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Latham Letter

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PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

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Cincinnati's Strategic Humane Interventions Program (SHIP) Teaches Positive Interactions to Battered Mothers and their Children



By Barbara W. Boat, Ph.D.

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The Best Friends Art Project
"Breaking the Chain" Storytelling Contest
Volunteer Opportunities in Romania

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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."



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The Latham Letter

Volume XXVI, Number 3, Summer 2005

**BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON
HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**



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The Latham Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private operating foundation founded in 1918 to promote respect for all life through education. The Foundation makes grants-in-kind rather than monetary grants. Latham welcomes partnerships with other institutions and individuals who share its commitment to furthering humane education.

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Editorial

Expectations

What is Respect of Life?



Hugh H. Tebault, III, President

The ending of Terri Schiavo's life March 31 may have shed more light on our current society than we were ready to see. It is very important to look at this tragedy as an object lesson. As often said, the first step to fixing a problem is acknowledging that one exists.

There were many contested issues and many red flags raised but never answered by those who questioned what was being done. Setting aside all the political aspects, let's examine the underlying issues.

When a person or animal gets into a medical situation where only external, machine-assisted care will keep the body alive, we as a society allow that the immediate family and medical experts will consult and make heart-wrenching decisions about further treatment. Traditionally, simply supplying basic food or water has not been considered to be extraordinary life support. When life sustaining equipment such as a respirator or heart/lung machine is disconnected, the patient dies within hours. When food and water is withheld, it can take as long as two weeks before the body succumbs to starvation and dehydration.

Death is part of life. The old adage reminds us that nothing is as certain as death and taxes. But we need to be honest with ourselves about what is within the realm of acceptable and what is not. Unwanted or unadoptable animals are euthanized. Euthanasia is defined as "the painless killing of a patient suffering from an incurable disease or in an irreversible coma." If the decision made was that Terri's life was no longer worth living, the humane avenue of death would have been lethal injection. Instead, she was starved and dehydrated until she died almost 14 days later. Had this been done to an animal, the perpetrator would have been charged with a crime and punished. Had this been done to a criminal ... no wait, that wouldn't have happened because it would have been considered 'cruel and unusual punishment.'

We can teach our children all we want about kindness to animals and respect for life, but if as a society we allow the government to starve a citizen to death, what have we become? We must learn from this grotesque tragedy and work together to rebuild a society that intrinsically values life over death. Only in such a society that values life can humane education - teaching kindness to animals and each other - ever have a chance of success.





Of Note...

NEW FILM AVAILABLE SOON:

Crossing the Cultural Divide – Changing Hearts and Minds about Spaying and Neutering

Latham's new film demonstrates successful strategies for overcoming resistance and communicating the benefits of spaying and neutering. *Crossing the Cultural Divide* uses examples on the Crow Indian Reservation and from the Montana Spay Neuter Coalition. It is an insider's look, a slice of life you might not otherwise see, and it respectfully illustrates what works. **Stay tuned for how to order.**



REMINDER – December 31, 2005 is the next deadline for Latham's Search for Excellence Video Contest.

The purpose of the competition is to recognize and encourage excellence in video productions promoting respect for all life. Entry information will be available soon at www.Latham.org.



Coming in the next Latham Letter: Reader's Survey Results

HOW TO REACH US:

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In the last issue (Spring 2005), we misprinted Dr. Carol Brothers' e-mail address. Dr. Brothers is co-founder of Support Services for Animal Care Professionals (Pages 6-9.) She can be reached at carol_ab@juno.com or 410-451-8882.



The Strategic Humane Interventions Program (SHIP) Teaches Positive Interactions to Battered Mothers and Their Children in Cincinnati

By Barbara Boat, Ph.D.

Photos are not SHIP program participants. They are for illustration only.



The Need

The six mothers and their 15 children are housed in a transitional living apartment complex for battered women. In many ways, these are the “lucky” families. These courageous women have made the difficult decision to leave their abusive partners, spent up to 30 days at the battered women’s shelter and, subsequently, made the even more difficult decision to not return home – ever. In seeking a safer life for themselves and their children, they live in TLP, the Transitional Living Project, run by the Greater Cincinnati YWCA. For up to two years the women are offered job counseling, employment support, skills training and therapy groups. “But we need more,” said Theresa Singleton, director of the program. “We need an intervention that connects these moms and their kids. They have been through so much shared hurt and violence. They need to have some good experiences and learn new ways to be gentle and positive with each other.”

Enter SHIP: The Strategic Humane Interventions Program

Developed by Lynn Loar, Ph.D., in 1999, on its surface SHIP appears to focus participants on using clicker training to teach “good manners” to homeless shelter dogs to help them become more adoptable. In reality, we used SHIP as a delivery mechanism for teaching positive people interaction skills to the battered mothers and their children. As Karen Pryor writes “The SHIP program is about learning. It begins with families learning to teach the shelter dogs to sit, to make eye contact, to touch a held-out hand, and to respond when called. Children wielding clickers and treats can teach these simple behaviors and experience success (the dogs experience success, too, of course). Families witness and participate in the process. The techniques for interacting through positive reinforcement can be rapidly assimilated and transferred to interfamily processes, without verbal instruction.” (Loar and Colman, 2004, p. 80)

The Program Components of SHIP

One strength of SHIP is its adaptability to specific settings. In our program for battered mothers and their children, we developed a seven-week program.

“...we used SHIP as a delivery mechanism for teaching positive people interaction skills to the battered mothers and their children.”

Based on feedback from an initial pilot, we found that learning the clicker skills was most beneficial to children who were at least eight years old. However, the mothers had younger children as well. We were able to arrange for child care during the 75 minute sessions. In addition, Lynn Loar had advised on the importance of feeding families. Our program was held in the early evening and many mothers worked all day. So we provided a simple supper before each session for all family members.

Behind the Scenes Preparation

At the heart of the SHIP program were our volunteer dog trainer experts and our close collaboration with our local animal shelter, SPCA Cincinnati. The dog trainers “suitability tested” and transported three shelter dogs to each weekly session. We used two dogs in the session but had a spare in case a chosen dog evidenced an unforeseen negative reaction. Our trainers were exceptionally gifted and committed to the program. For 30 minutes they were in charge, running two concurrent groups to teach clicker skills to the mothers and their children.



“The most challenging part of the assignment was to think about positive behaviors to reinforce rather than stopping negative behaviors.”

