

Pet psychic a hit (and miss) at Dogapalooza

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By [Barbara LaBoe](#)

Faye Pietrokowsky had been doing psychic readings for people for years when she noticed more and more clients were asking about their pets.

For Pietrokowsky, getting messages from animals worked just as well as humans, so it just made sense to expand to animal readings about five years ago.

Animals emotions are often easier to read because they don't brood or worry — they feel something and then let it go, said Pietrokowsky. And often the problems pet owners come to her about are human rather than animal — such as not telling a pet when the family routine is going to change or when their owner is leaving for a trip.

"Animals understand and sense a lot more than people realize," Pietrokowsky said Saturday from her booth at the second Dogapalooza festival at the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds.

More than 200 people and their dogs turned out to the doggy event to compete in races, enter contests, check out the latest doggy merchandise — and visit pet experts such as Pietrokowsky.

Pietrokowsky, of Portland, describes her readings as telepathic communication, saying she sees a person's or animal's emotions as if they're displayed on a computer screen and doesn't need to be in their presence to zero in on them. (She offers readings as well as advice for people struggling with mental illness at her www.inner

[-design.net](#) Web site).

"I get a message in my head, I hear a voice and get an idea," Pietrokowsky said of her readings. "It's hard to describe."

To get a better feel for Pietrokowsky's talent, we decided to have her read my own dog Gracie.

How did she do?



Luna the dachshund madly chases down a ball during the Ball Fiend competition at the Dogapalooza festival at the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds Saturday. Luna, owned by Vickie and Rodger Smith of Kelso, celebrated her 10th birthday by taking first in the small dog category. Bill Wagner / The Daily News

Well, Pietrokowsky knew Gracie had been a rescue dog, adding that Gracie said her previous owners “didn’t want her” and considered her a nuisance.

Gracie was found walking along the dike near Kelso High School two years ago by the Cowlitz County Humane Society. There’s no record of where or who she lived with before or how she came to be on her own.

Pietrokowsky said Gracie wasn’t worried about being homeless because “she was looking for a new home and felt someone would fall in love with her.” She also said Gracie wasn’t roaming for very long.

The Humane Society and vet said Gracie was in great shape and likely hadn’t been running loose for long. As for Gracie’s attitude while roaming the streets, it’s hard to say. But Gracie was adopted the first day she was available and another family also was interested — so she certainly was popular.

And Pietrokowsky was dead on when she declared Gracie “a social butterfly” who loves people and enjoys visiting new places. The dog has never met a lap she doesn’t want to crawl into or a person she doesn’t think should pet her.

I’m a bit less certain about Pietrokowsky’s other findings, though.

She said Gracie is unusual in that she also loves animals as much as people — including cats.

Gracie makes friends at the dog park, but she’s also attacked a friend’s schnauzer in our yard. And I think the neighborhood cats would be surprised and downright skeptical to learn that when Gracie is chasing them “she really wants to play.”

So, did Pietrokowsky make me and Gracie believers?

Let’s just say my little social butterfly certainly loved the attention.

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