

THE Latham Letter

VOLUME XLIII, NUMBER 3

Summer 2022

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION



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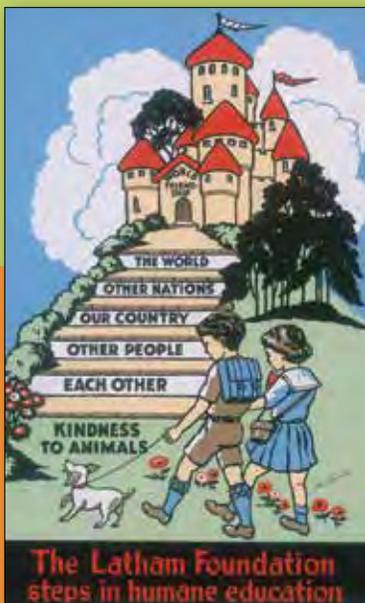
Edith Latham's **MANDATE:**

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



WELCOME BACK, BROTHER BUZZ!

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



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The Latham Letter

Volume XLIII, Number 3, Summer 2022

BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON HUMANE ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES



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

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Hugh H. Tebault, President

The Human-Animal Bond is Universal

In this issue of The Latham Letter, we highlight a program from the Netherlands that has actively had people and animals working together for over a decade. The ongoing work of animal therapy can be so helpful, and this is but one of several examples in this issue.

My family and I had the privilege to live in the town of Amersfoort, Netherlands for two years where our little children went to local schools. During that time, we had a wonderful neighborhood and our row-house had a small yard in both front and back. We were able to have pet rabbits during that time, recognizing the importance of having a pet to learn about respect for animals.



Picture of daughter Missy and one rabbit

The program in Eindhoven reminds me very much of the work documented in our film – “Hi Ya Beautiful”. <https://vimeopro.com/lathamfoundation/animal-assisted-activities/video/259965390> That film examined the work at the Lima State Hospital, now known as the Oakwood Center, of the therapeutic use of animals and animal programs. It is interesting that the model used at Lima State of having select clients actively work to develop the area that helps the animals, and the improvement shown by doing this, is echoed by the work at De Woenselse Poort in Eindhoven. I see this as an application of The Latham Steps in Humane Education, helping the individual recognize that showing respect toward animals benefits him/her as well, and

that success leads to the person wanting to actively participate in their society.

In the Lima State example, patients were often withdrawn and ignored therapeutic attempts to help them until animal-based therapies was developed and used. With the help of the animal interaction, the therapist was able to interact with the patient, and many patients were actively working to help the animals.

Latham continues to encourage the recognition of building a foundation on the solid rock of showing kindness toward animals, building up from there.

Our experiences as parents and the programs at both Lima State, Ohio and Eindhoven, Netherlands are examples of therapies that can return great benefits to both the people and animals involved. Please consider how your organization can rededicate and adapt a program to harness the wonderful power of the human-animal bond. 🐾



LATHAM 2022 GRANT AWARDS



2022 GRANT AWARDS WENT TO A DIVERSE GROUP OF WONDERFUL ORGANIZATIONS:

Austin Dog Alliance – Austin, TX

Charleston Animal Society –
North Charleston, SC

Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control –
Fort Wayne, IN

Friends for Felines, Inc – Blasdell, NY

Healing with Horses Ranch – Manor, TX

HeartStrides Therapeutic Horsemanship –
Olympia, WA

Helping Horse Therapeutic Riding –
Raleigh, NC

Hero's Bridge – Warrenton, VA

Horses & Heroes Inc. – Shawnee, KS

Humane Society Sonoma County –
Santa Rosa, CA

In Step With Horses Inc. – Chagrin Falls, OH

Indiana Canine Assistant Network –
Zionsville, IN

Jacksonville Humane Society –
Jacksonville, FL

Jasper Ridge Farm – Woodside, CA

Leashes of Valor – Milford, VA

Living Free – Mountain Center, CA

Lockwood Animal Rescue Center –
Fraizer Park, CA

New Freedom Farm, Inc. – Buchanan, VA

Operation Remount Corp. – Jay Em, WY

Paws and Think, Inc. – Indianapolis, IN

Paws for Heros – Houston, TX

Paws for Life K9 Rescue – Mission Hills, CA

Pegasus Farm – Hartville, OH

Son Care Foundation – San Luis Obispo, CA

Soul Friends Inc. – Wallingford, CT

SpiritHorse dba Heavenly Hooves Therapy –
Farmserville, TX

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona –
Tucson, AZ

Veteran Companion Animal Services –
Delaware, OH

Veterans Assistance Dogs of Texas –
Kerrville, TX

Zuma Rescue Ranch – Littleton, CO

It's Your Time to Shine!

