

# forum FOCUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY & ANIMALS FORUM | FALL 2004 | VOLUME 24

## Hidden Curricula and Humane Education

By Helena Pedersen

**M**any people are aware that so-called animal labs – dissection and vivisection exercises in school – send value-laden signals to students that animals are disposable research objects available for us to use in any way we find appropriate. Research tells us that such learning exercises may have undesirable effects on students – such as emotional desensitization – especially if they feel coerced to take part against their own moral convictions or sensibilities.

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*“By employing ... classroom observations, critical discourse analysis of textbooks, videotapes, newspaper articles, and other learning materials and mapping the ways agribusiness and other sponsors enter the schools’ premises, we can highlight elements of speciesist hidden curricula that still prevail in schools.”*

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### Hidden Curricula

Animal labs constitute a part of the formal curriculum of many schools. That which is included and not included in curricula is extremely important and deserves serious attention. This, however, may only be the tip of an iceberg: Many other school situations also mediate and legitimate values, world-views, ideologies, and assumptions about what knowledge is significant and desirable and what is to be neglected or suppressed.

Such often-very-subtle messages emerge in the interaction between teacher and student, in the deep structures of textbooks and other learning materials, and in other situations beyond the glossy rhetoric of formal policy documents. These phenomena are all part of the hidden curricula in a school setting.

Awareness of hidden curricula in schools appears to be increasing. Hopefully, few educators today would allow sexist or racist messages in learning materials to pass by unnoticed. Values education has become a significant area of education and research. In Sweden, the establishment of two national values-education centers, research and political documentation, school projects, and debates are just a few recent examples showing increased attention to these matters.

A new term has even been coined: *värdegrund*, fundamental values, which under one heading attempts to assemble desirable values the school should convey. The first section of the national curriculum, *Lpo 94*, is entirely devoted to the schools’ *värdegrund*, indicating the weight values education is ascribed within the Swedish school system.

### Animals Miss Out on Progress

Sadly, there is a missing link: the human-animal relationship, whose relevance to values education is absent from the official education arena. Consequently, humane education is unknown – there is not even a term for it in the Swedish language. More in-depth research and debate on the human-animal dimensions of hidden curricula in schools is urgently needed to alert educators and policymakers to the shortcomings of

present values-education efforts and provide incentives for humane education.

By employing critical ethnographic methods, including classroom observations, critical discourse analysis of textbooks, video-

*continued on page 5*



## Inside

<b>We'll See You in Court: Forum's AniCare Manuals Help Resolve Cruelty Cases</b> .....	2
<b>Education &amp; Training Division Highlights</b> .....	3
<b>Psychology of the Dinner Table</b> ...	3
<b>Revisiting a Classic: Original Society &amp; Animals Research Still Timely</b> .....	4
<b>Milestone for Psychologists and Animals</b> .....	4
<b>Forum Workshops Brochure Hot off the Press</b> .....	6
<b>Society &amp; Animals Forum Bookshelf</b> .....	7

# We'll See You in Court: Forum's AniCare Manuals Help Resolve Cruelty Cases

**T**hree recent cruelty-to-animals cases – one in Washington State, two in Colorado – illustrate the importance of the Society & Animals Forum's *AniCare Model of Treatment for Animal Abuse* and *AniCare Child* manuals; training workshops on the *AniCare* approach to solving the animal-abuse problem; and state anticruelty laws' psychological counseling provisions that make way for use of *AniCare*. (See page 7 for descriptions of the *AniCare* manuals.)

## Homeless Siberian Husky

In one heart-wrenching case, two men found a "stray" Siberian husky dog whom they "took for a walk" near an elementary school on March 8, 2004, in Wilkeson, Washington, according to prosecutors and an eyewitness.

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***"The AniCare Model is designed to ensure that cruelty convicts have [the] experience of empathy they so obviously need and learn to control their violent impulses."***

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The men tied the dog to a tree and shot him at least nine times with what the Tacoma *News Tribune* described as "a dull-pointed target arrow and a hunting bow." The *News Tribune* wrote, "They used the same arrow at least twice after pulling it from the dog's body."

