



Leadership Biographies

Lola Michelin, Director of Education

An accomplished animal massage practitioner, Lola Michelin has been providing massage for over 20 years and founded the Northwest School of Animal Massage in 2001. She is a recognized authority on the topic and appears on radio and television shows nationwide to speak about animal massage. She has been published in *ModernDog*, *Animal Wellness*, *Practical Horseman*, *Massage Magazine*, and in an exclusive chapter of “Women & Horses II - More Expressions of the Magical Bond” by GaWaNi PonyBoy. She has also authored two anatomy guides for animal massage practitioners. Lola was a featured clinician and speaker at the International Association of Animal Massage and Bodywork Conference two years running, and served as past president of the Washington Animal Massage Association and as the legislative liaison for IAATH (International Association of Animal Therapists and Healers). She also serves as the Official Guide to Pets for the online professional association SelfGrowth (www.SelfGrowth.com).

Currently, Lola is the Director of Education for the Northwest School of Animal Massage. In conjunction, she runs a private massage practice serving horses, dogs, people and exotic species such as elephants, giraffe, and primates. Her most inspiring work to date is teaching students massage in shelter and rescue environments where she has witnessed monumental transformations in both the animals and students.

After obtaining a BSc in Animal Science from Michigan State University, Lola worked in the animal health care field as a veterinary technician, a pathology technician and a zookeeper. When she isn't teaching or providing massage, she can most likely be found playing with her two Jack Russell Terriers *Gorilla* and *Shanny*, riding her horse *Ossso* or chasing and being chased by her miniature donkey *Seth*.