

A workshop will teach people to communicate with pets, writes
Arlene Harris

ANIMAL TALK

REALLY CLOSE: Anna Evans grew up on a farm in France and later became a vet because of her close kinship with animals.

GON admit it, you have been known to chat to the dog, plead with the cat or even argue with the hamster. But don't worry, there's nothing to be ashamed of — Dr Doolittle swore by it and a growing number of veterinarians are using animal communication as a means of getting through to our pets.

Starting on October 24, the renowned animal communicator Anna Evans will be running a four-day workshop in Cork where pet owners will get the chance to gain an insight into the minds of their four-legged friends.

The course is aimed at professional people such as vets and holistic animal therapists but it is also open to anyone who wishes to learn more about their animals and deepen their bond and understanding of them.

"I grew up on a farm in France and later became a vet," says Evans. "This constant involvement with animals enabled me to un-

derstand things such as knowing whether a puppy is crying from colitis or hunger. However, this ability only became meaningful after I read Kinship with All Life by AJ Boone where the author explained how he discovered that talking with animals was actually possible."

Since then, the animal lover has researched her findings and is constantly striving to find ways to "verify the accuracy of the process" and discover how her extraordinary ability can be used to its full potential.

She believes that while her skill of communicating with animals is a great tool, it should be used in conjunction with traditional medicine or homeopathy and does not replace diagnosis and conventional treatment.

"Combining the two methods allows us access to the mental and emotional health of the animal, both aspects are important when selecting the appropriate remedy. It also helps to monitor treatment and decipher whether or not the animal is being relieved by its medicine."

Intuitive communication is simply a means of exchanging information with animals, says Evans. "Everyone has natural instincts and this helps us to emphasise and identify what animals are sensing. The challenge is to recognise what is happening and address it with our analytical brain, rather than being scared of the process."

Evans maintains that we all have an awareness of what animals are feeling but choose to block off the signals because we are afraid of "going beyond preconceptions" on animal intelligence. "The only efficient way to get to a sensible opinion about it is to try it directly, with an open mind and no expectations: practice and observe what is happening in your animals' behaviour, and try to use your brain to grasp what it means."

Evans has been invited to Ireland by holistic vet Liz Mahony to demonstrate her skills and help professionals and pet owners to become more in tune with the animal kingdom. "As children we all have the intuitive capacity to communicate with animals but we lose it as we grow up and become conditioned," says Mahony. "The ability to under-



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stand animals adds huge dimensions when trying to ascertain problems. Dogs are the most intuitive animals of all. That's one reason why they can get so 'screwed' up by their owners' behaviour."

The upcoming course will focus on exercise, theory and practical work in the field with owners and their animals.

"I have watched Anna communicating with animals and she is extraordinary," the vet says. "In fact, she has done some amazing work with some of my own clients."

One client is Anne O'Sullivan, a 55-year-old housewife from Cork who met Evans last year when she was having trouble with her two Leonberger dogs.

"Both dogs were very timid and nervous before Anna treated them and she told me things about their character that she couldn't have known previously," Sullivan says. "She gave me instructions about how to deal with them and it really worked — they are both really happy and contented now."

Evans also taught Sullivan how to combine essential oils, TTouch and Clicker Training to help treat her dogs' symptoms and maintain their stability. "None of this treatment costs a lot of money, but it does take time and dedication. I had felt I was failing my beautiful dogs by not understanding what was wrong with them. Anna gave me hope and encouragement when I wanted to throw in the towel. Now I feel like I have opened up my mind to a whole new way of thinking."

■ The animal communication course takes place in Rossbarbery, Cork from October 24 to 28 and costs €450. Individual sessions are also available and prices start from €30. For more information contact Liz Mahony on cliza22@eircom.net.

Touch up

Clicker training: This is where a conditioned reinforcer or clicker is used to let the animal know its behaviour is appropriate. It has been successfully used in the training of a huge variety of species from marine animals to household pets.

TTouch — the Tellington TTouch: A specialist approach to the care and training of animals. Devised by the animal expert Linda Tellington-Jones, it's based on circular movements of the fingers and hands all over the body. The idea is to activate the function of the cells and awaken cellular intelligence.

Feelgood

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