## THE

## Latham Letter

**VOLUME XXXX, NUMBER 4** 

Fall 2019

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

# Lakes Animal Friendship Society and RedRover Encourage Kindness in British





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## Edith Latham's

## MANDATE:

"To promote, foster,

encourage and

further the

principles of

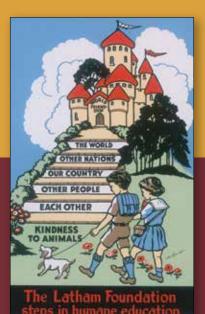
humaneness,

kindness and

benevolence to

all living creatures."





#### The Latham Letter

Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

Search the *Latham Letter* archives by topic and learn more about all of our resources and grants at <a href="https://www.Latham.org">www.Latham.org</a> or call 510-521-0920.



## The Latham Letter

Volume XXXX, Number 4, Fall 2019

#### **BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON** HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES



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#### **ABOUT THE LATHAM FOUNDATION:**

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

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GUEST EDITORIAL



## We Are A// No-Kill

Madeline Bernstein, President, spcaLA spcala.com

I call on every animal welfare individual, organization, group and association to stand together

and simply say, post, and remind everyone: We are all "no kill" Who isn't? Of course!

I saw an interview of one of the actors in *The Handmaid's Tale*, who was discussing new Georgia anti-abortion laws, as this show films in Georgia. She looked into the camera and said, "We are ALL pro-life. Who isn't?" (Serial killers excepted.) She went on to say that we have to care for all life, i.e. the mother, the rape victim, the doctors, and, of course starving children and vulnerable populations everywhere so as not to be hypocritical. Is letting a mother die or killing a doctor pro-life? Of course not.

The question is not are we pro-life, (pro-choice people are pro-life too), but rather how are we treating life? What choices do we make so we ensure all a good quality of life and prevent suffering?

This is also a truth for those of us in the animal welfare business

We are all "no kill." Whether one calls it Getting to Zero, Compassion Saves, or Save Them All. The point is to rehabilitate and place all who can be into homes, and eliminate pain and suffering from those who can't be safely placed. To do so requires community trust, volunteers, legitimate rescue/help, and increased outlets for our pets to be seen. These terms have no rational opposite. It is ridiculous to think that we, an empathetic and compassionate people, who rally to help a stranded puppy, a homeless person, or a disaster victim on the other side of the world are anything but that.

Yet the ideologues, whether political, religious, or one-issue wonders, are rabid, disruptive, sometimes violent, and never helpful. For example, telling children not to adopt a pet from an overcrowded pound, a place with the greatest need, because the shelter does not adhere to their definition of "no kill," leaves more pets not adopted as visitors are scared away. Ideologues never actually help, but rather holler nationally-issued talking points and rehearsed propaganda. They leave those who work in the shelters and rescue groups, those who really have dedicated their lives to tending to these pets, to do it all against a cacophony of insults. The ideologues are neither "no kill" nor are they advancing an animal welfare platform. Rather, they disrupt and demonize those who are. They divert people from doing their jobs. They actually cause the killing by this behavior.

They are the opposite of no kill.

Haruki Murakami, author of *Kafka on the Shore*, defined ideologues as "hollow people" -- people who fill up on talking points, lies, and anger, with no independent thoughts or moral center. They fraternize in a gang-like atmosphere with other hollow people who mirror each other's positions. Sadly, when they pair up with hollow politicians they can make some think that they are people of substance. They are not. They are parrots rather than serious thinkers. They just yell at the people who do think. They obey their cult leaders.

The good news is that we, actually, everyone else in the world are not hollow people. We brim with facts, empathy, science, and a solid ethical core that leaves no room for toxic sputum. As we soothe and heal those who suffer, ideologues, the hollow people, criticize this help. It is not just shameful behavior, it is grifting, because their aim is to divert help from



Continued on p 14



Latham proudly announces the 28 recipients in its 2019 Grant Program. This year's program focused on animal-assisted activities that benefit both people and animals and include humane education. We were impressed by the range of programs and number of applicants.

We thank all the organizations who submitted proposals and wish everyone success with their important work promoting kindness and respect.

A Fair Shake for Youth, New York, NY

Assistance Dogs of the West, Santa Fe, NM

Canine Inspired Change, Saint Paul, MN

Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities, Torrington, CT

Forget Me Not Children's Services, Santa Rosa, CA

Funda Nenja, Howick Kwazulu Natal, South Africa

Happy Endings Animal Rescue Sanctuary, Solvang, CA

Heart and Hooves Therapy, Ramona, CA

Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue, Afton, VA

Horses of Hope Oregon, Turner, OR

Humane Society of Huron Valley, Ann Arbor, MI

Idaho Humane Society, Boise, ID

K9 Youth Alliance, Pasadena, CA

Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation, Long Beach, CA

Ottawa Humane Society, Ottawa, ON Canada

Our Companions Animal Rescue Sanctuary, Manchester, CT

Paws and Think, Inc., Indianapolis, IN

Paws for Heroes, Houston, TX Prospect Therapeutic Riding Center, Myakka City, FL Rise Canyon Ranch, Orange, CA

