

## A Glowing Endorsement

Visitors to this House of Miracles comment on the inexplicable feeling they have with these animals that includes a sense of peace and total acceptance. Many describe a memory of something deep inside that has been lost and is restored simply by being in their presence.

Author, movie director and supporter of HDLM, Monty Joyes put it this way:

*In walking among the horses and the nearly one-hundred burros at Hacienda de los Milagros, a profound calm came over me not unlike meditation. It was an effortless meditation that opened my heart to the many hearts of four-legged compassion. The sweetness of it brought tears to my eyes and I was both giving and receiving in the same moments of joy. I was surrounded by empathetic souls who freed me from all judgments and fears. It was a wonderful experience that all master teachers recommend to us: the ultimate recognition that all life is sacred.*

# Featured Animal Communicator Carol Schultz

Suzan Vaughn

Carol Schultz is a rare breed. She's a well-trained and competent animal communicator and healer, plus an accomplished business and marketing professional. As the founder of an on-line university offering a diverse education in animal and inter-species intuitive arts, visiting her websites ([www.carolschultz.com](http://www.carolschultz.com); [www.animalspiritnetwork.com](http://www.animalspiritnetwork.com)) is an impressive adventure. An intuitive business sense rooted in experience and education makes this month's featured animal communicator a role model for metaphysical entrepreneurs.

## First Professions

A passion for business management fueled Carol's work on a college degree from the University of Illinois (Champaign/Urbana) in distribution management. She has thoroughly enjoyed various positions in the corporate world including warehousing, production scheduling, inventory management, customer service, transportation, and supply chain logistics. "All seemingly very much left-brained, but I also realized as I moved into animal communication, that my prior experiences in business utilized a great deal of intuition as well. So over the years I've developed a tremendous respect for the intuitive aspects of who we are as beings, and how this facet brings healing and success in all occupations and walks of life," Carol reflected.

A strong business background has been a valuable support in her transition to the sole proprietorship of animal communicator, too. "There are a variety of skills needed to smoothly run a consulting business. **Being organized on the business end can**

tremendously enhance the balance and grounded approach that one can accomplish for both clients and students. It expands the depth, reach, and potential of what you can do to help," Carol says. However, it took Carol some time to fully appreciate the expertise she integrated from her first career. "Re-embracing that business background and acknowledging the way I used intuition even then has been a significant healing for me in the past few years."



Carol & Specs

## Early Imaginings

Carol's young life in a quiet Midwestern town was one of inquiry into Nature, but concern about her brother's allergies to animals made caring for one an elusive desire. Carol relates, "I had a great interest in trees, insects, and stones, noticing their nuances, details, and individuality. I collected things

like leaves, bark, pine cones, and stones to repeatedly observe and appreciate."

One of her first up-close experiences with furry friends would come from her warm and free-spirited Aunt Carolyn, an avid cat lover whose feline family introduced Carol to the pleasure of the purr! "My aunt's earthy presence and approach to life was an early inspiration for me. On one visit when I was young, I was absolutely delighted to have her young cats playing on top of me in the middle of the night while I was 'camping' on the floor in the living room. That experience helped to seal my attraction to fun-loving felines and their purring motors."

Practicing animal communication started with stuffed animals for Carol. Barbie dolls were sidelined for a cast of plush animal characters that she spoke for in playtime scenarios with brother, Keith. "My brother and I played different roles for hours on end. I

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would create story lines and characters and talked for them. As an adult, I better understand the concepts of universal consciousness and connections with the spirits of objects. I can see now how my intuition was developing.”

As a teenage newspaper delivery girl, Carol’s exposure to animals grew to include a wide variety of excited, tense, protective, fun, calm, and some very friendly animal acquaintances. She came to appreciate the many roles filled by animals and how various animals related to those outside their packs. Walking into unpredictable animal situations each month to visit customers necessitated a self-taught lesson to stay grounded in the presence of nervous animals.

Over the next few years, college-level business studies became Carol’s focus. Following graduation, the freedom of having her first apartment came with the ability to have her very first animal companion, too. Enter Tyson, Carol’s first adored feline companion. “Tyson initiated me as a full-time animal caretaker. He had a lot of teaching to do, which he relished greatly,” she declared.

### Spiritual Awakening

About a decade into a rewarding career in the food industry, Carol made a career decision that would take her by surprise and lead her toward more spiritually sustaining work. Feeling unmotivated, de-energized, and uninspired after a decade in the corporate world, 1998 found her seeking.

She attended personal development seminars looking for answers. Seeking resulted in an intuitive awakening. “Intuitive messages were rolling in. I didn’t know where they were coming from or what to do with them,” she said. “But in this flood of spiritual connection, what I knew very strongly was that I needed to be doing something spiritually based.”