A statement read by a representative of the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County at the cruelty-to-animals trial of the two defendants said, in part,

As you think about what's next for you, try to remember the look in the dog's eyes, as he followed you around, looking for companionship, as you shot at him, and as you walked back up to him over and over to pull the arrow

out. Try to imagine what he felt – the confusion, the pain, and the fear that your rope prevented him from escaping. Try to understand what you put him through.

## AniCare at Work

*The AniCare Model* is designed to ensure that cruelty convicts have that experience of empathy they so obviously need and learn to control their violent impulses. And *AniCare* is what the judge ordered.

Pierce County Superior Court Judge Thomas Feltnagle on September 2nd sentenced the men to eight months in jail, 240 hours of community service – and 10 weeks of "special mental health treatment for animal abusers," as the *News Tribune* put it.

That "special mental health treatment" is *AniCare*. And mental health counseling is now a cruelty-to-animals sentencing option in 25 states, and two other states require it. Says Society & Animals Forum Executive Director Ken Shapiro, "*AniCare* now more than ever before is filling society's need for a way to break the cycle of abuse that keeps violent criminals violent and keeps human and nonhuman victims suffering."

## "Radio Personality" Not Entertaining

In a widely publicized case, Steven Meade, a "radio personality" at KBPI in Denver, Colorado, ordered a station intern to drop a live hen twice from studio balconies so he could amuse listeners with the animal's suffering and death. Public outcry about the incident helped move the Denver County district attorney to prosecute Meade for cruelty to animals.

A jury found Meade guilty, and he was sentenced to one year of supervised probation, 100 hours of public service, a \$400.00 surcharge paid to the Colorado Animal Protection Fund, a \$500.00 fine, \$91.00 for court fees and costs – and 24 one-hour counseling sessions using *The AniCare Model*. His 60-day stint in jail was

## Forum Focus: The Newsletter of the Society & Animals Forum

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The Society & Animals Forum, Inc. (formerly Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), is a 501(c)(3) organization that produces educational programs and materials on the relationship between human and nonhuman animals. The ultimate objective of Society & Animals Forum programs is to reduce violence against human and nonhuman animals. The organization's activities include giving training workshops; publishing, designing, producing, and distributing journals, professional manuals, and other educational materials; and creating and running advocacy programs.

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*Forum Focus* is designed by Elliott Design Group, Frederick, Maryland. Printed by Anasco Printing, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

suspended provided that he commits no additional crimes and meets all other conditions of his probation.

## Colorado Ferret Abuse Case

Defendant Jonathan Warren Woodstock, a.k.a. Jonathan Lane, pled guilty to two counts of cruelty to animals for torturing and cruelly beating two companion ferrets, Smokey and Jitters, and five dogs – Lucie, Frankie, Vinnie, Foxy, and Tank – in the District Court of Larimer County, Colorado.

Woodstock was sentenced to four years of supervised probation; 6-18 months in jail; a \$500.00 fine for each count – total, \$1,000.00; a \$400.00 surcharge paid to the Animal Cruelty Prevention Fund for each count – total, \$800.00; 48 hours of community service for each count – total, 96 hours — and *AniCare* assessment and treatment. He also was prohibited from owning, having responsibility for, or possessing any animal during his four years of probation.

## Education Continues

Ken Shapiro says, “It is gratifying to see our many years of work on *The AniCare Model* bearing fruit. Much more important is the opportunity *AniCare* provides to reduce the violence human services and allied health professionals, law-enforcement officers, humane officers, shelter workers, and animal-rights activists struggle with every day.”

The S&A Forum’s Education & Training Division continues to train counselors in the use of the *AniCare* and *AniCare Child* manuals, and the organization offers a new brochure describing *AniCare* training workshops. (See sidebars.) ■

## Education & Training Division Highlights

*Here are some recent activities of the Society & Animals Forum’s Education & Training Division.*

- On August 4, 2004, in Honolulu and on August 7<sup>th</sup> in Maui, Society & Animals Forum Executive Director Ken Shapiro gave presentations to the two islands’ chapters of the Vegetarian Society of Hawaii, titled *Psychology of the Dinner Table: Vegetarianism versus Carnism*. (See box below.) In Honolulu, about 100 people attended; in Maui, about 30.