*If you received a Latham Humane Education grant and
would like us to consider featuring your program here,
or you have an article you'd like to submit,
please contact: Editor@latham.org.*

The Animal Gang

A Forensic Psychiatric Program (De Woenselse Poort, The Netherlands)

By M. Van Spijk¹, L. Meers², E. Walsh³, S. Normando⁴

How it began

About ten years ago, in 2010, the forensic psychiatric health clinic “De Woenselse Poort” started one of the first institutional-based animal-assisted projects in the Netherlands, called the “Animal Gang.” The project aimed to offer an extra therapeutical service to clients under the strongest security (level 3). Level 3 clients have to attend therapy due to court sentencing and therefore live under the continuous supervision of guards, are not allowed to leave the facility limits/gates without supervision, nor to use their own phones or the internet. As a consequence, all their therapeutical sessions are organized



within the level 3 security zone, a zone surrounded by fencing, only accessible via a gate, and continuously monitored by guards.

The Effect on the Clients

When forensic psychiatric patients are admitted to a psychiatric clinic, they face disconnection from life on the outside, resulting in feelings of loneliness and a lack of social support. Attachment theory indicates that insecure attachment is linked to anti-social behavior and subsequent incarceration. Many scientific studies suggest that an emotional bond with an animal during animal-assisted programs might help forensic psychiatric patients to show more social behavior generally,

and toward other inmates and staff. They might be more relaxed, less violent, or suicidal. The presence of animals is also described as lowering the need for medication and recidivism rates. These are some of the benefits of animal-assisted programs to forensic psychiatric patients.

But these programs also come with challenges. For instance, forensic projects might be associated with animal abuse or neglect. This might happen because clients often suffer from mental diseases and therefore show destructive behaviours. They might find it challenging to behave respectfully during social interactions with humans and animals, experience difficulties showing empathy to others or taking care of themselves and others, and get into trouble because of addiction or impulse control issues. Consequently, we don't consider it a good idea for them to have an animal to look



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miniature piglets who were introduced into the project at one year of age. The first year the piglets lived with the animal handler and were prepared to assist during animal-assisted interventions. The mini pigs were chosen because of their size, curiosity, and interest in learning new things. There are also three dwarf goats who were all rejected at a young age by their mother and were bottle-fed. As a result, the goats are very

attached to human companionship but all on their own terms. The project has a field with a rabbit hill to house some rabbits under more natural conditions. There are some cats, King pigeons, two Belgian

after and care for independently. They might have periods in which they may not manage to have the discipline to care for the animal properly. This might have adverse consequences for the animals involved. Therefore, the animal gang is provided with a supportive structure of animal handlers and therapists who look after the animals' housing, management, and daily care together with the clients.

From Wasteland to Oasis

In 2010 the Animal Gang started to renovate a piece of wasteland in a level 3 zone. The first clients of the project were selected by the internal employment agency based on their positive building skills. This was very practical, as initially things had to be handmade such as the structures within the meadow—building paths, straightening fencing, pens for the animals, etc. As soon as this process started, and it became more

and more visible, more and more clients asked if they could help and get involved in the project. The Animal Gang stands for cooperation and teamwork because the animals motivate clients to help and to show positive social skills. They also are a good basis for solving challenges together, helping each other to make the setting as comfortable as possible for the animals and at the same time enabling clients to work on their therapy skills of communication, social interaction, dealing with challenging situations, remaining calm etc. The project focuses on positive intention and working with the animals as a strong motivation.

Farm Animals

At the Woenselse Poort we work with several farm animals, housed in the Animal Gang oasis. At the moment there are four



Continued on next page



coldblooded horses and some Barnevelder Chicken, a typically Dutch breed.

A priority to introduce the animals into our project is that all animals are safe and have everything they need to survive. In addition to their daily food, water and shelter, we also consider it important that they receive environmental enrichment on a daily basis to keep them mentally healthy. In this way, the animals are a source of inspiration and function as a role model for our clients to show that it is not enough that you have food, water and a roof over your head but that you also need to take care of your

mental health in order to feel good about yourself.

How to Involve Animals

Therapy sessions for our clients are individualized as their needs are very diverse. Some of them need mental health care, others need addiction care or help with a mental or physical disability, etc. Each client has their own priority during their care process that differs in duration. However, the

ultimate goal should be the same for everyone, i.e., through care to ensure that clients can return to society responsibly or move on to a regular care institution or (assisted) housing.



During animal-assisted interventions, we work with two techniques, one being talking therapy in which the animals fulfill a symbolic role. These sessions aim to encourage interaction among clients as they start

Continued on next page



to ask questions about the animals, tell stories about their previous pets, and interact with the animal handlers and other people at the institution.

Alternatively, clients might also work directly with the animals to provide them with new and

challenging environmental enrichment. For instance, they might design a food puzzle for the piglets, which is challenging as one cannot buy them in a shop. Moreover, these animals are very clever and good at destroying objects that are not well built. After designing and building the tool,

the clients then must figure out how to present the puzzle and how to train the animals to use it. In a nutshell, this exercise helps our clients to be more social, co-operate as a group, and show empathy with the

pigs who need to solve their puzzle. At the same time clients have to show problem-solving skills because, without these skills, one cannot create and solve a puzzle with animals.

