



Making contact

How to choose
and work with
an animal communicator

by Stephanie Smith

"A *what* told you your dog has lung cancer?" exclaimed my veterinarian. "You're too intelligent to listen to one of them!"

"Humor me," I pleaded. "X-ray Victoria's lung where the bronchial tubes go in, on the back, near the spine."

Sure enough, the x-rays showed a tumor right where Griffin Kanter, the animal communicator I consulted, said it would be, and the mystery of Victoria's illness was solved. Since the cancer was inoperable and not really treatable, Griffin worked with us to establish a signal Victoria would give me when she was ready to be helped to the next world. When the signal came, I verified it with Griffin and took Victoria to the vet for euthanasia. Losing her wasn't easy, but knowing it happened when Victoria was ready, and before she suffered too much pain, helped me while I was grieving.

More and more people are turning to animal communicators for help with their four-footed companions. Some are trying to solve baffling behavioral or health problems, while others simply want to strengthen the bond between themselves and their animals by learning how to commune with them.

Unfortunately, as in any other field, there are bogus communicators out there, so it's important you find a reputable professional who will work effectively with you and your animal to enhance his health and well being, and to enrich and deepen the relationship you share.

Finding a reputable communicator

The best way to find an animal communicator, according to Lynn McKenzie, a Toronto-based communicator, is to ask someone who has used one for their own animal. Before working with anyone, find out what training and experience he/she has had, and ask for references. Some communicators will hang out a shingle after taking one four-hour class; needless to say, these people won't be nearly as effective as someone who has done an apprenticeship with a respected communicator, taken several classes, and has several years of experience.

Another way to ensure you're getting someone reliable, says communicator Sharon Callahan, is to call a holistic veterinarian and see who they recommend.

You can also find a reputable communicator in your area by visiting Penelope Smith's website at www.animaltalk.net – all these people have been screened by Penelope, herself a pioneer in the field of animal communication, and most have also trained with her.

How does a communicator make contact with animals?

Animal communicators differ in how they prepare for their first session with you and your animal. Lynn asks people to send her a photo and history of the animal, including any health problems or other issues they want to address. "I look at the photo and tune into the animal ahead of time," says Lynn. "As soon as I make contact, I start working with the animal."

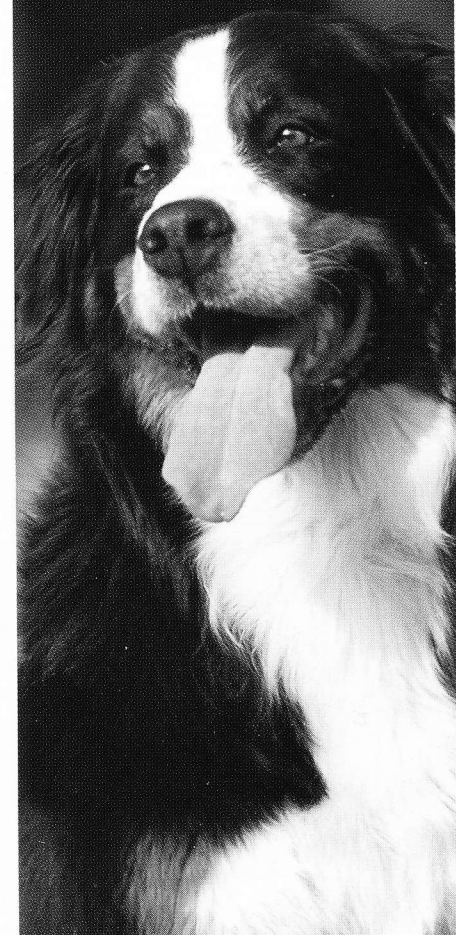
Communicator Leta Worthington also appreciates a photograph and history, but will work with a verbal description of the animal. Sharon prefers a picture, but since she deals with many clients whose animals are very sick, she doesn't always have time to wait for one. She listens to the guardian's description and uses his/her connection with the animal to establish contact.