It also was important to gather all the necessary materials for each session. Materials included name tags for staff and participants, clickers, lots of candy (initially no chocolate candy was used), and waiter’s aprons with pockets to hold dog treats or candy for the “training game.” We had graduate certificates, handouts on clicker training developed by two of Lynn Loar’s young protégés, Hilary Louie and Evelyn Pang, titled “Teaching with a Clicker: How to Train



People and Animals with a Clicker and Treats,” (Loar and Colman, 2004) and materials on how to be safe around dogs. In addition to our dog trainer volunteers, we had volunteer staff from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, the Greater Cincinnati YWCA, SPCA Cincinnati, and Xavier University.

The Program

The SHIP schedule during the 75 minute program was as follows:

- Clicker Practice
- Dog Introductions
- Dog Training with Clickers and Dog Treats
- Playing the Training Game
- Clicker Project Homework and Clicker Promise Pledge

Clicker Practice involved participants standing in a semicircle. A staff member demonstrated when a click should occur, e.g., “When my two hands come together and touch each other.” This exercise helped the children and mothers watch carefully for a behavior and time each click. The new clickers from Sunshine Books worked very well with our participants.

Dog Introductions were an essential component of the program. If a participant was fearful, he or she could simply stand behind a chair. Others remained seated and held out a hand for the dog to sniff as it toured the semicircle with our animal shelter volunteer. This volunteer also told the history of the dog, which was often quite sad. As one young boy

Continued on next page

said, “These dogs are homeless, just like us.” You can imagine the applause when the following week the volunteer would announce that one of our dogs had been adopted! The volunteer also instructed the group on how to be safe around dogs. One younger girl who stood behind her chair for the first four sessions was videotaped at session five with a small dog on her lap!

Dog Training with Clickers and Dog Treats focused on behaviors that would enhance the dog’s adoptability such as coming when called, sitting, and looking people in the eye. Often mothers and children would work in teams with one clicking the behavior and the other feeding the treat.

Playing the Training Game was great fun. The Training Game is described in detail in Loar and Colman’s wonderful book *Teaching Empathy: Animal-Assisted Therapy Programs for Children and Families Exposed to Violence* (Latham Foundation, 2004). One person is the trainer and one person is the learner. We paired each dyad with a “coach” who was one of our staff members. The trainer and coach decided on the task for the learner to perform. The trainer then guided the learner to figure out what the task was (e.g. touch a light switch) by using only the clicker and candy treats.

The rules of the Training Game are 1) Choose tasks that the learner can perform and the trainer can teach by clicking and treating; 2) Choose tasks that the learner would be comfortable performing; 3) Avoid

“The techniques for interacting through positive reinforcement can be rapidly assimilated and transferred to interfamily processes, without verbal instruction.”

(Loar and Colman, 2004, p. 80)

touching people or the belongings of others; and 4) Avoid interacting with the dogs if they are present.

Participants loved the Training Game, laughing and applauding when they were successful. Moreover, they were learning to click for behaviors that they wanted – the DO behaviors, rather than the DON’T behaviors.

The **Clicker Project Homework** in later sessions enabled participants to apply their new skills to interpersonal situations in their home settings. Each family member decided on a behavior in another family member that he or she would click and treat at home during the week. The most challenging part of the assignment was to think about positive behaviors to reinforce rather than stopping negative behaviors. A parent would say “I want Jose to quit being so grouchy.” We changed the focus to clicking and treating Jose every time she saw him smile. A teenager said, “I want Mom to quit yelling at me to do the dishes.” We changed this request to clicking and treating her mom for asking her in a calm voice to do the dishes.

We practiced the target behaviors before the families went home so all participants were clear about what behaviors would be clicked and treated during the week. The mothers and their children took their clickers and treats home along with a signed **Clicker Promise Pledge** to use the clicker as it was intended. At the next SHIP session we debriefed all the participants on the success of their homework project and each mother and child then selected new target behaviors for their Clicker Project Homework to work on during the following week.

Feedback

WCPO Channel 9, a TV station in Cincinnati, interviewed and taped several of our participants at the end of SHIP. The words of the






**"The Clicker Project
Homework in later sessions
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mothers best capture the impact of the SHIP experience on their changed relationships with their children and with the dogs:

- A mother with two teenaged daughters laughed: "SHIP teaches you to work as a family. This daughter says the dog's name, 'Honey.' I click and my other daughter treats!"
- Mother: "I learned I need to reward my children when they do good things and not focus on the bad things."
- Mother: "I learned I may not get what I want the first time. I just need to be patient."
- Mother: "Like with the dogs. Just be gentle with each other and approach each other in a calm way."

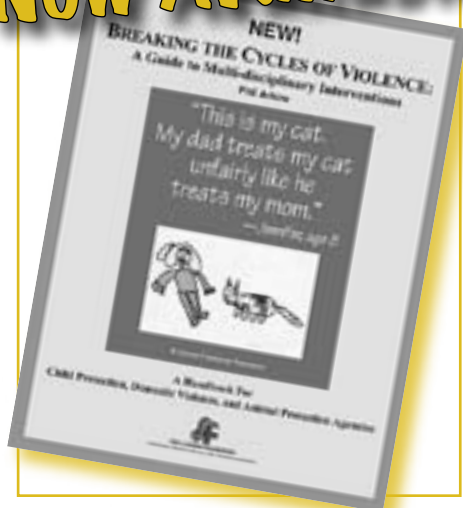
Finally, our mothers and their children said they wished the program had lasted longer. We, the volunteer staff, had the dual satisfaction of knowing we

had enhanced the interpersonal skills of our battered mothers and their children, and the mothers and children had, indeed, helped our homeless dogs become more adoptable. 

Barbara Boat, Ph.D., is Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, and Director, Childhood Trust, Children's Hospital Medical Center. She treats, trains, and researches childhood trauma and maltreatment. Barbara is also Vice President and Secretary of the Pryor Foundation. www.pryorfoundation.com



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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.