About a year after joining a new firm, this reliable employee placed all her personal belongings into her briefcase one day and left the building, never to return. “This was a huge decision and leap of faith, but I decided to trust what I was feeling inside. My manager was very understanding and supportive, which was helpful with the transition. In hindsight, I would not suggest a leap from full-time work to nothing, but it was my path.”

Following this choice, she meditated. And meditated, and meditated. She read. She describes this time of seeking as “overwhelming, yet floating with trust, and embraced in a new sacred space.” She took Reiki courses and began a more directed path of

self healing.

Carol developed an interest in past life regression as her metaphysical education progressed, reconnecting with parts of herself that had been buried, and honoring her own past animals lives. “Whether literal or metaphors, these experiences were strong and impactful. I trusted that I was being called to a sacred contract I had been preparing for long before I was consciously aware.”



Panda

### Panda’s Plan

Carol’s first direct experience of animal communication came when her beloved cat, Panda, experienced kidney failure. Both human and feline struggled with medications, treatments, and feeding.

“During her six-week illness prior to her transition, I began to hear Panda talk to me. Her words and thoughts were in my head. They were clear, detailed, and reassuring. I felt that there was absolutely no way that I could

have been making any of it up. This was her!” Seeking the help of an animal communicator during this tender time helped Carol transform Panda’s transition from pain to joy. Shortly thereafter, nudges from Spirit got a little louder, telling Carol she was being called to help animals.

### Animals 101

Responding to these nudges, she turned to the internet, where she found Penelope Smith, ordered and read *Animal Talk*, and *When Animals Speak* and signed up for the Basic Course. Later, she came back for advanced training.

“I was thrilled and relieved all at once! Things felt like they were falling into place so rapidly. It was like coming home inside,” Carol says.

Advanced courses led Carol toward shamanic work. The power animals in these workshops brought her so much peace and fulfillment, the inspiration of the shamanic work is a big part of her healing practice today.

Volunteering at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah, she began “to practice Reiki and animal communication with permission.” Animal therapy at a local nursing home was also a volunteer opportunity she found to be great training and very rewarding..

Some of Carol’s early animal education began with pet sitting, after which she took a position as a veterinary assistant. The animal rehabilitation clinic had a holistic focus and her job involved helping with exams and treatments, including aquatic strengthening

exercises. These early trainings gave Carol a firm foundation and she felt the animals guided her continuing education not only to offer private consultations but to begin teaching others. She began a mentorship with Penelope that included learning to facilitate both her Basic and Advanced courses.

Opportunities in the form of additional metaphysical courses, studies, and presentations came along to further expanded Carol's skill and practice in the Chicago area. She describes these lessons as "a broad blend of human and animal healing opportunities and concepts" that included study with contemporary masters like Gregg Braden, Carolyn Myss, Wayne Dyer, and Barbara Brennan, as well as healing modalities like Tellington TTouch, Bach Flower remedies and teachings from the Foundation of Shamanic Studies. "I was touching bases with a broad spectrum, choosing to place the primary focus on animal communication, but definitely becoming a sponge soaking everything up on many levels," she remembered.

Once this foundation of healing was laid, Carol honed in on furthering her animal communication skills with specific teachings like Teresa Wagner's grief support, Carla Meeske Person's shamanic animal healing work, and Mary Ann Simond's interspecies life awareness coaching program.

By 2002 she was a full time animal communicator doing phone sessions with clients and raising a toddler.

### **Animal Spirit Network**

From the beginning, Carol has been a strong supporter of networking to fellow practitioners. Throughout the years, she has referred clients to others with varied skills. "This has helped me focus on the areas that I feel most drawn to personally and professionally, and to balance my family priorities as well."

Her drive to teach and network with other communicators, coupled with an organizational and business background, blossomed in 2006 into the Animal Spirit Healing & Education Network (ASN), bringing together inspirational teachers, practitioners, coaches, and facilitators. Coursework is designed to accommodate a wide spectrum of intuitive skill level from beginner to advanced. Educational classes and certificate programs in holistic animal care and

intuitive healing arts are offered.

ASN brings together teachers and students that, like telepathy, are not limited by geographic distance. With courses available on-demand, students take to their own learning space at home or participate in classes through a telephone conference call that connects students to teacher. Accompanying materials and assignments round out several distance learning curriculums that can lead to certificates of completion.

As of spring this year, over 500 people have participated in this educational network that offers courses in animal communication, shamanic healing, animal loss and grief support, energetic healing, animal Reiki, and even marketing and business development.

Part of the ASN vision is to connect with and support animal rescue and shelter efforts, and to eventually create a foundation that can more widely contribute to local and world-wide healing initiatives. ASN offers tuition-related certificates that can be used for animal rescue and shelter fundraisers.

