



# Humane Philanthropy™

American Humane's quarterly philanthropic newsletter



Volume 2, Number 1  
Summer 2009

## Donor's Determination Pays Off for New Mexico Animals

When Yvette Dobbie learned that shelters were using the gas chamber to euthanize unwanted animals in eastern New Mexico, she decided to do something about it.

Yvette and her husband Steve are very involved in animal advocacy. "When I heard that dogs and cats were being euthanized in such a violent manner, I knew I had to get the communities involved to change the way they do business," she explained.

Yvette engaged the services of Buerkle/Ning, a well-known legislative team in New Mexico, who secured a sponsor, Representative Ken Martinez. They formed a coalition of 51 animal groups to support their efforts and introduced a bill, HB 265, which would outlaw the use of the gas chamber in New Mexico. Armed with important information provided by American Humane's Public Policy Office, Yvette made numerous visits to legislators, pleading her case and asking them to support her bill. After a huge success in the House of Representatives, on March 17, 2009, HB 265 cleared its final hurdle and overwhelmingly passed the Senate. Senators Michael Sanchez and George Munoz were instrumental in helping get the bill passed through the Senate.

"These lawmakers are my heroes. They understood the importance of the bill and made it happen," said Yvette.

Eastern New Mexico had some special problems to overcome when it came to placing unwanted animals for adoption. For example, the city of Clovis did not have an adoption, licensing or spay/neuter program in place despite its large population of 35,000 residents. Yvette convinced the mayor and city commissioners to convene a task force to address these issues. Understandably, cost became an issue, as did an "outsider" — someone who did not work in an animal shelter — telling shelters what to do.

Yvette understands the difficulties shelters face. "The overwhelmingly large number of unwanted animals and a shortage of funds are very real problems, but this isn't an excuse

for inhumane treatment," she said. Once the affected community shelters realized change was inevitable, resistance diminished.

The bill is a funded mandate that provides \$100,000 to help four New Mexico communities train staff and to transition away from the use of the gas chamber.

The legislative campaign has not only righted a wrong, but also raised awareness about the humane treatment of animals and the need for aggressive spay/neuter policies. The community that had no adoption program now has one, and is successfully placing animals instead of euthanizing them.

"Tracy Coppola [a legislative analyst at American Humane] and American Humane were very supportive," Yvette explained. "Everyone appreciated their clear and patient communications, moderate approach and national credibility on the issues." Despite objections from the state's animal sheltering board, the bill was signed into law on April 6, 2009, by Gov. Bill Richardson at a ceremony that Coppola also attended.

In the end, it was the powerful combination of Yvette's determination, an amazing legislative team and the support of virtually every animal welfare group in the state that won the day. "It simply became a bill that nearly everyone wanted to support, and the best thing is the animals won," said Yvette. "You see, one person can make a difference."



Yvette and Steve Dobbie, pictured here with pets Donovan and Yoda, changed the way homeless animals are treated in New Mexico.



### A ground-breaking day for New Mexico's unwanted animals

Gov. Bill Richardson, at the podium, announces New Mexico's new pet-friendly law. By him, left to right, are House Speaker Ben Luhan, American Humane supporter Yvette Dobbie and House Majority Leader W. Ken Martinez, who all were instrumental in the writing and passing of this important legislation.

## What makes you a humane philanthropist?

### You're kind

You hold doors, pay compliments, lend a hand.

### You lead a charitable life

You volunteer, you recycle, you think of others.

### You get involved

Whether it's in local elections, community activities, or national causes.

### You give

Your time, your resources, your heart.

**American Humane thanks you, our humane philanthropists.**

You are helping us protect children and animals and create the safer, more humane world we all envision.

**Thank you!**



# Partners in Life — and in Philanthropy

When Dante Fratarcangelo was dating his future wife Rowena, he didn't know that he was being judged by how well he treated her yellow Lab, Otis. Fortunately, he measured up in the "dog lover" department, and Otis is in the couple's wedding pictures to prove it.

Dante grew up in the country with all kinds of animals. He took a break from animal ownership during and after college except for some fish and some feral cats in the neighborhood that he looked after. But as Dante explained, "They were not much in the way of interaction. Otis brought back all the good memories."

Dante and Rowena live on a tree-lined street in Richmond, Virginia, a graceful neighborhood with big trees and older homes, many of which have been purchased by younger families and renovated. The renovation of the Fratarcangelo home is charming, and it was a loving home for Otis for seven years until he succumbed to lymphoma a little over a year ago.

