

REAP THE POWER OF ANIMAL MAGICK

We're all familiar with animals, so let's work in harmony with these glorious creatures and create real magick. Scott King explains how.

Keeping a pet as a companion or as therapeutic support after surgery, is a common practice in our society. It is widely recognised today that the comforting energy a cat or dog offers greatly encourages speedier restoration after an emotional or physical ailment, such as stroke, car accident, break down or grief. It is said that the animals absorb the pain and negativity while giving back peace and love, thus hastening the healing procedure.

This is real magick. It is happening everywhere, everyday. We, as civilised individuals, readily accept the fact that these animals are able to offer this assistance on an almost vibrational level, but we still have difficulty coming to terms with the idea of animals being called upon to assist us in other ways.

The symbolic qualities and spiritual medicine of the animals have been recognised and incorporated into magikal rites in almost every ancient and native culture for centuries, for purposes as varied as healing a simple wound to finding a lost soul on the spiritual planes. So why aren't we invoking the energies of the animals in spirit, or those creatures on the physical plane with which we have a spiritual bond, to help bring about the same positive changes and healing for the planet and the people?

It is obviously not too abstract an idea for the western world to acknowledge the magick the animals are performing in

the medical field, so why is it so hard for these same people to accept the magick the animals can offer us on other levels, in all other aspects of our lives?

Folk tales and historical accounts of Witches and their antics would never have seemed complete without the presence of a black cat, an owl or a toad. Stories and accounts of people who kept strange creatures as familiar spirits (usually in the form of an animal of some kind), did so, it was believed, because these animals were trained to aid in their magickal workings by acting as a catalyst to connect an individual to the other realms; and the changelings or shapeshifters, epitomised in stories by images of werewolves and vampires, who became ready channels and mediums for certain spirits (often animalistic in nature), with the intention of obtaining secret knowledge and supernatural sustenance from the other world sources, are common, and although typically based on some truth, are, like many stories, usually blown out of all proportion by propaganda and fear.

Ancient tribal culture that looked to their wise elders, sorcerers, shamans and medicine people for answers and knowledge knew of the assistance the animals could offer (in both the physical and spiritual realms) in times of sacred ritual and ceremony.

These animals were generally welcomed, though usually present of their own accord, due to their spiritual significance on a symbolic level to the

ceremony or ritual being performed. Even if a physical animal failed to turn up to 'bless' the ceremony or ritual, the elder or shaman would invoke one through dance and chant, or vision one and ask it for its service.

Familiar spirits are animals with which an individual has a special bond. This bond is usually grounded on the physical plane, while consciously or unconsciously extending way into the spiritual dominions also. These animals are generally of a species easily obtained through animal traders and seen by others as nothing more than pets.

While it is favourable to have an animal that has come to work as a familiar on its own accord, rather than consciously deciding on a 'cool' animal and then going out to purchase one, it should be remembered that one's ego often determines a great pet but rarely a true familiar. A familiar that must be bought usually informs its intended owner of its presence through dreams and meditations, and must be found through guidance and intuition for the connection to be made properly.

Animals commonly kept as familiar spirits are cats and dogs, snakes, mice and rats, toads, birds, bats, hares, ferrets, hedgehogs, spiders and even flies. Although many of the snakes and birds with favoured esoteric energies and all bats are now protected by law, most species can still be kept as familiars with a license which permits their sale.