



# Newsletter

The American Association of  
Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians

Volume 25 • WINTER 2010

AAH- ABV web page: [www.aah-abv.org](http://www.aah-abv.org)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Dr. Tami Shearer, DVM*

Dear All,

Happy New Year!!

Reflecting back, 2009 was an interesting year with much change within our organization. For me it was a wake-up call to protect and become proactive in sharing with others the importance of the human-animal bond.

I want to give special thanks to Dr. Victoria Voith and Dr. John Wright for all of the guidance and insight to make my presidency as efficient as possible.

I also want to share with you a recent experience that has strengthened my appreciation of "The Bond" while educating me about a how a different cultures value their dogs.

As some of you know, I moved my horse, three pigs, eight dogs, and three cats to

Continued on page 2

## In This Issue:

- Origins of the Human-Animal Bond....continued pg. 3
- The Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics Contest...pg. 7
- Raising our Standard of Care...pg. 7
- Honoring the Human Animal Bond Beyond Life...pg. 8
- Latest HAI Research Presented at ISAZ 2009 Conference...pg 10

## Origins of the Human-Animal Bond: The Curious Etymology of the Term "Humane Society"



*Written By Phil Arkow*

*Consultant, The Link,  
American Humane Association  
Chair, Animal Abuse and Family  
Violence Prevention Project,*

*The Latham Foundation  
37 Hillside Road,  
Stratford, NJ 08084  
[arkowpets@snip.net](mailto:arkowpets@snip.net)*

Veterinarians are frequently confounded by the number and variety of animal welfare organizations operating in their community and on the national level. Arkow (1987) described an uncoordinated network of some 3,000 autonomous, local animal shelters functioning as municipal animal control operations and as private, nonprofit humane societies, with relatively little supervision or standards imposed by national groups. In an earlier work (1985), Arkow traced the history of societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals (SPCAs) and humane societies and described the humane movement, the humane ethic, and the humane community as underlying and preceding all the research in the human-animal bond. "The humane movement, from its inception, has been uniquely and irrepressibly concerned with people and their bonds with those animals, emphasizing society's moral imperative to prevent cruelty to less fortunate creatures," he wrote (p. 455).

Continued on page 3

**Letter from the President:  
Dr. Tami Shearer**

*Continued from Page One*

North Carolina in 2008 to open a new chapter in my life. I opened a small rehab and pain management practice that quickly evolved into a general practice as of May of 2009. My new practice focus is on providing integrative care which utilizes all of my combined skills in conventional, alternative, and rehabilitative care.

Since moving, my life as I knew it has changed forever because of the differences in regional culture. I moved from an urban practice with all of the local conveniences like The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine to a rural community in the second poorest county in North Carolina with the nearest university 2 hours away.

In Western North Carolina I was introduced to hunting with dogs; a tradition that dates back to the early mountain times. I had not been too fond of hunting back in Ohio. I had been an off-and-on vegetarian and dreaded the thought of anyone killing an animal. I bought my meat at a store and tried to dissociate from the way it got to my table. It turns out that Western North Carolina has the highest population of hound dogs than any other part of the country. 60% of my practice is now composed of Walker, Plott, English, plus Black and Tan hounds.

I have been pleasantly surprised that most families with hunting hounds value them as much as the stereotypical widow(er) and a lap dog. Here is an example. I spent 12 hours on a Sunday in surgery with seven dogs that had been hunting that had tangled with a wild hog. In Columbus, Ohio there are no wild hogs and there are 3 emergency clinics to handle traumas. I quickly relearned dormant skills from the past like how to quickly place a chest tube. Three of the seven dogs were so severely hurt they would have died without care. No other clinics would see these dogs because the owner's had little money.

A Plott hound in the group was severely injured. Her owner had to carry her over his shoulders for three hours down a mountain before he could find a road. He was in an exhaustive crisis when he arrived at my office with her.

Friends and family (mothers, uncles, children, nieces and nephews) of all the hurt dogs came and brought for us food while they listened to the NASCAR race on the radio as we performed surgery on the rest of the hounds. Most of the hunters helped me with their dog's surgery. They were great at holding retractors!

What I witnessed that day reminded me of the sacrifices our pets make for us. These dogs provided help and risked their lives to help gather food for those families. The relationships that the hunters and their families had with the dogs were equally as touching; they appreciate and love their hounds. Seeing "The Bond" at work inspired me to dedicate 12-hours of hard work in preserving that bond between those hounds and those families.

Like old times, I will never be lonely or go hungry here. I have a freezer full of pork and the hunters pay me \$20 per month toward the care that I provided that day but the feeling in the office on that Saturday was "priceless". I am reminded daily of the importance of the human-animal bond.

Let us carry on our new mission to advance the role of the Veterinary Medical Community in nurturing positive human-animal interactions in society!

I look forward to more work ahead.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tami Shearer

**The AAH-ABV meets annually during the AVMA Convention. If you would like to become an active member, be sure to attend the Human-Animal Bond Sessions and our business meeting which is held directly after the all day sessions.**

**The next AVMA meeting is July 31-August 4, 2010 in Atlanta.**

**To register for the meeting, go to: [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org). \_AV**

## Origins of the Human-Animal Bond

### Phil Arkow

*Continued from Page One*

Curiously absent, however, from any of several discussions regarding the history of the humane movement (Unti & DeRosa, 2003; Fox, 1989; Niven, 1967; Swallow, 1963; Fairholme & Pain, 1924; Shultz, 1924; Stillman, 1913), is an explanation as to the origin of the generic term “humane society.” While it would seem self-evident to North Americans that a “humane society” is synonymous with animal protection, a look at the United Kingdom reveals a completely different picture, where the Royal Humane Society and its offshoots have been rescuing drowning victims since 1774, and animal welfare work is done under the aegis of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. How did the term “humane society” come to serve two completely different purposes on different sides of the Atlantic Ocean?



