

# THE Latham Letter

VOLUME XLIII, NUMBER 2

Spring 2022

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION



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and Veterans p 6*

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*In Memoriam  
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# MANDATE

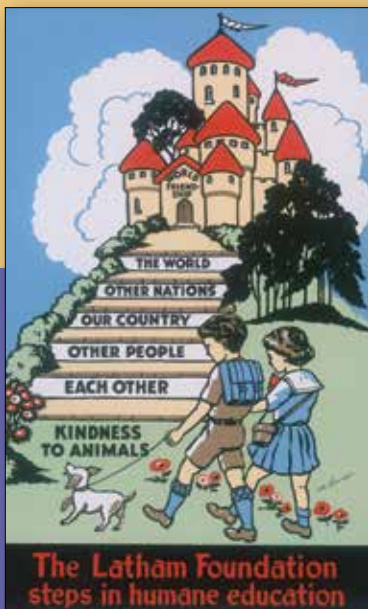
## Edith Latham's **MANDATE:**

"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  
more about all of our resources and grants at  
[www.Latham.org](http://www.Latham.org) or call 510-521-0920.



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Promotion of Humane Education

# The Latham Letter

Volume XLIII, Number 2, Spring 2022

## 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.  
Latham welcomes partnerships with other institutions and  
individuals who share its commitment to furthering humane  
education.

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# Adjusting our Expectations

*Hugh H. Tebault, President*

When is it right to adjust your expectations? In the world we live, there are times when events and outcomes do not fit our expectations. However, that does not mean our expectations are wrong, but rather may need to be “tuned” to better serve us.

We at Latham are now adjusting to no longer having Judy Johns as part of our team. I was privileged to know and work with Judy for over thirty years. During that time we worked on many projects and held great conversations. I will note that while we were 100% in sync on humane education issues, we had different expectations on other issues, but those differences did not impact our work. We respected each other too much to allow that to happen. Recognizing our differences allowed us to consider whether or not we needed to “tune” our expectations. As I look back on the past thirty years, I cannot remember any big change, but I believe I became a better person because of my work with Judy.

Judy also led the Latham efforts in assisting the Association of Professional Humane Educators (APHE) organization. APHE is a volunteer organization with outstanding members. Their members represent a diverse population, but their commitment to helping teach humane education principles in their communities is unrivaled.

We live in a society that prides itself on diversity, the original motto being E Pluribus Unum, one from many. This referred to the individual states binding together for their mutual benefit into a single nation. It was never to eliminate the individual character, but to

work together for a common goal. That ability to have individual identities while focusing on the common goals and while working with other individuals is a strong American trait. When anyone tries to change our expectations by pitting one group against another, we need to be aware and reject division. It never serves us, but more often only gives more power to the person seeking to divide our citizens.

The Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education has expectations that it was established to promote in 1918. Those expectations have been “tuned” over the years, but remain faithful to their founding values. The value of teaching a child about showing respect toward animals and others is fundamental to their success in life. Exactly how that respect is shown is somewhat varied based on the communities in which we live.

Each year our Latham grant program is honored to recognize many fine programs. We share stories of their unique programs here in the Latham Letter with the hope that you will find elements to help you in your own work. The 2022 Grants program is in progress now. We again seek programs that promote humane education through animal-assisted activities where both animals and people benefit, AND we are giving priority to programs that include services to the military, veterans, first responders and their families.

As you work with others, remember to consider tuning your expectations. The goal is to help improve our society and each other’s lives. In the USA this is reflected by honoring the Constitution and rule of law, applied equally to all. In humane education terms, it reflects our showing respect to animals, each other, other people and our nation so we may all benefit. 🐾

# LATHAM 2022 GRANT AWARDS

## Apply for Latham Grant Awards July 1-8, 2022

### Eligibility:

Programs that focus on animal-assisted activities that demonstrate people and animals working together for the benefit of both, and include humane education.

This year, 2022, we are giving priority to programs that include services to animals and the military, veterans, first responders and their families. Applicants must be U.S. organizations with domestic programs.

Nonprofit organizations will have priority but grants will not be limited to those who have attained 501(c)(3) status.

### 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 three months of the end of this grant period and to make that report and any publicity that results from it available to Latham for its use.

The Latham 2022 Grant program has been published on our website. As before, there are three web pages:

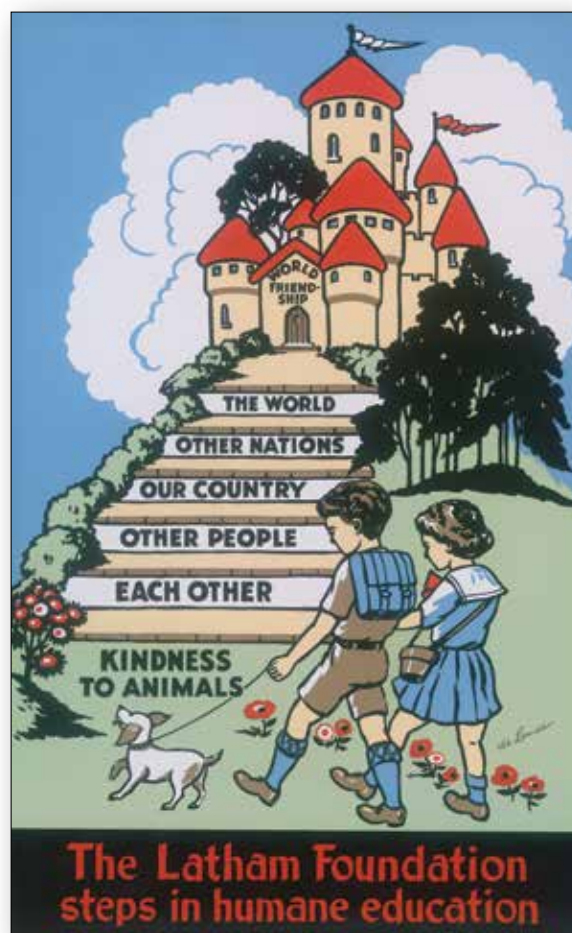
1. The general information page seeks to show the why of the program, and share Latham's purpose. [www.latham.org/grants/general-information/](http://www.latham.org/grants/general-information/)
2. The specifics of the program are listed on the How to apply and Deadlines: [www.latham.org/grants/deadlines-how-to-apply/](http://www.latham.org/grants/deadlines-how-to-apply/)

This page also is where you may download a written copy of the Grant Program information: [www.latham.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Grant-Requirements-2022-Final.pdf](http://www.latham.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Grant-Requirements-2022-Final.pdf)

3. Finally, the Grant Application form is to be used July 1 – July 8, 2022

<https://www.latham.org/grants/application/>

Proposals should show that they acknowledge the first four of Latham's "Steps to Humane Education:" Kindness to Animals, to Each Other, to Other People, and to Our Country. You can sign up at [www.Latham.org](http://www.Latham.org) to receive all the latest news from Latham. Please share news of this opportunity among your colleagues.





