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# NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND VETERINARIANS



## Update from the President: Human-Animal Bond Program at AVMA, San Diego

Robin Downing, DVM, CVPP, DAAPM

The American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians has some exciting CE planned for our annual general meeting, held at the American Veterinary Medical Association annual convention!

For those of you who are new to the AAH-ABV, we traditionally hold our annual general membership meeting at the annual meeting of the AVMA. The AVMA has generously provided us with a Human-Animal Bond track in the scientific program each year - typically on the Sunday of the meeting. This year in San Diego, on Sunday 5 August, we have a bang-up program lined up.

The AAH-ABV HAB track at AVMA is traditionally opened by the Leo K. Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award winner from the previous year. Dr. Nancy Kay, author of *Speaking for Spot*, was the 2011 Bustad Award winner. Unfortunately, Dr. Kay has a time conflict and can't join us. Fortunately, our very own Dr. Alice Villalobos (and a Bustad Award winner herself) has agreed to step in and deliver the opening lecture to honor Dr. Bustad and his insights into the Human-Animal Bond.

Ms. Toni Eames, co-founder of the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners will continue our day of education emphasizing the Human-Animal Bond with two hours of lecture:

**9 AM** – “The Bond at its Best: Assistance Dogs and Their Partners”

**10 AM** – “Assistance Dogs and the Veterinary Team”

These lectures are designed to provide insights into how best the veterinary health-care team can work best with the human-assistance dog team to maximize health and wellness.

Next up in the HAB program is Dr. Debra Horwitz. Dr. Horwitz is a board-certified behaviorist in private practice in St. Louis, and is one of the leading experts in this field. She will share with us three hours of teaching:

**11 AM** – “The Breaking Bond and How to Fix It: Canine Behavior Gaffes”

**1 PM** – (right after lunch) “The Breaking Bond and How to Fix It: Feline behavior Gaffes”

**2 PM** – “Fixing the Bond Before it’s Broken: More Tools for your Bond-building Toolbox”

Rounding out the day we will hear from Dr. Gary Patronek, a veterinarian and epidemiologist with the Animal Rescue League of Boston and expert in the area of animal hoarding. Dr. Patronek will share two hours with us:

**4 PM & 5 PM** – (following the exhibit hall break) “When the Bond is Warped: Animal Hoarding, Intervention, and the Veterinary Healthcare Team (parts 1 & 2)”.



Dr. Downing with Murphy.

This day promises to be a stellar spectrum of talks, taking us from the Bond at its very best to the Bond at its very worst. I want to offer my personal thanks to the speakers and to Dr. Lydia Gray and Pat Kmak who were such terrific help to me in choreographing this day of talks. Please be sure to join us in San Diego in August!

See details at [www.avmaconvention.org](http://www.avmaconvention.org). Our speakers and their topics are featured in this NL.

As a teaser, next year the AAH-ABV will partner with Dr. Rebecca Johnson from the University of Missouri and the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations to create the Human-Animal Bond track at the 2013 AVMA convention.



# HAB TRACK – AVMA Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## Theme: Clinical, Emotional, Legal, & Ethical Aspects of Emotional and Physical Abuse of Animals

| SESSION/TIME                                       | SPEAKER              | TOPIC / TITLE   |
|--|----------------------|---|
| <b>SESSION #1</b><br>8:00 am – 8:50 am . . . . .   | Dr. Alice Villalobos | Bustad Memorial Lecture, Dr. Kay Speaking for Spot    |
| <b>SESSION #2</b><br>9:00 am – 9:50 am . . . . .   | Ms. Toni Eames, MS   | The Special Bond in the Working Relationships: Part 1 |
| <b>SESSION #3</b><br>10:00 am – 10:50 am . . . . . | Ms. Toni Eames, MS   | The Special Bond in the Working Relationships: Part 2 |
| <b>SESSION #4</b><br>11:00 am – 11:50 am . . . . . | Dr. Deborah Horwitz  | What Breaks the Bond and How to Fix It                |
| <b>Lunch</b><br>12:00 pm – 1:00 pm . . . . .       | Lunch Break          | Lunch Break   |
| <b>SESSION #5</b><br>1:00 pm – 1:50 pm . . . . .   | Dr. Deborah Horwitz  | What Breaks the Bond and How to Fix It: Part 1        |
| <b>SESSION #6</b><br>2:00 pm – 2:50 pm . . . . .   | Dr. Deborah Horwitz  | What Breaks the Bond and How to Fix It: Part 2        |
| <b>SESSION #7</b><br>3:00 pm – 3:50 pm . . . . .   | Dr. Gary Patronek    | Animal Hoarding: Part 1 Profiles                      |
| <b>SESSION #8</b><br>4:00 pm – 4:50 pm . . . . .   | Dr. Gary Patronek    | Animal Hoarding: Part 2 Intervention and Therapy      |
| <b>Q &amp; A</b><br>5:00 pm – 5:50 pm . . . . .    | Today's Speakers     | Q & A with Today's Speakers                           |

