SEPTEMBER CONFERENCE IS CANCELLED

LATEST HAPPENINGS

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our 2018 conference. That was because our new website and page connections with PayPal were still full of problems. It took us months to repair most of them – and a few still need to be worked on. Because of that our marketing and registration for the conference were delayed. Although we didn’t want to, we thought it prudent to cancel this event until our new infrastructure has been firmed up. That is being worked on, and is our highest priority at this time. After this autumn we will start planning for our next pet bereavement conference – bigger and better than ever before.

This edition starts a new feature: Video Clip. See Page 5. It adds a multi-media dimension to an otherwise printed format with links. We invite our members to send in similar clips that our animal-loving members would enjoy. For more information, contact our editor, Dr. Michelle Crossley: mkayderossley@gmail.com

Although we never had a problem, for added security in this new age of ingenious theft of personal information we have switched over from our credit card processing system to PayPal. Members may still use their regular credit cards to pay for any of our services or activities. Surprisingly, in addition to other benefits to us, this actually costs us less than before. Every dollar counts. As a 501 (C) (3) certified charitable organization we are still dependent on member dues and occasional tax-deductible donations. Can you make a donation?

Our August Online Counselor Training seminars are having their curriculum enhanced. We are always adding updates to the instruction. Applications for this year’s August class will be opened on our website on July 11.

As a safeguard we have designed a brief screening test to determine if a candidate is up to the rigorous time and comprehension requirements that this intensive training requires. Applicants will be sent this before the status of their candidacy is determined.

We are pleased to welcome Ed Floden back as our webmaster. He is studying WordPress and will be constantly improving our new website.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Although it was a difficult decision to cancel September’s conference it was the right thing to do. This experience reminds me of a saying that says challenges are really opportunities in disguise. This makes a lot of sense when applied to our current situation.

The APLB now has time to return to our primary mission while working out a solid plan for the next conference, most likely at Bally’s, in another two years.

Our new internal task is to remodel and clean out the glitches still in our new website. Our previous webmaster, Ed now has more time to work with us on all our online growth problems, and we are glad that he is back.

In the meantime, our outreach to help pet parents after the loss of a beloved family member is being enhanced with new interns in our chat rooms, and our staff’s eagerness to improve all our operations.

All our wonderful dedicated volunteers are doing an admirable job. No other organization can claim to be as helpful. I am pleased to share this pride with you.

Our new outreach to help veterinary professionals is meeting with much enthusiasm and appreciation. They are starting to receive help from us, that was not available, before.

We are also having meetings and "think tanks" to work out other ways to help all the good people who love animals. Some have never had any trained support, when disaster strikes their animal families.

The APLB is now proudly celebrating our 21st year of operations, As we grow older and wiser we are more interested in seeing all the new ways we can reach out to provide the special help that no other organization can offer.

Our staff and I wish you a happy and healthy summer. Stay in touch and let us know if you have any good ideas for us to consider.
In Memoriam

Our Honor Roll of Beloved Deceased Companion Animals
These are new names, added since the publication of our last newsletter. All are now permanently posted with their photos, on our website’s Hall of Fame pages.

To permanently add your pet’s memorial to this registry and Honor Roll, send $25 with up to 25 words and a clear color photo. This is a one-time charge. New listings will appear in every edition of this newsletter. Multiple family memorials are also posted, at no additional cost.

Bandit S.  12/20/04 – 02/20/18
You were our little “Bandito” a cuddly bedmate, the very best. St. Francis will love you. Sleep and play with sister Holly and brother Nank. You’ll never be forgotten.
— Mommy and Daddy (Ruth & Barry Smith)

Bean  ? – 03/15/18
Baby Bean was my therapy, my comfort when clouds were dark. We smiled together when the sun was out. My life was blessed. Thank you St. Francis of Assisi.
— Melody James

Cosmo M.  ? – 04/20/18
Sweet Cosmo, it was my greatest pleasure watching your sweet personality bubble up every day. Nothing compares to you. I love you and will miss you forever, and will see you on the other side.
— Mom (Camila Minor)