People – Animal – Nature, a Circle of Care

Humans and animals do not live on their own. They need nature to connect, feed, and keep them alive. That's why the Animal Gang also includes a garden to complete the circle of care, including human, animal, and nature. We aim to provide for our animals and keep them as healthy as possible by growing our own seasonal fruits and vegetables. At the same time, we created a garden and the opportunity to show our clients how they can





live according to the rhythm of nature. Moreover, we do not only sow and plant crops, but we also consider spontaneous weeds to be very important. For instance, clients learn when pruning waste or weeds in the garden to collect herbs separately - such as garden orache (*Atriplex hortensis*), or Chickweed (*Stellaria media*). For some of our animals these weeds are a real treat. In addition, we can teach them that garden orache is a very healthy vegetable for humans as well and can be compared with spinach.

One could buy these vegetables very expensively at the greengrocer,

but if you look around in the Netherlands you will see them growing in nature in many places. Adding this green dimension to our project gives our clients who are mainly interested in the animals the opportunity to learn about free food. And if you can provide animals healthy food, you also have the capability to take better care of yourself and your own family. A nurturing circle in which humans, animals and nature bond together to break the circle of violence and crime.

The Authors: ¹De Woenselse Poort, Eindhoven, Nederland; ²BIAAT Foundation, Genk, Belgium; ³Cork Pet Behaviour Center, Cork, Ireland; ⁴Padua University, Department of Comparative Biomedicine and Food Science, Padua, Italy. 



Dog Ambassador to Israel, A Video Diary

By Ezra Julien Radoff, RBS Therapy Dogs.

In the beginning, I stated two goals. One was to be able to travel to places outside my home base of operations to work for other clientele in other cities. The other goal was to be a dog-ambassador in places where people do not know about dogs. Because of the expenses involved in travelling to other cities, and other logistical problems, I had never been able to visit these places before. The cost of gasoline is much higher here in Israel than in the USA, and so is the cost of automobile insurance, owning a car, or renting a car. Without the grant, I would be operating at a net loss and so I couldn't consider expanding.

I was quite successful in both areas. I was able to acquire three clients in Jerusalem and do encounter work in four neighborhoods in Jerusalem; a school in Mea Shearim, Maalot Dafna, Sanhedria and Romema. We also went to a neighborhood called Kiryat Sanz, which is on the coast. Grant funds from Latham were used for travel expenses, advertising expenses, the hiring of an assistant to ease travel and translate where I needed it, and to subsidise the costs of my services to these families, many of whom live either in poverty or at least extremely limited means. We spent anywhere from 6 sessions to 12 with each client, usually once a week.

Literally hundreds of people, mostly children, benefited from our encounter work. In every neighborhood we visited, we made it a point to spend extra time in the heavily used children's parks and other public places. Most of the children had never been around dogs before. Usually we gathered crowds that were so large we had to be careful not to overwhelm the dogs. This was another instance where my assistant was very useful - crowd control. People's initial fear always melted away quickly and they were all smiles within a few minutes. The encounter work was always popular and I was able to converse with children and parents to educate them about the magic of relationships with dogs. Although we were nervous at first, we never had a single negative encounter.



The ages of clients I will see are 4-12, but for some reason, most of them are between 6 and 10. The boy in Maalot Dafna suffers from a skeletal disease which is easily noticeable. He also has had to face a number of surgeries. Another client had had his best friend and



another close friend of the family die within days of each other, and he was quite shaken. Other clients suffer from anxiety issues and others are on the Autism spectrum. I see a lot of ADHD clients, but these were all local during the time period.

My effectiveness was measured in the reports back after my sessions from parents and children. Without exception, clients improved noticeably in a few weeks' time. Parents and teachers noticed signs such as cessation in bed-wetting, general confidence building, better behavior in general, better communication and self expression skills, and were happy with the results and generally felt a sense of relief.

I regret that I could have gotten some press coverage, but I did not think of this until late in the game, and I didn't know how to go about it. This is the only thing I would do differently. Very few people do this kind of work, but I don't know any reporters. Due to Covid, we were not able to visit any retirement homes or do shows, and I would like to do those things at some point again. 🙏

Pets: The Unsung Pandemic Heroes

By Sahana Sridar

March 13th, 2020, a day that might still, by instinct, make you anxiously shudder. The day that schools were shut down until TBD. Masked and gloved individuals poured into grocery stores, filling their carts with endless amounts of toilet paper and granola bars. The most we could do was attempt to prepare ourselves physically, as there was no way to predict how humans, inherently social creatures, would be able to deal with the psychological and social ramifications of a pandemic that may or may not end.



March 2020: Family picture with my brother, Otis, and I.

At first, I welcomed the two weeks of freedom and relaxation; eventually, the realization that I might never have a normal day of high school again hit me like a ton of bricks. A person could only go without a routine for so long before a spiral of stress and boredom kicks in.

