



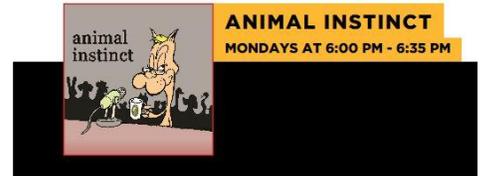
## Animal Instinct Podcast

Host Celia Kutcher & Guest Maribeth Decker

June 5, 2017

*This interview was edited for clarity.*

Celia Kutcher: Greetings and welcome to Animal Instinct here, on Heritage Radio Network. I'm your host, Celia Kutcher, also known as the Food Healer.



I've got Maribeth Decker with me today. She's a pet communicator from Sacred Grove.com. I'm really excited to talk to her. Animal communication is pretty fascinating. We're just going to get started.

Celia Kutcher: Can you explain to us what it is that you do?

Maribeth Decker: Yeah. I'm an intuitive animal communicator, which means to me that I use telepathy to contact animals and to provide information back and forth with the people who are in their family. There's a real communication that happens at a level that you just don't get in the regular world. There's all kinds of information that we can share and we can hear from the animals. That's what I do in a nutshell.

Celia Kutcher: That's really cool. How and when did you find out that you have this gift?

Maribeth Decker: Well, as a joke on myself I always say, "I did not come out of the womb communicating with animals." I wish I did, but that's not my story. It happened when I became a Reiki Master, which is an energy healing technique that a lot of people are familiar with.

Strangely enough when I became a Reiki Master, my dogs started communicating with me. There was a time where my dog, Timmie who had passed, showed up in the dining room. He was, as they say in ghost stories, a full-body apparition. It was like he was sitting right there.

Celia Kutcher: Oh, wow.

Maribeth Decker: I'm at the stove and I'm seeing him out of the corner of my eye yelling "Timmie!" Then I look at him and he's gone. My response at the time was, "Yeah, cool, but I need to get dinner...moving right along."



Maribeth Decker:



Then my dog, Mitsubishi, (the kids named him). He was a Siberian Husky. He saw me trying to do some reiki on my little dog Eddy. She was also named by my kids. She was on her way out and she finally passed on. As he got older, he had some hip issues. I was doing reiki on him on the couch. He looked at me and what I heard was, "Don't try that S-H-I-T on me. That killed Eddy!" He jumps off the couch and walks away and I'm like, "Whoa."

Celia Kutcher:

Seriously?

Maribeth Decker:

Right?

Celia Kutcher:

I love it.

Maribeth Decker:

I didn't know what to do with it. I hadn't heard of animal communicators at that time. Mitsubishi passed and when he passed, Tibor came into my life. He was a rescue dog. He's the guy who really got me going. Tibor's a really sweet dog. He was probably a year-and-a-half when we got him. He's a good-looking dog, a Shar Pei-German Shepherd mix. Not huge.



Celia Kutcher:

Oh, cool.

Maribeth Decker:

Yeah. Broken tooth, scars and some aggression issues based on some fear, yet he's a really nice guy. We've talked through things and he's much better. So back to the beginning. I'm sitting on the couch again. Same couch, strangely enough, and every time I sit down I see a picture of a man standing up with this huge suit of clothes and a German Shepherd running at him and biting his arm. It's like the pictures I used to see sometimes where they're teaching dogs to be, maybe attack dogs or guard dogs. I'm like, "I don't know what's going on here, but I've got to find out."



That was when I started. I had a friend who used an animal communicator, and I went and started learning, getting training to do it on purpose. I'd been doing it for just my dogs and then I did it for other people's horses and cats and dogs, and I found I really loved it.

Celia Kutcher: It's really, really cool. When you're communicating or when they're communicating with you, so you're basically getting complete sentences? You're not getting kind of like, "Dog happy" or something like that?

Maribeth Decker: I get sentences. We have conversations. I also see things. It's not the full body apparition that Timmie had, but I see. They show me in symbols, how they're feeling. I sometimes feel it in my body if there are some physical issues. We definitely have conversations and some of them are pretty funny.

Celia Kutcher: You're so lucky. This is something I would love to be. I'm so jealous right now, I can't even tell you. I'm sitting here thinking of my cat's like, "Ugh, god, I'd love to be able to talk to them." It's just so cool.

Maribeth Decker: If you ever think, "If my cat could talk, he or she just told me this," I think you just got a communication from your cat and you should just go with it. That's how it started with me, you know?