Lily C.  ? – 05/24/18
Lily, you were my whole life, and I loved you more than anything in the world. I will always love and miss you more than anyone can know.
— Lisa Gillespie-Craft

Nutmeg B.  03/01/03 – 03/21/18
Nutmeg, my first, you looked into my eyes as you passed and took my heart with you to the Rainbow Bridge. I will love you forever.
— Cindy Bens
OTHER BEREAVEERS AND ANIMALS

— Dr. Wallace Sife

Although the APLB has come a long way in the past 21 years, our kind of bereavement is still “coming out of the closet”. In addition to the millions of grieving pet owners in the world, there are many good people who work with other kinds of animals they fall in love with. And when their dear friends die, they grieve for them just as deeply as we do for our household pets. But their bereavement had not been noticed or honored by anyone outside their immediate communities and other professionals like them. The general public never cares or notices – or offers any kind of sympathy because those people are not dealing with pet animals. As a result, these other kinds of losses are still relatively unknown or unnoticed.

I am referring to wildlife managers and rehabilitators, zoo keepers, handlers of police and military dogs, owners of search and rescue dogs, animal cruelty investigators, workers in animal parks, rangers, rescue organizations, animal hospice, pet adoption, and many others we just never bothered to pay attention to, before.

When these good people lose a beloved animal friend it is rarely, if ever acknowledged by others outside their immediate community. Just over two decades ago all pet owners were just as ignored, but the world has learned so much from us, since then. It is right that we now reach out to befriend and help these animal lovers.

In the past 25 years television has also matured – from an awkward programming of black and white programs of soap operas, quiz shows and a new kind of vaudeville presentation. Occasionally, excellent dramas and concerts began to find their way there. And now, we have so many hundreds of different channels, each seeking a specialized viewership and profitable commercial programming – using high-definition color. To our credit as a civilization, here in America National Public Radio (NPR) expanded into the Public Broadcasting System (PBS). And now we have amazing animal programs shared with us from the British Broadcasting System: America (BBC America) that give us amazing coverage on wild life and the dedicated people who live with, study and photograph, and try to protect them.

For example, the Nova series now gives us a wealth of painstakingly produced beautiful hour-long programs on the surprising diversity of animal life on our planet. We are learning of man’s increasing outreach to prevent wanton killing, and we are made even more aware of the great man-made dangers that are leading to the extinction of so many species. Some programs give us intimate coverage of wildlife management teams, rescuing maimed animals, as well as the orphaned babies left behind by trophy or ivory hunters. And then there are the very poor “bushmeat” hunters who hunted and ate (or sold) wild animals – to the point of near extinction of many local species. But times and financial incentives are changing, and raising and then releasing animals back into the wild is becoming a major yet very expensive, relatively new profession, requiring totally dedicated workers. It is a shock to learn that park rangers are often shot and killed by organized poachers. But these good people have such a love and dedication to their animals, and others quickly fill their ranks. Their new lives are now committed to keeping their local animals from extinction because of the greed and cruelty of others.

Others of our new generation of naturalist-photo journalists are making high-tech recordings of their living in the wilderness with wild animals that are breeding and having babies. And we are shown how they search for food for themselves and their infants – and later teach them how to fend for themselves. The narrators of these programs give them all names and describe their individual personalities. Then we are shown the same family a year later, and see that some of those yearlings didn’t make it through the winter, and we join in feeling a much greater sadness for them than we expected.

In addition to educated people making important studies we see these once-barbaric natives who used to live in the jungles and forests, making fast money as poachers. They are now passionately serving as protectors of the very animals they used to kill. They work in many new wildlife preserves – some in national parks and others that are sponsored privately. It is heart warming to see and admire the profound

(Continued on Next Page)
changes in those native’s lives. It makes us suddenly realize that all people are just as human as we are, despite their primitive background and lack of education, as we know it. Many have skin as black as coal, and most do not even speak English. They can even appear very scary to white people who don’t know them.

