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# Latham Letter

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WINTER 2012

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

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## Polly Want a Home?

*By Jane Greco Deming*

Courtesy of Laura Year

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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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Promotion of Humane Education*

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***The Latham Letter***

Balanced perspectives on humane issues and activities

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# The Latham Letter

Volume XXXIII, Number 1, Winter 2012

**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. The Foundation makes grants-in-kind rather than monetary grants. Latham welcomes partnerships with other institutions and individuals who share its commitment to furthering humane education.

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# The Importance of Selling Classic Humane Education



*Hugh H. Tebault,  
Latham Foundation's President  
with Brother Buzz*

Doing nothing without extensive university and government-backed studies seems to be the trend today. These studies include many public opinion surveys. The nightly news is not complete without the latest survey results about the most mundane things. The nasty secret about this approach is that nothing actually gets done, but lots of consultants get paid to write down what other people think. In the real world, we must make daily decisions and take action without public surveys. If we don't succeed at our tasks, we may find ourselves out of a job.

Many of us find ourselves in the humane education field because we have a strong affinity for animals and children. Others may find humane education incidental to their passions or jobs. For example, they may have found themselves teaching humane education and helping animals by being an animal control officer or by caring for homeless animals at a shelter. However you got into humane education, you know its classic lessons are the core values important to everyone in our field.

Classic humane education focuses on the respect between two living creatures – person to animal, or person to person – and it largely ignores the content of what the person may believe. In recent years some groups have used the term humane education to mask the promotion of their own lifestyle beliefs, either diet or social-justice related. These groups frequently state that unless you profess their views you cannot be truly humane. This extends the classic humane education term well beyond its true and historic definition.

In order to continue bringing these humane education lessons to our community, we find ourselves explaining to donors why they should start or continue humane education outreach. This is where selling humane education must be part our talent set. We must be our own best sales force and marketing department. The better we are able to explain why and how humane education helps society (families, children, and animals), the more successful we will be at obtaining funding and seeing our communities improve.

In 2011, we established the Latham Humane Education Challenge. This annual award provides incentive through a financial award for the best humane education business plan. The goal is simple: Latham challenges you to create a document that explains the importance of humane education to your community leaders, donors, educational leaders, or any other potential sources of funding and/or support.

To many, the need for humane education is common sense. To others, often those from whom you need support, humane education is an unfamiliar term

– something they do not have any experience with. You should address your proposal to those people. If you can successfully write a plan that explains why classic humane education is a key component of a successful community, you have a winning entry. You also increase your chances of getting the funding and support you need.

Mele Brewer of the Kauai Humane Association won our first Latham Humane Education Challenge. Her community outreach plan was just what the people and animals of Kauai needed.

One of the wonderful things about the United States is that we have many unique and diverse communities. Classic humane education can benefit all of them. How will you reach your community? Latham looks forward to reading this year's entries and awarding another Latham Humane Education Challenge grant.

We will announce details and this year's deadline in an upcoming Latham Letter, at the Association of Professional Humane Educators National Conference on March 1<sup>st</sup>, and online.





John Salerno-White commented on Brother Buzz's photo and the steps to humane education. He wrote,

"These steps have stayed with me up to the present. When I built some small steps in my garden, I thought of these ... Thanks, Brother Buzz."

### Conference News

Visit the Latham Booth at the California Animal Care Conference, March 3-6, 2012 in Garden Grove, CA

Information at [www.animalcareconference.org](http://www.animalcareconference.org)



We'll also be at Texas Unites for Animals, March 17-19 in Austin [www.texasunites.com](http://www.texasunites.com) for details



## GOOD NEWS FROM PHOENIX, ARIZONA

### Innovative mall operators are changing the rules on pet stores.

According to the Arizona Republic, Mecerich, the parent company of Westcor, a developer of several malls in the Phoenix area, said it will not renew the leases of existing pet stores that sell animals. Instead, it will open stores allowing customers to adopt rescued pets.

The Arizona Humane Society, business owners, and various rescue organizations are cooperating on efforts to reduce the number of homeless pets in their community by reaching out to customers who might not visit an animal shelter.



You can find additional information at <http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/2011/11/16/20111116efforts-promote-adoption-phoenix-rescue-animals-increasing.html>

*Latham applauds this collaboration and thanks Debra White for bringing it to our attention.*

### OUR APOLOGIES for these type errors in the last issue:

The correct web site for Ella Bittel and Jim Armer, authors of 'When is End-of-life Care for Animals Truly Hospice?' is [spiritsintransition.org](http://spiritsintransition.org). For additional information you can reach them at [lovingplatet@verizon.net](mailto:lovingplatet@verizon.net).

On page five we incorrectly listed Doggone Safe's website as [doggonesafe.org](http://doggonesafe.org) when it should have been [doggonesafe.com](http://doggonesafe.com).

The photo of Terre Roche on page 21 should have been credited to Cliff.Fagin.



# Polly Want a Home?

*By Jane Greco Deming*



In animal welfare the lion's share of the focus is on cats and dogs and often rabbits. Occasionally a parrot gets turned in, often with a litany of behavior and health issues; surprise! They are sometimes re-homed, hopefully to a suitable family, but sometimes to someone wanting to just try it. Likely the best scenario is a rescue group, as those folks are generally better equipped to handle complicated needs.

I am not alone in my fascination with birds. More than 4.5 million homes have at least one bird, with some estimates of up to 50 million birds in American homes. They account for about 4% of the pets in this country. Many birds are listed as endangered and some like the Dodo, Heath Hen, Great Auk and a long list of others have become extinct due to pressures from humans.

The pet trade in years past greatly contributed to the decrease in parrot numbers in the wild. As the popularity of a particular species increased, so did the value and the demand for more. Although the laws in this country have changed to end the importation of exotic birds, there is no doubt that eggs, fledglings and even adult birds are being stolen from the wild and sold in other parts of the world or smuggled into this country as part of the illegal trade. Sadly, the reduction in imported birds has led to an increase in breeders. That is good for the wild population, but not always good for the captive birds. There are 2,500 parrot breeders registered in the US, producing about a million birds a year. It is evident from the great numbers of birds in rescue, that the market already has more than it can support; much like cats and dogs. There are estimates of between hundreds of thousands or more parrots in shelters in the US, depending on the source, with increasing relinquishments due to economic woes. Many have been in multiple homes and therefore display negative stereotypical behaviors such as feather plucking, mutilation, aggression, and screaming for attention. Some are no longer considered suitable for adoption, so they will live out their lives in rescues.

There are more than 100 registered parrot rescue groups in this country

and many that I called said the same thing. "We are full!" Now, this is not a persuasive argument for going out and finding the perfect parrot for you or your friends or promoting parrot adoptions at your shelter. In fact, the purpose of this article is to gently remind the reader that parrots sometimes and in fact most times make difficult pets and it is time to work on some changes to benefit them in the future.

We should applaud the large pet store chains that have stopped selling large parrots. That was one giant step in the right direction.

