

T H E Latham Letter

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FALL 2012

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

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A Kitten's Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste

By Steve Dale



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Edith Latham's Mandate:

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



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The Latham Letter

Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

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The Latham Letter

Volume XXXIII, Number 4, Summer 2012

**BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON
HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**



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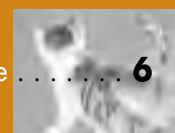
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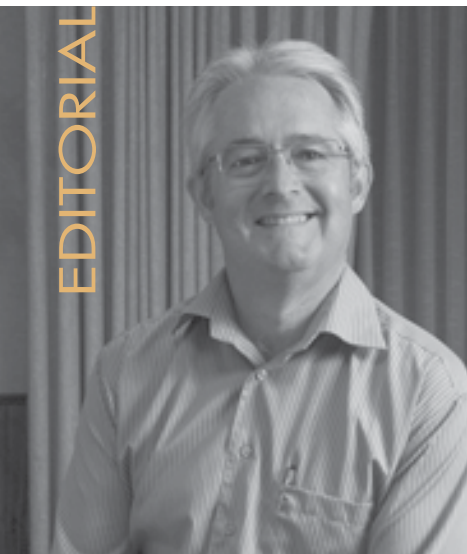
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*Hugh H. Tebault III,
Latham Foundation's
President*

Why To or How To?

At any given time you will find Latham staff at work on several humane education products and in contact with the practitioners who use our materials. Recently, someone who knew we are working on a film series tentatively titled *Help Me, Help You* asked when our training film would be available. This question sparked an interesting conversation about the term “training” and how we can most accurately describe our products.

We have long recognized that the importance of Latham materials lies in the fact that we define the why-to, not just the how-to, of training. Most training products give you step-by-step instructions on how to successfully do something. There are no value judgments. This kind of rote training may enable you to mimic what someone else has done, but it will not necessarily inspire you to fully understand the reasons behind what you are learning.

Latham productions demonstrate the WHY of humane education in its many forms – from kindness and respect for animals and their basic care, or the positive benefits of the human-companion animal bond, to breaking the cycles of violence in whatever form it appears.

It is important to Latham that humane educators understand the why-to of any project, program, or activity before they apply the how-to in their own unique way. When humane educators add their passion to an understanding of the underlying reasons for the programs they teach, they have the key to their success and sustainability.

In addition to the why-to and how-to, one must also often address local needs in our uniquely diverse United States. To create a program that works for a specific demographic, one must adapt various procedures to fit the local talent and enthusiasm. This adaptation applies to films on how to teach children, how to adopt a puppy, how to have a successful adoption process or how to operate an animal therapy program.

The next several films from the Latham Foundation will be examining various inspiring programs that match abused/discarded animals with marginalized youth in very creative ways, ways in which both the animals and the humans benefit.

You will find out early on that when you help others, you also get a wonderful reward – seeing the growth and excitement in those you help. Very few gifts we receive or give have such a sweet impact.

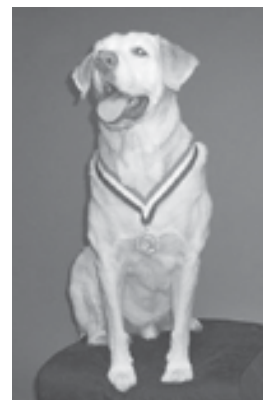


American Humane Association Hero Dog Awards

Gabe, a retired military dog who completed more than 200 combat missions in Iraq, was named American Hero Dog of 2012 on October 6th in Los Angeles.



The retired military dog spent several years sniffing out insurgent bombs, guns and ammunition in Iraq with his handler, Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Shuck, a drill sergeant leader at Fort Jackson's Drill Sergeant School. "Winning the award was an amazing feeling because I knew that many Soldiers were going to benefit from the \$15,000 we just won." Gabe's charity is the United States War Dogs Association, which provides care packages for deployed Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and their K-9 partners. These packages include ear muffs and dog booties for the paws of the dogs. They also help with the expenses of military working dog adoptions.



When the contest began earlier in the year, there were 359 dogs competing in eight categories, including therapy dogs, law enforcement dogs, emerging hero dogs, service dogs, guide dogs, hearing dogs, military dogs and search and rescue dogs. Seven runners-up each won \$5,000 for a designated charity.

For more information on the American Humane Association Hero Dog Awards, visit www.herodogawards.org

A GREAT WIN FOR THE ANIMALS

It's official! Dogs, cats, and rabbits will no longer be sold in Los Angeles pet stores unless they come from shelters or rescue groups. The final city council vote was 13-2. This could result in the end of puppy mills as more cities follow LA's lead. For more information, visit www.NKLA.org. NKLA is an initiative of *Best Friends Animal Society* along with a coalition of animal organizations across Los Angeles.

HURRICANE RELIEF

Latham announces its disaster recovery program to replace humane education materials

Latham will provide free humane education materials to add to the good work of the many organizations that are assisting people and animals affected by Hurricane Sandy. See page 18 for details.

In Memory of a Gentle Giant

The human-animal bond world has lost a true pioneer with the passing of R.K. Anderson. R.K. was a gentleman and a scholar in the truest sense of the words, an innovator (he co-invented the Gentle Leader and later helped create the Easy Walk Harness), and an all-around nice guy to be with. Even into his last years he was still exploring new frontiers of human-animal interactions, animal behaviorism, veterinary public health, academia and practical applications to help people and pets. He will be missed.

— Phil Arkow

Few pet owners will recognize the name Dr. R.K. Anderson. Yet chances are, your pet has benefited from his advocacy.

— Steve Dale



By Steve Dale

A Kitten's Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste



The importance of kitten kindergarten

THE PROBLEM

Our cats are capable of so much more than playing the role of ornamental purring machines who sit on the sofa and keep us company as we're watching "Dancing with the Stars."

But unlike the dancers, the girths of these couch potato kitties have grown in recent years. About half of all pet cats are overweight or obese. What's more, owners often have no clue! That's partially because they don't take them to a veterinarian so the cats aren't weighed. Veterinary visits for cats have declined significantly. As a result, preventive illness has jumped higher than any cat can.

I was attending and also honored to teach at the North American Veterinary Conference Post Graduate Institute in 2004 when veterinary behaviorist Dr. Kersti Seksel happened to mention "Kitty Kindy" classes. I thought it was her Australian accent (her practice is near Sydney), but it turned out I heard

her right. She was talking about a feline version of puppy classes, one in which kittens are acclimated to carriers and vet examinations.

Hearing this was an epiphany! I immediately thought of about 100 reasons why such classes were a great idea for kittens and their human families.

For starters, even back in 2004 veterinary visits for cats had begun to slide. Because a veterinary sign-off is necessary for attending a kitten class, I knew that this requirement gets the kitty into a private practicing veterinary clinic at least once and this serves several important purposes.

The good news is that today many animal shelters have veterinary staffs to provide vaccines and routinely examine kitties. The bad news is that while adopters may return to the shelter for additional vaccines, they might not set up an appointment with their own veterinarian. And I mean for years! Too many cats never see a veterinarian. Owners might not even have their own veterinarian.