The Honolulu presentation was shown on community-access television, available to 300,000 cable-TV subscribers. On August 26<sup>th</sup>, Ken gave a follow-up radio interview on Dr. Michael Klaper’s show *Sounds of Healing*, heard throughout the Hawaiian Islands – from KAOI 1110-AM on Maui and KQNG 570-AM on Kauai.

- On August 21, 2004, Ken gave a presentation to 25 enthusiastic counselors, case-workers, and educators in Tacoma, Washington, on the link between violence against animals and against people and on *The AniCare Model of Treatment for Animal Abuse* and *AniCare Child*. The Humane Society of Tacoma and Pierce County, the Progressive Animal Welfare Society, the counseling group RSM & Associates, and the Humane Society of Seattle & King County co-sponsored the event.

- On August 31, 2004, host Lauren Corman interviewed Forum Executive Director Ken Shapiro for the *Animal Voices* radio program, which broadcasts on CIUT

89.5-FM in Canada and is available worldwide at [www.ciut.fm](http://www.ciut.fm). The discussion was on childhood animal abuse. Ken explained factors contributing to animal abuse by children and the relationship between childhood animal abuse and other forms of violence. The broadcast is available online at [www.animalvoices.ca](http://www.animalvoices.ca).

- On September 26, 2004, Ken traveled to Philadelphia and met with the Board of Directors of the American Humane Association and several outside experts to discuss strategies for expanding education concerning the link between animal abuse and violence against people.

- On October 14, 2004, at the University of Florida Law School, Ken gave a presentation titled *The Link between Violence against Animals and Violence against Humans: Legislative and Policy Implications of Taking Animal Abuse Seriously* to the University of Florida Law School’s Animal Law Association and the student chapter of the Animal Legal Defense Fund at Florida’s Levin College of Law.

- On October 21, 2004, in Aurora, Colorado, Ken gave the Society & Animals Forum workshop *Assessing and Treating Juvenile Animal Abuse* to psychological counselors. The next day, he gave the Forum workshop *Assessing and Treating Adult Animal Abuse*. Both workshops were sponsored by the Colorado Alliance for Cruelty Prevention.

## Psychology of the Dinner Table

**In Ken Shapiro’s August presentations in Hawaii, *Psychology of the Dinner Table: Vegetarianism versus Carnism*, Ken explained what he calls the vegetarian paradox.**

**At the vegetarian dinner table, no actual animal or animal part is present except human beings, but animals are psychologically present. Vegetarians are conscious of not eating animals; may have in their minds images or mini-fantasies or a sense of animals not eaten as alive and enjoying life. They may also discuss animals’ wellbeing or suffering with others at the table.**

**By contrast, at the carnist dinner table, actual animals or animal parts are present, but animals are psychologically absent. Carnists are not conscious of eating animals; there is just something to be eaten, and its animal nature is not thought about or discussed.**

**Ken points out, “Becoming a vegetarian is a major psychological task, not just a dietary restriction. It is a way of experiencing the world and a significant part of one’s identity.”**

**By helping to ensure that vegetarians, animal advocates, people promoting a vegetarian diet for health purposes, and others understand the significance for many people of changing to a vegetarian diet, the Forum’s Education & Training Division will advance communication in this crucial area of life. As Ken Shapiro says, “This understanding may help reduce the frustration some activists experience and may help people past the tense stalemates that exist in some relationships due to disagreements concerning diet.”**

## **Revisiting a Classic:** **Original Society & Animals Research Still Timely**

*The Society & Animals Forum continues to find timely, important, and useful sociologist Clifton P. Flynn's 1999 Society & Animals article "Animal Abuse in Childhood and Later Support for Interpersonal Violence in Families." (See page 7 for description of Society & Animals.) Through a transparent and reliable research process – asking some people a couple of questions about their experiences and attitudes – the article reaches a conclusion consistent with other studies: Reducing animal abuse will help reduce violence against human beings.*

