

GUIDELINES FOR CONSULTATIONS from CD 4 "Healing and Counseling with Animals"
Animal Communication Mastery Series by Penelope Smith

Here are some guidelines for an effective animal consultation:

Meet animals in a non-threatening way, just being there calmly and allowing them to check you out and welcome you into their environment.

Animals may start communicating with you on first contact. Listen, acknowledge, and understand what they say. Relay relevant information to their people. Ask the person to tell you some basic introductory information about their animal friends: name, age, breed, and sex, how long they have been with the person, and all the relevant details and history of the situation you're being called on to help with.

You may or may not be in physical contact with the animals, depending on what's acceptable to them in-person, or if it is a long-distance consultation. Touching or holding animals can focus and assure them, or it may not be acceptable to them or possible in the situation. Make a good connection telepathically by being quiet and receptive to the animals, and they are normally willing to communicate with you, no matter how far away you are physically. Observe and listen to the animal's reactions and thoughts during and after the person talks.

Explain the animal's viewpoint to the person. I do this as the animal answers or comments on the person's questions. Telepathic communication is so rapid and often so full in the translation into words that if I wait to explain everything at the end, I may forget some of what the animal related to me. Some communicators prefer to work without the animal's people present. They feel less distracted and more relaxed and connected telepathically to the animal that way. They take the person's questions and then communicate with the animal alone. When they are done, they relay what they got to the person. This is fine, if this is the way that works best for you.

I usually find that the presence of concerned, attentive people facilitates communication with their animal friends. The continuous interaction between the person and the animal usually brings new insights and further questions, which can bring a better resolution for everyone involved, rather than just presenting the human or non-human side of the story without discussion and interplay. I like to see the ongoing changes in attitudes that occur as animals and their people communicate with each other through me and begin to understand each other's viewpoints better and become more cooperative in their ideas and behavior. I emphasize two-way communication among species, rather than the "psychic reading" approach. In an immediate back-and-forth dialogue, the humans and non-humans feel more involved in the process and in control of the outcome. However, both approaches can be effective in different circumstances.

Understand both the person and animal's points of view, and advise specifically on what is needed and seems workable to help handle the problem and restore harmony. Check with the people and animals involved on the desirability and practicality of any suggestions you offer, and modify accordingly. You may need to focus on physical aspects: locating sore or ailing body parts that need to be examined by a veterinarian, doing bodywork or having another professional work with the animal, improving nutritional and other environmental situations, recommending training programs, and always guiding the person in how they can help improve life with their animal friends themselves. You may also need to

question the person and animal in depth to find sources of misunderstanding and work to resolve conflicts. There may be emotional traumas to locate and counsel with the animal or spiritual purposes to acknowledge and restore. The variations are many.

Study helpful methods of training and healing that you can use or recommend to people. Research animal behavior and nutrition. Refer people to veterinary and other healing professionals, who are qualified to assist the animals and their people in their fields.

Always be considerate of the person and animal, even if you have to be firm. Know that they both usually want help, or they wouldn't have called you. Be specific, accurate, kind, patient, loving, and work to bring understanding to all involved.

To be an effective animal communicator, you need to be honest and clear in your own mind, approaching people and animals without undue fear or pretensions. It is important to be open to listening to and working with all kinds of animals and people, accepting them as they are. Respect clients of whatever species as fellow beings and see their fine qualities, despite any negative aspects you may evaluate about them or that others have pointed out.

Beings bloom when you consider them as intelligent and capable, and they respond to you by opening up and communicating sincerely and intimately with you. Respect engenders respect. Animals, human or non-human, flourish in a safe, receptive, growth-oriented environment, which you can provide by your presence. Be willing and able to accept their viewpoints as valid, even if different from your own. The more you treat others of any species with regard for their infinite potential as spiritual beings, the more they become of who they really are. You can limit or assist their growth according to your perception and validation. It has always delighted and amazed me how animals and humans change just by being appreciated and respected as themselves when there is no judgment of their correctness according to some standard.

You need to be willing to be surprised by each animal. Don't expect them to be the way others have been. While you can't ignore experience and acquired knowledge, observe without preconceived notions, keenly and with fresh insight, who and what situation you have right here before you.

Be compassionate about the person and animal's situation, but do not get so sympathetically involved that you are no longer effective. Work calmly, with confidence and faith in others' ability to help themselves, to restore wholeness and harmony. Study the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual nature of human and non-human animals, and learn effective techniques to help them. Move forward on your own path, follow your dreams, and continually grow in spiritual awareness and wisdom. By doing so, you will have much more to give to others of any species and enrich all of life on planet Earth.

I gave the following information about consultations to the organizer before a planned day of consultations with a group of people, sometimes in conjunction with a lecture and/or course. It would be posted for everyone to see, as at a horse barn, or given to people individually. This was also used to educate media interviewers. I also have it on my website for individual clients to read.

CONSULTATIONS with Penelope Smith *Animal Communication Specialist*

What to Expect

A consultation with Penelope Smith, whether in-person or by phone, is an opportunity for direct two-way telepathic communication with your animal companions. You can get questions answered about problems you are having with your animal friends. You can learn to understand their viewpoints better, how they think, what they do and don't understand, and how to treat them to create more cooperation and a better partnership in living or working together.

All non-human animals telepathically communicate. This is not something spooky or weird, but it is an inborn ability of all beings, including humans. Most people in this culture are socially conditioned from childhood to deny telepathic communication, and so they lose the ability. Humans who are sensitive, receptive, and attentive can recover, develop, or increase their own ability to communicate with other species.

People call me an "animal psychic," and this makes some people think I know everything about animals or, worse yet, themselves! Psychic comes from the word "psyche," meaning "soul" or "spirit." Telepathic communication is psychic because it's a connection with the soul or spirit of animals—their essence or true self including their thoughts, purposes, values, perceptions, understanding, and other mental and spiritual qualities. It is no different from a heart-to-heart discussion with another human, where both people are really listening and understanding each other. While I can usually perceive a lot about the animal from the first connection, I do not necessarily know details of their lives and feelings until I ask about them. I don't know or care to know irrelevant details about your personal life, so you're safe!

We go from what is known about the situation from your viewpoint, to the unknown—what the animal thinks about the situation. I specialize in getting the animal's viewpoint, feelings, perceptions, or attitudes by asking them questions and listening to what they think, feel, or visualize. This direct communication may give a whole new outlook on the animal or problems with them and how to handle them. Animal companions are generally very grateful to have their people understand their point of view. You may have received some of the animal's body language or telepathic communication before, but filling out the picture can be extremely rewarding. We work together to resolve misunderstandings, behavior problems, and the psychosomatic aspects of illnesses or injuries that do not respond well to veterinary care. I can sometimes advise on nutritional needs, and I can work to restore body energy balance through spiritual healing.

Consultations can be kept confidential, or other people can observe and listen if that is comfortable for you and your animal companions.

How to Prepare

In the beginning, I will ask you a few basic questions about the animal's name, age, and breed to help me put their answers into some context and therefore understand them better. I can tune in with your animal friends and find out basic matters like how they feel about life, their purposes, concerns, attitudes, or enjoyments, but you facilitate a consultation by asking specific questions that are important to you. Animal companions may not talk about your areas of concern unless you focus their attention on them. Questions about health, attitudes, behavior, environment—past, present, future, are all welcome.

So, please have all your questions ready, written if necessary. If you'd like to record the consultation, have a recorder ready.

My ability to comprehend or put into context what the animal is saying is increased if I first have your information about a health or behavior problem. Then, I can get the animal's viewpoint about it, which may be very different from what you think or may fill in the picture of what you or others perceive. Just asking, "what's wrong with this horse, dog, or cat?" won't necessarily be productive, especially if they don't feel anything is wrong with them or have no immediate pain or stress. A challenging or hostile attitude creates mental static and headaches, and it wastes time and energy.

Full communication and receptivity from all concerned is the key to maximum benefit from a consultation.

Have an open attitude, whether you are skeptical or not, and you may find, as have many people before you, that your consultation is an interesting and helpful experience.

THE VITAL ROLE OF PURE PRESENCE Penelope Smith (Founder's Frame column, *Species Link* autumn 2011)

You may have experienced the following conditions other animal communicators have related to me:

- Being frustrated when a client won't change or doesn't get what you espouse or advise; trying to convince a client about your point of view;
- Animals will not communicate with you or you can't seem to get anything from animals at times;
- Issues don't resolve; a solution or program of action does not seem to present itself in the consultation dialog;
- Clients (all species) feel puzzled, dissatisfied, misunderstood, frustrated, or angry after a consultation.

What do these situations indicate? All of them can be symptoms of an animal communicator's lack of true presence and telepathic connection, which is so necessary for a positive experience for clients of any species.

The Foundation

Cultivating, maintaining, and increasing pure, positive, listening presence and telepathic connection in consultations with clients is a major factor in the resolution of problems and facilitating positive change. It is a major focus in my Interspecies Counselor Course and builds a solid foundation for a rewarding animal communication career.

An animal communicator's pure presence and telepathic connection is magical. Clients of all species expand emotionally and spiritually when they feel truly listened to, respected, understood, and embraced for who they are. True telepathic communication brings healing light on the situation presented. Doorways open and ways to resolve problems spontaneously arise. Clients see, discover, understand, and embrace solutions.

Animals Are Willing to Communicate

Animals are also very willing to communicate to animal communicators who have calm, focused presence and everyone's interest at heart rather than their own distractions or agenda in the forefront. When animal communicators listen on a telepathic level to the human client's feelings as well as the animal's, all are drawn into cooperation and problems already begin to dissolve. In the atmosphere created by this listening presence, the animal communicator's skill, knowledge and experience is readily available as well as wisdom beyond what was previously known.