"ASN has been an incredibly large and detail-oriented initiative. It has been a tremendous blessing to experience the number of doors opening along the way and my business background has definitely helped to facilitate development and continued progress. My goal is to provide enough context, direction, and structure to support and satisfy the left-brain and earth-oriented part of us. I feel this helps to support a sacred and free flowing space for intuitive growth, exploration, adventure, healing....and miracles," she says.



Carol & daughter, Jasmine

### **Client Prep**

As an animal communication practitioner, Carol encourages clients to trust their own intuition. According to Carol, "The answers are all there. It's a matter of being present to help them come to light."

Carol has worked with a wide spectrum of concerns and species. Aside from the usual dogs, cats, horses, and birds, her repertoire includes rabbits, frogs, guinea pigs, turtles, hedgehogs, monkeys, snakes, lions, insects, and more. Working mostly by phone, most of her in-person connections are at fundraisers or expo events, with the occasional in-home or barn visit.

When Carol begins her sessions, the animals speak first with a free flow of information. "It's an opportunity for the animal's personality to shine. They set the stage and the pace for where we will go next," she says. Clients also have to prepare. "I

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always ask clients to prepare questions and a goal in advance. This helps to ground the reading and ensures that the key concerns of the human client are included.”

Carol’s bag of healing medicine includes shamanic animal healing, animal Reiki, crystal healing, healing touch, flower essences, and aromatherapy. She steps back and opens to intuition, and facilitates what surfaces for an individual client. Very often the methods presented by her spirit guides are new, she says, so staying open and trusting is imperative.

Carol also carves out a portion of her week for pro bono animal rescue and shelter cases, and encourages students and other professionals to do so as well.

Trust, integrity, and compassion: those are the hallmarks of her practice. Her goal is to facilitate the connections that create more balance, understanding, and insight. While conducting classes, she reviews the code of ethics for animal communicators written by Penelope Smith, which she says offers her continuing guidance and grounding.

### Miracles and Surprises

Open to surprises and profound healings, Carol has noticed that sometimes the smallest nuance can be the cosmic key that unlocks an area of healing for both the animal and person. Trust turned that key in one of her very first cases.

Duke the cat greeted her telepathically by barking at the beginning of a phone session. “I reconnected telepathically several times, thinking that possibly my next canine client was arriving early to connect, but I kept getting the same response: barking. I stepped back telepathically and checked in with myself again to ensure I was grounded, but the barking continued. Trusting, I addressed the barking as Duke, the feline. The door of telepathic communication opened, and Duke, a young personality of much enthusiasm and adventure, came through. He’d wanted to be a dog, which explained some of his unfriendly and frustrating behaviors with other cats in the house.”

Acknowledging Duke went a long way toward establishing more harmony in the home as interactions with other cat family members notably improved following the session.

Clients with animals close to passing on are a large part of Carol’s practice.

“Ellen” was struggling with the loss of her long-time canine companion, Lady. Ellen shared stories and pictures with Carol about their life together and Lady wanted to share her memories as well!

“Lady assured Ellen that she was doing well, and surrounded by angelic support and nurturing. She was in a majestic cathedral with gorgeous marble pillars and floors, a place

filled with formality and traditions. In conveying this to Ellen, it was clear validation to her that Lady was safe and in a place of spiritual rest. A weight was visibly lifted for them both. Eventually, Lady returned in a new physical body to enjoy the earthly realm with Ellen once again,” Carol remembered.

Lost animal cases are another area where Carol serves. She knows the difficulty and the potential rewards of supporting someone searching for their lost companion. “Over the years I have developed an approach that works for me. Some students really have a talent for lost animal cases, and I encourage that to blossom.”

In one lost animal case, Boise and Clyde, indoor/outdoor cats, set out on an adventure in the middle of a Chicago winter. Each time Carol spoke to them, they reassured her they were fine, warm enough, and finding food.

“They also said they knew the way home and could get there, but after a couple of conversations, it became apparent that they were waiting for something to change at home. Their human caretaker Joanne needed to make some changes in her life, and Boise and Clyde’s ongoing absence was meant to be the catalyst,” she said.

The cats were gone for a chilling three weeks. Then, during a consultation with them, there was a distinct sign when they were about to return. “About twenty minutes into some serious discussion, I felt a huge shift energetically, and actually heard a pop, like opening a vacuum sealed jar. Conveying this to Joanne, Boise and Clyde communicated that they would now return home, and they concluded the session. I didn’t know how long they would be, but lo and behold, the following morning, Boise poked into the window left open for his return. He took off again, but shortly thereafter, apparently after Boise gave Clyde the ‘all clear,’ both cats came trotting in together, as if nothing had happened.”