## **My Parrot Story**

Out of work and going a little stir crazy, I decided to volunteer at Southwick, Rhode Island's Zoo where I have been on the board for many years. I offered to do some cleaning

and feeding in the education building with familiar animals. One bird in the group stood out to me. She was a mess! Turns out her family lost their home and in desperation dropped her at the zoo when she was nine years old. This now 12-year-old Citron Cockatoo was poorly feathered, aggressive, and simply unhappy being with other animals.

Each day when I cleaned her cage, she would say, “What are you doing?” Without thinking I would answer, “I am cleaning your cage.” Soon she started to offer me her head to pat, but I had been warned. One day I pulled her cage to the middle of the room and instead of leaving her in, I opened the door. The sun was shining and it was finally quiet as the other birds went outside on their perches. She spoke, “How are you? What are you doing? I’m a good bird! Thank you,” and then “I love you.” That was it. With a bit of trepidation I offered my hand. She stepped on like we were old friends. She nestling into my chest and gave me this loving look. I gently stroked her back and then she put her head down. It was a magical moment for both of us.

The director saw the relationship growing and told me I should adopt her. They had been hoping to find a home for her because although they were meeting her physical needs, they admitted that with all of the other animals and programs along with her bad attitude, she wasn’t getting the attention that she needed so badly.

It took me a while to decide. I had to consider my family, my age, and my ability to provide for all of her needs but finally I adopted her on July 1<sup>st</sup> and never looked back.

## **Parrots**

If you close your eyes and imagine parrots in the wild, you will see them flying in flocks and feeding on an amazing variety of fruits and nuts and visiting clay licks. They are gregarious, intelligent and extremely active. In a cage, alone for long periods, they could not be in a less natural environment. It is no wonder that parrots in captivity are needy, demanding, bored, messy, dangerous, escape artists with attitudes. Then consider they can live like that for 50 to 75 years.

I am astounded at how much time I spend attending to my bird’s needs; I hold her while I cook, shower, read, and work in the yard. We never have a peaceful dinner at home anymore. When I am trying to work or have a quiet conversation with someone she constantly screams for attention. She doesn’t like many other people including my husband, children and grand kids. She is afraid of dogs and dislikes men. I love her just the same.

## **Parrots’ Plight**

My parrot’s story is one of many hundreds of thousands of parrots in this country. If they are lucky they are in quality rescue organizations like the one I visited in my area. They have 600 birds in flight cages with social groups and an amazingly varied diet at Foster Parrot, Inc. Marc Johnson, the board President, says they are forced to turn away about five to ten birds a month, as they are reaching capacity. He does work with callers to help them find placements with a program much like a dating service. But, in the end, he struggles financially to feed and care for the many in his charge. I interviewed Sharon Loper at Avian Haven in Tucson and she too does match making and is full of unadoptable birds. She said that by the time they get to her they had so many behavior and health issues that they were not considered adoptable or their issues seem irreversible.

Many rescues I called had recordings declaring that they are full, but callers can contact them by e-mail to get help. I spoke with Deb at No R Birds in the Atlanta area, and she said she is full but does handle relinquishments and adoptions. She finds it tough to find appropriate homes so she spends a lot of time providing education programs in the local community and even at the



**Humane education is  
preventative medicine.**

veterinary school on how to prepare for, handle and care for parrots. She said she is concerned about the lack of regulation in this country regarding the ownership of multiple parrots and rarer species along with who is breeding birds. She also said that unlike other rescue groups there is no leadership organization or coalition for the protection of parrots like there are for dogs and cats with spaying/neutering and ID tags. It was easy to see from the interviews that there are extremely varied opinions about what is best for parrots. Rescuers are very passionate, dedicated people who don't always agree on issues.

## What can you do?

When I asked those I interviewed if they had an answer to the plight of parrots, their responses were all the same – *humane education is preventative medicine*. There needs to be awareness not only of the issues, but also about the responsibility

and difficulty of keeping parrots as pets.

If we could just:

- 1) *reduce the number of parrots coming into the market,*
- 2) *convince more people to adopt a bird in need instead of purchasing a bird, and*
- 3) *properly prepare potential owners for the reality of having large parrots, we could reduce the suffering and relieve some of the enormous pressures on rescue organizations.*



There it is again, the answer is **Education!** I encourage all humane educators who are visiting classrooms or writing articles and curricula to consider including the importance of proper preparation and care for parrots.

When a family decides a parrot is their choice, help them find a rescue, ask them to wait for the best fit and ADOPT, and remind them to plan for the eventuality that their parrot may outlive them. Help locate support through local parrot clubs and rescues so that when there are problems owners can get help before it is too late. Finally, work on creative ways to “Celebrate National Bird Day” every January.

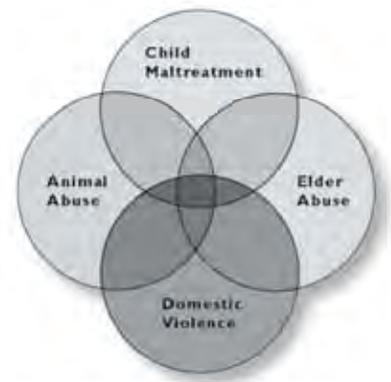


### RESOURCES:

<http://www.avianwelfare.org/aboutus/faq.htm>  
[http://web.mac.com/fosterparrots/FOSTER\\_PARROTS/HOME.html](http://web.mac.com/fosterparrots/FOSTER_PARROTS/HOME.html)  
Deb@NORBirds.com  
[www.parrotchronicles.com/departments/rescuelist.htm](http://www.parrotchronicles.com/departments/rescuelist.htm)  
<http://www.avianwelfare.org>  
[www.aav.org](http://www.aav.org)

*Jane Greco Deming* is the former Director of Humane Education at the American Humane Association. She is certified in zoo management by the AZA and has long served on the Board of Southwick Zoo's Earth LTD Humane Education Project in Mendon, Massachusetts. Jane also served as a long-time zoo educator/manager and then Director of Education at Providence Animal Rescue League. She spent 30 years as a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and was Director of the Rhode Island Disaster Animal Response Team for six years. Jane is Vice President of the Association of Professional Humane Educators' Board of Directors. **You can reach Jane c/o Jane Greco Deming & Associates, Providing Consultation Resources for Achieving Excellence in Animal Welfare & Education, [jgdeming47@gmail.com](mailto:jgdeming47@gmail.com).**

“ Parrots in a cage, alone for long periods could not be in a less natural environment. It is no wonder that many parrots in captivity are needy, demanding, bored, messy, dangerous, escape artists with attitudes.



# “Pit Bull” Type Dogs and Rottweilers Make Helping Troubled Youth a **PRIORITY** in Minneapolis

By *Kellie French and Sara Nick*

Research has suggested that populations targeted with animal-assisted interventions “must not only be matched to appropriate interventions, but to appropriate animals. Just as there are individual differences in people, so too are there individual differences in animals.”<sup>1</sup> An innovative program in Minneapolis, Minnesota aims to do just that. The program pairs youth who have experienced trauma with therapy-registered “pit bull” dogs and Rottweilers. As a result, both the youth and these often-maligned breeds are reaping the benefits.