### AVMA HAB Summary

#### Bustad Memorial Lecture for Nancy Kay, DVM, ACVIM

by Alice Villalobos, DVM, DPNAP

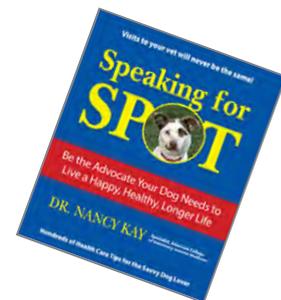
The first part of this presentation will be to honor Dr. Leo K. Bustad, by telling his story. We will recall memories and show pictures of the early Delta Society days. We will refresh some of his quotes and note some of his accomplishments. Leo Bustad is the man who helped found the Delta Society (now Pet Partners), the man who coined the term, Human-Animal Bond and the man who helped to found The American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians. His legacy lives on with the Bustad Memorial Lecture to kick off the



*Dr. Leo K. Bustad, Ph.D. with Bridget, his wife's hearing dog.*

Human-Animal Bond Sessions organized by AAH-ABV for the AVMA Convention.

The Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of 2011 is Dr. Nancy Kay,



ACVIM, a Cornell graduate. She was selected for helping dog lovers with her medical advocacy book, *Speaking for Spot*. She is a staff internist at VCA Animal Care Center in Rohnert Park, CA. She is married to Alan Kay, DVM and they have three children, Mickey, Jacob and Susannah and many pets. Alan is Nancy's

. . . continued on page 3 . . .

## Bustad Memorial Lecture . . . continued



*Dr. Nancy Kay, ACVIM*

sounding board and feedback expert on the book. Dr. Kay says that she wishes that she had this book when she first fell in love with dogs for making routine decisions about their health care and diseases. She has one wish for all dog lovers. That wish is for each dog to have an owner attached to their leash who is motivated and effective about providing health care decisions. She sincerely wishes that in an ideal world that

every dog owner could have access to her book and clearly understand what it takes to be their dogs' medical advocate. This lecture will review vital sections of Dr. Kay's award winning book.

BIO: Alice Villalobos, DVM, DPNAP

Dr. Alice Villalobos, UCD '72 is a Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian Award recipient for her pioneering role in bringing oncology services to companion animals. She is President of the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics, past President of the American Association of Human Animal Bond Veterinarians, the Sierra VMA and Chair of the Veterinary Academy for the National Academies of Practice. She authored the textbook, *Canine and Feline Geriatric Oncology: Honoring the Human-*



*Dr. Alice Villalobos*

*Animal Bond* and numerous articles, papers and chapters. She has lectured worldwide on oncology, quality of life, end of life

care, the human-animal bond and ethics. She introduced Pawspice, an end of life care program that embraces kinder, gentler standard care with palliative medicine and transitions to hospice as patients decline. She is Director of Pawspice at VCA Coast Animal Hospital in Hermosa Beach & Animal Oncology Consultation Service in Woodland Hills, CA. Her concierge referral practices provide consultations; integrative oncology therapy and nursing home care services for end-of-life care patients, [www.Pawspice.com](http://www.Pawspice.com), [dralicev@aol.com](mailto:dralicev@aol.com).

## AVMA HAB Summary

### The Special Bond in the Working Relationships

BIO: Toni Eames, MS

Toni Eames, MS, Adjunct Professor of Sociology at California State University, Fresno, lives with her Golden Retriever guide dog Keebler and her late husband Ed's guide dog Latrell.

Toni, with her late husband Ed, co authored *A Guide to Guide Dog Schools* and *Partners in Independence: A Success Story of Dogs and the Disabled*. They also produced an award winning DVD, *Partners in Independence*, and have lectured worldwide. Toni was the first blind handler working with a guide dog to obtain the AKC obedience titles Companion Dog and Companion Dog Excellent. In recognition of her work on behalf of disabled people, Toni was inducted into the National Hall of Fame for Persons with Disabilities

in 1998. The Eames were founding Board members and officers of the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners, a consumer advocacy organization; website [www.iaadp.org](http://www.iaadp.org).

