

Latham Letter

VOLUME XX, NUMBERS 2 AND 3

SPRING/SUMMER 1999

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION



Special

Double issue price: \$8.00



Resident Pet Therapy Programs -- Do they Work? At the Bethesda Christian Retirement Center, the answer is a resounding "YES!"


See page 32.

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Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities



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

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Edith Latham's Mandate

"To promote, foster, encourage and further the principles of humaneness, kindness and benevolence to all living creatures."



Editorial



Expectations

Hugh H. Tebault, III, President



This issue of *The Latham Letter* brings you a cross section of the activities we are involved in as well as examples of wonderful new programs being run that help teach Humane Education. I am pleasantly surprised at all the creative ways found to meet the need to teach kindness and respect for animals. More often than not they are programs that are not found in the newspaper or publicized on television. They are “good news,” and we at The Latham Foundation are proud to share their methods and stories of success with you in each issue of *The Latham Letter*.



This double issue's cover story describes a resident pet therapy program at a retirement home in California where more than thirty furry, feathered, and finned therapists are living proof of the benefits that companion animals can provide. These benefits take the form of improved comfort, interest, stimulation, communication, and emotional security for the residents. In another article we look at work being done in Rhode Island which gives an example of what one state is doing for animals and children. What is your state doing?



Latham is proud to pre-announce the Fall 1999 release of a new book on humane education,

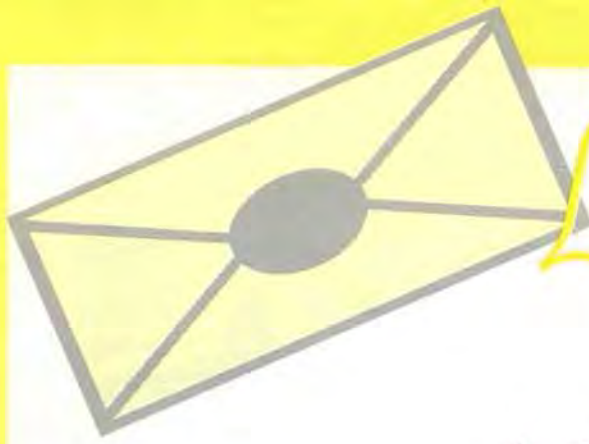


entitled *Teaching Compassion: A Guide for Humane Educators, Teachers, and Parents*. This work brings together in one volume the experiences of a humane educator who has used poetry and art with elementary students to teach the importance of kindness to animals and to each other. It includes a teacher's narrative and lesson plans as well as a section on handling disclosures of child and animal abuse.

Providing classroom materials is a “back to the future” event for Latham. For many years Latham had direct contact with the school systems with Latham humane-sponsored educators visiting classrooms with animals. Latham also published the *Kind Deeds Messenger* for many years for the elementary age classroom. With this new book providing a valuable teaching aide at an affordable price to assist teachers in this important area of elementary education, I believe that Latham will be able to reach another generation with the message of kindness.

I always appreciate reader feedback. Please share how programs like these help you and what you would like see in future issues of *The Latham Letter*.





Letter to the Editor...

laJoie and Company

P.O. Box 145 Batesville VA 22924 USA 540/456-6204, 804/842-2404
email: lajoiecol@aol.com

March 5, 1999

Mr. Hugh H. Tebault, III
The Latham Foundation
Latham Plaza Building
Clement & Schiller Streets
Alameda, CA 94501

Dear Mr. Tebault,

I have been an enthusiastic supporter and champion of The Latham Foundation for ten years and I am proud to say that enthusiasm only increases with time. It is, therefore, my pleasure to respond to your editorial in the Fall '98 issue of *The Latham Letter*.

As co-editor of a small journal, laJoie, I appreciate your emphasis on education in the overall effort to assist others to achieve compassionate consideration by human beings. While such an objective is still to be fully realized, I believe it will be someday, and sooner than later. LaJoie doesn't move mountains, nor are we a professionally prepared publication. But from its beginning a decade ago, public education regarding reverence for all life has been our goal. One way to do so has been to acknowledge, support, and encourage so-called "ordinary" people to bring their efforts and their voices to the forefront. As a result, we publish pieces that, while perhaps not being the most skillfully written, speak directly from the heart and soul. It is amazing how many people are now writing on a regular basis--and publishing in other magazines--because we gave them that first recognition ... and they have important things to say! I would compare it to recognizing the wisdom and experience older people have to contribute to society, rather than shutting them off out of sight and mind for merely being old.

We, too, constantly look for ways to do our job better, to offer more, push the overall effort that much further. Too often we feel we should be doing much more, much faster. Whatever the fine people at the Latham Foundation decide on for a direction, please know that at least in this sector of the world, we think you are doing a terrific job, a courageous and very, very important one. What more can we say except a deep and heartfelt Thanks!

With kindest regards,

Rita M. Reynolds



THE SACRAMENTALITY OF THE HEALING METAPHOR

Joanne Henry Moses, Ph.D.

Sacraments (with a small *s*) show us something about the Creator's love. *The Reader's Digest Encyclopedic Dictionary* includes two pertinent definitions of "sacrament" that most other lexicons omit. According to that source, any sign or token of a solemn covenant or pledge is a sacrament. A sacrament can also be anything that has a secret or mysterious meaning.

In its own way, a metaphor signifies something secret or mysterious. A metaphor implies rather than states a comparison between two things, making the meaning of the comparison more vivid and appealing to the senses. In psychotherapy, the late Milton Erickson was the master of the metaphor. He liked metaphors because they allow clients the freedom to find whatever meaning resonates consciously or unconsciously. Usually the metaphor offers a pleasant resolution to a painful problem.

To be potent therapeutically, the metaphor must bring up the context of the behavior that needs to change. At TAAPA,¹ the therapist or riding instructor can observe clients' behavior and guide them to change it. For instance, persons with little self-confidence often have trouble getting a horse to lift its feet for cleaning. No amount

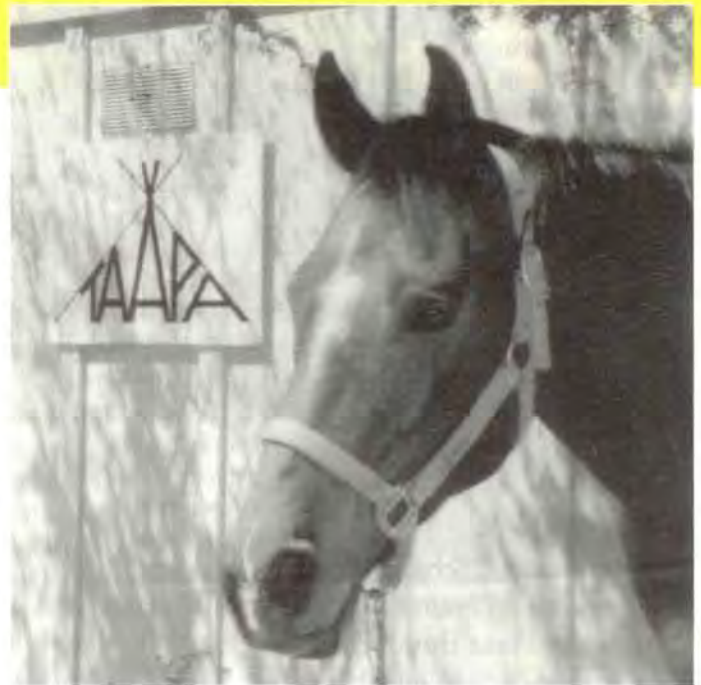
of pulling and tugging can get that large an animal to give its foot if it does not want to do so. Staff can show people how to stand, what clues to use, and what attitude to assume in order to get the job done. Behavior changes instantaneously.

Applying that behavior change to other areas of life occurs when therapist and client sit down to review and interpret the day's activities. All the while clients savor their contact with the animal.

Although by definition a metaphor is a figure of speech, we

"A metaphor signifies something secret or mysterious."

at TAAPA find a much broader scope of comparison than language alone. A metaphor can also be visual. Genesis relates that God placed the rainbow in the heavens after the flood as a solemn covenant



with Noah that he would never again destroy the world by flood.

More subtle visual metaphors abound in nature. For instance, the tiny yellow palo verde flower, no more than a centimeter in diameter, reflects the same structure, formation, and veining as an orchid. The desert willow flower follows the same pattern. In these visual similarities, the Creator demonstrates both consistent patterning and lavish abundance. Each palo verde tree boasts millions of these tiny flowers. Each one of them could produce another tree. An astute observer cannot help being overwhelmed by the Creator's limitless generosity in assuring that this life form will thrive.

A similar profusion occurs in human and other animal conception. Thousands upon thousands

of sperm surround the ovum, but only one penetrates each egg. The entity resulting from the union of that one sperm with that one egg stands as a creature uniquely chosen by the Creator.

A wedding ring visually signals to the world that its wearer has pledged fidelity to one special human being. The Irish carry this metaphor even farther. A married person wears the Claddagh ring² with the heart pointing in to signify fidelity to one's mate, while a single person wears the heart pointing out to signal availability.

Sounds also carry symbolism. The tolling of a bell announces the beginning of a church service. A locomotive whistle warns of impending danger for the unwary. Fire, police, and disaster sirens alert observers to impending emergencies. These auditory symbols convey urgency without the use of words.

Taste, too, can hold a metaphor of deeper meaning. Many years ago I found a recipe for Irish soda bread and tried my hand at baking a loaf. Once I tasted it, I was instantaneously transported as a tiny child back to Grandma Kearney's kitchen. She died when I was four years old. I never knew the name of that special treat she always made for us, but that taste evoked images and memories dormant for more than thirty years.

Smell, the most primitive of the senses and the most dulled in our modern lives, holds a similar power. A green jade perfume bottle stood on the dresser in my parents' bedroom as long as I could remember. As a child, I loved to take out the stopper and sit on the bed, sniff-

ing the glass rod. For some unknown reason, that aroma made me feel wonderful. Whenever I was caught, of course, my stepmother cautioned me that the perfume would evaporate and I shouldn't do that. But I did every chance I could. Forty years later, after my step-mother's death, my father revealed that the jade perfume bottle had been my mother's. She died when I was eleven months old. That special aroma evoked the feelings of warmth and security I must have felt as an infant, nestled in her arms.

Here at TAAPA we coined the term, "kinesthetic metaphor" four years ago. Now we refer to it as the "metaphor in motion." The

"Any sign or token of a solemn covenant or pledge is a sacrament."

metaphor of the clients' actions in contact with the horses tells staff all we need to know about how to help each of them make fundamental changes that carry over to all areas of life. We, as therapists, need to be perceptive and observant enough to pick up on the nuances of that the client's bodies and the horses' behaviors reveal.

For instance, people suffering from severe forms of schizophrenia do not make contact with the real world, but prefer to remain in a closed world of their own. On a horse, they look down at nothing in particular. That visual image leads to a kinesthetic one. They go

nowhere. Feeling the weight of the rider's head inclined forward, TAAPA horses respond by standing motionless. The first treatment plan, then, has clients making contact with something in nature - a cactus, a tree, a bush - and asking the horse to move toward it. Once they can maintain eye contact for a few minutes, the therapist can invite them to think about what to look forward to that day or that week, and finally, what to look forward to in life.

Severely emotionally challenged people usually lack the ability to coordinate physical movement. We often treat people who cannot isolate and move different parts of their bodies. Asked to look up, their hands and their heels come up, too. Invited to stretch their heels down, their hands and heads go down with the heels. Getting our clients to look up over the horses' ears, push their heels down, and keep their arms low gives them control over their bodies that they had never before felt. From that point on, they can begin to take some measure of control in other aspects of their lives

Even these simple metaphors are both mysterious and sacred. In changing these snippets of behavior, we as therapists have no idea about what the traumas were that produced the body-mind-spirit dysfunction. We can, however, help the clients begin to behave in a healthier way. If they want to do the archaeology later, they can. In the meantime, we focus on improving their quality of life right now. Doing this through metaphor allows clients to process

as much as their subconscious minds are ready to absorb.

