

The Animal Communication Newsletter



What's Up With Animals?™

"Believe, Be Open, Be Willing to be Surprised!"

June
2009



Greetings!



It's one of those times where so much is happening that I hardly know where to begin. Do you have the same feeling that I do--that time is swooshing by so fast that you can barely keep up?

If so, it's time to take a breath. The worst thing we can do when we want to connect deeply with our animal companions is to rush. We need to be in a calm, collected, clear state of mind. It's easy to forget that, at times.

Your animals know when your energy is scattered; learn to rely on them as your barometer of whether your head and your heart are in sync.



And speaking of time, there are only two more days to take advantage of my [special reduced fee for cat consultations](#). This offer has been very well received, but it expires at the end of the day on June 30th. As long as your request is placed by then, I'll honor the \$40 special price!

To show my appreciation for your continuing support, I am announcing a new referral program, "**Send a Friend.**" Here's how it works: when a current client refers one of their friends to me and that person purchases a consultation, I'll take **\$15 off your next consultation**, for one of your own animals! This offer applies to standard (remote) sessions, and is good through the end of the year. I consider it a privilege to work with you and your animals, and so I anticipate that I'll renew the program annually.

This month, I'm delighted to welcome author **Sharon Sakson**, author of [Paws & Effect: The Healing Power of Dogs](#), as my guest for the ["Conversations with Animal Authors" teleconference](#). Please join us today, Monday, June 29th, at 5:30pm (EDT) for the free call, by dialing: 616-347-8100 and entering PIN #1063739.

I am pleased to announce that I was recently appointed to be the [Boston Animal Advocacy Examiner](#) for Examiner.com. I'll be writing stories about animals whose lives are in the balance, animals who are victims of deliberate cruelty, and animals who have been gloriously saved by the concerted efforts of people who care. [My piece about Ember](#), the thoroughbred filly who was rescued from slaughter, drew a wide audience, and I plan to seek out the stories of other at-risk horses as long as they are in danger of being shipped out of the country to meet their cruel deaths.

In the meantime, I wish you a summer filled with happiness and light.

From my heart to yours,

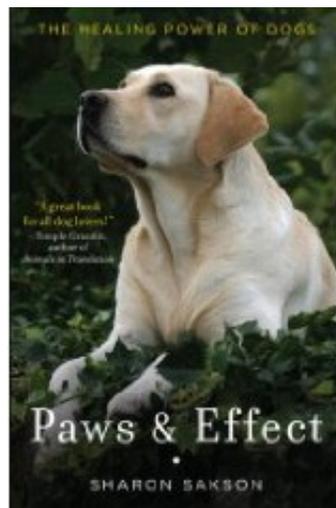
Maureen



Book Review

Paws & Effect: The Healing Power of Dogs

by Sharon Sakson



On a cold day in early April, 2003, I drove to Westchester Medical Center in New York to visit my sister, Janice, who was dying of liver failure. I didn't know that then, but I understood that she was gravely ill. Janice didn't have much of an appetite, and her memory was failing, and I can't remember everything we talked about during the last hours I spent at her bedside.

But one memory will never fade from my mind. It was when two smiling therapy dogs came into the room to bring some comfort to my sister. For those fleeting moments, Janice smiled and seemed to come out of her fog, even laughing with delight as one of the dogs jumped right up in bed with her, audaciously licking her face. Such is the power of dogs to bring joy into a person's life. And it is stories like these that Sharon Sakson has so eloquently told in her wonderful, life-affirming book,

[Paws & Effect: The Healing Power of Dogs.](#)

Sharon chronicles the way in which dogs can literally save people's lives, whether they are recuperating from debilitating illnesses, suffering from undetected cancer, fighting unseen enemies in wartime combat, living with the ever-present threat of an epileptic seizure, wracked by unrelenting pain, plagued by plunging sugar levels from type II diabetes, or trying to live with dignity and independence while compromised by sight or hearing disabilities.

Ms. Sakson has an artful ability to grab her readers by telling them about **one particular dog**, and how he or she transformed the life of **one individual person**, all the while providing scrupulously researched sources and documentation to buttress some of the seemingly unbelievable successes of these remarkable canines.