To have a "miraculous" resolution is not just a matter of trying to figure out what to do or handling a situation using wit or previous solutions. When an animal communicator is deeply present and listening to those who are confused, conflicted, ignorant of what to do, and seeking guidance, and meets them with compassion, a door is opened. Everyone works together instead of being mired in conflict. Wisdom can arise out of this union.

Calming, compassionate, focused presence helps beings of any species melt resistance, begin to see each other's points of view, ease into cooperation, and heal. The older cat softens about accepting the new cat. The very ill dog that veterinary attention has failed to help, lifts out of his emotional malaise and begins to get well. The person who believed that dogs and horses should be dominated into desired behavior now sees how animals are fellow beings with their own feelings and viewpoints, that animals can be helped to understand human wishes, and all species can work as a team.

Creating a Field

Dropping back into the bigger picture of our fundamental union as soul/anima creates a field for connection, resolution, realization, and breakthrough.

While having an agenda we must get across may bring us a temporary triumph of will, this vehement stance may create overwhelm or stressful emotions in clients. Advocating one's particular viewpoint can also create conflict and continuance or hardening of a problem. If a consultation does not bring more goodwill, joy, peace, love, understanding, and harmony, true telepathic connection has not been fully served or realized.

Compassionate, empathetic presence helps bring true resolution through mind, heart, and soul-sparking revelation. Deep presence and true telepathic connection often brings instant positive changes. I have seen complex problems unravel or melt away as animal communicators relay true communication and understanding. This opens the door to animals and people taking their next steps on their journey to a more evolved, happy, peaceful, harmonious state of being—the litmus test of a consultation.

When I hear animal communicators complain about difficult clients or animals, and how clients couldn't "get it," a major contributing factor may be that the animal communicators got caught in their own fears or distractions and were not 100% present for their clients. Being truly present will also help you to see when your skill or experience is not what is needed to handle the situation and the person and animal needs other professional help such as holistic veterinarians or other therapists. Presence will also help you see that a person is not responding to your help and you can be honest in admitting that you cannot do anything more for that person.

Sparkling in the Grid of Light

Staying in telepathic attunement, empathy, understanding, and alignment with the goodness of all beings creates clarity and dissolves barriers and misunderstandings. Becoming one with all the others in a consultation and truly feeling what they feel has a unifying affect, a dissolution of differences that melts opposition and brings higher awareness beyond the details of identities and positions.

Presence and telepathic connection bring everyone to the place where situations are seen as they truly are and organic solutions are revealed. The spectrum from physical pragmatic approaches to the highest loving understanding and spiritual awareness and healing become available as needed. As we practice and deepen presence and telepathic understanding, continuous miracles happen.

You will know you are in a state of pure presence when everyone involved feels validated, connected, understood, and free to expand. In centered presence, we tap into a grid of light, the pure ubiquitous essence that sparks us all. Behind all creation of viewpoints, worlds, species.... there is a latticework of light, a pure light energy that knows no shortage, no division, no separation, where true beauty resides and laughter is the sound of creation. Meet your clients there.

RECOGNIZING AND HANDLING THE MISUSE OF TELEPATHIC COMMUNICATION Penelope Smith (*Species Link* autumn 1993)

Since I gave my first course in 1977, the results of teaching people how to open up to their ability to communicate with animals have been positive, with very few instances of intentional misuse. Now that telepathic communication with animals is becoming a more widespread ability, I am hearing more stories of how some have used this skill to upset people and animal companions. As in any field, there are those who try to help others with clear and pure intentions and those who mix their own emotional imbalances into their dealings with others.

I wrote the "Code of Ethics for Interspecies Telepathic Communicators" following a situation with Stella, who attended an Advanced Course at my home. (The names in this article have been changed for

confidentiality.) Stella was uncomfortable around other people and said that she trusted animals more than she did humans. Serious and self-defensive in demeanor, she announced that she could get other people's thoughts since she was a child and was aware of others' criticism of her.

People who are sensitive may easily get the thoughts, feelings, and energies of people around them. However, they can project that their own unresolved emotional problems, frustrations, and inhibitions are coming from other people rather than from themselves. Their own lack of clarity reflects back to them when they look at others. To clearly receive others' thoughts requires that you be honest with and know yourself well, with nothing (or as close to nothing as possible) muddying your receptive field.

We generally flavor our communications from others with our own outlook on life, so it is helpful to have positive attitudes about other beings and life in general. In general, optimistic attitudes favorably influence interactions and interpretations. Negative attitudes and interfering emotional insecurities result in warped interpretations of others' communication. Even if disparaging thoughts or energies come from others, when you are balanced within and positive about yourself and life in general, you can generally let these roll by without undue stress. By recognizing the source of these thoughts, you can remain relatively unaffected by them unless you become overwhelmed by continual, high-volume bombardment.

Stella later was very upset and talked to my husband, Michel, about wanting to leave the course because she perceived that I was critical of her and her relationship to her animals. I took her aside to clear up the misunderstanding as best as possible. While Stella continued with the course, her defensive attitude persisted despite my encouraging words and feelings. Weeks later, I heard that she had interpreted animal communication and advised people about their animals in ways that were upsetting.

Although I certainly couldn't and didn't want to police or control other people's thoughts or actions, I felt I needed to set up some guidelines for interspecies telepathic communicators. I meditated and prayed, and was able to formulate the Code of Ethics. I have found that the people who are committed to doing this type of work already embrace these guidelines naturally and heartily as a cherished part of their lives. Those that use telepathic skills to manipulate others or to gratify their own perverted feelings obviously are not in accord with the Code. Eventually they will stop themselves. This is not an ability that can long be used with an impure heart. It seems to have its own built-in safeguards.

HARMFUL INTENTIONS

Jane was asked to train a young horse who then reacted with uncharacteristic fear and aggression toward her. She found out through her own and others' communication with the horse that the filly was told by the very person who had introduced Jane to telepathic communication with animals that Jane was going to kill the filly and that she should fight back and defend herself. This revelation was very upsetting to Jane. With the help of several people's positive reassurance, the filly eventually let go of her fear and again became cooperative in her training. Jane sought personal clarification about this situation from several psychic counselors and wrote to me asking how to handle the person involved.

Many people routinely communicate to animals in negative ways, whether they are versed in telepathic communication or not. They label animals derogatorily, misjudge their character, and relay confusing, unfavorable, or upsetting emotions and messages. Being able to help animals and their people to

resolve emotional upsets through communication and counseling is certainly a blessing. Using the Bach Flower Remedies, healing touch, and calm reassurance can also significantly help animals through fears and stresses.

People who misuse their spiritual abilities and cause harm to others may soon find that their abilities decline, other people and animals reject them, and they become emotionally distraught. Sometimes they can be approached on the subject and helped, but they may also be very resistant to direct communication about their behavior. A gentle method is to send the offenders blessings along their way with wishes that they find their own light. This reduces your own adverse feelings and can help the others involved to undergo positive transformation. Sending a copy of the "Code of Ethics for Interspecies Telepathic Communicators" can also jog the perpetrators into recognition and change. As a safeguard in dubious situations, picture yourself, your animals, all the people and area involved surrounded with light and progressing toward their greatest harmony and beauty. Ask guardian angels for protection and guidance.

THE SHADOW AND FANATICISM

Telepathic work requires people to continually grow emotionally and spiritually, and take responsibility for their motives and actions. Lack of honest self-perception can be hazardous. Spiritual teachers throughout the ages have required rigorous self-development as necessary for cognitive clarity. Many have warned that improper initiation or spiritual discipline brought dangers of being caught up in deceptive or pernicious elements, including astral entities, aberrations of fantasy, and the mirror images of our unclarified Shadow.

The "Shadow" is the realm of ourselves where denied thoughts and feelings live, which can affect us without conscious awareness, creating havoc. This dark or denied aspect must be faced and integrated as we go through life, or it can affect our work in service to others. Integrating the shadow's repressed energy helps to release creative energy and brings clarity and mental and emotional stability.

Several years ago, another student, Barbara, was very zealous in regaining the ability to communicate telepathically with animals. She, like Stella, had trouble dealing with people and was on a disability leave from work because she had suffered a "nervous breakdown" from conflicts with her former boss. Barbara was very sincere in her love for animals but had an underlying hostile attitude toward people. She tried very hard to listen to the animals but found herself running up against mental blankness or blackness. In questioning her, I found out that her diet was heavily laden with sugar, coffee, and chocolate. Her dinner often consisted of a package of instant chocolate pudding mix. Given her poor nutritional status, it wasn't surprising that Barbara had severe mood swings and trouble focusing or listening. I advised her to eat a more wholesome diet as an aid to calming her nervous system, improving her physical stability, and enhancing her telepathic connection with animals.

When Barbara upgraded her diet, her overall health and mental well being improved, but it was not easy for her to avoid her addictions. I also advised that she seek counseling or other therapy to help her with her unresolved emotional issues. I felt she needed to follow some balanced spiritual discipline to ground her energy and discover herself and her abilities in an integrated way. Life is not an instant pudding mix.

Barbara frenetically searched from book to book, method to method, teacher to teacher, seeking ways to get the ability to communicate with animals she so fervently desired. Finally, she proclaimed that she had the ability she wanted. She proceeded to do some positive work in listening to and healing animals, but Barbara had difficulties. She couldn't shut off a constant stream of voices, and she perceived that the animals were always interrupting each other. She wasn't able to differentiate the sources of her communications, and they seemed to torment her. In contrast, I have found that animals are mentally peaceful most of the time, do not chatter incessantly or interrupt each other, and mainly address communications to you when you ask them specific questions.