*Several years ago, we began offering what we call "Nutshells" – one-page summaries of highly detailed, full-length Society & Animals and Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science research articles. One of these summarizes Flynn's revealing article. The Forum finds understanding the link between violence against animals and against human beings to be so important to eliminating both, and applying this understanding is so important to the Forum's activities and publications, that we think our readers will benefit from "In a Nutshell (No. 9)."*

### **In a Nutshell (No. 9)**

**Summary of "Animal Abuse in Childhood and Later Support for Interpersonal Violence in Families"**

**Author of original article:**  
**Clifton P. Flynn**

**Original published in *Society & Animals*, Volume 7, Number 2, 1999**

The author surveyed 267 college students at a public U.S. university in 1997. Participants voluntarily completed an 18-page questionnaire on their experiences with animal abuse, experiences with and attitudes about family violence, and demographic information. The questionnaire enabled the author to investigate whether committing animal abuse during childhood was related to approval of interpersonal violence against children and women in families. It asked participants whether they had committed any of several abuses—killed, tortured, touched

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***"Based on research showing that parents who approve of corporal punishment use it more frequently and are more likely to be physically abusive to their children, he surmised that, if abusing animals as a child leads to approval of spanking, it may also make it easier to hit children as an adult. This should be cause for concern due to potential negative results of spanking: antisocial behavior, substance abuse, depression, and interpersonal violence."***

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sex parts, or had sex with animals—and requested their levels of agreement or disagreement with statements that "it is sometimes necessary to discipline a child with a good, hard spanking" and that they could "imagine a situation in which they would approve of a husband slapping his wife."

In this questionnaire as in the U.S. generally, corporal punishment received fairly strong support and a husband slapping a wife very little, but respondents who had perpetrated animal abuse during childhood had significantly more favorable attitudes toward corporal punishment and toward a husband slapping his wife than did those who had not perpetrated animal abuse in childhood. One out of six respondents—one in three male respondents and one in 10 female respondents—had harmed or killed at least one animal—an alarmingly high incidence of childhood animal abuse. Incidents excluded socially sanctioned killing such as hunting, killing for food, or mercy killing.

## **Milestone for Psychologists and Animals**

Capping a five-year effort, the Steering Committee for the Proposed Division of Human-Animal Studies submitted to the American Psychological Association's (APA's) Board of Directors, at the APA Convention in Hawaii this August, a set of petitions signed by over 830 APA members. Acceptance of the application means the Council of Representatives of the APA will vote on whether or not to establish the new division at its meeting in February 2005.

If accepted as the 55th APA division, the Division of Human-Animal Studies will have an allotted set of hours for symposia at APA Conventions and a vote on the Council of Representatives.

As *Forum Focus* readers may recall, the American Sociological Society already has a comparable interest group.

*Forum Focus* is keeping its fingers crossed – a method not recommended by psychologists – and will provide updates on the proposed new APA division.

The author found his conclusion—committing animal abuse during childhood is related to later approval of violence against children and women in families—to be consistent with previous work arguing that the social structure of childhood violence against humans is related to approving interpersonal violence as an adult. Based on research showing that parents who approve of corporal punishment use it more frequently and are more likely to be physically abusive to their children, he surmised that, if abusing animals as a child leads to approval of spanking, it may also make it easier to hit children as an adult. This should be cause for concern due to potential negative results of spanking: antisocial behavior, substance abuse, depression, and interpersonal violence.