At first it is shocking to see what seem to be “savages” weeping over the loss of an animal they learned to love and tried so hard to keep alive. This is another wonderful wake-up call and lesson that animals can give us. It was always too easy to think of primitive natives as aboriginals, not civilized, or nearly as human as we are. It’s exciting to discover that love of animals and life is a common bond that is shared by all people – regardless of who they are or where they come from. And to our credit we are now learning about our common humanity from them.

Our increasing awareness of the many different amazing wildlife programs enlighten and enrich us, and show these different people as our brothers and sisters, despite the vast differences in our cultures. How we now see them is a credit to our shared and emerging world civilization. Animal lovers are everywhere around us, and the world is just beginning to realize that.

All this has referred to wilderness and jungle populations. There are also so many other programs and movements dedicated to better known local wildlife that we are forcing into extinction. Learning about their extensive efforts and many different kinds of volunteer helpers is heartening, and I personally contribute to as many as I can. I wish it could be more.

We are in the midst of another amazing social phenomenon, never expected. Via television, the Internet and new magazines and newsletters, wildlife and our fellow wild creatures here on our planet are becoming much more noticeable and better known to us. When I founded the APLB in 1998 it was hard enough to get people to openly admit that they grieved for their beloved pets. Now, our global community is also coming out of the closet, revealing how many of us love the many other kinds of animals around us. Many fine organizations and individuals are struggling to save them from extinction caused by the top predator – us.

In 1998 it was difficult enough to get even our friends and neighbors to accept the loss of a beloved pet as a legitimate emotional trauma. Now, as things are evolving, it becomes so obvious that we have been ignoring or unaware of the many good people who work with all the other beautiful animals that share this planet with us.

If I had this perspective at that time, I would have named us the Organization for Animal Love and Bereavement – or something very close to that. It projects our care and involvement very much farther than before. But that was not the reality then, and we had to start with pet companions and our trivialized grief for them. Since then the APLB has seen a great deal of growth and success, but that was only the beginning of what a great organization should do. Our outreach should now extend to helping animal lovers of all kinds. It is amazing and wonderful that through our love of the wonderful creatures on our earth we are learning to appreciate other humans in new ways, and expand the brotherhood of man.

In the near future I will be seeking ways to also serve those other pet and wild animal shepherds, when their dear partners or friends pass on. Your input and help with this would be very much appreciated.

Change is an essential part of growth and survival. Years from now I hope our APLB will have carried on after me, and evolved into part of a global network, understanding and caring for all animals – everywhere. And we need to also help the many different good people who love and care for them.

But now, we must deal with the present. This is a call to you, and all our friends and members. Please contact me with any ideas you may have on how the APLB can reach out further. Write to me at sife@aol.com. There are other bereaving lovers of animals who were never noticed, before. So let’s find and reach out to them. Together, we can make this happen. All this is now possible because of the unique love so many of us have for our companion animals and the many fellow creatures who share our planet with us.
Some Thank You Notes

"I wanted to tell you all how much this chat room has helped me work through the grief. There is no way around it, only through. This has been good for my healing."

"I really appreciate all you do and have done. I appreciate your emails. (I don’t say that to many!!). As a pet lover, owner, rescuer, and a licensed mental health counselor, your work is invaluable to me.”

"All – thank you for tonight. I am in a different place when I’m in this chat…a good place."

"Your chatrooms have helped me enormously and as seasons change I go to deeper levels of acceptance."

"I am so glad I came here again tonight, even for a short period of time. Everyone is so thoughtful. Thank you all."

"I enjoyed meeting and talking with several people who have contacted me about counseling. I feel that I helped them, and am grateful I took your course. I hope to attend your International Conference some time, too."

"I just wanted to say "thank you" for reaching out to me those many years ago. I will never forget your kindness."

"I love your association. Thank you for being here for me and all my pets."

"I appreciate the support of this chatroom. Friends that I have don't feel the same way about their pets; so they would expect me to be over it by now."

"Thank you for everything you do. It's always been appreciated since my first little Pomeranian passed."

