

Healing Touch for Animals with Diane Garwood

By Hannah Mueller, DVM

Despite being a holistic veterinarian I was, admittedly, somewhat of a skeptic when it came to energy work. Fortunately, I have remained open and receptive to various forms of holistic healing and have taken it upon myself to learn more about the benefits of each type of healing. Because of this interest, throughout the years I have opted to take a variety of classes, seminars and clinics – all related to energy work, including acupuncture, chiropractic, and Reiki.

So when Diane Garwood first came to Cedarbrook Veterinary Care I was eager to learn more about her work. Diane was starting her training in Healing Touch for Animals, a form of energy work, and needed more hands-on learning experience. She was hoping to obtain this experience by volunteering her time and skills to help the horses we had in our care through Northwest Equine Stewardship Center (NWESC).

I asked Diane to show my associate, Dr. Penny Lloyd, and I how Healing Touch for Animals works, and through her incredible story we learned about how this form of energy work had changed her life and how it could also change ours.

Diane has been a regular to our facility for the past several months. The more she has come out to work on the horses in our care, the more we have been able to see how gifted Diane is with energy work. For that reason, I would like to share with you two of the many high impact moments when Diane made key differences in the lives of horses and the comfort of our staff.

The first instance was when we invited Diane to come out and energetically ‘hold the space’ for a major surgery Dr. Penny and I were collaborating on. We were both blown away by how important that form of support was for every being involved in the process – horse and staff - and how well the procedure went. After that experience, we have arranged to have Diane come out for other surgeries to offer her ‘healing touch’ support and we have all benefited each time.

Recently, I was reminded yet again of how important Diane’s work is to all of us. We had an emergency colic patient haul in to the barn that required immediate attention due to the animal’s dire circumstances. Lucky for us, Diane just happened to be on her way and arrived at the barn immediately after the horse did. Without hesitation Diane sprang into action and began working on the horse. During that critical time between intake and diagnosis, Diane was able to clear the horse’s energy and ready him for transport and surgery.

When the horse arrived at Pilchuck for surgery, he was given a poor chance for survival even with surgery; however, everyone was pleasantly surprised when he not only came through the surgery well, but also recovered remarkably quickly. While the horse certainly would not have survived without the support of the traditional western medicine intervention that he had here at Cedarbrook and at Pilchuck, I wholeheartedly believe that Diane gets a lot of the credit for his survival.

So what exactly does this ‘healing touch for animals’ do? It helps to clear and balance energy channels. When energy channels are open and clear, the body is provided with its best chance for complete healing and recovery. In addition, clear and balanced energy channels can help prevent problems in the first place.

Diane’s work has helped many horses (and other animals) in our care and I am pleased to sing her praises and spread the word about the work that she does. We are so grateful for having her help with our patients at Cedarbrook Veterinary Care and Northwest Equine Stewardship Center, it truly compliments the work that we do and our holistic approach towards healing.