Some of her stories are heartwarming, such as the one about "Mr. Gruffyd Babayan," an odd-looking, one-eyed Brussels Griffon who, as part of Westminster Kennel Club's **[Angel on a Leash](#)** program, makes weekly visits to Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House in Manhattan, in his role as an "Animal-Assisted Therapy Dog" to lend encouragement to children who have cancer, and heart failure and leukemia and broken bones. He's a particular favorite among physical therapists who have trouble getting their young patients to start walking again, after surgery. Mr. G.B. has an uncanny knack of being able to motivate children to get up and try to do

what they think they can't do.

Other stories are groundbreaking, such as the fact that Bonnie Bergin at the [Assistance Dog Institute](#) (now **The Bergin University of Canine Studies**) figured out that **dogs can actually be taught to read**, in addition to the more than 90 verbal commands they can learn:

"For a person with a handicap, it could be useful to tell the dog, 'Exit,' and have the dog look for and locate the appropriate sign, and then go there. The same would be true for 'Restroom' or 'Park'. . .

So Bonnie wrote the words, 'Sit,' 'Down,' and 'Stay' on big sheets of paper, and set out to teach her own dogs, Lexus and Keila, to read.

'It was straight classic conditioning,' Bonnie says. She showed Keila the 'Down' card, and asked her to lie down, and gave her a reward. Within one lesson, whenever she showed the word, Keila lay down. Lesson learned. Keila could read.

Using that method, she got the two dogs up to a 20-word vocabulary. An unanticipated thing started to happen. The dogs started to learn new things even better than they had before. They seemed to be able to conceptualize and problem-solve, traits that would make them of even greater use when placed with a person with a disability."

One of the most fascinating chapters in [Paws & Effect](#) is called, **"If You're Sick, I'll Let You Know,"** in which Sharon tells the stories of dogs who seem to have a natural, uncanny ability to predict when a person is about to have a seizure, with near 100% accuracy. Ms. Sakson acknowledges that:

"How dogs detect an oncoming seizure in a human remains a mystery. Some trainers and researchers think they detect subtle changes in their owners' behavior or movements. Some think they can sense the 'aura' that precedes a seizure. Or maybe they are aware that the brain waves of a person about to seizure are substantially different from normal. But most researchers are arriving at the opinion that what is at work here is the dog's incredible power of scent."

And there's growing evidence to show that dogs can actually be taught to recognize an impending seizure because the affected people give off a powerful smell that is undetectable to the human nose, but easily perceived by canines, who are believed to be able to detect scents 10,000 times better than a person, according to Dr. Jim Walker, head of the Sensory Research Institute at Florida State University. Trainers are now successfully attempting to harness this canine characteristic to educate dogs to detect not only epilepsy, but even ovarian and breast cancer, by sniffing the breath or urine of afflicted patients.

[Paws & Effect: The Healing Power of Dogs](#) is a great read if you're a dog lover, but it might be even more compelling if you're a skeptic about what dogs can do. Sharon Sakson has written a magical, inspiring set of stories that left me wishing for more.

Animal Communication Tip of the Month

TALKING WITH AN ANIMAL ABOUT LIFE AND DEATH



It was early on a peaceful Sunday morning. The only sounds that filled the air were those of the birds and of the horses as they munched their hay. Becky's beloved Belgian Malinois, "**Mallory**," was nosing around in the tall grass near the road. Life was good.

But the morning's tranquility suddenly exploded when CJ, one of the horses, became extremely agitated, just as a pickup truck came screeching around the corner. Becky turned, initially not understanding why CJ was so upset. And then her heart almost leapt out of

her body: there was Mallory, lying motionless on the side of the road. She'd been smashed by the speeding truck, whose driver never even made an effort to tap on his brakes.

In that one excruciating moment, everything changed. Becky rushed over to Mallory, who was still breathing, but unable to get up. A million thoughts and emotions raced through Becky's brain, but then the world stood still. Becky knew that she would have to get Mallory some help, and fast.

At the nearby Emergency Veterinary Clinic, the vets were initially able to provide some hopeful news. Mallory had a compound fracture of her left front leg, and was thought to have sustained a concussion. It was decided that she would be transported to another Veterinary Hospital where an orthopedic specialist was in residence, so surgery could be done to repair her broken leg the next day.

