

THE Latham Letter

VOLUME XLI, NUMBERS 2 & 3

Spring/Summer 2021

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION



Coping with Covid



HUMANE EDUCATION /GRANTS	pp 6-12
HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTIONS	pp 13-17
SCIENCE AND NATURE	pp 18-19
MEDIA REVIEWS AND NEWS	pp 20-22

MANDATE

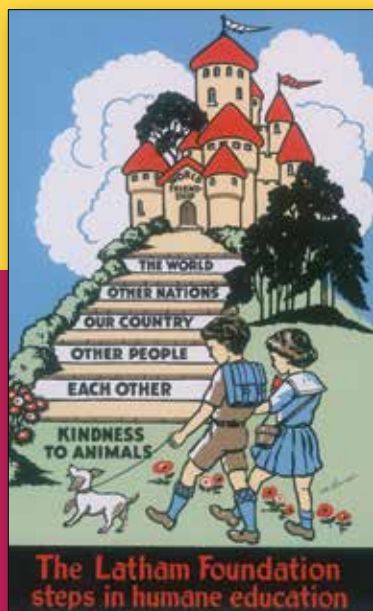
Edith Latham's **MANDATE:**

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



WELCOME BACK, BROTHER BUZZ!

Brother Buzz, star of Latham's
Brother Buzz films and our former
Spokesbee, marks the end of articles.



The Latham Letter

Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

Search the *Latham Letter* archives by topic and learn
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Promotion of Humane Education

The Latham Letter

Volume XLI, Numbers 2 & 3, Spring/Summer 2021

**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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Hugh H. Tebault, President

Expectations: Respect

From our founding in 1918, Latham has promoted humane education by showing respect. Respect for animals is the foundational first step in the framework illustrated in our widely known [Steps in Humane Education](#). These steps show the importance of individual responsibility, respect for others, the strength of the family unit and of our working together for a better world.

Our initial show of respect is dependent on the response we receive. Showing respect to a hungry lion does not mean you may pet it – it will do what a wild animal often does, and attack. Your showing respect to others may not automatically get a respectful response.

Your show of respect for others who are bullies does not get a return of respect, but often an increase in threats of worse behavior. It is best to remember your own values, walk away and let that person be. However, you cannot fix the problem of a bully by either ignoring them or meeting their demands. You must first be sure of your own values, and those of your family, friends and neighbors – then work together to improve those good values so that together you can stand against the bully.

The United States was founded on the fact that all the power is from individual citizens. As American citizens, we have assigned the government limited responsibilities to provide a common protection for

us all. The master document is the US Constitution plus the Bill of Rights. These are the source documents that control what the government may do. All laws that Congress may pass must agree with what the Constitution allows. All regulations that government agencies write must conform to the Constitution AND be based on laws written by Congress that allow the agency to carry out specific duties.

Over the past many months, American freedoms have been greatly limited by aggressive government actions, and like those of a bully, they are not based on good values, but only on gaining more power at the expense of the people.

One of our core values is “All men are created equal.” This statement reflects our value that while we are all diverse, we all deserve the same equality before the law in this nation.

Sadly, there has arisen a very racially divisive theory that is being pushed into the public that tells us we are not all equal, but that members of the white race are somehow morally compromised, and because of the color of their skin, others should have more given to them -- that we must have more government to alter society to make it more “equitable.” These new purveyors of hate have been working on this scheme for years, and this version is called Critical Race Theory (CRT).

Continued on next page

It is simply Marxist dogma.

One [complete analysis of this is from the Heritage Foundation](#). To understand why this is such a bad thing for America, it is important to understand these three takeaways.

1. Critical race theorists falsely accuse the United States of being a fundamentally racist nation and condemn capitalism, individual rights, and the Constitution.
2. Critical race theory ignores evidence that shows that family structure, educational attainment, and workforce participation are the primary drivers of inequality.
3. Critical race theory seeks to undermine the foundations of American society and replace the constitutional system with a near-totalitarian “anti racist” bureaucracy.

