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STRAIGHT FROM THE Horse's Mouth

TAP INTO YOUR HORSE'S THINKING
WITH AN ANIMAL COMMUNICATOR,
EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR FUN.

By Delores Kuhlwein

Fellow cynics, raise your hand. It's not that we don't agree our horses have souls. We do. How else could those big, liquid eyes and their soft muzzles take our worries away so easily?

And they certainly have personalities; they know how to drive us to our wits' end, and how to baffle us with their aches, pains and annoying habits.

Talking to them, though? Poppycock. Nonsense. No way.

But tapping into your horse's quirky—OK, sometimes maddening—behaviors and thoughts might really be possible, and it can be done through an animal communicator. Believe it or not, enlisting the services of an animal communicator has become a common practice for plenty of horse owners.

They, too, were skeptical but curious—some were at their wits' end trying to determine why their horse does some particular habit or the root of a mysterious lameness. Those horsemen became believers, coming out the other side with a better understanding of their horses and what makes them tick.

From the Horse's Mouth

If you've owned horses long enough, you've probably had a horse who does something you just can't explain. Take Timeless Assets for example. "Tucson," a multiple world champion Paint Horse, has a huge personality and a suspected sense of humor. He's also got a well-documented and puzzling habit of gazing at his loot earned at each horse show, a habit whose root cause was finally revealed to the inquiring mind of his owner, Coleen Bull of Reed City, Michigan, after she began to explore communicating with Tucson through a medium.

"I collect saddles like women collect shoes," he divulged at one particular session.



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Then there's the Paint Horse who just wanted a little bit of attention from his owner, Jessie Stegmeier of Las Vegas. After trying everything under the sun to help diffuse anxiety hounding *Im Good With That*, Jessie turned to animal communicator Julie Morgan after a friend's recommendation.

“I gave it a whirl just to see what the horse had to say; I figured it wouldn't hurt,” Jessie admitted.

The communicator explained Jessie's horse got jealous if she only focused on one animal. What really turned her into a believer was when the communicator (working via a phone call) correctly identified every one of her animals' past injuries, even ones that weren't evident in the photos she'd sent prior to the session. Her biggest surprise, however, came after the session. Simply reaching out to her animals to check on their happiness via the communicator seems to have improved “Elmo's” behavior, Jessie said, which has helped advance his training.

“He got a whole lot better after the conversation,” she explained. “It's the best 60 bucks I've ever spent.”

Some horses just don't like change, like Charlotte Harvey's Paint, Red Ted. The Sierra Vista, Arizona, APHA member was a self-professed skeptic until a pivotal day in 2005. “Teddy,” normally a happy-go-lucky gelding, wasn't feeling right when she rode him, and Charlotte finally called it quits. In desperation, she called Debbie McGillivray, a communicator recommended by a friend. Charlotte provided minimal specifics—Teddy's name, age, sex, face markings, and location—and without much ado, Debbie revealed that Teddy had injured himself playing with his new pasture mate, an accurate detail Charlotte had not divulged. Before she could respond, Debbie gave her another surprise.

“She told me she had asked if he liked his pasture mate, and she said, ‘Teddy wants to know what happened to the other one,’” Charlotte said.

Ever wondered if your horse was injured or simply taking advantage of a situation? Bobbi Jo Lampman of Lampasas, Texas, sought help from communicator Melanie Wiechel in identifying the persistent soreness demonstrated by her Paint Horse, Shesa Total Fox.

“Before asking any questions, she told me that ‘Caliber’ wasn't sore; she's just faking it,” Bobbi Jo said. As it turns out, Caliber, the horse Melanie compares to Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde*, simply had a flair for the dramatic and was acting off, even though she was just fine.

Nostalgia reigns supreme for others, such as Meredith Landy of Temecula, California. When Meredith decided to delve into the thoughts of “Sly”—Certified Stride, her been-there-done-that APHA show horse—the feedback gave the horsewoman chills. Sly brought up his affection for a trainer who taught him when he was young, a cowboy who was tall and blond.

“Wade Spell had him at age 2,” Meredith explained—the description fit the lanky, fair-haired trainer to a tee, and it was a fact the communicator would not have known.

Working from Sly’s photo, communicator Lydia Hiby also warned Meredith about a pesticide aggravating Sly’s liver at his present training barn.

“I brought him home shortly after, and sure enough, the vet said he had a liver problem. How would we have ever known that? It’s not something we would have looked for,” Meredith said.

How it Works

Before going any further, let’s break down a few misconceptions. These are not psychic readings, says Judy Ramsey, a professional animal communicator and interspecies counselor with a master’s degree from the University of Michigan. The craniosacral therapist who specializes in brain trauma has more than 40 years of experience in counseling, teaching and mentorship.