## Healing Heroes *At Your Service*

***Submitted by Michael Kolar, written by Molly Neher,  
Director of Operations and Programs of Atlas  
Assistance Dogs***

For six years, Atlas Assistance Dogs has been working to address the unmet needs of disabled people who would significantly benefit from a life-changing service dog. Atlas works with people with disabilities to support them as they train their own dog as a service dog using only ethical and positive methods. Many people can and want to

be part of the process of training their own service dog but need some extra help as they navigate the intricacies of what the training entails. Along with the dog training aspect, Atlas supports people as they learn to navigate their everyday life as service dog handlers. This is no easy task. From answering sometimes very invasive questions about their health from complete strangers,

being denied access to public spaces with their dog, and just figuring out how a service dog now fits into their daily routines, there is a big and important learning curve. Unfortunately, resources for these people are lacking which is why we at Atlas focus as much on the people end of the leash as we do the dog end.

Thanks to the Latham Foundation and the 2021 grant that we received, we are working to further our mission and help even more people who could benefit from a service dog. As discussed, many people can and want to train their own service dog. However, an additional barrier for some is the starting process. Beginning with a puppy may not be an option for some people. For people with mobility disabilities, caring for and training a young puppy may be physically unrealistic. For others with psychiatric or cognitive disabilities, the heightened energy and needs of a puppy may be far too much stress to the person and could impact the dog's long-term success as a service dog. For this reason, we have developed a new program, Assistance Dogs Set in Motion™, that works specifically to support people who can train their own service dog if they have an adolescent with a solid foundation to start with.

What's more, the Latham Foundation has given us the opportunity to provide this service at significantly reduced cost to at least one veteran in need. And this is what we are doing.

*Continued on next page*

## Lottie and Amy

Meet Lottie, an eager and precious chocolate Labrador who is working hard to become a service dog for a veteran coping with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). With her puppy raiser, Lottie is currently learning all the essential basics that any puppy should know such as potty training and building confidence around all types of people, animals, and places. As she grows, she will also be learning the building blocks of what a service dog must know. She is learning how to walk nicely on a leash, curl into tight spaces, and ignore even the most exciting distractions such as birds and squirrels. She will also be learning foundation skills to build onto the disability tasks that will make a significant difference in her future person's life.

When Lottie turns one, she will be transferred over to Amy. Amy is a veteran who enjoys tending to her farm and various livestock in her home in Washington state. But due to her PTSD, she does not venture into any public spaces and spends the majority of her time on her property. She relies on her husband to do the grocery shopping

and her social life has become very limited. Going out in public means almost certain panic attacks. With Lottie and the tasks that she will learn to do, the goal is for Amy to regain a sense of independence and joy in navigating the world, something most people take for granted. Lottie will alert Amy and let her know if/when a panic attack is beginning to escalate and help her mitigate her symptoms. She will keep Amy grounded through deep pressure therapy where Lottie will place her head or full body on Amy for an extended time.



***Lottie proudly wearing her Atlas in-training vest while demonstrating great impulse control, ignoring the geese around her. (Photo by Laura Rogers)***

Lottie will also help Amy manage her hypervigilance by alerting her if someone is approaching from behind, as well positioning herself strategically between Amy and other people, thereby creating a safety buffer.

Amy first realized that a service dog could significantly change her life when she was requested to appear in court to give testimony. She was expecting to have a significant panic attack that day, but instead, got through her entire testimony and time at the courthouse without one. How? Through the support of a specially trained facility dog. Courthouse facility dogs

are individually trained to provide specific tasks (beyond comfort) for certain individuals testifying in court. Seeing the immense benefit that this dog provided Amy, it was clear to her that a full-time, trained service dog who could address her specific needs could be life changing.

## Service Dogs for OVeterans

Service dogs can significantly improve the lives of people with a wide range of disabilities. When looking at veteran populations

*Continued on next page*



*Alison and Jack have worked hard together and could not be more proud! (Photo by Gabriel Lawler)*

where the rate of suicide is 50% higher than the general population, [research](#) has found that those benefiting from a service dog reported 25% decrease in PTSD symptoms vs. those without a service dog. They also found that those with service dogs had an increase in family resilience and that the spouse also benefited.

Indeed, we have seen time and time again how beneficial the bond between dog and human can be. For someone with PTSD, a service dog can truly mean the difference between surviving and thriving. However, Amy and Lottie's work will not be complete once Lottie goes home to her. As a one-year-old dog, Lottie will still have a lot of training to complete to become a fully trained service dog, and Amy will have a lot to learn as well.

## *The Benefits of Owner-Training*

The unique aspect of our program involves teaching and supporting the new dog handler to continue with the training. While a fully trained service dog is life-changing, the mere act of training the dog is too. The steps necessary to take in order to train the dog typically involve leaving the home, ensuring that the person has a good support network, and actively participating in activities that they would possibly avoid otherwise. Many people with disabilities (not all) may experience depression on top of their other disabilities. The motivation for one's dog to succeed can drive a person to push themselves in ways they may have thought impossible or unobtainable.

Atlas client Alison experienced this first-hand when she was working with us to train her psychiatric service dog, Jack: "Being around people, going into stores - busy grocery stores to make sure your dog is comfortable - is really hard. I have to make sure my dog is comfortable in situations that I wouldn't be. Dogs need all different kinds of training, in front of lots of different sounds. It sucks on your own but the Atlas trainers/facilitators are a huge support. You're not just there yourself, but you have to be vulnerable because your dog is still in training and you have to pay attention to that as well."

