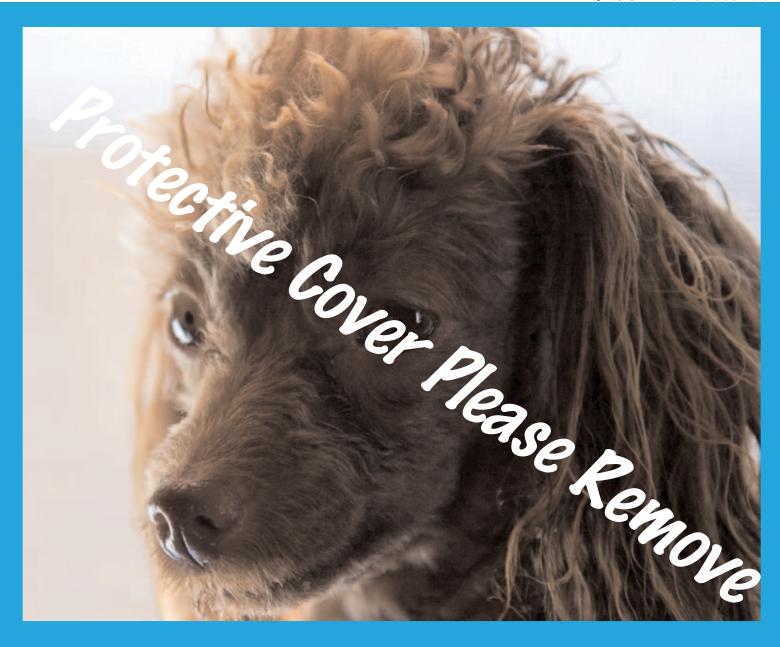
# Species Link

The Journal of Interspecies Telepathic Communication

Winter 2010 Issue 77



### Confidentiality, Trust & Transformation

Also featuring the Species Link Crew, Animal Communicator, Morgan Jurdan, and TREES

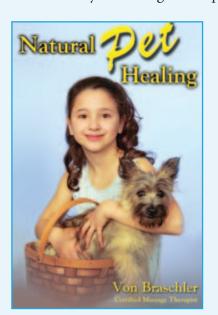
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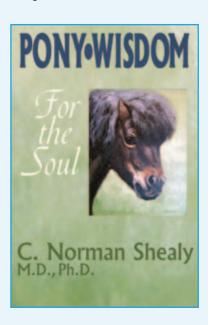
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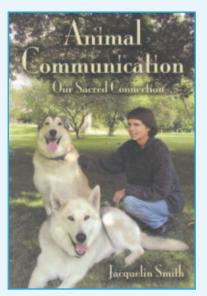
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#### The Journal of Interspecies Telepathic Communication

Issue 77 Winter 2010 (January-March)

Editor in Chief: Penelope Smith Copy Editor: Cathy Currea Contributing Editor: Suzan Vaughn Reviewer: Nancy Windheart Feature Writer: Alexandra Blanyre Layout and Design: Angela Koloski Publisher: Galde Press, Inc.

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Our motto, "Kinship Inspiration Transformation" summarizes the purpose of our magazine. For those on the path of developing and using interspecies communication in their daily lives or professions, Species Link provides a forum and network to share experiences, helpful hints, insights, humor, and the joy of deep understanding and heightened awareness with all beings.

Articles, stories, poems, reviews, artwork, photos, listings, and ads should be submitted at least two months before publication (the 1st of Feb, May, Aug, Nov). We may edit submissions for length and clarity. It helps us greatly if you send them by e-mail (the easiest mode of transfer) or typed on paper and accompanied by a CD.

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Back cover: KC Chihuahua by Art Rosch

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### Editor's Compass Penelope Smith

Our *Species Link* staff has expanded greatly in the past few years. In this issue, you'll meet all of us who put *Species Link* together.

A poignant story of loss and reincarnation and the wonderful results of an animal communicator's involvement in a dog training prison program are recounted in the *Furry Heart Club*.

The Watering Hole gives

more readers a chance to give their opinions regarding the *Vegetarian or Omnivore?* question from our last two *Voice of Experience* columns.

In this issue's *Voice of Experience* column, valuable reflections on the subject of withholding information in animal communication sessions are conveyed. We also take up the fascinating



Belinda & Penelope photo by Starr Taovil

subjects of how animals name themselves and whether Sasquatch and the Loch Ness monster are myths.

Traveller's Rest Equine Elders Sanctuary (TREES) honors the wisdom and need of aging horses in *Sanctuary Spotlight*.

Morgine Jurdan, our *Featured Animal Communicator*, emphasizes the importance of compassion and love in her life as she relays her animal communication history and insights.

Books with more horse tales, scientific evidence of the moral life of animals, and stories of communication with plants, animals, and the

Earth find their place in Reviews.

*Inspirations* brings us the worldwide call from dogs in response to one dog's loneliness.

Your responses and suggestions about *Species Link* are welcome. We look forward to your contributions to our animal communication community magazine.

### Meet the Species Link Crew

Penelope Smith founded *Species Link* in 1990 and is chief editor. As an animal communication pioneer, she originally envisioned *Species Link's* purpose as helping to unite the growing field of animal communication practitioners. *Species Link* would promote their work, continued development, inspiration, and mutual support, and share their experiences and insights, which would benefit all people interested in the field. The *Species Link* motto, *Kinship Inspiration Transformation*, still defines the purpose of our journal today. In twenty years, with the help of many people's contributions, *Species Link* has grown in size, scope, quality, and "magazineliness."

Penelope published and distributed *Species Link* through her company, Anima Mundi Incorporated, until Phyllis Galde of Galde Press took over the job in spring 2007, creating our first color magazine issue and expanding our reach. Penelope still oversees all submissions and editing, inputs design elements and gives final approval on layout, while Angela Koloski of Galde Press does the hard work of programming and getting all the design features to fit and look good. Penelope eagle eyes each issue a



Kobe Bear & Cathy

number of times before it is printed. Now to introduce the rest of the writing, editing, and publishing crew.

Cathy Currea has served as Copy Editor for the past ten years and is a frequent contributor to *Species Link*. She feels *Species Link* is an important publication that brings the animal communication community together and is

honored to be part of the SL family.

Since childhood, Cathy has shared a special and sacred bond with all living beings and views animals as her teachers, guides, and friends. She loves giving animals a "voice" so they can be heard and better understood by humans. Through Animal Reiki, Cathy supports animals in their natural healing process.

She holds a M.A. in Counseling and Education with a B.A. in Communications and Ecology. Her animal family includes two cats, Mona-Marie and Elvis, and her dog, Kobe Bear.

Susan Vaughn has been a student and teacher of metaphysical phenomenon for more than 25 years. She is an animal communicator, a people psychic counselor, an intuitive healer, and an internet retailer. Her expertise and education are in the areas of psychology and communication. She has helped hundreds of people



Chief & Susan photo by Stephanie Laird photography

identify issues facing their beloved animal friends, predict the future, and sort out life's toughest circumstances.

In her first career as a newscaster, talk show host and producer, she honed her speaking, writing, and broadcasting communication skills, while also practicing telepathic communication on weekends. After the events of 9/11, Suzan knew she could not continue to be inundated with grim news day in and day out and keep herself spiritually sound. Opening to the direction of her Guides, the phone began to ring more and more often with people seeking counsel not only for themselves, but also for their animal friends.

Dispatches From the Ark: Tales from a Pet Psychic's Notebook, a book of stories from her many pet psychic sessions and adventures published in 2009, added the title of author to Suzan's list of credentials. Her book features a section where Species Link contributors tell their stories about communication with insects.

Suzan holds a B.A. in Psychology and an M.A. in Communication, and is the owner of <a href="www.goddessgift.net">www.goddessgift.net</a>, a 'herstorical' website that sells ancient feminine deity replicas celebrating the Goddess in each of us.

She serves as *Species Link* Contributing Editor.

Since childhood, Nancy Windheart has had a passion for animals, and a fascination for understanding how other beings think, feel, and view the world. While she developed a success-



Louie & Nancy

ful career in music, she expressed her love for animals through volunteering with various animal organizations and through developing deep relationships with her own animal companions. Her work as a professional animal communicator and teacher is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream, and she is passionate about

helping others to discover the joy of communication with all species.

Her professional training in animal communication has been with Penelope Smith (and her animal family). She feels privileged to have gone on several whale and dolphin trips. The cetacean elders have also played a huge role in her training as an animal communicator.

Nancy loves practicing yoga, spending time outdoors hiking and visiting sacred sites, and she is deeply connected to the shamanic spiritual path. She has been an avid reader all of her life, has done some professional writing in the music field, and has written poetry and

journals since she was a child, so reviewing animal communication books for *Species Link* is a natural fit for her!

She lives in the mountains of Prescott, Arizona with her animal family of dogs, cats, chickens, and horses, who are her best friends and teachers. They always remind her to walk her path with lightness, ease, and joy.

#### Alexandra Blantyre comes

from a background in the arts. Starting off her career in New York as an actress, she moved into painting, photography, and writing. She is the owner of *The Barking Princess Fine Art* (www.thebarkingprincess.com) and represents a handful of artists available for high quality pet portraiture and animal inspired jewelry designs. She writes daily articles on all things dogs related on Examiner.com and is honored to be part of

Species Link.



Tashi & Alexandra photo by Norah Levine

Alexandra has a deep kinship with nature and animals and feels a wholeness being connected to them. Alexandra and her canine daughter Tashi, a Tibetan spaniel, often travel the country together to gain expertise from leaders in the animal community. They practice holistic health care and both eat an organic homemade diet. Tashi has meat and raw meaty bones; Alexandra does not. They both enjoy watching out for the wild birds who visit the yard and eat the finest sunflower hearts.

One of Alexandra's favorite quotes is:

By having a reverence for life, we enter into a spiritual relation with the world. By practicing reverence for life we become good, deep, and alive.—Albert Schweitzer The dedicated staff who work on publishing (design, layout, printing, mailing, subscriptions, promotion) *Species Link* are:

Angela Koloski, wife, mother, animal lover, designer, one who pays attention to detail. Angela takes Penelope's materials and assembles them for the journal. She and her family house two gray male kitties, who are constantly adding to the family's larder with unwanted wild creatures.



Angie with Ole, Nancy with Louie, and Phyllis with Isis

**Nancy Gluth** is the trusty customer service good spirit who keeps track of all the subscriptions, calls, and questions. She and her family share their home with Buck, a shy but gentle Australian heeler/shepherd cross.

**Phyllis Galde**, publisher, caretaker of too many animals in her lifetime (according to normal conservative folks). She has been involved in metaphysical studies and pursuits from a young age.

She grew up in a haunted house in North Dakota, and had cats sneaking in and out the screen window of her bedroom, birthing kittens in her dresser drawer. Nothing is too good for her animal companions.

However, the REAL workers who are the spiritual backbone of the publishing end of *Species Link* are the special companions who inspire the office and make it all fun. Three dogs include Lena, a shelter rescue

who is a lab/shepherd/husky; Olga, a Cairn terrier; Ole, a sevenmonth old 70-pound golden retriever. Five cats: Aurie, a 21-year-old seal point Siamese; two 16-year-old blue point brothers, Punk and Bob; 13-year-old tortoise shell, Rusty, a once feral now semitame gold tiger, Louie; several fish, both saltwater and freshwater, and Isis, a red-tailed boa constrictor. Isis loves to crawl around the bookcases, and invariably winds up in a box of *Species Link* back issues. She obviously feels a kinship with the contents.

### Letters

Thank you for the very enlightening issue of *Species Link*. I appreciated everyone's comments and perspectives on this very sensitive topic (*Voice of Experience* column question *Vegetarian or Omnivore?*). Kudos to you for embracing the subject in such a wonderful way.

Jennifer Brophy, Alberta, Canada

Thank you for such excellent articles about the vegetarian issues. You did a great job and I enjoyed the wonderful, articulate responses from people. It's important subject matter, for sure.

Terri O'Hara, Oregon

I'd like to have more stories from animal rescues in *Species Link*—communicating with rescued animals such as racing animals and big cats. I'd like to know how the animals feel about their former lives and their new lives.

Janice Elliott, Pennsylvania

**Editor:** Check out our *Sanctuary Spotlight* feature in this issue for stories about rescued horses and their former and current lives.

How about a prayer column for all of us to focus our energy on areas of animal concern/crisis?