Celia Kutcher: Yeah, yeah. It's funny because I know another animal communicator and actually, she's a Reiki Master as well. I'm wondering if there's something about reiki that opens up a channel or something like that, that enables the communication to be formed, or if it's just coincidence, you know?

Maribeth Decker: I don't think it is. I think it opens it up, and for those of us who already like to do it, it blossoms for us, maybe. That's what my theory is because I know a lot of Reiki Masters, and they're all not animal communicators.

Celia Kutcher: That's funny, too.

Maribeth Decker: Some of us, right?

Celia Kutcher: Exactly. I mean, some people got it, some people don't, I suppose. Do you speak to all animals or are there certain ones that like to talk to you?

Maribeth Decker: Yeah, I can talk to all animals. Wild animals are ... how do you say it? They're not really in tune to talking to us or knowing that we're communicating with them. They've got their own lives going on and they're not really paying attention to us.

I've had exceptions. I can communicate with all of them, but the best one I had was I was coming down, driving down the George Washington parkway, which is along the Potomac River. It's 45 mph but we all do 55 mph. I see this fox and he's



getting ready to cross and I know he is going to get hit. I yell, "Don't do it." I see him look me in the eye and he stops.

Celia Kutcher: Oh my god.

Maribeth Decker: I'm like, "Okay, one life was saved today."

Celia Kutcher: Cute. Seriously.

Maribeth Decker: Yeah. Sometimes, I can get their attention. I just did a Communicating with Wildlife in Sanctuaries workshop in L.A. (

Celia Kutcher: Cool.

Maribeth Decker: That was great.

Celia Kutcher: Cool.

Maribeth Decker: Yeah, it was really good. I found out a family of gibbons, this is in LA, have the same parenting problems with their teenager that I had with my teenager.

Celia Kutcher: I love it.

Maribeth Decker: Right?

Celia Kutcher: We're not that different after all?

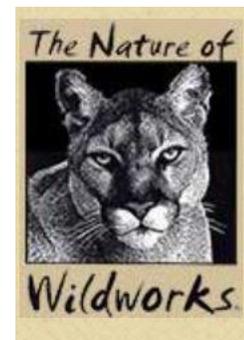
Maribeth Decker: No, no, no, no. It was incredibly mind blowing for me. That's part of my experiences in our day-to-day life. Animals are not always paying attention to us but certainly, the channels could be open if you wanted to lift them.

Celia Kutcher: That's so cool. How long have you been doing this? How long have you been working with clients?

Maribeth Decker: About seven or eight years.

Celia Kutcher: Cool. What's the main reason that people contact you?

Maribeth Decker: Well, they contact me mostly when their animal is doing something or not doing something and it's frustrating. I feel like I'm a troubleshooter. You have animals that aren't eliminating where they're supposed to be, they're barking and driving their human nuts, they're pulling on the leash, there's aggression issues.





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Those kind of things, but also they come to me when there's transition stuff, end of life stuff, when they want to know if their animal's ready to go and they want me to help them through. And they want to talk to the animal after they've passed.

Celia Kutcher: This is actually fascinating for me because, actually, a dear friend of mine lost their cat, I think yesterday or the day before, and so what happens when an animal passes?

Maribeth Decker: I've found out their spirit survives the loss of the body just like us humans survive the loss of the body. That entity still continues to survive. I've been able to contact them. I think after a period of time they get a little more ... how do you say it? They get less, like cat-like or dog-like.

Their soul kind of opens up because they're not in their dog body or their cat body or their horse body. I haven't had any problems connecting to animals who've survived, and they continue to love the people they were living with, and care about them. Nice right?

Celia Kutcher: Yeah, that's really nice. That's lovely. It's funny. I had a Jack Russel that actually saved my life when I was a teenager and he passed, needless to say, ages ago. I don't remember my dreams often, but when I do, it's kind of like "Huh? That's odd." I had a dream about him, oh god, couple months ago I guess. I mean, I swear to god, it was like he was there.

I don't have dreams like this. You know what I mean? Yet, it's like I could feel him on the bed and I could feel the weight of him. It was so realistic that I woke up and was kind of like, "Huh? Okay." You know? It was just so unusual and so like it happened. It really got me questioning what exactly that was, if it was a dream or if it was some kind of a visit or, you know?

Maribeth Decker: Yeah. I'd go with the visit as the explanation.

Celia Kutcher: Makes sense. That makes me feel good.