Barbara suffered another nervous breakdown. After apparently recovering from that, she made a devastating attempt to help Charles with his ill dog and horse. At first, she did some healing work with the animals, which seemed beneficial. Then Barbara gave Charles advice she assured was for his best interest and channeled from "The Great White Brotherhood," to the effect that he was filled with evil entities and that he caused another horse to have a convulsion and had to stay away from his own horse and others until he was cured by the good spirits she had summoned. Barbara's Rasputin-like affect on Charles, in his vulnerable emotional state, caused him to suffer tremendous emotional upheaval and nightmares, until he obtained the help of several counselors. He realized that Barbara was projecting onto him the difficulties and perceived entities that plagued her. Barbara seemed to be obsessed with perceiving evil forces; she had her own home exorcised to try to alleviate her personal upheavals and difficulty with her animal companions.

Barbara passed along to me a communication she said she had received from turkey vultures. The written message was filled with heavy remonstrance toward "man" and hailed Barbara as "the first person that sees beauty and dignity in our being." The transmission mirrored her unbalanced self-focus and seemed more like the musings of tormented entities than the thoughts and feelings of turkey vultures, from which I and others have received graceful, peaceful communications.

I find that most animals share positive feelings with people. If they have complaints, they generally express them as vented feelings or observations rather than as personal vendettas toward humans.

FULL OF SPIRIT

Ellen, an animal communicator, was called about a newborn filly, "Full of Spirit," who was born with very severe scoliosis and could not stand up to nurse without being helped to her feet. Ellen found that Full of Spirit had an incredible zest for life. The owner of the mare and foal wanted to euthanize the foal and sell the mare for meat for having such a bad foal. The mare and filly let everyone know that they would not give up, and Janet, the owner of the barn, took responsibility for the two horses to see if anything could be done.

Ellen began working with a chiropractic veterinarian, and the medical community was amazed at the little horse's progress. She was filled with buoyant energy and made people joyful just to be around her. She began to stand and nurse, with the help of a harness and even walk a bit. After months of steady improvement, Full of Spirit suddenly ran a very high fever and wouldn't eat.

Janet called Ellen for help and was asked to talk to a woman, named Karen, on the phone. Karen had previously gone to a course to watch Ellen and a chiropractic vet work together. Karen explained that as she watched Ellen work, she suddenly knew that this is what she had to do. Karen began seeing a

psychic once a week, and in two months she said she was able to totally and successfully communicate to the animals and do healing work with them.

Karen then told Ellen that Full of Spirit told her, clearly, that it was her time to go and that she needed to be euthanized right then. Karen forcefully exclaimed that she knew this to be true because she was given a sign by her spirit guides telling her that she was seeing things the way they really were. She explained to Ellen that when she asked her spirit guide for help, her left hand moved to her mouth and her lips formed the letter "D." When she spit it out, the words came forth, "Do it. Do it," and her hand was in the shape of a needle and syringe. Karen said that she knew that this was the truth but that there were still other people (including Ellen) that were keeping Full of Spirit here for whatever lessons that they needed to learn. Karen said she had been giving Full of Spirit lots of healing energy for the last day to help her pass on.

Ellen questioned the information she had gotten from Full of Spirit, since it so drastically differed from Karen's death wish. She again checked with the young horse and still got that she was not giving up and that she wanted Janet, her caregiver, to know this. Ellen did not want to create any problems for the people involved but had to be honest about what she received. Ellen reassured Janet that Full of Spirit would let Janet know directly when it was time to end her life. Janet was relieved, and she said that Full of Spirit's blood tests had come back that morning as vastly improved from the day before, but showed some serious dehydration. Her temperature was also down. Janet decided to rehydrate her.

Janet felt that whenever Ellen had talked to Full of Spirit in the past six months, the things she said were so typical of the filly's personality, and they were things that Janet somehow knew deep down inside. However, as she listened to Karen, it didn't feel right at all, and it didn't feel like Full of Spirit.

Janet described how Karen had been alone in the stall with the filly for about 30 minutes when she came running out and crying hysterically that the horse had to be euthanized right then. Janet had to calm Karen down.

Ellen's experience with animals who were ready to depart revealed that the animals felt, not panic or hysteria, but peace. Clearly, Karen was adding her own agenda to the communications. Janet made the decision not to euthanize then; the horse was improving and not suffering at all.

Full of Spirit's usual support team was out of town that weekend, and Karen's negative, focused energy seemed to be wearing the horse down. Janet and Ellen tried to boost Full of Spirit through the trying time, but the horse seemed to be drained of all her energy, could no longer fight, and was then ready to go. Janet felt that Full of Spirit was telling her the time was right now. They wished her well on her journey and had her euthanized.

After Full of Spirit left her body, she conversed with Janet through Ellen and let her know she was fine. She was playing, running, and free of the body that couldn't quite contain the energy of her magnificent soul. Ellen and Janet knew that Karen had only accelerated matters, that Full of Spirit was not living at the mercy of people who were holding on to her to learn whatever they needed to learn, as Karen insisted. She had lived her life because she enjoyed it.

Later Karen conveyed that Full of Spirit would not be available to talk with anyone until she came back in physical form in six months, and she would make herself known to Karen first. Through Ellen, Janet

was able to counteract this upsetting interpretation, and by connection with Full of Spirit, she was reassured by her former horse friend that she could communicate with her anytime, that the connection and friendship was still there. Everyone except Karen now felt emotionally at peace.

THE TONE OF GENUINE COMMUNICATION

These examples give us clues on how to recognize abuse of telepathic communication with animals. The communications don't feel right, are upsetting, and have negative results. People usually recognize and accept the tone of genuine communication from their own animal friends. Accurate communications usually help to resolve conflicts and problems.

Our own personal outlook is inevitably a part of any reception of communication, whether verbal, physical, or telepathic. Communications are least altered from their original intention and meaning when listeners do not impede clear reception and transfer by coloring the message unduly with their own personalities and experience.

A good communicator also interprets the messages to the people involved in a helpful, positive way, with consideration for their feelings. People who feel they love animals but loath people do not do well in this field. A prerequisite for being a good communicator or counselor is love and compassion for all species and individuals you work with, including humans, and (perhaps, most of all) yourself. At the minimum, a professional needs to practice Walt Whitman's words in *Leaves of Grass*: "Love the earth and sun and the animals. Have patience and indulgence toward the people."

If you get hostile or judgmental toward human clients who come to you for help, you won't be able to hear the animal clearly or offer balanced suggestions for the betterment of everyone involved. Your own preconceptions and judgments will cloud communication and understanding and upset both animals and humans. People generally call for help because they sincerely love their animals, even if that is not apparent in their outward mannerisms. Solutions are best when they elicit the cooperation of everyone involved.

AUTHORITIES AND BLIND OBEDIENCE

This work cannot be done on a "know best" basis, with a righteous or authoritarian attitude, no matter how strongly you feel about your own opinions or solutions. Some people who are new to this ability or suddenly feel their perceptions opening may be carried away with the excitement or magic of other-dimensional possibilities and feel that whatever they get is superior to anything else and people must listen to them. They need to calm down and balance their perception with the perceptions of others around them. While personal truth is wonderful and necessary for oneself, other perceptions of reality are also valid. If people persist in fanatically imposing their view on others, they may be chastened by their lack of balanced understanding by the animals, other people, or themselves.

Ellen relayed some graphic experiences about accepting authoritarian viewpoints and treatment that apply here:

"So many people feel at the mercy of authority figures in the animal world. Trainers and vets make life and death pronouncements every day, some of which are way off base. One local vet, in four cases that I know of, has told cat owners to put their cats to sleep when they suddenly started to miss their

litter boxes. The four cats became clients of mine and amazingly have been using the litter boxes again. They all had had some major change in their households.

"I had another call that I just couldn't believe. This woman trains and shows black Labradors. She called me because she had been paired up with another trainer for a client to get through the national championships. She began working with him to discover in the first week some very unusual training techniques. He routinely picks these dogs up by their ears, throws them over his back, and slams them on the ground. This is routine! One day he had a twelve-week-old puppy that didn't answer to his name. So he picked him up by the ears and threw him ten feet into the back of a pick-up truck. This woman then talked to him about that and said she didn't agree with his technique. He didn't care. These dogs aren't his. They are other people's dogs who hired him. He also leaves shock collars on them all the time and uses them so much that their skin is burned and hair singed. On the day she called me, he had been shocking a dog so badly that she took off running out of control. He continued to shock her as she ran. She ran into a lake, and he still shocked her. This woman jumped in and saved the dog as she was just going under.

"The woman couldn't sleep at night. She couldn't eat. She couldn't get the dogs' screams out of her head. However, she still was calling me to ask one of her dogs if she wanted to go with this guy for training! Boy, did her dogs have things to say! This trainer is one of the top in the country, and she was actually still considering him, even after seeing what she saw. She then thought about turning him in. I don't know what she decided.

"I can't believe what some people will do because of someone else's supposed authority. People won't ask questions, and often just blindly accept. Thank goodness that the animals are so kind, loving, and forgiving."

Sorry for the painful horror story, but in this field you encounter such treatment of animals and people's acceptance of such behavior from "experts." These sickening realities and obedient acceptance of them need to be faced and changed.

In all fields where we go to others for guidance, we need to examine the balance and wholeness of the person whose services we desire. Talk to people who have worked with the person before and ask about the results. Notice the benefit to the animals and humans. Observe communicators' own attitudes and actions with animals and people. While sainthood is not a requirement, notice how communicators take responsibility for their mistakes and work to better their own and others' lives. Watch for those who are rigid or sure they know best or attribute what they get as infallible or irrevocable because it came from other sources, whether these are inner voices, guides, angels, God, or the animals. There is often room for improved understanding and meeting of minds in any intercommunication. Use the Code of Ethics as a guideline for assessing a good practitioner.

There are no hard and fast rules in interpreting any form of communication among beings. Honor your own judgment of what is good and right for you. Most of all, have fun in the adventure of meeting others mind to mind, heart to heart, and soul to soul.

