

A skill to set tongues (and tails) wagging

You've heard of horse whisperers? **Jacqui Morley** meets the real-life Dr Dolittle who claims to be able to talk to the animals

ANIMAL communicator Pea Horsley does not want us to mention Dr Dolittle. Yet she is fluent in cat, dog, rabbit, horse, sheep and lion. She even has a working grasp of tarantula, crocodile and snake.

On Sunday, the former stage manager hopes to spread the word about communicating with animals at a special all-day Animal Thoughts workshop at Lytham's Assembly Rooms.

Barking? No, it's all done via telepathy, mental pictures, and a bit of guidance from animal mentors.

"It's all about transferable energy," says Pea, who puts it down to "quantum physics" rather than animal behavioural psychology.

"All sentient beings communicate. You need to be able to convert the communication to something we can understand."

Lions are her favourite. "You get a sense of immense power." Spiders are "wise". Snakes "emotional."

Pea adds: "I think most guardians know their animals are deeper than many think. The love is unconditional and it goes way beyond 'walkies' and food and giving orders."

Pea has already penned a best-selling book, lectures for the BBC, conducts workshops across Europe and recently led sessions at Sheffield RSPCA and Cotswold Wildlife Park.

But she's the first to admit she was "highly sceptical" at her own indoctrination into Dr Dolittle territory.

"I sat with legs crossed, arms crossed, wearing a permanent frown," she adds. "I used to be an atheist and always questioned everything, wanted verifiable proof."

Eight years ago Pea, a stage

manager, added rescue dog Morgan to her one-cat household. "He wasn't happy and I needed to find out why. This small and humble dog really changed my life, and helped me help others."

"I awakened my intuitive ability to communicate with animals telepathically because of Morgan; and have helped thousands of people and animals."

"I have tracked lost animals and saved lives, and been able to comfort those grieving for their own animals, all because of this dear dog. He passed away in July this year."

Pea admits she's a different woman to the one at her first animal communication workshop. "Others were crying over the stories told, I was far from convinced."

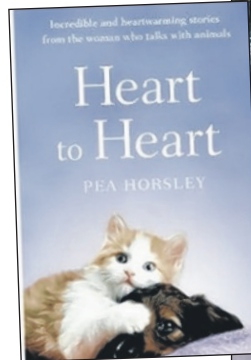
Her own teacher suggested each pupil brought pictures of their pets. These were placed face down and those present asked to form an image of the animal concerned. "Simple, I thought," Pea recalls. "We're in London so it's going to all be domestic animals: cats and dogs."

But when she concentrated, a picture of a rabbit emerged. "Lucky guess, I thought, when it turned out I'd got it right."

She had to ask the rabbit a series of questions: favourite food (leafy greens), best friend (coffee coloured rabbit) and favourite activity, which, surprisingly for a rabbit, turned out to be sitting on a sofa watching *You've Been Framed*.

The owner of the couch potato bunny confirmed Pea's answers were spot on.

"She owned lots of rabbits and this rabbit was best buddies with the one coffee-coloured rabbit she had. Even the sofa was right, for the rabbit would come in to watch



PEA AND PALS: Pea Horsley, with an animal friend. Inset, Pea's book, *Heart to Heart*. Left, Tommy Steele as that other animal whisperer, Doctor Dolittle

telly and have a rabbit tantrum if *You've Been Framed* wasn't on."

Pea tried techniques at home, returned for a second workshop, and when referrals started coming in thick and fast, packed in her 15-year theatrical career to focus on helping animals. Pea hit the headlines when she located Marmite, a Jack Russell, after he'd been trapped down a 12ft shaft for seven nights. Using a photograph, and via what Pea calls "remote viewing", she visualised where he was within an hour.

She adds: "Marmite was that rare thing, a Jack Russell that never barked, but I told him, telepathically, it was life or death that he barked if anyone neared, and kept on barking until he could see his owner's eyes. The fire brigade rescued him and that's just what he did

until back in his owner's arms again."

Pea has since written *Heart to Heart: Incredible and Heartwarming Stories From The Woman Who Talks With Animals* (Harper Collins). Sunday's session at Lytham's Assembly Rooms runs from 10am to 5pm, costs £85, with Pea teaching basic techniques (for more info see www.animalthoughts.com).

"I'm out to reach people who would like to connect with their own animals, or for animal professionals to use in conjunction with their own skills," concludes Pea.

"As with any new language it takes practice and patience to become proficient."

"But it's worth it."

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THE Liberal Democrats should stop throwing their puny weight about as though they are some kind of Mike Tyson.

And David Cameron should not allow the party with whom the Conservatives are in coalition to rule the roost. Because that is the impression that is being conveyed.

The stark truth of all this was demonstrated in the House of Commons last week by the energetic Tory MP Nadine Dorries, who pointed out to the Prime Minister the Liberal Democrats (who actually lost seats at the general election) comprise just 8.7% of this Parliament, yet dictate policy on free schools, health, immigration and now abortion.

The Prime Minister's response fizzled out almost shamefully

when he said he realised Miss Dorries was frustrated – a remark which for some reason confused Parliament into a cacophony of juvenile laughter. The Prime Minister gave up his reply.

Miss Dorries, to her eternal credit, was making an important point. It appears that one Evan Harris, a Liberal Democrat MP in the last Parliament who was roundly rejected by the voters last year, persuaded Nick Clegg to blackmail – according to Miss Dorries – the Prime Minister into rejecting her amendment on abortion, otherwise Liberal Democrat peers would vote down the entire Health and Social Care Bill in the House of Lords.

Her amendment would merely have enabled women



considering an abortion to be given independent counselling. The amendment was defeated and a somewhat shame-faced Cameron had told her he was "desperately keen to pass your amendment".

You can draw your own conclusions from that. Is Cameron frightened that if he upsets the Liberal Democrats, the entire Coalition will burst at the seams?

Meanwhile Vince Cable, the Business Secretary, has reportedly warned he will quit the Cabinet unless the Chancellor, George Osborne, follows his policy on the banks. It is said that if Cable stormed out, the Coalition would collapse. Nonsense. If Cable is getting stropky, let him go. The political graveyard is full of "indispensable" people. His departure would make not the slightest difference: someone else would be chosen to take his place.

No one ever got rid of tin-pot dictators by treating them with kid gloves.

■ So, whatever is happening to David Cameron's much-vaunted and much-flaunted Big Society?

Just a year ago, the Conservative Party and the Government were

bursting with pride about this strange and nebulous concept. Now, mysteriously, it has all gone quiet.

At last year's Conservative Party conference, there was a major debate grandiosely entitled: "People Power and the Big Society", with speeches from such heavyweights as Foreign Secretary William Hague and Communities Secretary Eric Pickles – a heavyweight in every sense of the word.

But at the forthcoming Tory conference in Manchester, according to the initial agenda, the Big Society does not get a look-in.

Is this because our revered leaders now suspect the British public regard it all as so much political tosh?