Based on research indicating animal abuse may interfere with the development of empathy in children, he points out that children who abuse animals may be less troubled as young adults by parents hitting children or husbands hitting wives. Therefore, they may become such parents and husbands. The much higher incidence of animal abuse by males is troubling since socialization of males involves teaching dominance and aggression. The opportunity, offered by animal abuse, to rehearse these against less powerful beings may reinforce the beliefs that support dominance and aggression, particularly if parents and society do not consider animal abuse a serious offense. Thus, ending animal abuse will have important consequences for women's and children's well-being, in addition to the need to end innocent animals' suffering as a contribution to a nonviolent society for all living beings. ■



## Hidden Curricula and Humane Education

*continued from page 1*

tapes, newspaper articles, and other learning materials and mapping the ways agribusiness and other sponsors enter the schools' premises, we can highlight elements of speciesist hidden curricula that still prevail in schools. Two examples of learning materials I have come across that deserve critical analysis include ...

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***“A holistic and critical approach to education would probably leave students better equipped to analyze the rationales and rhetorical devices behind different competing worldviews and their implications for human and nonhuman animals and our common living conditions.”***

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- a publication of a major Swedish dairy company encouraging schoolchildren to consume more dairy products. Several pages of dairy-based recipes designed to appeal to the primary-school age group are included, but all animal-welfare problems and ethical problems of agribusiness are conveniently glossed over.

- a publication of the Swedish Ministry of Agriculture urging upper secondary-school students to discuss ethics related to nonhuman animals. Its content is framed in an anthropocentric, value-hierarchical discourse in which the human-animal relationship is disconnected from other values-education areas such as gender, ethnicity, and other matters of social justice.

Many other items could be added to the list. Typical social-science textbooks omit any mention of the human-animal relationship. Biology textbooks depict human uses of animals such as invasive animal research as not raising ethical questions.

### Consider Classroom Treatment

Through critical ethnographic studies, we can also investigate how animals are socially constructed in classrooms, the significance

and value ascribed to animals, and what this may mean for the human-animal relationship. Such research can contribute to a solid scientific platform for efforts to transform schools into learning sites responsible for humane education along with other traditional subjects, to introduce humane education as an essential theme in teacher training programs, and to establish human-animal studies courses at our universities.

### Address Additional Institutions

Although these ideas for transforming the educational system may seem visionary, what education can achieve should not be exaggerated. The school competes with several other influential socialization agencies in society, such as the family, mass media, and others. Still, as an authoritative societal institution, the school has a legitimating power over the values it embraces, which, from my point of view, is a sufficient motive for scrutinizing those values as well as the actors and structures controlling them.

Actively nurturing a fundamental critical awareness among students by encouraging them, for instance, to explore the similar dynamics, strategies and mechanisms underlying different forms of oppression in society would contrast sharply with the superficial fragments that so often appear in classrooms disguised as knowledge. A holistic and critical approach to education would probably leave students better equipped to analyze the rationales and rhetorical devices behind different competing worldviews and their implications for human and nonhuman animals and our common living conditions.

In the end, however, it must be emphasized that it is not the task of educators to tell their students which among all possible futures to take part in constructing. That is a challenge and a choice that can only be dealt with by the student herself.

*Helena Pedersen is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Education, Göteborg University, in Göteborg, Sweden. She will be a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley during spring semester 2005. She can be contacted at [hpedersen56@hotmail.com](mailto:hpedersen56@hotmail.com). ■*