___ "Link" Activities Extend to Delaware's Probation and Parole Officers	Spring 05	___ Animal Cruelty IS Domestic Violence	Winter 96
___ Latham Brings "Link" Training to Brazilian Police Officers	Winter 05	___ Gentleness Programs (I Like the Policeman Who Arrested that Dog)	Spring 96
___ Nova Scotia Conference Explores the "Link"	Summer 04	___ Loudoun County, Virginia Develops Cooperative Response to Domestic Violence	Spring 96
___ Partnerships Formed in Colorado to Stop the Cycle of Violence	Summer 04	___ And Kindness for ALL (Guest Editorial)	Summer 96
___ Tulane University Symposium Introduces the "Link" to Lawyers	Spring 04	___ Should Veterinarians Report Suspected Animal Abuse?	Fall 96
___ Crime Prevention Funding Introduces the "Link" to Canadian Groups	Winter 04	___ Windwalker Humane Coalition's Web of Hope Grows Stronger	Fall 96
___ Gabriel's Angels Breaking the Cycle of Violence in Arizona	Summer 03	___ Update on the Link Between Child and Animal Abuse	Fall 96
___ New Training Materials Help Professionals Recognize Non-Accidental Animal Injury	Spring 03	___ Report on Tacoma, Washington's Humane Coalition Against Violence	Winter 95
___ Making a Difference for People & Animals in Hamilton, Ontario	Winter 03	___ Animal Cruelty & the Link to Other Violent Crimes	Winter 95
___ Examining the "Link" in Wellington County, Ontario, Canada	Summer 02	___ Univ. of Southern California Conference Addresses Violence Against Children	Spring 95
___ New Link Resource Book Helping Albertans	Summer 02	___ Working to Break the Cycle of Violence	Spring 95
___ Making the Connection Between Animal Abuse and Neglect of Vulnerable Adults	Winter 02	___ The Tangled Web: Report on La Crosse, Wisconsin's Coalition Against Violence	Spring 95
___ Calgary Research Results: Exploring the Links Between Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence	Fall 01	___ San Diego, Calif. Child Protection Workers Required to Report Animal Abuse	Summer 95
___ Ontario SPCA's Women's Shelter Survey Shows Staggering Results	Spring 01	___ Animals Over Children? (An Editorial by Michael Mountain, Editor, Best Friends Magazine)	Summer 95
___ Putting the "Link" All Together: Ontario SPCA's Violence Prevention Initiative	Spring 01	___ Summaries of Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Conferences	Summer 95
___ Canadian and Florida Groups Actively Working on the "Link"	Winter 01	___ Abuse an Animal - Go To Jail! (Animal Legal Defense Fund's Zero Tolerance for Cruelty)	Summer 95
___ Latham's "Link" Message Goes to South Africa	Spring 00	___ Report on Rhode Island Conference: Weaving a Silver Web of Hope from the Tangled Threads of Violence	Summer 95
___ Crossroads: An Intensive Treatment Program for Adolescent Girls	Fall 00	___ Milwaukee Humane Society's "PAL" Program: At-Risk Kids Learn Respect through Dog Obedience Training	Winter 94
___ Latham Sponsors "Creating a Legacy of Hope" at British Columbia Conference	Winter 00	___ Latham Confronts Child and Animal Abuse	Spring 94
___ New England Animal Control/Humane Task Force	Spring/Summer 99	___ A Humane Garden of Children, Plants, and Animals Grows in Sonoma County	Spring 94
___ Confronting Abuse (a veterinarian and a social worker confront abuse)	Summer 98	___ Education and Violence: Where Are We Going? A Guest Editorial	Spring 94
___ The Human/Animal Abuse Connection	Spring 98	___ Bed-wetting, Fire Setting, and Animal Cruelty as Indicators of Violent Behavior	Spring 94
___ The Relationship Between Animal Abuse and Other Forms of Family Violence	Winter 97	___ Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence: Intake Statistics Tell a Sad Story	Spring 94
___ Domestic Violence Assistance Program Protects Women, Children, and their Pets in Oregon	Summer 97	___ The Veterinarian's Role in the Prevention of Violence	Summer 94
___ University of Penn. Veterinary Hospital Initiates Abuse Reporting Policy	Fall 97	___ Results of Latham's National Survey on Child and Animal Abuse	Summer 94
___ Domestic Violence and Cruelty to Animals	Winter 96	___ A Shared Cry: Animal and Child Abuse Connections	Fall 94

Canadian Veterinarians Adopt Strategic Policy on Reporting Animal Abuse

By Phil Arkow

Latham Letter readers may recall an earlier issue (Spring 2003) where we reported on a ground-breaking policy by veterinarians in the United Kingdom regarding the responsibilities of the veterinary profession to recognize and report suspected animal abuse. Such engagement is critical if animal abuse is to be recognized as a serious health concern and if veterinarians are to be treated with the same respect for their public health duties as physicians are.

The 2003 article compared the British policy with earlier American and Canadian position statements. In March, 2005, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) leapfrogged to the head of the international community of professionals addressing the "Link" with a new position statement. This policy, presented below, is unique in several respects:

1. It is treated by the CVMA as a "strategic approach," rather than a reluctant reaction.
2. It declares that veterinarians have a "moral" responsibility to report suspected cases of animal abuse, and encourages provincial veterinary associations to lobby their governments to gain the "legal" responsibility.
3. It defines animal abuse as including "the active maltreatment or passive neglect of animals and staged animal fighting. Animal hoarding is neglect on a large scale." This may be the most

concise and effective definition ever stated in such a policy, and avoids the problematic legal issue of establishing malicious intent by the perpetrator.

4. The premise for this new policy is based on the recognized link between abuse in animals and abuse in people.
5. Reporting procedures must be balanced by immunity for veterinarians who respond with professional judgment and in good faith. This provision places veterinarians on equal footing with human health professionals.
6. Canada's veterinary colleges are encouraged to discuss this issue to better train future veterinarians.

Animal Abuse Position

The CVMA recognizes that veterinarians are in a position to observe occasions of animal abuse and have a moral obligation to report suspected cases. That obligation has increased with the recognized link between abuse in animals and abuse in people. In return, society has an obligation to support those veterinarians who report in good faith, using their professional judgment.

CVMA recognizes that moral obligation is not legal obligation. Any legal obligation to report abuse, or provision of immunity from prosecution for veterinarians, is the jurisdiction of the provinces.

Background

Animal abuse includes the active maltreatment, or passive neglect of animals and staged animal fighting. Animal hoarding is neglect on a large scale.

Veterinarians are often the first professionals to see an abused animal. Suspected animal abuse cases should be reported to local animal protection agencies. More than the animal may be at risk as studies have documented a link between the abuse of animals and the abuse of people, especially family members. Veterinarians may be able to play an important role in breaking the cycle of family violence by reporting suspected animal abuse.