Roice-Hurst Humane Society, Grand Junction, CO

Son Care Foundation, Inc., San Luis Obisbo, CA

SPCA of Westchester, Briarcliff Manor, NY

Teacher's Pet: Dogs and Kids Learning Together, Clinton Township, MI

The Little Blue Dog, Wellington, FL

UNCHAINED, Soquel, CA

Utah Animal Adoption Center, Salt Lake City, UT

Zuma's Rescue Ranch, Littleton, CO

## GRANT RECIPIENT

#### LAKES ANIMAL FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

#### By Alistair Schroff

The Latham Letter provided some early inspiration for us when we started Lakes Animal Friendship Society (LAFS) more than a decade ago. The late, great Jean Atthowe contributed the article "A Lesson in Changing Attitudes" in the Winter 2000 issue and it remains very relevant. In the article Jean wrote that: "A goal of the (Montana Spay/Neuter) Task Force is to bring a change in attitude that will thus bring a change in behavior through respecting animals and then other living creatures including members of their family, school classes and community." Or as we summed up in a six-word mission statement for LAFS: happy, healthy animals, families and community. They go hand-in-hand

We have seen significant changes in attitudes and behavior among the children and the other residents of the Lakes District in rural northern British Columbia, Canada. Through extensive and repeated humane education (focussed on animal care, compassion and dog bite safety), and providing access to animal care resources for low income families including spay/neuter services, all-weather shelters (dog and

community cat houses) and pet food, we have achieved noteworthy results. Impoundments have declined by 80%

and most impounded dogs are now claimed by the guardian. Surrenders to shelters are less than a third of former levels. The incidence of dog bites to children requiring a visit to the ER have been cut in half. Responsible guardianship and happy animal stories from our empowered "student superheroes" in the classroom sharing circles have become much more the norm.

Humane education has been. and will continue to be, the cornerstone of our programs to build a community of care. Lessons in the classroom reverberate as messages and materials like our student Critter Care newsletter are shared at home and in the community. Having been introduced to the RedRover Readers program and Gryphon Press at the Association of Professional Humane Educators conference in 2012, we have made RedRover Readers' techniques and strategies part of our programs as we introduced



local children to fantastic books like *Buddy Unchained*.

Many RedRover program books have formed the backbone of the classroom and school library sets we have built over the years. In the RedRover Readers program, children listen to readings of books, share ideas and experiences, and reflect on how people and pets coexist within neighborhoods and families. The children are able to respond to questions free from judgement, develop critical thinking skills that help them become more informed an empathetic about animal welfare, and become empowered to create tangible solutions to the problems they have discovered.

We were thrilled to receive a Latham Grant to bring RedRover President and CEO Nicole Forsyth (pictured above) to Lakes District this spring, along with boxes of outstanding RedRover Readers program books from Gryphon Press and others, and



information on RedRover's new humane education apps: "The Restricted Adventures of Raja." Nicole and our volunteer teacher Valerie Ingram visited classes across the district. We made sure that every class received a resource kit to facilitate further discussions and learning, including more books for the critter care and compassion bookshelf.

In addition, Nicole led a RedRover Readers' workshop for teachers, aides and other animal welfare volunteers as well as "allies" from the public library and social services organizations. Again, we provided resource kits to all participants so the tools for ongoing program implementation are right at hand. Finally, all community members were invited to an evening presentation about RedRover. <a href="https://redrover.org">https://redrover.org</a>

One of RedRover's programs is disaster relief, and having been through record breaking wildfires in 2018 this was of great interest to the community. In the various discussions we saw more developing awareness of the link between violence toward animals and interpersonal violence, and the need for greater dialogue between animal welfare groups like ours and social service organizations. The

workshop and presentation participants also experienced delicious vegan food.

At the community presentation Nicole met a couple of our local students who decided to have a lemonade sale to support the foster families caring for three elderly female beagles (suspected former puppy mill breeding stock) who were recently found abandoned in the bush. The girls' concern, engagement with the problem, and active involvement in the solution is emblematic of culture that groups like LAFS and RedRover are trying to engender.

While Nicole brought fresh perspectives and new educational media, it was also gratifying to see that the primary messages were consistent with the lessons we have developed and expanded on over the past decade.

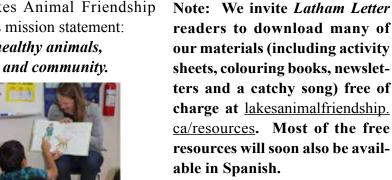
Thank you Latham Foundation for recognizing that change requires both improved knowledge, like RedRover Readers' training, and access to the tools and resources to implement that knowledge, like the resource kits that went to every classroom and trainee. Thank you for supporting LAFS and our partners at RedRover to build on our successes and further spread the ripple of compassion in our community and across northern British Columbia.