The Twin-Cities-based “pit bull” dogs and Rottweiler rehoming and advocacy organization, A Rotta Love Plus (ARLP), is dedicated to raising breed awareness, educating the public about responsible pet ownership, and advocating for the humane and equal treatment of all dogs without prejudice. ARLP has expanded its reach to include a thriving animal-assisted intervention program known as ARLP PRIORITY (Pit bull and Rottweiler Interactive OutReach, Instruction, and Therapy for Youth) Paws. PRIORITY Paws organizers devoted much forethought to matching ARLP’s organizational goals to a specific population. In doing so it has created a unique synergy between youth who are homeless and/or have experienced abuse and neglect and at-risk dogs (breeds such as “pit bull” dogs and Rottweilers, who are subject to a disproportionate amount of abuse and neglect and are vastly overrepresented in shelters).

Twice each week, PRIORITY Paws teams visit two organizations that provide shelter services for youth who have been removed from their homes due to caregiver abuse, neglect, instability, or who have run away from home. More often than not, the youth at both of these facilities have experienced trauma and violence in their home setting. The PRIORITY Paws curriculum aims to improve a variety of emotional and behavioral endpoints in youth; to engender a sense of compassion and mutual respect for humans and animals; and to reduce the propensity for violence against other living things.

Beyond these endpoints – which could be achieved using any breed of dog – the PRIORITY Paws program achieves additional goals that are mutually beneficial to this specific population as well as ARLP’s target breeds. First, the “pit bulls” and Rottweilers that make up the PRIORITY Paws program have a high level of credibility with this population of youth. Nearly every youth participant has owned a “pit bull” or Rottweiler, knows a family member or friend who has owned one, or has experience with the breeds.





**Like the youth they serve, the majority of  
PRIORITY Paws dogs have been rescued from situations  
of abuse or neglect.**

Secondly, like the youth they serve, the majority of PRIORITY Paws dogs have been rescued from situations of abuse or neglect. Not only does this give the youth a relatable story of resiliency, but the dogs’ stories of redemption provide much-needed hope for youth who are trying to come to terms with their own traumatic experiences. For example, one of the PRIORITY Paws curricula explains the story of Josie, a PRIORITY Paws “pit bull” dog who was rescued from a dog-fighting ring. A trained program facilitator leads the youth in a discussion about Josie’s journey through abuse into a well-adjusted and happy future, using questions such as:

- “How might Josie have felt about people before and after her rescue?”
- “What are some things she may have had to learn in her new home?” and
- “Who were the various people who helped Josie?”

A common occurrence after sharing this story is that the youth develop and verbalize an understanding of how similar their experiences are to those of other creatures and how adults and caregivers should treat them all with respect. In addition, the youth often feel safe enough to discuss their own circumstances. As a result, the group members offer words and gestures of compassion and empathy toward each other.

Often both PRIORITY Paws dogs and their human population have experienced stereotyping, discrimination, and misconceptions. By discussing their similar experiences, the youth are empowered to stand up against instances of stereotyping in their own lives.

Sometimes the youth share stories of having a “pit bull” dog or a Rottweiler and are embarrassed to admit that they didn’t care for the dog like a family pet; rather, it was kept outside, on a chain, neglected – similar to how caregivers treated them. After visiting with the PRIORITY Paws dogs and volunteers, the youth quickly understand that they can challenge their preconceived notion that “pit bull” dogs and Rottweilers are inherently bad and thus need to be treated differently than other kinds of dogs.

Finally, PRIORITY Paws reinforces A Rotta Love Plus’ mission by giving rise to positive changes for the image and overall welfare of “pit bull” dogs and Rottweilers. As the youth – and, not insignificantly, the staff – of these organizations form a relationship with the PRIORITY Paws dogs, they develop a deep sense of appreciation and trust for these breeds. This paves the way for an accurate, compassionate understanding of “pit bull” dogs and Rottweilers and allows a brighter future for both the youth and the breeds that we serve.

While there are great benefits to using “pit bull” dogs and Rottweilers in animal-assisted interventions, there are also challenges. For example, because some organizations can be wary of the inaccurate reputations of these breeds, it can take more time to gain access to, and build trust with, organizations that we serve. However, seeing opinions of staff and youth change as they get to know the dogs as individuals brings great joy and satisfaction to PRIORITY Paws teams.



**By using dogs with  
relatable stories  
and backgrounds,  
PRIORITY Paws maximizes  
its impact on the  
population they serve.**

In conclusion, by using dogs with relatable stories and backgrounds, PRIORITY Paws maximizes its impact on the population they serve. The youth in crisis develop increased recognition of their own feelings and learn to recognize the many parallels between human and animal treatment. PRIORITY Paws demonstrates the importance of using animals that are compatible with their target human population in order to maximize the goals of animal-assisted interventions.



<sup>1</sup> Kruger KA, Trachtenberg SW, Serpell JA. Can animals help humans heal? Animal-assisted interventions in adolescent mental health. 2004 Jul. Available at: [http://research.vet.upenn.edu/Portals/36/media/CIAS\\_AAI\\_white\\_paper.pdf](http://research.vet.upenn.edu/Portals/36/media/CIAS_AAI_white_paper.pdf)



By Debra J. White

Reprinted courtesy of The Bark  
[www.thebark.com](http://www.thebark.com)

Animal shelters save homeless dogs and cats, fight cruelty, and educate the public about pet overpopulation. But shelters themselves are rarely eco-friendly. When many of them were built, energy efficiency wasn't a priority, air circulation systems were poor and there was a reliance on toxic materials, especially for cleaning. The good news is that this trend is beginning to take a green turn, one shelter at a time.

Among the early adopters is the Tompkins County SPCA, which opened its new upstate New York facility in 2004. Certified as the first green shelter in the country, Tompkins received a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. Since then, other shelters have followed its lead – take the Potter League for Animals in Middletown, R.I., for example.

According to Pat Heller, director of development, the league plans to open its approximately 19,500 sq. ft. green shelter in November. Since they take in nearly 2,000 animals every year, and also receive dogs from several animal control agencies, they can definitely use the space.

“Our building has many green features that will not only benefit the animals but the local environment as well,” says Heller. Because the area receives ample precipitation, the design firm, ARQ Architects of Kittery, Maine, incorporated an innovative water reuse system, a 15,000 gal. cistern to capture runoff that can be recycled for cleaning. Considering that shelters use thousands of gallons of water every month for this purpose, that's a

significant step forward. Further, the parking lot is covered with a permeable surface to prevent runoff into nearby wetlands. “Rainwater gets polluted with gasoline and oil from the parking lot, then it drains into the wetlands. This will cut down on contamination,” Heller observes.

Other eco-friendly aspects include sensors that control the heating and ventilation systems, toxin-free paints and dual-paned windows for insulation. Heller adds that the shelter will also recycle or reuse as much of the construction waste as possible, which will help reduce the landfill burden.

In California, the Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV) has a green facility – an innovative Animal Community Center – scheduled to open in early 2009. Laura Fulda, vice president for marketing and communications, says their plans include an efficient water-cleansing system, which will reduce water consumption and ensure appropriate cleaning and disinfecting of kennels. HSSV also set its sights on reducing energy consumption. “We'll install a photovoltaic system on the roof, over part of the dog park and in our parking areas,” says Fulda. “That will generate up to 40 percent of our energy needs.”