Jesus' disciples asked him why he always taught in parables. A parable is actually an extended metaphor. One can grasp the impact of the story on a literal level but miss its larger meaning. Jesus explained that using parables lessened the listeners' responsibility. "Seeing, they do not see, and hearing they do not hear." (Mt. 13:13) Two people sharing the same symbolic experience come away with entirely different meanings. Both get out of it what fits for them. A common thread weaves through the concepts of metaphor, symbol, parable, and myth. That common element is the sacred, the mysterious, cloaked in a form waiting to reveal its hidden truth.

Ludwig Von Bertalanffy, known as the Father of General Systems Theory, contended that we err in defining humans as rational animals. He asserted that humans are symbolic beings with a capacity for rational thinking. We spend most of our lives in a symbolic world, only delving into rational thought from time to time, as need dictates.

Von Bertalanffy pioneered what later came to be known as the "paradigm shift." Discoveries of such scientists as Karl Pribram, David Bohm, and others over the past thirty years in such diverse fields as physics, astronomy, and medicine – particularly research into the structure and function of the human brain – have produced a radically different approach to science. Rather than conceptualizing about a dimensional Newtonian

universe, scientists in all fields now recognize that the universe, like the human brain, is a hologram.

All along, Native Americans have adhered to a cosmic sense of reality in tune with these new discoveries. Their world view holds all nature in reverence. To them, everything in nature is both sacred and symbolic. In their vision quest, young Sioux find in nature sacred symbols that represent to them

*"Native Americans'
world view holds
all nature in reverence.
To them, everything
in nature is both sacred
and symbolic."*

their purpose in life. In this intense physical, emotional, and spiritual experience, they acquire totems symbolic of their helpers along their journey through life. A medicine bag (a small deerskin pouch containing items of symbolic significance unique to each individual and prepared by the medicine man overseeing the vision quest) remains on the brave's person from then on. These gifts of nature become sacramental through their mysterious and symbolic meaning about the young man's purpose in life.

Psychologist Carl Jung's recognition of symbolism in archetypes and myths gave rise to the discipline of depth psychology.

Given the paradigm shift, some leaders in the field think that depth psychology offers the only valid technique to healing the human body-mind-spirit as a whole. Depth psychology in its reliance on metaphor emerging from the patients' own subconscious minds, delves respectfully into these sacred realms.

Most methods currently in vogue, especially in this era of managed care with its virtual exclusion of mental health treatment, aims primarily at controlling symptoms with medication while often disregarding what is mysterious and sacred in the patients. Too few practitioners acknowledge the holography of the human person.

In TAAPA's therapeutic milieu, metaphors manifest elements of symbolism, mystery, and sacredness. Clients' bodies and behaviors show staff what needs to change for them to work with the animals effectively. Changes that enable them to deal with the animals invariably enable them to be more effective in other aspects of their lives as well. Probing into painful issues becomes unnecessary. Instead, easy changes in posture and demeanor gradually reveal their deeper significance when clients are ready to "have eyes to see and ears to hear."

As these metaphors emerge, clients deal with them first at a concrete level. Deeper significance may elude them at first until they are ready to discover the sacred secret that the metaphor can reveal.

As Erich Jantsch states so clearly, "The newly gained

flexibility in the symbolic representation of reality gives the anticipation of the future its full importance. Out of dreams and visions grow plans, out of wishes goals, and out of hope creative action. (*The Self-Organizing Universe*, p. 180).

Working with the metaphor at TAAPA has allowed people labeled by the "System" as unable to function independently to discover the purpose of their lives, and the deeper significance of their pain. In the sacredness of that context, they often realize a potential in their future beyond mere day-to-day survival.

This metaphoric approach opens the path for much deeper restoration than reliance on symptom control only. Metaphor, symbol, and myth all speak to the human mind in emotion, drama, sensuality, and fantasy. These elements arouse the whole of human nature with profound, sacramental impact.

¹ TAAPA is an outpatient behavioral health program using twelve horses, a miniature donkey, a pot-bellied pig, three Irish wolfhounds, a Welsh Corgi puppy, two cats, and two miniature goats to help young people and adults suffering from serious emotional problems.

² The heart stands for human love, while crown and the crest signify honor and God's blessing on that love. The hands clasping the heart stand for fidelity in human love, while the circle symbolizes the eternal duration of true love.



In Defense of ... RATS!



When most people think of rats, the image is not pleasant. However, a distinction needs to be made between the domestic and wild rat. Thousands of people have rats as pets and, if asked, they would say their rodent friends are loving, sociable and intelligent animals. Many domestic rats can be trained and are considered highly intelligent by those who work with them. These rats, of course, have been bred for many years and therefore, do not have the same characteristics as the wild rat. (Teachers should clearly explain the differences between the wild and domestic rat).

There are many groups devoted to the domestic rat. Two such groups, American Fancy Rat & Mouse Association (AFMA) and Northeast Rat & Mouse Club, International (NRMCI), publish newsletters and offer a wealth of free information, write to AFMA, 9230 64TH Street, Riverside, CA 92509-5924 (or visit their web site at <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/3220/>).

The history books and media have not been kind to the wild rat. Everytime a rat is presented, it is always the same. We squirm when we see them in the movies and cringe when we read about them in a novel. However, we are also fascinated by rats for no doubt they conjure up an emotion in us. As humans, we like to think that we have control over all other species but the wild rat is one species we cannot control. This may be one of the reasons why rats are so hated by us. In the many battles between rats and humans, the rats usually win, and even when they don't, they never make it easy. In fact, they have qualities that we should envy: they thrive under horrible conditions and don't seem to be bothered or threatened by anything.

Even though the wild rat is viewed as diseased and evil by most cultures, some eastern cultures have a different view. In India, for example, rats are worshipped in Jain temples where elaborate ceremonies are held in their honor. And in Chinese culture, the rat is the first of the twelve animals in the zodiac. The Year of the Rat represents prosperity and hard work and those born in the Year of the Rat will display these characteristics.

While it is advisable to avoid the wild rat, remember that the domestic rat can be a cute and friendly addition to your home and/or classroom.

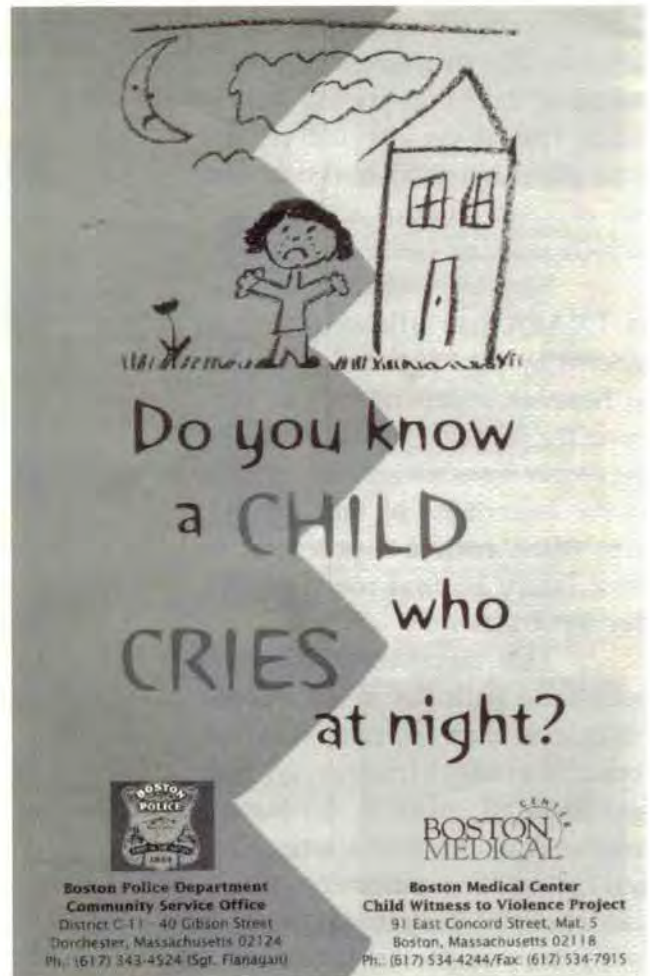
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New England Animal Control/Humane Task Force

*Sgt. Tom Flanagan
Community Service Officer
and Task Force Coordinator,
Boston Police Department*

N.E.A.C./H.T.F. what is it and what does it do for you? We are talking about the New England Animal Control/Humane Task Force. It is a combined agency task force that is coordinated by the Boston Police Department (District 11), Boston Animal Control, Animal Rescue League of Boston, M.S.P.C.A., and the Child Witness to Violence Program. It was started in 1996 as an animal control task force.

Why was it established? During the summer of 1996 the Law Enforcement agencies listed above were all facing the same problem. The problem; vicious dogs of all types being used as weapons of intimidation by gang members and drug dealers. Many of the dogs were trained to be people aggressive as well as property protective. The animals were being used to hold stashes of drugs as well as to protect the sellers. As a result of meeting with each other and discussing the problems, a number of common denominators were found. The most important issue was that a means of communication was badly needed. Many of the same locations were being visited over and over again by separate agencies creating a tremendous waste of time and energy. Individuals wanted by one agency



were often found by another agency during investigations and disregarded due to no communication.

The first problem, lack of communication, was removed with the coordination of the agencies. An increase in available manpower was also established by using the available resources of all the groups. This also increased the equipment available to conduct investigations. Information was now interchanged on a daily basis and new sources of information, both in the City and outside were being established. As a result of this, locations were visited, animals seized, arrests made, court complaints sought, and citations were being issued. All of these initiatives resulted in a dramatic drop in complaints being received for dog problems in Dorchester.

The task force was now starting to receive requests for assistance and guidance from additional agencies throughout the City as well as other cities and towns. Educational meetings were held in Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island. Once the task force was

included on the District 11 web site, queries started coming in from all over the Country and Canada. Still other areas such as Puerto Rico became aware of the task force as a result of investigations that necessitated working with the FBI and law enforcement agencies in San Juan and Ponce.

One result of this growth was an increase of knowledge by the officers involved. One major factor that kept appearing over and over, time after time, was the close correlation of animal abuse to child abuse and domestic violence. The more we learned the more determined we became to find a way to better approach this problem. History revealed that the correlation was not a new phenomenon but something that had happened as far back as man's first development as a society past that of the caveman. Repeatedly were seen the same comments from educators, sociologists, and medical professionals. Animal abuse in early stages of development overwhelmingly resulted in violent behavior by the same individual in over 80% of the cases recorded. Task force statistics revealed an even higher percentage of close to 90% of the individuals investigated.



SEE PAGE 37
for a list of
Latham Letter articles
containing information
on the links between
animal abuse and
other forms of
domestic violence.

At this point the Child Witness to Violence Project staff was contacted. District 11 had been working with Betsy Groves and the C.W.T.V.P. at Boston Medical Center (BMC) since its inception six years ago. Brain storming sessions were held with the staff and Doctors from BMC regarding what preemptive steps could be taken. A direct approach was suggested, and a how best to do it plan was formulated. It was decided that a flyer would be designed providing information specifically focused on domestic violence victims and traumatized children. Once the flyer was available home follow-up visits would be made to locations previously investigated for animal cruelty situations. Two members of the Task Force, a police officer and staff member from C.W.T.V.P. conducted the first visits early in the summer of 1998. The results were beyond belief, no one demanded that they leave, and most of the parties welcomed them warmly. Referrals have been made as a result of these visits and many victims are now aware they are not alone in their struggle.

What does all of this mean? The Task Force has much educating to do. We have taken the study results of many individuals and formulated a criteria aimed at lowering the horrifying statistics, Today we have in place a way to reduce the alarming numbers of murders, child abuse and domestic violence investigations that happen in society on a day to day basis. We can not do it alone; others must be taught how to do these tasks. Those outside of law enforcement must be able to recognize the warning signs and what to do when they are observed.