Theresa Nygard, Minnesota

**Editor:** We're busting at the seams featuring subjects directly concerned with animal communication in *Species Link*. However, your desire could very well be met with the Animal Communicators Coalition for Animal Welfare (ACCAW) prayer circle column on www.animaltalk.net.

As a member of Bat Conservation International and Bat World, I was happy to see Karen Booream's article on White Nose Syndrome. I would like to thank her, Jane Summers, Jeannie Lindheim, and Tim Link for bringing this important subject to the attention of Species Link readers. Please continue to pray for and send healing energy to our precious bat friends. For more information on bats, go to <a href="https://www.bat-con.org">www.bat-con.org</a> and <a href="https://www.batworld.org</a>.

Barbara Remsen, New York

### Watering Hole

Featuring readers' discussion of topics from past Species Link issues

Readers respond to the *Voice of Experience* column "Vegetarian or Omnivore?" in the summer and autumn 2009 issues. The entire two-part article can also be found on <a href="https://www.animaltalk.net">www.animaltalk.net</a> Species Link page.

#### Eileen Garfinkel

As an animal communicator, I understand and believe that all beings: human, non-human, plants, and minerals have a path and purpose. I also believe that before we incarnate, we choose the path that will encourage our soul's growth and the spiritual growth of our planet. Further, I believe that we spiritually seek to balance karma.

I am a vegetarian and try always to eat only dairy products that come from free-range animals. I abhor factory farming and seek to educate others about the horrors of that practice. I don't judge another's path; however, I must pose the following question: Should we not have risen up during the Holocaust and sought to right the injustice? Was it ethical to use human flesh as lampshades because we believed that someone chose the path of Holocaust victim before s/he incarnated into that dimension? If we choose to eat animals, can we justify eating the animals that have



photo by Carole Devereux

### The Return of Prince Amanda Riester

On June 11, 2008 I got home from work to find my angel, my rescued 10-year-old pit bull lying in a pool of blood in my living room. I started screaming, thinking he had already passed. My husband checked his breathing to find he was still alive—barely. We rushed him to the emergency room vet 25 miles away; I drove 120 mph the whole way. About 2 blocks from the ER he began to convulse and had diarrhea on my husband's lap. We thought we were losing him. He made it through the night on life support, but

suffered so tremendously? Can we say that because those animals chose that path, we are not responsible to try to end their suffering? Perhaps our path is to consciously refuse to take part in creating more suffering by not consuming that animal.

#### Bill Ohm

I have been a vegan for 41 years. Why? I run better on this diet. However, there is vegan food that I will not eat.

In the case of animal communication, perform your own experiment. What diet allows you to perform optimal animal communication?

I do not think that a person should impose a diet on another person. This is especially true when a person cannot survive without certain foods. My point of view toward animals' diet is the same. Ask the same question for an animal. Even better, ask the animal. What is the most natural diet for each of us to function optimally?

Now, the idea of killing an animal does not appeal to me. Some humans are too quick to kill for food or otherwise.

I also do not like the way that humans or animals eat and emit waste. Too much energy is spent raising, planting, growing, removing, packing, shipping, and so on. There needs to be a change in the physical structure of humans and animals.

I have done animal communication for fourteen years. Animal communication is amazing and helps both animals and people. Diet plays an indirect role. Everything that I eat affects my body in some way.

### Furry Heart Club

Animals give us love, joy, loyalty, and intimate companionship. They awaken us to many aspects of ourselves and all of Nature. The Furry Heart Club is devoted to stories about how animals have helped open our hearts to love.

the next day at 4:04 PM, the angels took him from me. His heart couldn't handle the stress of the attack.

My foster dogs, a 40-pound Boston terrier mix and a 45-pound black lab mix had attacked Prince. They were covered in Prince's blood but had no damage themselves. My house looked like a crime scene on TV with blood everywhere. Our couches had to be thrown out because they were so saturated. It was by far the worst thing I had ever gone through. Prince was my best friend, my child, my soul mate. I have never loved anyone or anything the way I loved him.

It took everything in me not to kill the other two dogs. Prince was with them for over six months with no problems and then they just snapped. My intuition told me to "do the right thing," which seemed to go against my normal "eye for an eye" attitude. I listened to my inner self. I placed both dogs on Petfinder and

found them great new homes, both with no other dogs.

LIVING was so difficult. Every day I woke up wanting to commit suicide. My husband never left me alone; I didn't think I could live without my Prince. Finally one day I made the choice to just do it. I left work early and headed to the gun shop to buy new clips and bullets for our gun (my husband had taken away all the ammunition and gun clips when Prince passed). As I tried to pay for the items, the clerk told me "I'm sorry your FOID card is void, you can't purchase from us." My husband had called every gun shop in Illinois and gave them my information, so nobody would sell to me. But how could I go on, how could I face life without my baby? I was so disoriented; I took the urn with Prince's ashes for car rides, because he loved car rides. I couldn't accept he was gone.

A short time later, to help me cope, my husband bought me a few books on grieving as well as Penelope's book, *Animals in Spirit*.

I had never heard of animal communication before but it felt so right to me. Everything I felt in my heart was written down.

I have had a tremendous love for animals all of my life. At the age of four, I decided meat was something I wanted nothing to do with, although at times my family tried to force me to eat it. I remember as a child thinking I was talking to animals, but being told I was "stupid" for doing so by my family. I always believed Prince was my

child and used to read him the story of Pinocchio and tell him because he's a good boy, one day when he has to leave, he can come back again and be my baby.

Penelope's book gave me a reason to live. My husband was so excited to see me feeling alive again, he encouraged me to contact Penelope and see if she could communicate with Prince in spirit. Penelope wrote back with a referral. I contacted the communicator and what she told me blew my mind. She gave me details of how Prince passed, of the other dogs' personalities, told me he didn't fight back, even that he survived the night but passed the next day. She said Prince and I have a special bond because in a past life I was his mother and he was my human son, who at age 12 began boxing and years later died in a boxing match. (I work as a boxing coach and competed for several years as a boxer myself!) She also said he wanted to reincarnate again very soon, this time as a very pretty dog, maybe a golden retriever because they have

hair the same color as mine and he thought my hair was very pretty. Needless to say, this struck me as amazing since she never saw me and was speaking to me over the phone, having no idea what I looked like or did for a living!

Although the communication helped me a great deal, I was still skeptical, so I decided to contact another communicator. She gave me as many fantastic details as the previous woman. She additionally told me that recently I had discovered a tumor on Prince's chest and near his heart, and had he not passed from the dog attack, it was going to be a long and hard road ahead for us with tough decisions to make. Two days before he was mauled, I had found a tumor and had a feeling the outcome was going to be bad. She also said Prince wanted to reincarnate very soon, but because I love pit bulls, he would be a pit bull. However, he wanted to be very pretty, gold, and definitely a boy. He said he didn't want

to be a rescue dog because of all the abuse he endured in his last life as a rescue. However, he knew I was passionate about rescue dogs, so he would compromise and come back through ME rescuing another pit bull. I would see him on a message board, and it would be on an important date in September, maybe my birthday or an anniversary. He would be south of my home near cornfields, train tracks, and a boxing gym. He would be different than the other pups and definitely stand

out. She said "if you don't



Prince & Amanda

recognize him, it doesn't matter, he will NOT let you leave without him!"

Now, at this point, I was feeling the need to see how these women were doing this and feeling maybe I could do this, too! I took a basic class on communicating with animals and couldn't believe how well I did. I was actually "talking" to other people's animal friends. I was so impressed, I took many more classes and was openly "talking and listening" to my other two dogs at home. However, anytime I tried to communicate with Prince, I felt the sadness of missing his physical presence and just cried. Finally one day I did it! I felt the strongest connection and Prince told me, "I miss you very much, but will see you soon, please be patient. It's very dirty here, so check me for fleas when I come home." I was thrilled.

The final communication I had was with a woman with whom I had taken many classes. She told me immediately Prince

would be back on an important day to me in mid September. He would be a soft gold color with some white on him. She said I would find a notice on a bulletin board and one of his parents would look strikingly like Prince looked before. I was so excited!

On September 15 around 10 AM, the phone rang. "Hi Amanda, you don't know me, but my name is Tyler. My dad works out at your gym; he told me you do pit rescue. I'm wondering if you can help me. I need you to post a foster of mine on Petfinder; our computer is down and she is in urgent need of a forever home." I hopped online and posted her on PF. I also cross-referenced her ad on Craigslist. As I clicked the ad to see if it posted, another ad showed up first. "RED NOSE PIT PUPS, PLEASE READ" was the title with only a number listed. I was puzzled why the wrong ad came up and at the same time felt excited. I picked up the phone and asked the man that answered, "Are any of the pups gold?" "Yes," he said, "only one, a boy." He said I could come at 6 PM. I could hardly wait.

The man kept calling to change the time, making it later and later. Finally he agreed to 9 PM, so my mother and I took the two-hour drive south. As we neared his home, we passed endless cornfields. A few blocks away, we drove over train tracks and past a huge boxing gym. Tears streamed down my face. We waited for the man to arrive home from work until finally at midnight he got there. It was now officially September 16, my wedding anniversary! He apologized for being late and stated "Sorry about this, too, but I have to bring the puppies out front, my house is too dirty to let you in." My jaw dropped.

First he brought out the parents; the father looked so much like Prince, my mom bawled her eyes out. It was unreal; his height, weight, color patterns—everything was identical. Then out came the pups. Every one of them was a beautiful red brindle like the father and Prince's old coloring except one—a gorgeous golden boy. He bolted over to me as the others played with each other and climbed up my leg to be held, crying and whimpering. The man selling the pups remarked how odd this was, since this pup normally didn't like people. The man bent down and all of the puppies ran to him except the golden boy, who wouldn't leave my side. As I picked him up, I noticed he had a protruding belly button. "What's this?" I asked the man. "I have no idea; he's the only one like that." This pup definitely stood out.

At this point I was flabbergasted that all the predicted characteristics had come to life. I was in shock and felt I was going crazy. "NO WAY is this real; this isn't real. It's too good to be true," I thought to myself. I told the man, I had to go home and sleep on this. I was feeling nauseous and my head was spinning. So, he put the puppies back in the crate and picked it up to go in the house. As I walked away, one puppy yelped, squeezed out, and headed over to me at high speed. It was Prince. He wouldn't let me leave without him. I picked him up and cried, "You came back to me; you were a good boy, so the angels let you come back, just like Pinocchio!"

On the way home, he scratched and pawed at the window to

roll it down, just as he always had before. At home, my brother and several friends were there to greet us. They all bent down and called the pup over, yet he only ran up to my brother in recognition and ignored everyone else. The pup knew his way around our house, ran right over to where we used to feed him, and looked puzzled that the food bowls had been moved. When he went into the room where he was attacked in his last incarnation, he began to whimper and tremble. I picked him up and promised to always keep him safe. Two days after he got home, we found fleas on him. I never thought I'd be so happy to see fleas in my life!

The look on my dog Tyson's face was priceless when he saw the pup. Prince and he had been dear friends for 7 years and Tyson was very sad with him gone. Since coming home, Prince as the new pup still has all the same silly quirks. He refuses to eat out of a bowl; you have to put his food on the floor right next to his bowl. He has to be in the bathroom while I bathe. Then he jumps into the bath with me and hops right back out, looking upset that he got wet! Prince hates meat, but is crazy about bread, cheese, and ice cream.

Other people have noticed the resemblance. A co-worker, who knew nothing of my beliefs or animal communication, met the reincarnated Prince and stated "It's kind of eerie: when I look at him, I see your old dog's soul." Interestingly, my 15-year-old cousin was over at my house for breakfast. He asked, "Can Prince have some of my sausage?" "Sure," I replied, "but he still hates meat." Like many other people, he was initially skeptical. When my cousin bent down and offered Prince the sausage, Prince sniffed it and walked away. My cousin then offered him a cheese biscuit. Prince gobbled it up, and then begged for more. "HE IS THE SAME DOG!" was all he could say.

I recently took Prince to have his pictures taken at a studio. When my husband and I looked at his old photos and his new ones, we were surprised how similar he appeared in his expressions. The poses, body positioning, the sloppy posture, and the looks he gave were all identical. Oh and YES, he is very pretty this time. Although I always thought he was the most beautiful baby in the world, others were scared of him, and always remarked he looked "mean." Not this time. Prince is being used as a model on a website, has won a cute dog contest, and is even a model on handbags! Even more amazing is that people are never scared of him, he does therapy at a nursing home, and people love him everywhere we go!

