



# Newsletter

The American Association of  
Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians

Volume 22 • SUMMER 2008

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Martha A. Littlefield, DVM, MS  
Assistant State Veterinarian  
President, AAHABV



**Dear All the President's Friends:**  
I could have said "All the President's Men" but that would cut out one segment of the human population and certainly cut out all the animal population, so I compromised on "friends".

Since our pets know, somehow, when we don't feel exactly 100%, I have to say that Fat Kitty and Bad Kitty have gone out of their way this weekend to make sure they expressed extra love for me...even when it's not feeding time.

My back has been "out" since Friday when my secretary called and asked me to come down the road to see a dog that had been hit by a car. Florida Boulevard and this dog were both facing east but unfortunately, this dog's right back leg was pointing west and his left rear leg was an anatomical dissection of all tendons and ligaments. Key to the point: no tags, no owner and NO MICROCHIP!

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## AVMA 2008 New Orleans Speaker Abstracts & Articles

### Healing Powers of Therapy Animals



Dr. Sam Costello, the 2008 Bustad Award Recipient, is a 1992 graduate of The Ohio State University. He is one of three practice owners of Town and Country Veterinary Hospital in Warren, Ohio. He is the veterinary advisor for the Delta Society affiliate group, K-9's for Compassion ([www.k9sforcompassion.org](http://www.k9sforcompassion.org)) and is also a Delta Society Pet Partner handler with his dogs Bear, a chow husky mix, Victoria Rose, a Standard Poodle, Bonita, a pit-bull mix and a cat named Pedro. He lives with his wife Katie, their three-year-old daughter, Anastiya Rhiannon, and their 8 dogs, 6 cats, and any wayward injured or orphaned wildlife that walks into their lives. Sam was the 2006 recipient of the Most Distinguished Veterinarian of the year at the Western Veterinary Conference. Dr. Costello cares for the injured

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## Letter from the President: Martha Littlefield-Chaubad DVM, MS

### Continued from Page One

Unfortunately, the ultimate destination for this old dog was the Animal Control Center, thus my back being out from lifting the dog. And that brings me to the point of this note to you, the members of this great organization: If you do one thing to change in your clinic this year, push microchipping! If you are in the South and East—use hurricane season as an excuse. If you are somewhere else in the United States, think of the most likely way an animal can be separated from its owner and use that. Or better yet—use the above example. This old dog had been part of someone's family for many, many years. Microchip companies are working together to make sure animals get back to the owners. Animal Control Centers and Humane Societies are given scanners. Yes, it is to reconnect the animal to the owner, but in truth, what else is it? Maintaining that Human-Animal Bond!

Katrina and Rita taught us so much—but hurricanes aren't the only reason to microchip. There are enough reasons to push it and all I can say is "Do it!!!". My cats are microchipped, registered and my peace of mind is somewhat better than if they get out of the house. Now, the only thing better would be for my son, Chase, to be GPS microchipped so I don't have to worry where he is at midnight when he should be home....

## AVMA 2008 New Orleans Speakers & Abstracts

### Continued from Page One

Costello cares for the injured wildlife for Birds In Flight Rehabilitation in Warren, Ohio. He is on the Board of the Animal Welfare League in Warren, Ohio. When he is not working, he enjoys hiking with his family, photography, SCUBA diving, running, and gardening.

Dr. Costello feels strongly that the bond between humans and animals is under-used, under-appreciated, and under-rated. It is amazing how one can touch the lives of people by simply being a chaffer to your dog, and taking him visiting at area nursing homes and

hospitals. Dr. Costello visits at Liberty Arms Nursing Home in Liberty, Ohio, St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio, and the Hubbard Public Library in Hubbard, Ohio on a regular basis. This special presentation emphasizes the goals that were set by Leo Bustad and his colleagues when they founded the Delta Society.

## Using the Human Animal Bond to Your Benefit



M. A. Littlefield, DVM, MS, Assistant State Veterinarian, Veterinary Health Division, Office of Animal Health Services, Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, PO Box 1951, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-1951, [Martha@ldaf.state.la.us](mailto:Martha@ldaf.state.la.us)

Year after year, the human animal bond section has focused on various aspects of the human animal bond—using it to increase revenue in your practice, end of life strategies and others. This year, the goal of this session is to present ideas that can be used to give back to the community. In that way, I am hoping that you can see the human animal bond as a gift that gives back to you in ways that you might not suspect.

Repetition is dangerous to mental survival in a stagnant practice. Finding ways to use the human animal bond pass your practice boundaries. Different methods are presented to move past the routine day in and day out of practice. Giving back to the community can be beneficial to both you and your practice in many ways, including economical.