Maribeth Decker: They like to give us the gift of knowing that they're still around and still love us, and a visit's a really good way to do it.

Celia Kutcher: That's really, really nice. When you have a client, do you do anything to prepare yourself for the session?

Maribeth Decker: A little bit. I get a picture of the animal. I like a recent picture. It's more accurate for what's happening now. Then I clear out my own stuff. Any upset thoughts, feelings, worries, to do list for the day, they go in a locker.



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I also check my body because sometimes we do body scans. I try to release MY pains or say "Oh, yeah. Well, that left side, that's me," before we connect. Because sometimes during the body scan, I'll feel something in my body and it could be from the animal. I want to have checked myself to say, "No. That's not me. I did not have a blinding headache before we got on this call." You know, that sort of thing?

Celia Kutcher: Yeah, yeah.

Maribeth Decker: That's what I do, and connecting with the picture just to get some information. I get the animal's essence and some information about the animal that gives us a place to start.

Celia Kutcher: Awesome. What is a typical session like?

Maribeth Decker: We use either Skype or phone. It's remote. It's actually better for me to concentrate when there's not a lot of movement and bodies and stuff going on. We get together and set an attention to bring in the best information for everybody's highest good. I think that raises the vibration for everybody and it sets the tone. I also say a small prayer, which is non-denominational.

Celia Kutcher: Nice.

Maribeth Decker: When you open yourself up to information, you only want information for their highest good and you don't want to open it up to anything else. There's other stuff out there so the prayer keeps it all in the positive, safe place.

Celia Kutcher: Nice.

Maribeth Decker: If they want to, I'll do a visualization with them that give them a chance to experience the brainwaves used to communicates intuitively with the anima. If my client has any intuitive abilities, this might begin to communicate easier with their own animals. Then I ask the animal to come in. It feels like the animal walks into my office.

Celia Kutcher: Wow.

Maribeth Decker: Yeah, it's pretty funny because sometimes they're like, "Oh, you got cats." I say, "If you don't bother them, they won't bother you." How they show up will tell me something about them, their personalities. Then we will start the conversation.



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I will share what I got from the picture. I will say, "Do you have anything for the person?" The person will respond and tell them what they want to share with their animal. We'll start talking back and forth about it.

Celia Kutcher: Do your pets know that you're doing this? Are they aware that there's another animal is in the room, basically?

Maribeth Decker: Sometimes, my little dog, Stella, gets this low really, "Growl" going. My dog, Tibor and the cats Mac and Brick don't react. But Stella's sometimes like, "Yeah, there's something here, mom."

Celia Kutcher: God, that's amazing.

Maribeth Decker: We'll do some energy healing as well. Animals sometimes have emotional issues and so do people – they're feeling a negative emotion around their animal's behavior. We can use healing to get those negative emotions out of the way so the behaviors can change.

Celia Kutcher: Maribeth, when you're doing these sessions and stuff, is there anything typical that the animals will do, or something that you've heard over and over from animals and these things, like a common thread or anything like that?

Maribeth Decker: I really thought about that one and animals are like people. I never know what I'm going to hear. One of the common thread is that they really love their people. They **really** love their people. Of course the clients I work with REALLY love their animals, so it's no surprise that their animals love them.

Celia Kutcher: Totally.

Maribeth Decker: Animals love their people. They do, and what's really nice is when we're talking about animals who have transitioned. Some of us have guilt over how the transition went down. You have to make a decision that you don't always do. You got to figure out when, how, where to stop a life that you love. We feel guilty and we're wondering if we're doing it too fast. They never are angry at their people. I have never seen that. They're like, "No. You did fine. You made a good decision. I'm great. I'm fine. I love you."

That has been the case with all the folks, all the animals that have passed. They're good and they're loving their people.

Celia Kutcher: Do you believe in reincarnation or is these just souls that are just souls for eternity?

Maribeth Decker: I believe in reincarnation. I didn't have an opinion on it with animals before I started communicating with them. But now, I have at least two animals in my family that I think have been in the family before.

Celia Kutcher: Cool.

Maribeth Decker: My cat, Mac, was my daughter's cat. Mac and Brick are brother and sister. When my daughter graduated from college and went to India, they came to live with us.



Celia Kutcher: Oh, wow.

Maribeth Decker: I kept calling Mac, "Tom." I'm thinking, "Tom? Why Tom? Oh, that's my grandmother's cat." I kept seeing a picture that we had when I was very small, and had my arm around Tom. I thought, "That guy has come back. That's Tom." More recently, my son's dog who just passed away, Peanut.