**The logo of the Royal Humane Society in the U.K. The organization was founded in London in 1774 by two doctors, William Hawes (1736-1808) and Thomas Cogan (1736-1818), who were concerned at the number of people wrongly taken**

**for dead - and, in some cases, buried alive. Both men wanted to promote the new, but controversial, medical technique of resuscitation and offered money to anyone rescuing someone from the brink of death.**

## ORIGINS OF A WORD

The use of the word “humane” in conjunction with animal well-being is a relatively recent phenomenon. The word is derived from the Latin *humanus* and the French *humaine*, and originated as a common earlier spelling of “human”; even today, one occasionally finds interchangeable if not incorrect usage of “inhuman” and “inhumane.”

By about 1500 “humane” began to describe gentle, kind, courteous, friendly behavior as befits a human being, with no connotation of protecting animals. In Shakespeare’s *Coriolanus*, written in 1608, starving plebeians say that if patricians gave them surplus food “we might guess they relieved us humanely” (I,i), and a senator recommends bringing *Coriolanus* to the market place for a public airing of all their grievances, rather than executing him, because “it is the humane way: the other course will prove too bloody” (III,i).

After 1700 the word came to describe sympathy with and consideration for the needs and distresses of others (Simpson & Weiner, 1989). Samuel Johnson’s seminal *Dictionary of the English Language* (1755) makes no association of the word with kindness to animals, rather defining humane as “kind, civil, benevolent, and good-natured.”

The interpretation of “humane” as benevolence took on an entirely new human welfare meaning with the formation in 1708 of China’s Chinkiang Association for the Saving of Life that established lifesaving stations and lifeboats on the Yangtze and Min Rivers as both government-funded and privately sponsored services. The concept of lifesaving organizations came to Europe with the formation in 1767 in The Netherlands of an organization chartered to recover persons who had apparently drowned (Shanks, York & Shanks, 1996). Fears of premature burial, fueled by actual cases and folk tales, were widespread in this era, and were subsequently aggravated by even greater fears of “a fate worse than death” – that corpses might be stolen and used as anatomical objects for dissection in the new science of medical education (Richardson, 1988).

By 1774 the Dutch organization had been replicated in England in the form of the Royal Humane Society in London. The British organization claimed in its first decade to have “restored to their friends and country” 790 out of 1,300 persons apparently dead from drowning (Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1786). Similar lifesaving “humane societies” were soon founded in the British Isles, such as the Humane Society of St. John (Richardson, p. 106). Similar groups quickly were initiated in Paris, Venice, Hamburg, Milan, and eventually crossed the Atlantic, coming to Boston in 1786.

**The logo of the Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The organization, incorporated in 1791 for the recovery of persons who appear to be dead, issues lifesaving awards. The website ([www.masslifesavingawards.com](http://www.masslifesavingawards.com)) advises readers to not confuse the organization with animal welfare organizations.**



This venerable organization, the third oldest charitable society in Massachusetts, was founded “for the recovery of persons who meet with such accidents as to produce in them the appearance of death, and for promoting the

cause of humanity, by pursuing such means, from time to time, as shall have for their object the preservation of human life and the alleviation of its miseries” (Humane Society of Massachusetts, 1845). John Lathrop (1787) praised the nascent Humane Society of Massachusetts as being the first benevolent institution to address “the cries of the needy,” “the fight of wretchedness,” and “the relief to prevent misery” among those suffering from apparent death.

Early American humane societies in Boston, Philadelphia, New York, and elsewhere erected rescue sheds and boathouses along the Atlantic seaboard and published guidelines for the “reanimation” and resuscitation of persons who appeared to have died from drowning, heat prostration, hypothermia, lightning strikes, and other causes (Humane Society of Philadelphia, 1788). These organizations became the forerunner of the U.S. Life-Saving Service which evolved into the Revenue Marine Corps, the Revenue Cutter Service, and today is known as the U.S. Coast Guard (Shanks, York & Shanks, 1996).

In the 19th Century, American humane societies fought for prison reform and the closing of “petty taverns and grog-shops” which, while seen as being necessary for the weary traveler, were called “the nurseries of intemperance, disorder and profligacy” among the laboring poor of New York City (Humane Society of the City of New York, 1810). It is unclear how these organizations made the extension of their missions from lifesaving to social reform.

Other early American usages of “humane” were humanitarian in scope but with no reference to kindness toward animals. The word is commonly found in early calls for penal reform, such as advanced by William Penn who in 1681 created “a more humane house of correction based on labor,” and by Benjamin Franklin who in 1790 advocated for “humane treatment of inmates” in Philadelphia’s Walnut Street Jail by using solitary cells (Dickinson, 2008). “Humane Fire Companies” were established in Philadelphia, Easton and Norristown, Pa., and Bordentown, N.J., as early as 1797 (Underwood, n.d.; Burlington County Firemen’s Association, 1922).