"Although it has now been I think 8 years since I so fortuitously learned of you from my vet's website when Pet passed away, I remain deeply indebted to the support APLB gave me and for the helpful and profound insights of your book. That's why I stay a member and tell people about you."

"Thank you and APBL staff for all the help you give to so many of us who need it."

"This chat room is heaven-sent! You all should be so proud of the work that you do."  

“I am back to my safe place — here at the Chat Room.”

APLB Corner

We are all in this lifeboat together. Each of us must do whatever can be done to help anyone else who is in bereavement for a beloved pet. Caring is so necessary in this wondrous encounter – which we all take part in during our own brief span, here. And what we learn and then freely offer to others immeasurably enriches every giver, as well as the living memory of our pets.

That’s what the APLB is all about. We want to share your experience, and grow with the input only you can provide. Reservoirs are filled by one raindrop at a time. Come, work with us, and help make the difference.

Video Clip

We are starting a new feature. Each edition will now have a URL for what we feel will be an enjoyable brief viewing for you. We welcome submissions for future publications.

Jimmy Stewart Reading a Poem to His Beloved Deceased Dog

Member Discount

Turner Publishing is offering APLB Members who are vets or pet care professionals a 50% discount on bulk orders of “The Loss of a Pet”, Fourth Edition.

Shipping is extra, and they are non-returnable.

Contact Angela Premoe at apremoe@turnerpublishing.com or call her at (615) 225-2665 Ext. 107

Newsletter Password

Our password/username for the newsletters and send-a-card is changed periodically. Please note that our most recent username is pussycat18 (all in lower case) and the password is pussycat18. Make note of this, and remember to enter it as written. This is for APLB members, only.
MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTION UPDATES

Since the publication of our last newsletter, many individuals have joined or renewed their existing memberships in the APLB. We would like to thank everyone for supporting our much needed work. We want to express our special appreciation to those who have donated at the Platinum Angel, Gold Angel, Silver Angel, and Patron Angel levels, as well as those who gave Additional Donations.

Please see our website’s Join Us Page for more information on these categories.

NEW MEMBERS

Patron Angel

Vets R Us
Unknown

Additional Donations

Bunn, Sarah
Las Vegas, NV
Goodine, Sarah
Wynn, Tammy
Smith, Paul M
Clearwater, FL
Washburn, ME
Cincinnati, OH

BASIC MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Badgett, Beth, DVM
Reston, VA
Belak, Stephanie
Burlington, NJ
Beswick, Larry
Muncie, IN
Blais, Dennis
Trowbridge, UK
Bridgewater, William St. Joseph, MO
Brundage, Kim
Boston, MA
Bubic, Matea
Holmdel, NJ
Carr, Cheryl
Cayce, SC
Clarke, Debra
Bonnells Bay, Australia Collins, Leigh
Rochester, NY
Coloma, Mayumi Washiawa, HI
Damboise, Kerrie
Orrington, ME
Delsa, Suzanne Metairie, LA
Egan, Jodi
Brighton, CO
Fox, Randi Yucaipa, CA
Frasca, Lisa
Annadale, NJ
Garden, Suzanne Lake, Balboa, CA
George, Laura, DVM
Candor, NY
Goodine, Sarah Washburn, ME
Gotbey, Kelley
Cleveland, OH
Gulliver, Amelia Canberra, Australia
Halko, Ruthie
Wilmington, NC
Harris, Darcy Ben Lomond, CA
Harrison, Samuel
Unknown
Hull, Amanda Lansdowne, VA
James, Melody
Seattle, WA
Jonah, Kim Sparks, NV
Kamnik, Carlie
Philadelphia, PA
Kataoka, Jeanne Moreno Valley, CA
Kile, Kristen, DVM
Monroe, CT
Knowles, Anita J. San Diego, CA
Leader, Andrea B.
Unknown
Liu, Judith New Rochelle, NY
Miller, Margaret J.
Lansdowne, PA
Miner, Camila San Francisco, CA
Nelson, Cheryl
La Crosse, WI
Niemczyk, Marcy Suwanee, GA
Nitzberg, Nancy Rae
Unknown
O’Connor, Carin Rosslindale, MA
O’Guinn, Don
Clio, MI
Orr, Karen Scarborough, ME
Pearson, Laura, DVM
Lenoir, NC
Petersen, Cathy Nash Kansas City, MO
Rajendran, Vijayalakshmi
San Antonio, TX
Reilly, Kathryn, DVM Harleysville, PA
Reilly, Kerry
Monroe, NY
Rutine, Deborah Beverly, MA
Sapone, Liz
Lancaster, PA
Schneider, Margie High Springs, FL
Schroeter, Deon
Hamilton, NJ
Smith, Murray Santa Monica, CA
Smith, Paul M
Clearwater, FL
Smuckler, Jaclyn Hermosa Beach, CA
Streiff, Susan
Beaverton, OR
Wick, Susan Woodinville, WA
Wynn, Tammy
Cincinnati, OH
Young, Julie
San Jose, CA
RENEWING MEMBERS

