



# Outside The Box

Lisa Foronda

■ by George L. Rosenblatt

Wherever you see top KHOU-TV Channel 11 News anchor Lisa Foronda, you will immediately notice two qualities and soon realize a third.

The first two – gemlike beauty and lightninglike brain – underscore her preeminence in her field.

Those qualities, along with her professional high profile, enable her to advance the third: her passionate compassion for animals.

Her compassion far transcends making puppies wag their tails and kittens purr. That fact is clear in her counseling other humans seeking to activate genuine compassion, yet not quite sure how.

Lisa Foronda knows, because she essentially started the same way.

As a small child in her native Tampa, Florida, she gave a home to animals.

After graduating the University of Florida in telecommunications, then bird-dogging her first job at KLST, San Angelo, Texas, a pet-of-the-week feature on KLST led her to adopt a pair of kittens.

“I somehow fell into animal welfare in Houston,” she says, noting her increasingly animal-related public appearances and events.

“It just sort of happened,” says Ms. Foronda. “I’m just someone who’s concerned about the welfare of animals.”

Why should others follow in the steps of her feet, which frequently fly with her passion for running, to involve themselves in animal protection?

She explains citing Mahatma Gandhi, founder of modern India.

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated,” she quotes him. “I hold that, the more helpless a creature, the more entitled it is to protection by man from the cruelty of man.”

Supplementing Gandhi’s thought, Lisa Foronda adds that “I would also hold this true for the human beings unable to speak for themselves, such as children or the disabled.”

At the very least, she emphasizes, “animal protection involves understanding the simple reality that pet ownership is a responsibility that must not be taken lightly. Owning a pet is a lifelong commitment that includes the financial responsibility of veterinary bills, training, and love.”

She dearly loves and cares for her golden retriever, Finlay, and her Rottweiler mix, Bailey - both rescues.

Organizations she supports include SNAP – Spay/Neuter Assistance Program ([www.snapus.org](http://www.snapus.org)), Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP) and Saving Animals Across Borders ([www.savinganimals.org](http://www.savinganimals.org)).

To decide which groups to support, she recommends well-known, name-recognized groups, such as the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), the

Humane Society, and SNAP.”

Further, she urges checking out any group’s fiduciary responsibility at [www.charitynavigator.com](http://www.charitynavigator.com), talking with current volunteers and sponsors about their feelings, and seeking pet owners’ or known animal advocates’ suggestions.

Ms. Foronda channels much of her own passion into her animal blog, Animal Attraction, hosted by KHOU.com at [www.baileyindy.com](http://www.baileyindy.com). It helps link her with Houston’s animal communities and share information with readers as far away as Mexico City and Canada.

Serious, if inadvertent, human mistakes with animals include taking them for granted, not using a leash and failure to spay or neuter,



**DOG GONE BIKER!**  
KHOU-TV news anchor Lisa Foronda, active animal advocate, is not about to hound this friend’s golden retriever about going goggle-eyed with her.

“The best thing people can do for animals,” she says, “and I can’t stress it enough: Spay and neuter. Spay and neuter. Spay and neuter.”

Finally, animals help teach people humanity. Teach children to treat animals with respect, she urges, “since kindness and respect for animals -- and people, for that matter -- begin in the home.”

What has caring about animals taught her about being human?

“My golden retriever, Finlay, is the happiest dog I know,” concludes Lisa Foronda. “He lives entirely in the moment. He seems to worry about what’s going on now, not about tomorrow. I wish I could do that.”

*George L. Rosenblatt is an award-winning, globally experienced writer, editor and photographer, with freelance credits encompassing human interest features, travel, business, food, restaurants, transportation, medicine, law enforcement, municipal government, religion and public communications consulting. George can be reached via e-mail at [words-pictures-ideas@att.net](mailto:words-pictures-ideas@att.net).*