**The Humane Fire Co. No. 1 in Bordentown, N.J., was one of a number of fire companies using “humane” in its name. The volunteer fire company, whose origins date to 1767, came into being out of an 1858 reorganization of the Union Fire Company. Humane was the first to update their equipment when they purchased this Mack truck in 1916.**

The first attempt to start what today would be called a federated fund raising drive was undertaken in Philadelphia in 1829 by one Matthew Carey, who entreated 97 “citizens of the first respectability” to sign an appeal entitled, “Address to the Liberal and Humane” (Cutlip, 1990). In an 1829 letter directing the forced relocation of five American Indian tribes from Mississippi and Alabama in what came to be known as the infamous “Trail of Tears”, President Andrew Jackson told Native American leaders that the relocation plan was the only way by which “they can expect to preserve their own laws, & be benefitted [sic] by the care and humane attention of the United States” (Colimore, 2009). An 1840 morality tale describes how a couple in 1745 “humanely” took it upon themselves to care for the three children of neighbors who were imprisoned and executed during Scottish insurrections (Mrs. Blackford, 1840).

## THE HUMAN-ANIMAL CONNECTION

At some unknown point, “humane” came to include showing compassion and tenderness towards “the lower animals” (Simpson & Weiner, 1989). An unnamed “humane society” was cited by Thoreau in Walden (1854) as being the greatest friend of hunted animals (p. 211). “No humane being, past the thoughtless age of boyhood, will wantonly murder any creature which holds its life by the same tenure that he does,” Thoreau wrote (p. 212), although elsewhere he apotheosized Nature when the winds sigh “humanely” (p. 138) and described philanthropy as a “humane” pursuit (p. 73). In Cape Cod (1865), he described the “Charity or Humane Houses”

**Visit the AAH-ABV  
@ [www.aah-abv.org](http://www.aah-abv.org)**

erected on the beaches of Barnstable County where shipwrecked seamen may look for shelter; in mentioning an incident where a little boy had poached 80 swallows' eggs from their nests, Thoreau wrote, "Tell it not to the Humane Society."

How such a human-centric organization with a mission of reanimating drowning victims came to adopt animal protection as a cause remains unclear. However, the prevention of cruelty to animals followed a general trend in the evangelical and social justice movements in which animals' interests were addressed once other social reforms, such as slavery, women's rights, prison reform, conditions for factory workers, and the care of the insane, were addressed. These concerns were often seen as connecting middle-class social discipline with religious morality, and the treatment of animals was seen as an index of the extent to which an individual had managed to control his or her urges. The suffering animal was seen as a particularly noble and selfless servant, and the abuser was a rough, vulgar member of the urban proletariat who needed refinement and middle-class values (Angell, 1892; Ritvo, 1987; Turner, 1980; Grier, 2006).

The earliest usage of "humane" in an extant animal welfare organization appears in the first annual report of the Pennsylvania SPCA (1869), in which a fundraising appeal is made to the "humane" citizens of Philadelphia for financial and membership assistance. The Oregon Humane Society was founded in 1868, and the Missouri Humane Society in 1870, but it is unknown whether these were the original nomenclature for these organizations or subsequent name changes. The Illinois SPCA, founded in 1869, changed its name in 1877 to the Illinois Humane Society to more accurately represent an expanded focus that had come to include the prevention of cruelty to children (Hubbard, 1916).

Child protection work even more closely aligned the fledgling animal protection movement with other social reform and justice movements concerned with cruelty, violence and the social order (Unti & DeRosa, 2003; Arkow, 1992). Beginning in the 1870s, child welfare and animal welfare work often overlapped: pioneering and muckraking social reformer Jacob Riis (1892) described the American Humane Association as protecting "the odd link that bound the dumb brute with the helpless child in a common bond of humane sympathy" (p. 150). By 1922, 307 of the 539 animal protection organizational members of the American Humane Association devoted their work to the protection of abused children as part of the same humanitarian continuum of care (Shultz, 1924).

Even today, the American Humane Association maintains parallel child protection and animal protection divisions.

## HUMANE EDUCATION INTERVENTIONS

In the second half of the 19th Century, the nascent animal protection movement in the U.S. began to identify "humane education" as the intervention of choice for guiding wayward youths into a righteous path in which animals were well regarded, respected and cared for – not just for the animals' welfare, but to improve human behavior. George Angell, founder of the Massachusetts SPCA, argued that although animal abuse should be a concern in its own right, society should heed animal abuse as an omen of violence among people (cited in Ascione, 2005). Three of the founders of the early animal welfare movement – Angell in Boston, Henry Bergh in New York, and Caroline Earle White in Philadelphia – outspokenly believed that the focal job of an authentic humane society should be moral education and public advocacy rather than rescuing and sheltering animals (Animal People, 2009).

Angell stressed humane education's utility for ensuring public order, suppressing anarchy and radicalism, smoothing relations between the classes, and reducing crime: he believed it would be a valuable means for socializing the young (especially of the lower socioeconomic classes) and the solution to social unrest and revolutionary politics (Arkow, 1992).

Humane education was seen as a means of insulating youth, and boys in particular, against tyrannical tendencies that might undermine civic life were such violent natures left unchecked. Animals were nicely suited for instruction and became important vehicles for inculcating standards of gentility including self-discipline, Christian sentiment, empathy, and moral sensitivity. Societal class stratification was an underpinning of humane education as well, as advocates saw the teaching of "kindness to animals" as a way to separate refined, urbane, middle- and upper-class youth from the coarser, rustic behaviors of lower classes and immigrants who were considered the sources of much brutality (Saunders, 1895; Unti & DeRosa, 2003; Ritvo, 1987).