Many people think indoor cats don't get sick. And since the cat "seems" okay, why visit the veterinarian for an exam? Also, the importance of preventive care is something many cat (and dog) owners don't understand. Why spend the money? In fact, prevention is almost always less expensive than treatment. And treatment earlier in an illness is typically less expensive, and promises a better outcome, than dealing with a problem after it has progressed.

What's more, now that flea and tick products are accessible over-the-counter and online, some pet owners – ones who used to visit a veterinarian for these products – have another "excuse" not to see a veterinarian (for cats or dogs).

The hope is that the kitten class teacher (a great niche for veterinary



technicians) takes the opportunity to dispel myths about cats not requiring veterinary visits. Here's how I put it, "Of course, indoor cats rarely get hit by cars. However, just because they are indoors doesn't mean that cats don't get heart disease or diabetes. And unless cat owners have a stethoscope at home or can run blood work in an in-home lab, how would you know? This is especially true since many medical conditions in cats may have few outward symptoms, and cats are incredibly adept at hiding illness."

Perhaps the most significant reason that owners/adopters don't take their cats to a veterinarian is transportation. It's often hard for the owner to get them there.

This is another reason why I am such a fan of kitten classes. Kitties get acclimated to the cat carrier. Jumping into the carrier becomes as second-nature as jumping onto the sofa. That's a heck of a lot better than chasing the cat around the house, finally trapping it under the sofa, and attempting to stuff the wailing cat with legs stretched in all directions into a carrier. An experience like that is incredibly stressful to cats and their loving families. Some people don't bother again; some cat owners really aren't able to transport their cats anywhere.

A SOLUTION

Prior to their first "Kindergarten" meeting, the kitten class instructor sends participants instructions on how to train cats to carriers. Without any previous negative experiences, kittens have no reason to despise or fear the carrier. To them it's just like an empty box. Curious, they typically jump in. Of course owners encourage this behavior by transforming the carrier into a treat dispenser.



What's more, that first ride in a carrier occurs at just the right stage in the kitten's development. And attending the kitten class is positive experience. It's imperative that kittens have fun and this means preventing over-stimulation. So unlike puppy classes – where pups frolic and play for much of the class – in Kitten Kindergarten kittens are only out of their carriers for several limited play sessions (each no more than 10 minutes), and a game or two of "pass the kitty."

Why "pass the kitty?" Different people handle kittens differently.

So as each kitten is carefully and slowly passed and then petted by each person attending the class, it learns to trust and enjoy all sorts of handling, from old arthritic men to squeaky 12-year-old girls. Of course we all smell different too, so each time a kitty is passed to another person, it gets a treat. The experience is enjoyable and is an excellent way for kittens to become accustomed to being handled by different people.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

As long as the kittens are under 16 weeks, they generally very much enjoy or sometimes ignore the presence of other kittens. There's hardly ever a hissing match; however, as kittens age, their social structure changes. To a kitten more than 16 weeks old, the immediate presence of another kitten, a stranger, might be threatening. In any case, it's not fun. This is one very important reason for being strict about limiting attendees to between eight and 15 weeks. It's another difference between puppy and kitten classes; puppies attending classes might be six months or even older.

While kittens don't require the same social skills that their canine cousins do, most of them can be taught to walk on a harness and leash with the right start. They can also learn to enjoy going to the veterinary clinic and for car rides in general – as long as their owners keep up the fun experiences as they grow.

Puppy classes typically continue for six to eight consecutive weeks. That is not the case with kitten classes. These classes are generally either two one-hour classes (usually once for two weeks), or sometimes just one 90-minute class.



There are only two rules about where they should be held. First, it must be a novel place where other kittens or cats haven't been, which far lessens the chances of disease transmission. Second, the space must be safe and secure – for example, without tempting hiding places or open doors.

Veterinary offices are wonderful places for these classes because there kittens can acclimate to the exam table and the smells of vet clinics. We have held kitten classes in offices or staff lunch rooms, where other kittens and cats haven't been. We've also held them at a variety of other locations ranging from local municipal centers, dog-training facilities, libraries, and even after hours at a bank.

As in classes for puppies, instructors teach the owners/adopters more than they teach the animals. They discuss lots of cat care topics including quick lessons in litter box 101, how to clip cat's nails, how to play with cats (many people do it wrong, believe it or not), brushing teeth, and being proactive about providing a tasty morsel several times a week on a pill gun (a inexpensive device that pops pills into a pet's mouth). This way when a cat ultimately requires a pill years later, it's more likely to be accepted. The instructor also talks about diet, ways to enrich in-home

environments, and how to teach a kitty to scratch on a post (using a "demo" kitten). This leads to a discussion about declawing.

Kitten classes aren't as available as those ubiquitous puppy classes (yet), but they are increasing in popularity. Ask your veterinarian or contact your local shelter or cat rescue group.

RESOURCES

Free handout: "Getting Your Cat to the Veterinarian" from the American Association of Feline Practitioners International Society of Feline Medicine and CEVA Animal Health
<http://catvets.com/uploads/PDF/2011FelineFriendlyClientHandout.pdf>

Free handout: "Desensitization of the Carrier" by Steve Dale
<http://www.stevedale.tv/images/stories/desensitization.pdf>

Kitty-K Classes: (protocol for classes and more, patterned after Seksel's Australia classes)
www.SteveDale.tv (Kitty K tab)

Free handout: "CATegorical Care: An Owner's Guide to America's #1 Companion, from the CATalyst Council and American Humane Association
http://catalystcouncil.org/resources/health_welfare/categorical_care/

Video: "Cats and Carriers: Friends Not Foes" from the CATalyst Council
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=9RGY5oSKVfo

Web site: Have We Seen Your Cat Lately?
<http://www.haveweseenyourcatlately.com/Home.html>

Web site: Catalyst Council
www.catalystcouncil.org

Web site: American Association of Feline Practitioners
www.catvets.com

Book: "Training Your Cat," by Dr. Kersti Seksel (Hyland House, Australia, 2001)
<http://www.amazon.com/Training-Your-Cat-Kersti-Seksel/dp/1864470801>

Steve Dale is a certified dog/cat behavior consultant. He's the author of a syndicated newspaper column, host of two national radio shows, and a contributing editor for USA weekend. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Tree House Humane Society (Chicago), Winn Feline Foundation, American Humane Association (where he is a National Ambassador), and the CATalyst Council. He is editing an upcoming book for the Association of American Veterinary Behaviorists and he has written two e-books: Good Dog! and Good Cat!



Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force Launches "Operation Barnstorming:" A New Model for WHAT TO DO ABOUT ALL THOSE CATS



By Jean Atthowe

Introduction and History

In 1996 hardly anyone measured pet populations in Montana, but it was obvious that the state had a rampant pet overpopulation problem. There were a few spay/neuter discount certificate programs in its cities but no such services for its ranch country or Native American nations.

The Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force launched Project S.P.O.T. (Stop Pet Overpopulation Today) to serve the people and the dogs and cats of Montana. Over the next sixteen years (through 2011), the Task Force made 206 visits to 74 Montana communities, providing no cost spay and neuter assistance to 51,746 Montana dogs and cats. And there is additional progress: today 55 groups provide some form of low cost spay/neuter assistance in Montana, the fourth largest state in land surface with a human population less than a million.

Early on, the Task Force noticed that clients with cats were beginning to outnumber those with dogs. That trend continued. In the first two years, the percentage of dog clients on first visit to a community was 55, but during follow-up visits the dog majority soon gave way to cats. Cat spay/neuter visits averaged 62 percent during the following fourteen years.

Operation Barnstorming

Now was the time for the Task Force to zero in on those cats – the elusive population that lurks in Montana's alleys and barns and on so many institutional grounds. It launched "Operation Barnstorming." This was a unique approach based on the Task Force's previous experiences with "Feral Cat Day" at the Montana State Mental Hospital in Warm Springs, later at nearby Montana State Prison, and on several ranches.

It is important to remember that the Task Force mission/model is always to build social capital in the community, to invest in its future by changing attitudes and behavior. The most important aspect of a Task Force community event is that it includes the entire community. Everyone participates, either by donating and volunteering, making a "big noise" through publicity, writing news articles, or visiting

schools. This makes the residents and leaders fully aware there is a problem and also that there is a solution. By looking at the problem in a new way, the whole community owns that solution and is empowered.

Abandoned and feral cats (descendents of domesticated cats) have lived in the shadows and have traditionally been maligned and cruelly treated as diseased nuisances. A Task Force model event brings the cats, the problems, and humane solutions out of those shadows and puts them on the front pages of the local newspapers and television news.

It sets up a large volume humane spay/neuter assistance event in an existing building and it uses a brightly colored yellow van to carry most of the equipment and supplies. By taking spay/neuter events to the cats – in their barns, alleys, and hiding places – the Task Force more readily halts the growth of such cat colonies while recruiting residents to the cause.

Local volunteers in three ranching areas on the Canadian border – one in a fire hall, one in an automotive repair shop, and one in a ranch outbuilding – created the North Valley County

Barnstorming July 21-22, 2011 Event with the help of the Task Force. The 181 cats altered, funded by the Task Force, represented more than 45 litters past and present. Over 16 percent of 102 females were pregnant or in heat.

Missoula Westside is a local ad hoc committee for a mixed neighborhood of new apartments next to factories, railroad buildings, new firms and four dilapidated trailer courts. It created "Trailer Cat Day" with the help of the Task Force. Most of 86 cats and 17 dogs altered at no cost on February 18, 2012 were neighborhood strays or from owners who could never have afforded such services.

Following North Valley County Barnstorming, the ranching community read in the morning newspapers that "Cats and barns go together here in North Valley County. They have been a team since the first granaries were built to store the grain crops planted in the Middle East by our ancestors. But cats can become too much of a good thing. Uncontrolled breeding leads to cat overpopulation and fighting for territory, for food, and during mating. This fighting leaves the cats with less energy for their assigned job – the barn and its stores."

October 15th marked the first of three Operation Deer Lodge Alley Cat Days – events during which volunteers trapped,

neutered and returned 200 cats lurking below the radar during the previous eight years of Task Force-assisted Deer Lodge Community Pet Care Days.

Every event required careful negotiations with local dubious stake holders among whom there was much contention over "those cats." But in the end, the cats and the Events prevailed. "Those cats" at Montana State Hospital, for example, are now "Our cats."

Jean Atthowe founded the Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force that was incorporated after several years' efforts in 1993. She launched Project S.P.O.T. (Stop Pet Overpopulation Today) in 1996 with a visit to the Blackfeet Nation in northern Montana. As "task force" implies, the goal is to blaze the trail toward acceptance of the Task Force's no cost, community-involved, "mash" approach spay/neuter model involving veterinary professionals, elected officials and the public.

On October 13, 88 cats were altered in the first of three community events in the Operation Alley Cat Day project. The goal is to alter at least 200 cats.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

You can see the Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force in action in Latham's video, *Reaching Out: The Spay/Neuter Challenge*.

<http://latham.org/order-our-products/>

Using examples on the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indian Nations and the Montana Spay Neuter Task Force, this film demonstrates successful strategies for overcoming resistance and communicating the benefits of spaying and neutering domestic animals. It's a slice of life that you might otherwise not see, and it respectfully illustrates what works.



The Link is Making Great Progress in New Zealand

By Phil Arkow



“While we’d like to think of ourselves as a special and beautiful country, we certainly have problems,” said Robyn Kippenberger, CEO of the Royal New Zealand SPCA, describing incidents of animal cruelty that often accompany interpersonal violence. “But empathy for animals can form the basis for humane social behavior, and awareness is the absolute key to this.”

Her words introduced 15 sobering presentations about human and animal violence at the New Zealand Companion Animal Council’s 23rd Annual Conference, where 95 participants from a small nation with a long history of progressive Link activities heard the latest in Link research and programming.

The Hon. Judith Collins, Minister of Justice, concurred, saying, “While The Link is disturbing, we must expose it to combat it. We must work together to get New Zealanders to talk about it.”

Phil Arkow, chair of Latham’s Animal Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Project, was keynote speaker, discussing The Link as it affects domestic violence and how it can be used as a leverage point to introduce empathy education into schools. The Link was this year’s theme for the Council, a multi-disciplinary forum for communication about

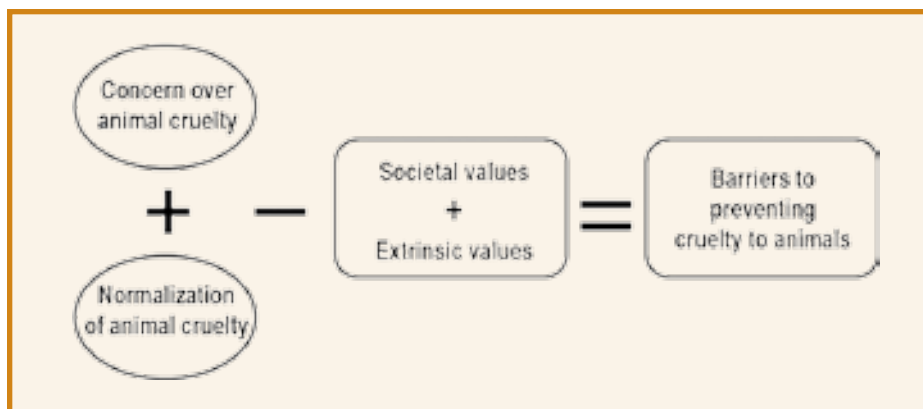
companion animal issues, the human-animal bond, interactions between animals and the community, human/animal abuse, humane education, and responsible pet ownership.

Highlights of the conference included Dr. Michael Roguski’s presentation of his ground-breaking “Pets As Pawns” study about the incidence and issues involved when animal abuse co-occurs with domestic violence (see sidebar page 12). In a country that claims the world’s highest per capita rate of pet ownership, to find pets being used to hold domestic-violence families hostage at rates comparable to the U.S. and Canada was a disturbing revelation.