Amy, who also avoids many places and people, has already told us how motivated she is to learn alongside her dog. Through small but manageable steps, they

*Continued on next page*



*Beth is in tune with her service dog Harvey better than ever before. (Picture by Beth Mantis)*

will venture into uncomfortable situations which will help them learn to be out together as a team.

Owner-training also means building an incredible bond with the dog. As the team learns and works together, they develop a unique language and understanding of each other's needs.

Beth, another Atlas client, perfectly describes this when asked about her experience training her hearing alert dog: "It really has changed my perspective on how we should and can relate to animals to improve their world."

Both Beth and Alison trained their own dog to become their service dog through our client program with the support of Atlas Team Facilitators, who volunteer their time to help train the team of

the person and their dog. We focus on helping our clients build that important bond with their dog as they navigate their everyday life in public; we teach them how to advocate for themselves as service dog handlers; and of course, we help them teach their dog those crucial tasks which will mitigate their disability.

### *Why Not Start with a Puppy?*

The road to fully training Lottie, as with training any service dog, will be long and sometimes bumpy. While some may be able to train their own dog from puppyhood, this would not have been the best option for Amy who is fearful that the impact of her frustrations and PTSD-induced emotional

states could have significant and long-term repercussions on the puppy's success as a service dog. Indeed, exposing a young pup to panic attacks and other high stress situations too soon and without proper training could result in the puppy developing long-lasting fears, avoidance behaviors, and may overall make the dog unsuitable for service work.

On the human end of the leash, dealing with an energetic, untrained puppy could be far too overwhelming and stress inducing for Amy. What would be a positive and loving bond between human and dog, could turn into frustration and resentment. Receiving a slightly older dog with a solid training baseline will help this Team succeed together.

*Continued on next page*

## Giving Back

While Amy's most important goal is gaining her independence back and thriving alongside her dog, she also has another important goal in mind. Passionate about the veteran community that she belongs to, she would love to provide support to others like her. Some service dog handlers also choose to have their dogs do therapy work; this is exactly what Amy would love to eventually be able to do for her fellow veterans. Though Lottie has not entered her home quite yet, Amy is already planning for their future together. Once Lottie and Amy are a solid working team supporting Amy's independence and access to the world, they will take the step together to support others. Amy has told us that she would like to visit VA hospitals with Lottie and help veterans benefit from the warmth and joy that a dog can bring. For someone who struggles to walk out the door, to envision not only meeting basic tasks of daily living, but to share herself and her dog with other veterans is a huge step. Because of the Latham Foundation, this one dog will not only help one veteran, but many more!


By supporting more people to train their own service dog, we can significantly increase the quality of life of many disabled people, be they veterans or civilians. Atlas Assistance Dogs is always looking for passionate volunteers to help support our clients in the training of their dog and helping to make a difference

in their lives. Together, we can make a serious impact in the lives of many.

## Atlas Assistance Dogs

Atlas fundamentally expands access to assistance dogs. We support people with disabilities to train and certify their own service dog using positive, ethical training methods. At Atlas, we

believe anyone who would benefit from a qualified assistance dog should be able to have one.

For more information visit [www.atlasdog.org](http://www.atlasdog.org) or contact [info@atlasdog.org](mailto:info@atlasdog.org) 



*An Atlas service dog supporting his person in uniform.  
(Photo by Shelly Phillips)*

## Paw Patrol Program at Hero's Bridge

We understand the deeper connection between animal and humans and the value it brings to those who embrace it. We find, time and time again, that the endless love, compassion, and unrelenting loyalty of animals truly elevates the quality of life for our nation's heroes.

Hero's Bridge appreciates the opportunity to partner with an organization that genuinely understands the concept. When it comes to their animals, our veterans would sacrifice anything necessary to provide and care for their furry companion. The support of the Latham Foundation allows us the opportunity to aid our veterans and their companions in a multitude of ways. The healing and therapeutic essence that animals so naturally provide to us as their human counterparts is powerful on a level unmatched by other interventions or initiatives.

Neither animals nor veterans should ever be in a position where they need to sacrifice basic life necessities. Your kindness is what affords us the chance to fulfill what we believe is our personal responsibility, to care for those living beings that often cannot care for themselves, human and animals alike.

The steps for humane education as shown on the Latham Foundation website truly resonate with the foundational values of our

program. Bulleted below you will find some of our most exciting program highlights from the last six months.

- Local volunteer, Val Amster and her miniature therapy horse, Lola, recently attended a joint Paw Patrol visit with Hero's Bridge to the White Springs nursing facility in Warrenton. The residents absolutely loved her and had so many questions about her daily life.



the arena, each with a horse, and exploring the non-verbal communication between human and animal. We are working with HEAL staff to brainstorm ways in which our relationship can continue and to schedule future mini-series visits.



- Paw Patrol Volunteers – One of our most dedicated Paw Patrol volunteers, along with her family, proudly represented Hero's Bridge in the Remington Christmas Parade.

- Horsepower Equine Assisted Learning (HEAL) Foundation – Our trial therapy and education program at HEAL concluded at the end of October. We received many positive thoughts and comments from our veterans. They truly enjoyed being in

- Culpeper Humane Society "CHS" – We partnered with the CHS team to deliver and install multiple cat shelters for a veteran and his colony of cats. These shelters are made from donated coolers.



*Continued on next page*

- Fauquier County SPCA – Devon Settle and her team have been enthusiastic about their ability to assist with Hero's Bridge. In the fourth quarter, her team of handlers have been able to assist with our Paw Patrol visits.

- Good Dog Workshop LLC, based in Warrenton, reached out to us with an interest in contributing to Hero's Bridge. Brian Kerchner and his team focus on natural training methods and have been an incredible wealth of information surrounding dog and human interaction. They are very eager to work with Hero's Bridge and we look forward to further establishing and defining our relationship with their group.

- Bird Buddies – A group of artistic volunteers gathered to paint/decorate bird houses for our veterans. We distributed bird houses and supplemental bird feeders to bring an element of nature to their

homes. Our dedicated Paw Patrol volunteers monitor and maintain the bird feeders. We have found that this type of "task" often serves as an ice breaker and allows our volunteers to further assist our veterans or simply develops an additional form of human contact.