Summary:

Assistance dogs play a unique role in their human partners' lives. It is important for the veterinary healthcare team to understand the complex nature of this life-sustaining human-animal bond. DVD will introduce you to the many faceted jobs performed by a wide variety of dogs of many sizes and breeds and mixes. By understanding this complex work and the many hours of training that go into training the assistance dog and making a working



*Toni Eames and Keebler.*

partnership, you will be more aware of the medication and treatment protocols necessary for these dogs. Knowing that service animals are depended upon for a person's independence makes the veterinarian's actions and responsibility very special and valuable. By understanding this all-important work and the unique human-animal bond that sustains disabled persons, veterinarians can make the most appropriate medical decisions to keep that working team both functional and healthy!



## AVMA HAB Summary

### The Special Bond in the Working Relationships

BIO: Debra Horwitz, DVM, DACVB, BS

Debra Horwitz received her DVM from Michigan State. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and is currently its president. Dr. Horwitz is director of Veterinary Behavior Consultations, a referral practice for behavioral problems in companion animals in St. Louis, Missouri. She teaches third year veterinary students and accepts clinical cases at the University of Missouri. She is a behavioral consultant for the Veterinary Information Network and is author, editor and contributor to many behavior articles, chapters and books and has lectured extensively to veterinarians in private practice.

Summary:

Dr. Horowitz will spend two hours identifying the most common behavioral issues that cause, disappointment, frustration, damage to the human-animal bond and property, accidents and animal relinquishment. She will not only illustrate why animals develop troublesome behaviors, she will show how people often create misbehaviors due to their lack of consistency and poor management skills.

Dr. Horowitz will provide numerous case illustrations and valuable information on ways to avoid making mistakes. She will also provide suggestions and methods



Dr. Debra Horwitz

to correct behavior issues and reshape bad behavior into good behavior.

Many of the problems that she will touch on are chronic and bewildering behaviors that many pet families have dealt with either by truce or reluctant acceptance for many, many years.

## AVMA HAB Summary

### Animal Hoarding: Part 1 Profiles & Part 2 Intervention and Therapy

BIO: Gary J. Patronek, VMD, PhD

Dr. Patronek received his VMD at U of Penn. He worked in private practice for several years, and served as the Director of the Chester County SPCA when few veterinarians worked in shelters. He earned his Ph.D. in Epidemiology/Animal Welfare at Purdue and joined Tufts University as Director of the Center for Animals and Public Policy. As adjunct staff at Tufts, he developed their shelter medicine program and founded the Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium (HARC), which conducted initial research on animal hoarding.

He helped develop the Boston League's Center for Shelter Dogs. Patronek was on the Board Specialty Organizing Committee for the shelter medicine specialty sanctioned by the AVMA. His interests include: how animal abuse often predicts human abuse, hoarding, standards for quality

of life for animals in shelters, and using geo-spatial analysis to better understand how shelter intakes and adoptions are connected to human socio-geographic factors.

Summary:

Dr. Patronek's two hour presentation will provide current information on the mental disease that underplays animal hoarding. Animal hoarders generally have deep seated needs which they have not found any other way to address. Hoarders often alienate friends and family who may have tried vainly for years to intervene, with little success. In extreme cases, marriages fail, children lose contact with parents, and siblings become estranged. Dr. Patronek will give case examples that have had repeated appeals by family members to multiple social service agencies with historically



Dr. Gary Patronek

little effect. He will cover various scenarios of community and local animal control and rescue society interventions, cleanup and victim rehabilitation and rehoming.

Animal hoarding intervention is challenging, but not impossible. Each hoarding case is unique, and any approach should be flexible with solutions. Approaches can range from a therapeutically oriented, cooperative approach to a highly adversarial prosecution for animal cruelty. A middle ground involves a combination of "carrots" and "sticks" in order to achieve coopera-

... continued on page 5 ...

# Animal Hoarding . . . continued

tion and compliance. Therapy is emerging but few have experience treating animal hoarders. For any treatment to be successful, it must address root causes. It would be a mistake for a therapist to consider the problem resolved simply because animals were removed, when in fact animals are a symptom, not a cause, of the problem.

Compulsive hoarding is now recognized to be more different than similar to OCD, and most hoarders do not have other OCD symptoms. Hoarding is being recognized as a new and distinct disorder in DSM-V. If a person is willing, success is possible. Treatment must be individualized from a wide range of disorders such as co-morbid

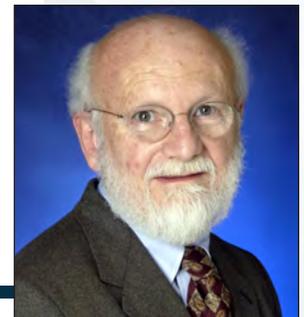
depression which may cause the hoarding behavior. The therapist must understand attachment and trauma theory and the critical role of the human-animal bond. Although there are similarities with object hoarding, the interactive relationship with animals adds complexity to the problem of helping hoarders rehabilitate.