Dr. Tania Signal, from Australia’s Central Queensland University, described a practical application for Link theory. Her research has found that people who believe in the links between animal abuse and human violence are more likely to report suspected abuse to authorities. Taking a psychological look at empathy, levels of aggression, attitudes to animals and responses to animal cruelty among the public, farmers and slaughterhouse workers, Signal presented a visual model of barriers that block individuals from preventing animal abuse:

Numerous animal welfare innovations are in the works in New Zealand. Current Council projects include studies on the ecological effects of companion and stray cats, and on the effects of outreach therapy programs on animals and people. Animal welfare leaflets are being translated into several languages to reach immigrant populations, and a code of practice for assistance animals is being written.

The RNZSPCA is working on national Memorandums of Understanding with Women’s Refuges and with Child Youth & Family. Domestic



violence survivors can now apply for protection-from-abuse orders that include pets. Protocols for veterinarians to report suspected domestic violence are being drafted.



Latham's Phil Arkow (left) and New Zealand Companion Animal Council conference organizer Bob Kerridge share a lighthearted moment between serious presentations in Wellington.

The RNZSPCA also has a “One of the Family” campaign that brings empathy education to boys between the ages of 10 and 12 with spokesperson Norm Hewitt, a national All Blacks rugby hero. Hewitt came to a crossroads in his own youth where he decided that the violence that had been aimed at him could be redirected either negatively through crime or positively through sports. “His animals were his strength and helped him come out the other side,” said Kippenberger. “It doesn’t take a big man – it takes a big heart.”

“We now know, where before we only suspected, that there is an undeniable link between animal cruelty and human violence,” said conference organizer Bob Kerridge. “This is an opportune time to recognize that cruelty to animals is a social sickness that is as heinous as any act of violence inflicted on fellow humans, and the two are inextricably linked.”



“Pets As Pawns:” New Zealand Study Replicates North American Findings

More than a dozen studies in the U.S. and Canada have found overwhelming evidence that companion and farm animals are often abused or threatened to hold the human members of the family hostage in domestic violence situations. Seeking to determine whether New Zealand families were experiencing similar conditions, the Royal New Zealand SPCA and Women’s Refuge commissioned Dr. Michael Roguski to undertake a study of 203 Women’s Refuge clients.

The “Pets As Pawns” study reported that 54% of women had experienced threats to their pets, 36% had seen their animals injured or killed, 57% said their children had witnessed animal abuse, and 33% remained in the abusive relationship for upwards of two years in fear for their animals’ welfare. 20% said that by the time they finally left the relationship, they had ceased caring about the animals’ welfare and had to be solely focused on their own and their children’s well-being. Their heightened concern for animals was eroded as they were forced to focus on their own survival.

These statistics are comparable to studies from other countries, further demonstrating that The Link is a global concern. The study also identified barriers that keep women from leaving these relationships. Roguski presented seven key findings at the New Zealand Companion Animal Council conference:

1. Animal abuse is a normalized part of the violence in these homes, leaving victims in a perpetual state of fear for the abuser’s capacity for further violence.
2. The abuser receives a perverse satisfaction from hurting animals, which serves to reinforce the sense of risk and his potential for explosiveness to the victims.
3. Acts of animal cruelty are used as both punishment and intimidation for human family members, thereby keeping them in a state of constant siege.
4. Animal cruelty is used as a tool to punish the family for what the abuser perceives to be misbehavior or contradiction of his expressed orders. Another manifestation is jealousy where the abuser perceives his partner as lavishing more attention on the animals than on him. Forcing the women and children to make a choice between the animals and the perpetrator was identified as one of the first indicators of family violence.
5. Many abusers believe they can get away with animal abuse because they perceive animal cruelty is not a priority for police.
6. Bestiality was called an under-reported phenomenon, with women frequently saying they were forced to watch animal-related pornography or have sex with animals as additional insidious power-and-control tactics.
7. Animal abuse also occurs after the woman has left the relationship, both against her animals as retribution for her leaving and against the animals of friends and family members who helped her escape.

The full “Pets As Pawns” report is available at www.rnzspca.org.nz as a press release from March 28, 2012.

– Phil Arkow





Pets and the Socialization of Children

Editor's Note:

This article, which we think is worth a second look, was originally published in the Spring 1990 Latham Letter. It was reprinted with permission from the journal Marriage and Family Review, pages 63-78 ©1985 by The Hayworth Press, Inc., 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904.

This is the second of two parts; the first appeared in the Summer 2012 Latham Letter.

"There were several instances of pets being harmed or killed as punishment to a child."

*By Michael Robin and
Robert ten Bensel*

PART 2 OF 2 PARTS

Childhood Cruelty to Animals

Interest in childhood cruelty to animals grew out of the notion that cruelty to animals has a disabling effect on human character and leads to cruelty among people (ten Bensel, 1984). This idea was articulated by Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) who said: "Holy scriptures seem to forbid us to be cruel to brute animals ... that is either ... through being cruel to animals one becomes cruel to human beings or because injury to an animal leads to the temporal hurt of man" (Thomas, 1983). Likewise the philosopher Montaigne (1533-1592) wrote that "men of bloodthirsty nature where animals are concerned display a natural propensity toward cruelty" (Montaigne, 1953).

Until the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, there was relatively little awareness that animals suffered and needed protection because of this suffering. This new sensibility was linked to the growth of towns and industry which left animals increasingly marginal to the production process. Gradually society allowed animals to enter the house as pets, which created the foundation for the view that some animals at least were worthy of moral consideration (Thomas, 1983). The English artist William Hogarth (1697-1764) was the first artist to both condemn animal cruelty and theorize on its human consequences. His *Four Stages of Cruelty* (1751) was produced as a means of focusing attention on the high incidence of crime and violence in his day. The four drawings trace the evolution of cruelty to animals as a child, to the beating of a disabled horse as a young man, to the killing of a woman, and finally to the death of the protagonist himself. As Hogarth declared

in 1738, “I am a professional enemy to persecution of all kinds, whether against man or beast” (Lindsay, 1979).

The link between animal abuse and human violence has been made more recently by Margaret Mead (1964) when she suggested that childhood cruelty to animals may be a precursor to anti-social violence as an adult. Hellman and Blackman (1966) postulated that childhood cruelty to animals, when combined with enuresis and fire setting, were indeed effective predictors of later violent and criminal behaviors in adulthood. They found that of 31 prisoners charged with aggressive crimes against people, three-fourths (N = 23) had a history of all or part of the triad. The authors argued that the aggressive behaviors of their subjects were a hostile reaction to parental abuse or neglect. Tapia (1971) found additional links between animal abuse, child abuse, and anti-social behavior. Of 18 young boys who were identified with histories of cruelty to animals, one-third had also set fires, and parental abuse was the most common etiological factor. Felthous (1980) in another study, found that Hellman and Blackman’s behavioral triad did have predictive value for later criminal behavior. He found extreme physical brutality from parents common, but he felt that parental deprivation rather than parental aggressiveness may be more specifically related to animal cruelty.