Here is some feedback from Sharlene Turner, Assistant Director of the Burns Lake Library:

The Library staff who attended the RedRover empathy workshop enjoyed it a lot. We are all able to use the skills that Nicole has taught us in our everyday lives as well as at work. I thought Nicole's presentation was fun, easy to understand and very informative. We have also catalogued all the books that RedRover and the Lakes Animal Friendship Society have donated. We see that these books are being checked out of our library and into our community. The Burns Lake Public Library is now coordinating with the Lakes Animal Friendship Society to bring in their volunteer Julie and trained therapy dog Clive in the near future for "Reading Buddies." Children who would like to read or practice their reading skills will be able to book a time at the library and read to Clive. This will help the children feel more relaxed and comfortable about reading. We are all very

excited to implement this project into our library, as this will also teach children empathy towards animals and all living things.

The Lakes Animal Friendship Society's mission statement: Happy, healthy animals, families, and community.





## **Excerpt** from the **Thanksgiving** Address, Mohawk version

"We send thanks to all the animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as people.

We are glad they are still here and we hope it will always be so."

## HUMANE EDUCATION 2018

### **GRANT RECIPIENT**



# Liberia Animal Welfare & Conservation Society (LAWCS)

Promotes Humane Education among School Children in Liberian Schools

By Morris Darbro liberiaanimalwelfaresociety.org

Project Goal: The aim of the project is to equip school children with knowledge about animal welfare and promote positive attitudes, build empathy, foster responsible behaviors and inspire them (future leaders) to make a difference for animals and people.

Project Beneficiaries: 3,000 schoolchildren and 20 teachers in 10 Schools in Voinjama City, Lofa County, Liberia

#### Overview of the project

The incidences of animal neglect and cruelty are increasing daily in various communities in Liberia where LAWCS' program has not reached, often at the hands

of children who mimic the cruelty practiced in front of them by their elders. As animal lovers, we have met children who think that animals feel no pain, children who for example hate cats or certain other species - to the point that they actually think it's ok to hurt them.

Sadly, a lot of adults in Liberia seem to get great pleasure out of harming and even killing animals; their children see this and think that this is acceptable. The children start to imitate those unacceptable and inhumane behaviors not only to animals but also to one another and other people because the only thing they have been exposed to is aggression.

The country's animal cruelty is a generational problem.

In order to curtail this transgression from one generation to the next generation, the Liberia Animal Welfare & Conservation Society strongly believes that all change for the better begins with education. If we are to truly make a real difference for animals, people and the environment, we must begin by equipping the younger generation with knowledge about kindness, respect, empathy and compassion for animals, who will go on to influence generations to come. LAWCS also believes that childhood is a time when one's character is being formed,



therefore by explaining what it means to be human by examining our relationships to other creatures, we can help stop animal cruelty before it starts.

With this in mind and the substantial financial support from the Latham Foundation, we ran an animal welfare education program in ten schools in Voinjama District, Lofa County, Liberia with over 3,000 children and 20 teachers. We recruited 20 classroom teachers and head masters, trained and empowered them with various humane education materials and worked along with them in conducting daily humane education programs in their schools and communities. The programs educated the children about animals and their needs and explained that animals are just like us - they need food, shelter, medical care and love. We did this through a variety of interactive activities including drama and role play, discussions

and debate, video shows, humane lessons, stories, games, drawing, animal welfare clubs, exhibition - all of which were done to encourage the children to form their own positive opinions and attitudes to the animals and other people in their lives. These activities and programs were done to enable the children to gain a richer understanding of animals in our world and a sense of how they can treat them as fellow beings, with empathy, compassion, innate love and respect. The trained classroom teachers were also empowered so that they can continue to educate their students about the importance of kindness to animals and people. Animal Welfare Club was established in each of the 10 schools with 30 members each. When children start to show love, kindness, empathy and compassion for animals, they learn how to also show love, kindness, empathy and compassion to one another and other people. Therefore,

kindness to animals can lead to kindness to one another, kindness to other people, kindness to one's country and kindness to the rest of the world.

The project implementation started in January, 2019 with meeting the Education Office and the authorities from the 10 selected schools. This was followed by selection of one teacher and the head master from each of the 10 schools. The teachers were trained for two days and provided with various educational materials at the end of the training.

#### Outcomes of the project

- Held an informative meeting with the district education office and authorities of the ten selected schools in Voinjama District
- Provided a two-day intensive training for 20 selected classroom teachers from the ten schools as Humane Educators in their respective schools and communities
- Assigned two LAWCS' volunteers in the district to work with the teachers and conduct a daily learning program with the students
- Reached and inspired 3,704 children with the animal welfare education program
- Established a functional Animal Kindness Club in each school with 30 committed members each. A total of 600 children were involved in the club work.
- Financially supported the ten clubs projects



- Conducted a drawing competition among the children and the winners were given educational materials
- Held a monthly meeting with each club educating them on animal welfare issues and how they can work together as team to improve conditions for animals in their communities
- Conducted one round of Children-Compassion-In-Action program reaching to their family animals, learning about animals, interacting with their family animals and educating their parents on animal welfare
- Organized and hosted an Exhibition program each school demonstrating what they learned about animal protection and educating the larger society about the importance of improving the welfare of animals
- Certified the ten schools for participating in our animal welfare education program

These are some of the quotations from the children:

"I am responsible to educate my family about our animal welfare" "I will always help animals that are suffering."