But then things got very complicated. Further scans revealed that Mallory had a pronounced nodule on her lung. The vets were virtually certain it was cancer. Becky's primary practitioner told her that the cancer would kill Mallory within a matter of months, and with that in mind, advised her that the best course of action would be to euthanize her dog.

That's when Becky's sister, Barbara, called me. Could I do an emergency consultation with Mallory, to find out what **she** wanted? Was it really her time to transition, or did she have the will to live, knowing that she might be facing a terminal illness even if she recovered from her broken leg?

When I tuned into Mallory, she made it clear that she was still in shock from the trauma of her accident, and that Becky was, too. Mallory conveyed her strong feeling that a decision about her fate should not be made in haste. She seemed to have a strong will to survive, and most of all, a desire to remain with her beloved Becky as long as her health would allow. Mallory never communicated any sense of fear, even knowing that her prognosis was far from certain. She asked for more time.

I shared Mallory's thoughts and emotions with Becky, who resolved to wait at least another day before making a life and death decision. At the same time, she knew that she didn't have the luxury of waiting too long.

By Monday, the vets had determined that though the mass on Mallory's lung was almost certainly malignant, there was no evidence that the cancer had spread. It would be possible to remove the tumor by making a small incision while Mallory was under anesthesia for the repair of her leg. Becky agonized over the options, but felt that she wanted to know Mallory's own wishes before authorizing the dual procedure.

When I connected with Mallory this time, she seemed overjoyed at the prospect of being able to eventually walk and even run, again. And when I explained that she'd been diagnosed with lung cancer, Mallory responded with a practical wisdom beyond what we would normally associate with a

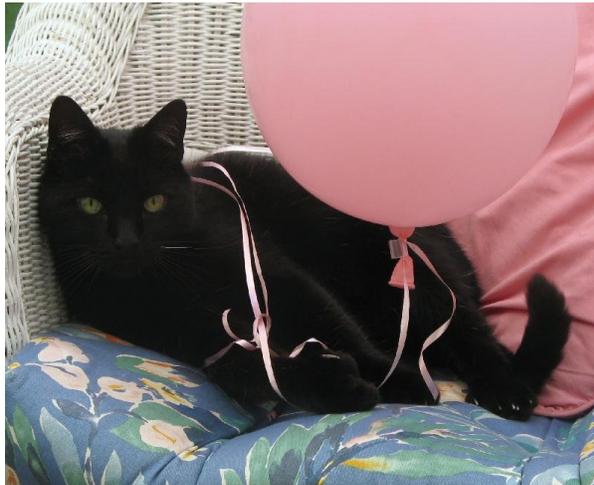
dog. She reasserted her williness to undergo virtually anything, if it meant that she and Becky wouldn't have to be parted. And that included the lung surgery. Mallory didn't want to spend months recovering from a broken leg, only to face the prospect of dying from a fatal disease a short time later. She seemed impatient to get the surgery over with, letting me know that there was a party coming up, and telling me that she wanted to make sure that she was out of the hospital in time to attend it!

By Tuesday afternoon, Mallory was out of surgery, and apparently, out of danger. Her surgeon affirmed that Becky's decision to put Mallory through both procedures had been the right one. Ironically, if Mallory hadn't been hit by the truck, no one would have ever known about the cancerous nodule in her lung, and her lifespan would have been cut short.

Though under pressure to make a rushed determination to end her dog's life, Becky took the time to listen to her own heart, and to trust the messages from Mallory, and the outcome has been better than anyone could have anticipated. Best of all, Mallory was released from the hospital in time for the festive event she had mentioned, which turned out to be her own 10th birthday party.

*The cases discussed here are real, but to protect their privacy, I have changed the names of my clients and their animals.

A Word of Thanks From an Appreciative Client



When I communicated with **Geronimo**, all I knew was that he had some health issues. Other than that, his person, Annette Leckie, had told me that she just

wanted to know how her cat was doing.

When I tuned into Geronimo, I detected some tightness around his throat and neck, and wondered whether he might have a thyroid issue. Sure enough, Annette confirmed that Geronimo had recently been treated for thyroid cancer, though it appeared that he had now been completely cured.

Geronimo also shared a memory of having been saturated with water, and Annette laughed as she told me that he'd once jumped right into her bubble bath, not realizing that the bubbles weren't a solid surface!