Kellert and Felthous (1983) also found in their study of 152 criminals and non-criminals in Kansas and Connecticut an inordinately high frequency of childhood animal cruelties among the most violent criminals. They reported that 25 percent of the most violent criminals had five or more specific incidents of cruelty to animals, compared to less than six percent of moderate and non-aggressive criminals, and no occurrence among

non-criminals. Moreover, the family backgrounds of the aggressive criminals were especially violent.

Three-fourths of all aggressive criminals reported excessive and repeated abuse as children, compared to only 31 percent for non-aggressive criminals and 10 percent among non-criminals. Interestingly, 75 percent of non-criminals who experienced parental abuse also reported incidents of animal cruelty.

These studies identified extreme parental cruelty as the most common background element among those who abuse animals. As Erich Fromm has noted in his study, *The Anatomy of Human Destructiveness* (1972), persons who are sadistic tend themselves to be victims of terroristic punishment. By this is meant punishment that is not limited in intensity, is not related to any specific misbehavior, is arbitrary and is fed by the punisher’s own sadism. Thus, the sadistic animal abuser was, himself, a victim of extreme physical abuse.

While most children are usually sensitive to the misuse of pets, for some abused or disturbed children, pets represent someone they can gain some power and control over. As Schowalter (1983) has said, “No matter how put upon or demeaned one feels, it is still often possible to kick the dog.”

Cruelty to animals thus represents a displacement of aggression from humans to animals. Rollo May (1972) suggests that when a child is not loved adequately by a mother or father, there develops a “penchant for revenge on the world, a need to destroy the world for others inasmuch as it was not good for him.” Severely abused children, lacking in the ability to empathize with the sufferings of animals, take out their frustrations and hostility on animals with little sense of remorse. Their abuse of animals is an effort to compensate for feelings of powerlessness and inferiority.

A weakness of the previous studies of childhood cruelty to animals is that they did not consider the patterns of pet ownership among their subjects. These studies did not distinguish if the abused animal was the child’s own animal or if the child had ever had a companion animal and what the nature of that relationship might have been. Other than a passing comment by Brittain (1970) in his study of the sadistic murderer, little mention is made of the child and his relationship to animals prior to the incident of cruelty. Brittain wrote, “There is sometimes a history of extreme cruelty to animals.”

Paradoxically they can also be very fond of animals. Such cruelty is particularly significant when it relates to cats, dogs, birds and farm animals, though it can also be directed toward lower forms of animal life and the only animal which seems to be safe is the one belonging to the sadist himself.” It is with these ideas in mind that we studied adult prison populations along with abused adolescents



institutionalized for delinquency and emotional disturbances to determine their patterns of pet ownership and their feelings toward their pets.

In our study of 81 violent offenders imprisoned in Minnesota, 86 percent had had a pet sometime in their life that they considered special to them. Overall, 95 percent of the respondents valued pets for companionship, love, affection, protection and pleasure.

Violent offenders were more likely to have a dog in their home while growing up. The control group had more animals as pets than dogs or cats, but the offender group had more “atypical” pets such as a baby tiger, cougar, and wolf pup. When asked what has happened to the special pet, over 60 percent of both groups lost their pets through death or theft; however, there were more pets that died of gunshots in the inmate group. In addition, the offender group tended to be more angry at the death of the pet. Strikingly, among the violent offenders, 80 percent wanted a dog or cat now as compared to 39 percent of the control group. This suggests something about the deprivation of the prison environment as well as the possibility of therapeutic intervention with pets among prison populations. Like the Kellert and Felthous study (1983), this study also found that most violent offenders had histories of extreme abuse as children (ten Bensel, Ward, Kruttschnitt, Quigley and Anderson, 1984).

We also surveyed 206 teenagers between the ages of 13 and 18 living in two separate juvenile institutions and 32 youths living in an adolescent psychiatric ward in regard to their experiences with pets. We compared them to a control group of 269 youths from two urban public high schools. Of the 238 abused institutionalized youths we surveyed, 91 percent (N = 218) said that they had had a special pet and of these youths 99 percent said they either loved or liked their pets very much. Among our comparison group 90 percent (N = 242) had had a special pet and 97 percent said they either loved or liked their pet very much. This suggests that companion animals do indeed have a prominent place in the emotional lives of abused as well as non-abused children. It is also a corrective to those who suggest that pet ownership in itself will prevent emotional or behavioral disturbances in children. Merely having a special pet played no part in whether or not a child was eventually institutionalized (Robin, ten Bensel, Quigley and Anderson, 1983, 1984).

“... pets can elicit maternal behaviors in children as young as three years old.”

In considering the issue of abuse of animals, the authors found that the pets of the institutionalized group suffered more abuse; however, the abuser was usually someone other than the child. In a few instances youths had to intervene against their parents to protect their pets. As one youth wrote, “He jumped on my bed and my mom beat him and I started yelling at her because she was hurting my dog.” Another child wrote, “My dad and sister would hit and kick my cat sometimes because he would get mad when they teased him. I got mad and told them not to hurt him because he’s helpless” (Robin, ten Bensel, Quigley and Anderson, 1983,

1984). Of those youths who indicated that they mistreated their pets, sadness and remorse were the most common responses. For example, one child said, “I remember once I was punished for letting the dog out and so I hit him for that. I felt real bad after that and comforted it a lot.” All of those who mistreated their pets, except for one youth, indicated that they loved or liked their pets very much and felt bad about hurting their pets. Only one youth said he did not care that he hurt his pet. There was no self-reported evidence of sadism toward pets. There were several instances of pets being harmed or killed as punishment to a child. According to Summit (1983), threatening to harm a child’s pet is a common technique of child abusers to keep the child quiet about the abuse. In a recent child sexual abuse case discovered in a Los Angeles day care center, the adults involved allegedly silenced the children by butchering small animals in front of the children and threatening to do the same to their parents if they revealed the abuse. Mental health practitioners should routinely ask young people if anyone has ever hurt or threatened to hurt their animal.

Lenore Walker (1983) has suggested in her study on domestic violence that the best predictor of future violence was a history of past violent behavior. In her definition she included witnessing violent acts toward pets in the childhood home. At this point, without further studies, it is unclear what role, if any, violence toward pets plays in the emotional and behavioral disturbances of adolescents. Nonetheless, the abused institutionalized population experienced more violent pet loss than did the comparison group. They showed no evidence of callousness toward the sufferings of their pets and seemed to be troubled by the mistreatment of their pets.

"Given the large numbers of children who have had pets, it is striking how little attention has been paid to the role pets play ..."

Conclusion

Pets clearly play an important role in the lives of children. The relationship is characterized by deep feelings of love and care. It is enhanced by children's empathy toward the feeling of animals and their intuitive of having a common status with animals. As Freud (1953) wrote, "Children show no trace of arrogance which urges adult civilized men to draw a hard-and-fast line between their own nature and that of all other animals. Children have no scruples over allowing animals to rank as their full equals. Uninhibited as they are in the avowal of their bodily needs, they no doubt feel themselves more akin to animals than to their elders, who may well be a puzzle to them."