## Proactive Behavior: Intervention Strategies for the New Puppy Owner

John C. New, DVM, MPH, is Professor and Head, of the Department of Comparative Medicine, University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine which is composed of 23 faculty and 25 staff. He teaches courses on zoonoses, food safety, responsible pet ownership and agricultural vulnerability assessment. He is the Principal Advisor of approximately 20 veterinary students and veterinarians in Veterinary Public Health Concentration, Master of Public Health Degree Program. His research focuses on infectious/zoonotic diseases of free-roaming wildlife and factors associated with relinquishment of dogs and cats to shelters. Dr. New is the Co-founder and advisor to Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee (HABIT) an animal-assisted therapy and visitation program.

Attendees will learn some of the main factors that contribute to the failure of the human-animal bond between owners and new puppies. They will also hear how the veterinary practice team can be proactive in solving behavior problems experienced by new puppy owners before the problems become so great that the owner relinquishes the puppy.



## Being Ready for Media: Breed Specific Bond Problems



Hilton Martin Cole, Born in Durban, South Africa, 1953 was educated at Weston Agricultural College, Mooi River, Kwa Zulu-Natal, ZA, 1971. He attended Mississippi State University and received his Bsc. Animal Science in 1979. He worked at East Baton Rouge Parish Animal Control Center as a Shelter worker, Animal Control Officer, Officer Supervisor, and has been Director since 1982 to the present. He is a member of: Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission, Louisiana Animal Control Association, National Animal Control Association, Coalition of Louisiana Animal Advocates.

## Emergency Preparedness for Pet Owners

### Spreading the Word to the Public

Written by Rebecca A. Adcock, DVM, MBA,  
Public Information Officer,  
Louisiana State Animal Response Team



Hurricane Katrina caused the most massive pet evacuation and shelter event ever recorded in U.S. history. International media spotlight focused on caring for pets in disasters. The stories that emerged emphasized the strength of the human/animal bond and led to changes in state and federal laws related to pets in emergency planning.

Of the many lessons learned in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricane season, one of the most important was that public education is critical to preventing a recurrence of the animal evacuation disaster. 63% of Americans have at least one pet; 45% have two or more. 44% of Katrina survivors surveyed said they refused to evacuate because of pets. It is unknown how many people perished because they would not abandon their animals.

Saving animal lives saves human lives. For this reason, public education on how to prepare pet owners for emergencies can be included in any discussion on disaster preparedness. When speaking to the public on the subject, there are simple yet critical messages to emphasize.

Four



## Families, and Pets

Dr. Lynn Buzhardt is a graduate of LSU and co-owns The Animal Center West in Zachary, Louisiana. She has over 25 years of experience conducting FDA pharmaceutical trials, sits on the board of the American Heartworm Society, and has served as national spokesperson for several animal health companies working with television, radio, and print media including the Wall Street Journal. Dr. Buzhardt has authored many articles, lectures to veterinary colleagues and is recognized in the human medical community for her seminars on integrating infants into pet-owning households. Her book, Can We Have One? Raising Kids, Cats, and Dogs? Will be available in October 2008.

## Integrating Children Into Pet-owning Households

Written by Lynn Buzhardt, DVM,  
[lfbdvm@bellsouth.net](mailto:lfbdvm@bellsouth.net)

With the increase in dual-income households, many couples delay starting a family filling the need to nurture with a pet. Dogs and cats as surrogate children assume a special place in the family unit. The later addition of a human child often presents a dilemma for the pet owners.

To successfully integrate a new child into a pet-owning household, an understanding of the adult human-companion animal bond is helpful. Tracing the bond from infancy to adolescence gives parents-to-be an insight into the childhood-pet bond and demonstrates the developmental benefits derived from raising a child with a family pet.

Techniques on preparing the household and the pet for the imminent arrival of an infant are best implemented in two stages: what to do before the baby comes and what to do afterwards. Household changes need to be presented to the pet in a positive manner during pregnancy allowing adequate adjustment periods. The pet should be introduced to the sights, sounds, and smells associated with a baby before an actual baby arrives in the home.

Tips on introducing the baby to the pet after the baby's arrival in a gradual, controlled method are outlined. Common mistakes are illustrated as "what not to do" to avoid injury to the infant.

Animal health professionals have an obligation to reduce the number of pets displaced due to the arrival of a baby. Keeping the family unit intact benefits the pet, the parents, and the baby. This seminar is an instruction guide for technicians and veterinarians on how to assist clients in successfully integrating a baby into an established pet-owning household.



