

In tune with your pets

■ Former veterinary technician communicates with animals for a living

By Renée Shadforth

Sierra Sun

Believe it or not, Cindy Hartzell says she talks to animals.

"Every animal I've talked to has had something to say," she said, sitting at her dining room table in Truckee.

Through telepathy, she said she tries to bridge the gap between animals and humans by learning everything from the pet's history to its favorite food.

Hartzell, who was previously a veterinary technician, said she's been communicating with animals her entire life, but only over the past year has she been able to hone her skill.

"I've been working as a technician for several years," said Hartzell, who owns CritterCare Mobile Veterinary Clinic with her husband, a veterinarian. "Once I realized I could do this, I knew being a tech was not what I am supposed to do."

More than one year ago, Hartzell found a book written by animal communicator Carol Gurney. She signed up for Gurney's courses and has been using the program with her business, Heartsoul Natural Animal Communication.

Hartzell sees eight to 10 pets per month and has about six regulars. A 30-minute session with Hartzell costs \$50. She also makes routine monthly visits to Scraps Dog Bakery in Reno.

However, with such strong backgrounds in medicine, between her husband and herself, it may seem curious that Hartzell deals with animals on a spiritual level.

"Some people go, 'Oh, that's interesting.' You get a lot of mixed feelings," she said.

Hartzell said everyone is born with telepathy, which is a lot like a muscle.

"When we're younger, people call it our imagination, or it's our imaginary friends. As we get older, we're taught that it's silly and not reliable."



Colin Fisher/Sierra Sun

Cindy Hartzell sits at home with a few of her animals, Hartzell said her intuition with animals is a lot like a muscle, and it takes a lot of hard work and self-discipline to keep it strong.

Just like any other muscle, she said, if it's not used, it gets atrophied.

"It takes a lot of self-work and self-discipline," she added.

The communication process

When Hartzell begins communication with an animal, whether it's through a photo or in person, she asks for the animal's permission.

"Animal communicators have a code of ethics," she said. "If an animal says no, I have to respect that."

Once permission is granted, the animals typically communicate in one of three ways, Hartzell said.

One way is through a feeling. If the animal has a stomachache, Hartzell said she might feel pain in her stomach.

Another method of communicating comes through like a video in her head, she said. Other times, Hartzell added, the animal's personality might come through in a voice, "more like a character feeling."

Once the telepathic connection has been made, Hartzell said, she tries to "go with the flow" and address questions asked by the client. She records the exchange as it occurs, and then tells the client what happened when the communication is complete.

"Then, just like I asked for their permission," she said, "I thank the animal for their time."

For more information on Cindy Hartzell's Heartsoul Natural Animal Communication, contact her at 550-8929.