Additional green features designed into the new community center by Moraga, Calif., architects George Miers & Associates include drought-resistant plants, dual-flush toilets, synthetic turf in the dog park and play areas, and passive heating/cooling. Earth-friendly practices currently in place, such as the use of biodegradable cat litter and eco-sensitive janitorial products and the recycling of office products, will, of course, continue.

Though LEED certification is a good thing to have, shelters don't need it to go green. Maricopa County Animal Care and Control in Phoenix replaced one of its two aging facilities in May 2008. Though the municipal shelter lacked the criteria for LEED certification, Linda Soto, shelter division manager, says they still incorporated energy-efficient features. “The outer walls are constructed using a foam and concrete [material] that's super-insulated. The roof is also coated for

*Greening*, continued on page 17

# Animal Farm Foundation's AKC Canine Good Citizen® Incentive Award Encourages Shelter and Rescue Groups

By Elana Blum



**W**hile working at an animal shelter for the better part of a decade, I've come to adore "pit bull" type dogs. Their big smiles and people-pleasing personalities constantly get my attention, and my affection.

Highlighting their positive attributes and encouraging responsible ownership is always part of my Humane Education work. I frequently bring stellar shelter dogs from the kennel into my classroom and invite frank discussion about what it means to be a "pit bull" in our society. When I accept an adopted one into our Pet Therapy Program, I celebrate!

Through Animal Farm Foundation's AKC Canine Good Citizen® Incentive Award, we have an opportunity to officially acknowledge some wonderful dogs and their people. The award is designed to encourage "pit bull" type dog owners to earn their AKC Canine Good



Lulu and Nancy



Moo-Moo and Trisha



Larry and Mia



Barney and John



Petey and Sharon



Sadie and Family

Citizen® certification while supporting their local shelters and rescues. Animal Farm Foundation awards \$150 to participating organizations for each “pit bull” dog that successfully completes the CGC program. Each successful team receives a certificate of completion and an optional medal/dog tag to show everyone, including landlords and home owner’s insurance companies.

It’s only the beginning and we have already welcomed 16 human/canine teams from 12 different cities to take the test. The camaraderie among the owners is powerful. Their combined commitment to making sure that they have the best dog on the block will help ensure that many other “pit bull” type dogs will have the same chance to shine.

After passing the 10 point test that includes both advanced obedience and real world experience, the teams pose for their photo. This is one of my favorite parts of the program. As you can see, their pride is filled with joy.

*Elana is a Humane Educator with the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA. In addition to her classroom presentations, she manages the Pet Therapy Program and the reading enrichment program, Barks & Books. She can be reached at [elana@phsspca.org](mailto:elana@phsspca.org).*



**For more information about Animal Farm Foundation’s funded programs including their “Perfect Match” Award and Spay/Neuter Grants, please visit [animalfarmfoundation.org](http://animalfarmfoundation.org).**



Sasha and Jan



Bob and Fred



Pinky and Jennifer



Gus and Stephanie



Jesse and Daeleigh



Photos are courtesy of Courtnay Robbins Bragagnolo and the Pasadena Humane Society and SPCA.

# Decisions

# Decisions

# Decisions

By Cynthia Vanaudenhove

*"Just when you think you know everything, a dog comes along and teaches you that you don't!"*

– OLD CANINE PROVERB

On May 7, 2007 our dog Fallon became 16-yrs-old. We had decided to adopt her seven years earlier, or more correctly, she decided to adopt us. This last year of her life she was slowing down, but gracefully. In the month before her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, I began to see that "things" were starting to change rapidly. She had been a beloved pet and gifted therapy dog for many years, but I knew that time was catching up with her and that we needed to make decisions regarding her career and future. I saw that she was showing signs of stress and was not enjoying her visits as much as she used to and that the two hours spent at this particular facility were just beginning to be too much. So on May 8th, when the patients and staff at Fatima Hospital gave her a 16<sup>th</sup> birthday party, I chose to also make it her retirement party.

Those wonderful folks took the time to hand make all natural treats and cut them in dog bone shapes. Fallon and adopted sister Abigail had the greatest time. The jokes were flying, "She's finally old enough to get her drivers license...and what kind of car was I giving her," and on and on. It was heartwarming to see her rewarded this way for all the love and devotion she gave to so many. She had way too many of the treats but was so happy that I couldn't intervene. Her tail never stopped wagging. Oh well, at this point in her life I'd finally learned not to worry so much about what she ate; instead, I focused on her happiness. I knew time was short. So Fallon retired on a very high note and formally passed the baton to her sister Abbie. That is what I decided...

Our lives are marked by decision-making. The difficult decisions often involve others' best interests. Isn't it interesting that just when you finally think you've made a correct one, a small voice will cause you to reconsider? In this case it was a dog's voice. Perhaps learning to listen helps prevent later regrets.



Since we were scheduled to visit the hospital every other week, two weeks later our regularly scheduled therapy day arrived. The evening before, I bathed only Abbie. Fallon, who never really like baths and usually hid, pushed her way into the bathroom and hovered as if waiting her turn. I said, "No girl, not you." I'd made my decision. As I dried Abbie, Fallon jockeyed for position under the hair dryer, lying on her back asking for her belly to be blown-dry. Even though she wasn't wet, I complied.

The next day, during the usual last minute primping on Abbie, Fallon drew closer for her turn, which I of course sympathetically granted. Just before we leave for the hospital I always wash the dogs' faces and put their color-coordinated bandanas on. Both dogs know the routine and anticipate

each move leading up to our departure for “work.”

Abbie has always loved her face washings. She will close her eyes and put her sweet face in my hand and just enjoy it. Then she “sits pretty” for her bandana. On the other hand, Fallon has always hated having her face washed. She will usually make me chase her around, close her eyes as tight as possible, grimace and screw her face up, then pull her head in like a turtle retreating into its shell. Because she is then sulking, she will lay flat in the floor making bandana applying rather difficult. Then they both head straight for the door and just sit waiting rather impatiently, clearly letting me know that I’m just too slow. Hey, they’re ready, why aren’t I?!

But today, this little dog changed everything and broke my heart in the process. Fallon was attempting to change my decision about her retirement. Today, she stepped right up beside Abbie, happily anticipating her face washing. Her dim eyes wide and bright, sitting tall. With my heart heavy, wondering if she really knew I wasn’t taking her, I washed her face. For the first time she allowed it without a struggle. Then she “sat up pretty” asking for her coordinating bandana and seeming to say, “Me, me! I’m next!” Oh this was hard, but I told her I’d made my decision in her best interest. This therapy day was just too long for her. How could I ever expect her to understand? I couldn’t, I thought. So I kissed her lovely clean gray face. Then Abbie and I left for the hospital. I couldn’t look back at Fallon. I imagined her saying, “Why?”

“ **Isn’t it interesting that just when you finally think you’ve made a correct decision, a small voice will cause you to reconsider?** ”

When we returned, Fallon was sitting at the screen door, still with her bandana on, waiting and watching for us. As we entered she greeted us with what we came to call her “coyote” impression. You know it, sitting position, head straight up, eyes closed, mouth forming a circle, and Woo Woo. (Translation: You have been gone waaaaay toooooo long!) My husband who had been home with her the entire time said she had waited for us by the door for three hours. But she forgave.