“It is a telepathic communication facilitation,” she explained. “I act as an interpreter, so the two understand each other, since animals mostly live in spirit.”

It’s not exactly like talking, either, Judy reveals.

“I take the concepts, feelings and sensations and translate them into words for people to understand,” she said; Judy often works with veterinarians who refer animals to her when they can’t figure out what is wrong. “When I merge with an animal, I can feel what they are feeling and I can name the organ or muscle that needs help, since they don’t know anatomy. Then I can give the clues to the person who can talk to the vet.”

Both Judy and parapsychology researcher Deborah Erickson, MBA, Ph.D., say that using a photograph of the animal and a phone call is how most professional communicators work because that’s the least distracting method.

“It is my theory that communicators mentally connect with animals in the place of spirit. It doesn’t matter where in the world or time zone the horse is in because the session happens in spirit,” Deborah said.

How communicators connect can differ. Deborah utilizes various meditation techniques to quiet her mind, which enables her to sink deeply into a trance to mentally connect with an animal.

“First, I introduce myself, send them an image of myself and explain that their guardian or parent has asked me to talk to them,” she said. “Then I ask them if they would agree to talk to me. I’ve never had an animal turn me down.”

She asks two or three questions at a time and mentally receives specific words, images, emotions or feelings from the animal; if there are health-related questions, she might ask the horse if she can shift into their body so she can feel what they feel. Those responses and any messages are shared with the owner, and they discuss what follow-up should come next.

Opening the Door

For horse owners still on the fence, Deborah offers a bit of insight.

A technology and project management professional for 30 years, Deborah was initially more in tune with her left brain—that’s the logical hemisphere. She’s learned to tap into her right hemisphere—the creative, intuitive side—to reach animals for their guardians. She’s now well respected for her research on horse-human interaction and its impact on wounded military veterans.

But even she had doubts at first. Deborah’s Ph.D. is in psychology, with a concentration in consciousness and spirituality. Her dissertation research was a first-of-its-kind animal communication project with 50 domestic canines and their guardians.



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Connect

Learn more about the animal communication process, access courses and find out how to evaluate a prospective communicator online, and learn more about participating in Deborah's future research projects.

judyramsey.net
deborahericksonphd.com

"I was a good five years into practicing this work before I really believed that I wasn't just making up what I 'heard' from an animal," Deborah said. "In the beginning, I worked off a photo of the animal, then contacted the guardian later. During a communication session, a dog asked for a bath and a good comb out, which my left brain just couldn't believe that I had heard correctly."

When Deborah spoke to the guardian, she said the dog had not had a bath for almost a year.

"This exchange finally convinced me that I couldn't possibly be making this stuff up," Deborah confessed. "And the dog got her bath."

Tough Love

Once you open the door to conversation, you might not necessarily want to hear what our toughest critics choose to dish out. Just like people, horses have their likes and dislikes and we just might drive them a tiny bit crazy, too.

Tucson, a closet critic, also pronounced Coleen's riding faults during his sessions, relayed by the communicator with startling accuracy.

"You grip harder with your right leg. You're not sitting square in the saddle, and you're holding your breath. I think slower than you, so slow down," Coleen recalled from the session—she now considers those Tucson's "helpful little gems" in her quest to improve as a rider.

"I got this," was pretty much Sly's unabashed response when Meredith asked what she could do to help with his performance at shows.

"He told me I just need to hop on and wear something pretty," Meredith laughed.

The Water is Fine

For those thinking about dipping a toe in the animal communication waters—even if just for fun—asking if your friends have tried it is as easy as posting on social media. You might be surprised how many fellow horse owners respond to your inquiry with a resounding "Yes!" along with a referral at the ready.

The experience is risk-free and the benefits are plentiful, Judy says.

"Even if you're close to your animal, a communication will make you closer," she said.

Like Jessie's situation, a relationship will often improve simply due to the attempt to connect.

"The more the guardian can understand their horse's world and their mental outlook, the better the relationship will be," Deborah explained. "Horses want people to understand they have their own rules, code of conduct, social structure and body language."

Deborah encourages horse owners to consider learning to communicate with their own animals themselves, too.

"All animals are telepathic, including humans, and we all have intuition. No matter your background or career, you can learn specific techniques to enhance your intuition and to quiet your mind," Deborah said.

Namaste

As a result of keeping her mind open, Charlotte and her horses have benefited from occasional consultations.

"I have learned that for as many people out there who are skeptical, there are many like me who see communicators as a valuable tool if you can connect with one who tells you things about your horse that are impossible for them to have known otherwise," she said.

"It brings me a little peace of mind. If it makes me smile and feel good or helps me feel closer to my horse, what's the harm?" Coleen said. "For those who feel a little something special with our horse, or who want to, I highly recommend the experience." 