BE PREPARED Dawn Hayman (Species Link, spring 1994)

Someone called me asking for information on how to become an animal communicator. She commented about how lucky I must be to be doing this. She didn't like working with people and was sure she could handle animals much better. She was also looking for an easy, fun job. She didn't have time to take any courses but was a fast learner, she assured me. "Just tell me what I need to do," she said. I took a deep breath and tried to explain that it wasn't as easy as that. She assured me that she understood that she would have to work at it, of course, but she was sure that she could do it, because she was good at giving advice. She wanted me to teach her all I knew over the phone. I had never worked with this person before and knew nothing about her, but the one thing I did know was that I couldn't help her. I tried to explain about animal communication, but I could tell I wasn't getting through. I sent her some information on material that she could read, and I hoped for the best. However, I couldn't rest well that night. So many thoughts were going through my head. I had recently had the unfortunate experience of coming across two people who were using their animal communication skills in a very negative and unethical manner. I decided to sit down and write about what it is that I do.

I am an animal communicator. It took me a long time to be able to say that. I cringe at the title "animal psychic" and when people tell me how "gifted" I am. To say that I am gifted implies that this is something that very few people can do. That didn't seem right to me, because this is something that everyone has the ability to do. It was one of our animals, though, that pointed out a simple fact to me. She told me straight out, "you are gifted. It is a gift available to all, but not all are gifted to use it." I could see the point but still had trouble being gifted. However, this really is a gift, and a very precious one. It is a gift wrought with incredible rewards and with enormous responsibilities. It is not something to be taken lightly and as a "job." It is really a profession. If I were to write a job description, it would be difficult, but it would read something like this:

So you want to be an animal communicator. You should be prepared for the following things in your endeavor: First, it is not a journey with a destination. If you are looking for an end result, you will be disappointed. If it's the journey you like, then you will have a chance.

If you are looking for great insights into animals and their ways, you will be filled with delight. You will also have to look straight into the insights you will find about yourself. Some of them may not be so easy. However, they are sure to be pure, if you allow them to happen honestly. Be prepared to laugh. Also, be prepared to feel all other feelings, and to learn how to deal with them. For many of us, that is not easy.

Be prepared to drop all of your preconceived notions about how things should be, in order to be open to new ideas.

Be prepared not to judge others. Sometimes you will hear things from people that you will consider wrong or bad. People often do the best they can with what they have, and your ways may not be right, just because they are your ways. Things aren't always what they seem. By judging others in extreme ways, you eliminate any chance for them to change.

Be prepared not to give advice. What may have worked for you may not work for someone else. People will look to you as an authority. They may do something that you say, rather than seeking the necessary

medical or technical advice that they need. This is not within the realm of animal communicating, and is very dangerous, indeed.

Be prepared to deal mostly with people. This is a people profession. It will be people who call you and people you talk to. It will be the people that you are helping to reconnect with their own abilities to communicate to their own animals. This is not about proving what your abilities are as a communicator. It is about helping others to find their abilities. You will be a facilitator. A bridge. You can also be prepared for emotional outpourings from people. You have to be able to deal with emotional issues in a non-judgmental and supportive way, without taking on the problem yourself or having to save the day. Sometimes people will disclose to you some very personal issues. It will not be your position to judge. It will be your time to listen.

Don't look for glory. Some people will try to make you a hero. Mostly it is their doubts of themselves speaking. These times are very humbling.

Be prepared to remain pure and humble. There will be certain built-in safeguards. Whenever you start losing your humility, someone (often, an animal) comes along to help you out. You need to be open to listening.

Be prepared to listen a lot. The important things will not be what you say but what you hear. The silences are also important. Be sure to listen to them.

Be sure to understand and respect confidentiality, both for humans and animals alike. People and animals will be telling you some of their deepest concerns. They may seem unimportant to you, but they mean everything to the people and animals involved.

Be prepared to say no. There will be times when your own energy is low, you are doing some business of your own, or you just plain can't bring yourself to talk to another animal that day, and someone will call crying about an emergency they have. You will not be doing anyone any favors by stretching yourself so thin. You will be less likely to get a clear communication, more likely to make yourself ill, and not be of benefit to the situation. Sometimes this gets very, very difficult, and often this is hard learned.

Be prepared to accept your own limitations and be comfortable with them. You can only do what you can do. Once you can accept that, the things that you do will only get more pure.

Be prepared to learn to take care of yourself. You will learn to understand the ups and downs of your own energies. When they are down, you need to rest and do things to recharge yourself. The quickest way to burnout is to ignore your own signals. You must learn to listen to yourself.

Be prepared to grow and change. Every conversation with animals and humans alike will take you to new places and deeper understandings about so many things.

Be prepared to add more and more to this ever-growing list.

GUARANTEED OUTCOMES Teresa Wagner (*Species Link*, autumn 2006)

For satisfaction to occur in any professional exchange, it helps to begin with clear expectations and boundaries of the service provided. It is my goal and sincere intent that each client I work with feels respected, listened to, cared about and comfortable during a consultation, and, that at the completion of the session they feel their goals for the discussion have been met.

During sessions, I facilitate a process to help clients and their animals explore whatever feelings, issues, and problems are important to them. I help them discover and clarify what they are each thinking and feeling, translate and convey messages back and forth between animal and person, support them in attempting to resolve problems together, offer healing interventions or tools where appropriate and desired, and offer coaching for the human on things he or she might do to reinforce what's been discussed and perhaps agreed upon with their animal in a session.

I can guarantee that this is the overall approach I will use in a session, but I cannot guarantee:

- ***What an animal will say in a telepathic conversation***
- ***Whether a person will be pleased with what an animal has to say***
- ***That problems will be solved or behaviors changed as a result of a consultation***

I wish with all my heart that a session with a professional animal communication consultant could guarantee changes in emotions, behavior, or health desired by the client and discussed in a session. However, an animal communicator can no more guarantee this than a veterinarian can guarantee perfect health or cured disease after a medical intervention, or a therapist can guarantee a cure of depression after a therapy session.

A respectful, loving, thorough, and skillful animal communication process can be guaranteed. Outcomes of the process cannot be guaranteed. It is very important to enter a consultation with any animal communicator knowing this.

An effective animal communicator is not only a translator but a good facilitator of problem solving and healing as well. Facilitators of problem solving and healing in any context, with any specialties cannot guarantee outcomes. Healing and problem solving are often processes that continue over time, not stand-alone events. These processes often have multiple layers of issues to sort through, understand, and release which may require continued attention beyond one discussion or healing session. Sometimes, of course, when the root cause of a problem is simply a misunderstanding, results can occur immediately. However, issues of trauma or longstanding, deep-seated problems cannot be expected to be resolved in one hour. *Please be patient and mindful of these issues when working with an animal communication consultant and your animal.*

THE ISSUE OF PROOF Teresa Wagner (*Species Link* autumn 2006)

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.
~Helen Keller

Telepathic communication is not a science. Because of this, proof of it does not come in scientific ways. Telepathic communication is a function of intuition. Therefore, its strongest validation is our own intuitive

response to what a communicator tells us our animal is saying or feeling. I will often hear a client say, "You know I *knew* that but I just wasn't sure," or "I kind of had a vague sense about this but I think I wasn't ready to see it so clearly." Often an animal communication session with a professional consultant is a means for the human client to get validation and support for what they already knew intuitively themselves, to expand on it or go deeper. Sometimes verifiable "evidence" does occur: "Oh, wow, yes, our barn is blue!" "Oh yes, he does just love his pet sitter to pieces, " "Oh yes he does love to sleep by the window," "Oh yes he definitely hates other cats!" Or simply, "That sure sounds like our Fluffy!"

People want to feel comfortable that the communicator they are working with is connected to *their* animal. The best way for that to happen is organically— meaning that during the natural flow of the conversation, examples such as the ones above will come through on their own. To try to force proof through what I call information validation questions, such as, "What color is my dog's bowl?" "I need you to tell me something from my animal that only I would know," or "I am going to withhold some important information about my animal because I want you to demonstrate to me that you can figure it out," is a wasteful exercise.

It is understandable that some people want external proof that animal communication is real or even possible. The need to ask information validation questions is an indication that the person asking does not yet trust intuitively derived information and is asking someone else to make that leap *for* them. Trusting intuitively derived information that is not physically verifiable is a challenging hurdle for some people to cross. The most effective venue to "find proof," however, is not in a professional animal communication consultation. Coming to terms with whether or not one believes in telepathy with animals is much more effectively done through learning more about it personally, rather than expecting or demanding that someone external to us prove it for us. I heartily recommend learning to trust one's intuition and telepathy from one of the many fine books and CD's available on the subject, by attending seminars and workshops in which you can practice and experience telepathy first hand, or, to simply practice on your own. It is a natural ability within all of us. Our coming to trust it comes from within.

In the best-case scenario, a client comes to an animal communication session with a basic level of trust in the process. The client, communicator, and animal work together to help build the human client's understanding and trust of the process as the clients ask questions of their animals about issues truly important to the relationship. Confirmation of the information received by the communicator comes organically and everyone is satisfied.

In the worst-case scenario, a client comes to the session asking "test" questions. If the communicator and animal do not respond to the human client's liking, the client then disbelieves all other important information the animals wanted the human to understand, despite any organic confirmation of it. Everyone leaves this type of consultation dissatisfied, including the animal. Using an actual consultation to determine whether you believe animal communication is real can be a waste of a client's time and money, a waste of the communicator's energy, and worst of all can be frustrating to the animal who may have important messages that are missed because the session is being used to "test" a communicator regarding factual information they already have, rather than exploring what their animal is feeling and thinking.

In my workshops and mentoring sessions, I love to help people learn to trust intuitively derived information and to remember their natural telepathic abilities with animals. **In my private**

consultations, however, I only work with people who already have a basic trust of or openness to telepathic information, even if it is very new to them.