By the following day, not surprisingly, her message had gotten through to me. I reversed what I had thought so right and took her to our other regular, but shorter, scheduled visit at Zambarano Hospital. I carried her up and down all of the stairs in and out of the hospital. (The things we do for those we love!) She had practiced her therapy there for more than six years and she knew the people there very, very well. I sat Fallon in a large green upholstered armchair and asked one dear woman who dearly loved her to “take care” of Fallon by brushing her, while I attended to the rest of the group with Abbie. That was perfect, for little did I know how much they needed that exclusive time. For one solid hour, Fallon was content and her special human friend was so happy. That would be the last time they would be together.

That was Tuesday. By Thursday when I returned home from work, I found Fallon laying on her side on the floor, not even aware that I’d come in. No coyote impression today. So, I got down on my knees and bent over her and said her name softly in her ear. Her eyes opened wide and she “smiled” managing a small Woo Woo, and she did wag her tail. That’s when I knew what was coming, and coming soon -- another difficult decision.

On Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, after consulting with my veterinarian the evening before, and after watching Fallon go downhill very fast the two days prior, we made the decision that we all dread. I believe she was OK with this one. She was no longer the happy little girl I’d always known. We made her comfortable on the couch and spent the day close to her caring for her and not leaving her side. Mostly she slept, but she knew we were there. That afternoon my vet came to the house, compassionately sparing Fallon any jostling and anxiety of a last trip to his office. Many thanks to him for that visit and his wonderful, caring advice.

“ **Perhaps learning to listen helps prevent later regrets.** ”

That date, May 26, was already a very meaningful one for me, My Dad had passed away on May 10<sup>th</sup> of the previous year and his memorial service was held on the 26<sup>th</sup>. This day was the one-year anniversary. Now Fallon.

I don't know how these coincidences happen, or if God actually plans these things, but this date is doubly memorable for me now. It was probably my personal saddest day but somehow a little bit sweeter since Fallon "chose" the same day to leave us.

And now I have so many questions. Had she really understood my decisions? Did she know her time was so short? Did she not want to be forgotten and knew that day of all days she would not be?

I wonder. Did she know that she needed to see her friend one more time? Is that why she let me wash her face? Was she asking me to change my decision and take her to say good bye? Did she think that if she were real good I'd take her? Well if so, she was right, because I did!

Who knows what a little dog like that is capable of understanding and conveying? Perhaps quite a lot. She understood matters of the heart like no one else I've

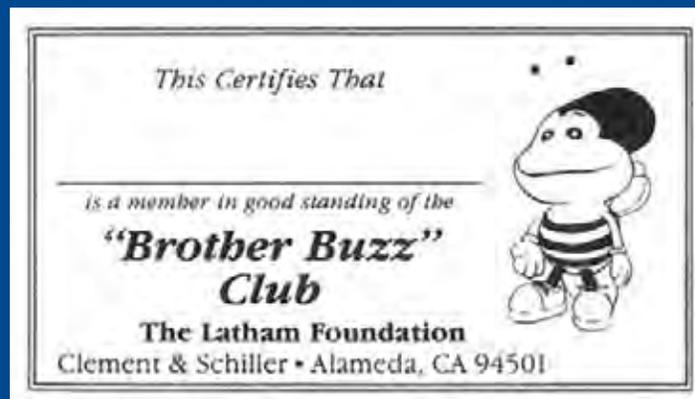


known. Fallon had influenced my decisions many times in the past, why not one more time. Yes, Fallon, I heard you and I'm so glad I did.

FallyV@cox.net



## Do you remember Brother Buzz?



If so, we'd love to hear from you.  
Contact us at [info@latham](mailto:info@latham) and put "Brother Buzz" in the subject line.

Thanks!

Greening, continued from page 11

additional heat reduction.” That’s crucial in Phoenix, where daytime temperatures rise above 100 degrees for at least four months each year. The building is climate-controlled for maximum energy savings, and lighting in offices and restrooms is sensor-equipped.

When it comes to reducing our environmental footprint, every little bit helps. Even if a shelter has no immediate plans for a green building, they can still recycle, for example; shelters generate large amounts of recyclable material, including cans, newspaper and cardboard. The North County Humane Society and SPCA in Oceanside, Calif., has an informal program. As Julie Bank, (former) executive director, explains it, “We put recyclables into a bin and a volunteer collects it and takes it up the road to the recycling center.” That small program ultimately keeps hundreds of pounds of material out of the county landfill.

The Michigan Humane Society runs a more sophisticated program called the Green Sweep. Among the items recycled are office paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, metal and newspaper. The organization also recently started to recycle cell phones and cell phone accessories. One program helps the environment while the other raises money for the animals.

A sample of other green shelters either open or in the works includes Canada’s Winnipeg Humane Society and Bow Valley SPCA, Michigan’s Humane Society of Huron Valley, California’s Sacramento County Animal Care and Texas’s Dallas Animal Services. More shelters will no doubt be added to the list as cities begin to require that new private buildings meet environmentally appropriate standards.

When it comes to planning, going green requires a commitment not only of time and money but also dedication to eco-friendly principles. James F. Owens, project manager with Boston’s Rauhaus Freedenfeld and Associates, says it’s more economical to start with something new rather than try to retrofit a project that’s already under way.

For example, water reuse and/or reduction projects are good for the environment and can slice utility bills, but they have to be carefully planned. As Owens notes, “Water must be properly filtered and cleaned in the animal areas, where infection can be a concern.” (For shelters that opt not to recycle water, Owens recommends high-pressure

washers because they use fewer gallons per minute than traditional hoses.)

Air filtration designed to prevent the spread of disease, particularly upper respiratory varieties, is also crucial. According to Lucinda Schläffer of ARQ Architects, the system should use 100 percent outside air and circulate 10 to 12 air changes per hour. It’s also true that such a system is costly to run, and most shelters operate on slim budgets.

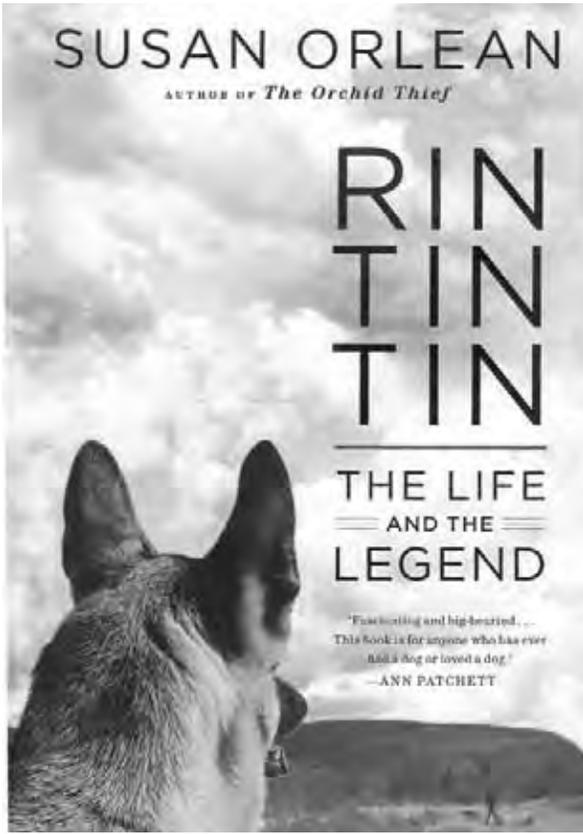
Dr. Wendy Swift, veterinary medical director at the Kent County Humane Society in Grand Rapids, Mich., adds a caveat, noting that unless shelters also employ a disease prevention protocol, an air filtration system – no matter how advanced or eco-friendly – will be worthless. “Disease is spread from animal to animal and from human contact. An air filtration system alone will not save lives.”