# Forum Workshops Brochure HOT OFF THE PRESS

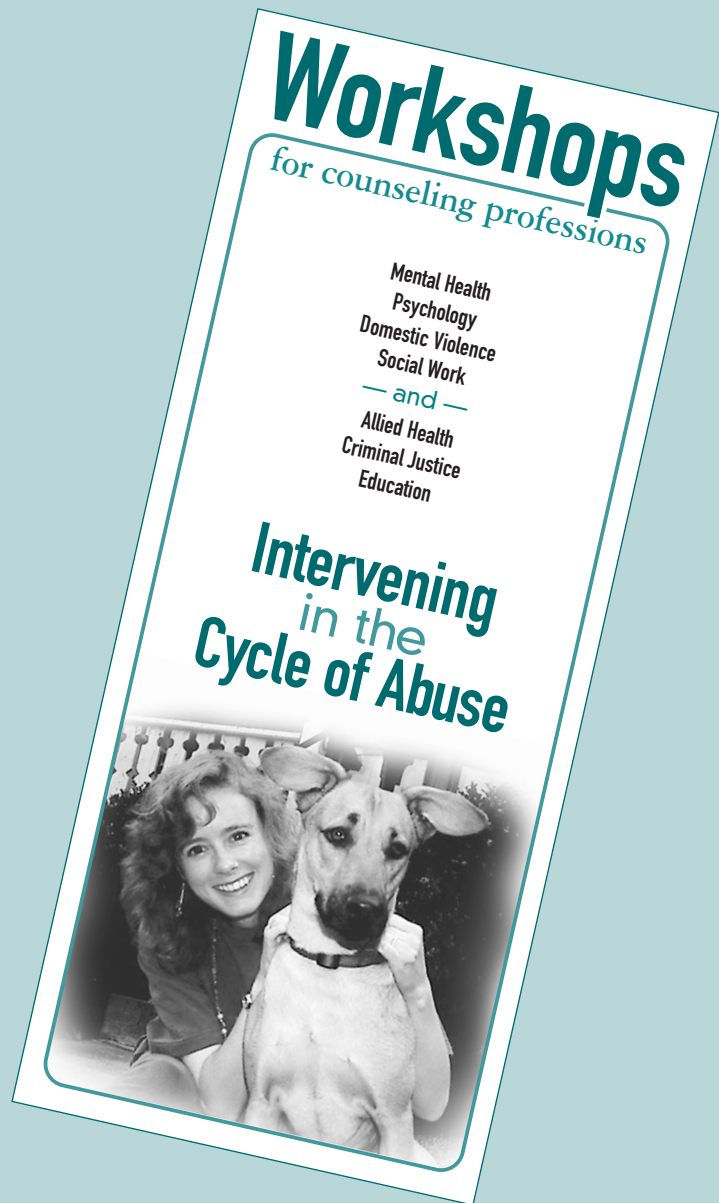
In October 2004, Society & Animals Forum Managing Director Mary Ann Lauffer completed the Forum's new brochure *Workshops for Counseling Professions: Intervening in the Cycle of Abuse*.

The brochure is specially written and designed to ensure that mental health professionals and their organizations will avail themselves of the Forum's training workshops on use of the Forum's *AniCare Model of Treatment for Animal Abuse* and *AniCare Child* manuals (see descriptions of the manuals on page 7).

In addition to describing the workshops and their purposes clearly and succinctly, the brochure briefly outlines *AniCare's* historical background and the crucial need for *AniCare* at a time when the legal system is taking the crime of cruelty to animals more and more seriously, with 27 states' anticruelty statutes including counseling provisions and 41 having felony provisions.

The *Workshops for Counseling Professions* brochure lists selected workshops the Forum's experts have already given in five states representing the different regions of the United States and provides enthusiastic testimonials from mental health, violence-prevention, and law-enforcement professionals.

The Society & Animals Forum is pleased to provide copies of the brochure to anyone concerned about reducing violence and wishing to inform mental health, domestic-violence, social work, allied health, criminal violence, and education professionals of the Forum's *AniCare* training workshops.



## TECHNOLOGY REMINDER

- ⇒ Please be sure to e-mail us your e-mail address at [kshapiro@societyandanimalsforum.org](mailto:kshapiro@societyandanimalsforum.org). Then we can bring to your attention important news and information between newsletters.
- ⇒ Let us know if you would like to receive *Forum Focus* by e-mail. We'll be glad to e-mail you the pdf version that will look just like the printed "hard" copy with the attractive new design.
- ⇒ If you haven't visited [www.societyandanimalsforum.org](http://www.societyandanimalsforum.org) recently, you'll find the **Resource Center** there especially informative. Log on and see the amazing amount of pro-animal and anti-violence information your Society & Animals Forum membership is helping provide to people throughout the world!

# Society & Animals Forum BOOKSHELF

## Video

### **Beyond Violence: The Human-Animal Connection**

How we treat other animals influences how we treat one another.