Before Otis got sick, Dante and Rowena had decided to welcome another pet into their home. They found Tigger at a local rescue group's adoption stand and immediately fell in love. Tigger is a 4- or 5-year-old female Plott hound, a breed known for stamina, endurance and agility when hunting. She is powerful and streamlined, and very intelligent.

"When you first see her, you think she's a pit bull. I thought it was maybe a code name, because pit bulls are so hard to place from shelters. But we did the research and found that she is spot-on for the confirmation characteristics of the breed. Of course we don't know and don't care if she's purebred," Dante said, adding, "She's just a great dog."

Tigger was instrumental in helping Dante and Rowena adjust to the loss of Otis just 10 months later. While Tigger seemed to enjoy being an only dog for a while, Dante and Rowena recently brought home a little brother for Tigger, a hound mix they adopted from another local adoption group. According to Dante, "Rudy is young and kind of goofy, but a really sweet dog. He and Tigger seem to get along very well and they play together better than I've ever seen Tigger do with any other dog."

Rowena is a business development manager and works for the Greater Richmond Partnership, which attracts new businesses to the region. The Partnership has been successful in its outreach, despite the economic recession.

Dante is a real estate manager for Dollar Tree stores. He looks for new locations where the company can expand. Business has been doing very well in the recession, as people are searching for more bargains. "They call it 'down shopping' since everyone is looking for more value," Dante explained. He also noted that teachers have turned out to be good customers, picking up inexpensive supplies for their classrooms. Parents like the store, too, because they can give their kids a few dollars and let them pick out whatever they want. All items are \$1 each.

The Fratarcangelos made their first donation to American Humane through the Pedigree campaign in February 2007, and they have continued to give. "I think we were watching the dog show and saw the ad and decided it was a great idea, so I went up and logged onto the computer and made the gift. I thought it was very cool for dog lovers," Dante said. After that, they received information about American Humane via email and kept following the organization. The Fratarcangelos like to give online, and prefer to do it when they are moved to give, not necessarily when they are asked. "We're not real regimented about it. It just needs to be a good cause."

They did respond to a request for the Second Chance® Fund, which gives abused and neglected animals another chance at life. American Humane provides financial resources to shelters when they have an animal that is adoptable, but whose veterinary



*Rowena and Dante Fratarcangelo at home in Richmond, Virginia, with Tigger, a Plott hound they found at a local rescue.*

care costs are not within the shelters' means. The financial assistance from American Humane often saves that animal from being euthanized. "The story in the email really grabbed me," Rowena explained.

They also admire American Humane's Red Star Animal Emergency Services™, particularly the rescue efforts undertaken when a puppy mill is seized by authorities.

Dante and Rowena expressed concern about the number of animals abandoned due to foreclosures in their hometown. They have been supporting local groups that are dealing with the influx of pets being brought into the shelters. Unfortunately, many shelters across the country are not capable of placing all the abandoned animals.

The Fratarcangelos' support of both national and local humane organizations indicates the level of their commitment. From the pets in their own home to those in need around the country, animals can count on this couple's shared passion for philanthropy.

## Donor Recognition

*The following are lifetime cumulative donors:*

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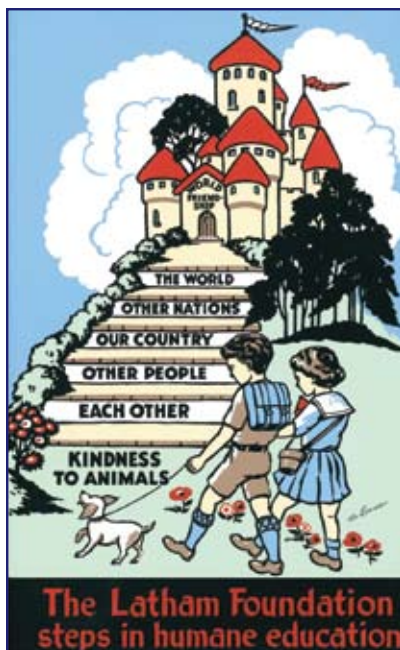
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# Growing Up Humane

According to Hugh Tebault, III, president of the Latham Foundation and a member of American Humane's board of directors, "Kindness to animals is the most fundamental building block of character."

Tebault strongly believes that establishing an empathetic connection with animals, especially for children, provides the foundation of civic, cultural and social growth, and is the first step in humane education.



*The Lathams knew the steps to a better world begin with kindness to animals.*

for the foundation in its very early days as a field representative. She reached out to churches, schools, government agencies and businesses to teach humane values.