**Platinum Angel**

Kowalski, Elge Thunder Bay, On., Canada

**Patron Angels**

Cahill, Alan Plainfield, NJ Kelly, Tom Mesa, AZ

**Additional Donations**

Cancel, Eva Paramus, NJ Cheyne, Carol Ann Lakeland, FL
Dankanyin, Nichole Metuchen, NJ Delsid, Camilla Redding, CA

**BASIC MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Adolfsson, Anneli Las Vegas, NV Augerinos, Voula Victoria, Australia
Beaven, Lindsey San Rafael, CA Beerger, Dorothy Cannon Beach, OR
Biel, Carol Vernon, Hills, IL Blesh, Pamela K. Lock Haven, PA
Cabness, Jessica Laurel, MD Cahill, Allen Denver, CO
Cancel, Eva Paramus, NJ Carney, Elizabeth, DVM Hong Kong, China
Cavallero, Brenda Aston, PA Chan, Ernest Lakeland, FL
Cheng, Thomas Houston, TX Cheyne, Carol Ann Lake Steven, WA
Chong, Adele Honolulu, HI Colby, Jason Chicago, IL
Craft, Lisa Casper, WY Curotto, Nancy Wyckoff, NJ
Dankanyin, Nichole Metuchen, NJ De Block, Kathy Carrollton, TX
De Bolider, Barbara Los Alamos, NM Dempsey, Cathy Wilkesboro, NC
DeLella, Guy Salem, OR Edgerton, Margery Bronx, NY
Gambino, Robbie Longmeadow, MA Gonzalez, Marion Plainfield, NJ
Greig, June Ottowa, On., Canada Haboush, Valerie Saint Louis, MO
Henderson, Ian Raleigh, NC Hinsch, Brett, DVM Marysville, CA
Holland, Azure, DVM Richmond, CA Holzwanger, Susan Cairo, Egypt
Ivey, Evelyn Thunder Bay, On., Canada Kelly, Tom Marlowe, OH
Kowalski, Elge Washington, DC Krier, Dale, DVM New York, NY
Kwerel, Jessica Chandler, AZ LaVaque, Ruth Orlando, FL
Lawmaster, Kristin Rowley, MA Lawrence, Kristen O’Brien, Joan Sherwood, CO
Leshinsky, Morgan Howard, OH Levine, Elissa Pierce, Diana Sioux Falls, SD
Lynch, Jackie Douglasville, CA Margolin, Alida Potje, Steven Vandalia, MI
Means, Sandi Mulgoa, Afghanistan Milea, Luminita Rautio, Jooni West Palm Beach, FL
Nonas, Vicky Boca Raton, FL O’Brien, Joan Sidney, WA
Pangrasso, Marissa Waterford, NY Pierce, Diana Stark, LA
Poon, Wing Lok Denver, CO Potje, Steven Stayton, OR
Quency, Rene Chattanooga, TN Robbins, Kathleen Tallahassee, FL
Ramesh, Madhumati Waterford, NY Radtko, Elizabeth Victoria, Canada
Ringstaff, Kevin Denver, CO Rauscher, Cary Glassner Washington, DC
Sakakeeny, Kaleel Chattanooga, TN Robbins, Kathleen West Palm Beach, FL
Seader, Andrea Boston, MA Scott, Lorena Bronx, NY
Spad, Linda Manchester, CT Smith, Barry R. Bethlehem, PA
Standish, Cathy Norwalk, IA Stager, Leslie Seven Hills, OH
Villalobos, Alice, DVM Eugene, OR Uldall, Deanna Kingwood, TX
Woods, Steve Hermosa Beach, CA Wizner, Nancy Niagara Fall, NY