This belief in the power of "humane education" to improve the lives of wayward children had its origins in the 18th Century, although the concept was not

labeled as “humane” until circa 1868. Locke (1705), in particular, gave impetus to a robust philosophical construct promoting childhood kindness to animals as having significant implications on positive character development. The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes – one of the first full-length children’s books in the English language – written by an anonymous author in 1765, accentuated this concept through heroine Margery Meanwell’s helping animals who have been mistreated. In what may be one of the earliest usages of the term “animal rights,” Herman Daggett (1792) described an unfettered belief in what today would be called humane education to correct antisocial behavior:

“Only let a person be taught, from his earliest years, that it is criminal to torment, and unnecessarily to destroy, these innocent animals, and he will feel a guilty conscience, in consequence of any injury which he shall do to them, in this way, no less really than if the injury were offered to human beings. The force of education, and of wrong habits, in setting aside natural principles, is amazing, and almost incredible.”

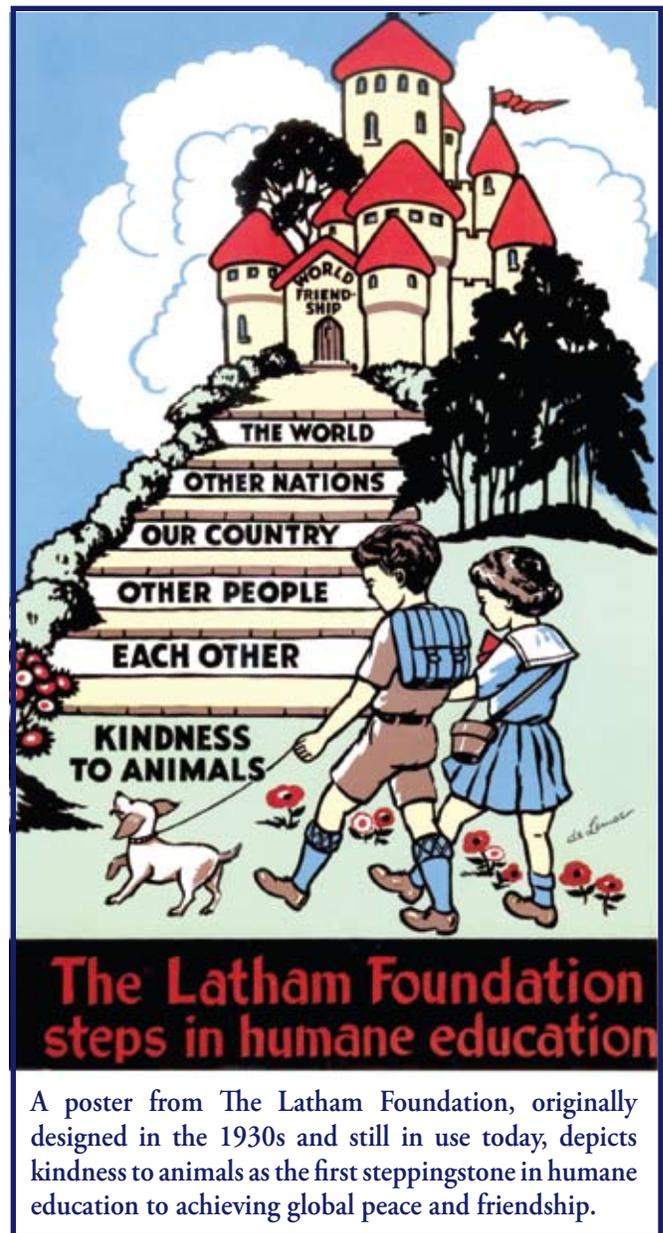
Throughout the Victorian Era, the concept gained wide acceptance, and Eddy (1899) would write:

“The humane education movement is a broad one, reaching from humane treatment of animals on the one hand to peace with all nations on the other... It implies character building. Society first said that needless suffering should be prevented; society now says that children must not be permitted to cause pain because of the effect on the children themselves.”

The Latham Foundation, founded in 1918 for the promotion of humane education, still exemplifies this paradigm. A poster from the 1930s, widely used today, depicts two children with a puppy approaching a set of steps leading to “world friendship.” The first step up this hill is “kindness to animals,” which will subsequently take the voyagers to kindness to each other, other people, our country, other nations, and the world (Forman, 2007). In the 21st Century, Antoncic (2003) declared, “Humane education can offer society hope for an active, independent, self-thinking future citizenry.”

## A MYSTERY LEFT UNSOLVED

The origins of the generic term “humane society” in conjunction with a role in animal welfare remain shrouded. How an organization founded as a human



A poster from The Latham Foundation, originally designed in the 1930s and still in use today, depicts kindness to animals as the first steppingstone in humane education to achieving global peace and friendship.

lifesaving service came to be more widely recognized for animal welfare, sheltering, and community education – while still keeping its original connotation in a British context – is a subject for ongoing discussion and historical research. The author welcomes input from readers who can shed light on this curious etymological mystery.

References provided on request from the author.

