

T H E Latham Letter

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PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

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HOPE

**Animal-Assisted
Crisis Response
Teams Bring
Comfort and
Joy to People
Who Have
Survived the
Unexpected**



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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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Promotion of Humane Education*

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Volume XXVII, Number 2, Spring 2006

**BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON
HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**



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TO CONTACT LATHAM:

Voice: 510-521-0920
Fax: 510-521-9861
E-mail: info@Latham.org
Web: <http://www.Latham.org>

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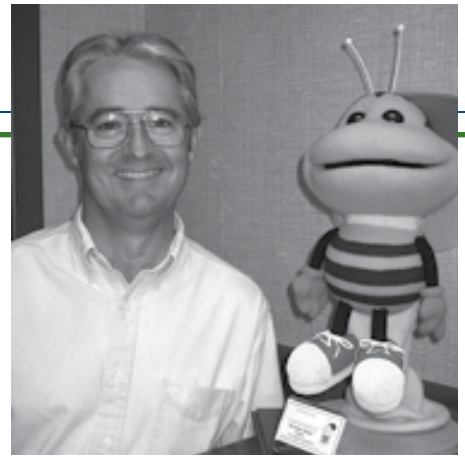
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Editorial

Expectations

Spring Cleaning 2006



Hugh H. Tebault, III, President

It's a beautiful day as I write this.

Winter has suddenly halted in California and spring has jumped out. The weather forecasters promise us that winter will return next week, but for now it is a wonderful reminder of how beautiful the land is.

It's time to do spring cleaning and get ready for this year's work.

"That 70s Show"

Latham has occupied its current offices since 1975 and it was time for us to clean up, paint, and reorganize. Maroon and gold carpets and burlap wall coverings are history, relegated to "That 70s Show." But we faced another problem – one of relic buildup. In the past 30 years, Latham had changed its technology from 16mm film to videotape, and now to DVD. We still had remnants of 16mm film cleaning and editing equipment, shipping boxes, and old film reels taking up most of one office. I hated the thought of simply throwing out what had been perfectly good equipment. So ... I put them on Ebay. What an experience that was.

For those of you who may not know, Ebay charges a fee for posting an item for sale. This is very much like the newspaper want ads where you pay first and hope someone buys later. Ebay has added to this, providing electronic funds transfer and email tools to aid both seller and buyer. We were successful in selling several items. The payment received, however, was a lesson in economics – once new and expensive equipment was worth only pennies on the dollar due to technological advances which made it obsolete. However, it was better than throwing it out.

Motivation

Moving this equipment out freed up space and enabled us to reorganize the office so that we can operate more efficiently. The Latham staff is thrilled and has shown a new zeal for organization. This spring cleaning was much needed and will become a more frequent part of our lives. Thirty years between such projects is too long.

Spring is a good time to look around and reexamine those items you may have been holding onto that no longer contribute to your success. Clearing out the clutter has the added benefit of providing clarity of thought. So after you read this issue, take a few minutes to think about what you can do without and help those possessions find a new home. Free up your space to focus on those items you need to do your best today.



Research News for Shelters: Classical Music May Increase Your Adoption Rates

A study from researchers at the School of Psychology at Queens University shows that **shelter dogs exposed to classical music may have a greater chance of being adopted.**

Scientists at this institution in Belfast, Northern Ireland conducted a series of tests using four distinct kinds of music. They noted the behavior of the shelter dogs available for adoption at a facility managed by National Canine Defense League, a charitable organization known as the NCDL.

According to this report, the results were published in *The Journal of Animal Welfare* and they showed that classical music contributed to and encouraged relaxation in the dogs including less barking and increased resting periods. Conversely, the study showed that heavy metal music caused an increase in agitation of the dogs, such as more restless pacing and more frequent barking. When human conversation and pop music were played for the rescues canines, there was no discernable effect on their behavior.

Coming in the
Summer Latham Letter

Winners in the
Search for Excellence
Video Awards



What will they think of next?!

You can order U.S. Postage Stamps featuring your favorite pet photo – but you have to hurry. This year-long marketing test will end in May. Before then you can log on to www.photostamps.com, select one of 10 border colors, postage value & upload your digital photograph.

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HOPE

Animal-Assisted Crisis Response Teams Bring Comfort and Joy to People Who Have Survived the Unexpected



By Frank Nolan



high school shooting, and has since grown into a nationwide not-for-profit organization. HOPE teams believe in the proven healing benefits of the human-animal bond, as well as the special emotional comfort that our dogs bring to crisis survivors and their families, disaster response personnel, and other affected community members.

HOPE AACR teams are trained and certified to provide emotional support – when partnering with mental health and emergency response agencies – while they, in turn, provide rescue, recovery and support to individuals affected by crises of all types.

Teams have interfaced with FEMA, the American Red Cross, and NOVA (National Organization for Victim Assistance), as well as other emergency agencies who respond to fires, vehicular accidents, mud slides, and loss of emergency responders. HOPE has trained and certified Crisis Response Teams in most geographical regions of the United States.

HOPE AACR dogs and personnel were there to soothe survivors in Los Angeles, where eleven people

Hurricanes. Train wrecks. Wildfires. Terrorist attacks. Simply reading the terms can heighten one's anxiety. But to experience one firsthand? Thankfully, few can comprehend what that would be like. So what about those who have survived such horrendous calamities, only to be left standing in the rubble of what were once productive, happy lives?

Who will be there to comfort them – to calm their shattered nerves and bring smiles to their anguished faces?

HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response (HOPE AACR) has been there, and will be there. **HOPE AACR** was formed in 1998 after a



died and scores were injured after a Metrolink train slammed into a car parked deliberately on the tracks. A team was in Portland, Oregon after a chaplain requested help in consoling a child whose mother had died. Dogs brought comfort to victims of the 2003 California wildfires, and visited an elementary school to help the principal tell her students that one of their classmates had died. **HOPE AACR** teams were called by FEMA to calm survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. And yes, they were even there on September 11th. No calamity is too large or too small for the dogs and handlers of **HOPE AACR**.