What a communicator can and can't do

Lynn, Sharon, and Leta all stress that an animal communicator can't make an animal do anything. Animals are sentient beings with their own minds and agendas. They choose whether or not to engage in conversation with the communicator and whether or not to make any behavioral changes requested by the guardian. Most animals, if approached respectfully, will be happy to chat with their people. Others may regard a communicator as a stranger invading their privacy. If the animal refuses to "talk" to the communicator, that is the animal's choice, and that view must be respected.

Leta stresses that animal communicators are not psychics, but actually connect with the animal and speak to him/her for their guardian. The communicator only knows what the animal knows. For instance, a lost dog can show a communicator what he sees, but can't give an address. A cat may be able to explain how she feels, but can't say she is diabetic. When people call for help

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with a specific problem, Leta tries to mediate between the animal and person for a solution that will help both of them.

"I focus on healing, really healing," says Lynn. "It's about finding out what is going on with the animal and what can be done." She does a lot of energy clearing, which can help stop a cat from spraying or a dog from barking. She has seen miracles occur, but says they can't be guaranteed. Leta adds: "How much we can help depends on the circumstances, the animal's personality, and their species." Most of Sharon's clients want to find out why their animals

are sick, and what they can do to heal them. They also want to focus on a better relationship with their companions and on what they can learn from the animal that will help them follow their path more closely.

Guardians also have a role to play

Before working with a communicator, Leta suggests preparing three to five specific questions that you wish to discuss with your animal. However, adds Lynn, it isn't enough to want a communicator to tell the animal to "do this, or don't do that." The animal may be doing something in order to lead you down a certain path. Good clients are committed to following that path, and are open to learning the wisdom and energies the animal is there to share with them. They always put the animal's best interests first. As an example, Lynn became a communicator and began exploring holistic medicine because her ten-year-old golden retriever had health problems as a puppy. "My dog made me do a 180-degree turn and change everything about my life," she says.

Sharon agrees with this view. With the animal's permission, she merges with his "higher self." She can then address why he is doing something, what his purpose is in this life, and what his guardian needs to do to help the animal stay on his path, while helping her with her own.

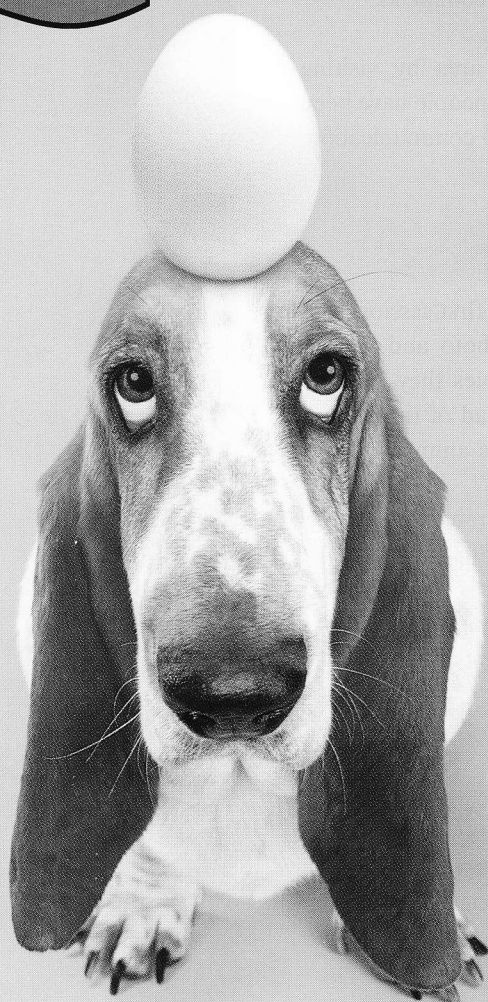
Working with an animal communicator is a partnership that requires an open mind and a willingness to understand and cooperate with what your animal is here to teach you. With the right professional to help you, learning how to commune with your companion can be one of the most rewarding experiences you'll ever share.

RESOURCES:

Penelope Smith www.animaltalk.net
Lynn McKenzie www.animalenergy.com
Sharon Callahan www.anaflorea.com
Leta Worthington
www.herbsandanimals.com/comm.html

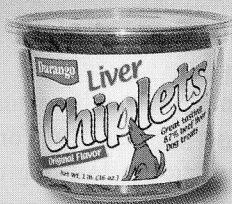
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