Education is now a very impor-

tant part of the Task Force mission. The first step in our three level enforcement system consists of educating animal owners. Cultural differences often are the root problem when investigating improper animal care situations. A second level consists of administrative hearings with the emphasis on mediating the problem to an acceptable agreement for all involved. The last step is that of court action, which is used as a last resort when no other alternative is appropriate. What we have learned over the last three years must not be wasted, it must be utilized. We are reaching out to others through the Child Witness to Violence Project training seminars, public speaking engagements, and seminars we are invited to guest lecture at, and the Internet. Our goal is to appear before as many various groups as possible, but we especially seek those who visit homes and apartments as part of their daily routines. These are the people most important to us, they often see what law enforcement is not allowed to observe in a house or apartment. We also must convince many involved in the court system the serious consequences a simple animal cruelty complaint can lead to if not handled correctly in it's early stages. We are doing today what has been talked about for years and never acted upon.

Remember! In 1874 animal welfare laws were used to remove a small child from the home of her abusive father, there were no laws specifically aimed at children's welfare in place at that time. We are continuing that same practice today, to a certain extent, by using animals and the laws that protect them to save humans from later tragedy. Please contact us at (617) 343-4339 for further information.



Ooooooops.

In the last Latham Letter, (Winter '99, page 18) we left out the contact information for the Baltimore Police Department's Program Linking Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence.

Those readers interested in learning more about this innovative program should contact Col. Margaret W. Patten at 410-396-2600.



**BEAT YOUR WIFE? GO TO THERAPY.
BEAT YOUR DOG? GO FOR PIZZA.**



VIOLENCE IS VIOLENCE.

A starving dog. A wounded cat. A box of orphaned animals. Last year the Nebraska Humane Society responded to 2,051 complaints of animal cruelty and

neglect. We rescued over 750 animals from abusive situations and issued over 875 citations in an effort to make people more accountable for the treatment of their animals.



Your support enables us not only to care for these animals, but to prevent them from needing our care in the first place. Please, become a member of the Nebraska Humane Society and become a member of the Humane Race.

RHODE ISLAND

ROUNDUP

Mary Jo Munroe



Feinstein High students Jaissen Jackson, Luisiana Martinez, Elisa Almonte, Melissa Duguet, Katherine Hernandez and therapy dog with residents at the St. Elizabeth Home.

It's Tuesday night, early evening at a community facility in Rhode Island and twenty dogs are going through their paces. Trainer Fran Masters of Canine Mastery of Seekonk, Massachusetts speaks loudly enough to be heard over the assorted noises. The newest batch of Pet Assisted Therapy trainees and their human companions meet weekly for two hours for an entire semester to hone their skills at human and canine interaction with an eye to sharing these abilities with prospective recipients in nursing homes, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, group homes, prisons, residential centers and schools.

Rhode Island has become a small hub activity in the field of Pet Assisted Therapy. The guiding hand of this movement is Pearl Salotto, whose work is well known to the readers of the *Latham Letter*. In this "roundup," we'll note briefly some of the advances in the following areas: the college program; legislation; State Department of Health guidelines, and an innovative high school educational/service learning.

College program:

For several years, there have been classes offered at the Community College of Rhode Island. These classes lead to a Certificate in Pet Assisted Therapy following the successful completion of three semesters of training courses.

First semester serves as an introduction to the field. (This class is for the humans.) Speakers, videos, hands-on demonstrations with therapy pets included in this first semester. Papers, observations and exams are required. Among some of the topics covered are the human-animal bond, the link of animal abuse to domestic violence, historical aspects of Pet Therapy, ethics,

and many other related topics. There is an ease of association and bonding which occurs almost immediately among class members. All share a single great love for their pets, and a belief that this love can transform lives.

Second semester is devoted to Pet Training. This is accomplished with the aid of a fully qualified AKC Trainer. (This current class has twenty-five enrollees, and in addition to actual animal training, book reviews, guest lecturers, and training logs are required). This is the stage at which behavioral transformation is observable. Whether those changes, or adaptations, are greater among the humans or the animals is the question. Some animals who appear aggressive to other animals (not to people, as all have been temperament tested) during the first few weeks become quite socialized. Likewise, those who have had a history of shyness often become highly energized when reporting to class. In my own case, my shy and nervous dog passed her AKC Good Citizenship Test with flying colors. The mutual support among all the Therapists-in-training is heartening.

Third semester is an internship with an accredited, university-trained pet therapist in a cooperating institution. Rhode Island now has interns in high schools, hospitals and nursing care facilities. Some Pet Therapists in Rhode Island



Naomi Caldwell, Feinstein High Librarian, with Maj-En.

have now become adjunct and salaried staff members to the staff of these facilities.

Legislation:

When Pearl Salotto came to Rhode Island in 1993, she contacted the Rhode Island Health Department to determine what guidelines were in place for therapy pets. When she found that none were in place, she began to work toward that goal of developing guidelines with her characteristic energy. The result was a set of guidelines issued by the Rhode Island Department of Health in 1997, and an updated version in March of this year.

Wayne Farrington, Director of the Division of Facilities Regulation for the Rhode Island Department of Health, speaks

with praise for the many Pet Therapists active in the facilities that he oversees. In a recent interview, he stated that only one complaint regarding the animal visits had ever been made, and when his team investigated the complaint, it was found to have no basis in fact. He commented, "These guidelines aim to avoid conflicts that might arise by addressing them formally." He refers to this as "protective oversight." He further views the Pet Assisted Therapy Program as "bringing normalcy to the lives of many people who find them themselves in an institutionalized setting, either temporarily, or permanently." He expressed a wish that all programs could operate on such a high level of satisfaction.

On another statewide front, a bill has been introduced to the Rhode Island State Legislature which would grant to Pet Therapy



Lori Passarelli and first graders at Webster Avenue Elementary School learning the DJ "Respect for Living Things Program" (Pet Inspired Value Development) with Maj-En.

Guidelines Available

Contact Pearl Salotto or Wayne Farrington for a copy of *The Rhode Island Guidelines for Pets in Health Care Facilities and Pet Assisted Therapy* (2nd Edition 3/99).



Melody, an eight-year old developmentally disabled student at The Trudeau Center in Warwick, Rhode Island, with Lucky, one John Fitzgerald's Irish Wolfhounds. John interns at the Center as part of Pearl Salotto's Pet Assisted Therapy University Certificate Program. Lucky helps Melody improve her reaching, tracking, and vocabulary skills.

animals the same rights to use public transportation and to be recognized as companion animals as are guide dogs. To this date, the bill is in a second committee, and supporters are hopeful.

Education:

A unique aspect of the Educational component of Pet Assisted Therapy in Rhode Island takes place within the framework of the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation. Dr. Feinstein is a well-known philanthropist in Rhode Island with an amazing list of contributions to his name including the Feinstein High School for Public Service, a unique public high school. Feinstein High School enrolls approximately 350 students in a challenging and innovative high school program. Emphasis throughout the curriculum is on community service and advancement based on performance, increased sense of responsibility, and



personal growth. The school personalizes learning through individual learning plans and cooperative learning units.

Linda Jones, the Service Learning Coordinator at Feinstein High School, has become a strong supporter of Pet Assisted Therapy. She often speaks to students in the University program and welcomes Pet Therapists as apprentices at the Feinstein School.

She reports seeing enormous positive personal changes in the students who are assigned to the Pet Therapy program, a seven-week "internship" in which high school students are linked to a working therapist in a number of situations. The situations range from nursing homes to elementary schools where they experience Pearl Salotto's "DJ Respect for Living Things" program. Jones notes that an important element in the student experience is their exposure to the ethics inherent in each service assignment.

From this brief look at Pet Assisted Therapy activities in Rhode Island it must be apparent that the energy level and devotion to the cause of animals is great.

Many are involved. Many more will be.

Mary Jo Munroe is a middle school librarian, an antiquarian book dealer, and a confirmed animal nut.

Resources

For additional details on the status of pet assisted therapy activities in Rhode Island or information on a new video entitled "Family Therapy Pet Maj-En, A Loving Bridge to a Better World," contact Pearl Salotto, 173 Easton Avenue, Warwick, RI 02888. Phone 401-463-5809; Fax 401-463-3639 www.djppat.com. Pearl is Developer/Director of the DJ Pet Assisted/Service Learning Feinstein High School Program and Developer/Director of the DJ Pet Assisted Therapy University Program.

Feinstein High School for Public Service, 544 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907. Anthony Milano, Principal 401-456-1706; Linda Jones, Service Learning Coordinator 401-253-9516.

Wayne Farington, Director of Facilities Regulation, Rhode Island Department of Health, 401-222-2566.



5/8/86 – 7/12/99

In Memory of D.J. (Dog of Joy), who inspired Pearl Salotto's Respect for Living Things Program, and gave so much joy to so many.



HOME AQUARIUM PEOPLE ARE PET OWNERS TOO!

*Aline H. Kidd and Robert M. Kidd,
Center for Animals in Society, School
of Veterinary Medicine, University of
California-Davis*

Pet Piranhas Bala sharks, and Siamese Fighting Fish.

"Pet fish? Of course! My Piranhas and freshwater Bala sharks are family pets! We like watching them and our whole family enjoys feeding and taking good care of them!"

This was typical of answers we were given when we interviewed 100 home aquarium owners at local home aquarium supply stores while

trying to discover some specific reasons why home aquariums have become the second most popular "pet" owning activity in the U.S. We wondered "pets?" and we wondered "Why pet fish?" The fact that ten percent of American households have fresh water "pet" fish, and six-tenths percent have salt water marine "pets" didn't seem to be an adequate answer.

After all, underwater animals are different. Fish get their oxygen from the water. Most fish survive only in a limited range of water temperatures and a restrictive composition of water chemistry. Fish can't be taken for walks in the park, can't be petted or cuddled, or can't sleep at or on their owner's feet at night. Fish can't be taught endearing or entertaining little action tricks, and even when it looks as if they're swimming over *just* to greet *you*, they're really just responding naturally to light changes and food reflexes.

We therefore felt that in spite of these minus aspects of pet fish owning, there must be some special beneficial reasons why people set up and maintain their own private pet aquariums. Consequently, because there have been very few studies of home aquarium owners and human-fish interactions, we set up our own study and interviewed 50 men and 50 women shoppers at local speciality stores which sell exotic fish and all the necessary tanks, filters, pumps, and special foods for maintaining a good home aquarium environment setup.

Responses indicated that 17 men and 26 women were single, that 33 men and 24 women were married, and that 18 of the men and 28 of the women had children at home who also enjoyed the fish. Fifty-four of the persons owned only fish, but the other 46 also owned the usual dogs, cats, and other animal pets typical of average American families.

Of the women, 34 owned fresh water fish, 16 owned salt water fish, and none owned both. Of the men, however, 22 owned fresh water fish, 22 owned salt water fish, and 6 owned both kinds. Both sexes explained this type of ownership the same way: Salt water aquariums are more expensive pieces of equipment and require more time, strength, and engineering skills to clean, operate and maintain the water temperatures, chemistry, and species feeding problems of pet fish keeping. We also noted that half of the aquarium owners had owned fish before they were 21 years old and many of them then owned fish intermittently until they settled into stable jobs and housing.

Although the married owners flatly declared that the fish were



appropriate and satisfactory care for the fish. As expected however, none of these “drawbacks” were considered to be real problems to owning and caring for pet fish.

“I think most aquarium owners need to have patience and responsibility guiding them” was a frequent answer to the question of what personality traits were most characteristic of pet fish owners. Curiosity and com-

mitment were also mentioned frequently. Most of the men who had salt water tanks insisted:

“You really need to have engineering skills to deal with the expensive tanks, pumps, filters, and accessories necessary to maintain the right environment. Whether small or large, tanks must be kept clean, correct water chemistry and temperatures must be regularly maintained, and proper food for particular species must be provided.”

In discussing the benefits of home aquarium ownership, however, they were more open and exuberant in mentioning the entertainment their fish provided. “I can’t describe the enjoyment we get from

watching the graceful ever-shifting movements of our fish gliding up, down, and around the tank, dancing with or avoiding crashing into each other” said one man. “It’s more calming and relaxing than watching television” said several of the women.