Crisis response teams cannot solve the myriad of problems left in the aftermath of a disaster, but they can help take the worry from a child's mind, or the sorrow from the bereaved, if only for a few precious moments. Everyone has heard of seeing-eye dogs, while ours – Golden Retrievers, Labradors, Lhasa Apsos and Boston Terriers, as well as mixed-breeds – have been described as dogs with *seeing hearts*.

For example Buddy, a grinning Bichon Friese, traveled to New Orleans recently to help comfort

HOPE



hurricane survivors. For five days, overwhelmed people at disaster recovery centers got to walk, hug and pet him. "It helped people talk about animals that were lost," said his owner. And afterward people told her, "You just made my day."

HOPE AACR dogs bring comfort and joy to people who've survived the unexpected – as well as the unthinkable.

What more could one ask of a best friend?



For more information, contact
Hope AACR National Headquarters
 20802 Colima Lane
 Huntington Beach, CA 92646
 Phone 714-925-4486
 or visit
www.hopeaacr.org

Author Frank Nolan is a friend
 of **HOPE AACR**.



Assessing Animal-Assisted Interventions

The Laboratory of Ethology at Ghent University in Belgium and People, Animals, Nature, Inc (PAN) Partner to Offer a Unique Opportunity for AAI Practitioners to Benefit from Scientific Research



Photos courtesy of Dr. Ceres Faraco

The current situation

Animal-Assisted Intervention Programs (AAI) have become increasingly popular largely due to a growing demand by the general public. The preference for AAI as opposed to more traditional techniques without animals is based on the expectation that positive effects are stronger and occur more rapidly. Such accounts appear in popular press and on television. Locating scientific articles in refereed journals that provide solid proof of the efficacy of these programs is difficult since most of the reports are anecdotal and/or involve only a few patients or participants.

In order to gain more credibility for Animal-Assisted Interventions, quantitative, longitudinal studies, with larger sample sizes and control groups to study the possible effects over long-term periods are urgently needed. As more practitioners and scientists come to this conclusion, questioning why the expansion of Animal-Assisted Intervention programs has not been accompanied by an equal expansion of scientific studies is appropriate.

Science and practice: the bottlenecks

Based on our search for scientific articles about AAI, we came to the conclusion that there is a gap between science and the applied field. But why has this gap occurred?

L. Meers¹, D. Coultis², C.P.H. Moons¹, S. Normando³

¹ Ghent University, Department of Animal Nutrition, Genetics, Production and Ethology, Heidestraat 19, B-9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

² People, Animals, Nature, Inc. (PAN), 1820 Princeton Circle, Naperville, IL 60565 USA

³ Padua University, Department of Experimental Veterinary Sciences, V.le dell'Università 16, Agripolis, I-35020 Legnaro (PD), Italy

We believe there are several reasons:

1. Financial Reasons

Scientific research usually involves extra costs, and many practitioners don't have funds to pay scientists to evaluate and optimize their programs. Furthermore, any costs to study the programs come in addition to the cost of employing animals in the interventions. Incorporating animals into programs is often more expensive than traditional medical and educational interventions. The expenses vary with the types of animals involved in the program. There are costs for:

- ◆ The animal(s), such as housing, food, management, vaccinations, and other veterinary care. There are also often training costs to prepare the animals for their jobs and expenses to maintain their well-being.
- ◆ A suitable location, which may cost more than one for traditional therapy or education is often required. With larger animals, more land is required.
- ◆ Additional personnel compared to traditional therapy or education;
- ◆ More extensive insurance policies. When available, insurance is usually more expensive and often multiple policies are required.
- ◆ Scientists who conduct research on Animal-Assisted Interventions experience problems similar to practitioners. They often work without funding or with very limited budgets because funding is hard to find and studying Animal-Assisted Interventions is usually

considered a low priority topic in part because of the dearth of research backing up AAI's effectiveness.

2. Conceptual Reasons

Interventions between people and animals are not standardized, lack a coherent theoretical foundation, worldwide accepted terminology, and a universally-accepted set of guidelines and educational requirements. Because of this diversity, it is difficult to generalize the outcome of individual studies to the field at large.

Diversity is found at every level:

- ◆ Techniques used during AAIs differ between programs. This makes selecting a program difficult for consumers and difficult for scientists studying techniques.
- ◆ There is no international agreement about the training required to incorporate other animals into education, health care, human service, or other settings. The current situation is unsettling when compared to other professions such as medicine, where the training and other requirements a doctor needs to practice may vary somewhat by country, but there are not large variances between countries. Without agreement about what a person needs to know before practicing AAI, there are bound to be differences among the quality of interventions and successes of their professional AAI practices. Furthermore, courses vary in quality, are difficult to locate, and the reason for teaching some of the courses appears to be market driven.
- ◆ There is tremendous variation in the education and skills of people working in programs and in the philosophies and techniques employed.
- ◆ There appears to be no conformity in management, number of working hours, training, selection criteria, husbandry, and criteria about when animals who partner with us should retire or be placed on sabbatical.
- ◆ The well-being of the animals involved is rarely studied although doing so is both an ethical and a safety issue. How does participating in a program impact the physical and psychological health of our animal partners?
- ◆ Most AAI programs are individually designed based on the client's progress and needs.

3. Scientific Research

Due to lack of conformity, to study the efficacy of AAI programs, each study must consider and describe program conditions and philosophies. Without standardization, outcomes cannot be generalized.

What is needed for a study?