The Latham Foundation was an early adopter of technology to get its message out. In the early 1930s, many schools had radio stations, for which the foundation produced a serial program featuring a character that became Brother Buzz, a bee that was the foundation's spokesperson for the humane treatment of animals. About the same time, the foundation published *Kind Deeds Messenger*, a periodical for school children that included puzzles, stories and news about animals. In addition, Latham's media department worked closely with newspapers to honor extraordinary dogs through the "Hero Dog Award."

In the 1950s, the foundation embraced another new technology, television, and Brother Buzz went visual as a marionette in the northern California market. Gwyn Tebault often wrote the storyline. "Lots of today's baby boomers who grew up in the Bay Area will fondly remember Brother Buzz," Tebault mused. "We still receive notes from former 'Brother Buzz kids.'"

The Latham Foundation has been stressing this truth in educational programs for 91 years, often in partnership with American Humane. Both rank among the earliest proponents of humane treatment of animals.

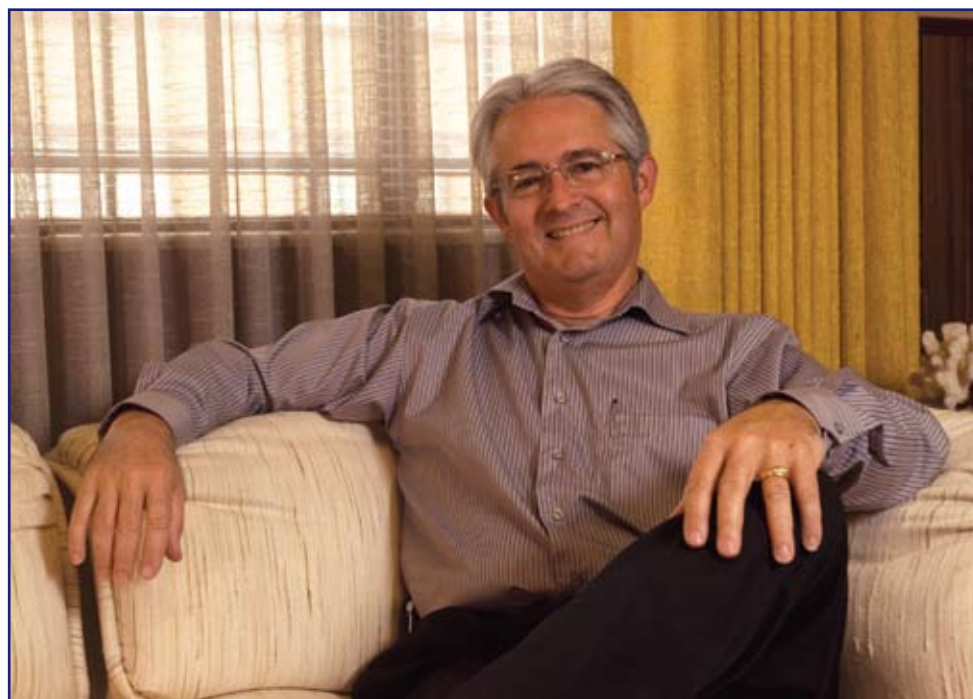
Tebault and his wife, Mary, are also personal supporters of American Humane, financially and through Hugh's service on the board of directors.

It was at his father's knee that Tebault personally learned about kindness and character — a family tradition. Founded by Edith and Milton Latham in 1918, the Latham Foundation was created to promote humane education.

Gwyn Tebault, Hugh Junior's mother, worked



*The puppet, radio and later television personality "Brother Buzz" has been a spokesman for humane education and the Latham Foundation since the 1920s.*



*Latham Foundation President and American Humane Board member Hugh Tebault, III, is the second in his family to manage the foundation. Tebault is a huge believer in cooperative work, citing it as the reason The Latham Foundation, American Humane and other organizations accomplish so much together.*

In the 1960s, the foundation expanded nationwide with the TV show *The Wonderful World of Brother Buzz* and Brother Buzz Clubs, whose members worked to treat animals humanely. It was at that time that Latham and American Humane partnered to run the Brother Buzz Clubs. Among its creative approaches to fostering kindness to animals, *The Wonderful World of Brother Buzz* called on kids to start Brother Buzz Clubs, and grew to a membership of more than 100,000. In the 1970s Latham launched a new syndicated national television program, *With It*, which was produced in English and Spanish.

"These shows were very big deals in their time," Tebault added. The Latham Foundation and American Humane worked together on these kinds of projects because they could capitalize on their shared values, he explained.

As the foundation grew, Tebault's father became the president, following a successful career in mortgage banking. Until he retired, it had been his "Saturday job." Hugh III followed in those footsteps, first with a successful career in information technology and business startups, then taking the helm of the foundation. "I guess I grew up in philanthropy," he said.