As we have acknowledged many times, Latham’s teaching of humane education is dependent on free people choosing to show respect, and any oppressive government is antithetical to both freedom and the Latham Steps in Humane Education, which we have promoted for all these years.

It is up to each one of us to make the choice to show

respect and to promote good community values. In the United States, those values are based on free people choosing to assign a limited set of duties to government, and on being assured that their Constitutional rights are absolute because they are from our Creator, not the government. This individual choice is what gives the true value to this liberty and shows the ultimate respect to each and every member of our society, both human and animal. Each state has slightly different values, but we all agree on the core tenant – we support and defend the Constitution so that everyone is equal before the law. Equity is not equality. Equality is of Opportunity, NOT of Outcome.

My expectation is and always has been that I am an American citizen, and as such I am protected by both my state constitution and the US Constitution. I have equality before the law. I choose to show respect to others, and to follow the law. I work to help my neighbors, and improve my community in the ways I am able. I am also an American military veteran and swore to protect and defend the Constitution – a pledge I continue to honor.

Please be aware of and speak out against threats to our freedom and way of life. Helping in your community to keep American freedom

equal for EVERY citizen serves us all well as we regain our successful society, fully operating again soon. It is often up to the staff and volunteers of smaller organizations to take the lead in the restoration of success wherever they live. A free society is not managed by government – but by the work and commitments of individuals. A government is simply employed by those free people to do limited work to make the society safer and more reliable so each person can be as successful as their own work allows. 🐼



The Latham Foundation Humane Education Grants for 2021

See <https://www.latham.org/grants/general-information/>

ELIGIBILITY

Please read carefully and make sure you meet these criteria before submitting a proposal.

- In general, Latham grants promote humane education through animal-assisted activities where both animals and people benefit.
- **This year we are giving priority to programs that include services to the military, veterans, and their families.** This is to recognize and thank our military's services to others and to our country as described in the first four of the Latham Steps to Humane Education.
- Applicants must be U.S. organizations.
- Nonprofit organizations will have priority but grants will not be limited to those who have attained 501(c)(3) status.

<https://www.latham.org/grants/deadlines-how-to-apply/>

Awards will be up to \$10,000 for a one-year grant.

Receiving a grant does not guarantee a renewal, nor does it prohibit one.

RESTRICTIONS

Grants are **not** to be used for:

- **capital projects and equipment**
- **publications**
- **employee training**
- **conference registration or travel.**

Latham cautions applicants about applying for funds for salaries, as we do not guarantee grants continuing past the initial grant period.

DEADLINE

Proposals for the 2021 Latham Grant program will only be accepted on our website from July 1, 2021 to July 10, 2021.

The Latham Foundation
steps in humane education

Latham will consider all proposals submitted in compliance with our guidelines, and notify applicants with our decisions in mid-August. Grantees can expect to receive their payments in early September 2021.

EXPECTATIONS:

- I/we will use these funds only for the stated purpose and for the goals of humane education as stated.
- I/we agree to provide a final report of the outcomes of this program within one month of the end of this grant period. A grant period is considered to be 12 months from when you receive your check.
- I/we agree to make that report and any publicity that results from it available to Latham for its use.

The 2021 Latham Grant Program focuses on the first four of the Latham Steps in Humane Education


- Kindness to Animals,
- To Each Other,
- To Other People, and
- To Our Country.

This hierarchy of humane education builds good values and exemplifies the service to our country that our military and their families show. Kindness and Respect are vital elements in every step.

Organizations that meet the eligibility requirements described above are encouraged to apply for a Latham Foundation 2021 Grant.

Proposals for the 2021 Latham Grant program will only be accepted on our website from

July 1, 2021 to July 10, 2021.

APPLY ONLINE AT: <https://www.latham.org/grants/deadlines-how-to-apply/> 

The Latham Foundation
steps in humane education

Coping with Covid in Canada

By David Friendly

The Hinchinbrook Farm Society was thrilled to receive a Latham Foundation grant in 2020, especially since we were one of only two non-US organizations and the only Canadian charity to receive help from your foundation. When I first discovered your program, I was amazed with how close our respective goals were, and I am pleased to report that we were able to use your funds to great success, despite the setbacks that the year 2020 set in our path.