- ◆ **Control** condition or group in order to be able to prove effect. This is hard to do in practice. If we believe AAI decreases recovery time and improves chances of reaching or surpassing therapeutic or educational goals, is it ethical to deny one group treatment? The ethical issues can be addressed by using cross-over designs in which control and test groups change place. Another issue is that it is difficult to construct test and control groups, which are matched for variables such as age, gender, diagnosis, and goals. Similar conditions are encountered when conducting medical research. Examining the various models used to conduct research and adapting them to AAI research may be helpful.
- ◆ The course of an illness and **treatment outcomes** are subject to marked individual variability among patients of the same age, gender, and underline the need to study large numbers of patients.
- ◆ **Repetition** and long-term studies yield more information than short-term and differently designed studies.
- ◆ **Objective Measurements:** Outcome of AAI should be measured using objective and quantitative parameters such as video-analysis, physiological parameters or psychological tests.
- ◆ **Neutrality:** Researchers should not have a vested interest in the outcome. When possible, researchers need to be aware of their own biases and be willing to accept outcomes which may be negative or neutral.



How can scientists and practitioners benefit from cooperation?

- ✓ More credibility of AAI, resulting in insurance reimbursement for treatment, and funding to start new programs;
- ✓ Less skepticism because benefits are substantiated and quantified;
- ✓ Easier to raise funding for research and new programs; and
- ✓ Feedback to practitioners from the results of scientific studies to optimize their programs and a greater understanding of the animals' abilities and limits.

A unique cooperation between scientists and practitioners

The Laboratory of Ethology at Ghent University (Belgium - Europe), which has a long standing reputation for research in animal behavior and human-animal interaction, provides assistance to AAI practitioners in order to help them with their funding requests, evaluation studies, and optimization of their individual programs based on scientific knowledge.

For example, the

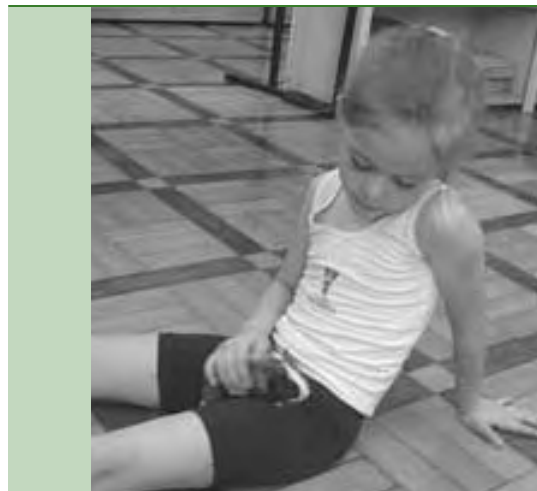
Laboratory of Ethology at Ghent University partners with People, Animals, Nature, Inc. (PAN), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization located in Illinois, in these endeavors.

All studies are based on a cooperative effort between scientists and practitioners in which:

- (1) A research design is defined;
- (2) Data is gathered by the practitioners after they are trained by scientists about how to do so;
- (3) The data is analyzed by scientists at Ghent University; and
- (4) Reports are compiled by the scientists for the practitioner to optimize their programs.




Laboratory for analyzing data at Ghent University



THE OPPORTUNITY

To promote further cooperation between scientists and practitioners, PAN and the Laboratory of Ethology at Ghent University will offer a two-month evaluation of one selected AAI program, free of charge.

If you are interested, visit the PAN website at www.pan-inc.org and download the survey on the home page in the News section. Given that the program meets certain criteria allowing scientific evaluation, we will ask you to send a DVD for a short analysis. One project will be selected based on the project summary, the survey, and the DVD we receive. Subsequently, an evaluation study will be initiated. The research design will be reviewed by ethics committees and consent forms for client participation will be required. The organization whose project is selected will have to assume costs for postage to Belgium, cameras, and DVDs. 

Contact:

If you would like more information about consultations and you live outside of Europe, contact

Debbie Coultis

People, Animals, Nature, Inc (PAN)

e-mail: coultis@umich.edu

Web-site: www.pan-inc.org

For Europe, contact

Lieve Meers

Ghent University – Department of Ethology

e-mail: lieve.meers@UGent.be

Web-site: www.ethology.ugent.be

Health Benefits of Animal Companions

Reprinted courtesy of 2nd Chance
4 Pets' Newsletter
www.2ndchance4pets.org

Animals enrich and affect
our lives in countless ways.

Those who have a companion animal understand that the human-animal bond provides important benefits including potentially positive effects on our health. Although it doesn't take scientific research for pet owners to comprehend the health benefits associated with loving their companions, science has provided proof of this assertion. As if humans could ask for more than the unconditional love that pets offer, our companions go above and beyond by providing life saving advantages.



What do the scientists say?


Focused scientific interest believe the discovery of health effects from pet companionship emerged several decades ago, but the results have been conflicting. This is primarily due to the difficulty in separating the direct effects of pets from the potential health impact of other lifestyle and socioeconomic factors. However, most studies show that the attachment between people and their pets seems to have important physiological and psychological effects. In 1992, one study reported lower levels of accepted risk factors of heart disease (blood pressure, plasma triglycerides and cholesterol levels) in pet owners than in non-owners despite equivalent body mass, smoking habits and socioeconomic profiles. A report in 2002 outlined similar effects when examining the physiological responses to mental challenges and pain in the presence and absence of pets, friends and spouses. This study showed that: 1) relative to people without pets at home, their counterparts with pets had significantly lower heart rates and blood pressure both during rest and periods of stress and 2) that stress induced the lowest physiologic response when pets were with their owners during measurement. Other positive effects on health and behavior have also been observed. Studies have shown that people who live with pets tend to exercise more (particularly dog owners), have fewer illnesses and spend more time in positive social interactions. Pets have been

shown to help people overcome shyness, develop trust, enhance social skills and cope with illness. Interestingly, one study in 2001 showed that even in the workplace people benefit psychologically and organizationally from animal companionship. In this study, participants who were allowed to bring their pets to work perceived a reduced stress level and experienced positive effects on their health and overall organization over those who did not bring their pets to the office or did not have pets.