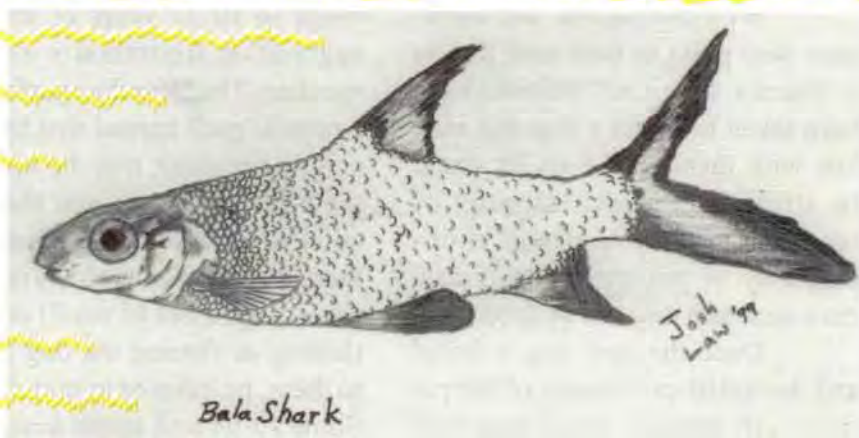
The majority of the owners mentioned the relaxing and stress reducing benefits of home aquariums. Most had read about the one study of patients in medical and dental offices which proved that watching the fish in the office aquarium had made them less anxious while waiting for their appointments and in several instances had reduced their elevated blood pressures.

The responses of our interviewed pet fish aquarium owners seem to make it quite clear that pet fish aquariums can be emotionally and physically beneficial to the owners. Whether called “pets,” “companions,” “useful hobby,” “a form of education,” or merely “room decorations,” the calming entertainment and emotional pleasure from watching truly graceful swimmers, and the stress reducing relaxation which helps reduce high blood pressure are benefits which surely offset the work and expense of aquarium ownership.

“family pets”, the other owners variously categorized their fish as “companions,” “a useful hobby,” “a form of education,” and “room decorations.” The majority of the parents said that their children liked or loved the fish, and only a few said their children were indifferent to them. All of the parents noted that none of their children were afraid of the fish.

The 46 who also owned the usual dogs cats, and other animal pets typical of average American families said “even our regular pets get along well with the fish!” and 16 of these multi-pet owners preferred their fish because “they really are less of a nuisance than animal pets.” As one man put it, “My dog and cat are easy to take care of – they pretty well take care of themselves. But the knowledge and skill it takes to care for pet fish properly gives me a huge sense of achievement.”

Most of the pet fish owners mentioned several bothersome pet fish problems such as the extravagant prices of both fish and maintenance equipment, and the amount of time required for appro-



Good Dog Wanted

by Carol Shiveley



Pople walking through the kennels of our shelter often say, “We’re looking for a good dog.” Buttons pushed or flags waved for these potential dog owners may be “an adorable face with big brown eyes, blond fur,” a valuable purebred (bargain mentality), a tiny eight week old pup (like a toy) or a “feeling or look” that connects them when they go by with a particular canine. Some gamble with fate as they take the first dog that doesn’t bark or comes to the front of the kennel and looks at them, or the one at highest risk to be euthanized judging by the number of days it has spent at the shelter.

With confidence and assurance they point to their new dog as if “Eureka, here it is!” Minutes have been taken to select a dog that may live with them for 15 to 20 years. In striking contrast, months of research and comparison shopping may be put into an inanimate item such as a new car or appliance.

Once the new dog is home and the initial excitement of the pet wears off, the new owner may find

the dog is not everything they were dreaming of. A senior couple observed recently, held on tight to the leash as they were trying to walk their Jack Russell Terrier as the hyper little bundle of energy weaved, jumped and barked. “He’s too much for us,” the woman lamented. “We loved Edie on TV and thought he was so cute, so we bought him for \$500. He jumps out of the yard, and is so hard to control.”

Depending on their commitment to the responsibility of owning a dog, often an impulse selection can result in 10-15 years of tolerance, aggravation, frustration or misunderstanding. The “less than perfect” dog, a natural pack animal that by nature enjoys company, may be banned to the backyard away from the family and live a life of isolation and boredom. Worse yet, it could be neglected (out of sight, out of mind) or abused (hitting or forcing the dog to come to them, be quiet or to quit digging). Some suffer and spend long days at

the end of a chain or rope staked in the yard rather than a fenced yard. Chaining makes dogs very vulnerable and leaves them helpless to ward off invaders – both four-legged and two – that can come by, tease, throw rocks and yell and attack them.

RESPECT your dog through Research, Examination, Socialization, Patience, Education, Consistency, Training.

Do some research to be savvy and learn the low down on any dog, purebreds or mixed breeds, so you know what to expect. When considering a mixed breed dog or mutt, do your research and find out the characteristics of the breeds you are considering. Mutts often live longer, are less prone to breed-specific health problems, and make excellent companions. An excellent resource in your search is *The Right Dog for You* by Daniel Tortora, Ph.D. Such selection considerations as breed activity level, the dog’s vigor (This is similar to hyperactive vs.

"Think of dogs as children that never grow up."

slow and laid-back), its behavioral consistency (from hard to distract once it's on a behavior sequence such as chasing a cat to calling its name and having it come). Also to be considered are the dominance and territoriality as the dog relates to other dogs, other people, or other species.

Emotional stability or predictability are very important to some people. The Pet Partners Evaluation test seeks an easy-going dog that goes with the flow and adjusts to whatever may come its way. Socialization can be compared to extrovert versus introvert. The extroverted dog greets everyone as a friend while the extreme opposite is a one-person dog and avoids most strangers and many children. Some dogs may only pay attention to other dogs and ignore people. This has a lot to do with its contact with people the first three months of its life and the imprint made. Learning rate or brightness is rated by how fast a dog learns something about its social or physical environment. Comparisons range from acquiring a habit in one or two exposures and retaining it without repetition or practice. The other extreme requires hundreds of sessions to learn a behavior with practice and repetition crucial for it to retain the habit.

Obedience is the "spirit or will" to please or not please the master. Problem-solving is also rated. The intelligent, problem solving dogs are the very ones that often fill the shelter kennels. Due to lack of attention and training, these dogs may be extremely bored and want to go see what's out there to eat, chase, and smell. They dig out or jump the fence, chase critters, mark their territory, and tear up favorite toys

and other items simply because they are bored and need stimulation. Daily walks will help them discover what's out there and a vigorous hike may wear them out so they'll nap. The last two considerations are watch dog or guard dog tendencies. A watch dog will bark to let its owners know a person is "intruding." A guard will threaten intruders, hold them at bay and in extreme cases, attack them. The other side of the coin are dogs that are too friendly or sluggish to alert their owners that strangers are present.

"Often prospective adoptors take only minutes to select a dog that may live with them for 15 to 20 years. In striking contrast, months of research and comparison shopping may be put into an inanimate item such as a new car or appliance."

Of course, we in the animal protection/sheltering business wish everyone would get a shelter dog. But if one does buy or acquire from another source, be very careful about the breeding quality. Avoid puppy mills and backyard breeders that raise pups for bucks rather than benefits to the breed. Once the dog is selected and brought home, take it to your veterinarian immediately for an examination and x-rays if the breed is prone to hip dysplasia, disjuncted knees, or any other breed

tendency. Better to find out early than to become bonded but then faced with a hefty vet bill and heart-ache later.

A dog that goes everywhere and is well behaved is a dog that was exposed to many people, conditions, pets, and places, and trained it to adhere to the rules. It is socialized and made to feel important and a member of the family.

Patience, education, and consistency are invaluable in training your dog to be that good citizen.

Think of dogs as children that never grow up. They learn best with kindness, example, reinforcement, and praise.

Trainers, when working with a dog's handler, teach methods that work for them. Caution should be used to make sure that those training methods take breed temperament and learning style into consideration. All dogs deserve training that is patient, kind, consistent, and is founded on teamwork. Some trainers prefer teaching exercises with treat incentives. Others start with treats and interweave them with praise, eventually weaning them to praise alone. Yelling, hitting, and forcing dogs into submission with prong collars, strong yanks on choke chains and other techniques will not make the dog man's best friend. Rather, such techniques will turn the dog into an object to dominate, control and enslave. When a dog is treated fairly, it will give unconditional love and continually strive to please its owner. RESPECT is the key to owning that good dog.

Carol Shiveley, a frequent contributor to the Latham Letter, is Education and Pet Facilitated Therapy Director at the Oregon Humane Society, P.O. Box 11364, Portland, OR 97211, Phone 503-285-7722, Fax 503-289-6860.

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THE MEANING OF ANIMALS IN THE HEARTS OF CHILDREN AS REVEALED THROUGH ARTWORK AND POETRY

AUTHORS:

Pamela Raphael: Humane Educator, Humane Society of Sonoma County (1991-97) where she implemented classes on responsible and compassionate treatment of animals in elementary, secondary, and special education schools. Pamela is presently expanding this program to additional schools in Northern California. Published Poet and Poet Teacher for California Poets in the Schools (1978-93).

Lynn Loar, Ph.D., LCSW: Expert in child abuse assessment and treatment, and a member of the California State Humane Academy faculty, teaching about the interrelationship of child abuse, elder abuse, domestic violence, and cruelty to animals.

Libby Colman, Ph.D.: Program Director of San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocates and co-author of seven books on the psychology of parenting.

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Win cash prizes, awards, and recognition.

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

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For submission guidelines and an entry form, visit Latham's web site at www.latham.org or contact The Latham Foundation:

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Lepo

by Peter Gauthier

L

iPo is the name of a Chinese poet and sage. My son, Christopher, who has an uncanny

knack for naming animals according to characteristics he couldn't possibly know anything about, gave this name to one of our Siamese cats when we got him as a kitten. I felt from the beginning that we were dealing with a sage, a poet, a cat of great intellectual substance. After all, Chris had named his first cat, Simon, and this cat turned out to be as simple as a creature could be and survive. Simon was as dumb as a board. Simple Simon. He'd been well named. Now don't get me wrong, he was lovable and all that, but he just wasn't too swift.

Chris had also named Spartacus, our next Siamese, who replaced Simon, after he had passed away. Spartacus turned out to be the stalwart, the defender of the yard, the all-brave. Aptly named. So when Chris named his next cat LiPo, we figured that we had on our hands a pensive individual with a keen intellect, a philosopher of some note. Well two out of three isn't bad. Chris wasn't even close with Li Po. By the way, the cat's name appears as Lepo on the veterinary register, and so by way of an administrative error, he is officially Lepo. It sounds the same, but is written differently. You can't help but wonder if this clerical error hadn't occurred,

From time to time we revisit subjects of interest. We hope readers will appreciate this cat tale.

whether he would have lived up to his given name, Li Po. We'll never know.

I don't know why I chose Lepo to write about since there doesn't seem to be a lot to say. If you were to poll the family as to feline characteristics, words like slow, backward, and out of it, would come to mind when discussing Lepo. But let's see what it is about the cat that endears him to us; he does do that. Now Simon was a dope; lovable, it is true, but an oaf just the same. But that doesn't do it for Lepo. There's something missing, but it's hard to put your finger on. It isn't enough to say he's not too bright, there isn't that much concrete evidence as there was for Simon. You could list the things that Simon did which lead you to conclude that he was learning impaired. For example he would frequently run into a door when he was running into the house after being called for a meal. This was not a one shot deal, it happened more than once. On the other hand his sister, Cleo, was a smart as a whip. She did smart things: too many and too frequently to list them. She was a lot cleaner too, but that's another story and so is she. Females tend to be cleaner; males tend to forget themselves more often.

Lepo can best be said to be detached from the rest of the family including the animals. But he has shown a certain deference to the old cat, Spartacus, who happens to

Cat philosophical question:

"If you call a cat by its name, did you actually make a sound?"