The CVMA encourages provincial VMAs to lobby their provincial governments to develop legislation to make mandatory the reporting of animal abuse by veterinarians, and to provide immunity to those who do so using their professional judgment and in good faith. Other health professionals who are required to report suspected abuse cases have such protection. Veterinarians deserve similar immunity.

Veterinary schools are encouraged to discuss animal abuse, and the reporting thereof in their curricula, so that graduating veterinarians are better able to recognize the signs of abuse and know the appropriate steps to take in documenting and reporting it.



The Best Friends Art Project:

Humane Education through Art

By Lorraine Johnston

Everyone at Best Friends Animal Society, in Kanab, Utah, has a special place in their hearts for the furred and feathered. Most of the employees moved to the small town for the sole purpose of working at the sanctuary. Between grooming horses, playing with dogs, feeding cats and cleaning rabbit houses, they act as advocates for the animals, giving pets a voice and educating others about kindness to all living things.

Humane education has been given a more creative face by artist Cyrus Mejia and photographer Clay Myers, both Best Friends staffers. They have taken the message one step further by putting together an art exhibition, the Best Friends Art Project, currently touring the country. The project is a collection of paintings, installations and photographs created to educate people about the problem of pet overpopulation, to inform them of ways they can be part of the solution, and to evoke and memorialize the spirit of the animals.

The project itself is sponsored by Best Friends Animal Society and is just one brush stroke, one frame, of a larger piece—the No More Homeless Pets campaign, which strives for the day when every pet will have a loving forever home.



The exhibition features works from The 575 Project, created by Mejia. Last year, between four and five million unwanted pets were put to death in shelters in the United States. The “575” in the title represents approximately the number of dogs and cats killed each hour. Mejia used dog and cat collars, rabies tags and shelter cage cards from animals killed in shelters to symbolize the unnecessary deaths of companion animals.

Mejia said, “Physical objects can become emotionally charged and trigger forgotten feelings. The materials I used are things ordinarily associated with dogs and cats, like collars, tags and pet food cans. I collected 575 of each object and created a piece of art from each collection.”

One example is “3 To 5,” drawings of cats done with brush and ink on Sumi paper. Each scroll is seven feet long by 18 inches wide. On average, cats will live in shelters for three



Best Friends
ANIMAL SOCIETY



Clay Myers and Cyrus Mejia.

to five days before being killed. The drawings were made using only three to five brush strokes for each one.

Another striking example is “The Screen of Self Defense.” The work forms a large picture of a dog and cat. The drawing was made using words instead of lines and shading. The words are reasons, collected from shelters, as to why people gave up their pets. They include “daughter went to college” and “barks too much.”

Myers uses his photography skills to capture a unique image, with every click of the camera. His images invoke true feeling, be it happiness, love, surprise or a dawning of realization. The photographs are “captured moments,” showing the strong bond between people and their pets, portraying each animal as a unique individual.

Myers said, “Every cat and dog is an individual with a unique personality. Through photography, I hope to show that animals have value and are an important part of our lives.”

The project emphasizes the belief of Best Friends that euthanasia is not an acceptable solution to the overpopulation of domestic animals and promotes the idea of spay/neuter and adoption.

Travel and presentation of the Best Friends Art Project are provided through a grant from Ameriquest Corporation. Dawn and Roland Arnall, the owners of Ameriquest, are tremendous animal lovers and members of Best Friends. They heard about the art show while at the

sanctuary a couple of years ago, and offered to help. Since then, they have arranged for the show to be exhibited in Washington, DC, Chicago, The Bay Area, and Los Angeles, with other cities such as Sacramento and New York on the horizon. People all over the country have had the opportunity to see the work and experience the message of Best Friends in this new and different way.

In all of the cities at which the Art Project has been on display, people have been touched and moved by the reality of how many healthy animals are euthanized in this country. But, they all come away enlightened with realization that this problem can be solved by adoption, education, spay/neuter and being kind to animals.

***Lorraine Johnston** is a staff writer for Best Friends Animal Society. She lives in Portland, Oregon, with her boyfriend and their Manx-mix cat, Sierra, who is often in her lap while she is writing. She is thankful to have the job of her dreams.*



"Breaking the Chain"

Storytelling Contest Unleashes Valuable Lesson

By Debra J. White



Breaking the Chain, or why chaining dogs is inhumane, was the theme of the Arizona Animal Welfare League's first annual art and storytelling contest for children. Besides the cruelty involved in chaining dogs outside 24 hours a day, seven days a week, dogs without human companionship can become vicious. According to Dogs Deserve Better, a national advocacy group, around 20 children are killed each year by chained dogs. The chain can often become embedded in the dog's neck, causing pain and infection. Chained dogs suffer from exposure to weather extremes, such as frigid winters in North Dakota and blistering summers in Texas. Stuck on chains, dogs have no way of protecting themselves from predators that inhabit certain parts of the country. So there are many compelling safety reasons for both children and dogs to free these pets.

To take part in the contest children were asked to read a short story that I wrote. They had the choice to write or draw their own conclusion. The story involved a feisty feline named Harriet who moved next door to a chained dog. When Harriet's owner left for work the next day, the drowsy cat had just settled in for the first of her many daily naps. Loud yapping from the neighbor's yard awakened her. Harriet squeezed herself through a hole in the window screen and went outside to investigate. She met Joey, a fluffy brown dog that had been chained up for several years. Harriet demanded that Joey keep quiet because he was disturbing her sleep, but the dog explained that he was bored, lonely and terribly thirsty. His water bowl had been empty for quite sometime. More importantly, the heavy chain hurt his neck. And, he told Harriet, he needed a friend. Would Harriet help him get off his chain?

Due to limited funding, we restricted the contest to third grade students in the Phoenix public school system. Initially, no schools responded to my query. I felt discouraged but not enough to give up. Since it was close to holiday time, I decided to pursue after school programs like the Boys and Girls Clubs when the Christmas holiday ended. But then something changed. The Village Meadows Elementary School in Deer Valley called and said they wanted to enter. Great, I thought, at least we can have the contest, even if it's with just one school. No sooner had I delivered the entry forms to Village Meadows when a second school, the Moya Elementary School in West Phoenix, called. They too wanted to participate. The first

annual Breaking the Chain Art and Storytelling Contest was off to a start.