"I will always respond to animals in need."

"Kindness to animals has helped me learned about kindness to other people."

"Kindness to animals has helped me learned about love, respect, empathy and compassion for all life."

"The program has changed my attitude towards animals and other people."

"I was always stoning animals but from now on I have changed. I promised to always protect and care for animals."

"I am now responsible for the feeding of our family animals after learning about them."

"It is my hope to become animal doctor in the future to help animals."

"Our family dog is dearer to me after learning about animal feelings."

## It's Your Time to Shine!

If you received a 2018 Latham Humane Education Grant and would like us to consider featuring your program here, please contact JJohns@latham.org.

## **GRANT RECIPIENT**

#### PALO ALTO, CALIF. HUMANE SOCIETY (PAHS)

NOTE: The Palo Alto Humane Society received a Latham Foundation grant to support and expand their K-5 education programs that creatively engage students to become Ambassadors of Compassion.

We wanted to share this news about their first-ever Ambassadors of Compassion story writing contest for middle-school students as well, because it illustrates this year's Grant Program theme of animals and people helping each other either physically or emotionally.

Congratulations to first place winner Vandana Ravi, and Honorable Mentions Amara Fernandes, Aaron Huang, and Macy Li.

We are pleased to reprint Vandana's essay here. You can find the other winners and a list of all entrants at <a href="https://www.paloaltohumane.org/humane-news/writing-contest-winner-announcement/">https://www.paloaltohumane.org/humane-news/writing-contest-winner-announcement/</a>.

## Snapshot By Vandana Ravi

Every moment in a lifetime is made up of hundreds of others. Sights, emotions, people, and decisions form a chain right up until they reach the present, where you sit unaware of the countless things which happened to bring you here.

My present moment is filled with everything I thought a moment of mine never could have all at once – friends, animals, laughter, and the sound of my own voice. But a handful of earlier moments, earlier decisions, pushed my life into this direction. Those moments, which have come to me through a blend of work and plain good luck, are the center of the story I want to tell.

#### Moment 1

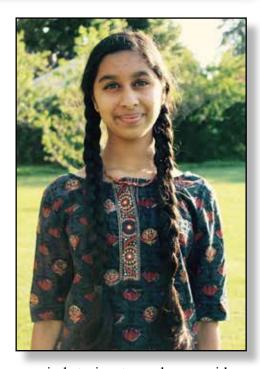
I'm biking down a new route home from school. My shoulders ache slightly from the weight of my backpack, but the sunshine

and the breeze more than make up for it.

For a second, surprise makes me wobble on the bike as I notice something completely out of place on the copse-lined, narrow yet urban avenue: a donkey standing in a fencedoff field to my left. I've always been terrified of large animals. But for some reason, my fears and my common sense desert me. Instead of fleeing, I stop my bike.

#### Moment 2

I swear I can hear my own heart pounding as I take a step toward the donkey. To my surprise, it pushes its head through a gap in the fence, and suddenly I notice its eyes. Something is striking about them – is it depth? Expression? Emotion? Suddenly I realize the truth: what I see in those bright black eyes is a mirror image of myself. The donkey's version is simpler, more primal. But my



mind, trying to probe, considers the possibility that we might be the same in essence. I smile and my shoulders relax. Believing the human in this animal gives me a kind of peace. Nothing is more comforting than knowing that you are not alone.

#### Moment 3

After a particularly long day, I lean on the fence and begin to speak, forgetting that the donkey won't understand me – forgetting everything except that somewhere deep in its black eyes is a soul like mine. "It's so peaceful here. Like time has slowed down on this Suddenly I'm laughing, not caring if anyone hears. I'm laughing at the sheer absurdness of it—me, the one who had always been terrified of animals, trying to comfort a donkey with the thoughts I used to comfort myself—but



I'm also laughing at how light and yet powerful I feel after speaking the words. It is as if someone has removed a heavy cloak from my shoulders,

revealing wings underneath. And for this I have to thank a donkey.

stretch of road." The donkey swings its tail. I keep talking. "It's a wonder so few people come to say hi to you. This place is always so empty. Don't you ever get lonely?" There is no response, but it feels good to talk to someone who won't judge my words. I realize how much I hold back when I talk to my classmates at school. Why is it that I'm so slow to share my opinions? Could that be the reason I am so often left alone? "People can make you feel less than them because you're different, but you're not. You're no less of a good friend because you're not a traditional pet like a dog or a cat, are you? If people don't visit you, it's no fault of yours." I pause. "Humans are afraid of anything new and unknown. I've been in your place, but I've also been in theirs. The thing is, you can't let their fear hurt you. Remember that." The donkey's eyes seem to meet mine for a second. Its tail swings.