As our elderly population increases, there is a rising concern for the well being of seniors. Do pets positively contribute to their health status? Most studies assert that they do. One analysis, conducted in 1990, evaluated 938 Medicare enrollees for one year. The study showed that respondents who owned pets reported fewer doctor visits and less difficulty coping with stressful life-events than those who didn't have companion animals. The benefits of pet ownership on human health and behavior were also shown in a one-year study in 1998 of 1,000 non-institutionalized adults over 65 years of age. The study measured potential effects of the human-animal bond on the participant's physical and psychological health, and whether the presence or absence of a companion animal modified their social network. Standardized scoring methodologies were used to assess the level of attachment to pets (for pet owners), health (ability to perform Activities of Daily Living [ADLs]), and psychological/social network status. The researchers found that ADL levels were maintained or enhanced and that there were beneficial effects on social support networks and psychological well-being for owners of pets versus non-owners.

Additional studies support the idea that pets can provide seniors with physical contact and comfort, decrease loneliness and depression, and serve as an external attention focus. Pets in nursing homes have been associated with decreased psychotropic medication usage and a greater than 50 percent reduction in health care costs.

In addition, animal companions aid in reducing depression among sufferers. Pets can help abate loneliness and depression while promoting interest in life. When faced with adversity or trauma, pet owners fare far better than those without the unconditional bond from animals. Their love provides a sense of security which may lessen the strain of depression.

While there remains some scientific controversy regarding the human health benefits of companion animals, most studies support the positive effects of pets of all types. As such, many animals are now included in our approach to health care where they work as counselors, confidants, educators and friends. Whether the observed effects are physiological, psychological or a combination of many factors, these studies tell us something about the human-animal bond that we have probably always intuitively known: love heals. As science has proved that humans are happiest and healthiest when surrounded by friends and family, science has also shown us that humans benefit similarly with the love of animals. 

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Something to think about ...

The Plight of the Flying Monkeys

*A guest editorial by Marc Johnson.
Reprinted courtesy of FIREPAW*



It is a great honor to be able to address this forum and I would like to thank FIREPAW for the opportunity to bring to those of you who care about all animals an issue that needs your attention. Just as importantly, those of us who are now advocates of this emerging crisis need your attention and help as well.

In a country that is still euthanizing five million dogs and cats a year, the last thing that anyone involved with this overwhelming and often overpowering problem wants to hear is that they should join in the effort to head off yet another animal overpopulation problem. Sadly, it is a problem that is shaping up to be at least as heartbreaking, and if we do not address it now, we will all be attempting to deal with an even bigger problem after the fact. We should be acting now, proactively, rather than falling back on the old adage that “hindsight is 20/20” – a saying that is used all too often to justify our failure to act.

In the pet industry we are fortunate that the growing awareness surrounding the exotic pet trade has been making moves in a direction

that will lead to fewer large cats, wolves/hybrids, etc. being subjected to captive and in most cases, wholly inadequate lives. It is now widely recognized that keeping large exotic animals as pets is cruel and dangerous. The keeping of primates, once very popular and readily available, is now accepted as not only dangerous, but inherently cruel to animals of such a high intelligence. Suggest that you are considering keeping a dolphin in your back yard pool and you will suffer endless ridicule from your friends, family and neighbors. Why? Not because you couldn’t, but because everyone would recognize these actions as cruel, inhumane and selfish. Confining such intelligence to a sensory deprived existence is, at the very least, widely recognized as a selfish and thoughtless act. Hence, for the most part, the keeping of primates is actually illegal in most (civilized) states.

But what if we discovered that an animal with an equally high intelligence is not only amongst us now, being sold by the millions, but is also suffering from all the issues associated with domesticated animal



overpopulation and our impulsive human nature? What if I told you that there were an estimated 20-60 million of them living and suffering in our homes, in basements, in breeding mills and dying of neglect? And, what if I told you that this animal is widely accepted as “domesticated” when in fact, every cell in their bodies is as wild as any tiger? Would you say to yourself, “I don’t believe it, this can’t be true!” Or, would you join us in a call to action to stop this crisis from becoming the next problem that you will ultimately have to deal with ... sooner or later.

So, you might ask, what animal is at the center of this looming crisis? The answer is flying monkeys, or as most of us refer to them: parrots.


Anyone who has had a close relationship with a parrot, from the smallest parakeet to the largest macaw, can tell you that these animals harbor an intelligence that science is only now demonstrating to be on par with primates and dolphins. Parrots are now widely recognized as being some of the most intelligent species inhabiting our planet. Ongoing studies with African grey parrots by Dr. Irene Pepperberg have demonstrated that this species, in particular, is capable of very complex thought processes. Science is now discovering that the brains of all birds are wired in a way very different to our own, and that evolution has provided them with abilities that cannot be explained by the actual brain size. Being called a “Bird brain”, in fact, should now be considered a compliment!

For the last 30 or so years the pet trade has taken full advantage of this latest “fad” pet and the fact that they carry a hefty price tag has led many

to rush into becoming parrot breeders. As a rescue organization dedicated to the re-homing or long-term care for parrots, Foster Parrots is now seeing a problem far outpacing our ability to deal with the frightening number of unwanted birds. Parrots are now suffering the same abandonment, neglect and overpopulation issues that have led to the current state of affairs in the dog and cat world.

Just this weekend we had a parrot left on our doorstep with a note attached asking us to “take good care of Emmet.” A couple of years back an Amazon parrot was found at the local trash dump “recycling area,” cage and all.

The signs are as plain as day to those of us in the parrot rescue arena and with Petco’s recent decision to stop all large bird sales, even they admitted that most of their customers were not equipped to deal with the complexities of caring for such an intellectually complex and sensitive creature.