### **Beyond Violence: The Human-Animal Connection**

Documents the link between violence against nonhuman animals and against human beings. A **Discussion Guide** with Q&A for parents, educators, and mental health and law-enforcement professionals accompanies the 13-minute video. Available in NTSC VHS format only (for North American VCRs). Available in English or Spanish. **\$19.95**



## Manuals

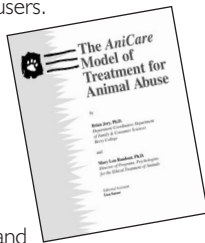
### **The AniCare Model of Treatment for Animal Abuse**

The Society & Animals Forum produced this first-ever intervention program for therapists who counsel animal abusers.

Based on a treatment approach for spouse batterers,

### **The AniCare Model**

keys on accountability and empathy. The manual includes 10 concrete interventions and homework assignments, a pre-post evaluation instrument, and a list of resources. **\$24.95**



### **AniCare Child: An Assessment and Treatment Approach for Childhood Animal Abuse**

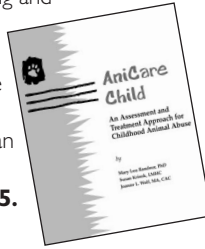
**AniCare Child** is the first published treatment approach to focus exclusively on juvenile cruelty

to animals. The 90-page manual provides comprehensive strategies and practical suggestions for assessing and treating childhood animal abuse.

**AniCare Child** can be used as the primary treatment focus or as an ancillary treatment.

**Print edition: \$24.95.**

**CD-ROM (entire manual in PDF format): \$9.95.**



## Journals

### **Society & Animals: Journal of Human-Animal Studies**

**Society & Animals** presents articles, commentaries, and reviews in the emerging field of human-animal studies. Topics include animal companions, animal symbolism, and other popular-culture uses of animals; attitudes toward animals in all settings; socio-political movements, public policy, and the law. Edited by Society & Animals Forum Executive Director Ken Shapiro, Ph.D., **Society & Animals** is published quarterly. **\$39.50, members; \$51.00, non-members.** (Note: Credit-card bill may list Brill Academic Publishers, in the Netherlands.)

### **Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science (JAAWS) – JAAWS**

presents articles, commentaries, and reviews on all aspects of the welfare of nonhuman animals in many settings, including effects of captivity on free-roaming animals, ways of minimizing pain and stress in animals in laboratories, and ways to improve lives of animals raised for food. Co-edited by Society & Animals Forum Executive Director Ken Shapiro, Ph.D., and Steve Zawistowski, Ph.D., of the ASPCA,

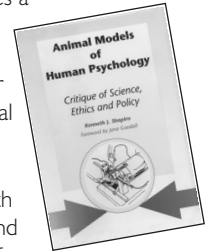
**JAAWS** is published quarterly. **\$22.50, members; \$45.00, non-members.**

(Note: Credit-card bill may list publishing company Lawrence Erlbaum, in New Jersey.)

## Books

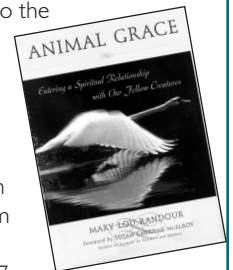
### **Animal Models of Human Psychology: Critique of Science, Ethics and Policy**

by Ken Shapiro — This first-ever book-length treatment of psychological research involving nonhuman animals makes a scientific case for the ineffectiveness of using animals to understand or treat human psychological disorders. A must-read for psychologists and everyone concerned with the important, urgent, and controversial problem of animal laboratories. 328 pages, hardcover. Hogrefe & Huber, 1998. **\$20.00, members; \$29.50, non-members.**



### **Animal Grace: Entering a Spiritual Relationship with our Fellow Creatures**

by Mary Lou Randour – With passion and insight, **Animal Grace** invites us to open our hearts and minds to the animal lives all around us by expanding our awareness and taking compassionate action on their behalf. In the company of nonhuman animals, we can reclaim essential-but-neglected parts of ourselves. 167 pages, trade paperback. New World Library, 2000. **\$11.00, members; \$14.00, non-members.**



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