When I submitted our application last July, we were just recovering from a temporary shut-down that had been caused by precautions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Controls in Nova Scotia had been successful enough that our case load was very low. There were days

when we had no new reported cases, and our case load over several months totalled less than 20 at any one time. This seems improbable given the thousands of people who were taken ill by this virus in neighbouring provinces and states.

As a result of this, our revenues from riders decreased significantly, but only for a few months. By the Fall we were able to gear up to handle almost our maximum number of riders, following strict COVID protocols. The presence of COVID and the impacts on our programs also were reflected in how we continued to not only care for our animals, but how they were kept in the attention of our member families.

So, here are some details of how we continued to focus on animal welfare, the relationship of our families to animals and the impact of the animals on the welfare of our members, many of whom are on the autism spectrum.

- When we initially had to close down last April, Patty, our Program Director, had to ensure that the animals were well cared for, exercised and kept in the minds of our riders. Since volunteers could work alone and outdoors,

some continued to come to the farm to lunge the horses, groom and interact with them. Veterinary care continued as normal. We even have one of our vets on our Board of Directors.

Patty also wanted to maintain a connection between the young riders and the horses, so she would e-mail out pictures to colour, ask the kids to write stories that she could read to the horses and would wander around the stable and paddock with her smartphone and share the live video with callers through FaceTime. Some of the kids sent their pictures back to Patty, who posted them in the stalls for the horse to enjoy.





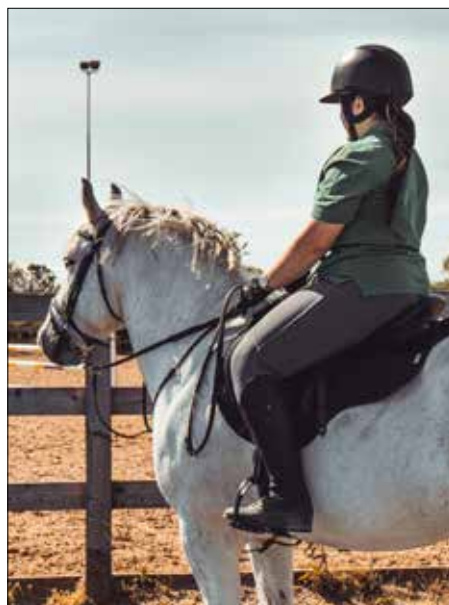
- We were able to recruit new volunteers last year and part of their training involves learning to properly groom the horses, how to use positive reinforcement to get them to cooperate during grooming, lunging and riding. Since we were only closed for a few weeks, we also had to work with the volunteers to schedule their return to work so that not only did we provide a safe return to the riders, we also ensured that the horses kept to a regular practice of being groomed and exercised.
- Hinchinbrook Farm uses techniques from the Tellington Method (T-TEAM and T-TOUCH) to promote positive interaction between horse and volunteer. We had to postpone any work

horses communicate and how we can relate to them in return. The return of a case load in Nova Scotia has also re-introduced the restrictions that have resulted in our closing to riders as of the third week of April and this time it is likely to last over a month. Then the slow process of scheduling limited numbers of riders and distancing will restart. Group programs will be the last

by the external consultant for this approach in 2020 and had hoped to start to catch up on lost time in 2021. Unfortunately, Nova Scotia had a spike in its COVID cases in April from a variant that got loose in the Province, and due to added restrictions, our session had to be cancelled two days before it was to be held. This was unfortunate because it gives our volunteers a great exposure to learning how

to resume. We were doing so well.

- During the times over the past year when outside gatherings were limited, controlled numbers were allowed, so we held two events that helped to promote relationships between humans and the horses. One was a “meet and greet” at a local small business that wanted to support Hinchinbrook Farm. They ran a fund raising event that featured Sugarfoot, our one-and-a-half year old miniature horse. She was a favourite with the kids, since she was only the size of a large dog. And since she was still a foal, she was somewhat playful with them. The second event was that we were allowed to hold our annual Fall Open Stable which welcomes the general public to the farm to see what we do with respect to equine therapy and Ther-A-Play recreation. Families were able to try riding the trails and see how we use the horses as therapeutic partners in working with children who have mental challenges. Although many parents treat this



as just a great free afternoon in the country with the kids, we always get some who have never considered this as a tool to help with their children with Autism Spectrum Disorder who later return and join the “tribe”.