The contest grand finale was in February at the Village Meadows School where the Principal and a third grade teacher organized a small ceremony in the school library. On hand to award the prizes were Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who may be America's toughest sheriff but he has a soft spot for kids and animals. Also present were Thelda Williams, Division Commander in the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Bari Mears, President of the Pets911 Auxiliary, Eileen Procter, owner of It's a Ruff Life Doggie Day Care Center and myself. Two creative young girls won first place prizes of new bikes. One young boy won a third place prize, a \$15 gift certificate to Borders Books and Music.

A second awards ceremony was held at the Moya Elementary School in West Phoenix where Sam Spinnelle from the Arizona Animal Welfare League joined me. Two students won second place prizes of portable CD players; one student won a third place prize and received the \$15 gift certificate to Borders.

The contest undoubtedly had a significant impact on the children. Sandy Tarleton, third grade teacher who organized the contest at Village Meadows, said, "The project was helpful because all children relate to animals even those who don't necessarily relate that well to people. All the kids are aware that animals are living beings that feel pain, emotion, and need to be cared for properly." Joey De La Huerta, Assistant Principal of the Moya Elementary School, agreed. He said, "Thank you for involving our students. I feel that it was a good lesson for them. We look forward to working with you in the future."

When coordinating this event, my goal was to convince at least some Maricopa county residents to unchain their dogs. At first, I hedged about canceling my original plan to host a public awareness day about the cruelty of chaining dogs. In the end, however, I am absolutely convinced that Breaking the Chain sent a valuable message about humane education to at least a small audience of children. Their essays and artwork showed a tremendous understanding of why chaining dogs is not in a dog's best interest. For example, one of the winning entries said, "Joey was so happy that he was free. Once they got home, Candace (Harriet's owner) poured Joey a big bowl of water." Another winning entry said, "He's lying there

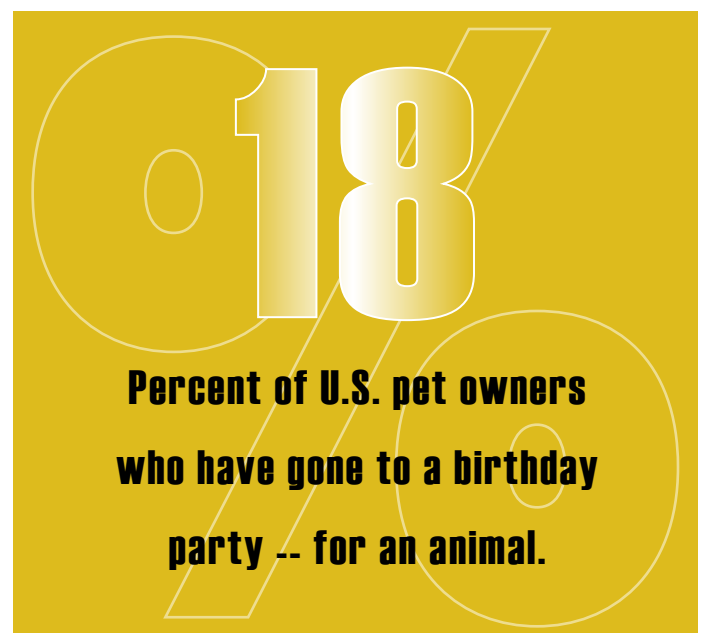
and she (Harriet) hears the sounds of his whimpers. She feels very bad for Joey."

Bari Mears of the Pets911 Auxiliary said, "It was wonderful to see the children realize the plight of the dog on chains. The project opened their eyes to the feelings and suffering of an animal. We hope this is the beginning of a more humane and kind generation."

To share the children's work, I arranged to have it displayed in several locations such as It's a Ruff Life, Pete and Mac's boarding kennels, the Arizona Animal Welfare League, and Maricopa County Animal Care and Control. I spread the word among the animal rescue community so that everyone would have a chance to view these creative entries. I also wanted members of the public to see how sensitive these children were to the plight of chained dogs.

I have no doubt that Breaking the Chain became a valuable learning tool, even if it was only for two public schools. We planted a seed. Next year, Breaking the Chain will grow and more schools will participate. Ultimately children will realize that chaining dogs isn't a good idea and in future generations we expect to see fewer dogs tied up outside in the Phoenix area. And for me, what started out as an idea ended up as a very worthwhile project indeed.

Debra White is a volunteer with Gabriel's Angels and the author of Nobody's Pets, reviewed in the Spring 2002 Latham Letter.





ROLDA and Romania Animal Rescue, Inc. Seek Adventurous, Compassionate Volunteers

Making your summer travel plans? Consider a working vacation that will combine your love of adventure and your compassion for animals at what Meridith Clifton of Animal People calls, “the best shelter in Eastern Europe” as part of ROLDA’s International Volunteers Program in Galatzi, Romania.

According to ROLDA’s Founder Dana Costin, “It doesn’t matter whether you are a veterinarian, a vet tech, an assistant, or “just” an animal lover who wants to spend a holiday in Romania, you are welcome. We can accommodate groups of two persons at our shelter where we have two small bedrooms, a kitchen and a bathroom and all accommodation conditions assured. As long as you have the desire to show compassion for a Romanian stray, ROLDA would love to hear from you.

For further information, visit www.rolda.home.ro where you can learn all about ROLDA and subscribe to our volunteers list. Together we can choose a convenient date for your visit.”

Nancy Janes, who along with her husband Rory founded Romania Animal Rescue, one of ROLDA’s partner organizations, (for details see the Winter 2005 *Latham Letter*, pages 14-15) explains, “Rory and I stayed at the shelter as part of the International Volunteer Program, living under conditions as nice as any we have experienced in the United States, and working with the loving dogs and cats that have been fortunate enough to find ROLDA. The alternative, the City Hall Pounds, are the opposite extreme of the (animal care) spectrum. NEVER in our lives have we witnessed such horrendous treatment by one living creature to another. On the other hand, the ROLDA shelter is a heaven on Earth. We hope to live long enough to see it prosper and grow to help all those in need - the relatives of a bygone era of ignorance and intolerance.”

*Further information about ROLDA is available at www.rolda.home.ro or
e-mail Dana Costin in Romania at rolda@care2.com.*

*To learn more about Romania Animal Rescue, Inc., visit www.romaniaanimalrescue.4ever.cc or
e-mail Nancy Janes at romaniadogs@joimail.com. Phone (In California) 925-672-5908.*



Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Graduate Students Design Logo for Feline Rescue Group

Imagine MIT visiting artist Allan McCollum's surprise when in response to an assignment last fall to "design a project that involves quantity production of a SYMBOLIC OBJECT and its distribution to (or through) an institution or community outside our class," a group of students decided to collaborate with The Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society.