The day after I got Prince I took him to the vet; the vet tech fell in love with him and asked to hold him. As she picked him up, he began to yelp and throw his body around until she handed him back to me. Then he relaxed and excitedly kissed my face. "WOW, he is so attached to you! I assume you have the mother, too, then?" she exclaimed. "No, I just got him about 9 hours ago," I answered. "I'm so shocked that he is so attached in such a short period of time. I swear, I'd think you had him forever by the way he acts!" she replied. I smiled and thought to myself, "I have."

### Pogs in Prison

**Shirley Scott** 

One of my clients in Seattle told the director of Pawfect Connections, a non-profit organization out of Seattle, that I was an animal communicator and dog trainer and they should call me to be the dog trainer for a new program starting in the Walla Walla State Penitentiary. In June 2009, a representative from Pawfect Connections asked if I would like to volunteer. I listened as the woman on the phone was explaining a program I had seen several times on TV, where dogs were trained in prisons. However, this would be new because it would be in a men's prison and all the programs had previously been in women's prisons.

I sat dumbfounded for about two seconds before the word, "yes" came flying out of my mouth. As an animal communicator I already knew the healing effect animals have on humans but this was an opportunity of a lifetime to be of service to dogs as well as

humans.

was unnerving. The steel doors shutting behind me and the fact someone else had to let me out made me very aware of where I was. There was nothing I could bring into the prison like training tools other than treats and everything had to be examined, X-rayed, and sent through a metal detector.

I met with the men to explain the rules and regulations of the program, how the dogs would be trained, and what "positive reenforcement" meant. I explained to them we'd be working as a team. I could tell by the look in their eyes they weren't ready to be a team. I knew I had my work cut out for me. I know dogs work as a pack and I was hoping the dogs' behavior would rub off on the men in a positive way.

On Aug. 17, 2009 our local humane society delivered the first group of six dogs who would live with the inmates for the next 8 to 10 weeks. The dogs ranged in age between 8 months and 4 years, were wild with energy, and had no manners whatsoever.

As each new trainer took his dog to the grooming area for a bath, it was the first time I had seen some of the men smile. It was amazing to see how these men took to their dogs. They were



The Walla Walla State Penitentiary is known as a "three strikes you're out" place. It's one of the toughest prisons in the country, home to many offenders who are doing life without parole because of violent crimes. I was wondering how this program was going to work in such a strict environment.

The program was in the final stages and I was one of the last pieces to get put into place. However, several more things had to happen before the dogs actually came to the prison. The men who were going to be trainers had to live in the same unit on the same level. Matching two men who would get along in one small cell was a challenge. As most of us have heard, there are ethnic lines in prisons and to cross them can mean trouble. The unit supervisor was a woman with over 19 years experience in prisons and she knew her job well. She hand-picked who would be in the program and who would live with whom after looking at their records and listening to them.

Within a few weeks, everything was ready and I went to talk to the new trainers. This was my first experience in prison and it

laughing, petting and hugging the dogs, and were already treating them like their own pets.

There would be two trainers to a cell and we had 4 alternate trainers. The alternates would take over if neither of the other two trainers could be with the dogs. This was to ensure the dogs would never be alone and also to socialize them with other people. A special area was set up for potty breaks and there was a schedule for dog exercise, training, playing, and socialization with each other and the general prison population.

This first day was about getting the dogs groomed and walking them around their new home, Unit 7. I left the men with last minute reminders about watering and feeding the dogs. I also left each dog with the message that this was their new home. I heard some of the dogs whining at the bars of the cells as I started to leave but I realized this was a learned behavior from being behind bars at the animal shelter. Once their new people got their attention and the dogs realized they had company, they were quiet and

turned their attention to their new humans.

The next day was the first day of training. I had already met several times with the men in the program and I had even brought one of my dogs in to show them how I wanted them to train the dogs. This training was a new concept for them because I train with positive reinforcement; negative behavior is ignored. This way the dog learns that when he minds, he gets attention and treats and when he doesn't mind, he gets nothing, not even a harsh word. These men had been in an environment for many years where they only got attention for bad actions and nothing for good actions. It was a new learning process for them.

I was there every day the first week. By the end of the week, most of the dogs were sitting and staying on command. The men were smiling and seemed much happier. They were also starting to talk to each other and their color or status didn't seem to matter as much.

For the next few weeks, we met three times a week. With every visit I had another learning experience. There was signing in when I first arrived, followed by locking up my car keys, cell phone, wallet, and anything else of value. Then I turned in my driver's license to the first security booth to get my clearance badge. I walked through empty halls that echoed my footsteps. Steel doors opened to another security check point followed by more steel doors that lead me through more long empty hallways with cameras placed at both ends and in the middle. Just before entering the razor wire-topped walls of the cement yard, where the offenders were allowed to walk around freely, I had to go through a metal detector. After clearing this point, I had to sign in again so they knew I was in the prison and where I was going. Then I walked to the training yard under the watchful eyes of guards armed with guns in one of the several towers. I was always escorted by a guard or staff member who unlocked the 12-foot-high chain link fence that lead to an outside enclosure. After I walked in, they walked in and locked the gate behind me. Locked in an area with six to twelve prisoners, six dogs, and one guard gave me a funny feeling at first but I finally got used to it. The energy felt like a mixture of mistrust, control, and anger. It really made me thankful I'm living on the outside of those walls.

After a few weeks, things slowly began to improve. Offenders who were not in the program began to watch the dogs being trained instead of trying to make the dogs bark. By the fourth week, the dogs were sitting, staying, coming, shaking, walking on a leash without pulling, and several other commands. Only one man had to be pulled from the program because of his behavior and he was replaced the same day.

When one of the trainers noticed a lump on his dog's lower back, I've never seen so many men so concerned over an animal. All the men in the program wanted me to take the dog to the vet, which we had to get clearance to do. Within 24 hours, Buck, the dog was in the vet's office getting the lump removed. Then it was like watching expectant fathers in a waiting room. Every time I went for a training session, Buck's trainers were there without him and wanted a report on him. I could see tears in their eyes as they

were afraid the dog would have to be put down. Buck stayed at the vet's office until we were sure he was healing and then both he and his trainers had a very emotional and happy reunion.

After six weeks of training, the media was invited in to see what the program was all about and what the dogs and their new trainers had learned. Here are some of the program participants' quotes.

It brings out character in me. It helps me to be in tune more with myself, kind of takes away from all the negative that goes on around me and brings in positivity.

My dog has been a blessing in disguise. He's helped me with my anxiety; he keeps me in a good mood. It's hard in here day after day, year after year. It's just been great.

I'm learning patience and trust and a love that I haven't felt in years. I want to stay in this program as long as I'm here.

I know my dog is going to leave and it will hurt but he's going to a good home and I'll have another dog to train in a few weeks. It's time to give back to the community instead of taking from it.

This program has changed my outlook on life. I know I'll be here until I die, but at least I'll be doing something constructive and I'll have a companion of some kind to help me every day.

I would never have talked to half the men I've talked to in the last few weeks. There are no boundaries when it comes to who my dog likes and he's taught me to look at the real person, not their color.

The dogs have learned things, too. They are now well behaved citizens, most of the time, who love their trainers as much as the trainers love them. George, the basset hound, loves to have his tummy rubbed and listens to music with head phones. Hiro, who looks like a miniature Jersey cow that Sadie the border collie loves to herd, likes to fetch the ball until he drops. Sadie is a great cow dog. Buck will make a great dog for kids and Kaili will be a very good family dog. Fox is loyal to his trainer and is now learning to pick up things and hand them back because he was adopted by a man in a wheelchair who will need this kind of help.

Even the prison superintendent admits that the inmates are speaking with staff in a more respectful way and the staff is responding back. There is a positive change in the offenders and staff in the program and with the general population and other staff members as well. It's amazing what the presence of six young dogs can do to so many grown-up people. I get to watch, witness, and be part of this wonderful healing.

The dogs graduated on Oct. 21, 2009 with their CGC (canine good citizen award) and all of them went to their new adoptive homes. I have volunteered to go to each home and show them how we trained the dogs. It was a day of tears for all of us. Tears of sadness to see the dogs leave, yet tears of joy because they were all

going to new loving homes, tears of the unknown of what would happen to them next, and tears of happiness, knowing in a few weeks we would start all over again with another group of dogs.

One of the trainers said, "I don't think it'll get any easier to see them go but it's worth all the pain of losing them because they are free and loved. Some of us don't even have that." Another offender



Darnell Crawford, released inmate, & Kaili

has had his sentence overturned and is getting out. His aunt is adopting his dog so he can have her. He wants to be a dog trainer and volunteer at a boy's center to show young kids how to treat and train animals. He wants to be our first success story. Another trainer shared his gratitude for the program:

My name is Billy and I'm a first time felon out of Spokane County. At a young age I committed homicide under the influence of alcohol. I ruined my

life and took the lives of two by my actions. I was wrong in doing so and I apologize dearly and hope to be forgiven. That was the summer of 1983. I was charged with aggravated first degree murder and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. I have now been incarcerated at the Walla Walla State Penitentiary for the last twenty-seven years, no closer to being released than the first day I arrived here.

I'm currently forty-seven years old, smarter and wiser and this privilege of training dogs is just what I need at this time in my life. Being incarcerated is hard on the mind and soul even though I have a wonderful wife and daughter on the outside.

I got to train a Bassett hound named George, who my wife has now adopted. When I first saw George, it was love at first sight. The last 10 weeks have been God-sent. This program has changed me from the way I now think and feel from the moment I wake to when I fall asleep. My outlook is so much more positive and I now have a self-appreciation knowing I somehow saved George who was abandoned to the local shelter. I also have a pride in myself for applying and being accepted for this positive program. I'm now able to give back to society, learn communication skills, and train these dogs, which helps the local community and shelter. Finally, my life isn't being wasted in prison. I look forward to the next group of dogs and many more after that.

### VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

Veteran animal communicators share wise words in this Q&A section to support everyone in the growing community of animal communicators. We welcome your questions!

Compiled and edited by Suzan Vaughn & Penelope Smith with contributions by order of appearance from Cathy Currea, Dr. Jeri Ryan, Jennifer Gross, Laurie Moore, Shirley Scott, Eileen Garfinkel, Heidi Wright, Elizabeth Severino, Nina Dale, Nicole Roberts, Maia Kincaid, Thomas Cheng, Janet Dobbs, Kumari Mullin, Jeannie Lindheim, Sage Lewis, Tim Link, Cécile Medina-Castrejon, Theresa Nygard

### Confidentiality, Trust & Transformation

If an animal asks an animal communicator to withhold the information from their person, should we follow their wishes or tell their humans in all circumstances?

Cathy Currea

For several animal communicators, following the animal's requests without question was paramount. However, that did not negate the need for good counsel, diplomacy, and skill in negotiation on the part of all parties involved. We begin answering the question with psychotherapist and animal communicator, Dr. Jeri Ryan's very complete formula for handling requests for confidentiality.

### Template for Professionals

**Dr. Ryan** has created a template of the relationship between the animal communicator and the person, and between the animal communicator and the animal, "that makes the decision relatively

easy with few exceptions. The first part of the template consists of the role that I, as the animal communicator, assume with the person. I am the person's Agent to the animal. The person has asked me to help solve a problem. That becomes my goal in the communication. I hear and honor the person's concerns and support them emotionally.

#### **Pual Roles**

"The template prescribes that the animal communicator plays a dual role. I also advocate for the animal to the animal's person. After educating the person that the animal is an intelligent, emotional, rational being, and not just being naughty or trying to 'get

back at them,' I point out that no matter how obnoxious a behavior is, the animal has a reason for it. As can be the case with children, that reason may seem silly or irrelevant to us as adult humans. It is, however, very important to the child or the animal. If the problem is to be resolved, the reason must be respected and honored. The reason must have a place in the solution to the problem, and the animal and the person have to know that. In that way, I have laid out a foundation of respect and care for both the person and her/his companion animal. Now, I must follow through and be there for both. That means that I do tell the person everything the animal says exactly as the animal says it, so the person can also get the emotional flavor."

#### Reactive Emotions

**Dr. Ryan** explains, "If the animal says something that could be hurtful or offensive to the person, it may be coming from unresolved emotions, personal style, or perhaps some communicative clumsiness: no different than is the case with humans. The animal's strong reaction could be appropriate. Because I want the problem to be resolved, the person has to understand his/her impact upon the animal and the animal's reactions to it, so I tell the person what the animal said. I will then be there for the person by hearing her/his pain around the animal's statement, whether it is sadness, anxiety, or anger. I

help the person to address it, support them around it, and help to resolve it if possible and appropriate. I also support the animal's position by educating the person in a general way about it, and in a very specific way for the animal at hand. In this way, I am fulfilling both of my roles: agent and advocate. Then we can find specific solutions to the problem."