"Everyone here is part-time," he added. "We are all committed to the cause of humane education."

To learn more about the Latham Foundation and membership, visit [www.latham.org](http://www.latham.org).



## Make a Difference

American Humane remains focused on humane education and the teaching of empathy, compassion and kindness to animals. Read about our new Children's Museum Exhibit and how you can get involved.

Visit [www.americanhumane.org/museum](http://www.americanhumane.org/museum).

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# Welcome to Humane Philanthropy

Welcome to *Humane Philanthropy*. This publication celebrates those who contribute to American Humane. It also informs readers of giving techniques, philanthropic issues and humane philanthropy opportunities.

Humane philanthropists are those who support our vision of a society in which no child or animal suffers from abuse or neglect.

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## Committed to Compassion: Couple Opens Home and Heart to Animals in Need

Life was hard for Penny, a Lab-Chow mix that had been abandoned and was covered with mange. But her luck was about to change. One day Emil and Angela Petruncio found her in rural Diamondhead, Mississippi, and despite her resistance, coaxed her into the car.

Since then, Penny has led a good life with many years of veterinary care, good nutrition and love. She is still a little reserved and wary of people — except for the Petruncios. Now nearly 13, she's getting acupuncture from her veterinarian for an inoperable cruciate tear in one of her ligaments. Her life was turned around completely, simply because the Petruncios took pity and acted.

Penny's canine housemate is her complete opposite. Dylan is, at the very least, exuberant. A young altered male pit bull, Dylan was to be euthanized. But once again, the Petruncios stepped in. Now full of energy, Dylan loves every minute of his life with the Petruncios and repays their generosity with vigorous and playful affection.

"Dylan is a perfect example of how badly pit bulls are misunderstood, and what their potential is. With love and training, he's become a wonderful companion," Emil said as the squirming Dylan leapt to his lap and tried to sneak in a lick to the face.

The Petruncios' love for their animals extends beyond their home and into the lives of animals everywhere. They have been generous donors to American Humane, and their relationship with the organization received a boost when the first issue of *Humane Philanthropy* arrived last spring. The invitation to call the major gifts team encouraged Angela to make contact. The result has been a much deeper understanding of American Humane and the issues surrounding child and animal welfare. The Petruncios, who live in a suburb of Annapolis, Maryland, were invited to visit American Humane's Public Policy Office in Alexandria, Virginia, and become acquainted with some of American Humane's staff.

"I was pleasantly surprised to be able to have a personal relationship with people in such a large organization," Angela explained. During the visit to the office, they had a long talk with Nada Maalouf, a major gifts officer, and Allie Phillips, vice president of American Humane's Public Policy Office and expert on The Link®. "I appreciate the fact that American Humane ensures that The Link between violence to humans and violence to animals is prominent in their campaigns," Angela said. "Learning about the Pets and Women's Shelters (PAWS)® Program (a program that helps domestic violence shelters house residents' pets) was inspiring."

Emil is a professor at the U.S. Naval Academy, his alma mater. He teaches oceanography-related courses and ethics. He also has an academic interest in combat stress and the role of therapy dogs in helping relieve associated symptoms. Emil met Angela during his time in the Navy, when she was a member of the U.S. Air Force. Their first dog was Pip, a German shepherd-collie mix. Later came a white shepherd named Sasha, who was a great friend of Penny's.



*Emil and Angela Petruncio make room for Dylan, one of their many pets over the years that have blossomed into wonderful companions through the couple's love, compassion and training.*

Angela volunteered in wildlife rehabilitation when the couple lived in Monterey, California, once she discovered "that I just couldn't volunteer at the animal shelters because I wanted to take every pet there home with me." Now much of her time is dedicated to her box art. She keeps a studio in her home, and draws from an eclectic collection of interesting items that she has acquired over the years for materials. Her inspiration is her father, who was well known for his murals during the Depression era, and the self-taught American artist Joseph Cornell, who worked using boxes. She is a member of the Maryland Federation of Art and routinely exhibits her work in Annapolis.

The Petruncios are active donors to a number of animal, environmental and wildlife charities — among them the Animal Rescue Foundation, the Wildlife Land Trust and local shelters. Emil has always believed that part of his income should go to good causes, and started building philanthropy into his budget as soon as he started earning. Angela, too, is a lifelong donor, starting in her youth with gifts to the Cousteau Society. Both Emil and Angela see American Humane as an organization with a "classy" approach and are impressed by its successful efforts in stopping the cycle of violence affecting children and animals.