According to team members Daniel Adams, Lilly Donohue, Oliver Lutz and Nomita Sawhney, "This organization was of interest to us for a variety of reasons, in particular the substantial number of interrelated programs in which we could intervene. Among these programs is a *feral cat feeding and trapping initiative* which was of particular interest. We scheduled a visit during which two members of our group were able to follow one of the volunteers on her daily feeding route. Ultimately, we decided to generate a variety of objects to be distributed to the thirty-five volunteers in the program. We produced a symbol that could be used to unify these volunteers and delineate them from the rest of the Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society. This symbol is a tracing of a feral cat, clearly identifying the clipped ear as an indication of its relationship to the feeders. All of our



objects were created in the shape of this symbol. The objects we made are as follows: pins (to be worn on the body of the volunteers), magnets (to be placed in the home of volunteers), coasters (to be placed in the home of volunteers), cling vinyl (to be placed

on cars of volunteers), stencils, mouse pads (to be placed in the home of volunteers), and address markers (to be nailed to the feeding stations). Over six hundred individual objects were produced, along with a video documenting the entire project."

News about "feral cats attending MIT" and the resulting logo has spread as far as Arizona. Keep an ear out for it.

To read the complete final report on the project including personal observations on the project by some of its creators, visit <http://homepage.mac.com/allanmcnyc/mit/www/courseprojects/felinemain.html> 🐾

lost wren

by Tom Page

A little wren flew around
our porch this morning,
checking out the bird houses
& a platform
open on one side for birds
who like shelter
but don't care for
bird houses

we had one like him
in the open platform
or shelf last fall
although it seems late
for one now.

Anyway that's why
those shelters
are out there,
as homes for birds,
even lost ones

November 21, 2004

CHICAGO

"Link" Activities Come to the Windy City

By Phil Arkow



Phil Arkow (right), chair of Latham's Animal Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Project, meets with forensic social worker **Philip Tedeschi** (left), and **John Caruso**, Vice President for Community Outreach for Chicago's Anti-Cruelty Society, after an ACS workshop introducing the links between animal abuse and interpersonal violence to law enforcement officials. The Society has also produced a multi-media humane education program for high school students about the Link, and is compiling extensive data about inner-city Chicago youth who have seen or participated in dogfighting.

CHICAGO – Law enforcement officials are continually challenged to justify the significance of animal abuse to a public who ask why we focus on animal issues when there are so many crimes affecting people. Officials in the "Windy City" have come up with some answers in the form of documentation that compellingly links cruelty to animals to human crimes.

The Chicago Crime Commission, a citizens' group established in 1919 to combat crime, has recently turned its attention to the "Links" between animal abuse and human violence. Recent studies have revealed:

A Cook County State's Attorney's Office review of animal cruelty arrests supports correlations with violent crime. Between May July 2002, the Chicago Animal Abuse Control Team arrested 22 offenders: 18 of them had prior arrests for battery, weapons or drugs charges. Six of these offenders were juveniles: of these six, five had subsequent arrests for felony offenses, including aggravated battery with a handgun.

35% of the search warrants executed in animal abuse or dogfighting investigations over a recent one-year period resulted in the seizure of either narcotics or guns.

"An important part of our anti-violence strategy includes strict enforcement of the dogfighting statutes," said Chicago Police Superintendent Philip Cline. "[Dogfighting] is directly connected to the violent world of gangs, drugs and weapons."

This information was presented at a special training seminar for law enforcement officers organized by Chicago's famed Anti-Cruelty Society. A Society humane educator, Sierra Cleveland, who has produced an award-winning video, "Out of the Pit," describing the world of Chicago dog fighters, is also compiling frightening data on the high percentage of inner-city high school students who have witnessed or participated in dogfights.

To combat the dogfighting epidemic, the Society has also initiated the Pit Pals Program, sponsored by PETsMART charities. The Society will spay or neuter, free of charge, all pit bulls or pit bull mixes to make them more suitable as pets and less attractive as fighting animals.

The Crime Commission and the State's Attorney's Office are collaborating on RAV2 "Reduce Animal Violence, Reduce All Violence." RAV2 aims to amplify violence prevention efforts by reducing and targeting dogfighting and animal cruelty. The program is based not only on global research connecting animal abuse and interpersonal violence, but on local findings linking animal abuse with gangs, guns and drugs in Chicago and suburban Cook County.

RAV2 is using animal abuse cases to "red flag" high-risk families and children and to make referrals for evaluation and counseling. The community is being educated about dogfighting and animal abuse and to recognize dogfighting as a violent criminal activity.

RAV2 is training and motivating law enforcement and criminal justice agencies to use animal abuse search warrants to enforce the Illinois Care for Animals Act, to use that statute to confiscate property of convicted dog fighters, and to use animal abuse to screen for suspected child abuse. Persons convicted of aggravated cruelty will be made known to the FBI as part of a national database to identify potential suspects in serial killings.



Upcoming Workshops, Conferences & Events

E-mail your listings to info@latham.org

AUGUST

- August 22-26** National Animal Control Association (NACA) Training Academy, Level II. Moreno Valley, CA. For further information and registration materials www.nacanet.org or 913-768-1319 (Option 6).
- August 26** NAHEE Teach Kids to Care Workshop, SPCA of Texas, McKinney, TX. www.nahee.org ("Professional Development"), nahee@nahee.org, 860-434-8666.