11/15/22

DEAR FELLOW VETERAN  
FIRST OF ALL THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE  
I TOO AM A VIET NAM VET, 1966-67.  
BOTH ENGINEER BN. I'M 71 YEARS OLD &  
LIVE ALONE. MY WIFE PASSED 4 1/2 YRS.  
AGO. I HOPE YOU CAN GET INTO THE  
NEW VILLAGE, WHEN ITS READY.  
IF YOU ARE ABLE, GET YOUR-  
SELF A SMALL DOG, THEY ARE  
GREAT COMPANY.  
GOD BLESS  
YOU SIR

Dear Faithful Veteran,

It doesn't matter if you served five years ago or 50. You made a difference. Our country is blessed because of you. Please know that I am eternally grateful to you for raising your right arm and swearing to protect the United States during your time in the military.

May you feel a sense of satisfaction for your service to our nation. Please know that I appreciate you.

Sincerely,

Tony Bezok - LYNDAHURST, VA.

- In response to a direct mail campaign, Hero's Bridge recently received many cards from individuals across the country. Above is a card from Mr. Tony Bezok that includes his testament to having an animal in his life. We thought you may enjoy reading it.

In closing, we cannot thank the Latham Foundation enough for supporting our vision and mission to care for our senior heroes and any animal friend they call family.

Kayla Johnson,  
Hero's Bridge Patrol Coordinator  
[www.herosbridge.org](http://www.herosbridge.org)

## HAIAPA Convention Student poster session - Virtual

Are you a student who has recently completed a project on human-animal interaction (empirical or theoretical)?

The Human-Animal Interaction (HAI) section is seeking students interested in participating in a virtual poster session during the HAI social hour during the annual APA Convention August 4-6, 2022.

If you are interested in submitting a poster proposal relevant to human-animal interaction, please submit your application to [Dr. Karen Schaefer](#) by **July 8, 2022**.

Poster proposals should include a cover sheet and a 500- to 1000-word summary of the study in APA style. The abstract should include some description of the nature of the presentation (empirical, theoretical, technique) and primary findings. Summaries of empirical studies should include a brief literature review, statement of the problem (hypotheses or research questions), participants, procedures, results, and conclusions. Summaries of other presentations should include enough detail for reviewers to judge the overall format and contribution of the scholarship.

The proposals will be subjected to masked review. Please do not include identifying information in the proposal (only on the cover sheet).

The cover sheet should include the title, all authors (including name, highest degree, professional affiliation, email and phone number).

Please direct questions to [Dr. Karen Schaefer](#).





*Just a few months after announcing our Editor Judy Johns was retiring after 30 years with The Latham Foundation, the whole world had to say goodbye to her. The following pages are some inspiring tributes to our humane education maverick:*

*Our Vice President and Board Member Stacey Zeitlin honored Judy at the recent APHE conference:*

“Hello, my name is Stacey Zeitlin and I had the honor of serving on the APHE board for

12 years. I am a current APHE advisor, the VP of Community Impact at San Diego Humane Society and a VP and board member at The Latham Foundation.

If you have attended an APHE conference in person in the past, hopefully you had the honor of meeting Judy Johns, the previous Director of Marketing and Communications of The Latham Foundation and the managing editor of The Latham Letter.

Judy was serving as APHE Treasurer when I joined the board in 2005 and she was committed to supporting APHE and humane education through her 30 years at The Latham Foundation. When WHEEA, which was the organization that became APHE, needed a mailing address and additional support, Judy was there. She was there for APHE through the years as a board member, advisor, conference “tabler,” donor, friend and more.

She was passionate about sharing programs that highlight the healing power of animal-assisted therapies, the importance of humane education and the power of the human-animal bond through The Latham Letter so that others could learn and perhaps model programs in their own communities based on these successful programs.

On Tuesday, April 19th the world lost an amazing, beautiful soul when it lost Judy. She always encouraged kindness and compassion towards all living beings and loved sharing the amazing work that all of you were doing through your programs.

Thank you, Judy, for your years of service to APHE and humane education and for your friendship! I’ll miss seeing you at conferences throughout the year and will always strive to honor and celebrate humane education as you did!



*Posts from other Humane Educators:*

-Thank you for your words Stacey! Can’t thank Judy enough for her contributions to humane education and APHE!

-Thanks Stacey for those words on behalf of Judy.

-Thank you Stacey. Judy will never be forgotten.

-Judy was a treasure!

-Well said, Stacey. Judy was such a huge part of APHE and will be very missed.

-We are so sorry for the loss of Judy!

-Such a beautiful soul and inspiration to all!

-Judy was an amazing person! She inspired me.

[hansenmortuary.com/obituary/644867/Judy-Johns/](https://hansenmortuary.com/obituary/644867/Judy-Johns/)



## No Animals Were Harmed

*By Peter Asselanis*

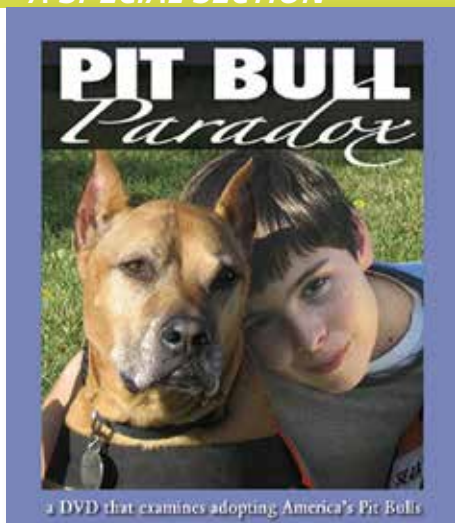
This year, with Judy Johns's passing, we mourn the significant loss of a kind and gentle soul who dedicated her life's work to humane education. Judy's extensive career in the field is something to be celebrated; she spent much of her time on television and film sets making sure that animals were not being harmed or put in danger. A passing production would be given her stamp of approval, and could proudly denote in the titles that "no animals were harmed in the making of this film." Judy's passion for humane education was not just limited to animals on set; she also was the President of the

Association of Professional Humane Educators (the APHE), and the editor of the Latham Letter for over 30 years. She will not only be remembered for the kindness she ensured to animals on set, but also for the friendliness shown to everyone who had the privilege of working with her. I was one of those people who Judy inspired through her dedication and kindness, and I would be remiss if no credit was given to my mother's late friend and coworker for over 20 years.

My humane education began straight from the horse's mouth.