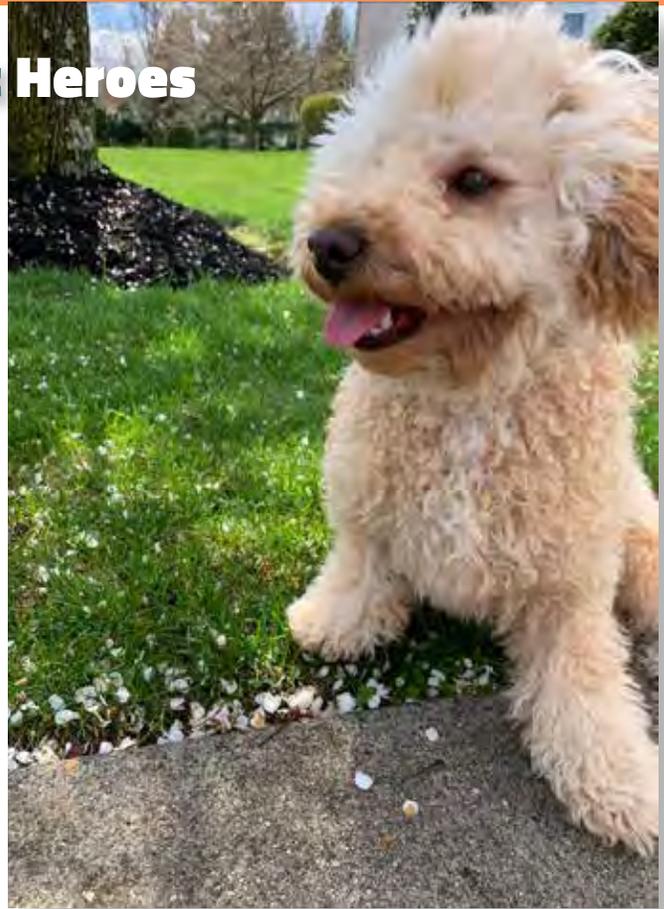
Studies indicated that adopting a pet provides individuals with

emotional support, thus reducing social isolation. According to the ASPCA, nearly one in five American households adopted a pet during the pandemic.

My family and I were grateful to have adopted Otis a few months before quarantine began. With face licks and belly rubs, Otis was a furry ball of energy who regularly gave me a sense of accountability

when he would wait near the door for me to take him on a walk. When we made our rounds about the neighborhood, we met other dogs and owners craving company as much as we were. I also got to appreciate the sunshine and breeze, which was much preferable to staying at home for long periods.

This summer I have been working with Dr. Mary Rautis to conduct a study investigating the dog acquisition



May 2020; Otis appreciating the weather on a breezy spring day

process during quarantine as well as better understanding people's pet experiences and challenges. My family and I viewed Otis as a nonverbal member of our family who was a bundle of joy. To each person, their pet means something different to them than it does to the next. Dogs can fill the void in your

heart from the passing of a loved one. Dogs can be your protector. Dogs can also just be cuddle buddies. I was also interested



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her bedridden husband and psychiatrist both thought that she needed a more energetic young puppy to keep her company and energize the house.

I was very interested in understanding what drew people to the particular dog they ended up adopting, as six out of nine participants said that they experienced love at first sight or instant connection with their pets. Some people preferred specific breeds: one of my interviewees wanted a Corgi ever since she was little and ended up adopting one with

in investigating differences in quarantine experiences among those who acquired pets during the pandemic vs. those who adopted pets before.

I interviewed nine people of different ages, races and socioeconomic statuses who acquired pets either sometime before March 2020 or after. Though I interviewed a broad group of subjects, similar themes were noted throughout my interview analysis. Though the origins of how and where people got their dogs differed tremendously, these subjects were surprisingly similarly motivated and challenged by their pets.



als of income under twenty-five thousand adopted their dogs from friends, as this is low-cost and convenient. Other individuals adopted dogs from shelters and rescues. One man

I interviewed met his soon-to-be dog on a church retreat to Appalachia. He went to work on this lady's house who had 10-15 dogs that were pitbulls or pit bull mixes. He and his wife immediately connected with one of the dogs and convinced the owner

to let them adopt her. Another person I interviewed had a brain tumor removed and her dog Sadie was her present. In other words,



her second husband. Another one of my interviewees always wanted a Yorkie but knew they needed a lot of attention, so she waited until she retired to act on her desire to adopt one. Some people were attracted to specific physical

features on dogs like brindle markings, and some people didn't have any preferences except a dog of a certain size.



As said previously, my nine interviewees acquired their pets from different sources. Individu-

Continued on next page



I also inquired about the reasons people wanted to adopt a dog. On one end of the spectrum, people who grew up with dogs their whole lives cited that as the main reason

for adopting one. On the other hand, some people who grew up in a very pet-less family stayed com-



mitted to their goal of ultimately getting a pet. Three of the people I interviewed adopted the dogs they did to prevent them from the harsh fate they might face in shelters. One subject had just lost a dog and didn't want to take in her friend's pitbull; yet, she knew that though she was a sweetheart, she might act aggressively to shelter workers and consequently be put down. Thus, she rescued her from the unbearable fate that this dog might have faced.