*Phil Arkow*

*Consultant, The Link, American Humane Association  
Chair, Animal Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Project*

*The Latham Foundation  
37 Hillside Road, Stratford, NJ 08084  
arkowpets@snip.net*

## Enhancing Communication in Veterinary Medicine: Raising our Standard of Care

We are pleased to announce the 6th International Conference on Communications in Veterinary Medicine (ICCVM) will be held Sunday October 31 - Tuesday November 2, 2010 at Napa Valley's premiere resort Solage Calistoga.

The program is designed for academics, researchers, practitioners, front line staff and practice teams, with a focus on sharing best practices, ideas and innovation, building community and promoting dialogue on important communication issues.

For practice teams, ICCVM provides a high energy boot camp on communications, delving into the issues that deeply impact the bottom line and providing ideas to discuss and solutions that can be applied immediately.

Researchers and academics from around the world use ICCVM to bring forth new research and innovative teaching methods.

The program includes keynotes from industry leaders, small interactive workshops, role playing, small discussion groups plus invigorating networking and team building activities. The Solage meeting rooms are a seamless blend of indoors/outdoors with giant sliding doors and we will utilize the elements at all possible times.

Solage Calistoga is nothing short of magic and the ideal location for ICCVM. Tucked into the hills at the north end of Napa Valley, it is an interesting mixture of laid back luxury with a focus on healthy, thoughtful balance. ICCVM has met in some fascinating venues in North America and we have never been more excited!

The program will include an evening at a private winery and delegates will want to experience Solage's top rated spa and restaurant. Delegates can arrive Saturday evening or early Sunday and the program will go from Sunday 10am to Tuesday 4pm. For the busy team, a two day Sunday-Monday option is also available.

Napa Valley is amazing and Solage Calistoga is the true California

experience. Make plans now to attend ICCVM 2010!

Jane Shaw, DVM, PhD  
Executive Director Argus Institute  
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences  
Colorado State University  
300 W. Drake Rd.  
Ft. Collins, CO 80523  
Phone: 970.297.4143  
Support Line: 970.297.1242  
Fax: 970.297.4201  
Website: [argusinstitute.colostate.edu](http://argusinstitute.colostate.edu)

Our mission is to strengthen veterinary-client-patient communication and support relationships between people and their companion animals.



*Solage Calistoga in Nappa Valley*

## The Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics Annual Essay Contest

The Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics holds an annual essay contest for veterinary students across the nation. This year's topic is in the form of a question. "When does veterinary care become financially or medically excessive? In your response, please touch on medical, ethical, legal, financial, and social aspects of this question. The veterinarian's role in guiding the client through these issues should be discussed and examined." The deadline is March 30, 2010. Submissions are to be sent to [www.svme.org](http://www.svme.org).

## Honoring the Human Animal Bond Beyond Life

*Written by Dr. Alice Villalobos, DVM, DPNAP*

Rescue dogs, guide dogs and other service and assistance dogs have a growing role in helping people. When these highly valued pets are sick or die, it is amazing how much their family and friends want to help. This article will introduce you to two special human-animal bonds which have transcended death. The members of these human-animal bonds are as different as night and day. On one hand, we have Constable James Symmington, a strong young Canadian police officer, with his big German Shepherd search and rescue dog, Trakr. On the other hand, we have the disabled ex truck driver, Mr. Joe Martinez, with his little Chihuahua-Min Pin mix, assistance dog, Killer.

Killer's job was to dial 911 if Joe had trouble breathing through his tracheotomy tube or if he had another stroke or heart attack. Killer also picked things up for Joe and helped with daily routines as Joe made his way around town via the bus system and his motorized wheel chair. Everyone who saw little Killer on Joe's lap or behind his back on the wheel chair fell in love with him. Killer wore his sun glasses and his little hat with pride and gave greeters a high five. Joe even trained Killer to ride a little scooter. Somehow, Killer, a highly trained service dog, could understand Joe's squeaks as actual commands.



*TEAM TRAKR*

Trakr's job was search and rescue. He had been trained in the Czech Republic and had joined the Halifax police force as Symmington's K-9 Partner in 1995 at 14 months of age. Trakr had an illustrious six-year career apprehending felons, recovering lost persons and detecting over \$1 million of contraband. Symmington filed a formal objection to the Halifax Police Dept. policy regarding euthanasia of retired K-9s. He wanted Trakr to grow old with him. Trakr was retired early and Symmington was demoted during the battle with the Halifax Police Dept. which forced a stress leave. When Symmington saw the news on 9-11, he and Trakr and a police officer friend, drove 15 hours to be one of the first K9 search and rescue teams to arrive at Ground Zero. In addition to locating numerous victims, Trakr lead a rescue team to unearth the last survivor, Genell Guzman, who had climbed down from the 64th to the 13th floor as the entire south tower collapsed upon her. She was buried with crushing leg injuries for 28 hours beneath 23 feet of rubble. Trakr continued working at Ground Zero until he collapsed. For his heroic efforts, Trakr was presented with the United Nations Extraordinary Service to Humanity Award by Dr. Jane Goodall.

On December 12, 2009, while Joe Martinez was motoring his wheel chair in a cross walk, a car grazed by and tipped Joe out of his wheel chair. Unfortunately, 4 year old Killer fell under the car's tires and was killed instantly by the hit and run driver. Joe held Killer's body in shock and grief for 4 hours before animal services took his body away. It took my best pet loss counselling and the support of his friends to bring Joe through his despondency over losing Killer.