Miss Johns came to my first-grade class, and as we sat around her on the floor, she asked us if we had seen a movie or TV show with animals in it. We had! She then described to all of us six- and seven-year-olds how her job was to start research on a specific animal and what behaviors they were going to be asked to do for a particular film production. In doing so she could be sure that all the knowledge required to care for the animal was in her head before filming took place. Whether it was an elephant or a cat, Judy learned what its particular care and comfort needs would be. It was all important for

*Continued on next page*



***Judy took this photo of me and Dakota, a search and rescue dog, after we finished filming our scenes for 'Pit Bull Paradox'***

her to guarantee that the animals were treated kindly. Such insight into the production of media was as intriguing as it was novel to my classmates and me. *Iron Will* (1994) was a film she mentioned working on about sled dogs that also starred her boyfriend George Gerdes, a human actor. I remember looking everywhere for a place to rent the movie; back when you could only do so at an actual location, but only finding a single copy on VHS at my local library. It may sound odd, but learning that there was a process behind filmmaking that went unseen by the viewer made my younger self more curious about humane education. Judy showed me that treating animals well is an ongoing social project that we all participate in and that there were many parts for everyone to play.

Although we may take it for granted these days, the safety of

animal actors was not always a concern, yet they have been an integral part of cinematography from the beginning. Eadweard Muybridge's photography sequence of a horse galloping in 1878 is the earliest example of the key role animals would play. With the rise of the



feature-length silent film, animal actors helped captivate audiences well before modern audio accompanied films. One major problem was that neither the animals nor the people handling them had the proper training necessary for all parties' well-being. Another problem was a lack of general

safety precautions. Even though there was an established code of ethics that, in part, protected animal actors, there was evidence that directors were putting both kinds of actors in harm's way. In 1925 The American Humane

Society launched an investigation into animal cruelty allegations on film sets. Advocacy for animal actors came to fruition when the production of the film *Jessie James* led to the death of a horse in 1939. A large protest was held against



the movie, which led to a 1940 agreement stipulating that filmmakers must consult with American Humane to ensure the safety of animals and their human coworkers.

From then on, the film and television crew of the American Humane Society would be a feature on set throughout the United States. Their program successfully ended the needless endangerment of animal actors. Judy would continue this tradition of humane education and did her part to ensure that no animals would be harmed during modern filmmaking.

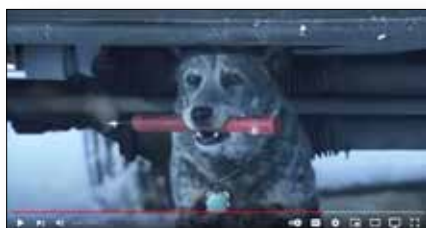
Even in frigid conditions, it was important that she kept humans and dogs safe. I was fortunately able to see Judy at work when I had the privilege of visiting the production of the movie *The Darwin Awards* (2006). The film



featured a scene where a dog had a stick of "dynamite" in its mouth and had to carry it some distance. The dynamite prop had no explosives, but the fuse would be lit while it was in the dog's mouth. Judy was there to make sure the dog actor was never really in harm's way; even with a seemingly safe prop that still could have had some sparks. If there had to be

*Continued on next page*

an animal carrying a flame then every safety precaution would be undertaken by the crew. The solution was to use a longer fuse that would give the dog ample time to



perform the scene and the flame would still be some distance away. Such a stunt required someone with eye for detail and a heart for animals to be present and aware of anything that could go wrong. Though an easy thing to be aware of in hindsight, having the necessary expertise around animals is essential when filming with them. It is one thing to explain the dangers of fire to humans, but animals need to be carefully watched. Making the dog nervous or scared could endanger not only the animal actor but the human ones too. Judy was an expert in such fields and dutifully ensured the safety of the dog, even in such a volatile environment. With her help, the film could be certain that no animals were harmed during the making of the film.

Judy's demeanor throughout her career is perhaps the most impressive. Everyone who knew her, or even just briefly worked with her, all attest to how genuinely nice she was: from the little pleasantries, like asking about your day, to grander gestures such as sending a Latham-themed stuffed animal to the child of a coworker

she missed. I only got to go to the aforementioned movie set because she was kind enough to invite my mother and me to check it out. When I asked the kind people at the American Humane Society, I was happy to read what so many of her peers had to say about her.

Jessica from American Humane said:

"Judy monitored countless productions in Los Angeles but also many throughout the US and several internationally. No matter where Judy worked and whether it was a student film or a big-budget



motion picture, productions would all say the same thing and how warm, sweet, knowledgeable, and helpful Judy was. They would say 'Judy is great!' and she was. Judy was a champion for animals and made a tremendous impact over the years. Judy was an absolute joy to spend time and work with. A true earth angel that will be missed."

Tonya, also from American Humane, had this to add:

"I would love to mention how kind and sweet Judy always was.

She was someone that when she saw you immediately paid a compliment and always wanted to make you feel special. She had a way of making anyone she spoke to feel special. She was a gentle, kind, and compassionate person and she will be missed by us all."

Even those who did not know much about her personal life had nothing but good things to say about her.

Michael Kaufmann, Director at the Sam and Myra Ross Institute, Green Chimneys, who worked with Judy for 30 years, said:

"The absence of the name Judy Johns leaves a deep gap at the Latham Foundation, at the Association of Professional Humane Educators, and for anyone active in humane education, animal protection, and human-animal interaction. Judy was impactful for decades, a quiet but powerful presence and someone who "lead from behind." She preferred to keep a low profile, to facilitate others, to let THEM shine, and in the process, the message of humane education that she so deeply cared about was amplified and deepened in the hearts and minds of intergenerational audiences.



*Continued on next page*

The impact of her vision and work is profound and has made a significant difference in a complicated and ever-changing world. The vision she had will be carried on by those she influenced and inspired.”

Clearly, Judy’s effect was not limited to the animals on set. She made the effort to be nice to humans too! Judy impacted so many in such positive ways, and it is comforting to know her memory will live on with the people who she graced with her friendliness.

Judy was truly an example of the caring side of humanity. She did not like to brag about her achievements, and that among the rest speaks to her magnanimity. However, her career was a necessary endeavor for the well-being of animals, and although they do not speak, and may have not even known of her presence, I am sure they are grateful for her too. Her presence here will be missed by all, but we owe it to her to think of her fondly and continue the work in humane education she was dedicated to. I cannot think of a better way to show gratitude for all the joy she brought us. 🐾



## More from Coworkers from American Humane on Judy:

*From Beth:*

I remember when I had the article published in San Diego magazine that she helped me rework it a little bit to put it in the Latham Letter also.