In summary, the grant from the Latham Foundation helped us to weather a terrible storm that threatened many charities in 2020 due to the requirement to shut down or reduce activity. Although we only get about a quarter of our annual revenues from rider fees, losing that for a month and then operating with reduced capacity for most of the summer meant that our operating revenues decreased. Fortunately, other funding continued — most of our grant applications were made before COVID came onto the scene. Family foundations continue to be a significant contributor to Hinchinbrook Farm. Our first priority was to ensure that the animals were properly cared for, and other than putting on a bit of weight due to reduced activity, the only change for the horses was loneliness from not seeing their kids as often.

Another major project we undertook last year, which was *not* supported by the Latham Foundation grant, but is an example of our ongoing attention to animal welfare, was to build a new riding ring in our wooded area with a semi-permanent cover so

that in very hot weather the horses and riders are protected from the sun and in rainy weather, riding can continue out of the weather. It also will increase the number of winter days that the ring is available for riding. Patty continually changes riding lesson plans to ensure that the horses are not

adversely affected by the weather and this structure will enhance that level of care. The new ring and cover were funded by capital grants from the Provincial and Municipal governments, and two families.

Last year your grant provided us with about 7% of our operating needs. For this we are immensely grateful.

I realize that this year we do not qualify for a grant from The Latham Foundation because you are focussing on US applications and specifically on veterans and the military. I assume that this is because those who require animal friends for PTSD and other guiding duties are in dire need of your help. We applaud this focus and we hope that it encourages governments to follow your lead and provide more assistance to those who need it most.

*David Friendly, Volunteer
Hinchinbrook Farm Society*



Covid Creativity:

Taken From Organization Reports

Hinchinbrook Farm Society Canada

Last year the Hinchinbrook Farm Society received a generous grant from The Latham Foundation. To say it was welcome in a very strange year would be an understatement. Much changed in our operations from the time I submitted the application to today — changes that made the gift very special indeed.

To see an example of the COVID programming we used when the farm as closed to the public, as mentioned in the grant report, please see this link: hinchinbrookfarm.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-01-07-COVID-Response.pdf



Paws & Think Indianapolis, Indiana

Youth-Canine programs were suspended from March-June due to restrictions put in place by our youth program and shelter partners. The Marion County Juvenile Detention Center Program restarted in July and will be held each month through November. The Hamilton County and Warren Central High School programs are slated to be held as outlined in our application. All of these programs are being run with fewer kids and dogs to accommodate social distancing. Our new Covid-19 procedures are in place to ensure the safety of volunteers, staff,



and participants. One significant benefit we found from the reduced program size in July is each youth and dog is getting a more tailored experience. The youth and dogs experienced quicker growth than seen previously. We believe this is due to both the smaller class size allowing the staff to spend more time with the youth and dogs and also due to the need for connection and love from feeling so isolated during this difficult time.



Forget Me Not Farm Sonoma, California

Forget Me Not Farm has been active during the shelter in place. We have rescued over 200 animals who lost their homes because of COVID-19, we have expanded our organic gardens in response to the growing community need for food and we continue to provide humane education via live visits to our farm location, virtual visits via zoom and off site visits to local schools. We are making produce deliveries weekly to our partner agencies and expect to donate over 10,000 lbs. of fresh fruits and vegetables this summer.

We were intentional about some of the farm animals we rescued so that we are able to transport them to the schools if necessary. Since the COVID quarantine, we have added two mini cows and two dwarf goats that can be brought to the classroom.

We are in discussion with several teachers about the possibility of having small classes at our location to continue their humane education in a very hands on way.

A Fair Shake for Youth



New York, New York

As a result of COVID-19 and the closing of New York City schools in March 2020, the past year has been a combination of our traditional in-school and new remote programming.