Switchboards are busy at architecture firms like ARQ, George Miers, and Rauhaus Freedenfeld. Going green isn’t a fad – it’s a necessity, the only way to reverse climate change, reduce pressure on overflowing landfills and combat pollution. By doing as much as they can given their individual circumstances, shelters are helping animals and befriending the environment at the same time. “Constructing a building with a social conscience fit into our mission of making a difference and enriching lives for both people and animals,” says Heller of the Potter League for Animals – an admirable mission indeed.



*This article first appeared in The Bark, Issue 51, Nov/Dec 2008.*





## Rin Tin Tin: The Life and the Legend

By Susan Orlean

Reviewed by Mary Tebault

Growing up in the baby boom era with *The Adventures of Rin Tin Tin*, I was eager to read this book and did so in a marathon six-hour session! Susan recounts Rinty's journey beginning with his adoption by a US soldier on the battlefields of France in World War I and continuing with his road to stardom through silent films, talkies, radio programs and finally concluding with the classic television series mentioned above.

This book is more than the story of a dog who makes it big and his progeny who carry on his legacy. As stated in the book jacket, "At its core, *Rin Tin Tin* is a poignant exploration of the enduring bond between humans and animals."

It was an honor to meet Susan Orlean in person at the recent American Humane Association's Hero Dog Awards on October 1, 2011.

### *Rin Tin Tin*

By Susan Orlean

Simon & Schuster • New York, NY

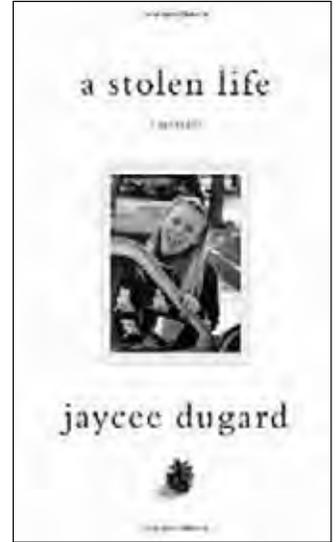
ISBN 978-1-4391-9013-5 • ISBN 978-1-4391-9015-9 ebook

## A STOLEN LIFE

By Jaycee Dugard

Reviewed by Terre Roche

In 1991 when Jaycee Dugard was eleven years old, she was walking up a hill on her way to school in a sleepy rural town near Lake Tahoe, California. While her stepfather watched from the driveway of their home, a car pulled up, someone inside snatched Jaycee, and the car drove away. A huge manhunt stretched on in the ensuing months but produced no evidence of the little girl's whereabouts.



Eighteen years later and 120 miles away, Philip Garrido's parole officer called him into the police station for questioning. Garrido, a 58-yr-old convicted sex offender, brought four people with him – his wife Nancy, a young woman named Alissa, and two teenage girls. The police interrogators separated Garrido from the women and took him into a room for questioning. That's when he confessed to kidnapping Alissa, imprisoning her in his backyard for eighteen years, and fathering two children with her. Alissa was Jaycee Dugard.

After reading Jaycee Dugard's memoir *A Stolen Life*, I had such a profound feeling of gratitude toward her for writing about her experience that I recommended the book to my friends; many who recoiled at the idea, even while expressing admiration that I was "able to read it."

Jaycee's book begins on the morning of her abduction. That day she had two main concerns. She was planning to ask her mother if she could shave her legs for the first time. There was a class swimming trip coming up and she didn't want to be embarrassed by the hair that was beginning to grow on her body. Her other concern was that she wanted a dog. A shy person by nature, she often found animals easier to make friends with than people. These were her thoughts as she set out up the hill to the bus stop. These concerns were obliterated in an instant when the people that she thought had stopped to ask for directions stole her life.

Jaycee describes the details of her sexual and psychological abuse with remarkable clarity. I choose not to paraphrase her account because her voice is singular and

powerful and that's the voice that should tell about these frightening matters. I think her story will inspire you. Her book is full of wisdom, compassion, and insight.

Philip Garrido imprisoned Jaycee for eighteen years in his backyard on a suburban street. He kept her in a series of sheds and tents from which she couldn't hear about the manhunt or see her mother's tearful appeals on television. She wondered if anyone noticed that she had disappeared.

Garrido, who had spent ten years in prison for raping a woman, had been released before the end of his sentence and was free to live among the general population as long as he didn't violate his parole. Parole officers came to his house at least 60 times during Jaycee's captivity. Not one of them ever thought to investigate the sheds in his backyard.

As the years passed Jaycee began to feel more and more invisible but she never stopped thinking about her mother, even after she lost the ability to remember what her mother looked like.

At one point I turned the page to a chapter entitled 'Cats.' For an instant I thought we might leap out of this dark tale into one of those cute little books about the various antics of our beloved pets. Instead, the 'Cats' chapter is the heart and soul of Jaycee's recovery. Garrido occasionally allowed her to have a pet cat. Although he eventually took each of them away, her time with them revived Jaycee's ability to love and feel loved and brought hope into her life.

The birth of her two daughters deepened and fostered this ability to love. Fortunately, Garrido's obsession turned away from sex with children and he did not violate his own daughters. He turned toward religion and eventually regarded Jaycee as the person who rehabilitated him and saved other children from harm.

Also of interest to *Latham Letter* readers is the fact that animals, especially horses, have been a main element in Jaycee's therapy since her liberation. For eighteen years she experienced nothing but a relentless dose of cruel and deranged human contact. The wonderful people who have participated in her ongoing recovery are in stark contrast to that. From the vigilant campus policewomen who saw something suspicious in the behavior of a religious fanatic distributing pamphlets, to the deeply committed trauma therapist who uses equine-assisted therapy with Jaycee, her mother, her aunt, and her two daughters today, we find an ocean of goodness in the human spirit and a beautiful example of the positive benefits of the human-animal bond.