## North American Veterinary Conference American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians

Monday, January 21, 2013 Gaylord Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, Florida

### **HAB TRACK - NAVC** Theme: Models of How the Veterinary Profession Can Provide Care to Pets Whose Owner Can't Afford the Cost of Care

Organizer & Moderator: John S. Wright, DVM



| <b>SESSION/TIME</b>           | <b>SPEAKER</b>  | <b>TOPIC / TITLE</b>   |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>SESSION #1</b>             |   |  |
| 8:00 am – 9:15 am . . . . .   | Brian Forsgren, DVM<br>Gary Block, MS, DVM, DACVIM  | Models of How the Veterinary Profession Can Provide Care to Pets who's Owner Can't Afford the Cost of Care.                  |
| <b>SESSION #2</b>             |   |  |
| 9:55 am – 10:45 am . . . . .  | Brian Forsgren, DVM   | Providing Access to Care in Difficult Financial Times  |
| <b>SESSION #3</b>             |   |  |
| 10:55 am – 11:45 am . . . . . | Natalie Isaza, DVM  | Providing Veterinary Care to Pets of Under Served Community  |
| <b>Lunch</b>                  |   |  |
| 11:45 am – 1:45 pm . . . . .  | Lunch Break   | Lunch Break  |
| <b>SESSION #4</b>             |   |  |
| 1:45 pm – 2:35 pm . . . . .   | Gary Block, MS, DVM, DACVIM   | An Alternative Model by a State VMA Foundation   |
| <b>SESSION #5</b>             |   |  |
| 2:45 pm – 3:35 pm . . . . .   | Jeanette O'Quin DVM, MPH  | A Veterinary Outreach Program at The Ohio State University   |
| <b>SESSION #6, 7, 8</b>       |   |  |
| 3:55 pm – 4:50 pm . . . . .   | Brian Forsgren, DVM<br>Gary Block, MS, DVM, DACVIM<br>Natalie Isaza, DVM<br>Jeanette O'Quin, DVM, MPH | Panel Discussion: Models of How the Veterinary Profession Can Provide Care to Pets who's Owner Can't Afford the Cost of Care |



## Human-Animal Bond Related Book: Review/commentary by Alice Villalobos, DVM, DPNAP

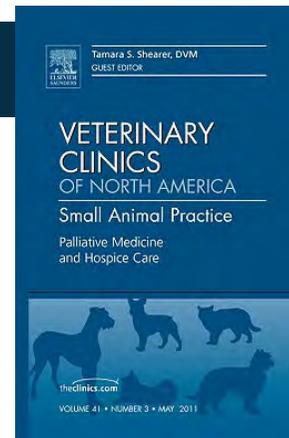
### Palliative Medicine and Hospice Care

Tamara S. Shearer, DVM, Editor, VCNA, Small Animal Practice, Volume 41, Number 3, May 2011

This may be the first book that contains chapters by three presidents of the AAH-ABV! It is certainly the first book that VCNA has devoted to veterinary end of life care. Dr. Tamara Shearer created and edited an excellent resource for veterinarians and their staff who want gain enough expertise to offer professional end of life care services. The book provides insight and answers to better understand the emotional devas-

tation brought on by illness and decline of the family dog or cat.

I'm not the only contributor who firmly disagrees with the first chapter's concept of "true" hospice which holds that pet owners should let their animals die without the gift of euthanasia and that euthanasia would only be used as a last resort. Chapters by Drs. Shearer, Downing and Villalobos offer veterinary medical expertise with compas-



sion as the most important ingredients.

Detailed case reports take patients to their very last hours to illustrate successful palliative and hospice care including the gift of euthanasia when quality of life is lost.