### **Negotiations**

When the animal asks **Dr. Ryan** to keep information confidential, she continues to probe the animal's motivations. "Why does the animal want me to hold back that information? I really want the animal to understand that I need to tell her/his person everything in order to meet her/his needs and the person's needs as well. If the animal does not give up the position of wanting me to keep a secret from the person, I have to be honest by informing the animal how it is in his/her best interests for me to tell all to his/her person. The animal then knows I will not keep a secret. As is the case with human children, even though telling the person goes against their ostensible wishes, the animal is often relieved because the situation is being handled, and is out of his/her paws, so to speak.

"I know that we animal communicators love the animals so much that we don't want to disappoint them, and we don't want

them to be disappointed in us. I am no exception to that. However, as is the case with parents and teachers vis-à-vis children, sometimes we have to disappoint them for the sake of their own best interests. The only way the problem can be resolved to everyone's satisfaction is to have all the cards on the table."

### Secrecy Leads Nowhere

"It's not helpful to the animals to collude with them to be secretive," says **Dr. Ryan**. "It takes the problem nowhere. It cannot be resolved. We are then stuck in limbo. It is also just plain disrespectful of the person and of the animal. The implication is that they are not capable of handling fallout in their relationship. We

all have to learn to do that. Secrecy also assumes that the animal communicator is incapable of helping to handle the emotional fallout."



Dr. Jeri Ryan

#### Professional Boundaries

"Animal communicators must keep clear boundaries between themselves and their clients. That requires a lot of self-reflection in order to understand their motivations with their clients and within specific aspects of the consultations. Self-reflection is the name of the game for anyone in the helping professions. If we want to be sure we please the animal or the person and make sure they like us by saying only what makes them feel good, we are not only interfering with the

progress of specific consultations, we are interfering with the progress of our professional and personal growth.

"Remember that the person is in charge. We cannot help the animal without working as a team member with the person. Without assistance from the consultation, they might resort to less than desirable means to resolve the situation. As animal communicators, we have to be willing to deal with the tough situations. The good news about that is that when these tough emotional situations are resolved, the person and the animal very often reach a higher level of closeness in their relationship. That is the greatest reward," **Dr. Ryan** says.

### **Exceptions**

"The exception to the rule is an animal in danger," **Dr. Ryan** explained. "If the animal feels they are in danger, or if I suspect that danger could result from saying something the animal has told me, I will hold it back. That is the case whether or not the animal has asked me to do so. I then have another responsibility. I need to contact a humane officer to evaluate the situation. That can be done anonymously, if needed. While the laws protecting the safety and wellbeing of nonhuman animals are still vastly in need of improvement, they are slowly progressing in their cover-

age and enforcement. Reporting such incidents is not anyone's favorite responsibility. Hopefully, the need for such reporting will remain rare, as it is now."

#### Pisclosure = Prainage

**Dr. Ryan** acknowledges, "There is no easy answer to the complex situation now to be addressed. Suppose an animal tells us something that could become a threat to the status of the person's marriage or partnership. That's the one that puts us on the fence. My personal belief is that avoiding the truth in such situations prolongs the agony of whatever in the relationship set up the situation mentioned by the animal. Remember that the medical solution to preventing an abscess from becoming life threatening is to open it to let it drain. Without drainage, it often goes deeper and may become incurable. Facing the truth

in such situations in marriages and partnerships can provide an opportunity to heal, in whatever form the healing may take. Having said that, I strongly recommend that a great deal of caution be taken when deciding whether to relay delicate information from the animal. My personal belief about truth frequently does not hold up here.

"It may be too much of a shock to the person to take in the information. It may be too traumatic for

her/him. The situation could become volatile. The person may feel helpless and hopeless. He/she may become incapacitated by high anxiety and/or by depression. S/he will need tremendous support and guidance toward resources that can be of tangible ongoing help, if the client is even ready for that."

### **Proceed With Caution**

**Dr. Ryan** advocates proceeding with great caution in such delicate and complex situations. "I advise all animal communicators to do the same. When considering telling the person, the animal communicator needs to know what he/she is doing relative to what the situation requires and what the person needs. The animal communicator also needs to have a good sense of the person's stability and resilience before considering addressing the issue. If this awareness does not exist or if there is the slightest doubt about the risks involved, I strongly recommend that the secret remain secret.

"It's just not helpful to clients for the animal communicator to be immersed suddenly in conjugal problems. The original purpose of the call must not be lost but it will be if the focus changes to the conjugal problem. Therefore, the focus here needs to remain on answering the needs of that original request.

#### Issues Of Trust

"Our clients trust us and revere us. We need to be worthy of that. Most of life's choices are not simply black and white. Delicate situations are more difficult but our integrity is strengthened when we tough it out," **Dr. Ryan** says.

#### Animal as Client

Jennifer Gross follows the animal's wishes. "I look at myself as a mediator and counselor through which messages pass to help each being understand one another. If an animal wants something to be kept confidential, I keep it confidential. I made a

confidential pact with a dog: if he would quit having seizures, his person might believe there was something to this telepathy business. I said I would not tell his person why he quit having seizures, but I did counsel his person that the cause of the seizure might be something non-physical. Both the dog and I kept the pact."

**Laurie Moore** advocates, "absolutely respecting the animal's

Photo by Hari Camino

reasons, wisdom, and need for privacy unless withholding the information will put the animal in danger."

If an animal asks **Shirley Scott** to withhold information from their person, she honors that request. "Sometimes animals tell me they are trying to teach a lesson and they want their human to come to the realization on their own. They say that's how humans best remember the lesson and it's the most frequent reason why an animal would ask me to withhold information. The second most frequent reason for withholding information is when they are going to die."

At the beginning of each session, **Eileen Garfinkel** tells the animal that anything shared in confidence will be kept confidential. "How will any animal trust me if I betray a confidence? Trust is the basis of my work; trust in the way all things work from the infinitesimal to the universal. If an animal is hiding something, I ask why. I may offer suggestions but the rest is up to the animal. My first loyalty is to my client, the animal. Often, they are so much wiser than I am. I've never felt it necessary to divulge a confidence," she says.

"I believe it is best to follow the wishes of the animals in order to maintain an open line of communication since many animal issues stem from lack of trust," says **Heidi Wright**. "So, if I'm able to get the animal to open up to me, it's vital that they trust me. I tell the animals that I am on their side and will do as they wish and that I am only a translator. If, however, there is an important issue that I feel the human really needs to know, I will negotiate with the animal to get their permission to tell their person.

### **Poctor-Patient Confidentiality**

Elizabeth Severino's way of looking at the issue is colored by her work as a professional people counselor. She asks herself, "Do I observe the protocol of doctor-patient confidentiality when it comes to animals?" Her answer is "Yes, I do. While offering my services in an animal communication session, when I am asked either directly or implicitly by the animal to withhold information from the person, I always honor that request. At the same time I ask the animal why they've made the request. Depending on the circumstance, including the nature of the information being withheld, I may negotiate with the animal about his or her position."

#### Matters Of Life Or Peath

A client called **Elizabeth Severino** to say her cat was lost and she wanted him back. "I immediately found the cat energetically. The cat said to me, *She hurts me and often I go hungry. I left because I finally could. She wants me back because she wants to kill me.* The cat sent very clear images of abusive experiences.

"For me, this communication contained an implicit request to not speak this truth to the cat's person. Feeling the circumstances, I addressed the woman and asked her general questions about her relationship with her cat. While listening to the woman, who at first was speaking of how important the cat was to her, I received very clear additional images of abuse to the cat. A few minutes later, the woman changed suddenly, exploding in anger and voicing expletives at her cat. She screamed into the phone, The only reason I want that cat back is to show it who's boss and then put it down for daring to run away from me!

"The cat was in an area geographically familiar to me. I gave him directions to the closest no-kill shelter telling the woman I could be of no further help to her and that I would credit her card back. After hanging up, I called a friend at the no-kill shelter, explained the situation, and told them to expect the cat. They called me the following morning to let me know the cat had arrived," Elizabeth recounted.

### **Piplomacy and Negotiations**

**Nina Dale** calls maintaining confidentiality for animals a perplexing situation she's experienced "a handful of times. I've handled it by telling the human that the animal has asked me to keep a confidence at least for now, leaving the door open for the animal to

be more forthcoming in the future. Sometimes I can provide general information about the nature of the confidence or offer a reason. I might tell the human the animal is embarrassed or doesn't want to stress them or that the information is just for healing purposes. But I will put the animal's needs before the human's needs, as I consider the animal my client."

In another euthanasia case, **Elizabeth Severino's** client wanted to know if her animal was ready to die. "Immediately upon connection, the animal told me he was getting ready to drop his body. He didn't want his human to know because he felt she couldn't handle it. He asked me not to tell her.

"I asked the animal what he thought would happen if his person was told his truth during our communication session. He said she would cry and feel desperately lost and very guilty. I asked him if he thought it would help to give her something else to do, like an honoring ritual. She would probably cry, I told him, but the ritual would also allow her to show her love, appreciation, and gratitude for their life together. He thought about it and agreed. Shortly afterward, he gave me permission to tell his person and together, the three of us designed a beautiful, highly personalized, honoring ritual, deeply appreciated by both of them."

"If an animal asks me to keep a confidence, I ask the animal why they would like the information withheld," says **Nicole Roberts**. "If I feel their answer makes sense and is in the best interest of all involved then I will keep the secret. An animal will not usually tell me something they really don't want their people to know. But when they do, it becomes an issue of helping the animal understand that the person can handle it if the information is shared."

The animals know best, in **Maia Kincaid's** view. "In all my years of conversing with people's pets I have gathered a great sense of respect and trust in the discernment of the animals. I follow through with their wishes because they have proven to me that they know humans sometimes better than we know ourselves! They know how their human will receive the information and the correct timing for delivering the message."

#### Good Counsel

Nicole Roberts says sometimes, the animal just needs to "know that it's alright for them to have certain thoughts and feelings that are different than what their person wants to hear. A common example is in the case of an animal who wishes to have help leaving the body through euthanasia, but the person doesn't want to let the animal go. I work with the animal until they are comfortable with me sharing the information. I believe that if an animal tells me something, they really would like that information shared."

**Suzan Vaughn**, makes agreements with her Higher Sources and the animals about who she is best equipped to serve. "They know I'm a frank, straightforward counselor and those who seek me out are ready for a more direct approach. Secrecy is a breeding

ground for dis-ease, and all issues should be skillfully and diplomatically offered into the light for healing."

#### Code of Ethics

Thomas Cheng and Janet Dobbs both point to the Animal Communicator Code of Ethics (found on <a href="www.animaltalk.net">www.animaltalk.net</a> animal communicator directory page) for their points of view. Thomas feels, "It's in our Code of Ethic that we must respect the will of the animal and withhold such information from their person. Animals do that for a reason and we must not pretend to be smarter than them and reveal the information to their person, thinking that it will be better off for everybody."

Over the years, **Janet Dobbs** says there seems to be two schools of thought on this topic and both sides have passionate feelings and arguments. "Some people feel it's their duty to tell everything received. But as professional communicators, if we subscribe to the Code of Ethics the clear answer is that we must respect and honor the animal's wishes and requests."

Penelope Smith adds that while the Code of Ethics states: We respect the privacy of people and animal companions we work with, and honor their desire for confidentiality, honoring confidentiality does not necessarily mean completely withholding information in certain situations when it can be communicated in a way that is helpful to bring harmony and understanding. This needs to be tempered and interpreted along with other aspects of the Code of Ethics, such as:

We seek to draw out the best in everyone and increase understanding toward mutual resolution of problems....The goal of any consultation, lecture, workshop, or interspecies experience is more communication, balance, compassion, understanding, and communion among all beings. We follow our heart, honoring the spirit and life of all beings as One.

Penelope finds that Jeri Ryan's template in this article thoroughly interprets the confidentiality/secrecy/withholding issue in alignment with our Code of Ethics.