SEPTEMBER

- September 8-10** CHAMP – Conference on Homeless Animals Management & Policy. Anaheim Marriott Hotel, Anaheim, CA. Presented by The Pet Savers Foundation, 59 S. Bayles Ave., Pt. Washington, NY 11050 516-883-7767, www.champconference.org
- September 22** NAHEE Teach Kids to Care workshop, Upper Valley Humane Society, Enfield, NH. www.nahee.org ("Professional Development"), nahee@nahee.org, 860-434-8666.
- Sept. 30 - Oct. 1** American Humane Association Annual Conference, Austin, TX. www.americanhumane.org Featuring a Humane Education track sponsored by The Latham Foundation

OCTOBER

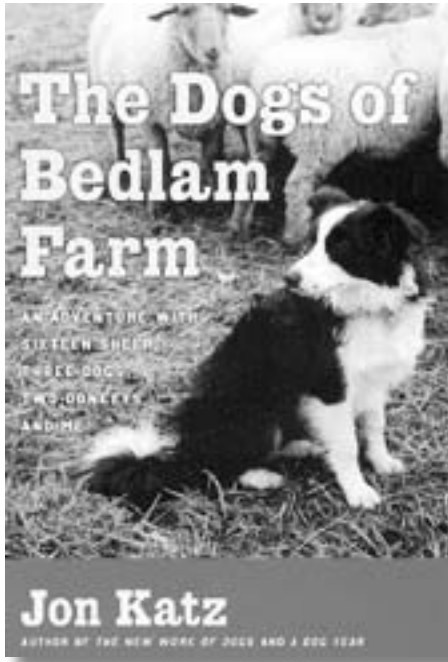
- Adopt-A-Shelter Dog Month**, sponsored by the ASPCA. www.aspc.org/shelters
- October 15** National Feral Cat Summit – Wyndham Philadelphia at Franklin Plaza, 17th & Race Streets, 215-448-2000 or 800-WYNDHAM. Tickets: \$40. Price increases to \$50 after Sept 1st. Includes admission to all presentations, workshops and vegan lunch. summit@neighborhoodcats.org
- October 21 & 22** The Empire State Animal Protection Forum, Albany, NY. melaniea@aspc.org or 973-628-9494 for further information

NOVEMBER

- November 22** Connecticut Cares for Cats Conference – 8:30 am-5:30 pm at the Courtyard by Marriott Cromwell. Find out how your community can bring an end to cat homelessness at this landmark event. Registration fee of \$25.00 includes lunch. Fee increases to \$35.00 after October 1st. To register, please call 860-965-6159 or email info@awfct.org. Conference brochure and registration form are available at www.awfct.org.
- November 4, 5 & 6** CLICKER EXPO, Minneapolis, MN – The expanded 2005-2006 ClickerExpo program features more than 45 sessions over three days, for trainers at every experience level, taught by an extraordinary group of top teachers and trainers. Most sessions qualify for full CPDT continuing education credits. www.clickertraining.com for details
- November 12-13** Click to Calm Seminar with Emma Parsons, Pittsburgh, PA – This two-day seminar is designed to give you the tools to help manage your reactive dog. The speaker, Emma Parsons, is the author of the newly released book, *Click to Calm: Healing the Aggressive Dog*. Fees: \$150/day; \$250/2 days. To register/more information: e-mail Barb at barb12011@comcast.net, or visit www.barblevensondogtraining.com. Phone for more info: 412-795-9642.



Media Reviews



The Dogs of Bedlam Farm ***An adventure with Sixteen Sheep, Three Dogs, Two Donkeys, and Me***

When author Jon Katz adopted a border collie named Orson three years ago, his whole world changed. Gone were the two yellow Labs he wrote about in *A Dog Year*, as was the mountaintop cabin they loved. In *The Dogs of Bedlam Farm: An adventure with Sixteen Sheep, Three Dogs, Two Donkeys, and Me*, Katz recounts an unforgettable winter he spent with his animals on a forty-acre, remote farm in upstate New York that tested him and forced him to confront his ideas about the true nature of his animals.

Training his seemingly untrainable dog Orson was always a demanding project that Katz often found difficult and frustrating. But

one day, a perceptive dog trainer and friend told him bluntly: “Jon, if you want to have a better dog, you will just have to be a better human.” It was a lesson Katz took to heart. Dogs are often what we make them: They may have their own traits and personalities, but in the end they are mirrors of our own lives – living, breathing testaments to our strengths and frustrations, our families and our pasts. *The Dogs of Bedlam Farm* follows Katz as he grapples with becoming a better person with better dogs.

In an entertaining, haunting, and surprising narrative, Katz explores the human-animal bond that every pet owner knows about. His dogs had led him not only to this tiny hamlet, but also to powerful new friendships, a sister he had not seen in many years, and a new found appreciation of the power and complexities of “dog love,” a term that Katz sees as a powerful new social force in America today. Amidst the most brutal winter in forty years, Katz soon found himself caring for a gravely ill donkey; keeping his sheep healthy and fed during blizzards, ice storms and bitter cold; training a new puppy to herd sheep and help run the farm, and discovering the reality of animal life during an enthralling and difficult lambing season. Through it all, Katz struggled to keep faith and earned new respect for the animals in his care, and for the people who care for animals.

Filled with Katz’s trademark humor, insight, and hard-won wisdom,

The Dogs of Bedlam Farm is the story of a man who learned the places a dog could take him and the ways a dog could change him. Katz is living proof that if we listen to them, our dogs can take us to extraordinary places.

About the author:

Jon Katz has written thirteen books – six novels and seven works of non-fiction, including *A Dog Year* and *The New Work of Dogs*. A two-time finalist for the National Magazine Award, he has written for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Rolling Stone*, and the *AKC Gazette*. He writes a column about for the online magazine Slate and is co-host of “Dog Talk,” a monthly show on Northeast Public Radio. A member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, Katz lives on Bedlam Farm in upstate New York and in northern New Jersey, with his wife Paula Span, who teaches at Columbia University, and their dogs. He can be e-mailed at jonkatz3@comcast.net or at jdkatz3@aol.com.

Villard Books

New York, NY

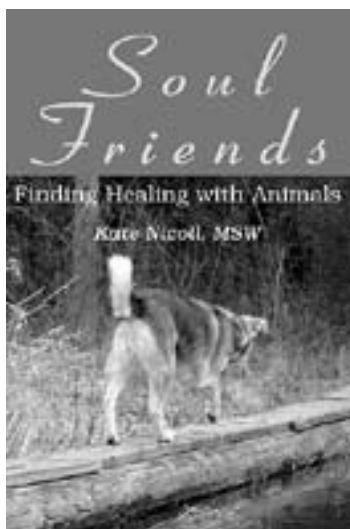
www.villard.com

\$22.95 #ISBN 1-4000-6243-8

Soul Friends: Finding Healing with Animals

Kate Nicoll, MSW

Soul Friends: Finding Healing with Animals explores the impact of personal struggles on our daily interactions with animal friends. Through personal narratives, author Kate Nicoll explores the healing



elements of animal assisted interventions for children and survivors of abuse, neglect and trauma.

According to the author, “Dogs dig deep to find the goodness within us. They can teach us about the power of NOW, the wonders of the natural world and the healing power of connection. The history of our relationship with dogs can guide us on a road to self-exploration and healing.”