—Page 7—
Are humans the smartest animals on Earth? Not necessarily, according to primatologist Frans de Waal, author of Are “We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?”. He writes about chimpanzees that can remember numbers displayed for a few seconds better than humans can and dogs that can recognize human body language better than other humans.

It’s common knowledge that chimps and dogs (especially border collies) are pretty darn smart, but here are some other animals that are much more intelligent than we may realize.

**Pigs**

Pigs are considered to be among the smartest domestic animals in the world. They can use joysticks to play video games, easily solve mazes, understand simple symbolic language and have excellent long-term memories.

Six-week-old piglets were able to learn how to use mirrors to find their hidden food. Seriously, could human infants do that?

**Sheep**

Like pigs, sheep have very strong memory and recognition skills. One study found that they were able to remember 25 pairs of sheep faces more than two years later, which is longer than many humans could.

Sheep also exhibit emotional intelligence, indicated by their ability to form friendships, defend weaker sheep in fights and experience sadness when their friends are taken away to the slaughterhouse.

**Cows**

Cows are also cognitively and emotionally intelligent. They can quickly learn a variety of tasks, have long-term memories and can recognize human faces. They have friends as well as enemies, and they very strongly feel emotions like pain, fear and anxiety.

“These are highly developed mammals that have been solving problems for a long, long time,” said zoologist Dr. Daniel Weary in an interview with the Huffington Post. “If anything, it reflects poorly on us that we’re surprised that these animals are smart. Of course these animals are smart.”

**Fish**

The mosquitofish (live-bearing tooth carp), a small freshwater fish that gets its name from the mosquito larvae it consumes, can count up to four or higher. Researchers discovered that female mosquitofish that were being harassed by males would always swim off to a group of at least four other fish – never fewer than four.

Many other animals (including chickens, as you’ll soon learn) have the ability to count.

**Crows**

Should “birdbrained” be considered a compliment? Absolutely, considering the intelligence of crows, pigeons, chickens and our other fine-feathered friends.

Crows have unusually large brains for their size, making their intelligence similar to that of problem-solving primates. They use those brains to recognize the faces of different species and determine if they are friends or foes.

They can also comprehend basic physics like water displacement, may be able to memorize garbage truck routes so they can follow them for scraps, and can change their migration pattern to detour around areas where crows have been killed.

Crows can also express gratitude: A little girl who fed crows in Seattle collected more than 70 “gifts” they left for her in the bird feeder, including earrings and a “Best Friend” charm.

**Pigeons**

Pigeons can learn abstract mathematical rules, an ability they share only with humans and rhesus monkeys.

Their ability to solve problems is highly evolved. A study found that pigeons have the intelligence of a 3-year-old human child.

**Chickens**

Chickens can also solve complex problems, count and differentiate between geometric shapes. They can communicate using more than two dozen vocalizations, each of which has a different meaning.

Before they’re hatched, chicks use different-toned peeps to let their mothers know whether they’re cold or comfortable.
5 ALTERNATIVES to Leaving Your Dog in the Car

1. Use the drive-through for errands when available

Cars heat up quickly, so never leave your dog in the car—even for a *quick* errand

2. Bring a friend who can play with your dog outside while you run your errand

3. Shop at pet-friendly stores where your dog is welcome to browse with you

4. Eat at an outdoor café where your dog can sit with you

5. Leave your dog at home where it’s cool and safe

Eat at an outdoor café where your dog can sit with you

---

—Page 9—
Integrative Veterinary Care

— Dr. Michelle Crossley

When my oldest canine guy got sick, and there seemed to be no other hope, I sought the assistance of an integrative/holistic veterinarian. I wish I had found her sooner and am grateful that I have continued to work with her for my other fur-kids.