### Betrayal and Redemption

Janet Dobbs feels that sometimes our job is to be a simple sounding board for an animal. A safe and healing place to dump pent up emotions can do wonders for an animal. Often, she's found animals just needed to tell someone and then they were able to move past an issue. Janet goes on to say, "I learned this lesson in a very hard way many years ago with a delightful horse named Sally. She was the horse of a young girl in her early teens, but owned by the girl's mother. Sally was new to them and had several previous purchasers. The mother came to me wanting to know why Sally always took a jump in a certain way.

"I did this conversation via e-mail so I had the luxury of sitting with Sally without being interrupted or distracted. The conversation took many interesting turns, some quite dark and disturbing. But I knew that I needed to allow it to move forward and unfold so I listened to her.

"After sharing this experience with me, she asked me not to tell her human companions. Sadly, I betrayed her because I was so disturbed by the information. I told her adult human mom, setting a whole chain of events into motion. She told other people at the barn and soon during their daughter's riding lessons they would all say, 'Poor Sally.'

"I realized what a horrible mistake I had made as well as the worst betrayal of trust and I went back to Sally to ask her forgiveness. Her response was that she was not poor anything; she was a survivor. She did not want anyone feeling sorry for her in any way. She just needed me to sit, listen, and keep it to myself as she released the situation.

"I had many talks with Sally after that, listening and keeping things to myself. She has a huge and forgiving heart and so much compassion. I am grateful for that. Sally has become a great teacher for me as I teach my students the importance of honoring the animals, especially if they specifically request that you do not share information with their human."

Nicole Roberts has had good results when talking animals into telling the things they want to keep secret. "If after negotiating with an animal, they still do not want certain information shared that I feel would be beneficial to all concerned, I apologetically go against the animal's wishes and convey what I have received. I have only had to do this a couple times during the last twelve years of intensive work. In both cases the animal was happy that I did it because they got their needs expressed while I took the heat for being the messenger!"

#### Full Disclosure

For **Kumari Mullin**, each situation is different. "Once a mare told me something when her person left the stall and I felt she was trying to protect her person from unnecessary worry. I agreed not to share the details as I felt the horse had a good point. However, I normally try to get the animals to want to share and I prompt them in that direction. Full disclosure is usually the most healing, so I



Kumar

find a way to work it in. If I am patient enough, the opportunity arises and I am able to share without anyone getting their feelings hurt. I think it is a function of holding a truly neutral and non-judgmental place, which gains everyone's trust.

"It is very important to dig into the information and continue the dialogue so motives and details become clearer, as many initial

comments can be said in haste or be on a very surface level or from a misunderstanding. I always try to go deeper."

### Mixed Messages

Kumari just worked with a dog who had convinced her very intuitive holistic vet that she wanted to die. The vet suggested only palliative care as the dog had serious health issues. "He assumed she only had a few months. I got the same message when I first communicated with her, but after some investigating and serious soulretrieval work, I found it was not necessary. She was manifesting the exact symptoms of a dog who just passed in her household, and she totally bounced back. If I had listened to her initial comments without doing several healings techniques and investigating if it truly was her time, I would have told the family she was ready to leave her body!" she remembered.

#### Transformative Power

Kumari won't pass along hurtful messages from (wo)man or beast! "While very rare, once an animal said something that I would not translate to the person. It was hurtful in nature. I explained that their person was paying me to talk to them, and they really were trying to find solutions. After about twenty minutes, the conversation turned to feeling abandoned, and I was able to share that was how the cat felt, and it was an incredible 'aha' moment for both of them. I'm always looking for solutions but I won't agree to be a mouthpiece for angry or spiteful attacks from either humans or animals," she declared.

### Guide Pog

Maia Kincaid remembers an occasion when a dog asked her to withhold information from his human because he knew that if she were to receive the entire story at that particular time, she would believe her actions resulted in her dog's death. "He wanted her to understand that she was greatly loved and appreciated, and that she did not do anything to harm him. I shared this information with her, but due to the request of the dog, I did not share the entire story. The dog let me know the details to help me understand the situation and to help me with my work. Years later, the dog began to join me in my thoughts until I paused to communi-

cate with him. We talked about his story and I agreed with him that it was time to share the withheld parts with his person. She seemed ready, and she knew there was something more to the story. Now able to take in the information in the way that it was intended, she thanked us for waiting until the time was right to share the information."

### Never Had It Happen

Jeannie Lindheim has never had an animal request that she withhold information. "But animals can be angry at their human companions, and I try to communicate what the animal wants in a way that would be most helpful. My intention is that the communication is for the highest good of both the animal and the person," she says. "A sweet cat was upset at his person because he wanted more attention. He showed me how furious he was. I translated it to the person as, 'Your cat would love to be closer to you.' The cat showed me he wanted to be near his person's desk, in a box, so I asked if there was a place to put a box near his desk. The man said there was and in an e-mail I received a few weeks later, he said their relationship had been transformed and they were much closer than they'd ever been before."

Sage Lewis hasn't had that happen in the last eight years she's been a practicing animal communicator, but in talking with the animal kingdom at large, she says they've asked her not to hold anything back just to make it easier for people to hear. Although Sage says animals should be allowed to ask for confidentiality, "sometimes that can be challenging. I would tell the human that the animal asked that some information be withheld, and I would ask the animal to explain why."

Tim Link has never had a situation in which an animal asked him to withhold information. "Animals are pure and honest with their feelings and are appreciative of the opportunity to share information with their human companions. Sometimes, the information is sensitive and you have to phrase it in a manner that won't offend or hurt the feelings of their human companions. However, your role as an animal communicator is to open up the channels between the animals and their human companions in order to build the best relationship possible."

### What's in a Name?

Do animals have animals have animal names? For example, I call my dog Fido but do all his animal friends call him Joe?

Cécile Medina-Castrejon

### It's a Human Thing

Names are generally a human construction of identification, according to mentor **Penelope Smith**. "Animals address each other by their recognition of 'being' which can be identified as certain senses, feelings, qualities, or energies that they project to each other. Through association with humans, some use the word form

of names, but most project energies, feelings, or sensations in recognition of each other. We translate that to a 'name' that aligns with those qualities," she says.

**Dr. Jeri Ryan** has found very few domestic animals who have given names to themselves or to other animals other than the names given them by their persons. "Some have nicknames, usual-

ly given them by other animals. Domestic animals do have preferences for certain names. They may like or dislike a name because of the history associated with it, how it sounds, or its connotations.

"It is not uncommon for people to ask an animal entering the family what s/he would like to be called. Very often, not always, the animals choose human names. This may be a result of generations of living in the human culture and being exposed to human names. Very often also, they might want to be called a name associated with Nature such as Moonlight, Leaf, Starburst, River, or Snow. Some humans like Nature names as well, and may change their own given names accordingly.

"I am fascinated most of all by the fact that, without us, animals probably don't need names. I have heard that from animals in the wild. We use names for purposes of identification and to get each other's attention. Animals in the wild have strong intuitive and telepathic senses that feed their understanding and intentions so when they want to connect with another animal, they intend that connection just by bringing the animal to mind."

#### They Sure Po

Nina Dale often finds that animals choose names for themselves, and for their family members (human and others). "Out of curiosity, I always research the names they provide and, more often than not, the names have some meaning that accurately describes the temperament or life of the named party. An abused and aggressive horse at a horse shelter was called Stormy. He insisted his name was Smokey. He said, "If they always perceive me as Stormy, they will never notice when I calm down. It's sort of like prophecy fulfillment. They want to see me as Stormy and so I will always be stormy. But I

like to think of myself as smoke. As smoke I can waft gently on the breeze, visit other horses and travel beyond my pen in an easy and peaceful way."

Nina has also spoken to animals who are reincarnated family members of a human client, crossing species lines on their return. "They tell me that their name is whatever the name was in human life. For example, at a party, someone wanted to test my skills and asked me about her dachshund. I described him absolutely, in terms of physical appearance and temperament. But as I started describing his behaviors out loud, the woman said, "Now that I'm hearing these traits all put together in one picture, it sounds like you're describing my dead grandfather." Then the dog told me, "My name is Otto" (the name of her grandfather). The woman dropped her wine glass and nearly fainted!"

Thomas Cheng says many animals do have their own names, but will choose to respond to the name assigned by their humans. Some even change their original name to the one assigned by their humans.

**Heidi Wright** recently worked with a dog named Fanny and learned that animals have nicknames. "When I asked another housemate about Fanny, he called her 'Fan'. When I communicate to animals about other animals, they usually refer to each other by the names given by humans, or nicknames."

Many animal clients do have pet names for their animal friends, according to **Janet Dobbs**. "In a consultation, I call their animal friend by the name that the human companion has given them. But, many times a totally different name comes up in the course of the conversation. I usually smile, as it is their own term of endearment for their animal friend or perhaps a name they use that's not so endearing."

From **Maia Kincaid's** understanding, animals know the names we call them and they have an association with the names

we call other animals. "They pay attention to the names we use and how they sound as a way to connect with us in our language, but they don't name themselves like we do. The way they name themselves seems to match up well with their particular spirit and way of being and they tend to choose their own name when they are a young adult in relation to how they are in their natural environment.

"A raven that called herself Fred talked to me about the way ravens receive their names. In my book *The Joy of Being Human, From the Wise* 



Maia and Orson

Counsel of Plants, Animals, Insects & the Earth a skunk fondly named herself Petunia to connect with humans and talked about how skunks name themselves."

### How the Wild Ones Po It

Jeri Ryan's "experience with animals living in a wild herd or feral colony is that they sometimes name themselves, and I emphasize sometimes. They do it according to appearances; e.g., Too Tall, or Long Tail, or Broken Tooth, or Big Toes, etc., or according to behavior; e.g., Snappy, or Growly, or Eats Too Much, or Licks My Face, or Chews Ears. Sometimes they name each other according to the role an animal plays: The Wise One, or The Mother One."

### Self-Fulfilling Prophecy

"The animals," says **Jeri Ryan**, "just like human children, do live up to their names. It is then incumbent upon us humans to name them carefully. Teachers who call a child a bully often get a bully. Parents who call their child stupid get a child who may not be

meeting and using his/her intellectual abilities to his/her maximum. The label ferociously feeds the outcome.

"I hear people saying, 'My dog doesn't have much between his ears.' 'My cat is dumb.' 'My horse is silly.' 'My dog hates me.' Whatever attitudes are exhibited or received the most attention (energy) from their humans are reinforced."

Heidi Wright has worked with several horses that were annoyed or downright insulted by the fact that a new person who purchased them changed their name. "If I bring a new animal into our family, I ask him/her if s/he likes the name, or if it's all right to choose a new one."

#### Transformative Power of a Name

Jeri Ryan tells about a horse by the name of Junior who never grew up. One day his person decided to change his name to Luke. "Almost overnight he was a different horse. His person also began to treat him as an adult. How we perceive an animal influences how we treat them, which then influences their perception of themselves and their behavior. It is the same with human children. Names can set this up."

Scientists in England have shown that when farmers address

dairy cows individually by name, the cows are calmer when being milked and produce more milk.

### Holding Up the Mirror

Jeri Ryan shares that what we name our animals is such an indication of how we feel about them. Do we respect them? Do we admire them? Do we have hope for them? Do we welcome them? Do we trust them? Do we love them? Do we even know them? Do we honor them? Do we see them as equal beings? What do we want them to live up to? How do we want them to feel when we call them by name? What role do they play in our lives? What do we want the name to carry on? What does the name mean to us? Do we know what we are doing or are we on automatic pilot, insensitive to the animals' needs? Are we giving this serious thought and consideration?

Animals sense our feelings as responses to those questions. We may be less aware or even unaware of what we are conveying to them. Their highly developed capacity for understanding intuitively and telepathically, and maybe on a level that we don't even know, is a call to us to raise our own awareness of ourselves, of our behavior, and of the implications that follow.

### Inter-dimensional Beings or Myths?

Does the Loch Ness monster exist? How about Sasquatch? If Sasquatch exists, can they tell us about their history as a species? If the Loch Ness monster exists, how long has it been around and what became of its family? Maybe they are myths?

Theresa Nygard

Joan Ocean, famous for her connections with dolphins, has spent a great deal of time camping in areas where she has encountered and communicated with Sasquatch families, mostly through personal notes back and forth between Ms. Ocean and these interdimensional beings. Joan writes that the Sasquatch can read, write, shape-shift, project their voices, create infrasound that affects the environment, and de-materialize. Her detailed and delightful photos, souvenirs, and accounts of her relationship with these Sasquatch families are recounted on her website at <a href="http://www.joanocean.com/sasquatch.html">http://www.joanocean.com/sasquatch.html</a>.