### Closing Thoughts

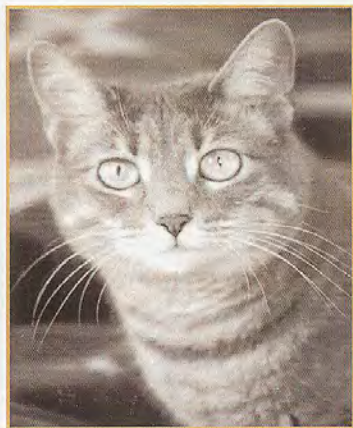
More inspired education is coming in the future from the Animal Spirit Network as Carol predicts expansion. This multi-talented and competent woman is a worthy steward of helping to develop the future of animal communication as a recognized field of expertise. Carol’s own future includes more private consultations professionally and single motherhood personally.

“Animals see your heart, past the things that distract us from our core. Trust the animals as teachers and compassionate reminders of the love and balance that is continuously available when we pause and notice,” Carol advises. “I will guide my young daughter to follow her heart, and appreciate and enjoy her connections with friends and teachers, whether they are human, animal, earth, or elemental.”

*Suzan Vaughn is an animal and people psychic counselor in California, communicating through telepathic, written, and spoken transmissions.*  
[www.telepathictalk.com](http://www.telepathictalk.com)

## Animal Communication Tips from Carol Schultz & Blinky

I consulted my ever-present and trusty silver tabby feline office assistant, Blinky, for tips on animal communication for readers of Species Link. She has the capability to get right to the core of a matter, and enjoys sharing her viewpoints in both a direct and down-to-earth manner.



Blinky

As Blinky turned her attention from the cardinals and insects fluttering in our backyard to the insights she might wish to share with readers, I sat posed and ready to transcribe her wisdom. Blinky carries wisdom and undeniable presence in her eight-year-old muscular frame

while her eyes sparkle with the mischievousness of a kitten.

I feel a question arise to ask Blinky

**What do you consider the most profound truths to help others move past blockages they perceive in their animal communication practice?**

*Understand that I have much to say, but in very few words. It is not about the words. Listen, and be present. It is not complicated. It is real.*

*Trust what you feel inside. Move past your fears, and live higher and higher. Be willing to touch the sky, and see the stars inside.*

*Breathe in, and keep it simple. Breathe in again, and relax.*

*let go*

*be open*

*be free*

*be love*

*TRUST*

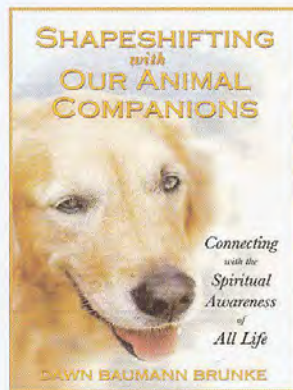
*Now sit with me and watch the grass grow and decide you have the time to do so. Wishing won't get you anywhere, but trusting will bring you the Universe. I listen to you, you listen to me, we share, we become, we move beyond into One with All.*

As I sit here and BE with Blinky, the cleansing rain begins, the grass continues to grow, and I am reminded once again that the best thing is to let go and trust one's inner voice.

Listen. Observe. Learn. Be ready to teach. Be ready to share. Be willing to step out and make a difference, and allow the animals to guide and support

## Reviews

Nancy Windheart Larson



**Shapeshifting with Our Animal Companions: Connecting with the Spiritual Awareness of All Life** by Dawn Baumann Brunke (Bear & Company, 2008. Softcover, 260 pages, \$16.00. <http://www.animalvoices.net>)

Since I was a child, I have pondered the questions: "How do other beings perceive the world? How is their experience similar to or different than

mine?" I was delighted to find in this book a fellow seeker of answers to these questions, and a detailed exploration of the various ways that beings can experience understanding another's perception of reality. Brunke's communion with her dog teacher and friend, Barney, as well as many other animals and beings, opens a window into the various worlds of awareness which are possible from the vantage point of physical form.

Barney's physical decline and eventual death led Brunke into an exploration of time, space, and the nature of physical and non-physical realities with Barney as her primary guide. What emerges is a detailed account of her journey learning to shapeshift and share awareness and experiences with a variety of beings. Brunke's acute spiritual perceptions, clear and descriptive writing style, and ability to tell her story with both profound reverence and a sense of humor makes this book a delight to read.

As we continue to open to the truth of who we really are, and experience the melding of all dimensions of time and space into an ever-expanding "now," I will remember the words that the author received from the dolphins:

*All is interconnected. There are no doorways, no gateways, no portals—rather, it is simply a matter of shifting one's vibration to that aspect of being where all are present.*

In the words of wise dog, Barney:

*There is nothing like seeing the world completely from another being's eyes to shock you into the realization that the way you experience the world is unique to you.*

**Dispatches from the Ark: Pages from a Pet Psychic's Notebook** by Suzan Vaughn (Medium Masters Publishing, 2008. Softcover, 205 pages, \$14.95. <http://www.telepathictalk.com>)

*Dispatches from the Ark* is the story of Suzan Vaughn's career transition from broadcast journalism to professional

