

N A M A S T E G L O B A L V I S I O N  
LEADERS, MANAGERS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND SERVING THE ANIMALS  
WHO ARE THE LEADERS AND MANAGERS THAT SERVE?

MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, IT IS YOU!

By Karla Boyd



Abe Maslow, leadership consultant and educator in his book *On Management* brought a fresh and profound insight into the world of management along with the other pioneers who brought intentional leadership development practices to the work-a-day world. He shows us the power of the word in what he writes and exhorts us to take it up. Let us listen to the possibility of forming our vision through powerful communication and language:

“We of the United Nations.....” In this way, if you identify with being a part of something big, “you take into yourself something important from the world....you yourself become important thereby. You have made yourself important as that which you have introjected and assimilated into yourself. At once, it matters if you die, or if you are sick, or if you can’t work, etc. Then you [need to] take care of yourself, respect yourself and have plenty of rest. Then the inner and outer world fuse and become one and the same.”

So, if you say, we veterinarians, sanctuary workers, shelter board members, foundation workers, we animal stewards have shown that we can collectively contribute to the betterment of society, we can heal, save lives and expand our humanity, if you can say that with a sense of wonder and connection, then you have joined this body of something large and grand.

We can raise the standards of animal lives everywhere through our contributions. These gifts and contributions also enhance our lives in our generous practices. We are finding ways to come together more and more to be a force of good that gives shelter, sanctuary, healing and hope to the animals and the people. We can say this to each other because now we are representatives of the field of animal stewards, we have become ambassadors of it.

When the recognition of the self is linked to a field that has significance in its lived and embodied mission, vision and values, you are at once called to a stature of expansion of the self. And you are called to responsibly represent it. You become a force, as Maslow tells us, for “revolutionizing society [and] preparing the new world.”

Daniel Pink, author and lecturer of business, work and future paradigms, says that those who begin to see the big picture become adept at seeing patterns. “All great entrepreneurs are System Thinkers...and develop a passion for seeing things whole.” Learning to link one’s self to something grand, allowing one’s self to think out of the box, you join a community of people in society and the world who are contributing cooperatively, creatively and effectively to the formation of better futures.

Robert Greenleaf says it this way: “Both leading and following, in an institution, that becomes a thing of beauty because of the serving power that is generated, require of all a common purpose and a clear definition of [dependability and accountability.] When that purpose is unified and connected to high ideals, something good begins to manifest. There is an interconnectedness that forms a new field of existence shaped from its parts.

Henry Strapp of the University of California at Berkeley tells us that Bell’s theorem opened our understanding to a whole new level. Bell offered that the universe is not being a random thing disconnected from our consciousness but rather a wholeness that inexorably links us together. Strapp calls this “the most profound discovery in the history of science.”

Leadership development giant, Joseph Jaworski had the pleasure of befriending Dr. Bohm, Professor of Theoretical Physics at London’s Birkbeck College. They met through an unbridled and full-of-possibility dialogue that began on the telephone and a miracle meeting that occurred the very next day! Bohm brought this truth to science that the mystics have known for a very long time. “We are all one.” He explained to Jaworski the general impact on science and the world of Bell’s discovery. Because of Bell the entire paradigm of science shifted to be a system’s view. “Everything is connected to everything else.”

Perhaps this news is not new to you. Intellectually that is. But the practice of developing one’s self to merge effectively into the co-creation of being established in a communication culture so profound that everyone is uplifted to be a force of good is still very much in its infancy in organizations and in the animal steward community. Bohm, Bell and leadership consultants have an intrinsic message: evolve, enhance and expand your participation in the world. Belong to something grand. Be a leader, co-creator and vital force.

You are changing the world by your active engagement with it. When you lead from strength and gifts and joy and affirmation, you contribute to the elevation of spirit for the people and the animals in your organization. When your spirit is low you contribute from a half empty cup or succumb to isolation. Being disconnected from your herd, you infect the culture around you with that low spirit. Leadership development is a commitment to an ongoing powerful immersion into the practice of using inspiration and communication skills that lift organizations to the heights that you and the animals know can bring joy and gratification to many lives.

If this better world future can be created—and it can—then imagine what begins to happen when animals are also included and finally are given the stature that they too deserve: valued contributing forces to the betterment of humanity and the world. There is a new wave of understanding growing in the world that animals do just that. There have been many people who have brought to us an elevated view of animals. Jane Goodall eloquently describes how the chimpanzee has contributed to our understanding of who we are as humans by showing us how closely we are related to them.

From Marc Beckoff's scientific research about our potential relationship with animals as kin to the whole lineage of horse whisperers to India's and Native American culture's acknowledgment of the powerful part that animals play as our brothers and sisters and as part of the Creator's plan, our human understanding is growing. More and more people now see that animals give us balance and meaning in our lives and world.

The animals connect us with what matters in the deep ecology of life; they also serve as powerful teachers of their own. Imagine what will change when we reach a tipping point of the power that animals offer in our human co-created futures, alongside us as partners placed in esteem and value. Imagine what can change then! Imagine.

Ariana Strozzi in her book *Horse Sense for the Leader Within* describes how horses mirror patterns of thoughts, behavior, leadership skills and performance competencies in massive pounds of horse magnificence. Horses, according to Strozzi, can reflect the gap from where we believe our leadership is and where it actually is as presented in our world. Thus, the horse allows us to deepen our understanding and invites active alignment of our leadership values with our development. They show us our magnificence and connection and what our next action steps for leadership development might be.

Intentional leadership development empowers animal stewards to develop entrepreneurial spirits and to shape their self and world conversation to powerfully lead the way to changes that manifest wholeness. It empowers stewards to reclaim their love, passion and meaningful relationships with the animals. It invites the co-creation for a future that is extraordinary. It lifts scientists like Irene Pepperberg from their lowered scientific status for working with birds and rescues her colleague, Alex, a parrot, from being just a "bird brain," to major contributors participating in something grand. This breakthrough in science then alters our thinking, paradigms and the world for the good. It elevates the works of the McCormicks, Shelia Siddle, Chris Irwin, Rupert Sheldrake, David Abram, Allen Schoen, Linda and Allen Anderson and the many animals they celebrate and embrace as teachers and profound players in the field of world creation.

Leadership development elevates this body of great leaders because it calls us to develop our own leadership that changes the world. It asks us to recognize their leadership and follow in their footsteps. It celebrates these pioneers who set the bar for what can be. It honors the animals for the place they have in our co-creation of the world. The animals are then seen as a powerful force for good.

This is powerful medicine for the world of stewards. Leadership development, then, is an access door to personal growth and expansion that takes up a challenge to lead. It is this potent body of communication distinctions that can charge a group into a dynamic, powerhouse of change agents, moving as a herd, in flow and harmony, creating a unified, whole and rich future.