Yes, Jaycee's abduction and imprisonment is every

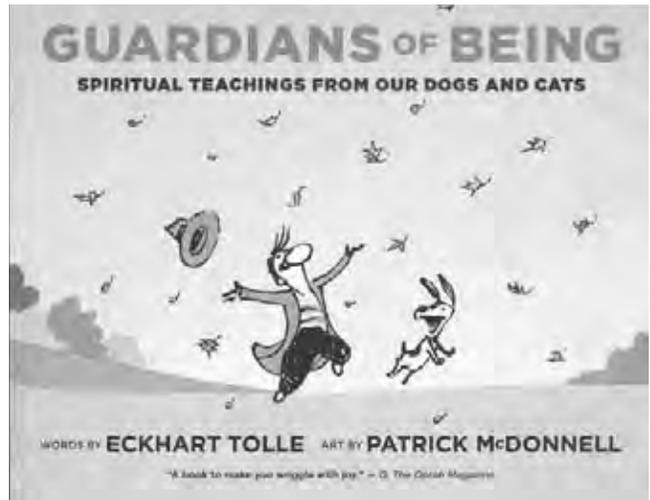
parent's nightmare. And although at times it's difficult to read, *A Stolen Life* is, in the end, a beautifully brave and unflinching look into the murky depths of mental illness and the almost unbelievable failure of law enforcement in modern America. It's also a testament to the human spirit that comes from a voice unlike any other I've ever heard.

***A Stolen Life***

By Jaycee Dugard

Simon & Schuster • New York, New York

ISBN 978-1-4516-2918-7 • ISBN 978 1 4516-2920-0 ebook



***Guardians of Being***

***Spiritual Teachings from our Dogs and Cats***

Words by Eckhart Tolle, Art by Patrick McDonnell

*"I have lived with many Zen masters, all of them cats."*

– Eckhart Tolle

*"Millions of people who otherwise would be completely lost in their minds and in endless past and future concerns are taken back by their dog or cat into the present moment, again and again, and reminded of the joy of Being."*

– Eckhart Tolle

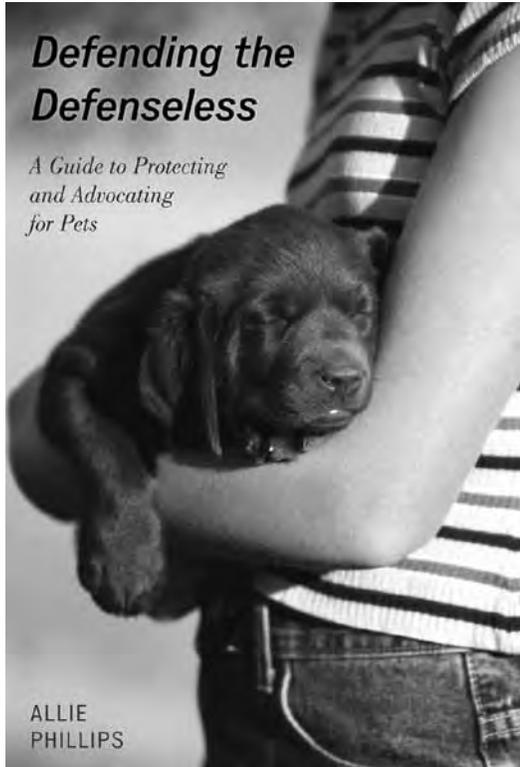
These are examples of two of the quotes by spiritual leader Eckhart Tolle that are delightfully illustrated by Patrick McDonnell, the creator of the comic strip MUTTS in their wonderful *Guardians of Being*.

Pick any two pages at random. They will make your day.

***Guardians of Being***

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## Defending the Defenseless, A Guide to Protecting and Advocating for Pets

By Allie Phillips

Allie Phillips has written a detailed – but far from dry – guide for anyone who wants to join the growing crusade to bring animal protection to its rightful place in a civilized society. *Defending the Defenseless* is both inspiring and practical. It’s amazingly current and complete and therefore perfect for anyone who loves animals and wants guidance on how to get involved and negotiate the complexities of animal protection and advocacy.

The author reminds us that, regardless of career or life style, anyone can become an advocate for pets, whether volunteering at an animal shelter, opposing animal experimentation, donating money, or

raising compassionate children.

We at Latham want to point out that the author has devoted an entire chapter to Humane Education. Chapter Four, ‘Kids Helping Animals,’ includes an overview of the natural affinity that most babies and young children have toward animals, a description of what a humane educator is, perspectives from leaders in the field, resources, and American Humane Association’s “Ideas for Educators” which describes ways for kids to get involved. These ideas include K-5, Middle School, and High School activities.

To quote the author, “How do we get people to be conscious

about compassion toward animals in their everyday living? We start with the children.”

*Defending the Defenseless* has earned well-deserved praise. For example:

*“Allie Phillips has crafted a thoughtful, refreshingly personal, and comprehensive guide for anyone seeking to become more involved with helping the animals who share our world. Whether you are taking ‘baby steps’ in making humane life-style changes, or taking the great leap into starting your own group to advocate for animals, this book provides hundreds of valuable tips to get you started, keep you focused, and keep you sane while doing great things.”*

– Randall Lockwood, Ph.D., Forensic Sciences and Anti-cruelty Projects, ASPCA

*“This book is at once a how-to manual and an inspirational piece. ... Whether your passion is puppy*

*mills, feral cats, legislative change, or shelter reform, Defending the Defenseless will make us all better advocates on behalf of our animal friends.”*

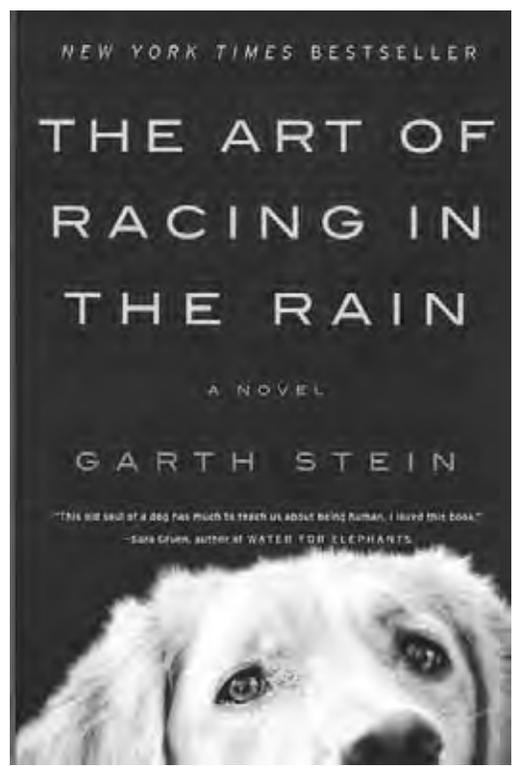
– Maya Gupta, Ph.D., executive director, Ahimsa House, Inc.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

*Allie Phillips is an author, attorney, and advocate for the protection of animals and vulnerable victims. To learn more, please visit [www.alliephillips.com](http://www.alliephillips.com)*

*Defending the Defenseless: A Guide to Protecting and Advocating for Pets*

By Allie Phillips  
Published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.  
[www.rowmanlittlefield.com](http://www.rowmanlittlefield.com)



## The Art of Racing in the Rain

By Garth Stein  
Reviewed by Stacy Baar

Reading this beautifully written, charming tale about the trials and tribulations of the Swift family, from the perspective of the family dog, Enzo, has caused me to think about my own dog with a new attitude

I could not help but wonder what she is thinking as she observes me going through the myriad of rituals of daily living.

The Swift family and their friends experience love, joy, loss, despair and rebirth, and the reader is provided a front row seat courtesy of Enzo.