#### Moment 4

Are donkeys social animals? I type into Google and scroll through pages and pages of results in blank surprise.

"Donkeys are very social animals."
"A lone donkey kept as a pet needs a friend of another donkey, horse or other animal."

"Donkeys like company and develop very strong emotional attachments."

"If a donkey loses a companion, the stress can lead to disease."

I suddenly remember the lone donkey gazing at me from behind the fence. Following that memory, surprising me, comes one of myself. I am sitting alone on a long bench during lunchtime break, throngs of students chatting around but not with me. I remember the pang of wistfulness I had felt on that day, and I realize I need to do something for this donkey – not only for its well-being, but for my own.

#### Moment 5

I secure a manila envelope to the donkey's fence with duct tape, then bend down and scrawl my email address across the back. The envelope contains all the evidence I could find, photos and print-outs and even a thin manual, supporting my wish to get the donkey a companion. It also holds a note and instructions to email me if I can contribute to the two donkeys' upkeep in a small way. I'm exhausted, triumphant, but mostly hopeful. With so many articles corroborating that donkeys are happier when they don't live alone, I'm glad there is something I can do for the animal who has become my friend.

#### Moment 6 – The Present

A cluster of middle school students has formed in front of the fenced-off field, their sneakers kicking up dust. The sun catches the particles in its rays and illuminates them as they shift in the breeze; the usual sounds of wind rustling the trees and cars honking in the distance are mingled with the chatter of the people whom I've come to consider as friends. People I barely noticed in the hallways at school have bonded with me over these two donkeys. I talk and laugh and treasure the moment, remembering that the friend who never answered me in words is the one who has brought me this joy.

from page 4

the needy to themselves. And they deliver nothing in return. Think about it, by scaring people away from the shelters, they perpetuate themselves. Fundraising is often a factor as well. In other words, they sustain the problem with their fundraising platform! This diverts funds from those who need them most -our homeless pets and those who tend them

We are all pro-life and "no kill." We strive so that all may live a quality life. We must not suffer or invite the hollow people to fill spaces in which they can metastasize and ruin our good works.

Every public or private animal shelter and all rescue organizations are "no kill." Who Isn't? Of course!



#### REGISTRATION OPEN!

https://www.aphe.org/event-3512909/Registration



## **Kindness** in Action

How One Person is Making a Difference for K-9 Officers



Brady's K-9 Fund was founded by Brady Snakovsky (above), an active ten year old in fourth grade. He couldn't understand why all K-9 officers were not wearing ballistic vests. After learning that these vests are not automatically issued to the K-9s and are very expensive, Brady made it his mission to raise funds in order to protect those who protect us and make sure that they come home at the end of their shift.

Brady's goal is to donate a practical, mission-ready vest to as many Police K-9s as possible. He wants the K-9s who protect communities across the United States to be protected themselves during their entire shift

To date, Brady's K-9 Fund has donated 126 vests. You can learn more about Brady and his work at https://www.bradysk9fund.com/.



### Alameda (California) Homeless Pets Get Their Own Mall Store

Since this past July, a shopping trip to Alameda's South Shore Center mall might include

adopting a homeless cat or dog. Alameda's animal shelter, operated by Friends of the Alameda Animal Shelter (FAAS), opened a second-

ary adoption center - its first satellite location – at South Shore Center.

It is the first business-district store in Alameda dedicated to the adoption of homeless pets, noted John L. Lipp, FAAS Executive Director.

"FAAS South Shore not only gives FAAS a second location to facilitate adoptions, but it expands the scope of services that FAAS can offer the public," he said.

> The space includes a large meeting room where FAAS will offer various pet care education classes to the public, plus grief counseling for pet owners

who have lost a furry family member.

In addition, the store features a Cat Experience Room where adoptable cats and kittens roam free in a retro/future-inspired décor. Adoptable dogs make appearances on weekends, including monthly adoption events in the shopping center's center courtyard.

FAAS South Shore started as a successful pop-up store in December 2018. Since then, more than 70 individuals and businesses based in Alameda and neighboring communities have donated money, labor, materials and services to make a permanent malllocated adoption site a reality for Alameda's homeless pets.

alamedaanimalshelter.org



#### **Another Unique Adoption Location**

Big thanks to Julie Falconer, senior editor of the Humane Society of the United State's award-winning Animal Sheltering magazine (Spring 2019), for tipping us off to this clever and successful adoption option.

Animal Rescue League of Iowa and the Element Hotel in West Des Moines partner to put adoptable dogs and cats in the paths of people who have often never visited an animal shelter.



As Julie Falconer explains, since December 2017, this hotel has fostered 35 dogs from the Animal Rescue League of Iowa (ARL), and they've all been short term stays. The idea originated with the hotel's general manager Amanda Sampino, a longtime dog lover who heard about a similar program in Asheville, North Carolina. She secured a partnership with ARL, a private shelter with municipal animal control contracts that takes in more than 10,000 animals a year.