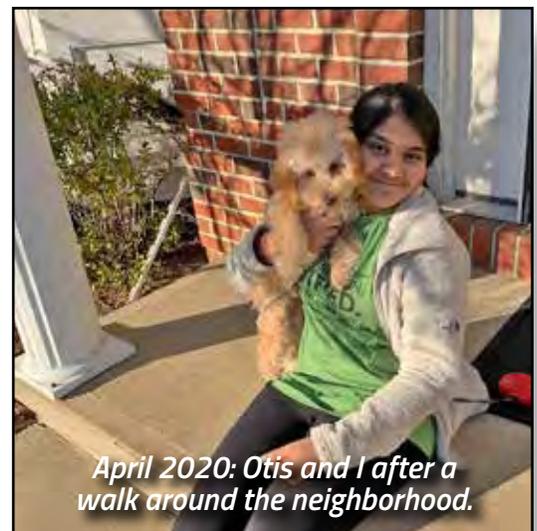
Eight out of the nine people I interviewed viewed their dogs as members of their family or rather as kids with four legs. Some people who didn't have their

own children viewed the time commitment and responsibility of taking care of a dog akin to that of having a child.

Other people had children but might tolerate their dog more and value the time spent with them to a greater extent. In addition, seven out of the nine people described their dogs as companions. The meaning of this word differed from person to person. One of my interviewees described what they were looking for in a pet was just a "happy dopey dog that's happy to see me when I

come home and happy to see me on the couch." Another interviewee described her dog as her "best friend." Many people's pets showed their love and admiration for their owners physically, whether by leaning against them real hard, sleeping with them, or reluctantly playing dress up with their owners.

Not only did dogs provide owners with companionship and support during the pandemic, but they also often acted as a social lubricant in the neighborhood. With the given flexibility that came with the pandemic, numerous dog owners went on more frequent walks as there was not much else to do with the extra time. Dogs gave owners a sense of purpose throughout their day. One of my interviewees said that her personal accountability with self-led home workout classes wasn't the best, but she would not blow off her walking commitments with her dog and she did sign on to ensure her health and safety. Seven out of nine of my interviewees said that social interactions improved



Continued on next page



through their dogs. One of my interviewees commented on how people will be more friendly and approach you when you're out with your dog, whereas normally they wouldn't. While in some cases, this might simply lead to superficial conversations with people whose names you don't remember, for other people, this led to genuine friendships and the creation of a strong support system. One of my interviewees never really knew her neighbors, but once she adopted her dog, she began interacting with really kind neighbors who have been very



supportive to her after her surgery. Having a dog has made it easier for her to befriend neighbors in the neighborhood.

Most of the pet owners I interviewed commented on how lonely lockdown would've been without their pets. When one of my interviewees got covid, although he didn't have the capacity to walk his dog, his dog was still with him on the recliner keeping him company throughout his period of illness.

There were challenges associated with having a dog during the pandemic, however. Due to the adoption boom, it was hard for some people to find veterinarians and book prompt appointments. It took

one of my interviewees a whole month to be able to get an initial assessment from the vet. In addition, because of how close some pet owners were to their dogs, it was difficult for them to have to stay in the car while their dog was picked up and seen by the vet inside the building.

The other, more prominent challenge pet owners dealt with during the pandemic was pet behavior. The most commonly voiced issues were their chewing, barking, and periods of very high energy. In addition, with bigger dogs, counter surfing and zoomies were a big problem. One of my interviewees adopted a ninety-six-pound Labrador



Retriever who was so big that he jumped on her grandmother and broke her hip. Nonetheless, the dog remained with the owner and was not rehomed. Throughout my interviews, I noticed the necessity of helping owners manage challenging pet behaviors.

Consequently, I investigated training to see how dog owners combatted these problems. About half of my interviewees did a

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Though there was an adjustment period that each dog owner faced to some extent, they would not take back the companionship that their pet brings them. During the unprecedented times of the Covid-19 pandemic, pets provided dog owners with the spirit and motivation to move forward with each day. New dog owners, if not for the pandemic, would not have gotten the time, opportunity, and means to have adopted a dog. For more experienced dog owners, having a pet continued to provide them with entertainment and joy during the pandemic. 🐾

combination of professional and independent dog training. First time dog owners were more likely to go to professional training first; one of my interviewees said that she didn't really know what she was doing and didn't want to get bad habits into her dog. In addition, another interviewee watched the dog whisperer Caesar Milan on television to learn more about how to train her dog. Some interviewees used skills and strategies learned from their workplace to ease dogs out of their behavioral problems; both a pediatric nurse practitioner and a volunteer at an animal shelter created personal exposure therapy plans for their dogs to reduce their separation anxiety.

In addition to pet behavior challenges, the financial challenges associated with caring for a dog were another consideration pet owners had to make. Vet costs were one of the bigger contributors to dog expenses. Furthermore, when quarantine ended, services had to be arranged, and a few people had to consider whether they could afford pet daycare or dog walkers to ensure that dogs would be cared for during the workday. Overall, though the nine dog owners did face their fair share of challenges, both expected and unexpected, the benefits of having a pet outweighed the challenges.