For a copy of the *Latham Letter* containing this article and the authors' complete list of references, visit: http://latham.org/Issues/LL_90_SP.pdf#page=1



The Latham Foundation Announces Second Annual Humane Education Business Model Challenge

Latham will award a \$500 cash prize to the organization that develops and submits the best example of a *business model* that focuses on the benefits of humane education as a self-sustaining department within an organization.

Entries should be titled "Business Model Proposal for the Humane Education Department." They should outline the purpose, benefits, intended outcomes, and a suggested model for self funding. If appropriate they may include an appendix of publicly available humane education resources and web sites.

Latham will share the winning entry with others as an example of thoughtful fiscal planning.

Please e-mail your proposal along with author's information to HTebault@Latham.org by March 1, 2013. Put "Humane Education Business Model Challenge" in the subject line.



Save the Date!

The 2013 Association of Professional Humane Educators' National Humane Education Conference will be held April 11-12, 2013 at the Detroit Zoological Society in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Visit www.aphe.org for additional details as they become available.

How Pets Improve Our Communities' Social Health

Ground-breaking Australian Studies to be Replicated in U.S.

By Phil Arkow

Some of the most ground-breaking research into the human-animal bond came from Perth, Australia, several years ago, when Lisa Wood and colleagues at the University of Western Australia expanded the concept of pets as being good for our individual health into a community wellness benefit as well. Updating Robert Putnam's social science research into the forces that give communities "social capital" cohesiveness (research in which he completely neglected to include pets as factors in neighborhoods), Wood reported that pets contribute greatly to communities' sense of safety, neighbors' feelings of trust, and residents' engagement in civic activities.

Speaking at the New Zealand Companion Animal Council conference, Wood updated her initial findings and reported that for the first time her studies will be replicated in the U.S. The cities of San Diego, CA, Portland, OR, and Nashville, TN have been selected as having demographics similar to Perth's and research is under way to see if the Australian results hold true in an American context.

"Pets are a great leveler," said Wood. "They give people something in common with others with whom you might not otherwise have anything in common."

Wood identified seven benefits that pets offer for community social health:

1. Pets get people out of the house and active. They are motivators for physical mobility through dog walking and play.



Lisa Wood

2. Pets give people a greater sense of community safety. People walking their dogs are additional "eyes on the street" who make residents feel safer.
3. Pets are icebreakers who facilitate social interactions. Humans are essentially social beings, but the harried, isolating nature of modern life minimizes our capacity for human contact. Meeting others through our pets breaks down these barriers.
4. Pets help friendships form. Lonely people can connect with others through their animals. Pets are more than a social nicety: more than 148 studies have shown higher survival rates for people with social connections.
5. Pets offer social support. Human beings' survival is linked to social

networks, and social isolation is a risk factor for poor physical and mental health. Dogs open doorways for social contacts.

6. Pets increase community involvement. Pet owners are 57% more likely to be civically engaged and they encourage people to be more community-minded. Civic involvement is a core aspect of social capital.
7. Pets enhance our sense of community. Not knowing our neighbors' names is a symptom of social fragmentation and "a tragic indictment of our society," she said. "I used to know everyone in my neighborhood through our children: now I know them through our dog."

Wood also described new studies in which veterinarians are encouraging overweight clients to get more exercise by walking their dogs. The Pets And Walking Study (PAWS) will test whether people reluctant to lose weight are more inclined to follow the advice from a trusted veterinarian if they think the exercise is really for the pet's benefit.

"Pets are a partial antidote to the health hazards of 21st Century neighborhood life," Wood said. "Dogs are a good indicator species: when you create a neighborhood that's friendly for dogs, it's also friendly for people. Dogs can get us out of our suburban barricades, and we can experience urban conviviality as a result of a little ball of fluff."



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Thanks to all our readers for your continued interest in humane issues and activities. It is because of people like you that the Foundation is able to continue to promote the importance of animal welfare, education, and the beneficial connections between humans and animals.

A gift subscription for the *Latham Letter* or one of our DVDs makes a perfect gift to a friend, relative, or colleague who shares your values. Inspire, encourage, and keep them informed. We will include a beautiful gift card. Order at www.Latham.org where there is space to indicate that this is a gift. For any questions, call 510-521-0920.

Best wishes from all of us at Latham for a happy, healthy, and humane 2013.

HURRICANE RELIEF

Latham announces its disaster recovery program to replace humane education materials

Latham will provide free humane education materials to add to the good work of the many organizations that are assisting people and animals affected by Hurricane Sandy.

When the time comes to rebuild, shelters and rescue groups whose materials have been lost or damaged in the recent disaster are invited to visit www.Latham.org and select up to three books and five videos or DVDs with which to begin rebuilding their educational programs. They should contact Latham by phone, fax or mail to arrange to participate in this program. We ask only that they agree to pay the costs of shipping.

Coming in 2013 - Human-Animal Interaction Conference

People, Animals and Nature: Modeling a New Paradigm



Located at the Green Chimneys Campus in Brewster, NY and hosted by the Sam & Myra Ross Institute – Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27.

This comprehensive two-day conference will explore best practices and exchange ideas in a wide range of professions that utilize animal-assisted and nature-based models to enhance quality of life for all.

For details, visit www.greenchimneys.org/hai2013 or call 845-279-2995 x383. Sign up before January 14, 2013 and save \$50 on your registration fees.



FAITH AND HOPE ON A FARM



Do you want a reminder of why we teach compassion, empathy, and respect to help break the cycle of abuse? Are you looking for inspiration?

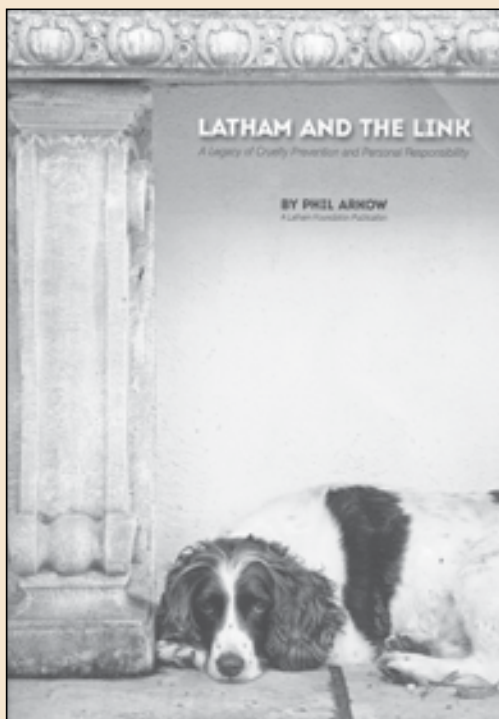
Look no further than *Faith and Hope on a Farm*, the first in a new series of films by the Latham Foundation.

Faith and Hope on a Farm highlights Forget Me Not Farm, on the grounds of the Sonoma Humane Society in Santa Rosa, California, where at-risk children and animals bond and heal to break the cycle of abuse. At this safe haven, children learn gentle touch and respect for both other humans and animals through animal-assisted and horticultural activities.