Garth Stein has created a wise old soul in Enzo, who reveals his unique perspective on all that surrounds him and continually comments on his present being as a “dog” and what he believes will be his future. Enzo’s glib sense of humor and absolute passion for car racing endear him to the reader.

This is a fast, enjoyable read that will bring both smiles and tears and the need to hug your dog.

***The Art of Racing in the Rain***

By Garth Stein  
Harper Collins.com



***Gabriel’s Angels: The Story of the Dog Who Inspired a Revolution***

By Pam Gaber

*“I love the dogs that play with us and that teach us that they are like us. They show me how to show empathy to humans and dogs and other living creatures.”*

– Lucinda, age 15

Lucinda is one of more than 50,000 Arizona children that Gabriel’s Angels volunteer therapy teams have touched since the organization began in 2000.

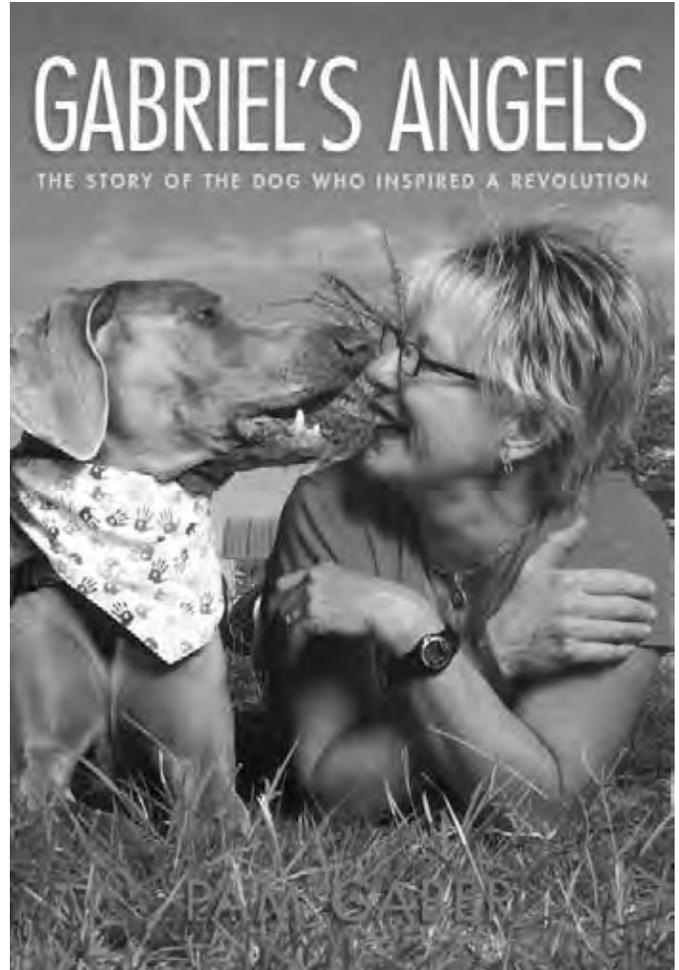
Author Pam Gaber never set out to change the world. She just thought the kids at the Phoenix Crisis Nursery where she volunteered would get a kick out of seeing her dog, Gabriel,

wearing a pair of fake reindeer antlers to a Christmas party. “What happened that day was nothing short of incredible,” Pam says. “I knew it was either nothing, or it was really something.”

This book is Pam’s story of leaving Corporate America and serendipitously creating a program that works to end the cycle of violence for abused, neglected, and abandoned children through healing pet therapy. The story is part memoir, part biography of Gabriel, the dog who personally interacted with more than 10,000 children, and part how-to.

It is a must-read for all pet lovers, child welfare advocates, nonprofit CEOs and board members, and people leaving Corporate America and wondering “What’s next?”

Chapter Ten, “Why Pet Therapy Works,” will be of particular interest to anyone interested in “The Link,” the correlation between child abuse, animal cruelty, and other forms of violence. The Gabriel’s Angel’s program works to improve healthy core behaviors that are critical to normal childhood development. It



focuses on improving empathy, self-esteem, trust, compassion, respect, and encourages nurturing behavior in a safe environment. Very importantly, the organization's founders hired a firm that performs program evaluations for human services agencies to develop a scale that the staffs at their client agencies could use to rate the development of core behaviors they saw in their children. The chapter includes suggested activities and beautifully

written descriptions of why and how they work to master the necessary core behaviors. It is highly recommended reading for anyone working with children who have been exposed to violence.

*Gabriel's Angels* is both an inspirational and a practical read – a beautiful tribute to the power of the human-animal bond.

***Gabriel's Angels: The Story of the Dog Who Inspired a Revolution***

*Gabriel's Angels, Inc.*

1550 E. Maryland Avenue • Suite 1 • Phoenix, AZ 85014

GabrielsAngels.org

602-266-0875

ISBN 978-0-615-44590-8

\$19.00 (All proceeds go to Gabriel's Angels.)



effectively hard-hitting yet hopeful project. Although they recommend *Uncaged* for ages 11 and older, I would think carefully before showing it to viewers that young because of the graphic images of dogs in puppy mills. Otherwise, this is a valuable addition to a humane educator's library.

***Uncaged: Second Chances for Puppy Mill Breeder Dogs***

Produced by Ann Metcalf, MA, LPC

(Counselor and Educator/Filmmaker) and Christine Shaughness, MA

(Pet Behavior Consultant and Dog Trainer)

Available at [ChrisShaughness.com](http://ChrisShaughness.com)

***UNCAGED: Second Chances for Puppy Mill Breeder Dogs***

*(The Educator Edition)*

*Uncaged* is a 25-minute movie that focuses on puppy mill breeder dogs and the patient adopters who take them into their homes and hearts to give them a second chance. The Educator Edition consists of the DVD and a study guide. The guide consists of well-thought-out questions, activities, and resources to help viewers: define what a puppy mill is; list what things dogs need to grow, be happy, and become socialized; describe the steps to a responsible dog adoption; make plans for taking care of a dog; and identify ways to personally improve how dogs live.

By using real-world examples from a Golden Retriever rescue group in Pennsylvania, the filmmakers have produced an

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# COMING SOON ... Latham's New Video

## The Best Dog Ever

**IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH**

*Everything you always wanted to know about first-time dog ownership but were afraid to ask*

Marisela, a delightful high-school senior whose family has finally let her adopt the dog she has always wanted, has plenty of questions. She is thrilled to have her first dog but she knows that "love is not enough," so, determined to get off on the right foot (paw), she asks the behaviorist at her local humane society for advice.

The behaviorist answers with good-humored knowledge and years of experience. They discuss the importance of:

- Spaying and neutering (including what to say to a resistant father),
- Training (including clicker training) and other challenges,
- Licensing,
- Nutrition, and
- Exercise – in other words, everything necessary to be a responsible pet owner and fully enjoy their new family member.

Inspired and informed, Marisela moves forward confidently, determined to have "the best dog ever."

The DVD contains both English and Spanish versions and is suitable for all first-time dog owners. The English version is 8 minutes long and the Spanish version is 10 minutes.

*Written and directed by Tula Asselanis – Music by Mark Johnson*

Available soon at [Latham.org](http://Latham.org) or by calling 510-521-0920.



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