The hotel fosters one or two pups at a time, and nearly all are adopted within 48 hours—such as Yoshi, who arrived from the shelter late in the day. The next morning, a guest came to the lobby to check out, says Sampino,

and instantly fell in love. "She said, 'Oh my gosh, that dog looks just like the dog I have at home.' Fifteen minutes later, she was adopting."

The foster partnership has been so successful that the biggest challenge, on the shelter's side, is supplying enough dogs to the hotel, says Stephanie Filer, ARL development director.

"It's a good problem to have."

ARL provides small or medium-size pups who are people and dog friendly, and Sampino's team takes it from there. New fosters spend a few hours in a quiet office before moving to a gatedoff corner of the lobby.

Sampino admits that she was initially a bit worried about the extra work, but she quickly discovered that her team views dog duty as a perk, not a burden. "Those dogs get so many walks," she says, adding that hotel staff even handle adoption paperwork and will bathe dogs who arrive from the shelter in less-than-sweetsmelling condition. "Everyone wants to spend time with them."

The hotel's human guests are equally happy with the arrangement.

They can take the dogs on outings, snuggle with them on couches in the lobby and even hang out with them in their rooms.

This creative fostering arrangement frees up shelter space and provides extra socialization for individual animals, who get a chance to work their charms on a new audience.

According to the Element's FaceBook page, they have



built on the Goat Yoga craze by offering "Cats 'N Mats" pilates classes where community members can spend a relaxing morning doing mat pilates, sipping their free meow-mosas, and cuddling kittens! Participants get first dibs on adopting any of the kittens at the event.

Discover more at <a href="https://www.">https://www.</a> facebook.com/pg/ElementWest-DesMoinesHotel/posts/



Courtesy of The National Link Coalition www.NationalLinkCoalition.org Phil Arkow, Coordinator



## Animal Abusers Registry Now Available in Volusia County, Florida

On June 1, 2019, an online registry that lists convicted animal abusers—including their picture, date of birth, and a description of their violation, in hopes of ensuring the crime won't happen again—became available on the Volusia County website.

It's a result of "Ponce's Law," which Port Orange resident Debbie Darino pioneered. She also led this local effort to adopt the registry.

"This is one more step to keep these (animals) out of the hands of abusers," Darino told the council. "I know each of you are animal lovers. I can't imagine you not wanting to take that extra step to help our animals that are being abused or tortured in ways you can't believe." (Daytona Beach News-Journal)

She said her work isn't done yet, though she's "excited and grateful" for Volusia's approval of the registry.

61 Florida counties still don't have a tool for tracking abusers.

"I want to get all the counties in Florida to implement one," Darino said in an interview. She plans to lobby the cause to the Florida Association of Counties. "I want to push for this statewide. If this just saves one animal, I am happy."

# NEW FUNDING SOURCE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS AND VETERINARIANS

Seattle Seahawks' Quarterback Russel Wilson is working to protect both people and their pets from domestic violence. Wilson has partnered with the Banfield Foundation to help pet owners in violent situations have "shelter and safety along with their pets."

Through the Safer Together initiative, Banfield Foundation is investing \$1 million toward pet-friendly domestic programs in the form of grants, the creation of an Advisory Committee, and continuing education for veterinary professionals on how to help pets in domestic violence situations. The grants will go to qualified non-profit organizations that are working on creating safe solutions for pet owners looking to leave abusive households with their animals.

https://www.banfield.com/banfield-foundation/safer-together for more information.



## **Encouraging News about** the California Condor

According to The Week, August 9, 2019, the California Condor once seemed doomed to go the way of the Dodo and the Passenger Pigeon. There were only 22 of the scavengers left in the wild in 1982, their population ravaged by lead poisoning from hunter's bullets.

The San Diego Zoo launched a captive breeding program that year, and a decade later, North America's largest flying bird was reintroduced to the wild. The 1,000th California Condor chick since the program's start has recently hatched, and there are approximately 3,000 Condors in the wild.

QUIZ

How many native parrot species are there in the United States?

**Answer: page 22** 



Anywhere you look nowadays, you're bound to spot something about marijuana and its components CBD (cannabidiol) and THC (tetrahydrocannabinol).

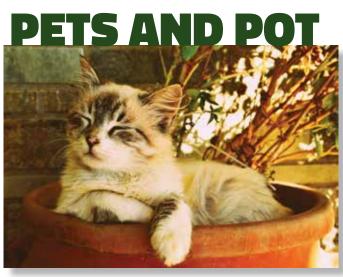
With medical marijuana now legal in over half the states, and an increasing number of states legalizing recreational marijuana, there's been a rise in CBD products (like oils and treats) in mainstream shops and retail chains. And recently, the trend has carried over to our four-legged-friends.

This is leading pet owners to ask: If marijuana or CBD is help-

ful for some people, can it help my pet?