## Human-Animal Bond Related Book: Review/commentary by Robin Downing, DVM, CVPP, DAAPM

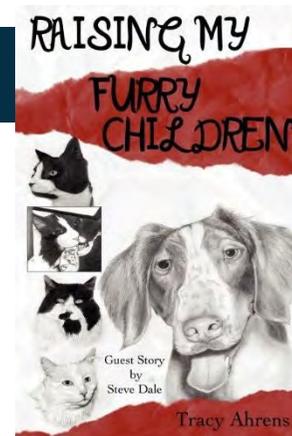
### Raising My Furry Children

Tracy Ahrens

Tracy Ahrens presents her readers with a lovely litany of stories recounting her interactions, and reactions, to the many animals with whom she has shared her life and time. She speaks in the introduction of the dilemma of abandoned pets who find their way into the shelter system without being relinquished by their owners - - owners who would be able to provide insights into their previous life experiences, their

feeding habits, their medical issues, their personality nuances. As any of us who have re-homed pets know, we often uncover "secrets" about these animals quite by accident as their new lives with us unfold.

Ms. Ahrens advocates that we keep a diary of the antics, preferences, activities of daily living, and the unexpected insights our pets share with us so that we may look back in love and laugh, cry, and be swept



back to each and every special moment.

Written like a series of blog posts, each vignette is two to four pages . An Art Tribute closes this enjoyable collection of memories.

## Human-Animal Bond Related Book: Review/commentary by Alice Villalobos, DVM, DPNAP

### Your Dog's Golden Years

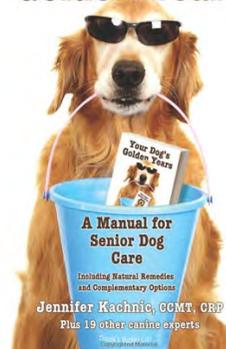
Jennifer Kachnic, CCMT, CRP, Editor

This book assembles chapters by 19 various practitioners of not only veterinary medicine but of all related professional and paraprofessional and service arenas that relate to senior and geriatric animal health care, nutrition and rehabilitation. Yours

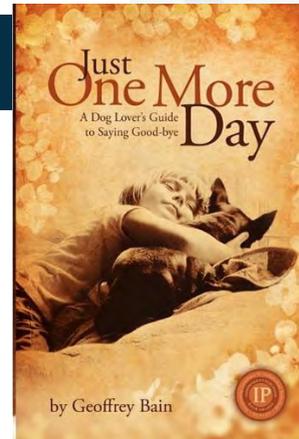
truly was asked to contribute a chapter to help pet owners understand and evaluate Quality of Life. Although I do not agree or endorse all of the contributors, the goals of this collection of helpful older dog care tips is to help pet lovers keep their older dogs

healthier and happier.

### Your Dog's Golden Years



# Human-Animal Bond Related Book: Review/commentary by Alice Villalobos, DVM, DPNAP



## Just One More Day

Geoffrey Bain

This informative book was written because Geoff ushered his Australian shepherd, Abby, through the ordeal that results when your dog is diagnosed with advanced metastatic bone cancer.

Geoff found that he needed more help to cope with decision making on quality of life and euthanasia than he was receiving to manage his beloved dog

during her decline. This book is informing veterinarians and letting society know that there is a great need for veterinary practices nationwide to offer pet owning families more time, more understanding and more compassion and improved medical management expertise for animals who are in decline and in need of end of life care.

## Uniquely Bonded Gallery

A lifetime of love...



*Ramsey, in diapers, is a 15 year old Manx. He is loved dearly by his family, a Pawspice patient of Dr. Villalobos, and is a two year survivor of progressive bladder cancer. Photo taken by his family.*



*Children love their cats and they form strong human-animal bonds for life. Photo by Alice Villalobos, DVM, DPNAP.*



*Coco, an American Shorthair from a shelter, is a companion pet for Grandma Reed and helps keep the days entertaining at 90 years. Photo taken by Jeanne Kahan.*

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

*\*All AAH-ABV members will be listed in the directory unless the member specifies otherwise.*

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- Member Veterinarian (\$35)  
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Students, please have a faculty member sign below to certify that you are a member of the class of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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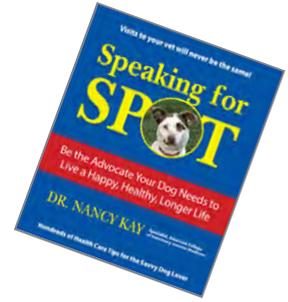
**Greg Takashima, DVM  
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**John Wright, DVM  
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**Sandy, far left, with San Quentin Pen Pals**



Sandy, the Speaking for Spot cover girl, was one of the original participants in the Pen Pals Program, a joint effort between San Quentin State Prison and the Marin Humane Society.



Specially selected inmates are paired with humane society dogs with special needs, convalescing or requiring one-on-one training and socialization to prepare them for successful adoption.

**Thank You to Our Sponsors:**



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*Editor-In-Chief, Alice Villalobos, DVM, DPNAP and her dog NEO.*