Trakr died on April 28, 2009 at the ripe old age of 16. Pet owners often develop very strong bonds with their pets during the difficult days of dealing with terminal illness and the Symmington's were evidence of this special devotion to the human-animal bond. Trakr was one of our Pawspice patients with degenerative myelopathy who loved romping on the beach in his wheel cart [www.pawspice.com]. But before Trakr died, he received international attention once again when BioArts International named him the "World's Most Cloneworthy Dog" because Symmington entered and won their essay contest. Symmington is now raising and training 5 of Trakr's clones, Trustt, Solace, Valor, Prodigy and Déjà vu as TEAM TRAKR. They will be the world's first search and rescue dog team "without

borders” and first responders to disasters all over the world. The story was on CNN on Christmas Day. Of course they need money, so go to [www.TeamTrakr.com](http://www.TeamTrakr.com) and make a donation if you can.

Divine Providence worked in Joe’s favor despite his bad luck losing his beloved Killer. It so happens that only two weeks before Killer died, I saw Joe and asked him if he knew of someone who would like to adopt a little stray dog that looked like Killer. Joe thought about it and said that he would adopt the little dog. We neutered the little dog through the Peter Zippi Memorial Fund for Animals and Joe named him Thunder. There is a saying, “The dog you rescue will rescue you.” In Joe’s case, Thunder was there for him to absorb all his tears and lick his face in love and appreciation. Joe’s friends arranged two memorial events and special fund raising campaign to finance Thunder’s assistance dog training program. Over 100 people honored Joe’s special human-animal bond for Killer at the memorial on January 18, 2010, held at the famous Light House on Pier Plaza in Hermosa Beach, CA. Over \$5,000 has been raised for Thunder honoring their new human-animal bond!



*Joe Martinez at the Memorial for Killer*

**Thanks to Our AAH-ABV Sponsors**

**Rx Vitamins™**

**for PETS**

*Professional Veterinary Formulas*

**OPTIMAL NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT**

**1-800-Rx2-2222**

[www.rxvitamins.com/pets](http://www.rxvitamins.com/pets)



**PETS BEST**

*Simply the Best Pet Insurance*

Pets Best offers a generous 80 percent coverage of covered claims (after the deductible), liberal wellness benefits, the ability to choose your own veterinarian, and prompt claims settlement!

**Dr. Jack Stephens**

**1-877-PetsBest (1-877-738-7237)**

**[www.PetsBest.com](http://www.PetsBest.com)**

**ASPCA®**  
**PROFESSIONAL**

*Lilly*

**Answers That Matter.**  
**[www.lilly.com](http://www.lilly.com)**

**[WWW.WALTHAM.COM](http://WWW.WALTHAM.COM)**

**WALTHAM®**  
**The WALTHAM Foundation**

**Air Animal®**  
Pet Movers Since 1977



**P&G**  
**Pet Care**

**IAMS®**

**Eukanuba®**

# Latest HAI Research Presented at ISAZ 2009 Conference

*By: Rebecca A. Johnson, PhD, RN\* & Charlotte A. McKenney, BSN\*\*  
\*Director, Research Center for Human Animal Interaction (ReCHAI),  
University of Missouri \*\*Assistant Director, ReCHAI*

Kansas City, Missouri welcomed the registrants of the 18th Annual Conference of the International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ) and the 1st Human Animal Interaction (HAI) conference hosted by the Research Center for Human Animal Interaction (ReCHAI) of the University of Missouri on October 20-25, 2009. The conference was opened by the ISAZ President Dr. Erika Friedmann, along with the conference Co-Chairs Dr. Rebecca Johnson and Dr. Alan Beck on Tuesday evening October 20. Sponsors for the conference included the following: Mars, Inc./Waltham, Nestlé Purina, Pets Best Insurance, Lil' Red Foundation, National Institute for Child Health & Development, Elanco Lilly, Bayer HealthCare Animal Health, The Kenneth Scott Charitable Trust, Hill's, the Pet Care Trust, and Morris Animal Foundation.

The conference co-chairs and conference planning committees' vision for the ISAZ/HAI sequential conferences was to bring together investigators with those who work with HAI in practice. The merging of these two groups provided the opportunity for presenters to share their latest findings and program outcomes. For many already working in the field, it served as a source of renewal but for those newly joining or contemplating entry into the field it served as a source of inspiration. The dialog that occurred between these two groups helped to develop ideas to further the HAI field.

The 328 participants represented 12 countries including Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Great Britain, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, and the USA. There were 73 registering as ISAZ members and student affiliates.

The official meeting and lodging site of the conference, The Westin Crown Center Hotel was extremely pet friendly. The hotel provided Westin's signature "Heavenly Pet Beds and Bowls" for companion animals attending. Each day, an average of 20-30 pets, therapy animals and service dogs attended the conference sessions. The animals included a group from the Kansas City Ferret Hotline Association. Two miniature therapy horses, assisted with a poster session. The horses wore their Nike tennis shoes and were welcomed through the foyer of the hotel to be greeted by conference participants after which their handlers gave a demonstration of the "reading to horses" reading program at their local library.

Each morning of the conference, a stalwart group of 7 participants joined Dr. Johnson and her Gordon setter, MacKenzie for a 6AM fitness walk.