How long will it be before the rest of the pet trade follows the example set by Petco? Too long we fear, and by then the damage may already have been done. With hundreds of requests for surrender coming into our shelter on a monthly basis we can see the writing on the wall. We hope that you too will at least listen to our warning. Are you prepared to retrace your steps down the path that is now littered with millions of dead dogs and cats? Their bodies may not be huge but their minds are. 

Marc Johnson, Foster Parrots Ltd.
Rockland, Massachusetts
www.parrots.com
781-878-3733

About FIREPAW

THE FOUNDATION FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROMOTING
ANIMAL WELFARE

JOSHUA FRANK, Ph.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PAMELA FRANK, Ph.D., PRESIDENT

Albany, NY 518-462-5939

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*“Animals already get it.
We teach people.”*

RECOMMENDED VIEWING

**The Wild Parrots of
Telegraph Hill**



a documentary by Judy Irving

– Bird Welfare –

*resources for people interested
in all aspects of bird welfare,
from issues involving captive
birds to problems with keeping
parrots as pets.*

www.avianwelfare.org

www.birdadoption.org

A Parrot’s Bill of Rights

Summer 2002 Latham Letter

www.Latham.org

As the song goes, "It was a very good year."

The Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force Nine Years and 28,421 Dogs and Cats Later

By Jeanne Atthowe

It was nearly the night before Christmas when the Montana Spay Neuter Task Force counted up its "gifts" for the year and realized that a lot of money had been saved, funds that could now be used carefully for 2006. The reason? The small, all volunteer group has been so successful over the past nine years that Montana city and tribal councils and county commissions are now convinced of the financial savings and the ethical and community benefits of reducing pet overpopulation and its attendant problems. These leaders are now committing funds to solve the problem at its source, the uncontrolled breeding of community pets.

A total of 4,603 Montana pets were spayed or neutered in 2005 in nineteen Task Force model community pet care assistance events. Each event was created with help and guidance from the Task Force. In all but one community, city, tribal councils and/or county commissions funded all or part of the cost of the surgeries. Community volunteers of all ages organized and carried out these events, backing the professional teams of Montana veterinary surgeons and technicians.

These communities were participating in the Montana Task Force Phase II program following one or more Phase I events in which the Task Force, at the invitation of local officials and working with local volunteers, helped create a community pet care event. The centerpiece of each pet care event was a no-cost, demonstration spay/neuter assistance clinic. Since November 1996, the Task Force has helped create 54 Phase I events and provided 20,733 surgeries. The Task Force mission is to help a community address a community problem – pet overpopulation and its attendant problems. In learning the solution, a community takes ownership and is empowered – ready for Phase II events.

Phase II events have provided 7,688 spay and neuter surgeries since 2003.



OUTCOMES

Statistics tracked by the Task Force after visits to communities where records are kept demonstrate the impact of the Task Force model program. The Wolf Point City Pound, the only dog shelter on Fort Peck reservation where the Task Force created four Phase I events from 1998 through 2002, reports a reduction in dogs impounded of 82 percent and 73 percent reduction in dogs destroyed. Billings Animal Shelter, taking in cats and dogs from the city and Yellowstone County, demonstrates the impact of two spay/neuter events, an unusually brief Phase I and II with a drop of 16 percent in animals taken in and 24 percent in animals destroyed. Cost savings to the community was approximately \$139,000 for the year after these events. During the four

years in which the Task Force visited the Crow Nation, there was a decline in dog bites of 65 percent.

Inquiries from around the state, nation and overseas arrive weekly at the Task Force. A number have come to visit Task Force events where they've discovered that their involvement provides a hands-on education about compassion for animals and the importance of spay/neuter. Said one volunteer, "It is not just a 'procedure' but a meaningful experience."

WHY SHOULD COMMUNITIES HELP FUND SPAY/NEUTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS?

Dog bites are the number one cause of injury to children in the United States. Almost 80 percent of those bites are delivered by intact male dogs, a large percentage of which are tethered and unsocialized. The cycle of violence, recognized by researchers, demonstrates the tie between animal abuse/child abuse/domestic violence. Animals

casually acquired risk being casually treated, leading to pet overpopulation and cruelty and the official killing of homeless, unwanted pets. As Task Force Board members Sandy Newton and Ellen King Rodgers point out, recent studies indicate that the companionship of animals is almost a biologic need for humans, as is the need to recreate, socialize, dance, and enjoy the arts, all of which are supported with community funds in most communities.



THE MONTANA SPAY/NEUTER TASK FORCE

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www.mtspayneutertaskforce.org

Teaching Montana that every community can solve its pet over-population problems with education, sterilization, and local volunteer involvement.



See page 23 for information about Latham's new film:

Reaching Out: The Spay/Neuter Challenge

Examples from the Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force demonstrating successful strategies for overcoming resistance to spaying and neutering domestic animals.



Upcoming Workshops, Conferences and Events

E-mail your listings to info@latham.org

APRIL 2006

- April 8-9:** Catalytic Services, Inc. (CSI), National Conference "The Value of Animals in the Lives of Youth." Tallahassee, Florida. Presenting the most current research and methods for creating compassionate, courageous leaders. The conference will feature Dr. John Pitts as the Keynote Speaker and Dr. Jerry Osteryoung on the developing trends of animals in the workplace. This is also a chance to hear the latest from Phil Arkow. For more information visit www.csivisions.com or contact Colm McAindriu at colm11@comcast.net or 850-893-8503
- April 21-22:** National Association of Social Workers-California Chapter 2006 Annual Conference: "The Social Work Prism: Creating Unity" Los Angeles Airport Hilton. www.naswca.org; naswca@naswca.org; 916-442-4565 x17
- April 22:** The Eighth Annual Humane Education Seminar "Building Community Relationships". Presented by The Department of Animal Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Location: Urbana, IL. For further information www.events.ansci.uiuc.edu/companioin/humane, Susan Helmink at susanh@uiuc.edu or 217-244-5141
- April 24:** Romania Animal Rescue's Third Annual Charity Golf Tournament, Oakhurst Country Club, Clayton, CA. Contact Rory Janes at 925-672-5908, romaniadogs@sbcglobal.net or www.romaniaanimalrescue.com
- April 22-25:** People Animals Nature (PAN, Inc) Three-day Workshop on Animal-Assisted Intervention including those in Brazil (2.7 CEUs from DePaul University Continuing and Professional Education), followed by a 1-day Conference (.9 CEUs). Both at the same hotel, the Hilton Garden Inn in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. For a complete list of speakers at either event and additional information including registration fees, email Debbie Coultis at coultis@umich.edu or Coultis@gmail.com

