

If you've ever wondered why your cat refuses to use the litter box or why your dog seems out of sorts, Tim Link might be able to give you the answers.

A self-described animal communicator, Link is out with a new book, "Wagging Tales — Every Animal Has a Tale," (Emerald, \$16.95), which chronicles his experiences in using telepathy to communicate with animals, especially pets who have been hurt, are lost, frightened or in pain. A portion of the proceeds from his book sales will benefit animal rescue groups, he said.

"My role is to give animals a voice," said Link, who shares a home in Cumming, Ga., with his wife, Kim, and their two dogs, eight finches, a turtle, a rabbit and multiple fish.

Though there are skeptics, about 2,000 people around the world call themselves animal communicators or pet psychics, Cathy Malkin-Currea, an editor for Species Link: The Journal of Interspecies Telepathic Communication, told the Associated Press. Link's is the latest of the roughly 50 or 60 books that have been written on the subject.

Link says he first discovered his talent in February 2004, when he attended a workshop on animal communication with his wife. People brought their pets or pictures of their pets, and asked workshop attendees questions about them; Link says he was able to answer all of the questions accurately.

He was an executive at Motorola at the time, but three years later he left that behind to start Wagging Tales Inc. Now he spends his time trying to solve pet problems.

He charges \$95 for up to an hour consultation and \$60 for a 30-minute session, whether online or by phone. In person, the cost varies. We recently spoke with Link, 45, about what he does.

**QUESTION: What does it mean to be an animal communicator?**

**ANSWER:** "I have a deep connection with animals and I'm able to exchange information

# Author claims he has telepathy, conversations with pets



## Pet solutions

Whether your dog is chewing on your shoes or your cat is scratching your furniture or refuses to use the litter box, there's usually an emotional or physical problem at the root, Tim Link says. In addition to

having your pet checked out by a vet, put your shoes out of reach or try various scratching posts, and consider sprinkling them with catnip.

■ You might be tempted to tell your dog to be quiet when he's barking, but first, recognize what he's trying to tell you. Thank him for it and assure him that everything will be OK, Link says.

■ If you're depressed, your pet is likely going to be depressed, too. Your mood can turn a happy puppy into a sad one and a calm cat into a nervous one, Link says.

with them, in the form of words, pictures, feelings and emotions. If I'm with an animal, I'm verbalizing what I want them to know, and if I'm not with an animal, I'm using visualization and connecting with them on an intuitive level."

**Q: Are animal behavioral problems health-related?**

A: "One of the most common things I talk to people about is their cat not using the litter box. Cats are very smart, because they know if they stop using the litter box, it will get our attention. So when they stop using it, it's usually either a mental, emotional or physical problem. They could have a urinary infection or bladder infection. But in connecting with animals, we can find out what the problem is and get the animal to the vet."

**Q: Are people receptive to what you**

**have to say or are they skeptical?**

A: "Most people are receptive to what I do because we have a love for animals, they're a big part of our lives and we want what's best for them. But there are always skeptics out there and I've had people tell me they don't believe me. I don't try to force my beliefs on anyone, but if I can help you and help your pets, that's what I'm here for."

**Q: When you try to help people find lost pets, you've said an early connection is crucial. Why?**

A: "When the animals first leave, especially if they were frightened off by another predator or find themselves in a bad situation, early on they're able to share a lot of information, but as time goes by, their focus changes and they start to worry about survival. ... I can still communicate with them, but it becomes more difficult."

**Q: Why is it important that people talk to their pets if they have to give them up?**

A: "It's stressful for the pets and they're trying to understand what's going on. Animals are a lot calmer if we explain what the situation is. If you're giving your pet up, at least explain that you hate to do it, but that you're going to leave them with these good people who will find a good home for them where they will receive love and attention. People don't always do that. Pets go through the same emotions we do."

**Q: Do pets know when we're sick?**

A: "We have a heart connection with our pets, so they want to be there for the good times as well as the bad times. They want to help us get through a situation."

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