

Quite often I am asked what is the purpose of animal communication aside from finding out what is your pets “favorite thing to do or who does he like most in the household”? (Those are my least favorite questions to answer.) My response is usually the same. Animal communication can very often solve behavior problems.

I am not an Animal Behaviorist. This is an entirely different specialty. What I can help a pet’s owner do is to find out why their animal does the problematic thing(s) he is doing. Inappropriate “bathroom” habits are the most common problems I am called upon to help solve. Often the issue is physical in nature. A kidney, bladder or bowel problem can often be the cause for both dogs and cats.. If that is the case a visit to the Veterinarian is in order. Other times a dirty litter box can be an issue. Cats are fastidiously clean and most often do not want to use a dirty bathroom any more than humans do. Dogs can have problems that are equally as important but different than cats. Many small dogs do not like to go outside to use the bathroom in cold or wet weather. Often people expect their dogs to wait for long periods of time (ten to twelve hours at a stretch) before going to the bathroom while the owner is away from the house. Not an easy request from a dog’s point of view. There are a wide variety of issues to be considered.

On one particular occasion a lady phoned me to help with her gently young female cat that was using the landing at the top of the second floor as a bathroom while the woman was away at work. She assured me that if the kitty did not change her habits she would consider some drastic measures. The worst case scenario was sending the cat away to a less than desirable living arrangement. The woman assured me that she really cared about the kitty and in all other ways she was a wonderful pet but she could no longer tolerate the problem.

When I arrived at her home I learned that the lady had two additional cats. Both were adorable playful males. Within minutes we discovered the cause of the problem. The female kitty explained that as soon as the lady left the house the male cats would chase her to the second floor and “trap” her upstairs for the rest of the day. They did not allow her to go down the stairs for food, water or the litter box for the entire time the woman was gone. She could manage to get through the day without food and water but the litter box was an entirely different matter. The issue was promptly solved by putting food, water and a litter box on the second floor.

It sounds like such a simple solution. It was. Unfortunately it did not occur to the woman that the female cat did not have access to the rest of the house during her absence. A great variety of behavior problems can be just as easy to fix. Animal communication can allow us to see the problem from the animal’s point of view. We simply need to ask them.