A MIXED METHODS EXPLORATORY STUDY OF ALLEGED TELEPATHIC INTERSPECIES COMMUNICATION WITH DOMESTIC DOGS (*CANIS LUPUS FAMILIARIS*)

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This research explored the proposition that alleged telepathic interspecies communication, or human telepathic connection to animals, may be possible by learning simple contemplative/ meditative techniques to quiet the mind and shift consciousness. Telepathy is a controversial topic not accepted by mainstream science, despite multiple research efforts over many years that have shown positive effects. This research is based on the hypothesis that the process to shift cognition into a pattern similar to daydreaming, or to the hypnagogic and hypnopompic states on the edge of sleep, may allow for a consciousness alteration that may enable telepathy.

The research used a mixed-methods approach and measured, via a quantitative rating scale and qualitative comments, the accuracy of the information received during the telepathic animal communication session as judged by the guardian. The research explored the following questions: When a telepathic animal communication session was conducted with a domestic dog (*Canis lupis familiaris)*, was accurate information received by the researcher for quantitative questions as judged by the human guardian on Likert Scale of 1 (entirely inaccurate) to 6 (entirely accurate)? What qualitative comments did the human guardian have for other information received by the researcher related to the questions posed by the guardian? What was the overall accuracy rating as judged by the human guardians? And finally, what common issues were raised by the guardians' questions and comments?

The research completed 50 alleged telepathic animal communication sessions conducted by the researcher over the telephone with a human guardian and a domestic canine. All guardians and their canines were physically located in another city or state from the researcher. Five standard questions were asked of the animal, three of which were quantitative and rated by the guardian; the remainder of the session was devoted to the guardian's questions for their animal. The five standard questions were: 1) How many humans do you live with? 2) Have you lived with your current guardian since you were young? 3) What is your favorite food or treat(s) you get now? 4) What do you like most about your life? and 5) What would you like to change about your life?

Participants were recruited via email from the networks of the researcher. Recipients of the recruiting email were encouraged to forward to other canine guardians whom they thought might have an interest. This forwarding resulted in an overwhelming response to the researcher; the research was originally planned for 20 sessions but expanded to 50 sessions when more than 130 responses were received to the recruitment email, which indicated an extremely high level of interest in this type of research.

Human guardians were required to be of legal age, to speak and read English, have an email account/access to the Internet, and be able to send an electronic photo via email.

Each animal participant was a domestic canine at least one year old that had lived with the guardian for at least one year. They were an almost even gender split with 26 male and 24 female canines. The canine ages ranged from 1.5 to 14 years old, with an average age of 7.6

years old. The average number of years with the guardian was 6.1 years. There were 27 pure breed canines and 23 were mixes of one or more breeds. (For purposes of this research, a pure breed is defined as identified by the guardian with only one breed description, rather than multiple breeds or "mix" in the description.) There were a total of 35 breeds or mixed breeds represented in the canine participant pool.

Fifty sessions were conducted between May 3, 2013, and June 22, 2013. Of the 50 sessions, 49 were conducted with female guardians and only one male guardian. The researcher was located in Kalama, WA, USA -- all guardians were in a different city/state from the researcher and represented 36 different cities. The total time for all sessions was 26.5 hours as recorded by the conference call service. This did not include researcher's preparation time of a minimum of 15 minutes before each session, which represents another 12.5 hours, resulting in 39 total hours for the research. The shortest session was 16 minutes, and the longest was 60 minutes, with an overall average of 32 minutes for all sessions.

All sessions were recorded via a conference call service and the recording was available to the guardian after the session. The researcher transferred all questions asked and responses allegedly received telepathically from the animal during the session to an online survey form. The guardian judged the accuracy of the information received by the researcher on the survey form after the communication session was completed, independent of further contact with the researcher.

The average overall accuracy rating for all 50 sessions was 5.12, indicating a possibility that accurate information was received by a human from a canine via a telepathic human-canine connection. In a summary breakdown of ratings, 48 sessions (96%) were rated by the guardian as a 4 (moderately accurate) to 6 (entirely accurate) and more than a third of the sessions (41, or 82%) received a rating of 5 or 6. An analysis of the qualitative data indicated several common canine issues, such as:
- canines reactive to other dogs in public
- canines reactive to strangers entering their home
- conflicts between canines in a multi-dog household
- affection between canines in a multi-dog household
- physical health issues, and
- emotional/spiritual support issues

The results of this study contribute to the body of research into animal cognition and consciousness. The findings further contribute to inter-animal empathy studies as well as the wealth of literature that supports the human-animal bond. Further research is needed to explore additional nuances of this category of parapsychology research.