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NEWS

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Animal communicator to teach two-day workshop

In her book, "Communication with All Life," animal communicator and pet psychic Joan Ranquet, who has appeared on NBC's "The Today Show" as well as "Good Morning America," starts out by saying, "I wasn't born an animal communicator or pet psychic," but for the past 20 years, she has been earning a good living doing just that.

Like her well-known TV counterpart, Cesar Millan, (the dog whisperer), Ranquet communicates telepathically with animals and believes that everyone has the innate ability and potential to communicate and understand animal behaviors, if they just tune into their innate connections with their pets.

While Millan may rely more on body language, rhythm, touch, timing, intuition and subtlety of movement, Ranquet is unabashedly talking on the same wavelength as her animals, which include three horses and three dogs, a border collie, a border collie cross and a lab, and four cats.

"Cesar is more of a trainer/behaviorist, while I am an animal communicator that deals also with behavior. I believe he is reading the dog telepathically, but he also follows body language and the animals' signals to make a shift in their behavior," she said. "Conversely, I listen directly to what the animal has to say in order to help his/her humans make the shift."

With the incidence of di-

voice so high, Ranquet said people turn more to animals for emotional sustenance.

"Most interesting is how deeply connected we are with our animals," she said. "I love chatting with all of them. They are all fascinating; anybody who puts up with us is great."

On a recent radio show, John Homans, executive editor of *New York Magazine*, who wrote the book, "What's a Dog For," talked about the same trend in social issues.

Animals, he said, can take the place of caregiving for children and is something for people to talk about.

"As Americans become less connected with our families, dogs (and other ani-

mals) fill these gaps in our increasingly lonely world without extended families. People need this contact with their animals. When you interact with your pet, your brain chemistry is similar to when you interact with another person," he said.

Ranquet said she believes that pet owners subconsciously tune in to their pets, but may not realize it and she gives seminars designed to enhance the communication between pet and pet owner.

Everybody has the potential to develop this skill, Ranquet said, but some may have more of a knack. She gives the example that everybody can play basketball, but not everybody makes it to the NBA.



ANIMAL WHISPERER

Animal communicator and pet psychic Joan Ranquet will be in Boynton Beach for a two-day workshop this weekend at the Crystal Garden, 2610 N. Federal Highway. SUBMITTED PHOTO

She says in her book, "By being a leader emotionally in your own home, you can allow your animals to respond in a more harmoni-

ous way." What to do with a stand-offish, disinterested

continues on 38

BBF WWW.SUNSENTINEL.COM/BBF

continued from 5

cat? Ranquet, who developed her skill in her 30s, said, "When we want attention from our animal, sometimes we come at them with too much energy. Back off, play hard to get and they will come to you."

Ranquet recounts two

scenarios from past clients. One horse that was having behavioral problems told Ranquet his owner thinks about math all the time. Ranquet later learned the woman was an accountant and her solution was for the woman to have more fun and worry less about work.

Working with another

client, the woman professed that she likes to have all her ducks in a row. When Ranquet consulted with the dog, he proclaimed, "I like to scatter them."

To the owner, Ranquet suggested more play time with the dog and to

continues on 40

continued from 38

have more fun together. Margaret Ann Lembo, owner of the Crystal Garden, a bookstore and spiritual center in Boynton Beach, and an author in her own right, who has known Ranquet for many years said, "Joan's spot-on. She can communicate remotely and train people to help them realize how they can do it themselves."

Lembo has two birds in her store - a white dove, Mikael, 22 years old, and Sha Nay, a blue and gold macaw. Lembo said that Ranquet helped her realize that the birds prefer to be in the front of the store.

"Sha Nay didn't like being in the back of the store. She's much happier up front, acting as the greeter and she's front and center where she gets more attention," Lembo said.

Likewise, Chris Bennings, a horse trainer in Southwest Ranches in Miramar, rides, trains and teaches hunter jumpers.

He recounts that when he first met Ranquet through a client who requested a consultation with her, he was skeptical and "went along with it for the entertainment value."

"I thought she would work some 'magic' and I didn't take it seriously. I thought it was a novelty,"

he said.

His skepticism turned to amazement after Ranquet communicated with one of his horses, Robinhood, who didn't want to jump any more.

"He was spooked," Bennings said. "I took him to many horse doctors and had him examined and no one could figure it out."

Ranquet will be in Boynton Beach for a two-day workshop Saturday and Sunday at the Crystal Garden, 2610 N. Federal Highway. Call 561-369-2836 or visit thecrystalgarden.com or joanranquet.com.