



It's a family affair!

Animals are part of the Family!

Joan Ranquet

More and more, people are seeing their animals as family. I remember going over to someone's home to do an animal communication session. As I walked in the door, the client, Cynthia (my client), said: "Here is my dog, Sunny, and here is my rescue, Diego."

I looked around and being the closet smart ass that I am, I said: "this is the fanciest rescue I've ever seen!" I then went over with her the fact that this "rescue" Diego was as much her dog as Sunny, and there should be no distinction between the two.

For over 25 years I've heard it out of the mouths of very conscious people - people who wouldn't think about the energy of words. (Even students of mine that have been lectured on this subject, repeatedly.) It's easy to do.

I thought it best to add in here a section from my first book, *Communication with all Life, Revelations of an Animal Communicator* (Hay House 2007) because it describes why I say this best:

"One of the hardest times to set the tone is when we rescue an animal. Our heart has gone out to this other soul in an effort to be a safe port in the storm for them. The word rescue has a thousand implications, but the origins are rarely positive. It appeals to that hurt little child in all of us who is longing to be saved. Equally, it can appeal to that unhealthy part in us that is trying to save everything. The collective consciousness around that word has the weight of a 1,000-pound meteor. People will preface an introduction to a dog/cat/horse with, "this is my rescue." That phrase begs you to feel sorry for the animal.

That word can also give the animal an excuse for a certain type of behavior. The animal can remain shy and introverted - or worse, incorrigible. So many people allow unbelievable behavior, because the animal was a rescue. It goes like this: it was a rescue, poor thing, nobody will love it like I will, it deserves love and therefore if it ruins every Persian rug with pee, and poops on my desk, it's okay because I love

it, it's my rescue. Then you are controlled by your thoughts - and then feelings around the word rescue.

Dogs and even cats love boundaries just as all beings do. We may all press up against a boundary that's one way we define who we are but we do need boundaries. If we just drove on the freeway at whatever speed we wanted, there would be mayhem. "Rescue" dogs need boundaries even more than anyone, boundaries create safety for them since in packs, they have rules.

Whenever someone introduces me to their pack of dogs or cats as I walk in the door and they tell me that this one is so-and-so, and this one is so-and-so, and this one over here is my rescue. I just say, "That one over there is the lucky one." The day you rescued the dog was the day you both got lucky. I also say, "Look around your house, does this look like a rescue facility? No. Then how could this dog possibly still be a rescue?"

My friend Paula called me to see if I would do a session. I told her no. She was stunned and asked, "Why not?" I said because I know exactly why you're calling: you think Boo is depressed. "She is, but how did you know?"

Of course I wanted to say because I'm a pet psychic, but in truth I told her, "You got that dog when she was in shock and depressed. Then you had a baby and now the baby is five, and you're still treating Boo like she's in shock and depressed. So she thinks she is depressed, and then you get depressed. That compounds for you that she's depressed, and you fulfill each other's prophecy. It's perfect."

"Oh." Paula said. Paula had to rethink how she treated Boo. I told her to pretend that there was nothing wrong and see what happens. After a couple of weeks, there was a huge change.

Calling the day you got them the "lucky day" or the "adoption day" isn't some form of denial, either. When we have that lucky day at the shelter or inherit someone else's animal, there can be a fair amount of baggage—all the stuck thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of the last person or people. By allowing the animal to stay in that state and coddling it, we aren't really setting the tone we want. We may in fact be denying who they really are."

Committing to this relationship is one of the most compassionate things you can do for the animal and for yourself. Being able to provide for them is absolutely fulfilling. Yet providing for them isn't the same as human children. It is creating a lifestyle for them that suits all of you.

The great news is you won't ever be an empty nester! They are never going to leave you for college or to get married.

That said, like I mentioned above in the segment from my first book, sometimes they have come from a less than desirable background. Or they are grieving or traumatized just from being rehomed. You could have recently lost your big beloved and felt as though it may not be perfect timing, etc.

Some of the was that we would be mindful of everyone's feelings and create that sense of family is by understanding early on:

- What do they need?
- What do I need?
- What do my other established family members need in order to make this go smoothly?

Your family is composed of all your loved ones. Remember to include your animals as a part of the mental image that makes up your healthy, happy family. €



Learn more about author Joan Ranquet, at

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