If you are looking for a communicator to prove for you that this work is real, if you need to ask information validation questions or to withhold key descriptive information about your animal to test whether a communicator will get it right, I am not the communicator for you to work with.

My sincere intent is to make clients who come to me feel safe, comfortable, nurtured, understood, and clear about what to expect in a session. If you are looking for a communicator to clarify what your animal is thinking and feeling, to explore, when appropriate, the depths of your animals' emotions and soul, to uncover the root causes of emotional or behavioral issues, or to work through complex issues of healing, I would be an appropriate communicator with whom to work.

ACCURACY & REFUNDS (Voice of Experience column *Species Link* winter 2009)

What do you do if a reading you have done for a paying client is inaccurate? Do you still charge the full price of the session?

Inaccurate? Says Who?

Accuracy is a relative thing and dependent on point of view, according to many animal communicators who answered our question. **Morgine Jurdan** compares animal communication to other professions. "I have seen many people make mistakes and wrong diagnosis, including doctors, vets, medical intuitives, psychics, naturopaths, and healers of all kinds. Many of these people rarely apologize, offer a refund, or [give] a guarantee. It is simply accepted they are not always right." However, she would prefer to send clients on their way with a refund instead of in an angry state in which they will tell everyone they know about how their money was wasted.

Dr. Kim Ogden-Avrutik reiterates that inaccuracy is a relative term. "If the animal you have communicated with told you something and you repeated it to the client verbatim, without interpreting (which is where things can get tricky) then the answer is accurate whether or not it makes sense to the client. Nevertheless, if an animal simply did not relate something during the session, the consultation is not necessarily inaccurate.

"It is not the responsibility of the animal communicator to pick up absolutely everything in one session. There is only a certain amount of time for the exchange of information between Spirit, the animal, the guardian, and the animal communicator."

In one session, Kim's angry client felt that she should have picked up a chronic problem with her dog's leg. The dog however, talked about several other areas of his body that were in pain.

"I did not feel the consultation was inaccurate, only that the dog wished to focus on other areas of his body that needed attention and, to him, were more acutely in distress that day."

Taking several factors into account when deciding on fees or refunds is part of Kim's practice. She advises animal communicators to stay flexible. A cat who urinated outside the litter box is a case in point.

“After a consultation with a long-term client, her cat used the litter box more, but still did not use it all the time. She wanted another consultation to give the cat a ‘last’ chance, and afterward the cat used the litter box 100% of the time. For the second consultation, I charged the client a reduced fee. She’s a really good person, rescued this cat, and was spending a lot of money on vet bills.”

Kim, among other animal communicators, returns the entire fee if a client is unhappy with the consultation.

Time Will Tell

Lisa Shaw echoed the feedback of many animal communicators who felt that the validity of a reading could come much later on. “There have been times when I questioned my own abilities because of the client’s insistence that the reading was wrong, and I regretted it afterwards. In one lost animal case, a pushy, belligerent woman became angry with me because, although I reported that the dog had been adopted into a new loving home, I didn’t provide an exact address so she could retrieve her dog. I did charge her. When she mailed me a check, she wrote on the memo portion of the check, ‘for 5 minutes worth of work.’ I did some deep breathing, considered possible responses, and then decided to cash the check because I had faith in my work and felt I should be compensated for my time like any other professional. But there was another time when I did not charge an impossible client. His schnauzer was hyperactive and difficult to calm down because of the man’s neurosis. Every time I gave him information, he said, ‘no, no’ and in the middle of my reading answered his phone a few times to take business calls while I was in mid-sentence. I realized that even if that poor schnauzer wanted to sit and converse, the owner’s frenetic energy would make it impossible. I told him I couldn’t do anything else for him and wouldn’t charge him.”

Reasonable and Customary

Several animal communicators felt that if we do our best and conscientiously offer our time and talents to a session, charging for it is customary. **Tim Link** says it’s appropriate when “we perform a valuable service, spend our time and energy, and do the best we can.” Along the same lines, **Betty Lewis** doesn’t charge for information or advice, but she does charge for her time. A few animal communicators, like **Janel**, expressed that they do not give refunds, although they do offer to try again. **Jennifer Gross** charges the minimum half hour fee when clients are unhappy.

Disconnecting from the Negative

Lost animal cases are mentioned by many animal communicators as one of the areas in which refunds are requested due to the ambiguity of the information and the expectations of the client.

Clients are often dealing with the difficult lessons of letting go, empathy for others who experience this kind of loss, or even learning to honor the path an animal has chosen. Emotions run high when it comes to lost animals, and that means clients have very selective hearing. If I (**Suzan Vaughn**) feel good about my own clarity during a reading, I will charge my regular fee unless I want to energetically cut the cord between myself and a client I hope not to work with again.

Janet Dobbs agrees with disconnecting from negative energy. She tells the story of why she set her policy not to do readings requested by a third party.

“A man asked me to come to his home to talk to his wife’s horse as a very special birthday present. He was very excited about me coming out, but with each passing day, I got a negative feeling about going out to the country alone to see this man so I asked a friend to accompany me. I was wrong about the man; his wife was the source of the negative energy.

“We arrived to find no one in the home, but saw a woman way off in the distance in a round pen with a horse. She ignored us but we got out of the car and walked in her direction, finally shouting to ask if she was the person that I was to see. She nodded her head. In the round pen, we were introduced to the sweetest gelding who just lit up when we met. He was thrilled to see us and so happy that someone would actually listen to everything he had to say.

“The woman had a very long list of questions for me to ask her horse, announcing that the horse was dangerous and had hurt someone! This was completely contrary to what I sensed. The horse came over to me and put his head on my shoulder as if he was forming a barrier between myself and the woman to protect me and then turned to my friend for more love and healing energy. He answered almost all of her questions but when I asked him why he attacked a person, his response was that he would do it again, that he was defending himself, and fearing repercussions, did not want to tell me exactly what led to the incident.

“At that, the woman stood up and began yelling that I was a fraud! She said she knew that animal communication was a bunch of crap and she wanted me to give her husband his money back right away. My friend and I, along with the horse and the husband, were very upset. This woman did not believe in animal communication. I know that if I had the conversation with the husband present and the woman away, the result would have been totally different.

“I told the woman that I subscribe to a strict code of ethics, explained a few things about animal communication, thanked her for the opportunity to be with her horse, wrote her a check for a full refund, and got out of there as fast as I could.

“In that situation I was more than happy to give the money back and get the negative energy out of my life.”

Human Interference

Nicole Roberts has offered a refund under trying circumstances, adding “usually, the only time I am inaccurate is when the client is being tricky or secretive, or otherwise trying to ‘test’ me. Some animals will clam up because they are picking up the skeptic vibe from their person. In the case of distrustful clients, I will explain to the clients how their skepticism is affecting my ability to get accurate information from their animal, explaining that it’s not a matter of telling me more information but that their animal is mirroring their skepticism. Often, just addressing this issue openly and honestly will relax the client and change the quality of the reading immediately. However, if a client won’t try to cooperate with the telepathic process, I will end the session without a refund because I feel my time was wasted playing their testing game.”

Lost Animal Cases

Diane Samsel doesn't charge if she can't connect with an animal, which happens rarely, and she suspects the blocks are coming from the animal's human companion, too. She enjoys a high degree of accuracy, but when inaccuracies occur, it's usually related to lost animal cases. That's why she guarantees a full refund if the client is dissatisfied. "I tell clients I will do my best and explain some of the problems I encounter in working with lost animals; but when I'm wrong, clients can express frustration and anger. Those clients that want a refund usually offer to split the difference; they acknowledge that I did my best, but it wasn't good enough. I still do lost animals because when I'm right, the results are very life affirming and make a big difference in someone's life. When I'm wrong, it can be heart breaking. Living with my limitations has been humbling but has also taught me to be more careful. Each of the very few refund checks I send out remind me that I need to be very careful with my craft because people are depending on my skills."

I (**Suzan Vaughn**) had a lost animal case where a distressed client had a hard time listening to the information I gave her:

"I tuned in to a lost dog who showed me huddling frightened and cold in a cemetery, exactly where his caretakers thought he would be. He showed me clearly looking out through iron gates that prevented his escape, which the people indicated were closed at the end of each day. When they found the dog, he was with a couple who claimed they had taken him in just two hours after he had been lost. In their emotionally charged state, my clients could not hear what I was saying about *when* the dog was in the cemetery. They wanted to know he was there right now, and bolted out to find him. The lost dog's companion dog had been found in the cemetery and the two had left together, making it likely they had spent some time there. The client in this instance received calm counseling that helped get her through the crisis and I did not offer a refund."

No Happy, No Pay

Linda Gress doesn't charge for a session unless the client is happy. Linda once encountered a cat who refused to cooperate when his human was testing the telepathic process. "A human companion wanted to know about her cat's past and previous owner. The cat got angry and said 'No. I don't need to go there. She is wasting my time!' I found out the cat had lived with the woman's deceased father previously and she knew everything about him. The cat wanted to discuss his health."

Kristina Berg Triplat also has a money-back guarantee. "My intention in any session with a client and their animal friend is for the deepening of their relationship. If a session feels 'inaccurate' to a client and s/he doesn't feel it gave them what they were looking for, I do not charge anything. Whether it turns out later that the information was correct, what is more important to me is that the relationship is supported."

Try Try Again

Offering additional free time to a client is what **Debbie Johnstone** gives in lieu of a refund. She finds there are times when the information coming through is not what the person wants to hear so she probes deeper by asking questions of the client. "I've found that with a little extra time and quiet

understanding, I've been able to assist and satisfy the needs of most people and their animal companions.

"I've also had sessions where an individual thought the information was inaccurate, but it later turned out to be correct. When a client tells me that something doesn't make sense to them or it doesn't seem to be correct, I ask them to hold onto the information as it may become clearer what it means sometime in the future." Several animal communicators expressed this same sentiment.