In the case of our *Species Link Voice of Experience* respondents, all believed in the existence of these beings, with their perspectives in harmonious agreement. And many had similar impressions of these beings after tuning in. Chapter eight of Penelope Smith's *When Animals Speak* has a mention of Penelope's experience as a Yeti (Himalayan species similar to the Sasquatch of North America) in the section called *Messengers between Realms*.—SV

### 100% Thumbs Up

**Penelope Smith** has had many experiences with beings who can navigate dimensions, appearing in this realm and disappearing at will. "Sasquatch or Yeti and the Loch Ness 'monsters' are some of

them. They do exist in Earth reality," she says.

Shirley Scott is one of the respondents expressing the idea that behind every *myth*, there is some truth. She's been in remote wooded areas of northern Oregon and southern Washington when she has received messages from the Sasquatch. "They're a very peaceful group who live much longer than we do. 150 years is not an uncommon Sasquatch lifetime. I've promised them I wouldn't give out too much information, as they want to be left alone. But about four years ago, I got a message that a baby had been born."

Heidi Wright has communicated with Sasquatch on numerous occasions. "For a very long time, a particular family of Sasquatch would come to me in my meditations, and acted as guides for me. I believe that they are inter-dimensional beings, or at least that they are able to exist on a varied vibrational plane. I have asked them about their history and purpose on this planet, and received the same information on several occasions. They told me that they have been here for thousands of years, but that they have always been reclusive. During one session, I saw a Sasquatch near a Neanderthal humanoid. That suggested a time frame of thousands if not millions of years. Their species has always been secretive, but advanced. They have family units, but prefer to leave no trace. They are highly telepathic and this is why they are able to

avoid detection or capture; humans think so loudly that they hear us coming. Some Native Americans have tribal lore that teaches that Sasquatch can make themselves invisible to humans. I think this is also possible. I have taken many trips to the woods, and have felt a presence watching me, even in open meadows. When I focus, I sense their energy, but don't see them with my eyes.

"As for Nessie, after watching a documentary about a group of scientists using sonar on Loch Ness to detect large forms, I felt inclined to try to contact Nessie. I was able to feel a presence, and then communicate with it. My first question was *why didn't they find you with sonar?* The being I connected with told me that they simply sat still on the bottom, and the sonar would make them look like rocks. I was told they are able to stay submerged for a very long time. I also got images of underground caves or tunnels connecting with the bottom of the lake which made it easy to conceal themselves. I asked if they wanted to be found, and the response was a resounding no," she says.

#### Visit to Loch Ness

**Penelope Smith** has a familial connection to Loch Ness. "My father was born in Scotland, and I feel a strong bond with Celtic music, art, and history, so I visited Scotland in 1971, ending up staying there until late 1975. On my way through immigration into Scotland, an official asked me why I was coming into the country. I told him I came to visit my aunts in Glasgow and I was also interested in communicating with the Loch Ness 'monster.' He seemed pleased and validated my quest with his own belief in Nessie's existence.

"While I never saw Nessie or her/his family when I visited Loch Ness, I could feel her/his presence and the presence of others of her/his kind in the lake. While I lived in Scotland, I communicated with this family of beings, who appeared to be dinosaurs who survived the extinction of their kind.

"There were four beings that I could see with my long distance telepathic vision – two were larger and like the parents of the family (male and female). The two smaller dinosaurs (also male and female) appeared to be the children. They showed me how the 'Nessie family' went into a kind of hibernation or slowed-down physical existence in the depths of Loch Ness, calculated to be over 750 feet deep in some parts of the 22 square mile lake, with an average depth of 430 feet. They were able to live on lake vegetation but needed little sustenance, since their bodies did not expend much physical energy. After years of a kind of suspended animation meditation in the dark depths of Loch Ness, they became multidimensional beings and could transfer to other dimensions at will.

"While these beings surface occasionally and have been sighted by human observers, they have little need to breathe air and derive what little oxygen they need from the water through their pores and their plant ingestion. There is no reproduction of their kind, and they have not developed or grown since slowing down their metabolism in the deep waters. Their presence is peaceful and reminds me of the ancient whales who live in a slowed state of animation at the bottom of the ocean as elders of their kind."

Maia Kincaid also believes myths exist because there is something behind them. "The Loch Ness monster claims to exist and has long survived its family. The family died due to changing climate and environment that made it very difficult to continue thriving as they once did. This one individual remains as a sole remnant of its past—a reminder of magic that was much more common and understood in other times of our human history.

"Like the Loch Ness monster, Sasquatch speaks of its presence and the need and habit of living in hiding. It talks of being a distant relative to our species cut off long ago by geological changes. It wants to connect but is afraid. They live individually and in small bands mostly in isolated mountainous areas of the Himalayas (where they are called Yeti or Abominable Snowmen), but also in some parts of the world where on very rare occasions they might intersect the paths of humans. There are some in the farther northern regions of North America."

#### Inter-dimensional Folk

**Penelope Smith** recounts that there are other beings who used to live on Earth and traveled inter-dimensionally, such as dragons and unicorns, who now only live in other dimensions. She finds they all their own way of being and specific purposes in the multi-dimensional scheme of things.



# Sanctuary Spotlight Traveller's Rest Equine Elders Sanctuary

Alexandra Blantyre

### Getting Started Planting TREES

Chris and Mike Smith were always active volunteers at local humane societies while Mike was in the Army. In 1995, he was assigned to the Pentagon and they moved to Virginia. It was at that time in their lives when they decided to focus on their own animal family of 12 dogs and 8 cats.

Just a few months after their move, Chris and Mike went to a horse show and visited a booth for the Equine Rescue League, one of the oldest horse rescue groups in the Northeast. They were so touched by the efforts of the league that they became volunteers. After a while, Chris was offered a paid position and ended up spending seven years with the league. She was attracted to the older horses and began educating herself on geriatric equine care.

The couple fell in love with a few horses and adopted them into their own family. Chris and Mike began looking for boarding barns and could not find the right situation that made sense to them. They realized they could make a mortgage payment for what they would be spending on boarding costs, so they ended up in Spotsylvania on 20 acres and the idea of Traveller's Rest Equine Elder's Sanctuary (TREES) was born.

### TREES Spirit Guide

Chris had a dream about a very specific mare before she physically met her. "This mare, it turns out, is a very important Spirit Guide for me and I feel it was her steering that started us down this road to begin with. It is her eye at the top of each of our web page. It was also through her that I came to understand that a physical death is not *the end*. Her influence continues."

### Residents Elders

On average, the sanctuary is home to 18-20 horse residents at any given time. They receive many calls from people who are looking to "retire" their horses, but TREES can only take in horses who are in immediate danger at the time of the call.

When asked about TREES most memorable residents, Chris talks about Jeb, a Tennessee Walker gelding. Jeb was 38 when he arrived and "was a little gray in the face and didn't have much in the way of teeth, but to see the way he carried himself, to see the straight legs, the level back, the intensity in his eyes, you didn't notice the signs of age." She mentions that everyone commented on Jeb and would ask "Who is the big black horse by the driveway?" He loved visitors and he would stand with them at the fence



Chris and 40-year-old Jeb

for long periods, both parties mesmerized with the other.

Els B, a Friesian mare, who was imported from Holland was "quite the broodmare in her day," Chris says. "She came to TREES after suffering a uterine tear that resulted in her aborting a foal and almost bleeding to death. Her owner didn't want to sell her, fearing that a buyer would want to try and breed her again regardless of her history, because of her very desirable bloodlines." Els was notable for her "grace, elegance, gentleness, and her tolerant nature. She was another horse whose presence and carriage caused people to not notice the sway back and graying face. The thing I remember most about Els was that she noticed everything. She wasn't as reactive as most horses to things that were new to her. She would stand and study something until she felt comfortable with it, then make a decision as to whether to approach it, back up a little or ignore the whole thing. I'd like to think I learned a little about not being impulsive from her," Chris explains.

"A current resident that causes quite a stir is Nathan. Based on the reports and photos we received before he got here, we had a vet on standby the day he arrived even though it was a Sunday. We feared the only kind thing we could do was help him cross the Bridge. We even told the vet that's what she was likely coming to do, but when she arrived, she said we might be able to help him. We were fighting several different illnesses, and didn't know how one might complicate the other in terms of treatment, but decided as long as he seemed comfortable, we'd go on. It seems that a lot of what we saw in the first day or two was related to depression. As soon as Nate understood someone cared and was trying to help, he brightened considerably. At times he seems a little

impatient about the time we take discussing the next stage of his rehab, but we're plowing new ground with his situation and sometimes have to improvise new management techniques. Like Jeb, Nate seems to attract the attention of everyone that comes to the farm. And like Jeb, he revels in the attention, but in a more gleeful way. Jeb seemed to be holding court, while Nate seems to be hosting a New Year's Eve party. Every day is a celebration."

### Getting Along

Chris explains, "Just like people and dogs, the horses have their likes and dislikes. We have several different groups in separate fields and try to fit each new horse with the most compatible group. We don't have a lot of rules here, but the basics for the horses are

- 1. You let us take care of you in terms of vet, farrier, dental, and any complementary care needed to keep you healthy.
- 2. No causing deliberate injury to other horses or to humans.

That said, having rules doesn't always mean those rules are followed! In the end, it's one of our responsibilities to make sure each horse is in the group that will make his or her stay here as stress free as possible."

### Animal Communicators

About a decade ago, Chris took an animal communication workshop with Dawn Hayman. At about the same time, Chris had a long haired, puffy, blue-gray cat named Daddy Puff. He moved in with Chris and Mike during an ice storm when they lived in Kansas. He was in need of a lot of medical attention and Chris was able to use her animal communication skills to talk to Daddy Puff to see what treatment he wanted. The recovery process was much faster than anyone had expected with her cat directing his own treatment.

Chris said that often when she is too close to the animal, she finds it very helpful

to use an outside communicator so her own issues are not getting in the way of the communication.

Janet Dobbs, a local animal communicator, was introduced to Chris and Mike through a visitor who had come to attend a yard sale at the sanctuary. She was very touched by Jeb, the Tennessee Walker gelding. Janet now teaches animal communication and Reiki workshops at the sanctuary several times a year, in addition to working with the animals. Chris said they didn't really seek out a communicator, it all just happened and fell into place.



Forrest

When asked how animal communication has helped the efforts of the sanctuary, Chris said "It's our responsibility to make our residents lives as stress free as we can. That's where I think communication has had the biggest impact. We used to feed some of the horses out of five gallon, flat-backed buckets. Well, as it turns out, many smaller horses' and ponies' eyes are below the rim of the bucket when they put their heads in to take a mouthful. Newcomers or naturally timid horses weren't very fond of this and were very anxious at feeding time because they were essentially blind when they took a bite of food. Once those horses were given feed in wide, shallow pans, their anxiety lessened considerably or disappeared altogether. We no longer use deep, narrow buckets to feed. I believe reducing stress as much as possible for any animal keeps that animal healthier in general."

### Lessons from the Animals

"I think the biggest lesson, and one I struggle with at times, is to not project my own feelings and wishes on the horses. What I want for or from a horse is not always what is in that horse's best interests. Another lesson is that asking usually brings better results than demanding. And if asking doesn't work, step back and try to look at the problem from the horse's perspective and figure out how to ask in a different way."

When asked what lessons Chris felt were important for others

to know, she said, "Always be open to new ideas about care, new ideas about the way horses think and feel, and to your own emotions as you relate to the animals."

### Lighten Up

People take things too seriously. We hear words and phrases like "useless", "too old to do anything," "the poor thing." But these animals play, joke, and enjoy themselves. They are always telling us to "lighten up and enjoy life." Chris says, "people come to the workshops and are very serious and then a horse will make a joke and then the person will be afraid to share their experience because they think, oh this can't be right. But it is right. The horse is talking to them and telling them

to not take things so seriously."

"We try to help people understand there is no reason to pity the horses. We try to feed them and care for them in a way that copies the way they would live naturally, as much as we can."

The message at TREES is that age is not a reason for pity. "There might have been a period in their life when feeling sorry for them might have been in order, but feeling sorry isn't the path to healing. Try to leave pity at the gate because it doesn't help." The way we react makes a big impact on the health and attitude of oth-

ers. "I wish more people would understand that old is not a disease. Age is just a number."