About the Author:

Sahana is a rising sophomore biology major at the University of Pittsburgh. When not spending time in the library with a textbook as a companion, Sahana loves cooking, reading, cafe-hopping, napping, and, of course, walking Otis.



The Adorable Native Cat Breeds of Greece and Cyprus

By Anna Wichmann



Κυπριακή
γάτα

A Cyprus cat lounging at Limassol Castle. This breed of feline has a long history in Cyprus.

Credit: Citrus flower talk/ Wikimedia Commons/ CC BY-SA 4.0

Anyone who has visited Greece or Cyprus knows that both beautiful countries are home to many, many cats. Yet some people may be unaware that there are two distinct cat breeds, the Aegean cat and the Cyprus cat, native to Greece and Cyprus.

The Greek islands are particularly known for their adorable four-footed residents. Cats can be seen all across the Greek isles but are most commonly spotted lounging around fishing boats down at the local port, hoping to secure a nice seafood meal.

Most visitors to the Greek islands are shocked when they discover how sweet and friendly the majority of cats there truly are. That's because they're likely

Aegean cats, the only breed of cat native to Greece and the Greek islands.

Aegean cats are known to be playful, vocal, friendly, and very

loving. They're particularly comfortable around water and love to go fishing. The Aegean cat breed in Greece is thought to be one of the oldest in the world



γάτα του Αιγαίου

An Aegean cat on Santorini.

Credit: images.app.goo.gl/NqDjw1bzKCCeyuE38

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In terms of appearance, they are usually bicolor or—more rarely—tricolor, and one of their colors is almost always white. The most common color combinations

of the oldest domesticated breeds in the world.

This natural breeding process means that these cats are extremely resistant to the genetic diseases that are more commonly found in cat breeds created through human intervention.

Although kept as pets, many Aegean cats are feral. Regardless of whether they have a home or not, felines of this breed are beloved in Greece.

Aegean cats have medium-sized paws that have adapted well to grasping at fish swimming along in the sea, and their fur can be short yet full in the summer and a bit longer and thicker in the winter.

Although common in Greece, especially on the islands, Aegean cats are a particularly rare breed outside of the country.

Despite the fact that they are a well-documented breed with a long history, the Aegean cat is not yet recognized by the Cat Fanciers Association.

This means that if you're enchanted by the Aegean cat you'll have to visit Greece and adopt one!



An Aegean cat. The breed is beloved in Greece.

Credit: Anna Wichmann/Greek Reporter

are white and black, white and ginger, and white and tabby.

Aegean cats are best known for their beautiful, piercing eyes. Their large eyes are almond shaped and often a striking shade of green, yellow, or blue.

Believed to be descendants of the ancient cats that inhabited the Greek islands throughout antiquity, Aegean cats have bred naturally without human intervention for thousands of years.

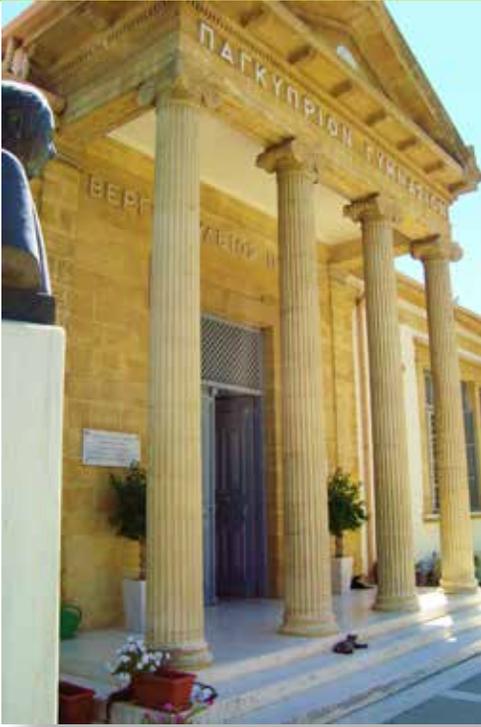
This breed is thought to be one



A stray Aegean cat on the Island of Santorini. Click here.

Credit: www.travel-zone-greece.com/blog/author/tzgblog/

Continued on next page



*Pagkiprio High School Entrance
Nicosia Republic of Cyprus*

Cyprus Cats, the breed brought by St. Helen

This breed of feline has a long history in Cyprus.

Cyprus cats, also known as St. Helen's cats, are a breed of domesticated felines found on the island nation of Cyprus.

The breed has an illustrious history. According to historical sources, St. Helen, the mother of Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, brought the forefathers of the breed to the island herself.

It is said that St. Helen filled her ship up with cats from Egypt—although some sources say Palestine—and took them with her to Cyprus to help curb the snake problem there in the fourth century.

The cats were brought to the Monastery of St. Nicholas, where the venomous snake population

was extremely large and threatening. According to legend, the cats were called to hunt snakes on the monastery grounds by a bell that was rung each day.