Educating Clients

Jane Summers assists her clients in realizing that animal communication is an art and not a science; educates them about how telepathic communication is received and conveyed and that intuitive information may be interpreted literally or metaphorically. She also emphasizes that information about a missing animal changes by the minute.

Jane feels that animal communication does not guarantee complete accuracy by conventional standards. Animal communicators should assess whether a refund is warranted based on the situation as well as what feels right. Jane says sessions take time and skill and no one expects a refund from another kind of counselor should a session prove less fruitful than they expect. Payment is exchanged for the time spent by an experienced and educated professional in the hope that resolution may come from communication.

Policy Change

Heidi Wright used to ask for payment at the end of a session, along with confirmation of the client's satisfaction, but her policy has changed. "I had several people tell me during the phone session how accurate I was, validate things I told them, and say I had described their animal and situation perfectly. At the end of the session when it came time to talk money they completely changed, said that they did not think I contacted their animal, and did not think they should have to pay me. Now I receive fees first but I don't cash the check or take the payment until after the session."

Accuracy Tips

Prior to each animal communication session, **Debbie Johnstone** sets an intention for the highest and best information to come through in a clear and understandable way. "Setting intentions prior to each communication session has really changed my experience. I feel much more at ease and in the flow, and have received very positive feedback from my clients."

Morgine Jurdan says deciding ahead of time what her client really wants and how she can serve them strengthens the session. She asks herself a series of questions including, "Do they want animal communication, spiritual counseling about their animals, life coaching, medical information? What role are they asking me to play and am I willing? Are they open and spiritually in tune with my beliefs, or are they merely calling to prove to themselves they are right about their own points of view?" For Morgine, it comes down to what accuracy means for each person involved.

"Off" and Running

Having an “off” day is one reason why many animal communicators say they will offer a refund. Everyone understands having an “off” day. As an animal communicator, I know that even when a reading is absolutely accurate, clients can focus their anger or disappointment on the animal communicator and demand a refund. On those rare occasions, I know my Higher Sources will even it up later, and the proverbial check is as good as in the mail.

PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES: A Matter of Ethics

Jeri Ryan, Ph.D. (*Species Link* winter 1994)

Animal communication via telepathy is blossoming as a profession. As a profession, we are evolving, some through foresight, largely through experience. Happily, thus, we constantly learn of new and better ways to structure our client contacts to increase benefits to our animal clients and their persons.

Evolutionary expansion bestows confidence and freedom to further develop and expand. Confidence is empowerment and vitalizes our creative forces. Confidence encourages us to take risks, to enter unknowns, to learn. Confidence opens doors to further creativity to enhance our services. Confidence encourages freedom.

Freedom and responsibility are two sides of the vast general coin of existence, and every good existentialist will declare that one conceives and nurtures the other. Therefore, we grow, expand, and evolve as professional animal communicators, learning, gaining confidence and freedom. Thus, we also gain responsibility to choose in accord with promotion of the health and well-being of our clients, human and nonhuman animals.

We learn to enhance our own counseling skills according to our individual educational and experiential background. We learn, for example, of different healing practices and practitioners that can address and resolve physical, emotional, behavioral, and spiritual issues. Examples include such veterinary holistic practices as chiropractic, acupuncture, homeopathy, as well as other healing practices that supplement veterinary medicine or heal on other levels, such as flower essences, energy balancing (for example, Reiki), Tellington Touch, and MAP. We learn as well of modern humane approaches to animal training (positive reinforcement obedience training, TTEAM).

Awareness of the goals and functions of these practices prepares us to appropriately refer our clients to them. It's a form of networking, so we move beyond interpretations of messages from our animal clients to problem solving through our own counseling and through appropriate referral. (These referrals, of course, are not a substitute for traditional veterinary medicine. Hand in hand, they can supplement and enhance each other.) We learn also of the limits of our purview as we discover the arenas that are ethically unavailable to us.

One such arena is that of veterinary medicine. It is not unusual for an animal communicator to be called upon to determine the origin of physical symptoms of dis-ease. Certainly the infinite potentialities of telepathic communication and other psychic phenomena are yet untapped by humans. Discovery of the potential of psychic endeavor and expansion of psychic boundaries will no doubt have benefits to human and non-human animals that extend far beyond current limits of human imagination. Given that Mecca of psychic informational sources, ethical considerations must still take top priority when making decisions regarding whether to psychically enter certain arenas.

A client may request help with a cat, faithful to the litter box for her lifetime, who now urinates everywhere. The client wants to know if the change in behavior is due to stress, emotional issues, or a urinary tract infection. A horse furtively glances at his barrel; his person wants to know if he is

experiencing colic, has an impaction, and if so, where. The dog is collapsing and whimpering; all available medical tests have been performed; veterinarians have exhausted their diagnostic repertoire and don't know how to treat the problem. The client wants to know if this is a neurological or structural problem, or if there is a malignant tumor. Sometimes people want us to predict the outcome: "Will my animal recover?"

Dedicated animal communicators, wanting to fully meet their clients' needs, are tempted to dive right in. This is the existential choice point. Without veterinary training and licensure, we are ethically and legally prohibited from relating diagnostic information of any sort. We must inform clients that we are not veterinarians and thus cannot diagnose.

We assume that laws are based upon an intent to prevent chaos and to protect persons (animals to a lesser extent, unfortunately) and their property from harm. We hope then that the legal exceptions to upholding ethical and moral concerns are few. Parsimonious legal language can make it difficult to detect ethical and moral underpinnings. Nevertheless, a review of relevant state laws regarding veterinary practice can help to determine ethical and legal professional boundaries. Following is an excerpt from the California Veterinary Practice Act as an example:

Article 2. Practice Provisions

4825. Practice without License

It is unlawful for any person to practice veterinary medicine or any branch thereof in this State unless at the time of so doing, such person holds a valid, unexpired, and unrevoked license as provided in this chapter.

4826. Practice Defined

Any person practices veterinary medicine, surgery, dentistry, and the various branches thereof, when he does any one of the following:

(a) Represents himself as engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine, veterinary surgery, or veterinary dentistry in any of its branches.

(b) Diagnoses or prescribes a drug, medicine, appliance or application or treatment of whatever nature for the prevention, cure or relief of a wound, fracture, or bodily injury or disease of animals.

(c) Administers a drug, medicine, appliance or application or treatment of whatever nature for the prevention, cure or relief of a wound, fracture, or bodily injury or disease of animals, except where such drug, medicine, appliance or application or treatment is administered by an animal health technician or an unregistered assistant at the direction of and under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian subject to the provisions of Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 4832) of this chapter. However, no person, other than a licensed veterinarian may induce anesthesia unless authorized by regulation of the board.

4827. Practice Exemptions

Nothing in this chapter prohibits any person from:

(a) Practicing veterinary medicine upon his own animals.

(b) Being assisted in such practice by his employees when employed in the conduct of such person's business.

(c) Being assisted in such practice by some other person gratuitously.

4831. Violations; Misdemeanors; Penalty

Any person, who violates or aids or abets in violating any of the provisions of this chapter, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500), nor more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000), or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than thirty days nor more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Some animal communicators have been approached by legal authorities and questioned on this issue, and have been warned of punitive consequences. Federal Food and Drug Administration, medical licensing boards, veterinary licensing boards, and psychological licensing boards are closely monitoring advertising and practices to detect illegal practices. Pseudo-clients have been planted as part of the monitoring method. At times, this amounts to a "witch hunt," and does more harm than good by professionally and psychologically damaging the practitioner, and by depriving the public of needed services. However, while they may be in the minority, charlatans do exist, and they also do harm. Careful monitoring is thus necessary. I hope that a balance will be found so that harm can be minimized and benefits maximized.

In the meantime, we animal communicators are developing our professional structure. It behooves us to emphasize and prioritize its ethical basis, and monitor it carefully to maintain that basis. We must also monitor our work, and ourselves. **We are not veterinarians. We are not qualified to diagnose by label or even by pointing out trouble spots. Nor are we qualified to prescribe anything.** Doing so can be very misleading to clients who trust us with the wellbeing of their cherished companion animals. It can be a serious disservice to the animals who, living in a culture other than their own, are dependent on humans for their safety, health, and wellbeing. The animals are vulnerable thus to the discretion of the animal communicator when such services are engaged. It can also be a disservice to ourselves as animal communicators, operating with conscience and integrity, who would suffer tremendous emotional pain if we inadvertently caused harm to our animal and human clients. Our reputation is also endangered, since people, from a place of pain, are often as eager to extend blame to us as they are eager to extend credit.

We are not totally helpless in this arena. There is a way we can help clients and veterinarians with undiagnosed medical problems. When we humans visit a medical doctor, we are questioned about how we feel, the location and quality of the discomfort or pain, and environmental stressors. The physician then uses our responses to assist in developing a diagnosis. We can ask the animals similar questions and gain information that can help the veterinarian to develop a diagnosis and thus treatment.

Sometimes the animals know something about the origin and process of the illness or injury. Just as humans sometimes know that dis-ease is happening in their stomachs, or hearts or livers, animals can also give that kind of information. They and we can in fact provide that information with some degree of accuracy. Sometimes they and we don't know the source or process, and sometimes they and we are not accurate. So, when animal communicators pose that question to the animals, human clients must be informed of the uncertain accuracy.

There is a fine line between infringing on professional boundaries and maintaining professional integrity of disclosure, i.e., revealing to the client that information which comes in to us. The intention of the animal communicator can alleviate that problem. Intention, of course, is very powerful, and it's what allows telepathic communication to happen. Being clear and resolute about intention can keep us within our own professional purview.