This wonderful black cat came across to me as a "wise old soul," and gave me the sense that he likes to supervise what's

QUICK LINKS

[Animal Translations](#)

[Animal Translations Blog](#)

[Animal Communication Book Club](#)

[Animal Communications Forum](#)

[Animal Empathy Imprints](#)

[Fast New England](#)

going on around him.

After my session with Geronimo, Annette wrote:

"There are some remarkable insights here--THANK YOU!

I've always thought he was a wise soul--that I could learn a lot from him. He just has this intensity in his gaze--it's one of understanding."

**Annette Leckie
Massachusetts**



Last Issue's Survey Results *Has the Recession Affected Your Animals?*



Based on the responses I received from this anonymous survey, it looks like these tough economic times are making it more difficult for animal caretakers to provide for their pets in the way they wish they could.

A whopping 71% said that they have had to postpone routine veterinary care, and 42% admitted that they'd changed their animals' food to a slightly less expensive brand.

More than 40% have had to postpone adopting a new animal companion to their family because of financial considerations, and a third have personally intervened to help someone else who is no longer able to properly care for their pets because of the strain of economic hardship.

The stories of the participants were sobering and heart-rending. Here's one that is typical:

"I was laid off in November and I have 12 cats of my own. I have had to switch them to Friskees food; they used to eat holistic foods.

I have also stopped taking them to the vet for shots and started using Petco.

I have a great friend who has helped me out a lot. In April, one of my youngest cats was in the hospital for four days with a fever of unknown origin. I woke up one morning and she was completely unresponsive, so we rushed her to the 24-hour emergency vet. That stay cost me \$2400, which my friend put up front for me. Thank goodness for her--she has been such a life saver for me in this really hard time.

I also have a stray who I am feeding outside, so that is another two cans of food each day for him.

I also used to foster a lot but now I can't afford to use anything extra that my cats need, even down to the kitty litter."

Participate in our New Survey

As always, the results will be shared in a forthcoming issue.

Have you ever had to make an emergency life or death decision about your animal?



This issue's story about Mallory, the Belgian Malinois whose life was in the balance after she was hit by a truck, presents an emergency situation similar to ones that many of us have faced with our own animals.

How did you respond when confronted with an urgent life or death decision over your animal's life?

Did you heed the advice of your veterinarian? Or did you go beyond what he or she would have recommended at the time?

Are you at peace with your decision?

Were you able to consult with an animal communicator to learn your animal's wishes, or perhaps just use your own intuition to know what your animal wanted?

How did everything turn out? Do you feel that you made the right choices? Do you have any regrets?

Please share your very personal stories and go to our survey by [clicking on the link below](#). I'll be reprinting a sampling of them in next month's issue!



[TAKE THE SURVEY NOW](#)

The Animal Communication Book Club

Join me for the next "Conversations With Animal Authors"
Teleconference with Sharon Sakson, Author of Paws & Effect
Monday, June 29th, 2009 at 5:30pm (EDT)



I'm so pleased to have **Sharon Sakson** as my guest tomorrow for the next "Conversations with Animal Authors" teleconference.

Sharon will discuss her book, [Paws & Effect, The Healing Power of Dogs](#), which has just been released in paperback.

Sharon's sensitively recounted stories of dogs' unselfish devotion and nobility open up a wonderful world, where dogs seem to intervene in the lives of people who need their help, often with an aura of magic and always without fanfare.

Please join us by dialing **616-347-8100** and entering **PIN #1063739** at 5:30pm. If you are not able to participate live, I'll be posting an archived version of the teleconference on [The Animal Communication Book Club](#).

UPCOMING
EVENTS

**Integrative Health Pet
Expo
Fitchburg, MA
Sept 10th-11th, 2009**

**Cape Ann Animal Aid
Dog Day
Stage Fort Park
Gloucester MA
Sept 13th, 2009**

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What's Up With Your Animals?



There are so many ways to communicate with animals, as these stories attest. Animals are natural telepathic communicators, and it's because they're so good at it that I can "hear" them.

If you think that you and your animal would benefit from a telepathic consultation, please [drop me a note](#) or give me a call.

Until Next Time!
Maureen Harmonay



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