorial)	Summer 1996	— Upsetting Comparisons (between child and animal cruelty investigations)	Summer 92
— Should Veterinarians Report Suspected Animal Abuse?	Fall 1996	— Watching Ralph Smile (An animal welfare professional's reminiscence)	Summer 92
— Windwalker Humane Coalition's Web of Hope Grows Stronger	Fall 1996	— The Shape of Cruelty (A child protection professional's perspective)	Summer 92
— Update on the Link Between Child and Animal Abuse	Fall 1996	— Link Between Animal Cruelty and Child Abuse Described	Summer 92
— Report on Tacoma, Washington's Humane Coalition Against Violence	Winter 95	— Putting the Abuse of Animals and Children in Historical Perspective	Summer 92
— Animal Cruelty & the Link to Other Violent Crimes	Winter 95	— The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	Winter 90
— Univ. of Southern California Conference Addresses Violence Against Children	Spring 1995	— Dangerous Dogs: A Symptom of Dangerous People	Fall 89
— Working to Break the Cycle of Violence	Spring 1995	— *Protecting America's Children	Fall 88*
— The Tangled Web: Report on LaCrosse, Wisconsin's Coalition Against Violence	Spring 1995	— *Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect	Fall 88*
— Hawaii's "Healthy Start" - a Successful Approach to the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect	Summer 1995	— *The Role of the Community in Child Protection	Fall 88*
— San Diego, Calif. Child Protection Workers Required to Report Animal Abuse	Summer 1995	— *Child Protection: The Need for Community Response	Fall 88*
— Animals Over Children? (An Editorial by Michael Mountain, Editor, Best Friends Magazine)	Summer 1995	— *The Humane Society of the US and "The Cycle of Child Abuse"	Fall 88*
— Summaries of Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Conferences	Summer 1995	— *Parent Abuse and Games to Play	Fall 88*
— Abuse an Animal - Go To Jail! (Animal Legal Defense Fund's Zero Tolerance for Cruelty)	Summer 1995	— *Mental Health and Child Protective Services	Fall 88*
— Report on Rhode Island Conference: Weaving a Silver Web of Hope from the Tangled Threads of Violence	Summer 1995	— Working Toward Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect	Summer 87*
— Part 2: Hawaii's Healthy Start Child Abuse Program	Fall 1995	— An Overview of Children's Protective Services	Summer 87*
— Milwaukee Humane Society's "PAL" Program: At-Risk Kids Learn Respect through Dog Obedience Training	Winter 94	— Pets and Latchkey Children	Summer 87*
— Latham Confronts Child and Animal Abuse	Spring 94	— Animal Abuse Ties to Crime	Summer 87*
— A Humane Garden of Children, Plants, and Animals Grows in Sonoma County	Spring 94	— Cruelty: Where Do We Draw the Line?	Summer 87*
— Education and Violence: Where Are We Going? A Guest Editorial	Spring 94		
— Bedwetting, Fire Setting, and Animal Cruelty as Indicators of Violent Behavior	Spring 94		
— Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence: Intake Statistics Tell a Sad Story	Spring 94		
— The Veterinarian's Role in the Prevention of Violence	Summer 94		
— Results of Latham's National Survey on Child and Animal Abuse	Summer 94		

\* Available as reprints only.

## THE LATHAM FOUNDATION

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***Between Pets and People:  
The Importance of Animal  
Companionship,  
Revised Edition***

Alan Beck & Aaron Katcher

Since the first edition of *Between Pets and People* in 1985, the authors' then-startling contention that pets benefit our mental and physical health has found wide acceptance. Evidence in our daily lives – in television pet food ads, in doctor's offices outfitted with aquaria – attests to how widely the belief in pets' therapeutic influence is

now held.

This revised edition of *Between Pets and People*, with additional data and case studies and expanded references – including a listing of Internet resources – and a foreword by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, analyzes the surprisingly complex relationships we have with our pets. This book contains an important lesson for everyone – to accept ourselves and others in the uncritical way that pets accept us, and come to terms with our own animal nature.

Alan Beck holds a doctor of science degree from the Johns Hopkins University. He is the director of the Center for Applied Ethology and Human-Animal Interaction at Purdue University's School of Veterinary Medicine. Aaron Katcher is a psychiatrist and professor emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania.