Celia Kutcher: Yeah, I'm sorry.

Maribeth Decker: She was my dog, Pee Wee, back when I was in the Navy. Pee Wee was my first dog. I was not a great dog-person then, I was neglectful. I had never had dogs before. In this lifetime, we worked some things out.

Celia Kutcher: That's awesome.

Maribeth Decker: I was there for her transition and I helped her through it. I helped ease her physical discomfort and anxiety at the end. I got to make my amends 40 years later.

Celia Kutcher: God, that's so nice to hear. It's nice to hear that they're forgiving, as well. I think that's one of the things that a lot of people think is that an animal is going to be upset or angry. That they can hold grudges and obviously, I assume some can. They just seem to be much sweeter. I just feel like animals are sweeter than we are. I would like to believe they're not as horrible jaded as we are. I would assume a few are.

Maribeth Decker: I think so, too.

Celia Kutcher: Oh, good. That's good news.

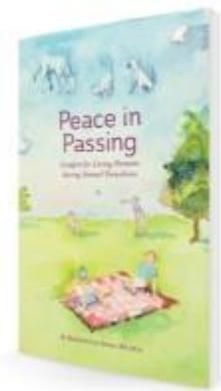
Celia Kutcher: Have you ever been surprised at what an animal has said to you?



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- Maribeth Decker: I've had that a few times, in a funny way. I had an older dog that I was checking to see if he was ready to pass. He had cancer, and he wasn't ready to go. He was acting up because they bought a puppy. We straightened all that out. In my head I'm thinking to myself (but I'm still connected to this older dog), "How do they put up with this yapping puppy?" I'm not saying it out loud, but I hear the dog say, "You know? That's one of the good things about losing your hearing when you get older."
- Celia Kutcher: Oh my god, how do you keep a straight face? I would be like, "Ha-ha-ha."
- Maribeth Decker: I couldn't keep a straight face. I had to tell my client. That's when I found out animals have a sense of humor.
- Celia Kutcher: Yeah, they do.
- Maribeth Decker: They can, anyway. They can.
- Celia Kutcher: Yeah, they do. That's for sure, especially horses. I think horses are just giant goofballs, you know? They love practical jokes and they love doing stupid things, and they're super, super fun for that. I'd like to hear about your book. Can you tell us about that?
- Celia Kutcher: I'd like to hear about your book. Can you tell us about that?
- Maribeth Decker: I wrote the book 'Peace and Passing: Comfort for Loving Humans during Animal Transitions' because I did a lot of work with animals who've passed. I saw a lot of people hurting. I talked to a man and he was sobbing. He was totally broken down. I asked, "When did your dog pass?" He said, "2007."
- Celia Kutcher: Oh my god.
- Maribeth Decker: Since I started working with animals who have transitioned, I have a lot of deep stories. I think they bring a lot of comfort to people. They center around the truths that animals survive their death and they still love us. They have opinions about what they'd like to have before they pass, how they'd like the transition to go.
- Celia Kutcher: Really?



Maribeth Decker: Yeah. My girlfriend's cat told her he didn't want to die alone.

Celia Kutcher: Oh my god.

Maribeth Decker: That was important because it was just Debbie and Chazworth and Debbie went to work every day. When it was clear he wasn't going to make it, she set up a date with the veterinarian so that she was with him when he died. I hear stuff like that. One dog wanted to be on the front lawn and wanted the grown kids to be there as well as the parent.

Celia Kutcher: Wow.

Celia Kutcher: This is thought out like a human. It's like, "I'll have roses on my casket."

Maribeth Decker: I was surprised, yeah.

Maribeth Decker: If you can follow their wishes, how much better do you feel after they have passed? You still miss them but you're like, "Well, I really listened to what they wanted."

Celia Kutcher: Yeah. They got the send-off that they wanted and that they deserved, which is wonderful.

Maribeth Decker: I wrote stories to give people ideas of how they can deal with their own pain and help put it into perspective, I think is the best way to say it.

Celia Kutcher: For someone who has had a pet that's transitioned recently, do you have any tips on helping them cope with the transition? Is there anything they can do to help the animal transition easier or do anything to aid their transition, once they've passed?

Maribeth Decker: Send love and light. That's my equivalent for praying for them. Send love and light and tell them you really love them, and you just want them to be happy. You want them to relax, enjoy themselves. Let them know you still love them and you would welcome some communication.