I felt from the beginning that we were dealing with a sage, a poet, a cat of great intellectual substance.

be his uncle. He tolerates Kima, his little sister, but is capable of putting her down. Spartacus (a.k.a. Sparty) is a rangy Siamese, the dominant one. Now Lepo is never the one to challenge the old cat's authority, but if Sparty attempts to exercise his God-given prerogatives, then he's in for an argument. And Lepo doesn't know the meaning of back

off, or back down. So these two have their moments, but they are usually resolved within a short period of time. One thing about Lepo though, is that he does seek the old cat out to sleep with. He usually won't curl up alone but seeks the company of the older cat, who tends to tolerate him. It takes a little adjusting, about a half hour of licking, eyeing each other warily, etc., but once they settle in, they snooze contentedly the whole night.

If you were to poll the family as to feline characteristics, words like slow, backward, and out of it, would come to mind when discussing Lepo.

One of Lepo's most startling characteristic is his cry. Now I can't describe it to you, except to say that it comes out a little squeaky, like a rusty gate, and sets everybody commenting and laughing at the sound. He has a difficult time getting it out, it seems. And when he tries to give it some authority, it comes out as a loud, squeaky gate. But as soon as he is acknowledged openly, his cry drops to a little squeak again, even at a lower volume than normal. It's almost as if he's ashamed for having caused a fuss, and he's apologizing.

There is another characteristic of this cat that does stand out even

more than his squeaky cry, and that is his love of shoes. Maybe some of you may know of cats that love shoes, but I've never known one that was so attracted to them as this one. You could almost say this is a fetish with Lepo. When he spies a loose shoe, one not attached to anyone, he just sticks his head in and leaves it there. Smelly sneaks are his favorite, and in this regard he is almost like a dog, who often gravitate to offbeat odors that most of us find repellent. So it is with Lepo. Now he may curl up to a shoe that's attached to a foot, and under these circumstances you can pet away, since he is so enthralled with the footwear. Without the shoe he'd walk right by you, usually in a bit of a hurry, almost distressed at the thought of being petted. But give him that shoe to pacify him, and he's yours.

Another thing about Lepo is that he just doesn't have any sense of humor. Our dog, Lucky, a Labrador Retriever, likes to aggravate the cats occasionally. It's impossible to know what stimulates the dog to want to antagonize the cats, but that's what happens every now and then. Now Spartacus will put up with a bit of it. For example the dog has a way of lifting the cat's whole hindquarters with her nose, and giving the cat quite a loft in the process. Spartacus is aware of the undignified position that puts him in, but he tolerates it to a point. Of course, beyond this he will begin to spit and hiss at the dog, and generally chase her around the kitchen. Both animals are in good spirits and there's no animosity generated. It's all part of the give and take of everyday activity, and seen by both as good, clean fun.

Now with Lepo it's an alto-

gether different story. That dog just sticks her nose in the general area to give the cat a little back lift, and that's all she wrote. The cat turns quickly. Now Lepo isn't snarling or spitting, but he means business, and looks the part. If the dog holds her ground at all, forget it, this is not a cat to be trifled with. Life is serious for Lepo, and he isn't about to be gyrated into space, somersaulting for the pleasure of the family dog. Like I said, the oaf doesn't have a clue when it comes to the give and take of life. No sense of humor, it's cut and dried, life is serious, and should be regarded that way.

One talent that Lepo has exhibited, caught us all by surprise. You could have knocked everybody over with a feather when, one day Lepo took a leap over a separator gate my wife had put up. Not that he ever practiced or anything either, he never did. Of all the cats we've had over the years, if you had quizzed us about which we thought could have made the best, the most graceful jumper, I know who wouldn't have been picked. Any of the others were more graceful and would have been the natural choice. Lepo just kind of plods around the house, almost like a refugee, always looking over his shoulder, kind of. He's chunky, and has the look of a jaguar about him; built for tracking and finally, the ambush, but not for jumping. He just was not designed for this graceful maneuver, or so we thought.

On this day my wife had set up a gate between the kitchen and the dining room to keep the dog out while something or other was being done. The other cats either resigned themselves to staying out of the living room, or pulled the gate aside and squeezed through. Not Lepo.

It was as if he'd been a hurdle jumper all his life, except that he never did jump before, that I know of. But he sure did this time. From a standing position, without a sign of effort, the supreme athlete, he just sailed over that barrier with the greatest of ease. Pure grace in motion, sailing over a three foot barrier, and flaring out on the other side with such style. Who would have thought it. We looked at Lepo with a new sense of awareness and respect now, for he did something with more style and grace than any of the others could. We couldn't even coach them into doing it. But old Lepo, he didn't need coaching. Just put up a barrier between where he was, and where he wanted to go, and he would be sailing through the air. I'm not exaggerating when I say that it was quite a sight, and worth the price of admission.

Another thing he does that drives everybody crazy is to claw the Afghan, or any other spread, he's going to sleep on. Now I know that this is common behavior among cats, they like to claw the material upon which they are about to lie, first extending their claws, then withdrawing them from the material. So there isn't anything unique about this, except in Lepo's case, he never lets up. Once set into motion, the blasted cat just stands there over the cloth pawing it without any evidence of stopping. Eventually someone has to yell at him, so that he can come to his senses. He'll look at you as if he'd just come out of a deep sleep, take a few turns around the bed, and plop down. I don't know how long he'd keep doing it if someone didn't put a stop to it. I don't think we've ever let him go the distance. Now the Afghan is on the couch, next to the television, and nobody can properly give their

attention to the tube while the cat is engaging in these antics. It's maddening. You want to get on with watching the television, but you can't as long as the cat hasn't been able to make up his mind. So you eventually have to put an end to it, since everyone by now is mesmerized by this idiotic behavior.

We often wonder what it is about Lepo that makes him so introverted. We bought his little sister, Kima, to replace Cleo, my daughter's Siamese pet for some nine years. We only intended to buy one cat, since we had another Siamese at home, Spartacus. Now the lady who breeds and sells these cats had an animal that had been returned, and there he was in the middle of the living room, all by himself, surrounded by other cats, but oblivious to everyone. Now maybe we should have been on our toes, since he had been returned by another family, and he was being offered to us free. Two for the price of one. It's hard to resist a deal, but we should have had the old antennas out. Not that there was any deception or anything like that; she's an honorable lady who just likes to give her cats a good home. Now that Lepo's been with us all these years, naturally we wouldn't have it any other way.

Occasionally Lepo will jump up on someone's lap, but it is a rare occasion. He's just not a coming cat. But if he does jump up, then your lap will often be treated like the Afghan, and that can be painful. It's not a good idea to let him just claw and work the material while he decides when will be the appropriate time to lie down. Not that you're about to let him.

Come to think of it, Lepo doesn't purr that much either, or

that loudly. Now if you're petting Spartacus you can hear him purring across the room. But you have to listen mighty closely, and it takes a sensitive ear, to hear Lepo purring contentedly. He does purr, but like everything else about this cat, it is definitely understated. For the life of me this does evoke a kind of response in the family, and you end up looking into the cat's face just to try and make out what's going on. Not much, it looks like. Yet, and I don't want to get cute here, he does seem perplexed about your concern. This is the God's honest

When he spies a loose shoe, one not attached to anyone, he just sticks his head in and leaves it there.

On two separate occasions while I was gazing into his eyes, he grabbed the fleshy part of my nose. He had the whole nub of my nose in his bazoo.

truth, he doesn't seem to be able to figure out what is the problem, why you are delving into his private matters. At this point it gets a little interpretive.

On two separate occasions while I was gazing into his eyes, he grabbed the fleshy part of my nose. He had the whole nub of my nose in his bazoo. You may think you have experienced utter powerlessness at some time in your life, but you haven't until you are looking into the eyes of an unpredictable cat who has your nose in his mouth. Well apparently he intended no harm, and the nose was released without a dent. He didn't spit it out, but just kind of relinquished it slowly, bit by bit, until it was free once again to carry on its function unimpaired, and more importantly, uninjured. Sweet relief.

Another thing about Lepo is that he just doesn't have any sense of humor.

Something else that is peculiarly Lepo's is his love for baked beans.

Lepo has no neck. He looks like a linebacker for the Washington Red Skins. The cat is head and shoulders without the benefit of an intervening neck. He must have quite a short esophagus, but of that I know nothing. It looks like his mouth must be connected directly to his stomach. It doesn't bother him though, since he has the healthiest appetite of all the cats. This is one fat cat. Chunky would be the charitable way to put it. But fat's the way he is.

Something else that is peculiarly Lepo's is his love for baked beans. Now most cats will eat a baked bean if you put it in front of him. But with Lepo it's a passion, probably the only thing he is passionate about. And he recognizes the opening of a can of beans. Now he must be able to smell the beans. I doubt if the cat can tell one can from another, but whenever I open a can of baked beans, he's right there within a short time. Now and then, I like to open a can of beans and just spoon cold beans right out of the can and make a meal of it. Now I'm just into my second spoonful when I hear that squeaky gate of a sound at my side. Lepo gets very demanding when it comes to baked beans, and recognizing him verbally doesn't quiet him down at all. I place a bean in the palm of my hand, and he noses around until he finds it. He'll roll it around a bit, they are a little slippery when wet, and of course shaped just right for rolling. But he finally sinks his teeth into it and then just chews away. And one is never enough, he'll hang around for a couple more. Now he has never eaten enough to fill himself, he never makes a complete meal out of beans (and probably a good thing it is, too), but just one bean will not

do. I don't know exactly when to call it a day on the beans, but after a few, Lepo loses interest and strolls away.

Of course when Lepo gets a couple of beans then it is impossible to deny Lucky, our Labrador Retriever. She's got a way of making you feel guilty no matter what is happening. It's not that she's demanding or insisting or anything like that. No, it's more like a side-long glance, a look designed to make you feel guilty for not giving of your plenitude for one less fortunate. It's peculiar how that look disappears as soon as I spoon out a portion of beans on a page of last week's Sunday paper. Then she's all business.

So what starts out to be a nice quiet moment in my study by myself, just vegetating with one of life's simpler pleasures, the whole thing turns into a social outing in which I have to share my beans with two characters that just invite themselves in.

I only wish that Lepo weren't so alert to the sound of the opening of a can of beans. He isn't alert for anything else.

Dr. Peter Gautier is an Associate Professor at Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmitsburg, MD.

THANK YOU

Latham gratefully acknowledges the many generous supporters whose contributions make it possible for us to provide humane education and "links"-related materials to schools, libraries, and other organizations.



New Jersey's Vested Interest Fund Provides Bullet-Resistant Vests for K-9 Heroes



The Associated Humane Societies announces that it is almost half-way to its fund raising goal that will enable it to obtain 300 bullet-resistant vests for law enforcement K-9's throughout the State of New Jersey.

The Society took on this project after Solo, a three year old German Shepherd with the Monmouth County Sheriff's Department, was shot to death last June, after being sent into an apartment house for a fugitive. The last thing Solo did before entering the apartment was lick his owner's face, jump over debris, turn and look at his handler, and bound inside. He was shot to death a short time later.

The Humane Society has already outfitted 48 K-9's through the generosity of individuals, businesses, social service groups, civic associations, scouts, and school groups. The cost of the vests, usually up to \$1,500, is reduced to \$300 through quantity discounts. They need approximately \$60,000 to complete the campaign.

What began as a tragedy when Solo was shot to death has become a lasting legacy – a symbol to help the many devoted dogs who are constant and dutiful in their effort to serve and protect alongside their handlers.

The Associated Humane Societies' VESTED INTEREST FUND is managed through its Executive Offices at 124 Evergreen Avenue, Newark, NJ 07114. For more information, contact Roseann Trezza or Debbie Beyfuss at 973-824-7080.

UPDATE:

Only 49 more vests are needed to complete this effort, making New Jersey the first and only state to have its K-9 dogs fully protected. As a result of this initiative, animal lovers in 24 states are purchasing safety vests for their K-9 heroes.

The *Latham Letter's* Own Therapy Dog, Jenni, is featured in the *National Enquirer*

Inquiring minds wanted to know what makes Jenni such a miracle worker. On page six of the March 2, 1999 *National Enquirer* they found out.