The film features Faith, a formerly-abused child who was adopted by wonderful parents. You'll see Faith blossom at Forget Me Not Farm and you'll be reminded that where there's life, there's hope.

Latham's new film series, "Help Me Help You," will examine a variety of animal-assisted therapy programs across the USA – programs in which children help heal animals and in turn, animals help heal children.

(All ages; 15 minutes. Social Studies, science) \$25.00



NEW BOOK – NOW AVAILABLE

Latham and The Link: A Legacy of Cruelty Prevention and Personal Responsibility by Phil Arkow

This is the inspiring story of Edith and Milton Latham who have truly made a difference in the lives of millions of children and animals. It is also the account of the unique organization that continues to fulfill their legacy.

Available at: Amazon.com

List Price: \$11.50

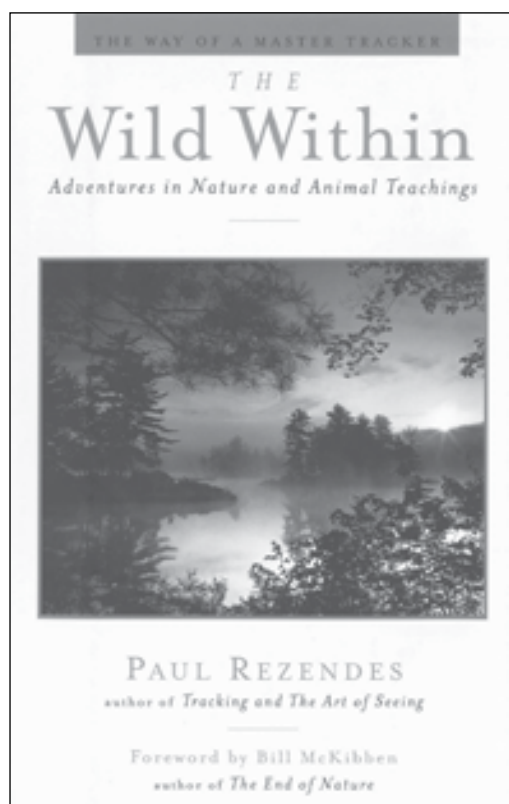
7" x 10"

Full Color, 52 pages

ISBN-13: 978-1479369843

ISBN-10: 1479369845

BISAC: Social Science/Violence in Society



Review by Susan Helmink

As my first exposure to Paul Rezendes' writing, upon reading *The Wild Within* I expected to enjoy stories of interactions with animals in nature. I did, yet I also was deeply affected by the social and philosophical discussions cleverly threaded into Rezendes' tracking experiences.

A great respect for the natural world and all creatures permeates this book. As someone who has not tracked before, I thoroughly enjoyed Rezendes' accounts of his "encounters," in quotes because oftentimes

he does not see the animal. Trackers learn about an animal by observing where he has been – his scent markings, sleeping spots, kills and scat – attempting to see the world through the creature's eyes, i.e. empathy.

As a former leader of youth and motorcycle gangs, Rezendes provides a unique perspective on violent and cruel behavior as told through his life experiences. His tough persona was a reaction to fear, of being perceived as weak and socially rejected. "Where there is fear, there is no compassion ... fear that results from the attachment we have to our need for others to accept our image. Can I let go of my image, my job, my status, power, money in the name of compassion or what I really think is right?" (p. 137-138)

An intriguing and poignant message in this book delves into our minds, our thoughts. To successfully track, and to truly be one with nature and "live the wild within," Rezendes emphasizes the need to focus on the moment and to clear one's mind of thought. Exercises challenge readers to understand their fears and reconsider constructed images of themselves and others. The philosophical discussions progressively gain complexity, tackling the meaning of intelligence and thought.

I highly recommend this book for those interested in the human-animal bond, humane education and *The Link*, as well as those who would like to explore their own humanity.

The Wild Within: Adventures in Nature and Animal Teachings

By Paul Rezendes

ISBN: 0-87477-931-6

NOW
AVAILABLE



We mentioned photographer Seth Casteel's work on behalf of shelter dogs in the last *Latham Letter* (Summer 2012, page 19).

It's a pleasure to announce that his book, *Underwater Dogs*, is now available.

Having met Seth and been impressed by his care and concern for dogs as well as his talent, I can assure readers that I am confident no dogs were put at risk for the sake of these amazing photographs.

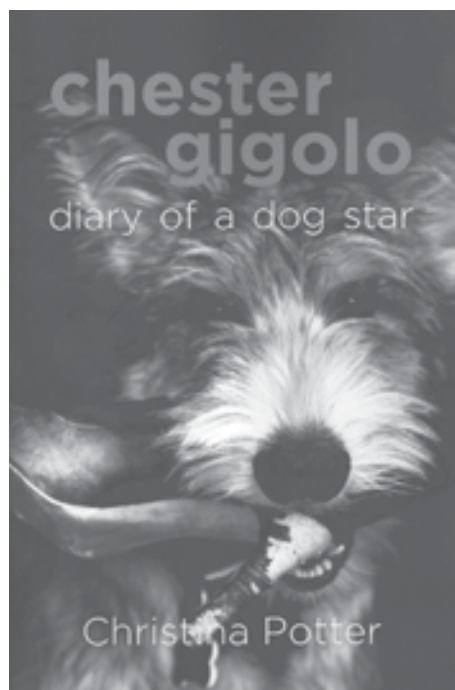
LittleFriendsPhoto.com
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Underwater Dogs

By Seth Casteel

littlebrown.com

ISBN: 978-0-316-22770-4



Reviewed by Judy Johns

Full disclosure: I have the pleasure of knowing Chester's parents so this is not an unbiased review. Rather, it's an unabashed fan letter to this amazing and amazingly articulate dog.

Dear Chester,

I knew you when you were just a gleam in your parents' eyes so it's wonderful to see how you've grown up to be such a fine young canine fellow. You do know you're a dog, don't you?

I've been following your blog; as a result, the escapades you describe here don't astound me but I do think they will surprise and delight most readers – readers who have a sense of humor and a vivid imagination. I still

smile when I think of you packing your lunch and heading to New York City.

And although you probably didn't intend to teach us anything, I think you have some important things to say about life in a multi-dog household. Your perspective could be quite valuable.

I hope that you won't get so busy running agility courses that you don't have time to continue your writing career. We want more!

Love,
Aunt Judy

Chester Gigolo: Diary of a Dog Star

By Christina Potter

Aperture Press • \$12.99

ISBN 978-0-985--26-8-8

What a delightful book!

Cathy Rosenthal has succeeded beautifully with *The Lucky Tale of Two Dogs*, which she wrote to bring a greater awareness to children on the simple things they can do to make a difference in the lives of their pets. As she explains, this isn't a "do-this, do-that" sort of book. Instead, it gently but clearly shows, through contrast and comparison, what every lucky dog needs to be a happy member of the family.

The tale will keep kids (Ages 4-8) on the edges of their seats. The illustrations are engaging and for once, this book depicts animal shelter workers as the heroes they really are.