The 58 podium and 59 poster presentations were divided into six conference themes. Theme 1 was Challenges for enhancing HAI included animal environmental enrichment, shelter animals, animal rescue organizations, animal abuse, animal hoarding, animal relinquishment to shelters, animal bite and attack injury, zoonoses- Infection control, and dog/animal fighting. Theme 2 was Bio-psycho-social-spiritual wellness across species (ONE HEALTH) including obesity/ physical activity, prevention and treatment, cultural ideas and preferences, quality of life and long term care of animals. The third theme was AAA and AAT with professional/educational training, humane approaches to animals doing this work and service animals. Theme 4 was HAI impacting professional practice focused on optimizing practice, advocacy, practitioner responsibilities and consequences. The fifth theme was HAI crisis planning which focused on the Pet Evacuation Act, animal emergency care, and the value of animals during crises. The sixth theme was the open track which included eco tourism, balance in nature and animal behavior.

The breadth and depth of research presented bodes well for the field of HAI. The following table shows a few examples of presentation topics:

Pet attachment support and older adult health	Quality of life in caregivers of chronically ill dogs
Public perceptions of dog breeds and extent of social bridging between strangers	Owner autonomy and shared responsibility in pet euthanasia decisions
Correlates of pet-keeping in college residence halls	Children's perceptions of dog friendliness based on physical characteristics
Kitten socialization programs and acceptance of care procedures	Pet ownership, depression and survival in adults with myocardial infarction
Translating human-animal relationships into public policy	Assessing dog's temperament
Measuring stress and attachment behaviors in shelter cats	Animal and adopter characteristics that influence adoption decisions
Attributions of companion animal behavior by adopters and relinquishers of pets	History of American "therapy dogs" of World War II
Empathy in males with a history of exposure to animal abuse	Attitudes toward service dogs
Dog walking and fitness among older adults	Dog walking for human and canine obesity and physical activity
Canine responses to prescribed exercise	
Animal assisted reading programs for children	Children's relationships with their pets

Lively discussion followed all podium presentations and was the hallmark of poster presentations. A number of email messages continue to be received by the conference Co-Chairs expressing exuberance over the quality of the presentations and networking opportunities. Networking took place in keynote and open session presentations.

The ISAZ keynote address, "Shared feelings: Neuropsychological interfaces between animal and human emotions" was delivered by Dr. Jaak Panksepp, Professor of Veterinary & Comparative Anatomy, Pharmacology & Physiology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Washington State University. His presentation focused on his research into understanding the basic brain mechanisms of affective feelings that guide animal and human behavior. Through this research he hopes to develop treatments for emotional problems in animals as well as humans. The evening closed with a networking event for graduate students and ISAZ investigators.

The ISAZ Annual General meeting was convened Wednesday morning by Dr. Friedmann. Moderated podium and poster sessions continued through the day. The first ever ISAZ moderated poster session created a structured discussion and promoted dialogue among the presenters and attendees. Book signings were held for 15 attending authors. During the book signings, participants were able to meet and discuss the authors' work with them. Wednesday concluded with a marvelous hosted dinner held at Kansas City's beautifully restored Union Train Station, in the Grand Hall with its 95-foot ceiling, three 3,500-pound chandeliers and six-foot wide clock hanging in the Station's central arch. A string quartet played for participants' enjoyment.

Thursday, Dr. Marc Bekoff in his ISAZ Plenary Address entitled "Wild justice, cooperation, & fairness: What humans can learn from animal play" discussed the role of animal play behavior in human insight into justice, cooperation, and fairness in the wild. Dr. Bekoff is a Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He participated in a book signing of his recently authored books *Animals at Play*, *Animal Passions* and *Beastly Virtues*, and *Wild Justice: The Moral Lives of Animals*. Moderated podium presentations and poster sessions continued through the morning and afternoon. The HAI Keynote Address was presented by Dr. Dennis Turner, invited Professor for AAT/AAA, Educational Research Center for Anthrozoology, Azabu University,

Japan. In his keynote address he discussed HAI education and training programs with a focus on health services in his presentation entitled “Bringing it all together to benefit all: An international perspective on HAI education, especially in the health/human services sector.” That evening conference participants were transported by bus to the Kansas City Jazz Museum. There, they enjoyed a true taste of Kansas City with a traditional BBQ Dinner and an opportunity to learn about and hear some fine jazz music played by a combo led by Dr. Gregory Carroll, jazz professor at University of Missouri-Kansas City, and museum curator.

On Friday a special symposium focusing on how human animal interaction may help fight obesity across the lifespan of people and pets was sponsored by the National Institute for Child Health & Development and MARS/WALTHAM. Dr. Sandra McCune, Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition, moderated the sessions. Ms. Jacqueline Epping, from the CDC, presented information how we could begin and maintain physical activity programs promoting dog walking to improve the health of humans and dogs. Epidemiological data on the benefits of being physically active were presented by Dr. Adrian Bauman, Sesquicentenary Professor at the University Of Sydney, Australia. He reported that 40% of households have a dog, but 40-50% of these dogs are not walked. The health benefits of a more active life for both dogs and humans were discussed. Dr. Audwin Fletcher, Professor at the University of Mississippi, School of Nursing presented his research findings on a weight control program designed for African-American children. He discussed the importance of implementing programs that integrate nutrition and exercise as a fun and family affair in the community. To complete the theme of fighting obesity through the lifespan, Dr. Roland Thorpe, of Johns Hopkins University, presented his work focusing on effects of dog walking on health, hypertension, and walking speed among older adults. The day’s presentations focused on physical activity research programs included dog walking and AAA programs for children. The evening events featured a visit from the University of Missouri, College of Veterinary Medicine’s Mule Club with the famous Missouri Mule Team. The mule team was brought to the front of the hotel where the veterinary student caretakers shared information about their mule mascots and provided wagon rides for the conference participants. Americana music, which is a blend of folk, country, blues and pop, played in the hotel warming area for participants between mule wagon rides. Jackie Epping chaired the first “Dog Walking Interest Group” meeting, which was attended by nearly 30 conference attendees already working on or interested in pursuing dog walking as a research area.