In her work with at-risk children, Nicoll has experienced a wealth of hopefulness observing these children as they interact with animals. The healing benefits of the human-animal bond lead children to a place of security to explore the impact of past traumas and losses. Through the practicing of dog commands, these children can begin to build a new foundation for social connection. The commands become metaphors for healing, to look, to wait, to leave behind the past pain on a road to wellness and connection.

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According to David Port, Editor, “Our mission is simple: to keep adopted dogs and cats out of the shelter and in loving homes where they belong.”

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303-863-0521
E-mail: info@rppublishing.com
www.newparentguide.com



Happy Puppy: A Dog's Guide for Kids

Happy Puppy is a 23-minute CD filled with songs for children ages four to 10 years old that are a fun HOW TO care for and train a

new puppy. The script was refined and is endorsed by pet industry professionals and through surveys with children in the Denver, Colorado area.

Suzanne “Soupy” Pierson, founder and president of Song Ceremonies, is a singer/songwriter and a 40-year veteran of the entertainment world.

Happy Puppy: A Dog's Guide for Kids is available for \$6 each (6 CD minimum) from Song Ceremonies, 1845 Deer Valley Rd., Boulder, CO 80305

1-877-233-SONG
303-543-6042
songceremonies.com



Rescuing Rover: A First Aid and Disaster Guide for Dog Owners

Sebastian E. Heath and
Andrea O'Shea

Written in consultation with canine handlers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and staff from the American Academy on Veterinary Disaster Medicine and the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine, *Rescuing Rover* provides dog owners, handlers, emergency workers, and veterinary and medical and technical students with a practical guide for the safe treatment of a dog in extraordinary situations.



Rescuing Rover is not intended to replace the extensive knowledge and expertise of veterinarians; rather, it is intended to guide owners and handlers to prepare an injured dog so that it can be safely transported to

a veterinarian without further harm to the dog or handler.

The book includes concise instructions and detailed color illustrations for medical procedures such as bandaging an ear, splinting a leg, removing foreign objects from the eyes, and constructing a makeshift muzzle.

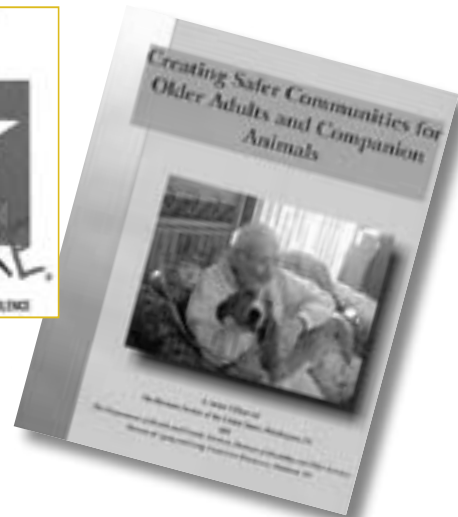
Rescuing Rover also provides step-by-step instructions for creating a disaster preparedness plan, taking into account your dog's needs. Creating and maintaining a disaster kit and disaster checklist are discussed thoroughly.

Purdue University Press
West Lafayette, Indiana
ISBN 1-55753-102-1

Starting a Safe Havens for Animals™ Program and Creating Safer Communities for Older Adults and Companion Animals

Two important publications from the HSUS First Strike Campaign

HSUS created the *Safe Havens for Animals* guide to assist animal care professionals, domestic violence shelters, veterinary clinics, and other community organizations in establishing temporary sheltering options for pets of family violence victims. Such programs not only assist in saving the lives of pets and victims, they also provide a valuable opportunity for animal protection agencies and human services agencies to combine resources to fulfill



their missions. The booklet is also available in a downloadable format at www.hsus.org/safehaven. Individual copies are \$5 and orders of 10 booklets are \$30. Both prices include shipping and handling.

Creating Safer Communities for Older Adults and Companion Animals is a comprehensive manual developed to help professionals in adult protective services, law enforcement, and animal care and control expand their knowledge of the role of companion animals in patterns of elder abuse, exploitation, and self-neglect. The manual is also intended to foster collaboration among these agencies. An order form can be downloaded at www.hsus.org/ace/21127.



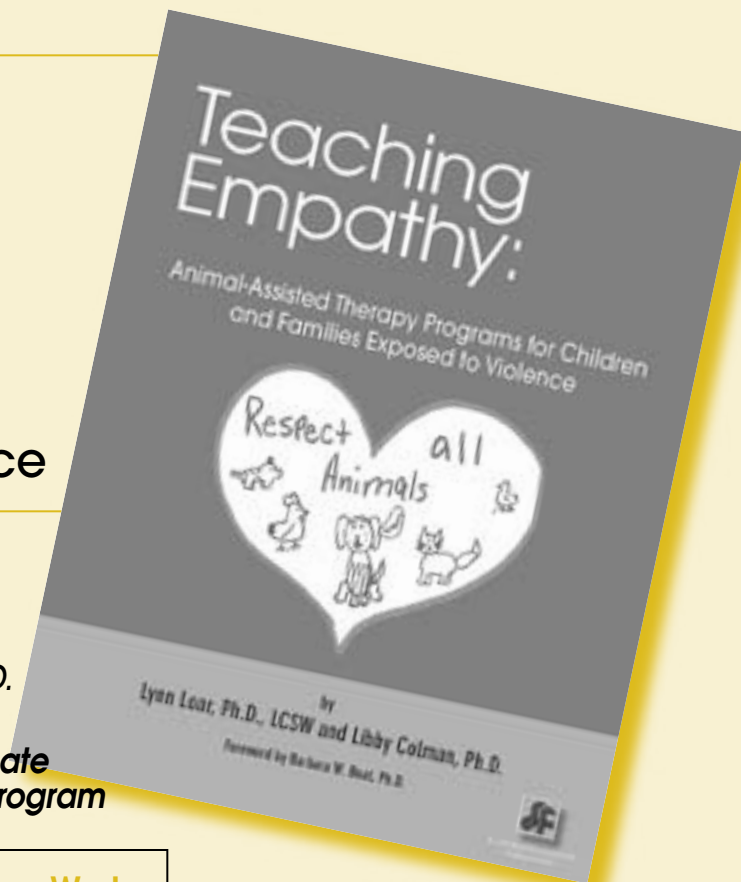
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