The Lucky Tale of Two Dogs

Written by Cathy M. Rosenthal • Illustrated by Jessica Warrick

Pet Pundit Publishing

www.petpunditpublishing.com

ISBN 978-0-985-3752-0-1

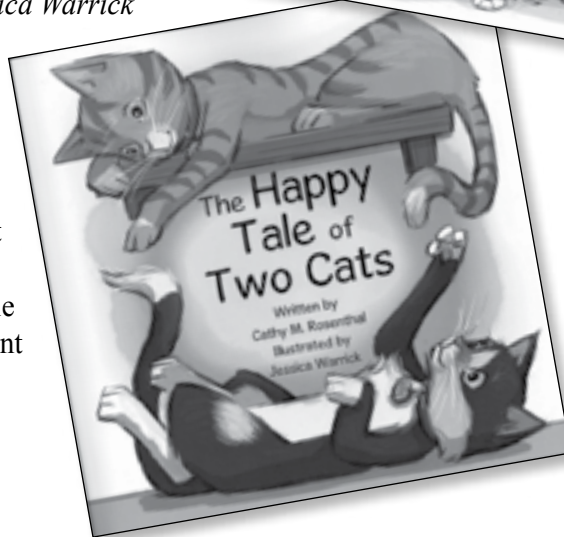
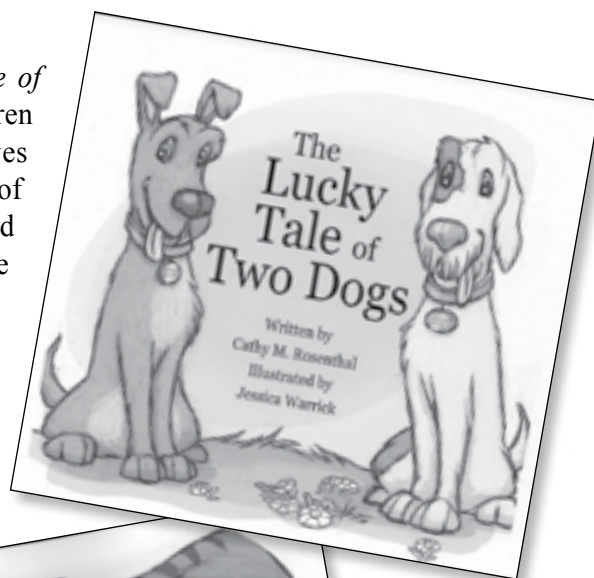
From the same writer and illustrator comes the hot-off-the-press *Happy Tale of Two Cats*, a perfect complement to *The Lucky Tale of Two Dogs*.

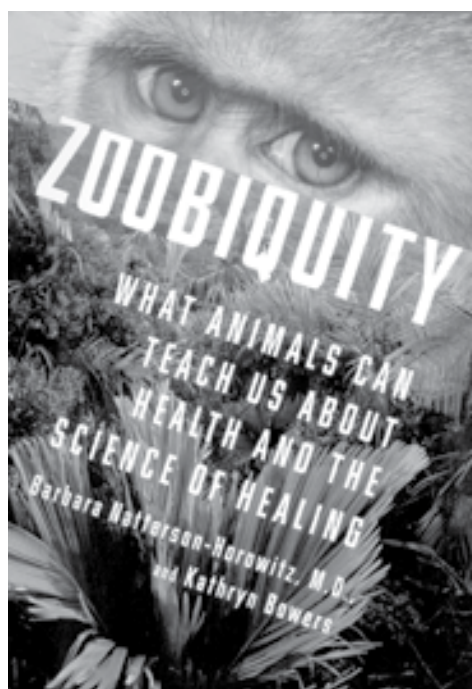
It follows a similar story line and uses the same gentle and effective storytelling approach to make its important points.

The Happy Tale of Two Cats

www.petpunditpublishing.com

ISBN 978-0-985-3752-1-8





Zoobiquity: What Animals Can teach Us About Health and the Science of Healing

By Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, M.D.,
and Kathryn Bowers

Reviewed By Phil Arkow

When I was a humane educator, one of my most continually frustrating challenges was getting children to understand that humans are animals, too. “No, we’re people!” they’d exclaim, and I knew that any efforts to impart a sense of empathy towards animals had to overcome a pretty steep initial evolutionary hurdle.

This separation of the species unfortunately continues into many persons’ adult and professional lives, with unfortunate implications described vividly in this marvelous book. Natterson-Horowitz, a cardiologist also trained in psychiatry, and Bowers, a science journalist,

describe in no uncertain terms the biases that cause physicians to think of veterinarians as not being “real” doctors and to close their minds to the possibility that animal behaviors and diseases might offer insight into human medical and psychological conditions.

Even though we now routinely insert pig valves into human hearts and test medications on laboratory rabbits, mice and monkeys, physicians have not yet made the connection that human diseases and behaviors have evolved along the same lines as those of other species. Building on the study of evolutionary biology and animal behaviorism first popularized by Desmond Morris, Stephen J. Gould, E.O. Wilson and Konrad Lorenz, *Zoobiquity* takes an insightful, entertaining and trans-species look at the crossroads of veterinary and human medicine.

Marmots have eating disorders. Dragonflies get fat. Wallabies can have substance abuse problems. Cockroaches develop cancer. Giraffes have heart attacks. Insects commit suicide. Obesity is such an epidemic in birds that there’s a new term for it: perch potatoes. The underlying genetics, microbiology, environmental factors, and nutrition issues are often the same as those for humans.

And the implications for humans are profound. SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), which baffles physicians, is similar to the capture myopathy that sends wildlife into cardiac arrest when restrained. Addiction to electronic media is a survival mechanism that provides a dopamine release, information about predatory dangers, and the security of the herd. Food digests better when we get the same mental stimulation and environ-

mental enrichment that other animals get when they have to forage or kill for dinner.

This species-spanning approach – which links nicely into the One Health Movement – breaks down the walls between human and veterinary medicine, and humans’ and other animals’ behaviors. Whether seeing compulsive gambling and shopping as neurochemically-rewarding evolutionary outgrowths of other animals’ foraging and hunting, or seasonal affective disorder as one of many circadian rhythms affecting all species, *Zoobiquity* will open your mind to the correlates between human and other animal diseases and the interplays of mind and heart that affect all species.

Zoobiquity

Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, M.D.,
and Kathryn Bowers
New York: Alfred A. Knopf
ISBN: 978-0-307-59348-1



NOW AVAILABLE



See page 19.



How to have a happy

life with your dog

A new video that uses charm & humor to encourage responsible pet ownership. A useful bilingual resource to help reduce returns and relinquishments.

Marisela, a delightful high-school senior, is thrilled to have her first dog but she knows "love is not enough," so she asks the behaviorist at her local humane society for advice.

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- Exercise and shelter
- Licensing and identification
- Nutrition and veterinary care



In other words, everything necessary to be a responsible pet owner and fully enjoy a new member of the family.

The DVD contains both English (823 mins.) & Spanish (1037 mins.) versions. To order online: www.Latham.org

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