I want to share with readers my experience and provide some tips on finding pet care that integrates Eastern and Western medicine. With Cleveland (my oldest dog), it was a bit too late to see any benefits from the integration of care, but for Sully (my now eldest fur-kid) we have seen many benefits to working with herbs/supplements, acupuncture, and a diet that takes into account his ailments.

Sully was diagnosed with Cushing’s disease (pituitary, not adrenal) and our first veterinarian suggested medication that was not only costly (over $300 a month due to his size) but also potentially detrimental to his health if not provided in the proper dose. In order to determine if he would need a change in dose, we would have to spend half a day in the office receiving costly tests. Not to mention that the medication essentially worked to burn out his pituitary gland.

When seeking help for Cleveland (and then Little one, see the Autumn 2017 edition for my account), I also asked about Sully and what we may be able to do for him. She immediately gave me a diet (working with cool foods to combat his hot disease) and supplements to help with his Cushing’s disease and hepatic system. I am happy to say, that after about 6 months there was a marked decrease in Sully’s symptoms!

My experience has been wonderful—I enjoy spending an hour with my guy as he relaxes with his needles. My veterinarian is completely attuned to my guy and places the needles carefully after observing his eyes and tongue—hitting pressure points to ease his aches and calm his nerves. I am lucky to have found someone who took the opportunity to study in Beijing while in her veterinary studies and to bring this practice back with her. I wish that I had a primary care physician had the same training for my own health!

For those who are interested, I am including some tips on finding a animal provider that integrates holistic healing practices. I wish you the best of luck along your path and hope you experience similar benefits when working with your animal care provider!

---

Selecting a Holistic Veterinarian

— Taken From the Internet

**Training:** There are a variety of holistic training approaches that vets can pursue. Ensure that the one you choose has attended traditional veterinary school.

**Partnership:** We care about our fur-kids and want to ensure that they receive the care that is needed. When making an initial appointment, have questions lined up. At the initial appointment, take time to ask important questions and have a full list of ailments and medical history. A practitioner who fully listens, while making your pet and you comfortable will provide reasons behind their course of treatment and make sure that you are on board.

**Perspective:** You want to find someone that treats the whole-pet. This is someone who will look for signs and symptoms and will not avoid traditional medicine—especially if it is the best for your animal. There are times that certain ailments cannot be cured with a holistic approach. Be cautious of professionals that avoid medical interventions without good reason.

**Research:** Start with a basic search of holistic vets in your area and then continue to research them to see affiliations and training. Once you research, call around. It may take time to get an appointment, so if it’s urgent, be sure to let them know.

**Cost:** Be certain to check the pricing of the care that is suggested. Supplements can be costly in addition to the frequency of visits. For some pet insurance policies, this treatment may be covered if offered by a board-certified veterinarian.
A group of llamas is called a cria herd. This may be because baby llamas are called a cria.

The llama is a close relative of the camel, but without hump. Llamas originate from South America, but they can be found all around the world because they were domesticated few thousand years ago. Wild llamas can be found in the mountains, grasslands and deserts. Llamas are very strong and durable animals that are used for transportation of goods in harsh environments. Other than that, llama's wool is used in the production of fabrics, rugs and ropes. Their dung can be used as fuel after drying on the sun.