The ASPCA **Animal Poison** Control Center (APCC) weighs in on this trending topic.

aspca.org/news/are-there-safetyconcerns-about-cbd-products

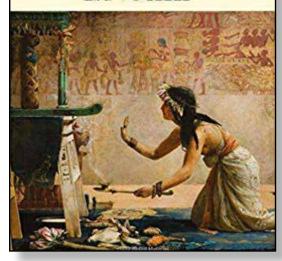


#### **MEDIA REVIEWS AND NEWS**

#### REVERED AND REVILED

A Complete History of the Domestic Cat

L.A. VOCELLE



#### Revered and Reviled: A Complete History of the Domestic Cat By L. A. Vocelle

Throughout history the cat has been an indomitable influence on societies and cultures, first as goddess, then as demon, and now as hero and social media empress. Man's view of the cat has come full circle. As both mascot and muse to great adventurers, writers, artists and statesmen, the cat has offered comfort and inspiration. Never obsequious or ordinary, always elegant and inscrutable, the cat has played a fundamental role in civilization through the centuries, and this is its story.

Find out why women and cats have been bound together throughout history.

Ever wondered why the black cat is considered bad luck or why cats were considered good luck on ships and planes?

The answers to these questions and many more are here in this easy to read and fully referenced cat history with more than 150 black and white illustrations.

Revered and Reviled: A Complete History of the Domestic Cat Author: L. A. Vocelle Copyright 2016; Revised Edition 2017 ISBN

13: 978-0692759820 ISBN-10: 0692759824 www.thegreatcat.org

#### Becoming a $R.E.A.D.^{TM}$ Team

2nd Edition -- 2019

Intermountain Therapy Animals has registered more than 6,000 R.E.A.D. therapy teams throughout the U.S. and in 26 additional countries.

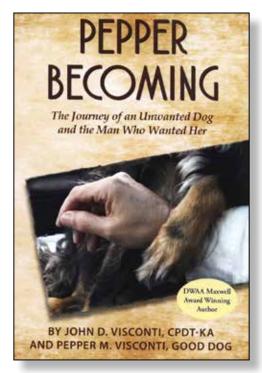
Their new video shows in detail what it takes to help kids learn to read -- and fall in love with books -- and it emphasizes more than ever that a handler must advocate for their animal partner and make sure his/her needs and requests are met and honored. They insist on the concept that no kind or extent of therapeutic intervention is worthwhile if it comes at the expense of any animal.

Find out more about Intermountain Therapy Animals and the R.E.A.D.® program at

http://www.therapyanimals. org/Home.html.

#### **Updated Video!**





Pepper Becoming: The Journey of an Unwanted Dog and the Man Who Wanted Her By John D. Visconti, CPDT-KA

Pepper Becoming humorously, tenderly, and sometimes painfully recounts the unlikely true story of two kindred souls – a dog no one wanted and a man not interested in owning a dog – who help each other navigate life's challenges.

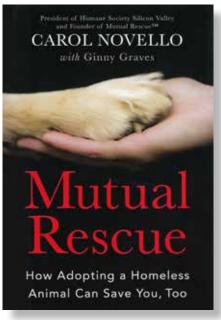
Abandoned by her owners 15 miles from her home, Pepper was dirty, diseased, and emaciated when police seized her on the streets of New York. She was scheduled to be euthanized after her owners refused to claim her. Instead, she was adopted only to be returned, and again scheduled to be euthanized. Finally she was rescued by a no-kill shelter where she lived in a cage for nearly two years and deteriorated emotionally and behaviorally.

With predestination in the air, her path crossed with a novice dog trainer (the author) seeking to improve his skills by volunteering at the shelter where she was housed. Despite her distrust of people, and his disinterest in the responsibilities of dog ownership, they immediately bonded and embarked on a nine-year journey that would change them, and those whose lives they graced, forever.

Author John D. Visconti, CPDT-KA is a DWAA Max-

well Award winning author and owner of Rising Star Dog Training Services, LLC and Rising Star Dog Training, LLC. His book, Fetch More Dollars for Your Dog Training Business is the 2015 winner of the prestigious Dog Writers Association of America Maxwell Award reference book of the year. He has written several columns for BARKS from the Guild and the Chronicle of the Dog. He has also served as a chair for the APDT (Association of Professional Dog Trainers) business sub-committee and presented several coaching lectures and webinars to dog training schools and force-free organizations. John is also an award winning, published songwriter and performer.

Pepper Becoming Author: John D. Visconti, CPDT-KA ISBN 978-0-692-145302 www.risingstardogservices.com



#### Mutual Rescue: How Adopting a Homeless Animal Can Save You, Too By Carol Novello

A moving and scientific look at the curative powers--both physical and mental--of rescuing a shelter animal, by the president of Humane Society Silicon Valley.