This presentation is not intended to frighten or impede the good work that is being done by animal communicators. It is intended to assist in delineating our work in such a way as to really provide the best possible services to our clients, and to gain the trust of other professions, in particular the veterinary community. As that happens and as we work together with them, we can find ways to support, integrate, and expand our respective services. Veterinarians are becoming increasingly interested in learning to communicate with animals. They expect, and rightfully so, that it will enhance the efficacy of their services to their patients. It behooves us to be respectful of their need to protect their patients from inadvertent treatment. It behooves us to honor our and their professional boundaries, as a matter of ethics.

It is also a matter of conscience, and requires soul-searching on the part of each of us, as individuals. Clients often imbue us with infinite power and sometimes need to be reminded that we are not veterinarians. It is also a matter of humility. We cannot be and are not mandated to be all things to all people. In a world where credibility is given primarily to material phenomena as established by science, telepathic communication with animals is phenomenal. It's awesome when animals change their behavior because of a consultation, or give pain descriptions that are helpful to veterinarians. That's very impressive, and might tempt us to go further.

It is wise for us to be aware of our limits and to link with other professions to pursue common goals. Moreover, it is good for us to use our wisdom to remain humble and to always be aware of who we are and who we are not. We stand then in our personal and professional integrity, and we remain faithful to our vow of promoting only the greatest and highest good for our animal clients. They deserve the best.

ETHICS IN ANIMAL COMMUNICATION Morgine Jurdan (*Species Link* spring 2004)

When considering the matter of “ethics” in the field of animal communication, it comes down to the personal integrity of the individual animal communicator. How then, can we possibly license or regulate this kind of work?

When we look deeply into our past, we see examples of our attempts at this process of setting up organizations to help protect the public from harm and to establish a code of ethics. Most of these organizations have, in the long run, offered us little or no guarantees.

The American Medical Association, established to ensure the public safety by setting quality standards for doctors, has been proven unable to regulate its doctors repeatedly. They have even been shown, in well-publicized court cases to hide their own members’ faults. In one case, an older surgeon was declared legally blind and yet they refused to take away his license to prevent him from continuing to practice medicine. The AMA is not able to insure my safety to any degree that I trust today. This very organization uses its might and power to attempt to prevent the public from having access to alternative therapies of any kind, to supposedly protect us from harm!

The same can be said of the American Veterinary Medical Association. As an animal communicator, I have heard of wonderful vets and also, countless horror stories about veterinarians who should not be allowed to practice! The AVMA cannot guarantee the safe and quality treatment of my animal friends. They have successfully passed state laws in attempts to prevent 'the public' from using any kinds of alternative therapies from using any kinds of alternative therapies not performed by licensed veterinarians, to protect your animals from “harm”!

So now, we come to the issue of animal communicators and the setting up of some kind of organization, which will certify them and/or guarantee the quality of their work. I wonder if this type of organization can have any more success than those before them. *Is there really a way to follow each individual out into the field, and watch over their shoulder, to guarantee the quality of their work, each day?*

The bottom line is this: We EACH have to take responsibility for ourselves. We have to take time to shop around, ask questions, and get references from people whom our family or friends trust. I do not just go to the telephone book and choose a dentist, or pick up a card at a store to have a healing treatment from someone I know nothing about. Some of the most powerful healers and most intuitive people who have helped me most in my life have absolutely no license to do what they do. They are not part of any kind of organization which guarantees the quality of their work or their integrity. It is up to me to find out about an individual and decide for myself.

As we enter this New Age, we are awakening more and more to our own true potential. We are being called upon to use our own intuitive skills to recognize, for **ourselves** whom we can trust and whom we cannot. Many animal friends have assisted me in learning how to “feel” things

deeply, using more of my senses much as they do to recognize if something or someone is beneficial in my life or not. In essence, we are being called upon to return to our more natural way of being, using all the abilities which are innately our own.

We all can benefit from this process. With over six billion people on this beautiful planet, there is never going to be one method or system that works well for everyone. We need many different ways to help each other heal and resolve our challenges. There are also differences in how we interact with each other. Sometimes people resonate well with one practitioner, while others may not. There are still many great allopathic doctors out there, quality dentists, honest holistic practitioners, good veterinarians, and wonderful animal communicators, despite all those who are not!

When you use your own intuition, you make the best choice for yourself, and are connected with exactly the person or resolution you are searching for. Each one of us truly knows inside what is best for us and what is not. We just need to begin the journey of trusting ourselves to find those answers. There are many wonderful books and classes to help you along on this path.

AGENDA VIGILANCE Kate Solisti (*Species Link* summer 2004)

Ethics among animal communicators is becoming a big deal with the rapid expansion of practitioners in the field. I have heard plenty of "horror stories" and have struggled with how to help. What I have come to is a belief that the reason for most of the "unethical" communications is the fact that many practicing communicators don't learn how to

- 1) Tell the difference between their own agendas, expectations, and issues and the animal's or human companion's.**
- 2) Act or speak independently of these personal agendas, expectations and issues.**

For example in the article, "Public Figures in the News," the communication about Roy Horn and the tiger is fraught with what appears to me to be overlapping agendas. The communicator said, "It was my understanding that he (Roy Horn) is considered a public figure and rules for privacy are different for public figures."

Whoa! Why are rules for privacy different for public figures? I strongly disagree! Public figures deserve the same respect private figures do. So here we have an example of one communicator's opinion getting her off to a particular start that proceeds to go badly. In her own words, "I became involved with this to explain the tiger's side of the incident." This sounds like her agenda since neither Roy nor the tiger asked her to participate in any way.

She continues, "Unfortunately in working with the media things can and did get misquoted." Could this be because she got off to a poor start with her original assumption?

I don't have an answer here. I'm just asking us to look carefully at our choices. I agree wholeheartedly with your statement, "I consider it unethical to try to glean information from other people's animal companions about incidents with their people or to 'eavesdrop' into the animal's thoughts and feelings without prior permission of their people."

I believe that most communicators are doing their best and trying to help animals and their human companions. However, when we can't separate our own opinions and agendas from the conversation, we have no business doing business.

How can we learn to see our own agendas? Sometimes our passion for helping animals can blind us to our own issues. Often our own personal issues influence our communications. I believe that we need to learn how to read our own emotions and intentions better.

Are we getting “worked up” during the communication? Are we feeling their pain or our own? If we are getting worked up, it's very important to take a break from the client and ask ourselves what's happening. What am I feeling? Am I attached to anything here? Whose pain is this? Is this communication becoming judgmental in any way? If you can't discern the answers, then you're not clear.

I have had my own struggles staying clear around nutrition for dogs and cats. It is such an important thing in my opinion that I can often get on a soapbox with a client about the animal's diet and nutrition. I have to really watch and monitor myself and also ask clients to tell me if what they are receiving from me doesn't feel right or helpful. I'd rather hear the truth and regroup to get clarity than give information through my own agenda filter!

This must be an ongoing process if we're to stay clear and unbiased. It isn't easy. It takes constant vigilance. I believe that we owe it to the animals, their people, and our profession to make the time to check up on ourselves every day and with every consultation.

LEGAL ISSUES

ATTORNEY WISDOM Penelope Smith (*Species Link*, winter 2005)

Robert Ferber is Los Angeles Deputy City Attorney and supervisor of the Animal Protection Unit. From tapes of his talk at the Assisi International Animal Institute Intensive in 2003, Jeri Ryan found helpful information for our discussion of legal issues. He spoke on the legal aspects of operating a business in animal communication – how to preserve legal boundaries, to protect clients from harm derived from communicators' lack of understanding about these boundaries, and to make clear to communicators what services you can or cannot ethically and legally provide.

The Danger of Advising Treatment

He emphasized that if you are advising treatment, you put yourself in the position of being liable. If you do this on regular basis, you can be prosecuted for practicing medicine without a license. By law, the practice of medicine is doing anything that will help prevent or alleviate any pain, disease, or sickness.

Ferber stated bluntly that in the judicial system, healers that are not licensed are often considered frauds. However, it is a gray area and courts haven't normally gone after healers. Courts haven't liked past lives or fortune telling.

Ferber recommends that you keep records of what you have said to clients and what they have said to you. As a further precaution, read it back to clients. Get a consensus on what was said. Write the client's reaction to what you say. Phrase it in a professional way with no derogatory statements, like “client is a jerk” but more like “client had a hard time accepting what I said.”

Empowering Clients

Rather than telling people what to do, such as, “change the diet” or “use flower essences,” Ferber advises that professionals use, “It's been my experience that people in your situation find this helpful.”

Clients can then make their own decision about utilizing your experience. This is more empowering to the client and makes it less likely that the person will blame you if it doesn't work for them. If clients ask if they should do something, you are liable if you tell them what to do.

Make your statements more neutral. Rather than, "You should do this..." say "I have found doing this to be helpful." In the case of any physical illness, let clients know that they need to check with a veterinarian. Use disclaimers. Be honest. You don't know if something will work. Acknowledge that you are not a miracle worker or that you know all.

Use "might" rather than guarantees. Tell the person what you get from the animal. We can misinterpret in communications. Don't make pronouncements or predictions based on animals' communications. Something else might have happened. Give a balanced picture. Ask clients if they know what this is about rather than pronouncing your judgment on what the animals mean. Enlist client participation. Have respect for the client's viewpoint. Rarely do people contest with professionals who treat them respectfully and kindly.

Create Boundaries

How you represent yourself in advertising is important. Introduce your field. Explain what you do. Explain what you don't do. Let people know ahead of time. Create boundaries and let human clients enlist in being part of the process of giving helpful information and responses. They need to know the expectations of your role and their role. This eliminates them thinking that you know everything. It places you in a counseling role, rather than being a fortuneteller. Don't go outside of your role or you can be held accountable.

Disclaimers & Agreements

Disclaimers should cover: "I am not a veterinarian. I recommend that you consult your veterinarian for medical treatment. I have been trained in animal communication and will be honest with you about what the animal communicates to me. Animal communication is not a precise science and there is no guaranteed outcome for the consultation."