MAY 2006

- May 19-20:** SAWA Directors of Operations Conference, OMNI Hotel, Richmond, VA. www.sawanetwork.org or Stephen Musso at the ASPCA, 212-876-7700 x4301
- May 31- June 3:** National Conference on Animals in Disaster, Presented by HSUS, Hilton Crystal City, Arlington, VA 22202. www.hsus.org/disaster; disaster@hsus.org; or 301-258-3063

JUNE 2006

- June 5-7:** Prairie States Animal Welfare Conference, Hilton Garden Hotel and Conference Center, Kankakee, IL 708-289-9671

Equinox

*Leaping into spring,
A jumping grasshopper falls
on a pile of dew*

*River splits in half;
rafts cross waters cut in two
balls of summer ice*

*Snow geese make a vee
flying through October's air,
watching for the sun*

*Pink and green stars rise
slowly in unsouthern skies –
dyed by darkest rain*

*Soft rain empties sky,
swirling clouds make a glass ball
in the eagle's eye*

Jane Stuart
Greenup, KY

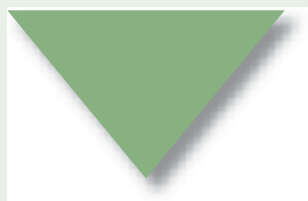
SAVE THE DATE

**American Humane Association
Annual Conference**

September 28-30, 2006

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**303-792-9900 x493 or
conference@americanhumane.org**

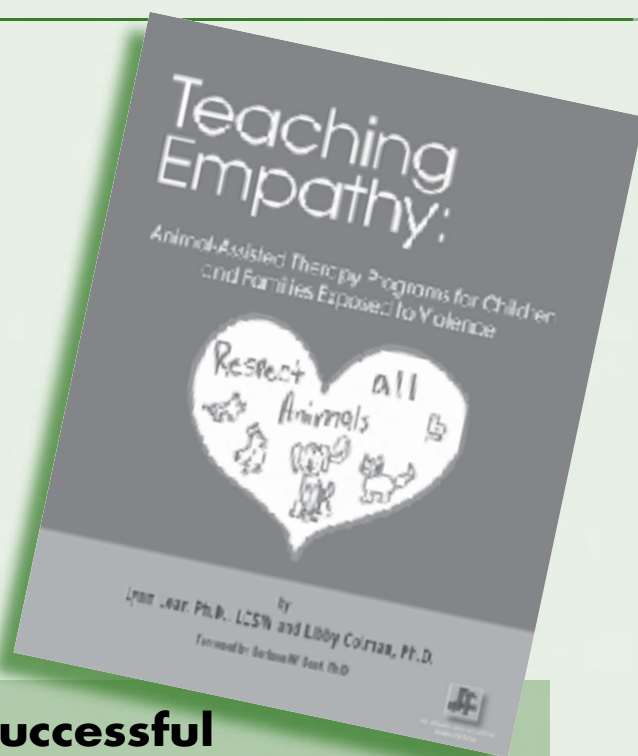


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Media Reviews and Announcements

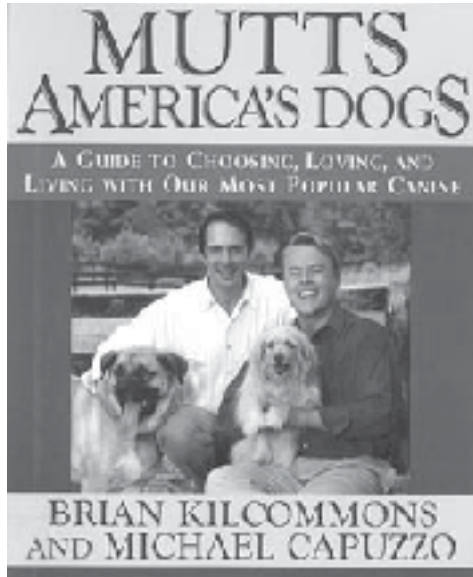
MUTTS: America's Dogs A Guide to Choosing, Loving, and Living with Our Most Popular Canine

*By Brian Kilcommons and
Michael Capuzzo*

Reviewed by Judy Johns

MUTTS: America's Dogs is the encyclopedia of mixed-breed dogs: who they are, what they do, how they do it, and what kind of companions they will make. It's also a fun and extremely informative read.

This book makes those of us who already live with "America's favorite dog" proud. It also should be required reading for any prospective dog adopter because of its compassionate insights into the temperaments, personalities, and skills of specific breed combinations. **MUTTS** profiles more than a hundred mixed-breed dogs: Working Mutts, Sporting Mutts, Hound Mutts, Mystery Mutts, and more – with special emphasis on



their trainability and how they fit into human families.

MUTTS is full of wonderful photographs and heartwarming and often funny first-person accounts of acts of extraordinary loyalty, courage, and intelligence from not-so-ordinary dogs.

Authors Kilcommons and Capuzzo tell you how to train and care for your cross (or sometimes called random) breed and how to choose the

best dog or puppy in the shelter for your family. This appreciation-filled book is a valuable resource for both individuals and organizations.

Brain Kilcommons is Director of Animal Behavior and Training, City of New York Center for Animal Care and Control and is on the faculty of the Veterinary School of Medicine at Tufts University. He is an author of numerous books on dogs and cats including *Good Owners, Great Dogs*.