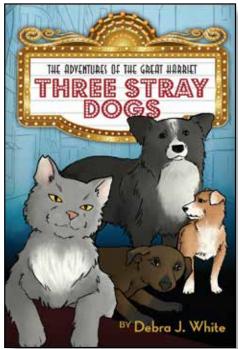
MUTUAL RESCUE profiles the transformational impact that shelter pets have on humans, exploring the emotional, physical, and spiritual gifts that rescued animals provide. It explores through anecdote, observation, and scientific research, the complexity and depth of the role that pets play in our lives. Every story in the book brings an unrecognized benefit of adopting homeless animals to the forefront of the rescue conversation.

In a nation plagued by illnesses (16 million adults suffer from depression, 29 million have diabetes, 8 million in any given year have PTSD, and nearly 40% are obese), rescue pets can help. For example, 60% of doctors said

they prescribe pet adoption and a staggering 97% believe that pet ownership provides health benefits. For people in chronic emotional, physical, or spiritual pain, adopting an animal can transform, and even save, their lives.

Each story in the book takes a deep dive into one potent aspect of animal adoption, told through the lens of people's personal experiences with their rescued pets and the science that backs up the results. This book will resonate with readers hungering for stories of healing and redemption.

Author Carol Novello began rescuing animals at age five and hasn't stopped. With a Harvard MBA, she was a senior executive working in high tech, most recently at Intuit, Inc. Today, she is the president of Humane Society Silicon Valley, where she launched Mutual Rescue, a digital global campaign of short films designed to showcase the therapeutic benefits of animal companionship and encourage adoptions. Through her work at Humane Society Silicon Valley, she has been awarded the Maddie's Fund "Maddie Hero Award" for innovation and leadership in the sector and has been recognized as an honoree at the Fifty Years of Women at Harvard Business School celebration in Northern California. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area where she enjoys spending time with her own rescue companions: tuxedo cats Bode and Herbie



## Three Stray Dogs By Debra J. White

The setting is the 1990s. Tippy the dog goes on a casual Sunday afternoon walk in New York's Central Park with her beloved owners. Shanita and Shanita's mom Roz. Darkness settles over the city and it's time to head back home to their 110th Street apartment. Mother and daughter secure Tippy's leash around a parking meter in front of Fairway, a bustling food market on Broadway, while they go inside to buy groceries. High school senior Shanita pats Tippy's head and says, "We'll be right back. I love you sweet girl." Smiling, she walks towards the store's entrance.

As Tippy flops down to wait for her owner's return, two thieves pull up in a shabby cargo van and park. A scruffy young man wearing sneakers, torn jeans and an over-sized sweatshirt hops out and sweet talks Tippy. He acts like he's her owner. The street is bustling with passersby and no one notices the interaction. The young man unties Tippy's leash and leads her into the nearby van, even though Tippy frantically barks for help. With Tippy in the van, the thieves pull away and blend into traffic.

This pair of ex-cons have been collecting stray and unattended dogs then selling them to laboratories that skirt government rules and regulations regarding animal experimentation.

While the thieves drive around looking for more strays, Tippy devises a daring escape plan. She and Wally, another stray in the thieve's van, find themselves on the run-down streets in the South Bronx. They meet another stray dog named Bertha, and the Great Harriet, a lost cat with an attitude. Together they form a family of sorts and live behind a gas station on the Grand Concourse, a major thoroughfare.

But complications arise! Tippy is desperate to see her owners again and she searches for a way home but becomes lost.

This is only the beginning of their adventure.

What happens to Bertha, Wally and Tippy? Does the Great Harriet live up to reputation and save the day? *Three Stray Dogs* is a tale of hope, friendship, and determination written with such detail that you'll think you are right there on the streets of New York

Three Stray Dogs
Author: Debra J. White
Available from Amazon



## **Calling all film history** and marionette fans!

Our Complete Library of Brother Buzz Episodes from the 1960s is now available for free streaming on Vimeo!

Brother Buzz episodes took children around the world to learn about different animals and their environments, and to be kind to all. Buzz and his menagerie of animal marionettes focused on different issues each week. Visits include the animal shelter in "Lost Friend-SPCA" to see how your lost pet can be found, or the importance of oceans in "Man and the Sea." Another episode, "Billy," focused on learning challenges. All ended up with an empathetic view of the world and a reminder to be kind to animals.

Fans today still remember the lessons learned with their kind bee friend, Brother Buzz. See early children's television programming at its finest featuring the work of marionette theater pioneer Ralph Chessé and Latham's "Spokesbee" Brother Buzz.

"This library is a treasure trove!" Preston Neal Jones. Film Historian



#### LATHAM VIDEO COLLECTIONS STREAMING ON VIMEO





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#### **Answer to Quiz Trick Question!**

There are currently no native parrot species in this country. However, according to Gizmodo.com, there are 56

parrot species from tropical climates living in the wild in the U.S., including in New York City, Chicago, and San Francisco, where escaped pet parrots have formed breeding colonies and continue to thrive.



## THE BEAUTY OF AUTUMN THE LATHAM FOUNDATION





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