- Fall/Winter: Conducted 19 10-week programs reaching 225 youth and two assembly programs reaching an additional 200 middle-school students.
- Spring: Partnered with six of the eight schools scheduled for the cycle. Reached 175 youth. Several schools opened the program to an entire grade as they recognized the integral role AFSY could play



in supporting the students' social emotional needs during this traumatic time. The two schools that canceled were new partners.

- Summer: Worked with the Manhattan Jewish Community Center and WHEDco (a community school provider and long-term AFSY partner) to offer *Reading Aloud to Dogs* and *Meet the Dogs* sessions reaching 50 elementary school students. Our summer partners are generally camps funded largely by NYC, but given budget constraints very few programs were offered, even remotely. Most of



our 40 volunteer teams are not available during the summer, but given the remote nature of programming were anxious to continue to support the youth of New York City. Young children need support in learning to read now more than ever as the normal summer slide is exacerbated by the COVID slide.

Since COVID-19 we have pivoted to develop and offer a remote curriculum of social emotional lessons and activities, including Zoom Dog Meet-ups. We knew that AFSY could continue to play an important role as schools struggled to provide structure, connection and engagement as children faced unprecedented levels of trauma and stress. Through the dogs and lessons, students could focus on building empathy, patience, respect for each other, and resilience, and feel connected to school and each other in constructive, positive ways.



Hearts and Hooves Therapy

Heart and Hooves Therapy wanted to send an email to let you know how we were able to use the funds from your 2019 grant cycle. Despite having COVID-19 shut us down from March 13 to June 17, 2020, we still were able to provide sessions via zoom. Story time was a fun and unique way to have our kiddos/adults see the farm animals and still learn. We worked on many skills like listening to our story, being focused, calm, and asking questions 🐾

Bear's-Eye View of Alameda

January 10, 2021 - The Story of Bear

By Jeff Cambra

My journey with Bear began in the spring of 2012 after I read a post in the old Alameda Parents Network Yahoo Group offering a free purebred chocolate lab that was on its way to the Oakland Animal Shelter. Humm. When I followed up, I discovered that Bear was living alone in a foreclosed house.

While I was not looking to find another dog after having lost Shadow to dementia, I elected to take Bear with the idea of socializing him and then contacting the local lab rescue for a proper placement. Yeah right! The first time Bear entered the house, he peed on my grandmother's vintage dining room table. That was the beginning of a wonderful and fulfilling relationship.

As an event producer, I needed to stay in shape and routinely walked and ran between 3 and 5 miles a day. When I got Bear, that number would be 9 to 11 miles per day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, including holidays. I figure we covered around 28,000 miles. I saw a lot of, and Bear smelled much of, Alameda.

were removed, and Bear was back in business. During that surgery, it was discovered that his intestines had severe adhesions which "glued" large sections to each other and other organs. A condition that would haunt us for the rest of his life.

A few years later on MLK weekend, I came home to find him on his side and not able to sit up. Back to BAVS where exploratory surgery discovered multiple lacerations to his intestine caused by a small twig, and he was septic. The vet gave him less than a 50% chance of recovery and said I might want to consider euthanasia until I told her he walked 10 miles a day.

I often referred to Bear as my most expensive free dog. It started when he ate the two corn on the cobs that I had left on the counter. Thanks to Bay Area Veterinary Specialists, the three cob pieces that obstructed his intestine





Sometime in late December, Bear ingested a popsicle stick and perforated the intestine again. Back to surgery where they tried to remove several objects and suture the several holes. Ultimately, the adhesions had damaged the intestines, and they ruptured again allowing fecal material into his abdomen. While another surgery may have been an option, it was not going to fix deteriorated intestines. We had reached the end of our journey. At 11 PM on January 2nd, Bear crossed the rainbow bridge.

Prognosis went to 75% and I said “GO!” Bear survived and bounced back even stronger. Thank you CareCredit, United Airlines Mileage Plus credit card, a small retirement account, and of course Bay Area Veterinary Specialists for your incredible skill.

shoulder. What quality of life would he have?