### Moving Forward

"Long term, we're thinking of a larger property owned outright by the sanctuary, which will be a combination sanctuary and learning center. Unfortunately, there will always be more elder horses looking for a place to go than any one sanctuary can house, no matter how big that sanctuary is. So, we are trying to be an educational resource to help more horses than we can physically care for here. Right now, our educational efforts consist of our web site, blog, and printed literature that we hand out at community events. Ultimately, I'd love to have a facility consisting of the farm itself, classrooms, permanent and rotating educational displays, perhaps even a retreat and conference center. Until that idea becomes a reality, we're trying to step up local educational efforts by attending more events, inviting other organizations to the sanctuary, and adding articles on elder care to our online venues."

#### **Need for Volunteers**

TREES currently has about fifteen active volunteers. About five come on a weekly basis and others help with fundraising and special events. Some of the volunteers help with the farm chores, but they need people to help with the behind the scenes aspects of

running the sanctuary, such as PR, program development, and fundraising.

### Elders at the Bridge

When an elder is ready to move on from this life, TREES tries to give them the ability to enjoy something that has previously been denied to them for health reasons. If they had previously had only a limited amount of time in which they were allowed to run and play, they are given that freedom to take part in.

If enough time is given, Janet always tries to come to the sanctuary to be with an elder at the time of passage. Since horses live such long lives, TREES says good-bye to about three residents a year.

### The World is Full of Colors

Chris sums it up: "Managing the sanctuary has made me see that the world is not black and white, but rather infinite shades of gray. No, not even shades of gray, infinite color variations. Bottom line is there is no *always right* or *always wrong*. There may be things I have more trouble accepting than others, but I learned to never rule anything out."

Traveller's Rest Equine Elders Sanctuary, P.O. Box 2260, Spotsylvania, VA 22553 (540) 972-0936 <a href="mailto:info@equineelders.org">info@equineelders.org</a>; www.equineelders.org

### Featured Animal Communicator Morgine Jurdan

Suzan Vaughn

Cats, rats and ducks were Morgine (pronounced with a soft 'g') Jurdan's earliest animal companions and she grew up a true barefoot "valley girl" in the mountains surrounding the San Fernando Valley, a suburb of Los Angeles. The area was rural then, with no fences or sidewalks. "By the time I entered Junior High School, the buses no longer drove our small winding roads and I spent the five-mile round trip walking to and from school exploring nature," she remembered.

Before she was 13, Morgine's family of animal companions grew to include an unusual array of animal friends including a tiny mouse, a white rat and two small chameleons.

"I made leashes for the little lizards and took them places, including school. Later I had a small tortoise I tethered outside with a long chain so he had lots of fresh food daily. My father got



Morgine & Shane

me a delightful and friendly skunk and a myna bird and when someone offered us a pail of small fish they caught, I convinced my father to put them in our cement pond instead of eating them," she said.

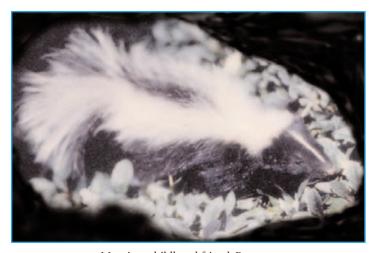
Morgine cared for all of these creatures lovingly, and spoke to them with an intuitive understanding that they understood her. "Sometimes I imagined I was hearing what they were telling me," she said. As a sensitive child, she had precognitive abilities, which were not always encouraged and soon their strength waned.

"As children, we were trained to beware of black widow spiders, scorpions, and rattle snakes, all of whom I encountered growing

up. However, I've always felt more alive outside with my bare feet on the ground: grass, rocks, and dirt between my toes and still prefer my feet naked. It was difficult to put shoes on again when school started," she confessed.

Childhood observations let Morgine know that in the world of communication between animals, more was going on than the adults realized. "My cat Sammy protected my sister's cat Blackie who was picked on by other cats and dogs, resulting in many visits to the vet. One day I watched Sammy as he sat on a branch of our pepper tree hanging over the driveway. Blackie was sleeping below in the sunshine as a dog approached. The protective Sammy jumped on the dog's neck, biting into his ear. He rode the howling dog at least two blocks down the street before jumping off, but the dog never bothered Blackie again," she recalled.

Morgine's education about animal emotions continued when her grandmother's cat, Copy Cat, howled for three days as her grandmother passed away in the hospital. Copy Cat stayed on her grandmother's bed grieving loudly during her transition. Witnessing that, Morgine realized that animals were more connected to humans than she had imagined.



Morgines childhood friend, Popcorn

### Stolen Affections

"When my parents separated, we moved only a few blocks away and I had my first dog, a white German shepherd, who was the runt of the litter. He grew big and strong under my care. I was training him when he disappeared. A woman read his tag and called to say she had him, he would have a good home, and she was not bringing him back. White German shepherds were very popular then and it was a difficult moment in my life. I couldn't imagine why someone would steal my best friend. However, this heart wrenching event gave me great compassion for other people who lose their animal friends."

### Marriage, Motherhood & Movement

Morgine and Jerry eventually married, sharing their household with her older, hearing-impaired cat, Blackie and Jerry's older Doberman Pinscher, Melodie, whose eyesight was failing. In an inspiring exchange of compassionate geriatric care, Blackie acted as Melodie's eyes and she would hear for him. "Even though they didn't grow up together, they were the most remarkable team, and when Blackie died, Melodie lay on his grave for several days. She also helped our children learn to walk as they both used her for balance and would grab her and hold on tight. She never complained. They could even take food out of her mouth," Morgine remembered fondly.

The loss of these two loving animals was heart wrenching, but it was also a turning point for Morgine. "I appreciated more fully the deep love and understanding animals shared with us."

With a three-year-old and a five-year-old in tow, the Jurdans moved from California to Colorado and then headed for a life in Iowa where both their animal and human families grew. "Our young son and daughter lovingly cared for their own animal friends including cats, dogs, ponies, rabbits, gerbils, rats, and milking goats, while Jerry and I had our own menagerie of animals to care for. I could write an entire book about our adventures with them," she recalled.

"Tippy was the first animal I have a clear memory of talking to me," says Morgine. "He was adopted by our daughter, Denver, when she was about ten years old. An Australian shepherd mix puppy, Tippy had distemper, but with lots of yeast and vitamin C, he eventually thrived. The vet tried to convince Denver to get another dog as her 4H companion, but she refused. When we left Iowa, Denver and Tippy had won the highest awards possible for both obedience and showmanship."

From Iowa, the Jurdans moved onto a two-acre parcel of land in Washington State. Two vehicles with trailers transported the family, along with a horse, three dogs including Tippy, a cat, two birds, gerbils and a rat. Morgine related, "We were given a discount because there was a lot of trash on the property. In that first month, somewhere among that trash, Tippy found and drank antifreeze. I have no words to describe the painful weeks that followed.

"The vet gave him transfusions every few days and it was an hour round trip to take him and then later bring him home. I drove our old 1961 yellow Willy's Jeep Wagon with Tippy in the front seat next to me. He asked me to sing to him and at first it felt odd. I thought I was imagining things. Finally, I gave in to his repeated requests. I could tell my singing totally relaxed him and he would wag his tail gratefully. The vet said Tippy was the only dog getting transfusions who would lie quietly as if he understood everything that was being asked of him. He lasted for several months but finally we had to help him pass. Even our vet cried. It was one of the hardest moments for our entire family. This wise, intelligent dog survived distemper, only to succumb to antifreeze poisoning. After that, we found safe antifreeze and have used it ever since."

### **Out of Necessity**

Although Tippy's communications were the first Morgine actually heard, feuding dogs in her house turned her attention to formally learning to communicate with animals. Chetwin, an older dog, moved away to live with her daughter, during which time Jerry got a new dog friend from a local shelter. Later Chetwin came back home to live and was upset to find a new dog where he had lived for twelve years. "I had tried everything when Penelope Smith's book *Animal Talk* fell into my hands in a bookstore. Shortly after that, I took her incredible, life-transforming class, came home and solved the problem. I thought that was that, but a month later, a woman called me, crying and begging me to help her with her cat. I told her I had only taken a weekend class, but she kept crying, convinced I could help. I took down her information and told her

to call back in an hour. Then I went to the closet to find my class notes and sat down to try my best. I never charged her anything, imagining I was making it all up anyway. Six months later, I was getting about five requests a month and I hadn't even told anyone. Jerry thought I was being guided in a new direction, suggesting I take more classes, which I did. At the same time, I was also learning to communicate with nature after reading Machaelle Small Wright's books and books about the Findhorn community in Scotland. These things completely transformed my life as I learned to love and appreciate myself and see everything through the eyes of love," she said.

### **Success Stories**

When a horse puts his or her ears back, it means he's angry, right? Or does it?

Animal communicators open themselves to the uniqueness of each animal's situation, and Morgine did that for a horse and human client with just this situation. The woman wanted to know why her horse was angry. When Morgine asked the horse about his behavior, he said he had seen another horse put his ears back and it resulted in a lot of attention for his stable mate, so he thought he'd try it. "We both laughed and the woman developed a deep bond with her horse, who did not put his ears back again," she remembered.

Another client was angry when she called Morgine about her show dog. The dog repeatedly put his tail between his legs at the end of the show, losing him the points he needed to advance to the next level. Morgine explained, "The dog hated showing and thought it was a waste of time. He knew exactly what he was doing, showing his dissatisfaction. She promised the dog he would never have to show again, if he just got the points needed for breeding. He agreed and the very next show, he performed perfectly. The woman kept her promise and he never had to show again."

### Greatest Gifts

After all these years, Morgine feels she excels most in coaching people whose animals are lost or nearing the end of their lives. "Many of my clients see their animals as they would their own children, so death and loss can bring a lot of pain, guilt, and fear to the surface. I am able to hold a loving space for these people and often bring about greater peace and understanding."

Lost animal cases can be challenging, both in locating the animals and in working with intense emotions experienced by their people. Having had lost animals herself, Morgine feels called to offer this service. "Things happen for a reason. The animal might have become lost, been chased, is going off to die, being called elsewhere, reflecting things going on at home, mirroring their person's feeling lost in their own life, and many other scenarios."

Coaching clients whose beloved friend is lost, ill, or passing on requires a great deal of patience, empathy, and compassion. Helping people return to a more peaceful state, especially if the animal is dying or does not return home, is where Morgine shines. She often shares how animals experience life differently and how they remain connected to us in spirit.

"I help people get back into a calm state of mind in order to help attract their animal friend back, but in the case of a lost Yorkshire terrier, the animal's guardian angels had a surprise in store. The client's dog went missing from her backyard and I received the sights and sounds of a woman with the dog, a noisy car, some steps, and another animal. I calmed my client and gave her processes to do. More than two months later, she was 200 miles away from home on a vacation with a friend and suddenly, they both got very thirsty and pulled off to get something to drink. In an isolated area with only a little grocery store, she found herself next to a noisy car and the driver was holding her dog. It turned out the lady lived four blocks away from my client in a second story apartment and had another dog!" Morgine related.



Morgine & Cedar photo by Irene Work

Contacting animals who have passed on to the spirit world is another area of concentration for Morgine. She shared, "I get messages from animals in-spirit helping my clients have more peace of mind about the dying process and offering them a sense of deeper completion. My own cat, KC, helped me see how great she felt as she left her body. She shared her exhilaration at being in spirit, and her vibrant love, enthusiasm, and energy filled the room as she passed." KC, Beau, a beloved Sheltie, and other animals in spirit, continue to help her even today.

#### As a Teacher

Inspiring students to acknowledge their own brilliance and magnificence, Morgine says that self-confidence is a basic tool in being more proficient at most things, including animal communication. She learns from her students gratefully, acknowledging that "we

are all born communicators and I am merely reminding my students of their innate abilities. I call my classes 'Fun-Shops' because I want people to relax and enjoy the experience."

A daily practice of centering is encouraged in her classes and mentoring sessions. "I inspire people to spend time in silence, being with the self, and paying attention to their breath and bodies. I ask them to feel what they are wearing, where they are sitting, the tension in the body, and the surrounding atmosphere. Then I instruct them with a flower or a

tree and then an animal. They write down whatever they notice and amazing things evolve out of that time of awareness.

"In an advanced class, one woman was very stuck and discouraged. I passed out a basket of rocks, requesting that they help her. When it was her turn, she hesitantly shared that the rock felt like it was part of a big fence or wall but she was certain she was making it all up. When I told her the rock in her hand came from the Berlin Wall, her face reflected the light of inspiration," Morgine remembered. The look on the woman's face as she accomplished the communication with rock is the kind of experience that inspires Morgine to teach.