You can also say, "I won't make it hard if you want to communicate with me. If you come in a dream, I will believe it's you. If I feel you sleeping next to me, I will believe it." "If you come and it feels like you just licked my face while I was in bed, I will just believe it." All these are examples of ways I have heard that animals connected with their people.





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- Celia Kutcher: Oh my god. That's so beautiful.
- Maribeth Decker: Just give them a lot of love and light and tell them how much you love them, and that you're going to be okay because you know they're going to be okay.
- Celia Kutcher: Here's a really random question for you. This is bizarre so I just want to know if by any chance you know because it doesn't seem to be that many people do or anybody does. Do you think that there are animals that can be stuck in the ghost-phase? I had this apartment years ago. This is the weirdest thing, and I had a cat that would never jump on my bed. One night I'm curled up on my side facing the wall, and I feel my cat jump up on the bed and circle and lay in the crook of my knees.
- I was like, "This is unusual," and I look down. My cat's on the floor with these eyes as big as saucers like, "Oh my god. What's going on?" I looked around and there was actually the indentation of something in my crook. It was like, "What is going on here?" My cat was just flipped out. It was like I don't know if that was something just visiting, or if there actually are ghost-kitties and ghost-dogs that travel the planet with us like humans?
- Maribeth Decker: I do think so. It's hard to say whether they were just coming to visit or if they were ghosts, but I do think there are ghost-kitties and doggies. I do healing for animals who have had some bad endings. I think maybe animals, like humans, are stuck because of an unpleasant ending. Yeah, I think it's possible. Most, I believe, transition okay but I think there are exceptions.
- Celia Kutcher: It's like because you're able to actually have a dialogue with these animals, that you see how smart are they?
- Maribeth Decker: I've had two times where animals who have passed end up giving deep advice to their guardians.
- Celia Kutcher: Wow.
- Maribeth Decker: Debbie's cat, Chazworth, we checked in with him after he passed. I haven't visited Debbie for a while, and Chazworth says, "Debbie, you're getting to be a bit of a hoarder."
- Celia Kutcher: Oh, wow.
- Maribeth Decker: She had moved back into her parent's house and brought her stuff in. He said, "You really need to make this house your own. It's your house, now." The cat's telling her this.



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Maribeth Decker: I hadn't seen the house lately. So I don't know how it looks. I ask, "Debbie, is this true?" She says, "Yeah. I think he's right."

Celia Kutcher: That's amazing.

Maribeth Decker: They have the capability to give advice. I had a horse give his guardian some advice that was very good for her life, as well. I was in awe.

Celia Kutcher: That's wild.

Maribeth Decker: I didn't know her know well enough. I said, "Does this make any sense to you?" She says, "Yeah. Yeah, it does."

Celia Kutcher: Wow. I mean for me, it makes sense because I spent so much time. When I was a child, I was terribly shy. I wound up spending a lot of time with a lot of animals. It was some pets but it was also horses, occasionally a sheep. When I was living in Spain, I became best friends with a mule. Things like that. Well, when I lived in Spain it was a whole different thing because I didn't speak Spanish and I was the only blond kid in this little, tiny town in the middle of nowhere in the mountains of Spain.

I was like, "This sucks" because everyone knew who I was and they'd all come running up to me and start speaking. I could understand Spanish but I was just shy. It was tough to learn it. I got such a bond with these animals. I just felt that they knew and that they had empathy for me, and were like, "It's okay, kid. Don't hang out with them. Let's go for a walk through the mountains," and stuff like that.

Maribeth Decker: Absolutely.

Celia Kutcher: I've always felt this bond. It was funny. Actually, I was working with this crazy horse one time who was a show horse. We were buddies. He was my pal. At the time, my boyfriend was riding this horse and competing it. I was taking care of it. This really creepy guy was working the show grounds. He would come over every morning and just bother me and things like this.

I was holding Johnny and one day Johnny was like, "I'm done," and just grabbed this guy by literally, the chest and just bit him and just held on and then just shook the hell out of him and let him go. Let me tell you, I never saw him again. It was like, "Thanks, Johnny." It was like, "That was awesome."

Maribeth Decker: Right on.

Celia Kutcher: It was great.