Michael Capuzzo is a syndicated animal columnist and author of *Wild Things*. Capuzzo is pretty sure he's the only Pulitzer Prize nominee to win the Pawlitzer Prize (awarded by Alpo).

MUTTS: America's Dogs

*By Brian Kilcommons and
Michael Capuzzo*

ISBN # 0-446-51949-9

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By Maryjean Ballner

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Executive Producer and Host Maryjean Ballner is a New York State Licensed Massage Therapist who now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Her books are available from St. Martin's Griffin, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010. For further information and to order videos, visit www.catanddogmassage.com or call toll free 877-636-9636.

Animal Assisted Therapy in Counseling

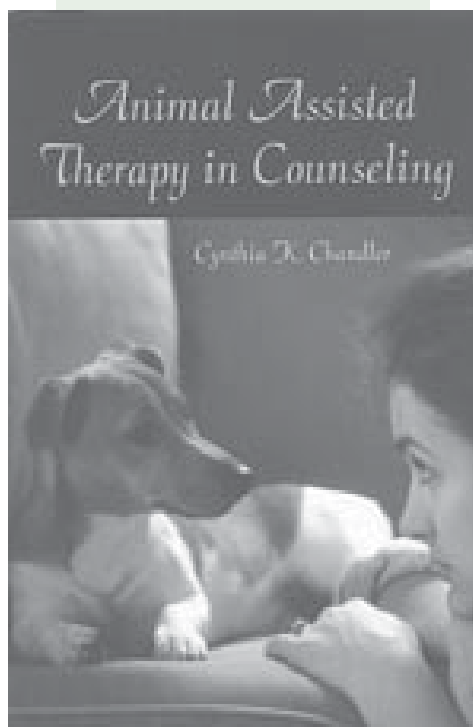
By Cynthia K. Chandler

Reviewed By Phil Arkow

As the field of animal-assisted therapy (AAT) has matured, specialization has developed, and there are now constant inquiries from people wanting to use the human-animal bond to assist patients and clients in an ever-increasing array of venues, from juvenile detention centers to hospices, from prisons to literacy programs. To meet one of these needs, Cynthia K. Chandler has written this comprehensive handbook to help AAT practitioners use animals effectively in counseling sessions.

Chandler, a professor in the University of North Texas' counseling

Clients may be more motivated to attend and participate in therapy sessions when animals are present.



program, directs the Center for Animal-Assisted Therapy and teaches a class in AAT at UNT. Her book is based on the premise that animals can reassure clients that the therapist can be trusted and can facilitate positive interactions. Clients may be more motivated to attend and participate in therapy sessions when animals are present. Animals can divert clients' attention away from disabling pain and can promote a nurturing environment.

A chapter on risk management aims to ensure the welfare of pets in AAT programs while considering ethical issues, and offers techniques for professional disclosure to clients and screening them to determine their suitability for AAT. Several forms that she uses in her work, including a Screening Form, are presented.

Specific animal-assisted counseling techniques are offered describing how animals can be surrogates for therapeutic touch and

aids to building rapport with clients. She describes how pets can assist counselors in achieving psychosocial treatment goals, facilitating clients' progression through life stage development, helping clients access their feelings, and gathering histories about their families. She describes typical client-pet interactions in both individual and group settings, and techniques for play therapy and equine-assisted counseling. Practical techniques for terminating, documenting and evaluating AAT are presented.

The book breaks new ground in describing the need for sensitivity to clients' cultural differences, and focuses on the author's experiences with AAT in South Korea. Other innovative chapters describe crisis response counseling with therapy animals and procedures for establishing school-based programs and university HCAB centers.

The book breaks new ground in describing the need for sensitivity to clients' cultural differences.

This is an effective guidebook for mental health professionals, and can be used by anyone doing AAT.

Animal Assisted Therapy in Counseling

*By Cynthia K. Chandler
(New York: Routledge, 2005)
ISBN 0-415-95202-6*

Children & Animals: Exploring the Roots of Kindness & Cruelty

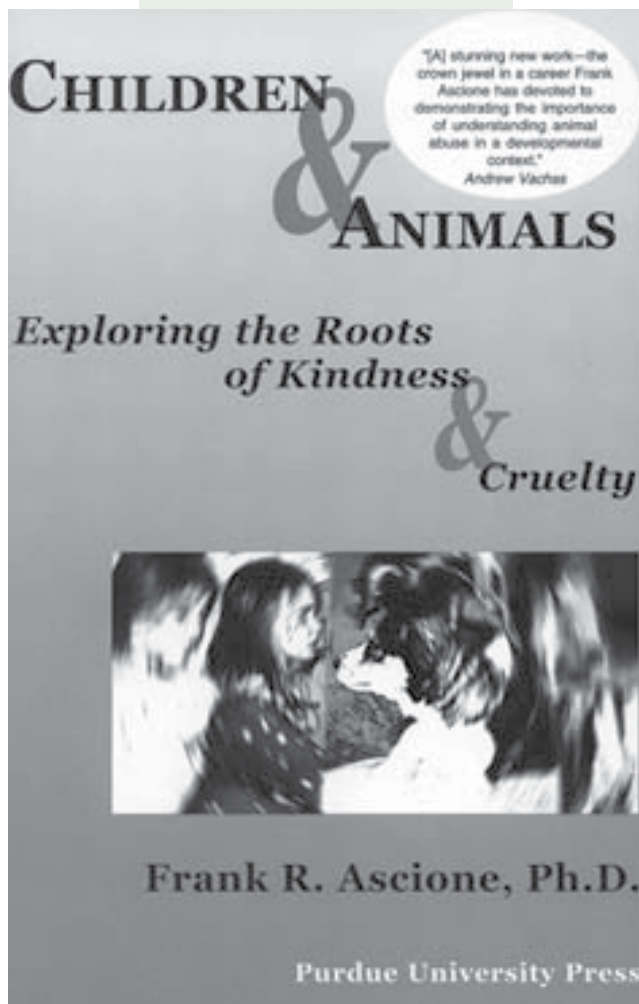
By Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D.