*From Aiesha:*

I agree with what Tonya wrote. I always found her to be very pleasant and genuinely sweet. Her beautiful smile will be missed.

*From Rebecca*

I do remember she came to Georgia when we first moved and for some reason we couldn't get together. The next thing I know a little stuffed animal Latham dog showed up for Jackson in the mail. He loved that dog! She was just so sweet, kind and thoughtful beyond words. She will be missed dearly.

*From Netta Bank, Sr. Certified Animal Safety Representative TM & Resource Coordinator HumaneHollywood.org*

We loved her so much, and she was so missed when she retired. She was simply a joy.

***Please download our Guidelines for the Safe Use of Animals in Filmed Media:***  
[humanehollywood.org/production-guidelines/](http://humanehollywood.org/production-guidelines/)  
[www.americanhumane.org/](http://www.americanhumane.org/)



## From Latham’s own:

Judy Johns was instrumental in expanding public and multi-disciplinary professional awareness of The Link between animal abuse and human violence. As editor of The Latham Letter, Judy incorporated over 120 articles about The Link since 1987, unleashing a steady stream of information about groundbreaking conferences, key legislation and significant programs. She succinctly described The Link in a phrase that quickly became the movement’s motto: “When animals are abused, people are at risk. When people are abused, animals are at risk.”

She is survived by many, many colleagues and friends who will miss her abundance of wonderful, endearing and delightful traits and her steadfast loving friendship.

*Phil Arkow, Coordinator, [The National LINK Coalition](http://TheNationalLINKCoalition.org)*

Judy Johns, a co-worker, a loyal friend, confidant and soul sister when it comes to the love of animals. I miss her laugh and beautiful smile. I miss her passion and dedication for the mission of the Latham Foundation. I miss our dinners together and long conversations when she stayed at my home during her work weeks at Latham.

Her spirit and love of life will forever be imprinted on my heart.  
*Stacy Baar, Latham Foundation Member*

*Right after Judy retired we asked her to write about her important work and memories working with The Latham Foundation:*

## The Fact That Animals Bring Comfort

By Judy Johns

The fact that animals bring comfort, joy, and healing is hardly a new discovery. Examples abound throughout history and today few people would disagree. Latham has been a catalyst for this acceptance, now called the human-animal bond. We have described numerous examples of the bond in the *Latham Letter* and the videos we produced.

Central to this belief are what we call animal-assisted activities or animal-assisted therapy. Each *Letter* describes such programs in the hope of inspiring other organizations to bring them to their communities.

### Examples include:

A program in Virginia that uses dogs, rabbits, and llamas (yes, llamas!) to teach respect. I learned first-hand that if you want to gather a crowd, walk around (even inside) with a llama on a lead rope.

Much like Green Chimneys, the Crossroads School in South Carolina, highlights animals as therapists in their multi-disciplined program.

“Raise with Praise,” a reward-based dog training program is an after-school violence prevention program for elementary school children in Southern California.

“Bark” is a dog bite prevention program.

“Seniors to Seniors,” is a rescue service that matches older dogs and older people.

“Building Bridges,” SF/SPCA’s therapeutic and instructive program, offers animal encounters for kids and moms from abusive settings.

SHIP (Strategic Humane Interventions Program) teaches clicker training to seniors.

Animal-assisted therapy in hospitals

Pet Programs in Prisons

The Domestic Violence Assistance Program in Oregon

“Transitioning Families:” is an Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) program developed to



reunify families in complex, high conflict scenarios.

Programs that match shelter dogs and human runners/walkers to get the dogs the exercise they need

Programs for residential planners, designers, and developers to encourage them to integrate dog-friendly amenities into their master plans

SF/SPCA’s AAT Program for Psychiatric Patients

A notable, replicable program in Maine that trains Golden Retrievers live in nursing/boarding homes for the elderly

The value of the human-animal bond in hospice care programs

Therapy dogs and their handlers mingle with passengers around airports in Navigator Buddies programs.

## 30 Years With Latham

By Judy Johns

We pulled into the Latham Foundation’s parking lot in a red Porsche convertible. There was Hugh Tebault II, in a coat and tie as usual, walking his Springer Spaniel. I didn’t realize that the exploratory interview we had

that day would lead to the most rewarding and worthwhile job I ever had.

Early on I concentrated on getting a grasp of Latham’s history and determining how best to transition from the “old days” to the 1980s when the fields of animal welfare and humane education were rapidly

expanding. One of Latham’s goals was to increase awareness and acceptance of these new fields.

We didn’t shy away from using the latest technology to spread the word. I remember Mr. Tebault proudly showing me the new, state-of-the-art scanner. He demonstrated: Put the hard copy

of what you wanted to digitize on the flatbed, push a button, and wait patiently. Those were the early days. If the scanner managed to produce a whole sentence correctly, let alone a paragraph or a whole document, you considered it quite a success.

By this time the *Latham Letter* was up and running, publishing balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities. We had about 10,000 subscribers including many university libraries. But again, this was the “old days.” I watched in awe as Steve Nagy ran the hot-off-the-press letters through an amazing contraption that applied pre-printed, zip-code ordered address labels. Careful to keep the magazines in order, he loaded them into those dirty grey bags and delivered them to the Bulk Mail loading dock at the post office. Third class bulk mail wasn’t a priority for the P.O. (hence its reduced cost), but eventually the letters were on their way. Today, the touch of a single computer button handles the distribution.

Before long, responsibility for the *Latham Letter* content fell to me. Then the fun began. I admit I loved pushing the envelope just a little as to what was appropriate. For example, after hearing a chef speak on the importance of using beautifully-presented, nutritious, and sometimes unusual food in their programs, I asked him to write an article for us. It was not a hit. I consoled myself, knowing you can’t please everyone, especially with a readership as diverse as ours.

These were the days before the

internet and Google. Latham became known as a trustworthy source for information on both traditional and emerging humane education activities. We maintained a library of articles from newspapers and other credible sources on topics such as starting an animal shelter, animal-assisted activities, and animal welfare. I can still picture Roberta Wallis, our administrative assistant, answering one of many phone calls, then hurrying to the file cabinet that contained the copies of the articles. She would pull the ones that pertained to the caller’s question and mail them immediately. We prided ourselves on quick responses.