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- Maribeth Decker: You got it. They're very much aware, and thank you to all these animals who do that for us.
- Celia Kutcher: Seriously. I mean there's so many stories of somebody breaking in the house, or doing this and even like, "And the cat attacked the burglar." It's so random. It's like, "The pet rat jumped out of its cage and attacked this person, and made them leave." It's amazing to me. It's like, "Well, they must know what the hell is going on because if not, they would just be like, 'Oh, hi. Oh? Okay.'" I think they're way smarter than we give them credit for.
- Maribeth Decker: Yes. Yes. My little cat, Brick. She's slightly ornery, but what she does for me is she sleeps by me and releases all of the mental tension in my head. You know those nights when you're just tossing and turning? You cannot turn your head off? She'll come in and 10 minutes later, it's all good.
- Celia Kutcher: Oh my god. I want to borrow your cat. I need this cat right now.
- Maribeth Decker: She's ornery. You cannot have her. Hah!!
- Celia Kutcher: Okay, fine.
- Maribeth Decker: It's all kinds of abilities and understandings, yes.
- Celia Kutcher: I love it. It's this whole belief that certain people have of, "We're so superior to the animals," and "People," and all this stuff. At the end of the day, we're all organisms and we're all cellular matter. That's the reason why I'm not a house plant is because of DNA and cool things like that. When you have all these beings that eat and breath and walk and do this, you would think that there's got to be some level of intelligence for this to have continued on. I don't know if its universal intelligence or what exactly the right terminology is, but it's like some of us having thumbs and being able to do math. Animals have certain jobs, and this is one of the things about this show that I really love is I love bringing on experts on certain animals and what is their role in their animal kingdom? That kind of thing.
- Some people will call it instinct. Some people will call it innate ability and all that, but it's really, I don't think it's that simple. I think they know. I think that they are aware of their place. This whole thing about animals like, "Oh, they don't know. They just exist and they can't tell the passing of time. A minute is the same as 10 hours to a cat." I refuse to believe that. Maybe I'm totally wrong on that, but they don't seem. My cats are pissed when I come home late. They're like, "Where have you been?"



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- Maribeth Decker: They've done studies. That's one of the things I do sometimes is tell animals how long their people are going to be gone. They usually do it by the sunrises. They have a sense of time. They get it. They're in a more calm state when they have an idea of when their human is returning; they do get it. They've also done studies. Animals knew when their people were supposed to be home and they knew when they on their way home. They felt the energy change when the person left that office.
- Celia Kutcher: Yes. It's that book of 'Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home'. I think that actually is the title of the book. It is case study upon case study upon case study. I think it came out in either the late-90's or the early-2000's. It's been around. It gets to the point and it's very sweet because it's written by a Brit so it's like, "Snookie, the Yorkshire Terrier of Leeds." It's great. It's really, really cute, but it's like pages, and pages, and pages, and pages. This can't be a coincidence.
- Maribeth Decker: Right, exactly.
- Celia Kutcher: There's no way this is a coincidence. Some people will say, "Well, you know, my dog sits by the front door the second I leave and of course they're going to be there when I get home." I don't know about you, but I couldn't sleep for 8-to-12 hours in the same spot. They're not doing that.
- Maribeth Decker: There's a connection that they have with us.
- Celia Kutcher: What's your favorite thing about your ability to talk to the animals?
- Maribeth Decker: I have two things. Here's the one I love the most. I'm dealing with animal problems or things that just drive people crazy. When the animal starts understanding what the issue is and changing their behavior and everybody gets happier, I love that. Why? Because those of us that have animals in our lives because we want to enjoy them. I love it when my clients can spend more time enjoying their animals instead of being mad at them.
- Celia Kutcher: Totally.
- Maribeth Decker: The other thing is just what you and I have been talking about - the world is much richer, much deeper now that I'm communicating with animals. I just see it in different, unusually cool ways.
- Celia Kutcher: Thank you so much. This was awesome, and I really, really appreciate you taking the time. I learned a lot, so that was great. I wish you luck on your future endeavors and I will absolutely be tracking you down in the future because we need to do this again.



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Maribeth Decker: I appreciate you giving me your time.

Celia Kutcher: Oh my god, it was my pleasure. This was great. I love this kind of stuff. This is one of my favorite things and having communicators on my show, I love it because it really, I think it helps the average Joe get an understanding of what this bond is that they have with their pets, and understand actually, how deep it is. The fact is, is when an animal passes, how much it does affect the owners or the family around it. This is one of the reasons why, is because that bond is so deep.

Maribeth Decker: You got it. Yeah. You got it.