The cat population at the monastery, which is now a convent, is still vibrant. Greek poet Georgos Seferis wrote a poem about the felines there, entitled “The Cats of St. Nicholas.”

There is actually archaeological evidence of cats living alongside humans in Cyprus in antiquity although they are likely not the ancestors of the Cyprus cat breed.

Excavations at a Neolithic site called Shillourokampos in Cyprus showed that ancient people there truly cared for their feline companions and even dug out a grave with care for their pet cat.

The Cypriot breed is linked to other feline groups in Egypt and Palestine, so the story of St. Helen likely has some truth to it.

The Cyprus cat has very much in common with the Aegean cat breed of Greece.

Much like the Aegean cat, Cyprus cats have been left to breed naturally, so they have less inclination to genetic diseases.

Cyprus cats, unlike most Aegean cats, tend to be extremely energetic

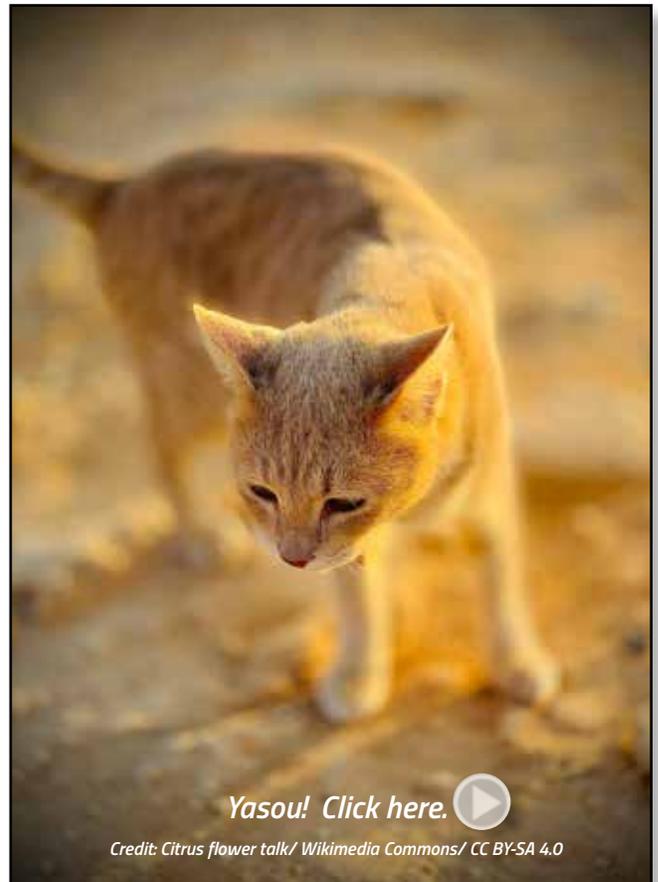
and athletic. They have a thick coat, which can be short or semi-long.

They are extremely playful and social and love to be around humans. They're also great hunters. Cyprus cats are commonly tabby with a mix of white but can be found in a variety of colors, ranging from ginger to black.

Like Aegean cats, Cyprus cats are common in their native country but very rare in the rest of the world.

Currently, cat breeder and fancier organizations are beginning to develop qualifications for the breed in order for it to be internationally recognized.

It is already recognized by the World Cat Federation under the name “Aphrodite's Giant.” 



Yasou! Click here. 

Credit: Citrus flower talk/ Wikimedia Commons/ CC BY-SA 4.0



JAPAN'S Famous Faithful Dog Hachikō

(忠犬ハチ公)

Even though Ueno died at work on May 21, 1925, Hachikō continued to wait for him every day at the station for over nine years, until his own death on March 8, 1935.

as a faithful companion with statues, movies, books, and appearances in various media. Hachikō is known in Japanese as chūken Hachikō (忠犬ハチ公) “faithful dog Hachikō”.



Hachikō was a Japanese Akita dog and faithful companion to his human Hidesaburō Ueno, a Tokyo Imperial professor in the mid 1920's. Every day Hachikō would meet Ueno at the Shibuya Station after his commute home.

Hachikō was buried next to Ueno for their final resting place together.

Hachikō was an example of loyalty in Japanese culture. He is still remembered worldwide



Discover a few hidden gems on our website like our International Poster Contest Winners from 1920:

latham.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/InternationalPosterContest.pdf

Filmmaker Vanessa Schulz and "Lost Dogs"

All photos courtesy of Vanessa Schulz © 2010



Nameless

"Oh the saddest of sights in a world of sin, is the little lost pup with his tail tucked in." – Arthur Guiterman

Vanessa Schulz is a filmmaker based in Bend, Oregon who is working on a documentary about street dogs in Chile. She was inspired by a story that hit international news in which a street dog went into heavy freeway traffic to pull a struck dog to the side of the road. The incident happened to be caught on camera; if you missed this touching story when it was going around online, you can see it at <http://www.21paradigm.com/heroDog.php>.