One of the things I’m most proud of is being part of Latham’s push to call attention to what is known as “The Link,” (the connections between animal cruelty and other forms of community and family violence). Today, such connections are common knowledge, but early on we met resistance. To increase interest in the importance of cross-reporting between human service organizations, animal welfare, and the law, we held a small conference. Betty White was our guest of honor and I was lucky enough to be seated next to her at lunch. I’m happy to report that she is just as lovely and funny as you would hope.

A few years later, Hugh Tebault III at the helm, we renewed our efforts to connect with other organizations

and individuals who shared our goals. It was my honor to represent Latham at conferences, large or small, near or far. I think those conferences, and the people I met through the Association of Professional Humane Educators, were the favorite part of my job. Inspiring (and often fun), they were a window into humane activities around the world. There are some truly dedicated, hard-working, and creative people out there! It was always reassuring to learn about the many ways organizations and individuals were climbing Latham’s steps to humane education.

Turns out that ride to Latham in my friend’s Porsche was an auspicious one. I’ll always be grateful for it.

For more on Latham’s history, see [www.latham.org](http://www.latham.org) and Phil Arkow’s book, *Latham and the History of Humane Education: A Centennial Celebration* [View on Amazon](#)

Also available on Amazon, *Latham and the LINK: A Legacy of Cruelty Prevention and Personal Responsibility*.



In honor of Adopt a Shelter Cat Month (June!),  
an oldie but goodie from *The Latham Letter* Winter '95:

## What People Like About Cats\*

R. Lee Zasloff and Aline H. Kidd  
Center for Animals in Society,  
School of Veterinary Medicine,  
University of California, Davis

Estimates of pet ownership indicate that about 30 million households in the United States today have at least one pet cat.<sup>1</sup> In spite of this extraordinary statistic, few studies have explored relationship between people and their feline companions. The purpose of this study was to increase understanding of human-cat relationships and identify factors associated with attachment to companion cats.

Because the objective was to learn about attachment to cats, individuals who were strongly attached to their cats were needed. For this reason, all participants were cat owners who either were members of a nationwide computer cat club or had attended a cat show in Anaheim, California. Altogether, a

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*"Purring creatures who  
sit in your lap tend to reduce  
stress levels."*

---

sample of 100 cat owners took part in the study by completing the Survey of Human-Cat Relationships developed at the Center for Animals in Society at the University of California, Davis. Most of the respondents were women, more than half were married or living with a partner, and all had at least one cat at the time of the study. The length of time they had kept cats as pets ranged from two to 60 years.

More than half of the respondents had adopted their cats from various sources such as shelters, friends or family members, veterinarians, or another person who was giving the cat away. Others had

*Although cats have a reputation for being independent, aloof, and less affectionate and interactive than dogs, nearly all of the respondents indicated some form of interactive behavior as a reason for liking their cats.*



been taken in as strays or were purchased from a breeder or pet shop. A few were kittens from a cat currently in the home, cats that were rescued from abusive situations, or cats received as gifts.

The large majority of participants stated that they preferred cats to all other types of pets. The main reasons given for their preference was that cats are easy to care for, provide their owners with affection and companionship, and have interesting personalities. Other reasons reported were liking the cat's behavior and appearance, feeling that the cat provides comfort, and having "always had cats." One person stated that "purring creatures who sit in your lap tend to reduce stress levels."

In spite of the cat's reputation for being aloof and independent, nearly all respondents indicated some form of interactive behavior as what they like best about their feline companion. They especially liked having the cat sit in their lap or sleep with them. Other characteristics that contributed to liking the cat were purring, having a "great personality," and believing that the cat is responsive to their emotional ups and downs.

When asked about what they don't like about their cats, respondents mostly indicated various annoying behaviors such as jumping on furniture, sitting on paperwork, and waking the caretaker early in morning as well as destructive/

aggressive behavior such as damaging furniture and biting. Other things people did not like about their cats were lack of sociability or affection, irritating natural behaviors such as shedding, depositing hairballs on the carpet, fights with other pets, litter box problems, and difficulty grooming or medicating the cat.

The study also explored the benefits of feline companionship as compared with the benefits of human companionship. To do this, two scales were constructed on which respondents rated their relationships with their cats and with their spouse or significant other. The results showed that these individuals felt that their cats provide them with companionship, something to care for, and a feeling of being needed to a significantly greater extent than do their human companions. They also reported that they derive a great deal of enjoyment from watching their cats. On the other hand, human companions were rated significantly higher in providing a feeling of safety and as a motivator for exercise.

Participants were also asked what they get from people that they don't get from their cats and what they get from their cats that they don't get from people. The most frequent responses regarding relationships with people were "conversation and verbal communication" followed by "affection and support," and "intellectual stimula-

*The results of this study demonstrate that people can and do become highly attached to their cats. The respondents reported that their feline companions fulfilled important needs for companionship, nurturance, and feeling needed to a greater extent than did their human companions.*

tion." Responses given most often concerning relationships with their cats were "unconditional love and affection," "undivided loyalty and devotion," and "total acceptance." For the most part, human-cat relationships were viewed as having important emotional benefits and human-human relationships produced mainly social and intellectual benefits with the emotional factor also being important.

The results of this study demonstrate that people can and do become highly attached to their cats. The respondents reported that their



*The cat owners in this study saw themselves as having the best of all worlds in their pet.*

feline companions fulfilled important needs for companionship, nurturance, and feeling needed to a greater extent than did their human companions. Watching their cats was also extremely pleasurable for them.

Similar to close human companions, pets demonstrate their affection by greeting us when we come

home, staying close by or sitting in our lap, sleeping with us, and seeking out our company in a variety of ways.<sup>2,3</sup> Although cats have a reputation for being independent, aloof, and less affectionate and interactive than dogs, nearly all of the respondents indicated some form of interactive behavior as a reason for liking their cats. Two individuals even complained that their cats don't come when called.