## Strengthening The Body and "The Bond" Through Rehabilitation

Written by Tami Shearer, DVM, CCRP

Not surprisingly, the field of physical rehabilitation in the veterinary profession has grown over the past few years. Some of the goals of rehabilitation are to maintain and improve strength, relieve pain, improve circulation, improve range of motion, speed recovery time, prevent surgery, and improve quality of life.

After being in practice for over 22 years, I have seen many special relationships form between pets and people. Besides all of the obvious benefits of rehabilitation, this therapy also serves a greater good. Rehabilitation strengthens the pet's body but it also has a secondary effect of strengthening "The Bond". Rehabilitation reinforces the relationship between people, pets and their veterinary caretakers.

There is a special magic that occurs when the pet owner witnesses the healing touch of the therapist hands on their pet. Pet owners feel the physical and emotional commitment on part of veterinary staff to help their pet and that serves to strengthen "The Bond".

Adding rehabilitation techniques to a treatment protocol requires additional time between the pet owner, pet and staff which allows for a more connected relationship. Time spent with the pet owner and pet can occur on three levels. A staff member can teach owners home care rehabilitation techniques, the pet can have in-hospital therapy with the pet owner present, or therapy can take place on a drop-off basis.



Pets which have conditions that restrict the activities once enjoyed by pet owner in the past like playing fetch or even going on a walk can be replaced by rehabilitation techniques like weight shifting or massage. This contact enables the relationship between them to be maintained or even be enhanced.

The following serves as an example of how rehabilitation can be applied in general practice. It is beyond the scope of this article to discuss all physical modalities. Massage may help decrease pain and improve circulation. Simple techniques such as assisted standing by the use of slings or a towel help to slow muscle atrophy. Weight shifting may help a pet stay mobile with less loss of balance. Warm moist heat maybe applied to the pet to help relax sore muscles.

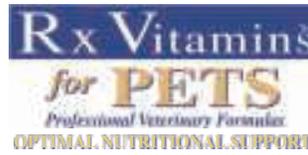
Rehabilitation techniques can add great benefit without the side effects associated with drug therapy. Veterinarians should integrate rehabilitation techniques in the all types of care plans when possible not only to build a stronger body but to build a stronger "Bond."

## The Theilen Tribute Symposium

The Theilen Tribute Symposium was a successful celebration of Dr. Gordon Theilen's 80th birthday and legendary 50 year career in cancer research and clinical medicine. Dr. Theilen was a true Human-Animal Bond pioneer. He contributed valuable research in cancer virology and championed cancer treatment for horses, cats and dogs in the 1960's when it was unheard of. Proceedings from the symposium can be found on line at [www.cancer-therapy.org](http://www.cancer-therapy.org). Theilen Tribute Symposium Proceedings, Vol. 6A and 6B 2008. Selected papers are abstracted in the Capsules section of the June and July 2008 issues of Clinicians Brief. This picture was created for special Tribute wine labels that generated donations to support the Special Gordon Theilen Cancer Research Fund to encourage young scholars who endeavor to end cancer's fatal agenda.



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## Human-Animal Bond Lecture Schedule, AVMA 2008

Public Relations and the Human-Animal Bond:  
Giving Back To the Community  
Saturday, July 19, 2008

Ernest N Memorial Convention Center  
Room 276  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Time	Topic / Title	Speaker
9:00 - 9:50	Bustad Memorial Lecture, Healing Powers: Therapy Animals	Sam Costello, DVM
10:00 - 10:50	Public Awareness Programs For the Human-Animal Bond	Martha A. Littlefield, DVM
11:00 - 11:50	Being Ready for Media: Breed Specific Bond Problems in a Community - Pit Bulls	Hilton Cole
12:00 - 12:50	Lunch Break & Annual Business Meeting	Martha Littlefield Chair
1:00 - 1:50	Proactive Behavior Intervention Strategies for the New Puppy Owner	John C. New, DVM, MPH
2:00 - 2:50	Public Speaking About Shelter Adoption	Marianne D. Fairchild, DVM
3:00 - 3:50	Speaking to the Public or Your Clients on Disaster Preparedness	Rebecca A. Adcock, DVM, MBA
4:00 - 4:50	Families, and Pets	Lynn Buzhardt, DVM
5:00 - 5:50	Panel Discussion	Littlefield, Cole, New, Fairchild, Adcock, Buzhardt

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### Mission Statement

- To further awareness of the human-animal bond
- To further scientific progress in the area of the human-animal bond
- To further educational opportunities in the area of the human-animal bond
- To encourage veterinary participation in human-animal bond activities with related organizations and disciplines
- To explore the potential for establishing a veterinary specialty in the area of the human-animal bond

\*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