Having a signed agreement ahead of time can be helpful. To add to the professionalism and evidence of what went on during the consultation, you may also develop a questionnaire that clients can fill out to help get familiar with the animal, family, and situation before the consultation.

Sample agreement:

I, as guardian of my animal, agree to take full responsibility for making any decisions or taking any action as a result of the information (*not advice*) from this consultation.

Signed _____ Date _____

(More details about phrasing disclaimers and agreements follow.)

Ferber also strongly recommends that you incorporate to be protected from personal liability and that you have business liability insurance.

THROUGH THE LEGAL LENS (Excerpts from *Species Link* article autumn 2004)

Lisa Shaw I am an animal communicator and Reiki Master in Florida, and although I hadn't heard of the proposed law restricting animal communication to veterinarians in Florida before reading about it in *Species Link*, I am not surprised by it. Florida organizations are fear-based and, for years, territorial professional groups and legislators have severely hindered the freedom of metaphysicians to practice their craft and alternative healing arts. The Florida Massage Board has been lobbying for years to make Reiki illegal for anyone who is not a licensed massage therapist. Intuitive counselors and readers have

been sent underground by extreme licensing fees instituted by city and county government agencies because (as we all know) psychics are instruments of the Devil in this state.

What can we do to combat this? **It is imperative that we use the word SPIRITUAL to define and label ourselves.** Most spiritual practitioners here have become ordained ministers in order to practice their art under our right of religious freedom. I have *Universal Brotherhood* ordination, many have *Order of Melchizedek* ordination, and we have a very large *Alliance of Divine Love* in Florida. It is important that we use the title *Reverend* here. If the courts uphold the right of Santeria and Voodoo practitioners to take the life of animals under the umbrella of religious freedom, then surely they would uphold the right of animal communicators to practice Divine telepathic communication for their welfare as a sacred act.

I recognize that when we want the general community to recognize the truth in our work, we often downplay the spiritual side. Here, at least, we need to emphasize it. We have to trust that we will draw the right energy to us (clients, students, audiences) and be direct in our approach using both *spiritual and telepathic* as defining terms. Generally, veterinarians do *not* define their work in spiritual terms.

An animal communicator (who asked not to be identified) gathered information from two lawyers (who also asked not to be identified!). The paraphrased information here is not official, legal, or foolproof, but, hopefully, helpful.

This is what I found out from my research in discussing liability with one lawyer in Canada and one in the United States. This is general information and each state and circumstance could be different.

The most important thing you need is a disclaimer that says you are not making any guarantees of the service, that you will achieve positive results, or that it is going to work for the client, and that you are not a vet nor are diagnosing or prescribing.

The reading needs to be in writing. Any readings done over the phone are disputable. Everything about the reading must be done in writing. You need to receive from the client that they have accepted the information as accurate, correct, and helpful. Once they have acknowledged in writing that they are happy with it, they can not dispute what they do with the information unless your information is intentionally harmful.

If a suit is brought against you, in court, you need to provide written representation to the contrary of what the person is saying you did or intended to do. It needs to be clear that people are utilizing the information from the reading at their own risk. You are fine as long as you are not misrepresenting a contractual guarantee.

If clients said you told them to feed their dog something and the dog died, if we have told them in writing that there is no guarantee, that would protect you unless they can determine that you are negligent which could be questionable depending on your qualifications or what you are representing.

Most states are very conservative with not allowing just anyone to sue for anything. The media seems to exaggerate the amount of lawsuits that actually occur.

There are also personal jurisdiction clauses. For example, if a person in Oregon sues a person in Texas and the Texas person does not go to Oregon where the claim is made (the Texas person cannot be sued in Texas; the courts won't accept the claim or suit out of the jurisdiction) even if the Texas person loses at the Oregon court, the Texas person can claim Oregon would not have personal jurisdiction, which means that it falls under the clause or course of minimum contact in that state. This means that unless you run a course of business generating the basis of your business more than *minimal* business in that state, they cannot file against you.

Pain and Suffering suits are not really recognized in U.S. courts unless it is an immediate family member and they have to be human. For an animal, you could only be sued for what the animal is worth unless it is a very expensive racehorse that is worth a lot of money or has the potential to make lots of money.

Being incorporated does not protect you if you are offering an advice or counseling service, because the corporation is not offering the advice, an individual is, and the actual individual offering the advice can be sued if the advice is found negligent or at fault.

Here is a shortened version of what this communicator presents to clients based on the lawyers' advice:

Here is the reading for _____ . Please confirm that the reading sounds accurate, and is helpful to you.

When I perform an animal communication, I am working with energies. What I receive during the communication is an energetic message from the animal, which I interpret for you.

In performing an animal communication at your request, my intentions are always of a higher purpose. I am here to assist both you and your pet, with no judgment or opinion of the reading. I am not a vet and cannot diagnose a disease. I simply inquire with the animal about the questions or concerns you have asked me to inquire about, and enable you to receive the message intended for you, in the hope that this is helpful to you both.

The reading is placed here in writing.

I am not representing a guarantee that the reading or interpretation is correct, that you will achieve particular results, or that the advice is going to work for you. I offer the reading with the intention that it may be helpful based on what I believe the animal has relayed to me, as animal communication is an art and not a science. This is not a replacement for professional advice or treatment for the animal. The animal's caretaker is responsible for making decisions regarding using any of the information in this communication, and should always seek the guidance of a professional animal health care provider or veterinarian.

Illinois law now requires that animal care practitioners other than licensed veterinarians can practice as long as they do not represent themselves as veterinarians, diagnose, prescribe drugs, or perform surgery. They must provide to clients a written disclosure statement prior to delivering therapy.

Carol Schultz, a founding member of the Illinois Alliance for Animal Owner's Rights (IAAOR), gives a "sample disclosure statement" that is provided as a template when people join the group.

SAMPLE DISCLOSURE OF SERVICES STATEMENT

(Title this as you wish.) This is a sample copy only. This gives ideas you can incorporate into your disclosure statement. What you put in is up to you and must be tailored to your individual modalities.

You will want to keep a copy and give your client one. I have printed out a page that I can use with carbon paper. You will want to incorporate these pieces of information in your disclosure statement:

* *Name, address*

* *Type of therapy*

* *That you are not a veterinarian, do not perform surgery, diagnose, or prescribe drugs*

* *What the client can expect from your services, any disclaimers, etc. How much and what you provide in this area is up to your discretion.*

* *You may want to include your credentials.*

* *Again, there may be other pieces of information you wish to supply. This statement is what you make it to be.*

Client Consent and Acknowledgement of Treatment/Therapy

(Sample copy as a suggestion only.)

I have read and understood the above disclosure statement pertaining to the therapy(s) to be performed on my animal(s). I (owner or agent of the owner) agree and give my consent for these therapy(s) to be given to my animal(s) until I decide otherwise. I understand this therapist is not a veterinarian. This is in accordance with the Illinois Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(Owner or agent of the owner)

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Carol developed and uses this statement of disclosure.

In compliance with the Illinois Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004 the following information is being provided to you as the "owner or agent of the owner" of the animal(s) for which consent and acknowledgement of this treatment/therapy is being obtained.

I am not a veterinarian; I do not diagnose medical issues, offer medical advice, prescribe drugs, or perform surgery.

I am an animal communicator, incorporating telepathy (translation/interpretation of pictures, thoughts, and emotions from the animals) with energetic modalities, including Reiki and Healing Touch, to provide individualized consultations with dogs, cats, horses, birds, and other companion animals. I have been providing this service since January of 2000, and have been privileged to work with well over two thousand animals as of the writing of this statement (December 2003). I will gladly provide testimonials and references should you desire them. Your animal(s) will receive gentle, compassionate care based on knowledge gained through this experience and courses taken in these modalities.

My role is that of interpreter/translator, assisting your animals to convey their thoughts, feelings, and emotions so you can better understand their perspective. During the course of our consultations, we also have the opportunity to convey thoughts in return to the animals for clarification, and a deeper mutual understanding. The specific results of the communication session(s) will be different for each animal. Beneficial effects of animal communication include understanding their perspective on the source of behavioral problems, releasing trauma and fear surrounding injury, illness, and death, simply understanding the animal's needs and feelings, and deepening the relationship between the animal and their person.

In addition to animal communication consultations, I also teach animal communication to owners, caretakers, and practitioners, provide consultations relative to flower essences, and provide references to other practitioners.

Animal communication is not an alternative to or substitute for good veterinary care, proper nutrition, training, or exercise.

Carol Schultz (address, phone)

Consent and Acknowledgement of Treatment/Therapy

I have read and understand the above disclosure statement pertaining to the treatment/therapy to be given to my animal(s) by Carol Schultz - Animal Communicator. I understand that this practitioner is not a veterinarian, that the treatment/therapy given is not to be considered as veterinary medical treatment, and that comments, suggestions, or recommendations proffered in the course of the treatment/therapy are not to be construed as veterinary medical advice. Animal Communication and other holistic modalities are not a substitute for veterinary medical care, but rather a complement to it.

**Information from the Interspecies Counselor Course for Animal Communicators who
apply to list in the AnimalTalk Website Directory**

page 32

I, (owner, or agent of the owner) agree to have this treatment/therapy for my animal(s) and give my consent by signing below, in compliance with the Illinois Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004.

Signed: (owner or agent of the owner) Date:
Address: Phone:

Carol e-mails this statement to phone clients prior to the session. According to an IAAOR lobbyist, an electronic signature response is sufficient at this time. Carol also mails out a hard copy following the session, with a self-addressed stamped envelope. For in-person visits, she has clients fill the statement out during the session.

See Carol Schultz's current disclosure and client consent agreement on her website <http://www.carolschultz.com/statementF.htm>

An example of a refund policy from Tim Link <http://www.wagging-tales.com/feesservicesworkshops/refundpolicy.html>