An important characteristic of animal companions is that they are unchanging in their interactions with us.<sup>4</sup> Unlike human relationships which often involve a variety of interpersonal conflicts, relationships with pets are relatively free of the pets' judgements and critical evaluations. Their affection for their owners seems independent of their owners' social or financial status, appearance, or day-to-day ups and downs and mood swings. This was confirmed by the reports of respondents in this study concerning the differential benefits of cat vs human companionship. However, the comparisons also indicate that both kinds of relationships are important for these pet owners and that companion animals may serve as a complement, not as a replacement, for human contact.

These cat owners saw themselves as having the best of all worlds in their pet ownership. They have an animal that is easy to care for and provides emotional comfort and pleasurable activity without the

conflicts that often accompany close human relationships. Even potentially serious behavior problems, such as destructiveness or misuse of the litter box, did not outweigh the



*For the most part, human-cat relationships were viewed as having important emotional benefits and human-human relationships produced mainly social and intellectual benefits with the emotional factor also being important.*

positive benefits derived from the cat's affection and playfulness. Further research is needed to investigate the particular role of feline companions in contributing to the quality of human life.

1. Handy, G.L. (1992-1993, December-January). *The Year of the Cat* offers excellent opportunities for humane agencies. *Shelter Sense*, P.4.
2. Horn, J.C. & Meer, J. (1984, August). *The pleasure of their company*. *Psychology Today*, pp. 52-57.
3. Serpell, J. (1986). *In the company of animals*. London: Blackwell.
4. Beck, A. & Katcher, A.H. (1983). *Between people and pets*. New York: Putnam's.

#### Author Notes

\*Scientific paper published in *Psychological Reports*, 1994, 74, pp. 747-752.



Also please enjoy 'Cat Tale' with Betty White: [vimeo.com/288274790](https://vimeo.com/288274790)

## “Love Shouldn’t Hurt” Webcast Features The Link

National Link Coalition Coordinator conducted a 25-minute video podcast for Project SARAH (Stop Abusive Relationships At Home) for Jewish Family & Children’s Services of Southern New Jersey. The video, hosted by Project SARAH Coordinator Hilary Platt, is part of the “Love Shouldn’t Hurt” educational series and discusses The Link between animal abuse and human violence. It is [available online](#).



## OVC Announces 20 Grants for Domestic Violence Victims with Pets

The U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Victims of Crime has announced a deadline of June 13 to accept proposals for its 2022 Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance Grant Program. The program will fund five grants of up to \$400,000 each and 15 grants of up to

\$100,000 each to fund shelter and transitional housing and other assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and their pets. Awards will be for a 36-month period of performance, beginning on Oct. 1.

## \$700,000 Grant to Help Arizona Pet Survivors of Domestic Violence

The Arizona Humane Society has been awarded a \$700,000 state grant for its Project Away From Home that provides temporary foster care for pets belonging to domestic violence survivors and others facing housing instability. The grant is part of a larger \$1.27 million grant to protect pets when owners are facing instability and during natural disasters and to connect at-risk youth with educational programs involving animals.

The grant, announced by Arizona

Gov. Doug Ducey during a tour of the humane society’s campus in Phoenix, is partly in response to the organization’s rescue efforts last year for pets impacted by devastating wildfires and flooding. The grant includes:

\$700,000 for Project Away From Home to assist pet owners experiencing domestic violence, financial crises, housing instability, or emergency hospitalization until they get back on their feet. \$370,000 for Disaster Response & Emergency Rescue to fund a pop-up shelter,

kenneling system and rescue truck for holding animals during disasters. \$200,000 for educational programming to reach 2,000 at-risk and special need youth with hands-on learning experiences and career opportunities with animals. 🐾



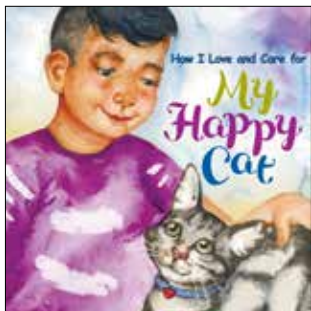
# The Kindness Collection

By Valerie Ingram

Reviewed by School Teacher  
Paige Simmons

As a 3rd grade teacher, I was so excited to read and engage with resources that can better help students understand the level of care and compassion that animals need.

I was even more excited to see just how engaging and thorough the



books and materials in the 'Kindness Collection' were. It can be extremely difficult

to help students understand the seriousness of caring for an animal in an age appropriate and effective way, but the books and activities within the collection make it approachable while still relaying the important information. Some of the books that really stood out to me were *Out of the Cold*, *How I Love and Care for My Happy Dog/Cat*, and *Nobody's Cat*.

These books were able to address a variety of topics from everyday pet care to the proper treatment of feral animals as well as how a community can come together to better support animals; all in an engaging and age appropriate manner. What I found truly special about the

collection was the amount of companion resources for each of the books. *The Critter Care Singalong Songs* booklet stood out as

a fun and easy way for children to learn proper care for animals. Setting the tune of the animal care songs to songs that children are already familiar with makes remembering, as well as practicing, the care described in each song fun and simple. *The Discussion and Activity Guides* for both *Out of the Cold* and *How I Love and Care for My Happy Dog/Cat* are such effective tools to check for understanding as well as to reflect on the content. The activities range from questions that I could ask individual students as they work on an independent activity to whole class service learning activities

making it next to effortless for a teacher to integrate these lessons into the classroom. I highly recommend the 'Kindness Collection' as an accessible, engaging, and educational resource for children and teachers alike.

Paige Simmons  
3rd Grade Teacher  
St. Joseph's Elementary School




## More on the Books and the Author

The book collection (each book sold separately) can be found on [lakesanimalfriendship.ca/resources/](https://lakesanimalfriendship.ca/resources/). Coloring books, as well as Discussion Guides and Supplemental Activities can be down-

loaded for free there, or copies can be purchased. Additional resources like adoption tips, songs, and Dog Bite Prevention for kids are available for free on their website. Lakes Animal

Friendship Society (LAFS) is a Canadian non-profit working to improve the lives of companion animals in local communities around the Village of Burns Lake in northern BC.

Valerie Ingram is a certified teacher and president of the Lakes Animal Friendship Society (LAFS). She has over twenty years of experience teaching all grade levels but spent much of her career teaching kindergarten. 



## The Latham Foundation Supports Your Humane Education Efforts.

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[vimeo.com/lathamfoundation](https://vimeo.com/lathamfoundation)



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*Pay it Forward - Adopt a Shelter Cat*



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