Dr. Alan Beck, Professor at Purdue University, in his HAI Plenary Address on Saturday morning, discussed the bond which exists between humans and their companion animals, and the implications of this bond in his presentation entitled, “A tale of two species: The human animal bond.” Podium presentations, poster sessions and book signings kept the participants busy through the day. That evening registrants enjoyed an educational presentation by the Raptor Rehabilitation Project from the University of Missouri, College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Marty Becker, “America’s Veterinarian” gave a wonderful, special dinner presentation entitled “The power of love: The science and soul behind that affection-connection we call the bond.”

Dr. Ed Eames and Mrs. Toni Eames were scheduled to present a workshop on Sunday morning. Ed had suffered several health concerns and they were unable to attend. Sadly, Dr. Eames passed away while the Eames’ session was being presented by Ms. Cara Miller, Doctoral student, Gallaudet University. The presentation, entitled “Maintaining the disabled person/assistance dog team through behavioral interventions: A case study approach” described the work that service, hearing and guide dogs perform. Participants viewed the DVD, “Partners in Independence,” made by Dr. and Mrs. Eames. Ms. Miller reviewed case studies of working dogs that required behavioral interventions to maintain their partnership and working status. To close the conference, Dr. Rebecca Johnson provided closing remarks and reminded everyone to attend the 19th annual ISAZ conference in Stockholm, Sweden in 2010.

A few comments from attendees reflect the level of energy that the conference generated, “Fabulous conference on all levels- educational, motivational, and pet-friendly!” “Every session I could apply in some way to my practice! Outstanding!” “This was a wonderful conference: well planned, interesting speakers, great research, quality presenters, accommodations (hotel) were great.” “Conference was very well organized. The speakers were great and the setting was wonderful.”

## AVMA Lectures 2010

Topic / Title	Speaker
Bustad Memorial Lecture Relationship- Centered Medicine	Dr. Brian Forsgren
Setting Up Hospice and Palliative Care Services in Small Animal Practice	Dr. Tamara Shearer and Dr. Amir Shanan
Hospice and Palliative Care Protocols	Dr. Tamara Shearer
Applied Hospice and Palliative Care-Symptom Management- Chronic Disease and Cancer	Dr. Alic Villalobos
Experiences with Natural Death vs Euthanasia	Dr. Tina Ellenbogen and Dr. Ella Bittel
Applied Hospice and Palliative Care-Pain Management	Dr. Robin Downing
Applied Hospice and Palliative Care-Pain Management and Creative Euthanasia Techniques	Dr. Robin Downing
Quality of Life Topics- Ask the Speakers	All Speakers Above

### 2009-2010 Board of Directors

**President**  
Tami Shearer, DVM  
Dillsboro, NC

**Immediate Past-President**  
Victoria Voith, DVM,  
PhD, DACVB  
Pomona, CA

**President Elect**  
Robin Downing, DVM  
Windsor, Colorado

**Treasurer**  
Thomas Krall, DVM  
St. Petersburg, FL

**Secretary**  
Marcy Hammerle, DVM  
O'Fallon, MO

**Newsletter Editor**  
Alice Villalobos DVM  
Hermosa Beach, CA

**Interim Executive Director**  
John Wright, DVM  
Saint Paul, MN

### 2009-2010 Directors at Large

Phil Arkow, DVM  
Philadelphia, PA

Greg Takashima, DVM  
Lake Oswego, OR

Richard Meadows, DVM  
Columbia, MO

Emilia Wong Gordon, DVM  
Berkeley, CA

Tina Ellenbogen, DVM  
Bothell, WA

Brian Forsgren  
Cleveland OH



The American Association of  
Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians  
Dr. Tom Krall  
St. Petersburg College  
P.O. Box 13489  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33733

Join the AAH-ABV online at [www.aahabv.org](http://www.aahabv.org),  
or fill out the form below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Specialty Board Certification \_\_\_\_\_

Alma Mater \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_

AVMA Member  Yes  No Other Associations \_\_\_\_\_

Your Interest Areas \_\_\_\_\_

Dues (check one)

Member Veterinarian (\$35)

Associate Member Non Veterinarian (\$35)

Student Applicant (\$10)

(Please have a faculty member sign below to certify that you are a member  
of the class of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

Faculty Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*All AAH-ABV members will be listed in the directory unless the member specifies  
otherwise. Please write checks to AAH-ABV and send them to Dr. Tom Krall,  
St. Petersburg College, PO Box 13489, St. Petersburg, Florida 33733**

## Mission Statement

“The mission of the  
American Association  
of Human-Animal  
Bond Veterinarians  
is to advance the  
role of the veterinary  
medical community  
in nurturing positive  
human-animal  
interactions in  
society.”