Interesting Llama Facts:

- Llamas are large animals. They can be 6 feet tall (at the head) and reach between 280 and 450 pounds of weight.
- Llama's body is covered with wool which can be black, gray, white or brown, with variety of patterns.
- Llamas can be divided in two groups according to the length of their fur: short coated (called Ccara) and the medium coated (called Curaca).
- Llama has elongated face, large nostrils and long ears that are curved inwardly. Llama's ears are shaped like "banana".
- Llama has excellent sense of sight, smell and hearing, which are used for detection of potential danger.
- Llamas have inherited fear of coyotes, mountain lions and other dog-like animals. Some llamas are used as "guards" of the sheep because they quickly alert and protect the herd when they spot a predator.
- Llamas are very social animals. They live in groups composed of up to 20.
- Llamas are known as animals that spit when provoked or threatened. They can spit at humans also, but they usually spit at each other to solve misunderstandings in the group.
- Llamas are herbivores (eat only plants). They eat grass and ferns mainly. Llama on the farm may eat 6 pounds of hay per day.
- The llama is not hoofed animal. It has two toenails on each foot and leathery pad underneath.
- Llamas are very intelligent, but stubborn animals. When the load on its back is too heavy, llama will refuse to carry it until some of the load is removed.
- A 400-pound heavy llama can easily carry 100-pound load for 10 to 12 miles.
- Llamas do not have a specific time of mating. Males usually chases the female for up to 10 minutes until she is finally ready to mate.
- Pregnancy in llamas lasts 11½ months and ends with a single baby. Females will give birth to a baby in the morning hours and young llama will be able to run with the rest of the herd by the evening.
- The lifespan of llamas is between 20 and 30 years.
- The llama is different from the alpaca, varying in size, ear shape, face length & shape, purpose, disposition, and hair type.
Assistant Editor Wanted

We are currently seeking interested candidates to help with our quarterly newsletter. The person selected would be required to dedicate 2-3 hours a week for the month leading up to our publication date. Individuals should be able to help with layout and be familiar with using both Microsoft Publisher and Adobe PDF software.

Interested candidates should contact Michelle Crossley via Email indicating previous experience with writing and submit a writing sample. Previous experience with editing is preferred.

TREASURER

We are looking for a new person to be trained to take over as the APLB Treasurer. This does not require special skills, but one must be able to spend 2-3 hours on average, per week writing checks and keeping our financial records in order. This is a Board of Directors position. A NJ location is preferable, but not required. For more information, contact us at sife@aol.com

REWARD $5,000
In Monopoly Bills

I Found a Baby Rabbit...

Do any of the following apply to the rabbit? If Yes, see the next step. If No, end procedure.

- Is it bleeding, has an open wound, or has a broken bone?
- It’s kept in a cat’s or dog’s mouth.
- It’s covered in fly eggs (these look like small grains of rice).
- It’s cold, wet, or crying nonstop.
- It’s too dirty to clean.
- It’s too small to care for.

If the rabbit is larger than a softball and weighs more than 4 ounces or 50 grams, leave it alone. It is on its own and does not need human intervention.

If the rabbit is 4 ounces or 50 grams or less, take it to a wildlife rehabilitation or veterinarian.

Is the rabbit fully furred with its eyes opened?

- Yes
- No

If the rabbit has its eyes opened, do not attempt to move it. It is too small and can be damaged. Do not give food or water to injured or orphaned rabbits; they have very sensitive stomachs.

If the rabbit is not fully furred, do not leave the rabbit in the area. Do not attempt to move it. It is too small and can be damaged. Do not give food or water to injured or orphaned rabbits; they have very sensitive stomachs.

Cottontail Facts:
- Nest March – September
- Average Litter: 4-5 babies
- Litters per season: 3-4
- Disperse at 15-20 days old

Rabbits should not be given food or water to injured or orphaned rabbits; they have very sensitive stomachs. Do not give food or water to injured or orphaned rabbits; they have very sensitive stomachs.

A Word about Mowing:

Do not attempt to mow within 10 feet of a rabbit's nest if there are bunnies present. Protect a nest during mowing by placing a plastic toilet paper basket upside down over the nest. Remove after mowing.

For more information about what to do if you find a baby rabbit, visit www.wildlifecenter.org/baby-rabbit

Raising a wild animal in captivity is illegal unless you have a state permit.