Vanessa jumped into an immensely challenging animal welfare situation and made a commitment to raise awareness about the plight of street dogs in Chile and in other developing countries around the world through her film. You can see a trailer for the film here <http://www.lostdogsfilm.org/>,

and you can read Vanessa's blog

<https://21paradigm.wordpress.com/2008/12/23/chiles-hero-dog-inspires-documentary-film/>

Vanessa is a great example of how someone who's not been living in the "animal welfare field" can bring new perspectives and energy to the field. New to the field just a year ago, she's now spent time with organizations and individual rescuers in Chile, has rescued and re-homed six dogs and adopted one former Chilean street dog herself.

According to Assistant Producer Reese Mercer, "What we hope to achieve with "Lost Dogs" is to raise global awareness about the issue of homeless dogs, to educate people on appropriate care for their animals, to encourage adoptions of streets dogs and those in shelters, and to generate support for organizations helping the dogs.

"One of our strategies to give visibility to the dire situation of street dogs in Chile and around the world, while also promoting the film's production, funding, and eventual distribution, is to begin now to build our audience.



Does anyone see me?

A street dog in downtown Santiago.

Additional International Work on Behalf of Animals

We have featured the wonderful work of several individuals and organizations working internationally in previous *Latham Letters*. (Back issues are available as free downloads at www.Latham.org.)

We know there are many others doing great work around the world and welcome additional submissions. Please contact us for writer's guidelines: Editor@latham.org



Ennui

The dogs are everywhere, so everywhere is a new opportunity to ignore them.



Trying to understand

Constanza, adopted in Santiago after living for several months in Rinconada, where she survived hunger, thirst, cars, strychnine poisoning that killed seven other dogs, the incessant ardor of the pack's alpha male, and entrapment in a rabbit snare. 

Please visit our [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#) pages for helpful postings



Reprinted with permission by the *National Link Coalition* Phil Arkow, Coordinator and Editor

The LINK (A Ligaçao) Comes to Portugal

A ground-breaking international conference brought The Link to some 1,000 in-person and virtual participants in Portugal on July 1 when the national ministry for animal protection brought together 22 multidisciplinary speakers. The all-day event,



staged at the Belem Cultural Center outside Lisbon and also live-streamed, featured the overarching theme of how addressing The Link provides a pathway to preventing future violence among animals, children, the elderly, and domestic violence survivors.

Keynote speakers included the National Link Coalition’s Phil Arkow; Elizabeth Ormerod, Chair of the UK’s Society for Companion Animal Studies and Vice President of the International Association of Human- Animal Interaction Organizations; and Gisele Kronhardt Scheffer, a Brazilian researcher on animal abuse from the perspective of criminology.

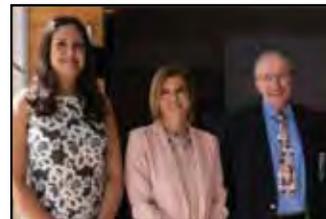
A roundtable discussion featured nine speakers discussing

what Portuguese participants can do better as a team to improve legislation affecting criminal prosecutions, family and child welfare, and animal protection. The closing session featured a strategic vision for the future. The conference also announced a forthcoming Portuguese translation of Breaking the Cycles of Violence, the Latham Foundation’s Link manual.

Conference organizer Laurentina Pedroso, Animal Ombudsperson for the Portuguese national government since July 2021, designed the event to motivate and instill a warning about the risk of animal abuse among society and professionals working in the field. Her goal is to create multidisciplinary approaches that will bring awareness to the national government and even to a pan-European level. While recognizing that not all people who hurt animals go on to hurt other people, Pedroso emphasized that

the violence that children may see in their homes doesn’t necessarily stay at home and children can go on to replicate it. Noting that 70% of Portuguese homes have pets, she called animal abuse the “ponto da iceberg” (tip of the iceberg). “Raising awareness of this topic starts today,” she said.

Arkow presented on the American experience and how focusing on The Link offers a pathway to preventing future violence. He also presented a more specialized program on practical guidance for veterinarians’ effective response to suspected animal cruelty, abuse and neglect.



Scheffer, Pedroso, and Arkow

Scheffer, a veterinarian and attorney from Porto Alegre, reviewed results of her survey.

Consistent with studies from other countries, she reported that: companion animals are significantly more likely to be abused than wildlife or livestock.

She said, “We still have a long way to go in Brazil; pets are still considered invisible in domestic violence and we need to change this.”

ASPCA Extends Deadline For Research Grants

The ASPCA has extended until Sept. 1 its deadlines for applications for four types of multi-disciplinary research grants. The grants will be awarded to universities and institutions working in such fields as criminal justice, law, public policy, public health veterinary medicine, psychology, sociology, social work, and animal behavior.

Funding is available for: Access to Veterinary Care Research, and seed grants for Applied Behavior Research, Cruelty Research, and Psychological Trauma Research. Details about eligibility, organizational standards, evaluation criteria, and timeframes are available from the ASPCA. <https://www.aspcapro.org/aspca-research-related-grants> 

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