



Examples of the Kind of Programs Latham Will Encourage through its 2019 Grant Program, “Animal-Assisted Humane Education”

Proposals will be accepted *only* between July 1st and July 26th, 2019.
DEADLINE: Friday, July 26, 2019

In 2019, Latham’s grant program focuses on animal-assisted activities that demonstrate people and animals working together for the benefit of both, *and* include humane education.

Organizations should be able to show that their animal-assisted program uses education to nurture compassion, empathy, and respect for living beings as described in the first three of Latham’s historical Steps to Humane Education: 1) Kindness to animals, 2) Kindness to each other, and 3) Kindness to others.

To be eligible for consideration in this year’s grant program, it is key that the animal-assisted activities demonstrate humane education in their program. Programs using animals to help others, such as therapeutic riding, are wonderful, but they do not necessarily demonstrate humane education in a direct way.

If we were to consider a program such as therapeutic riding, it would have to include aspects of humane education such as kindness and respect for the horses and empathy for each other. Its volunteers and staff would also model those values, thus improving clients’ experience with humane education-based learning.

If we were to consider a program such as reading to dogs, it would need to have elements of teaching humane education and personal responsibility in addition to improving children’s reading abilities.

Latham’s consideration in evaluation of programs submitted will focus on the first three “Latham Steps:” Teaching (1) kindness to animals, (2) kindness to each other, and (3) kindness to other people. Latham is most interested in how well a program demonstrates that it helps participants take personal responsibility for evaluating and acting on the situations they find themselves in.

Kindness to animals – a key foundation to building values. The exact behavior here will vary by community standards. Core kindness values are to not abuse animals and follow all laws regarding their care and treatment.

Kindness to each other – showing common respect, and parents modeling behavior to help a child learn and grow in one’s own family. This kindness is the familiarity that allows each member to learn another person’s likes and dislikes, then to show respect by acting accordingly.

Kindness to other people – When interacting with people outside one’s family, you demonstrate your growth in relationships by showing respect for the values of your society or community.

The values of humane education are available to all, without exception. They are not limited to a narrow view of kindness, or to a specific diet or political view. Humane education as practiced by this wide variety of individuals will be the most successful for each person, their community, and their country.

THE LATHAM FOUNDATION: Promoting Respect for All Life through Education since 1918