**Q & A for Press Kit**

**Question: When you brought your new puppy home, what made you reach out to animal communicators?**

I had never had a dog before and I was completely unprepared. I’d wanted a dog for companionship and the promised unconditional love. But I assumed but it would be a master/”pet” relationship – that my dog would follow my lead, obey my wishes and simply love me. Brio soon showed me that he had a mind of his own. I felt in the beginning that he didn’t love me because he didn’t always obey me. I felt I had no control over him…that I couldn’t communicate with him. I’d heard that there are people who claim to be able to communicate with dogs and other nonhuman animals and “translate” what they are thinking or saying. So out of curiosity I called one to see what she’d say about Brio. I really didn’t have big expectations. I was trained as a skeptical television journalist, a reporter. I didn’t believe in “woo-woo”.

However, this communicator did tell me things from Brio’s point of view that she could not possibly have known. I didn’t tell her anything except Brio’s name and breed. But the communicator described my apartment and the street where I lived and said things about Brio’s feelings that rang true. This was the start of what turned out to be a long journey—a long investigation—into the possibility of telepathic communication between humans and our fellow creatures. It also drastically altered my view of what the dog-human relationship really is. I now believe dogs come to teach us things. They are not our inferiors to be commanded, but rather sentient, intelligent beings with their own minds – and their own souls.

**Question: How would you describe your beliefs about things like animal communication, telepathy with animals, and the idea that dogs and other animals may reincarnate?**

Regarding animal communication, I have come to believe that some people do really have the ability to “hear” or “see” or “feel” what our fellow creatures are feeling and thinking. I’ve experienced too many instances when communicators told me things about my own dog that they could not possibly have known by ordinary means. That’s why I set out to research what’s known about animal telepathy and studies that researchers have conducted. Animal communicators often say that any one of us have the ability to telepathically communicate with our dogs or other animals. I don’t feel I have that ability to the extent that a professional does. So I continue to use the professional communicators when I really want to get information about the thoughts and feelings of my dog or cat, for example.

For the book, I also spoke with other people with dogs as well as dog trainers and handlers. I heard many stories of experiences that really defied explanation in terms of materialistic, empirical science.

 I certainly do not discount the possibility that animals – and humans – may reincarnate. There is some research indicating that humans, at least, do. I personally had a strong belief as a child in reincarnation.

While there is no proof of animal reincarnation (after all they cannot recount memories of past lives if they have them), I believe in keeping an open mind. I heard stories from people who are convinced that a beloved dog has come back to them.

**Question: What did your experience with Brio and your research into the emotions, intelligence and spirit of animals teach you?**

My experience with Brio and the research I’ve done has left me with an absolute conviction that our fellow creatures are feeling, intelligent beings. Empirical Western science is now confirming this belief. For example, neuroscience research is demonstrating that the brains of nonhuman animals experience emotions in much the same way as humans do. Brain scans show how comparable brain areas are activated by rewards or pleasure, for instance.

Other studies are showing that nonhuman animals have intelligence in ways such as linguistic
abilities that challenge previous assumptions. For instance, there’s the famous Border collie, Chaser, who learned the names of more than 1000 objects. And there are numerous and ongoing studies with dolphins that continue to provide evidence of their high intelligence and communication abilities.

Furthermore, scientists trained in the methods of Western empirical science are now concluding that other species possess consciousness. In 2012, a group of scientists met for a conference called “Consciousness in Humans and Nonhuman Animals.” They then signed the Cambridge Declaration of Consciousness in Nonhuman Animals which stated that there is evidence that nonhuman animals have “neuroanatomical neurochemical, and neurophysiological substrates of conscious states along with the capacity to exhibit intentional behaviors.” In other words, the scientists were saying that nonhuman animals—all mammals and birds as well as many other creatures—have those neurological substrates that generate consciousness.

And if nonhuman animals have consciousness, the next question is, do they have souls? The answer to that may take us beyond the reach of current materialistic science. But through history many cultures and religions have asked it. Many have answered “yes”.