Inquirer staff writer Philip Smith interviewed Jenni's mom, Linda Dunn who explained that she began using Jenni as a therapy dog after her mother was hospitalized and got a big boost from a visiting Pomeranian.

Linda, a widow who now lives in Richland, Washington, estimates that Jenni has visited hundreds, perhaps thousands, of patients. "She's saved five lives and helped countless other patients make their hospital stays more comfortable," explains Linda.

The *Latham Letter* carries details of Jenni's journal. Call Latham for reprints.



Jenni's Journal

Jenni Dunn,
therapy dog

CHAPTER 15

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mom gave me a bath and put on her hospital shoes so I knew I was going to get to go to work sometime this morning. Every time Mom took a step I headed for the back door so she wouldn't forget me. Mom thinks I am so smart!

At the hospital, when the elevator door opened we saw a man standing inside. As we always do, Mom asked the man if he minded if we got on with him. He said it was okay so we stepped in and I immediately sat at Mom's side. After the elevator door closed and we started up, the man informed Mom that he was petrified of dogs and had even had to have rabies shots when he was a kid. As we reached our floor and stepped out, Mom told the man he had done really well for someone who was afraid of dogs. If he had told us he was afraid, we wouldn't have gotten on and would have waited for the next elevator. Perhaps he was testing himself with me. Anyway, now

we get on the elevators only when they are empty. If someone is there, we don't ask if they mind if we get on, we just wait for the next elevator.

I made friends with a little boy who was a regular in the intensive care unit (ICU). He gave me half a bag of treats before Mom could get me out of there.

Since I am fairly new at this hospital, the nurses are starting to be more receptive to me with each visit, especially since Mom left a letter of introduction at each nurses station to explain our credentials, so they would know we were highly trained and experienced. One of the nurses that Mom thought we would have a little trouble with, has become my biggest fan and can hardly wait for my visits. She followed me into each of her patient's rooms today and told each patient all about me like she was so proud of me.

We visited one patient where the patient's visitor "one-upped" me: Mom told her I had met President

Bush when we used to live in Florida but she said she had “dined” with George and Barbara!”

March 19, 1997

I was so excited to get to go visit patients today that Mom got a little ‘testy’ with me when I tried to tell her she wasn’t driving fast enough by pawing her shoulder. As I entered the hospital lobby today, everyone greeted me with, “Hi Jenni” just as if I were a celebrity.

I have won over all the nurses now and they show me how much they appreciate my visits by kneeling down on the floor to greet me. One of the male nurses even let me take a treat out of his mouth like the male nurse in Florida did. The nurses stood and watched and laughed as one of them asked him if that was the only way he could get a kiss from a lady. Not to let them get the better of him, he responded by telling them it was a very gentle, sensuous kiss.

When Mom knocked on one patient’s door and asked if she wanted a pet visit, she replied, “Only if it is Jenni!” Evidently we had made a good impression on her during a previous visit.

We try to stop at Hospice House on the way home if I am not too tired; and since there weren’t many patients in the hospital today, I got to visit a couple of patients there also. Our first patient was a beautiful lady who couldn’t move and had a tracheotomy. She smiled when she saw me and it was obvious I liked her immediately. She was beautifully coiffed and had the most beautiful, flawless skin. We made our visit short but she managed to mouth “thank you” as we exited her room. (One of the nurses told us later that she could speak if we put our finger over the hole in

her neck but Pet Therapy rules won’t let us do that.)

April 2, 1997

“Here comes Pretty Baby!” I heard several of the nurses say as they saw me coming down the hall. It is obvious that they look forward to my visits. I know I certainly look forward to going. When Mom gets my uniform out, which means I am going to the hospital, my heart and my body have a different attitude. I get so excited I tremble all over. Sometimes I am so excited I can’t make my legs quit shaking for a whole hour. Mom says I walk “cocky” and purposeful because I hold my head up high, walk with a lightness and spring to my step, and act like I am off to a very important job. She is amazed at me every time I put on my “work persona.”

I barely stepped out of the elevator on the third floor when I was swarmed with attention. The nurses’ shouts of “Here comes Pretty Baby” must have set off an alarm or something because patients dragging their IV trees and visitors coming out of patients’ rooms immediately surrounded me. It was like they had been waiting for me and I was finally there. The daughter of one of the patients met me at the nurses’ station as I was checking in and wanted me to visit her Mom right away. We overheard several visitors and patients talking about what a great idea Pet Therapy visits are.

CHAPTER 16

Wednesday, April 17, 1997

Today was a great day. Not only did I get to visit the hospital but Mom took me to Hospice and then

after that, she took me to see Grandpa at the retirement home. At the hospital, the rehabilitation floor was almost empty, but on the third floor I started hearing, “Hi Jenni” from the minute I got off the elevator. One of the nurses told me she looked forward to my visits all week. “I just love it when Jenni is here” she said. “It brightens up my whole week!”

Several of the patients needed to talk a long time today so I heard lots of stories about the animals they had at home or used to have. I drew patients out of their shells. One patient I really connected with, so I stood with my feet firmly planted while Mom tugged on my leash to make me go. The nurse said I probably knew something about that patient that they didn’t but should.

I visited a baby on the third floor who hollered and reached her little hand out to me as she sat on her Mom’s lap. Even her Mom didn’t know if she was afraid of me or was trying to ride me.

I visited an elderly man in intensive care for awhile. He was really sick but you could tell he was glad I was there. The nurse told me there was another patient in intensive care who was “out of it” but to “go ahead and try anyway.” He was unresponsive as Mom spoke to him, lightly touched his arm, and asked if he wanted a pet visit. But when I put my feet up on his bed and nuzzled his hand to let him know I was there, he turned his head slowly toward me, gradually opened his eyes, and stared at me a long time before he faded out again. The nurse was surprised that he responded to me but not Mom. I wasn’t either. This happens all the time.

Again we stopped at Hospice on the way home and visited everyone there.

One of the visitors saw me come in and ran out into the hall to ask me to visit the patient inside. She was sitting in a wheelchair being visited by her family but was very sad and was crying. We followed the visitor in and while I was there, the patient forgot all about what was making her sad. She even laughed as she petted me and gave me my treats. One of the badges on my uniform says, "Turning Tears Into Smiles" and when she saw that one, she said my visit really did that for her. We even stopped back by her room before we left the building and she was still smiling. We stopped to see Grandpa at the retirement home and he fed me a cookie. By then I was pretty tired.

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

On the way up in the elevator, one little boy wanted to buy me but Mom wouldn't sell, thank goodness. The floors were full and I had a busy day. After visiting patients for two hours, I was exhausted. I don't mind, though, because I enjoy it so much. In fact, I visited several patients before I calmed down enough to quit shaking. There were so many patients that I ran out of doggie treats and one little girl had to feed me her Oreo cookie. That made me not want to leave her room!

I stopped at one room to visit a patient but didn't go in because I saw her doctor with her. However, he saw us at the door and insisted we come in and visit his patient while he was there. He even helped her give me a treat.

Today, another nurse told me that my visits made her day. She greeted me by name, as most everybody does when they see me now. It tickles Mom that they can remember my name but not hers. One nurse today greeted me and petted me then

immediately apologized to Mom for ignoring her. Mom is used to that because it happens all the time.

One patient I visited today was a little girl whose parents were in the room with her. When she saw me, she sat right up in bed, crossed her legs, and fed me every last crumb in my treat bag. She was so cute. I licked her bare toes and she giggled. She even got out of her bed and hugged me as we were leaving.

Wednesday, May 28, 1997

Wow! What a great beginning today! I knew something was up when I got a bath and my teeth brushed. I get so excited when I know Mom is going to take me to the hospital, that when I see her in her uniform, I start trembling with anticipation and don't stop until after I get to the hospital. When I am this excited, we usually spend some time in the lobby waiting for me to settle down. Today I barely got into the lobby when I was surrounded by a "thousand" kids who were just a little bit taller than me. They were there for a hospital tour with their school. Mom and I were so surrounded that she could barely see me in the sea of little people. It was reminiscent of my job at the Children's Hospital in Florida.

Since I really love kids, I was in "seventh heaven." I had little hands coming at me from every direction, and every one of them had a treat in his hand for me. It was a fantasy come true. Mom told them a little bit about what I was doing there and answered their questions, all the while trying not to take her eyes off me, but was concentrating on what I was doing, what the kids were doing to me, and making sure I didn't get my tail stepped on or my eye poked, or become overwhelmed.

No problem! I'm an old pro at this. One little boy even put his arms around my neck and gave me several kisses on the lips while a little girl kept yelling at him, "get out of her face!"

The nurses were all over me today, too. Several of them followed me from room to room on my rounds and bragged to the patients that I was the hospital's "own" therapy dog. We have come a long way since our first visits at this hospital when they looked at me skeptically. Now they are my biggest fans. On a couple of occasions today, Mom looked into a patient's room and, for one reason known only to her, decided not to take me in: but a nurse bounded out from behind her desk and insisted we go in. One of the patients was a little old lady who was yelling and screaming and talking to herself. As we hesitated, the nurse insisted we go in anyway. It turned out to be a great visit. The patient quit yelling and turned her attention to me. She gave me treats and told Mom and the nurse, "Oh, I am having so much fun!" and thanked us profusely as we left her room. After observing this great visit, another nurse told us to be sure to visit her patient.

I got some special attention from a couple of ambulance paramedics who were in the hospital to transport a patient to hospice. A nurse saw me heading toward a room and told me not to walk right past her and not stop to visit! Have we made inroads here or what!!

After visiting for two hours, Mom took me to the car for a drink of water and we headed over the bridge to Hospice where we saw the same ambulance paramedics who were dropping off their patient they had just picked up from the hospital. This prompted more love and attention. What a great job! 🌟

Upcoming: Conferences • Workshops • Events

EDITOR'S NOTE: *We are glad to publicize relevant conferences and workshops when space and publication schedules allow.*

Send information to The Latham Foundation, Attn: Calendar, 1826 Clement Ave., Alameda, CA 94501.
Phone 510-521-0920 Fax 510-521-9861. E-mail Lathm@aol.com

September

SEPTEMBER 3-5: Humane Education One on One, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Kanab, UT 84741-5001
Phone: 435-644-2001 x307.

SEPTEMBER 10-11: Novato, CA and September 13-14: Bellevue, Washington: Shelter Operations School, Sponsored by the American Humane Association. 800-227-4645.

SEPTEMBER 15-17: Teaching Gentleness with Gardens and Animals to Children from Violent Homes and Communities, Sponsored by the Humane Society of Sonoma County and the San Francisco Department of Animal Care and Control. See page 21 for details or call: 707-542-0882 x213.

SEPTEMBER 16-18: Society of Animal Welfare Administrators Fall Conference, Denver, CO, 303-758-9611.

SEPTEMBER 19: Healthcare: FIV, FeLVV, Parasites, Washington, D.C., One in a series of feral cat workshops sponsored by Alley Cat Allies, 202-667-3630 x101 or e-mail mlayton@alleycat.org for further details and registration.

SEPTEMBER 24-22: Western Conference on Cats, Cheyenne, WY. SPAY/USA phone 203-377-1116 or Wyoming Advocates for Animals 307-778-4086.

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 3: No-Kill Conference, Chicago, IL. For more information call: 602-977-5793.

SEPTEMBER 30: Teaching Compassion, San Francisco, CA - Sponsored by the Latham Foundation, see page 21 for details or call: 510-521-0920.

October

OCTOBER IS ADOPT-A-DOG MONTH

OCTOBER 2-3: Advanced Canine Behavior Seminar with Patricia McConnell, Ph.D., Marin Humane Society, Novato, CA, Register on-line at www.puppyworks.com or call 707-745-4237.

OCTOBER 3-6: American Humane Association's Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, Call 800-227-4645 for complete course content and registration information.

OCTOBER 13-17: Wildlife Care Conference, Tucson, AZ Hosted by International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, phone 707-864-1761.