### Natural Encounters

Communicating with animals and nature at deeper levels has taught Morgine about unconditional love. She can see animals' issues more clearly when she enters a consultation without expectations or preconceived notions. Morgine feels, "Each person, animal, plant or insect is in a constant state of change moment to moment. When I live only in the here and now, I use all my senses to feel, taste, sense, listen, even smell a situation."

Nature is the great teacher and healer for Morgine. She advises that we take a walk in nature to feel better, remedy angry feelings, clear a block, inspire creativity, or help heal because "nature is comprised of millions of unconditionally loving beings, freely and openly sharing with the world. You are being showered with their radiance and light while taking a walk, and being reminded of your own Divine Nature and beauty. It's no wonder taking a walk is a prescription for health."

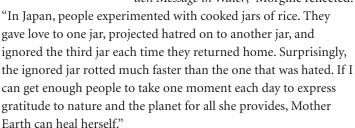
### **Future Vision**

Easy, effortless communication with all forms of life is Morgine's vision for the future. Her world is a place where diversity and authenticity are encouraged and communication is vibrantly clear, rich, and colorful. In her weekly newsletter, she shares inspiring and thought provoking messages from animals and

nature. She is in the final stages of writing a book in which animals and nature advise humans on how to have a happy and fulfilling life.



One of her future projects that she calls "One Moment of Gratitude" focuses on healing the planet. "I was intrigued by the experiments I read about in *The Secret Life of Plants* by Christopher Bird and Peter Tompkins and also those conducted by Dr. Masaru Emoto in *The Hidden Message in Water*," Morgine reflected.





Beau

### **Training**

Communication has been an area of interest for Morgine since childhood, when she considered a career as a translator. A lover of foreign languages, she was good at helping school mates communicate when they were too angry to talk to each other. "A couple decades ago I became a trained facilitator in classes called 'Essential Peacemaking for Women and Men.' Just prior to studying animal communication, I came to understand how I create my own reality from the books written by Jane Roberts who channeled Seth. This ancient being said that animals have their own soul purposes. The books also taught me to take responsibility for everything that happened in my life."

Morgine has taken the training classes offered by Penelope Smith, as well as classes by Samantha Khury and Sharon Callahan. She read and studied books by J. Allen Boone, Carol Gurney, Allen Shoen, Michael Roads, Jane Roberts, Susan Chernak McElroy and others. She has been a guest speaker at dowsing conventions, Theosophical Societies, groups studying Cayce's work, and New Age stores.

### **Specialties**

Morgine's healing work includes energy medicine, the use of flower essences, TTouch™, and other healing modalities. "But communication is still the focus of my life. I define myself as an interpreter-translator for animals and nature beings," she said.

"My unique focus is best expressed in my business name, *Communications with Love.* Loving without conditions has been a life-long quest leading me to communication with animals and nature, my master teachers. My intention is to come from a place of love during a session. In preparation, I ground myself, focus, and align with my human client, their animal friend, and our session together."

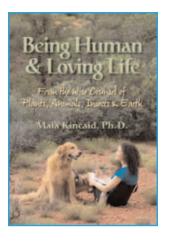
### Rx: Love Fully

Communicating with animals and nature has given Morgine the tools she needs to love herself more fully, forgive endlessly, and to exhibit more compassion and understanding. "For me," Morgine expounds, "love is the answer to almost every question in my life. Seeing the effects thoughts have on water through Dr. Emoto's work, it's very clear that loving the body can also have profound effects. Since the body is 55 to 75% water throughout a lifetime, thinking angry thoughts poisons your body and then sends similar vibrations out to everything in your environment. Loving thoughts are the cure and communicating with animals and nature can help us transform our world, one loving thought at a time!"

"I am infinitely and eternally grateful to Penelope Smith and each and every teacher who helped me reach the level of experience I have today. This includes all my students as well, from whom I never ceased to be amazed by and learn from, too. I am grateful daily for developing this ability and for the incredible, deep love and understanding it has added to my life. Animals share with me that our greatest illusion is the idea of separation and this is so true. We are all interconnected in one Web of Life. When we see the most beautiful things in nature we could ever imagine, they remind us this is merely a mirror of our own true magnificence and beauty, which someday soon, we too, will begin to see and own for ourselves. "



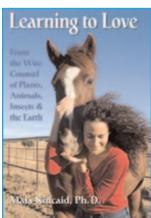
### **Reviews** Nancy Windheart



Being Human & Loving Life and Learning to Love: From the Wise Counsel of Plants, Animals, Insects, and the Earth by Maia Kincaid, Ph.D. (Wisdom of Love Publishing, Sedona, AZ, 2009, Paperback, 158 & 154 pages, \$14.95 each, www.maiakincaid.com).

These two books along with Maia's recently published book, *The Joy of Being Human*, are collections of the author's conversations with animals

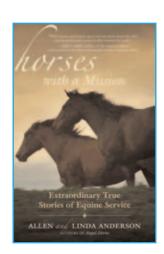
throughout her years of practice, including communications with clients' animal friends and messages from wild animals and plants. Kincaid records her conversations in question and answer style.



The stories' topics include animals' daily lives, their purposes with humans, and discussions about life and spirituality. The author's reverence for the Earth and her creatures along with the sense of service and caring for both her human and animal clients come through in her writing. Easy to read, these books provide an overview of the types of communications that are possible with many different species.

Horses with a Mission: Extraordinary True Stories of Equine Service by Allen and Linda Anderson (New World Library, 2009. Softcover, 288 pages, \$14.95.)

This is the latest addition to the Andersons' series of books honoring those animals whose lives are devoted to serving, teaching, and healing humans. The book is a collection of stories of remarkable horses, contributed by twenty-one



different authors. There are photos throughout the book and each story concludes with a question for meditation.

As animal communicators, tales of how animals serve, help, and save humans are commonplace in our work; however, there is nothing ordinary or routine about the repeated miracle of fellow spiritual beings in animal bodies entering people's lives in ways that transform, heal, and inspire. I always appreciate the Andersons' deep honoring of animals as conscious, sentient beings who live their lives with purpose and intention. This book will be enjoyed by horse lovers, anyone interested in animals and spirituality, and those who may be just waking up to the magic of deep, transformative relationships between humans and other species.



Wild Justice: The Moral Lives of Animals by Mark Bekoff and Jessica Pierce (University of Chicago Press, 2009, Hardcover, 188 pages, \$26.00)

This book is an interdisciplinary collaboration between Mark Bekoff, a cognitive ethologist who has published many books on the inner lives of animals, and Jessica Pierce, a philosopher. It provides clear and detailed scientific evi-

dence that animals regularly make moral decisions and exhibit ethical qualities such as cooperation, empathy, kindness, and a sense of justice.

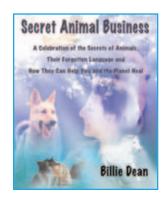
The material in this book is a welcome addition to the growing body of research which re-examines the conventional scientific assumptions of human moral and biological superiority. It is well-researched, very readable, and will appeal to readers who enjoy "academic writing with heart." I appreciated the authors' emphasis on the individuality of particular animals and animal societies and the many heartwarming stories of animals' ethical choices and behavior. The authors conclude, "We [humans] are not the only moral beings."

The Animal Communicator Directory listing fee will be \$80/year on January 1, 2010. Renew your listing before February 15 and pay the old rate of \$75/year for one or more years.

### Guest Review Kathi Sherburne

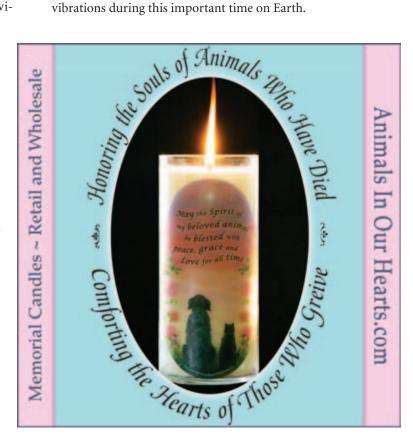
Secret Animal Business by Billie Dean (Wild Pure Heart, 2009, Softcover, 353 pages, \$39.95 AUS www.billiedean.com)

In Secret Animal Business, the author bares her soul telling of her painful childhood and growing up "different" than other children. As author, shaman, and



filmmaker, her deep love of animals, the Earth, plants, trees, and rocks is evident; she practices what she teaches. The sanctuary she established rescues horses, geese, dogs, cats, and other species. As a vegan animal communicator, Billie strives to help her animals get closer to an idyllic world where nothing has to kill another living being in order to survive.

Her explanation of how to communicate with perceived "pests" such as fleas and ants gave me a different perspective and new respect for these tiny living beings. She views animals as angels without wings helping us to become human angels and tells us what the animals want us to know in order to raise our vibrations during this important time on Earth.



## 

Somewhere there is a dog barking. When I hold my breath and listen carefully, I can just hear it, high pitched, squeaking, urgent. My dogs hear it, they understand the message, they bark it onward, to the dog next door, who barks to the dog down the street who barks to the dog in the next street, who barks to the dogs in the next town, who bark it to the dogs in the big city, who bark it across the state. All these dogs barking, started by a frantic Chihuaua lonely for her people, fearing they'll never return. The dogs across the state carry it on,

they bark across the rivers, tell the dogs of the whole continent. In the Pacific, a dog being walked down a polished deck

barks

and soon all the dogs on the ship are barking.

No one knows what set them off,
barking to annoy everyone, waken peaceful sleepers,
startle amorous lovers,
distract the crew from their work.

Dogs must bark, for this is an urgent matter,

a Chihuahua's terror. Soon

all the dogs on all the ships, all the trains, all the planes are barking.

Here at home, my dogs continue, none of my training can stop them, the bark is more important than human need for peace and quiet.

Soon the bark has reached Alaska. The sled dogs, always barking, change their urgent cry of "let's run let's run" to the tune of "someone please

comfort cousin Chihuahua."

Russia's eleven time zones come alive with barking.

Vladivostok to Petersburg,

Irkutsk to Moscow, Russia's dogs pass it on,

### The Message of the Pogs Art Rosch

north to the White Sea, south to the Black Sea. Soon, Poland's dogs are barking, Germany's dogs are barking, France's dogs sniff and lift their heads,

carefully, decide whether to eat or bark

and yes, they bark. No translation is needed.

Barking is universal, dog emotions are powerful. Even the wild dogs with their different

language

stand up and bay,

the foxes and jackals yip

wolves and coyotes sing.

The bark reaches Easter Island, Tahiti,

and

Rangaroa, bark bark, bark bark, roars and squeals and yips

and squeats and ytps

join together, across the earth, dogs are barking

and people are crying "quiet!", "shut up!", "shhhhhh", "No barkies!"

They blow on whistles, snap

clickers, squirt water, shake cans of rocks but the

world's dogs bark.

The whole dog universe

sounds a call that flies with the winds, rises into the clouds to travel

far distances, for one of their kind is distressed and dogs are the most loyal

of creatures.

It is a dog's duty to bark until the message has circled the world and the Chihuahua's people feel a subliminal urge, a stab of worry, an urge to hurry

home, home, quick unlock the door, Ceecee's gone crazy the neighbors are furious (dammit why don't you teach that dog some manners). They thought she was trained but they leave her alone, long and often, they think it doesn't bother her

they don't know Ceecee's terror has gone around the world and she was invoking the dog power

to bring her people home, and they returned, early,

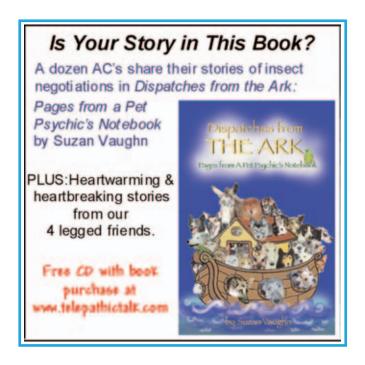
canceled plans out of vague worry

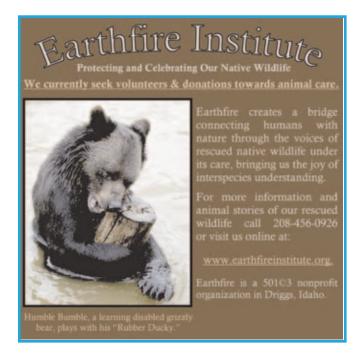
knowing nothing of the way

the hue and cry of ten billion dogs

was barked across all the time zones of the earth to help

Ceecee bring home the people she loves.





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