Paw with tumor



Paw without tumor or toe



Cast that came off

We were incident free until the foxtail got in his passenger side front paw. Ok. Been here before. No problem, except the swelling wasn't a foxtail. It was a malignant cancer tumor between his toes. I think Bear was now 12. Could he survive the surgery, possible chemotherapy, and 16 radiation treatments or amputating the front leg at the

Once again, guided by the BAVS professionals, I elected to go through with the tumor removal in hopes that the surgeon could remove the entire tumor, get good margins, and save the leg. Once again, Bear came through like a champ minus two toes. At this point, I stopped taking Bear on my 5K run, but we still managed to cover 5+ miles a day.

I do believe that Bear saved my life. Several years ago, I started experiencing heart attack symptoms daily for almost two months. Eventually, I was diagnosed with a 95% blockage of one of the two arteries to the heart. When I passed out in the house one day before getting diagnosed and having a stint put in, I was revived by a big pink tongue licking my face. It was Bear.





The cardiologist speculated that because I walked and ran so much with Bear that my heart adapted to the blockage that should have killed me. Thank you my friend. Bear was my 75 lb. lap dog that was



ever present in my life. When I was upstairs, he would lay on the top step waiting for me to come down, and when I was in the home office,

some of those experiences were chronicled in the Bear's-Eye View of Alameda and shared with so many of you. There are several episodes that just need to be polished up, and I plan to post them on Sundays. Not sure what the future holds after that.

Both Catherine and Randy have encouraged me to find a new companion and start a new

he would lay across the doorway. There was no escaping my buddy. He slept on the bed with me and always was perpendicular taking up the entire bed.

Together, we walked the streets of Alameda and shared in many, many adventures. Fortunately,

adventure. In time, I think that is a likely plan and possibly to continue the BEV Sunday posts in memory of Bear. In the meantime, I still run and walk the streets of Alameda and keep Bear's spirit with me.

I think Brian described our relationship the best when he texted me and said that Bear was "my wingman." Would like to think that Bear considered me his wingman as well. What I miss the most is the wet nose that would always greet me at the door, and our last walk of the day no matter how late it was.

Miss my big dog and best buddy.

Bear's Human Companion
- Jeff 





Tech-Sniffing Therapy Dogs

Duluth News Tribune

Therapy dogs are increasingly being accepted into Children's Advocacy Centers and courtrooms to help comfort children being examined, interviewed and cross-examined in child sexual abuse cases, but the State of Minnesota has developed an even more novel program where dogs are fighting child sex exploitation.

"Sota," a British Labrador, has joined the state's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) as an electronic device-sniffing dog. Her super-sensitive sense of smell can locate the scent of triphenylphosphine oxide, a chemical coating on electronics like cell phones, USB drives, and memory storage cards. These devices often are hidden from investigators searching for evidence of child pornography and online sex trafficking.

The Duluth News Tribune reported that Sota has already assisted the BCA on ten cases since May and has found 21 different pieces of evidence. Though trained to work on investigations of violent and financial crimes, authorities plan to use her primarily in child exploitation cases in the bureau's predatory crimes section.

Want to be more productive?-- Bring on the Puppies!

Courtesy of Woman's World

In a study at Japan's University of Hiroshima, researcher Hiroshi Nittono, Ph.D., found that looking at pictures of puppies improved participants' performance and concentration, and it makes them behave more deliberately and carefully in their work.

This effect is so well-known that online animal photos have been dubbed internet "flouff."

Feeling scattered? Search #flouff on Instagram or #CutenessOverload on Twitter for a quick uptick in productivity!



QUIZ

Q: What is a group of cats called? A clouder

Q: Who can hear best? Humans? Dogs? Cats? Cats

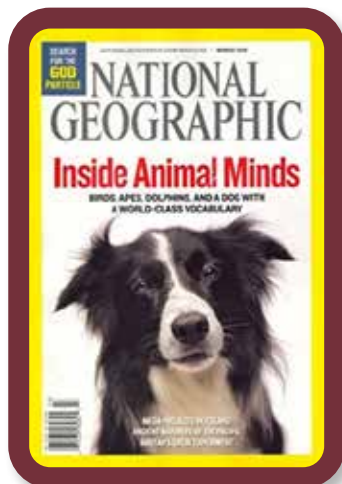
Q: How many muscles control a dog's ear movements? More than a dozen



For Fido on Pesach

(Pesach is Yiddish for Passover.)