OCTOBER 17: Health Hazards: Real or Imagined? Washington, D.C., One in a series of feral cat workshops sponsored by Alley Cat Allies, 202-667-3630 x101 or e-mail mlayton@alleycat.org for further details and registration.

OCTOBER 29-3: Delta Society's Annual Conference, Cincinnati, OH, www.deltasociety.org

October-November

OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 6: How to Start an Animal Sanctuary, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Kanab, UT 84741-5001, 435-644-2001 x307.

November

NOVEMBER 6-7: Critter Care Conference, Farm Sanctuary West, Orland (near Chico), California, 530-865-4617.



Resident Pet Program at California Retirement Home Shows Benefits of the Human Companion Animal Bond

*by Judy Johns with
photographs by Mary Tebault*



Nicki Grant and 102-year-old resident Leona O'Connor. Molly, one of the newer therapy cats, keeps Leona company day and night.

Hayward, Calif.—Nicki Grant, Activities Director at the Bethesda Christian Retirement Home, and a collection of more than thirty furry, feathered, and finned therapists are living proof of the benefits that companion animals can provide. At Bethesda, these benefits take the form of improved comfort, interest, stimulation, communication, and emotional security for the residents.

The Bethesda Home was founded thirty years ago as a home for retired missionaries. Today it is a nonprofit, non-denominational

Christian facility providing apartments for independent, high-functioning residents as well as “board plus care” and skilled nursing care for those who need more attention.

Approximately half of the forty residents in the skilled nursing wing are confined to their beds or have Alzheimer’s Disease or senile dementia. It was these residents, many of whom are too frail to participate in traditional nursing home activities, who inspired Vicki in 1998 to investigate “Pet Therapy.” Her search for activities that they could relate to

and benefit from led to the development of a highly successful resident therapy pet program.

Nicki Grant explains, “I recognized over the years that activities such as movies, exercise routines, and cooking were not working for some of our residents. Not being able to express themselves and feeling isolated, often they would just sit and stare into space. I wanted to find a way to engage them.” At about the same time a new resident with Alzheimer’s brought a baby doll with her when she moved in. “She



Leona's friend, Molly

Gladys Freitas, by showing her need to nurture and communicate, helped inspire the resident pet therapy program.



Therapy Cat extraordinaire, Miles, relaxes on the job.



thought it was her daughter. She talked to it and loved it and came alive whenever she held the doll." Other female residents related to the doll as well, prompting Nicki to buy several more. Being an animal lover herself and knowing the joy that pets can bring, she suspected that a pet therapy program might pierce the isolation of her lower-functioning residents. Her research turned up studies indicating that relationships with pets can help prevent deprivation and frustration. Physical benefits of contact with pets include lowered blood pressure

and heart rates, reduced anxiety, and a decrease in depression. Additionally, patients benefit from the stimulation of petting and interacting with the animals.

Nicki's research led her to conclude that a resident pet therapy program would be appropriate for Bethesda. She wanted to adopt several animals to live in the home permanently. "I wanted the residents to know that these animals belong to them. I wanted to give them a sense of ownership and consistency as well as to create a family environment."

When Nicki presented the idea to the home's Board of Directors and staff, one of their biggest concerns was about possible allergic reactions to the cats and birds. But Nicki assured them that an abundance of live green plants would clean the air. Concerns about additional work were put to rest when senior staff volunteered to clean and feed the companion animals. That left only one problem: funding. There was no money in the activities budget to cover the additional expense of animals. Nicki turned to the families of

Henry Beer and two of Bethesda's Love Birds in their specially-designed cages. (See resources at the end of this article for information about the cages.)



A retired nurses cabinet goes into service as the mobile cleaning supplies center.



Snuggles, the toothless wonder.



the residents for financial support. "I held two family meetings and presented my vision for how resident pets would benefit their loved ones. I got a great response and promises of financial support." The support came in as promised, and the program was on its way. Success! There hasn't been a single complaint about allergies and in a recent state evaluation, Bethesda received its highest rating yet.

Based loosely on principles of "The Eden Alternative," the first animals to participate in the program were birds. Bethesda Home

has eleven cages, each specially designed for mobility and cleaning efficiency. Birds include Cockatiels, Finches, Love Birds, and Canaries. The birdcages are in the lobby, the hallways and in residents' rooms. Nicki reports, "Some residents complain about the noise the birds make, but if we offer to take the cages out of their rooms, they don't want us to. We have one resident who sits out in the hallway and talks to them for hours."

Nicki could see an immediate positive response and was eager to adopt more animals. It

was important to her to adopt animals in need, so she contacted numerous shelters and rescue agencies. Nicki recognized that each animal accepted into the home had to be calm and adaptable; therefore, she requested older animals. The Oakland SPCA introduced Nicki to Milk, a beautiful, white, long-haired seven-year-old male cat who was surrendered to the Oakland SPCA when his owner became too ill to care for him. Nicki says Milk adjusted quickly to "home life," and fit in perfectly. Joining Milk almost immediately was Miles,

Now you see it; now you don't. Litter boxes are cleverly hidden from view. Cats enter and exit from the back of the cabinet. Cabinets open in front for easy cleaning. Live plants help clean the air.



Therapy cats brighten staff's days too. Here, Milk visits Administrator Ted Grant.



Samual resides happily in the Board Plus Care wing.



a redheaded Persian from the Persian Cat Rescue Organization. He, too, is an older cat surrendered by his owners.

Nicki says she could see the difference the animals made within just a few weeks of their arrival. "The residents have something to talk about and focus on. The animals have brought spontaneity back into their lives." Many of the residents have bonded with the cats and ask for them when they're not within sight. They love it when the cats sleep with them, and often they tell their families when they come to

visit what the cats have been doing."

Using a combination of research, experience, training, political and fundraising savvy, good old-fashioned common sense, and most importantly, a heartfelt concern for the well-being of the residents, Nicki Grant developed a resident pet therapy program

worthy of replication. For further information, you may contact her at The Bethesda Christian Retirement Center, 2247 Montgomery St., Hayward, CA 94541, 510-538-8300.

Editor's Note: We are grateful to Mary Tebault who brought this program to our attention.



Resource for Specially-Designed Bird Cages:

Pet Factory Designs

2502 Engrahm Road • Williams, California 95987

Phone: 530-666-9391 • Fax 530-666-6280

American Humane Association Announced National Winner of Be Kind to Animals Kid Contest

A 13-year-old girl from Connecticut, who has successfully found homes for numerous homeless pets through her innovative computer website, was officially named the 1999 Be Kind To Animals Kid.

At the age of 12, Lindsey Walker saw a problem and developed a solution. As a pet columnist for the local *Totokit Times*, Lindsey included a "Pet of the Week" feature at the end of each column, highlighting a homeless animal waiting for adoption at a local animal shelter. The feature included details about the animal as well as hours and location of the shelter.

Since the major problem preventing people from adopting from shelters was the fact that they just couldn't get to the animals, Lindsey decided to bring the animals to the people via computer.

Since its launch in July 1998, Pet's Pal has attracted 16 municipal shelters; private shelters and humane societies that now use Lindsey's completely free service. She's had



Lindsay Walker

over 5500 hits on her website and as a result, has found happy homes for more than 110 dogs, cats, and rabbits.

In addition to the official title of the 1999 Be Kind To Animals Kid, Lindsey will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship and a year's worth of free product from contest sponsors.

Three additional national finalists will each receive \$1,000 plus a

variety of valuable prizes. These finalists include six-year-old Chans Ruder, from Columbus, Georgia who is taking the steps necessary to become an apprentice under a master falconer from the Last Chance Forever Conservancy in San Antonio, Texas; thirteen-

year-old Amy Wright, from Longmont, Colorado, and thirteen-year-old Andrew Jimison, from Vienna, Virginia.

Amy has shown her compassion for animals through her natural talent for training and working with dogs. Her desire is to educate others on the importance of proper pet training.

Andrew demonstrates his love for animals by educating people about responsible pet ownership. Through his extensive reading about dogs and their breed characteristics, Andrew realized that he could use his knowledge to help families select the most compatible breed for their lifestyle. Andrew developed Pooch Picker, as a non-profit consulting service to help those dogs who may otherwise be abandoned at shelters.

The Be Kind To Animals Kid Contest is held each year as a highlight of Be Kind to Animals Week. This, the 84th annual Be Kind to Animals Week, is the oldest national week of its kind celebrated by animal shelters and humane societies throughout America. It's a time to celebrate the good things accomplished for animals.

Finalist
Chans Ruder



Those interested in learning more about Be Kind to Animals Week or who wish to nominate a child for the next Be Kind To Animals Kid Contest, can write to the American Humane Association at 63 Inverness Drive East, Englewood, Colorado 80112, visit the website at www.americanhumane.org, or call (303) 792-9900.

Finalist Andrew Jimison

Finalist Amy Wright



Latham Letter **BACK ISSUES** containing "Links" Articles

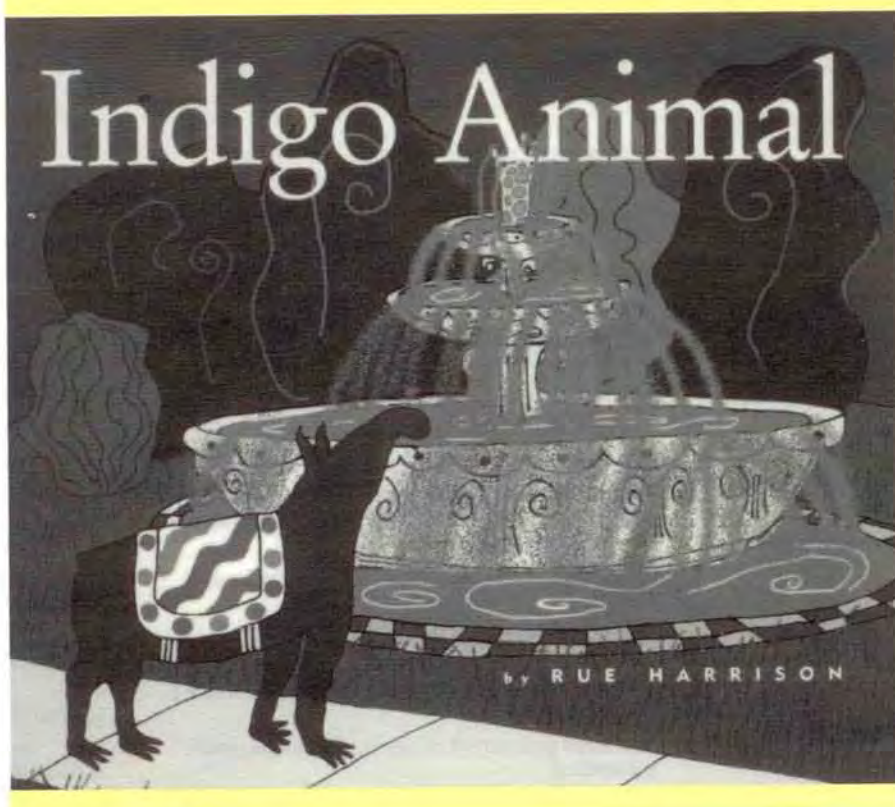
The following back issues containing articles on the connections between child and animal abuse and other forms of domestic violence are available from the Foundation for \$2.50 each, plus \$3.00 Priority Mail Postage and Handling for up to 10 issues (U.S. and Canada). Foreign orders please add \$10.00. California residents please add 8.25% sales tax. MasterCard and VISA accepted.

