

Animal Communication 101

It seems as though a great many people today want to have their pets trained as Therapy Dogs. I think that is a wonderful idea. Owners share their animals with people who are in medical facilities or other places where they might not have access to animals except in the rarest of circumstances. Owners take their pets to visit adults and children in hospitals, hospice care and other places where only a few years ago an animal was definitely “not allowed”. It is terrific that things have changed. I have always believed that animals can have a calming effect on people. The presence of an animal may even help a person to recover faster or lift the mood of some individuals. Animals are also just plain fun to be around.

Since I am not a dog trainer I am not exactly sure what kind of training is required for a dog to be certified as a Therapy Dog. I am pretty sure that it requires a significant amount of time and effort working with your dog before that level of behavior can be reached.

As an Animal Communicator I think developing a good communication with your dog would make training of any kind much easier. I believe that most people who seriously work with their animals in any kind of training capacity are already using an amount of non-verbal communication with their pet even though they may not be completely aware of what or how they are doing it. If we use a few simple methods we can make it much easier for the animal to learn what we want them to do.

It is my opinion that animals “read our thoughts” most of the time. The way animals and humans think is similar in many ways except for one major difference. Humans think in negative thoughts a great deal of the time. We think in terms like don’t, can’t, shouldn’t, and other words that are negative in nature. As we say the words out loud we visualize the exact behavior that we do not want. For example, if our pet is not allowed to sleep on the sofa and we see them on the sofa, we will say “I don’t want you on the sofa.” The picture we are visualizing (and the animal is reading) is the animal on the sofa. We should say, “I want you on the floor.” When we say those words we are visualizing him on the floor. The pet gets a much clearer image of what we want them to do by our thoughts and words. Try to keep all words positive. Animals understand words like “stop or no” because they are very positive words. When we say “stop” - we visualize the animal “stopping”.

Visualize the behavior you want from your animal. (Not the bad behavior that you expect.) There is a huge difference between want and expect.

Whatever it is that you want to train your pet to do - practice non-verbal communication when working with them. It may not work immediately but it will work for you and your pet. I believe it will increase the bond between you and your pet and be a good and lasting experience for both of you. It will also be a fun way to work and learn together.