I know
a thing or two
about dogs
it seems.
I don't claim
to be an expert
god forbid
or
some kind of whisperer
I wouldn't presume a dog would
listen to me
but when our
eyes meet
in a gaze
not so direct
that it
might cause
discomfort
they know
I've never
met one of
their kind
I didn't like.
Love actually.
I feel the pain
of a Belgian shepherd's
hip dysplasia.
I observe
without judgement



the aloofness of a German
short haired pointer.
I've kept track
of the Rhodesian Ridgeback's
job history
and what state of our 50
has the most Catahoula
hounds
in their shelters.
I am a lover
of the lurcher
and know not only
the physical difference
between
an Irish and Russian
Wolfhound-
I'm not an idiot, after all but
the difference in their
temperaments.
I have framed the cover
of the *National Geographic* issue
featuring the border collie
who knows 356 words.
I can't recall its name
or gender
which might provide evidence
that I'm not on the spectrum
in this department
(not that there's anything
wrong with that).
I've lost sleep
over the inbreeding of
cocker spaniels in the
1960s,
early death from bloat in the
Standard Poodle,
respiratory issues in the
English Bulldog,
and the profit motive
that sends the new
improved
genetically engineered
canis domesticus
to the suburbs
while authentic mutts
who you could change your life

for a song
or less
remain homeless, caged
or waiting to meet their maker.
It's deeper than empathy.
I've considered
it's a past life regression.
We can be ourselves.
We needn't perform.
Or behave.
We can
just
be.
We are enough.
Dayenu.
Down.
Dog.

David Wohl is an actor and a proud
grandfather. 🐶



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loving experts from the Humane
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ety.org/humane-voices](https://humanesociety.org/humane-voices).**



WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WORMS

By Shirley Raye Redmond

Courtesy of May/June 2019 *All God's Creatures*

WORMS ARE WEIRD but amazing creatures. When my grandson was a toddler, he found them horrifying and fascinating at the same time. He could always spot a wriggling earthworm on the sidewalk following a summer rain shower. Holding his small chubby hand in mine, I explained how the earthworm burrows into the soil, making it good for flower beds. I told him that birds, lizards, and even skunks need worms for food.

As he grew older, Wyatt's continued fascination led us to the library one Saturday afternoon to check out book about—you guessed it—worms. We both learned a thing or two. I had no idea that a planarian—a kind of flatworm—can learn to run a maze in a science lab. An arrow worm, which looks like a tooth-

pick, lives in the ocean and swims so fast the human eye cannot follow it. The velvet worm is a flesh eater, hiding under logs in the woods, preying upon small bugs. The Gippsland earthworm is so huge some people mistake it for a snake. The worms are found in Australia, where residents host an annual worm festival with a parade and an earthworm queen!

That afternoon, I marveled at the complexity and diversity of God's creation, and took joy in sharing that special time with my young grandson as we learned more about the amazing animal kingdom. God took time to admire the works of his hands. Maybe we should too. Pause to watch the setting sun. Listen to the birds twitter. Observe that earthworm as it wriggles down the sidewalk. It may be weird, but it's wonderful too. 🐛



The Bald Eagle Population has made a Remarkable Comeback.

The bald eagle population has made a remarkable comeback. But the majestic symbol of American pride is turning out to be a nuisance, especially in Canada.

Flocks have been spotted along highways in the Pacific Northwest, feasting in a landfill in Vancouver. Earlier this year, a ravenous raptor stalked and killed a seagull in front of shocked onlookers at a busy Vancouver golf course.

With an 8-foot wingspan and a distinctive snowy-white head, America's national emblem conjures feelings of patriotism and reverence.

"You're in awe every time you see one," says Jeanine Pesce, who recently moved from New Jersey to British Columbia and now sees the raptors almost daily. "Their physicality and presence is so profound you feel a need to pay homage to them."