— Confronting Abuse (A veterinarian and a social worker confront abuse)	Summer 1998	— Results of Latham's National Survey on Child and Animal Abuse	Summer 94
— The Human/Animal Abuse Connection	Spring 98	— Israel Conference Puts the Link Between Animal and Child Abuse on the Public Agenda	Summer 94
— The Relationship Between Animal Abuse And Other Forms Of Family Violence	Winter 97	— Wisconsin Coalition Organizes Anti-Abuse Conference	Summer 94
— Domestic Violence Assistance Program Protects Women, Children, and Their Pets in Oregon	Summer 97	— A Shared Cry: Animal and Child Abuse Connections	Fall 1994
— A Veterinarian and a Social Worker Confront Abuse	Summer 97	— A Report on Latham's October 1992 Conference on Child and Animal Abuse	Winter 93
— University of Penn. Veterinary Hospital Initiates Abuse Reporting Policy	Fall 97	— Child Abuse Reporting Hotline Falls Short	Winter 93
— Domestic Violence and Cruelty to Animals	Winter 1996	— I Befriended a Child Molester	Spring 93
— Animal Cruelty IS Domestic Violence	Winter 1996	— A Test for Determining Why Children are Cruel to Animals	Summer 93
— Gentleness Workshops (I Like the Policeman Who Arrested That Dog!)	Spring 1996	— Animal Advocates Looking Out for Children (A description of the Toledo Humane Society's child and animal abuse prevention program)	Fall 93
— Loudoun County Virginia Develops Cooperative Response to Domestic Violence	Spring 1996	— Correlations Drawn Between Child and Animal Victims of Violence	Summer 92
— And Kindness for ALL (Guest Editorial)	Summer 1996	— Upsetting Comparisons (between child and animal cruelty investigations)	Summer 92
— Should Veterinarians Report Suspected Animal Abuse?	Fall 1996	— Watching Ralph Smile (An animal welfare professional's reminiscence)	Summer 92
— Windwalker Humane Coalition's Web of Hope Grows Stronger	Fall 1996	— The Shape of Cruelty (A child protection professional's perspective)	Summer 92
— Update on the Link Between Child and Animal Abuse	Fall 1996	— Link Between Animal Cruelty and Child Abuse Described	Summer 92
— Report on Tacoma, Washington's Humane Coalition Against Violence	Winter 95	— Putting the Abuse of Animals and Children in Historical Perspective	Summer 92
— Animal Cruelty & the Link to Other Violent Crimes	Winter 95	— The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	Winter 90
— Univ. of Southern California Conference Addresses Violence Against Children	Spring 1995	— Dangerous Dogs: A Symptom of Dangerous People	Fall 89
— Working to Break the Cycle of Violence	Spring 1995	— *Protecting America's Children	Fall 88*
— The Tangled Web: Report on LaCrosse, Wisconsin's Coalition Against Violence	Spring 1995	— *Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect	Fall 88*
— Hawaii's "Healthy Start" - a Successful Approach to the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect	Summer 1995	— *The Role of the Community in Child Protection	Fall 88*
— San Diego, Calif. Child Protection Workers Required to Report Animal Abuse	Summer 1995	— *Child Protection: The Need for Community Response	Fall 88*
— Animals Over Children? (An Editorial by Michael Mountain, Editor, Best Friends Magazine)	Summer 1995	— *The Humane Society of the US and "The Cycle of Child Abuse"	Fall 88*
— Summaries of Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Conferences	Summer 1995	— *Parent Abuse and Games to Play	Fall 88*
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— Part 2: Hawaii's Healthy Start Child Abuse Program	Fall 1995	— An Overview of Children's Protective Services	Summer 87*
— Milwaukee Humane Society's "PAL" Program: At-Risk Kids Learn Respect through Dog Obedience Training	Winter 94	— Pets and Latchkey Children	Summer 87*
— Latham Confronts Child and Animal Abuse	Spring 94	— Animal Abuse Ties to Crime	Summer 87*
— A Humane Garden of Children, Plants, and Animals Grows in Sonoma County	Spring 94	— Cruelty: Where Do We Draw the Line?	Summer 87*
— Education and Violence: Where Are We Going? A Guest Editorial	Spring 94		
— Bedwetting, Fire Setting, and Animal Cruelty as Indicators of Violent Behavior	Spring 94		
— Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence: Intake Statistics Tell a Sad Story	Spring 94		
— The Veterinarian's Role in the Prevention of Violence	Summer 94		

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INDIGO ANIMAL

by Rue Harrison

Reviewed by Judy Johns

Jacob Needleman, author of *Time and the Soul*, says: "It is not enough to say simply that this book is a sheer delight. It exhibits a quality – extremely rare – that makes one smile, and at the same time brings a very specific feeling of hope. One puts this book down feeling deeply thoughtful and happy at the same time. There are not many things that do that for us."

I couldn't agree more. Whether you're looking for a chuckle, a gift, or the answers to more provocative questions such as "Why am I here?" or "What should I wear?" there's much to learn from *Indigo Animal*.

I look forward to the day when this strange but wonderful creature is so well known that every self-respecting group of Halloween trick or treaters includes at least one indigo animal, complete with power blanket.

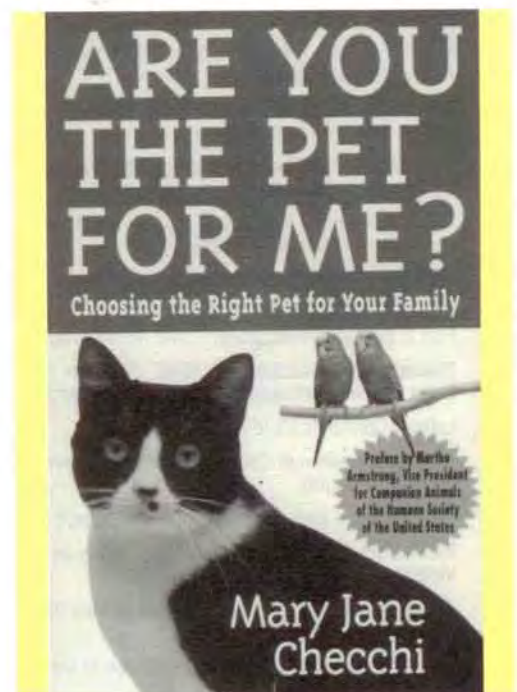
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ARE YOU THE PET FOR ME?

"This book will be a godsend to parents who don't know what pet to get for their child, or whether to get one at all,"

Marguerite Kelly, author of
The Family Almanac.

While the choice of a pet can have a more lasting impact on a family than the choice of a stereo or car, there never has been a "Consumer Reports" type guide to selecting the right pet ... until now. Mary Jane Checchi's *Are You The Pet for Me?* goes far beyond other pet books to prepare parents and children to make a successful decision about getting a pet even if that decision is not to get a pet at all. Her books draw on extensive research to provide up-to-date information on common pitfalls, resources and advice for the selection and care of a pet. It shows how making the wrong decision can lead to heartache for a family especially for children, and abandonment or death for an unwanted animal.



Checchi offers a step-by-step approach to the decision-making process, providing answers to frequently asked questions such as: "Is my family prepared to care for a pet?," "Which pet will best suit our lifestyle and provide companionship we want?," "How old should my child be before we select a pet?," "Where can we go to get the pet we want?," And "Is it realistic to expect my child to help care for our new pet?"

"Think *adoption* and not *acquisition* when it comes to adding a pet to your family, and you're likely to find joy in the relationship," says Checchi.

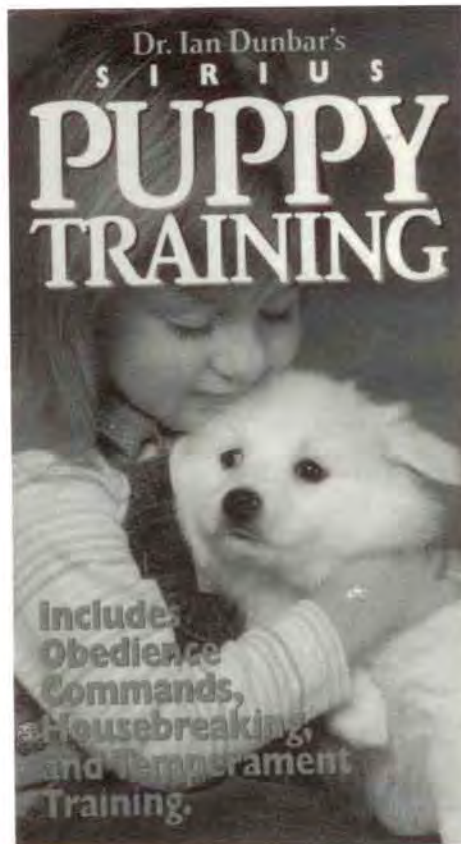
Are You The Pet For Me?

By Mary Jane Checchi

St. Martin's Paperbacks

\$5.99US/\$7.99CAN • 289 pp.

ISBN: 0-312-96793-4



PUPPY TRAINING

by Dr. Ian Dunbar

Reviewed by Devon Graver

If the words "bad dog" have been needed a lot around your house recently, and you're running out of paper towels, it's time to train your puppy.

Dog trainers are expensive, and possibly might sue you because your dog decided he (or she) was lunch. The best choice as I see it, is a video. Videos give you the same instructional value without the possible lawsuit.

Dr. Ian Dunbar's Sirius Puppy Training videos allows you to train your dog yourself. It is effective and yet inexpensive. Dr. Dunbar has obviously had lots of experience with dogs, and he knows what to do in all situations.

The video thoroughly covers leash training, house training, basic commands (sit, come, etc.), and many other topics. So if you think it's time to train your puppy, this is an excellent way to do it.

Devon Graver is a 15-year-old skateboarder and electric guitar player who shares his house with a new Portuguese Water Dog puppy. Thanks, Devon!

***Dr. Ian Dunbar's
Sirius PUPPY TRAINING***

Running time approx. 90 min.

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by James & Kenneth Pub.*

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Anne Hyde Greet's new collections of poems, *Musk Ox and Other Poems*, pays tribute to the natural world with earnest interest, skill, and

keen observation. She gives us a glimpse into the world as she sees it, and as she so capably and lovingly describes it. Whether writing about animals, the natural world, places that are important to her – or that are important to people close to her – Ms. Greet approaches her subject with gentle humor, tenderness, and respect.

Musk Ox captures animals: the musk ox in his world of willow, with his lacquered hair parted in the middle. It is also about the life of the poet, observant and quietly moved.

Musk Ox and Other Poems
by Anne Hyde Greet

Fithian Press

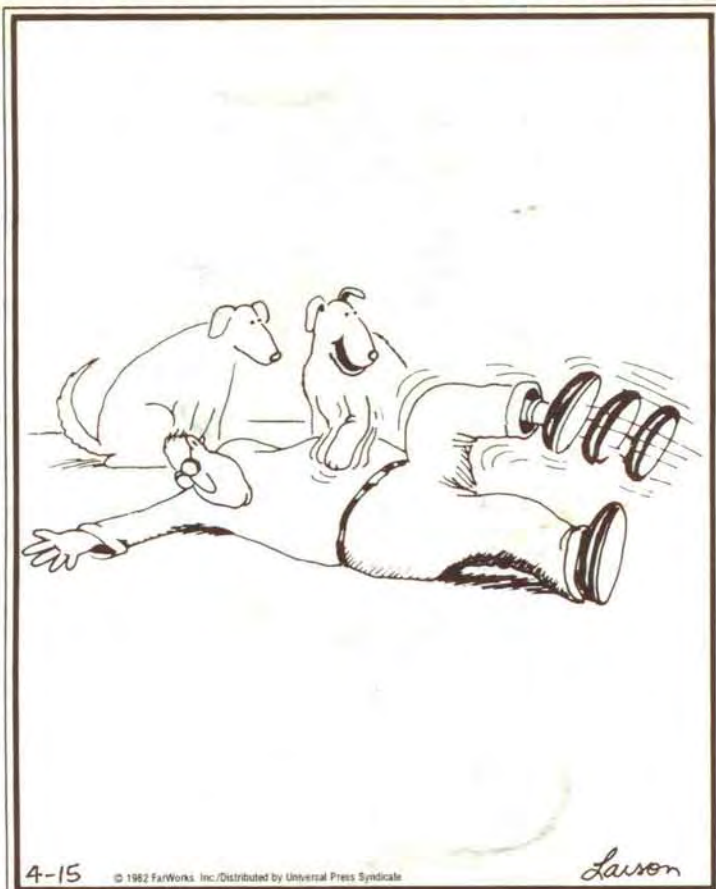
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Have a
wonderful
summer.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



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