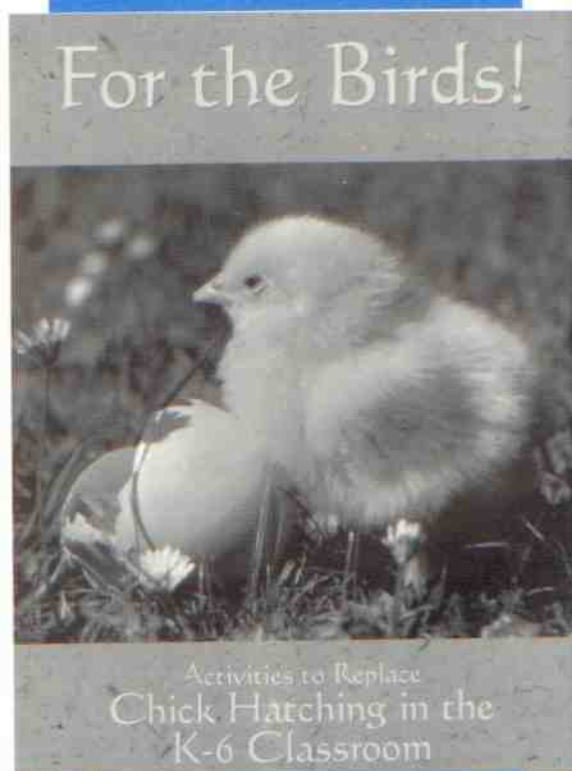
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***For the Birds!  
Activities to Replace  
Chick Hatching in the K-6  
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A new booklet offering alternatives to classroom chick hatching is available from

The National Association for Humane and Environmental Education (NAHEE) the youth education division of The Humane Society of the United States. Each year, many elementary school teachers undertake chick-hatching projects. Although popular, this classroom exercise often produces unintended sometimes cruel – results. *For the Birds!* provides fun, easy-to-use lesson plans with clearly outlined objectives, skills, and procedures. This 17-page booklet also includes a list of useful resources and humane education materials. Prices are: \$3.00 each, \$2.75 each (orders of 50-99) or \$2.50 each (100 or more). Send check or money order to NAHEE, P.O. Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423-0362. Tel: 860-434-8666. (Add state sales tax if applicable.)





### *Is a Classroom Pet for You?*

New from NAHEE, *Is a Classroom Pet for You?* addresses the pros and cons of keeping animals as classroom pets. This colorful brochure includes tips on choosing an appropriate classroom pet, guidelines for responsible pet care, and alternative activities designed to help students respect and appreciate wild and companion animals. Prices are 50¢ each; 40¢ (orders of 50-100); 30¢ (100 or more). Send check or money order to NAHEE PO Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423-0362. Tel: (860) 434-8666. (Add state sales tax if applicable.)

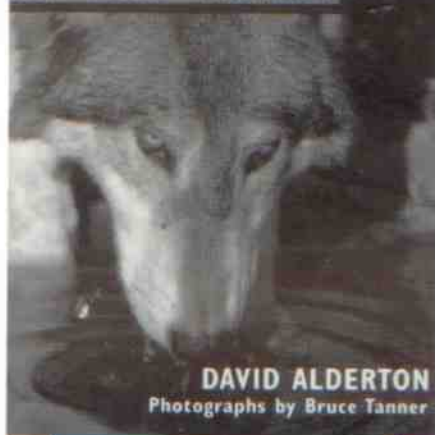


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## FOXES, WOLVES & WILD DOGS OF THE WORLD



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### *Wild Cats of the World*

Lithe and graceful, mysterious and independent, cats have been both worshipped and feared by humans. Here they all are, from large, ferocious lions and tigers to the smaller but still fierce bobcats and servals. Dozens of full-color, close-up pictures reveal a variety of moods as well as the details of wildcat physiology. A panther opens its mouth wide, showing its long, sharp incisors. The pupils of a fishing cat become round and wide in response to light. A serval

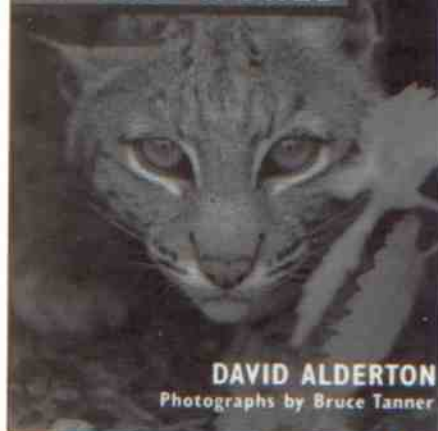
shuts its eyes for a nap – but its sensitive ears; remain alert in case of danger And take a good look at a Geoffroy's cat's whiskers, which play an important sensory role. You'll see every stripe on the tiger and spot on the cheetah. A wealth of facts tell about hunting techniques, methods of communication, reproduction, the care and development of the cubs, evolution and distribution, and what efforts are being made to save these beautiful animals from extinction.

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## WILD CATS OF THE WORLD





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