But Ms. Pesce, who owns a consulting agency, has had to explain some National Geographic-worthy encounters to her 5-year-old daughter. "One day I watched an eagle drag a Canadian goose back and forth across rocks for hours," she says. "I was told that's how they tenderize their meat."

It wasn't long ago that birdwatchers considered the odds of a bald eagle sighting just this side of a unicorn sighting. Through conservation efforts and the banning of chemicals like DDT, the population recovered to numbers that warranted the bird's removal from the endangered species list in 2007. A recent report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department found that numbers have quadrupled to more than 316,000 in 2019, from 72,000 in 2009.

Those numbers reflect populations only in the lower 48, notes Myles Lamont, a biologist with the



Hancock Wildlife Foundation, a nonprofit in Surrey, British Columbia, that promotes the conservation of wildlife, particularly the bald eagle, and its habitat. "If you factor in the populations in Alaska and Canada you add at least another 150,000 or more birds."

The spike in numbers has prompted joy among animal-lovers—and anxiety among others. Owners of small pets have outfitted little dogs and cats in spiked collars and armor-like vests to keep them from becoming bird food.

"Eagles are strong enough to carry a 12-pound salmon, so a four-pound dog is nothing," says Mark Robokoff, owner of AK Bark pet shop in Anchorage. His shop sells CoyoteVest, a protective jacket covered in Kevlar and spikes, intended to protect small pets from coyotes. Mr. Robokoff immediately recognized its potential in a state with an estimated 30,000 bald eagles. The vest is topped with bright red nylon whiskers that he says scare off the birds from above.

Wildlife experts note that bald eagles can carry and drag a large salmon, but aren't flying off with a meal that weighs nearly as much, if not more, than they do. 🐾

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Letters to our YouTube: youtu.be/DQmuGyX5i6s

James Toupin: *Does anyone know when the show started? My childhood nickname, given me by my parents in the 50s, was Buzz. I'm trying to figure out whether the character or I had the name first.*

Latham: James, The Brother Buzz television show on KPIX, Channel 5 in SFO began in 1952 and ran until 1960. In 1963 a newer program began first with the Wonderful World of Brother Buzz TV series then the Withit series that did not include Brother Buzz as a character. The Brother Buzz story however, began as a serialized story in The Latham Foundation Kind Deeds Messenger school newspaper starting October 1930. It was on as a radio drama in 1938, on KLX radio station in Oakland, CA. On the [Latham.org](https://latham.org) website you can see the history, and get copies of the Kind Deeds Messenger newsletters where it started. Thank you for asking. 🐝

Separation Anxiety in Dogs

Next Generation Treatment Protocols and Practices

By Malena Demartini-Price

It has now been six years since the release of Malena Demartini-Price's best-selling first book, *Treating Separation Anxiety in Dogs*. Not one to rest on her laurels, Malena has been busy teaching and mentoring dog trainers worldwide to become Certified Separation Anxiety Trainers (CSAT). By working in collaboration with a large network of trainers to collect data and conduct research, new strategies have been developed on many of the key elements treating separation anxiety.

Now, in a completely new book, Malena shares these strategies for the use of current technologies on absence management, and improved desensitization techniques. Any trainer or guardian dealing with separation anxiety will find this book a valuable resource.

What the experts say:



“Malena’s first book on separation anxiety was a game changer, but her newest book is even better. It is packed with new information, new insights about the principles involved, and



backed by solid data. To quote from the final sentence in her book, ‘...separation anxiety is fixable...’and Malena brilliantly demonstrates how!”

- Ken Ramirez, author of *The Eye of the Trainer: Animal Training and Transformation*, and *Trustee Executive VP & Chief Training Officer for Karen Pryor Clicker Training*

“Clear, compassionate, data-driven advice about what actually works – and doesn’t. A welcome and indispensable resource I’ll use often with my own clients.”

-Kathy Sdao, M.A., author of *Plenty in Life is Free: Reflections on Dogs, Training & Finding Grace* Owner of Bright Spot Dog Training

Rock-solid information on treating this challenging condition, including a superb section on shelter dogs. 🐾



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