Reviewed By Phil Arkow

"Cruelty to animals is all too often a part of the landscape of violence in which youth participate and to which they are exposed." This simple statement may be obvious to *Latham Letter* readers, but it is often a revelation to generations of social scientists who have failed to notice that pets are ubiquitous common denominators in the lives of most children and that positive and negative relationships with pets and other animals can establish lifelong patterns of empathy or cruelty toward others.

The statement is also one of many in Frank Ascione's latest book that should inspire parents and clinicians, academicians and professionals in many disciplines to explore innovative public policies, assessments, treatments, and training opportunities that incorporate The Link™, an understanding of multiple, concurrent forms of victimization including animal abuse, child abuse and domestic violence.

This 191-page gem is exemplary not only for its being the most thorough compilation of virtually all "Link" research to date, but also for its tone, which bridges the gap between researchers and lay audiences.



Childhood is a window of opportunity to redirect potential sociopaths through the development of empathy, the underpinning of all humane education efforts.

As Andrew Vachss writes in the book's foreword, "Animal abuse and children as perpetrators or witnesses may be the Rosetta Stone of predatory psychopathology."

Yet after a century and a half of humane education efforts, we still have relatively little scientific documentation of how and why some children develop kindness towards animals and others are cruel. Ascione reminds us that although "bad seed" theories of youth violence have waxed and waned, we must understand the familial, social and

societal contexts of children's lives if we are to get a better handle on children's violent behaviors, especially animal abuse.

Regrettably, social scientists and psychologists have been slow to recognize the importance of animals in children's lives. This book is an extremely comprehensive and insightful review of 100 years of scientific literature that holds great promise in introducing human-animal relationships to a new generation of researchers.

The critical question for humane educators is whether we can instill empathy through classroom instruction, and whether such empathy is an antidote for violence. Ascione presents voluminous research confirming that young children can develop empathy and pro social behaviors when parents foster these values through moral guidance, rules, and setting positive examples. Conversely, children growing up in homes where there is child abuse and/or domestic violence often miss out on opportunities to see models of caring and compassion.

This book should be required reading for anyone interested in humane education, the human-animal bond, and the future of children.

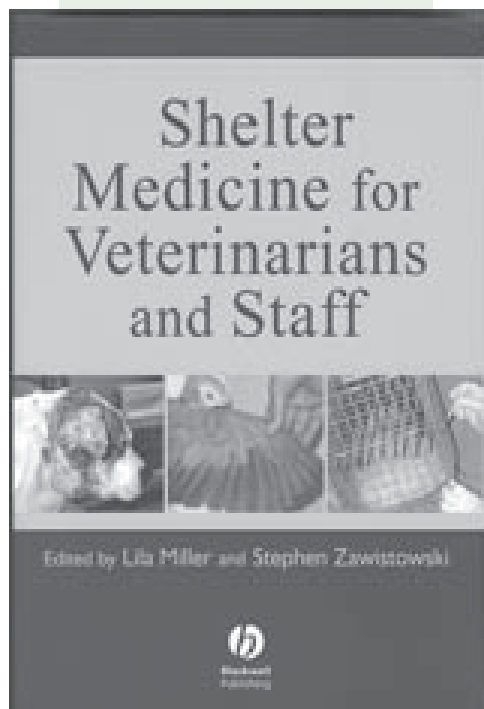
Children & Animals: Exploring the Roots of Kindness & Cruelty

By Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D.

West Lafayette, IN

Purdue University Press, 2005

www.thepress.purdue.edu



Shelter Medicine for Veterinarians and Staff

*Edited by Lila Miller, DVM and
Stephen Zawistowski, Ph.D.*

*Reviewed by Phil Arkow,
Chair, Animal Abuse & Family
Violence Prevention Project
The Latham Foundation*

Rarely has an animal welfare training manual been as comprehensive and cogent as this 546-page compilation of 30 practical essays. Although this book is ostensibly earmarked for the small but growing specialty of animal shelter veterinarians, the chapters have tremendous relevance to anyone who manages animal care and control shelters. This book should be a “bible” for anyone seeking to

run a professional animal sheltering operation.

Miller and Zawistowski, veterinary and science advisors, respectively, for the ASPCA, have assembled an impressive array of authorities, primarily from the veterinary field. The chapters include husbandry issues, such as nutritional challenges for shelter animals; care of dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, horses and small mammals; and the design and maintenance of healthy and efficient facilities. Four chapters discuss disease management. Seven chapters explore shelter and community programs such as behavior education, foster care, spay/neuter techniques, disaster medicine, feral cat management, and euthanasia.

The introductory section includes a fascinating history of the evolution of animal shelters, a realistic study of pet population dynamics, and the administrative and legal hurdles facing shelter vets.

My primary interest in this book was the section on animal cruelty and its links to interpersonal violence, and I was most impressed. Chapters about animal abuse, the links, medical evaluation and documentation of animal abuse, veterinary forensics, equine abuse and animal fighting are extremely informative and truly ground breaking.

Every shelter should have a copy of this book which, though expensive, presents a highly readable and useful guide for operations. It can easily form the basis for many staff training programs.

*Blackwell Publishing, Ames, IA
ISBN 0-8138-2448-6*

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Yes, I want to learn strategies for overcoming resistance and communicating the benefits of spaying and neutering domestic animals ... **Please send me Latham's new film!**



Reaching Out: The Spay/Neuter Challenge

Written and directed by
Tula Asselanis

Principal photography
Dezsoe "Steve" Nagy

Music
Nicholas Gunn – www.nicholasgunn.com
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