

Talk to the animals

Dog owner William Roache has long been in touch with his spiritual side. So when the Coronation Street star was approached by psychic Jackie Weaver, he was surprised by what he uncovered Interview by Jane Flanagan

My spiritual journey began when I was very young and it is a path I continue to follow. I have used the services of psychics over the years and, like any profession, there are good ones, bad ones and a great deal of nonsense, too. I heard about the animal psychic Jackie Weaver through a friend and was intrigued. When Jackie offered to communicate with my three pet dogs, I agreed immediately. I was a little sceptical when she said she could 'tune into' my dogs just by looking at their photographs – she claimed to have communicated between many animals and their owners over the years without ever seeing them in the flesh. I was glad, however, when she agreed to come to Cheshire to meet me, my daughter Verity and our Jack Russells, Poppy, Oliver and Harry.

The dogs gave Jackie a very noisy welcome but settled quickly, apparently very at ease in her company. Jackie said she had already been in touch with each of the dogs – from the photographs I had sent her – and explained that since she communicates with animals' sub-conscious minds, we should not expect to see much direct interaction between

her and the dogs. She began with Poppy and it didn't take long before the little dog's observations about herself and her life with us began pouring out of Jackie's mouth.

Verity and I laughed when Jackie said Poppy had told her, 'I am very beautiful, they tell me that' – which is absolutely true, we lavish that little dog with compliments. Poppy then told Jackie how we should monitor her weight, she then confessed to being 'a bit bossy' towards the two male dogs and admitted to frequently ignoring us humans if she was busy 'doing my own thing'. None of these bits of information, which were delivered via Jackie in a very matter-of-fact sort of way, could have been ascribed to any other animal we have ever known. Verity and I shared smiles as the reservations we had felt began to slip away.

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Given her bossy nature, it came as no surprise when Poppy had a few questions of her own for us. She wanted to know why I have so many books around the house that I never get close to finishing. I felt completely busted! I am known in the family for opening up one book, reading a bit, thinking about it, picking up a different book altogether, and occasionally never getting back to the original. Verity was nodding furiously and laughing helplessly at Poppy's apparent exasperation with this habit. Poppy related to Jackie the anxieties that Verity and I had shared about whether such a tiny bitch should have any puppies. Poppy didn't seem to have any opinions of her own about us not wanting to breed with her, and had just accepted what we had decided for her. I was amazed to learn that a dog could be so aware of human conversations going on around her.

Jackie said that Poppy even did an impersonation of my on-screen wife, Deirdre, saying, 'Oh Ken!' in a drawn out and exasperated way. I wasn't even aware she had ever watched me in *Coronation Street*. I had a great deal to learn about this animal world.

With the death of my wife, Sarah, in 2009, still so fresh in our minds, I felt for Harry when he told Jackie how much he was still missing her and what

he described as 'the quiet time' they used to spend together while I was working. The three dogs have had to get used to spending a lot more time on their own, but I was touched at how keen they seemed to be to reassure me that they were really quite fine.

Harry told Jackie he thought he had been given as a gift, and he was indeed a birthday present to Verity ten years ago. He has never caused us any trouble and is known at home as 'the brain' for his fine mind and busy-body nature. We laughed until our sides ached when he told Jackie that, 'If I was a person I'd wear a waistcoat.' He absolutely would be that type.

Oliver has always been the most challenging of our three terriers. He barks a lot, is very excitable and uncomfortable around other dogs when we are out on a walk. The breeder we got him from was keen that he should go to a home where he would be treated with sensitivity – certainly both my wife and daughter have handled him with great love and understanding. He seemed as anxious as us to better understand his erratic behaviour. He told Jackie, 'I'm not nervous, just hypersensitive,' before sending us all into hysterics by adding, 'OK, I admit it – I scream like a girl!' Poor Jackie could hardly get the words out she was laughing so hard.

I am sure Oliver will continue to give us cause for concern in the future

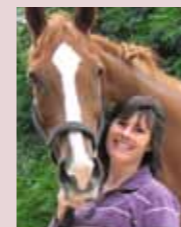
with his unsettled behaviour, but at least we know we can get Jackie to give us some insights into how we can keep him as content and calm as possible.

I was fascinated to watch as Jackie made sense not only of words given to her by the dogs, but of pictures, sounds and feelings, too. It was lovely to hear that our family life was recreated as a happy and jolly noise by them. Increasingly, it felt like we were having a chat with a bunch of children – the dogs' individual personalities absolutely shone through, without fear or favour. Their candidness astounded me. How much easier life in this world would be if we all could speak with such honesty and self-awareness. We really do have a lot to learn about – and, most importantly, from – our animals.

Having pets is such a joy, but it can be a tearful business, too. I have cried as much over losing animals as pretty much anything else. Their lives are short and it is a sad moment when they leave you, but their spirits live on just as much as ours do.

Being able to communicate with them directly totally enhanced my relationship with the dogs and I will never look at any animal in the same way again. I am thankful that my daughter Verity was there to share this amazing experience.

It was also a humbling reminder that whatever I think I have learned during this non-stop journey of life, there is so very much more to know. It's my belief that we all have many lifetimes to learn, which is lucky since we certainly do need them. 🐾



Jackie says...

● Jackie Weaver has been an animal psychic since 2005 and has also worked with actors Matthew Rhys and Jenny Seagrove and hypnotist Paul McKenna.

● Jackie says: "I've always felt emotionally linked to animals, but it took me years to understand that I was communicating telepathically with them. In my former job as a veterinary nurse and helping my husband, an equine dentist, I

often felt overwhelmed by different emotions but had no idea why.

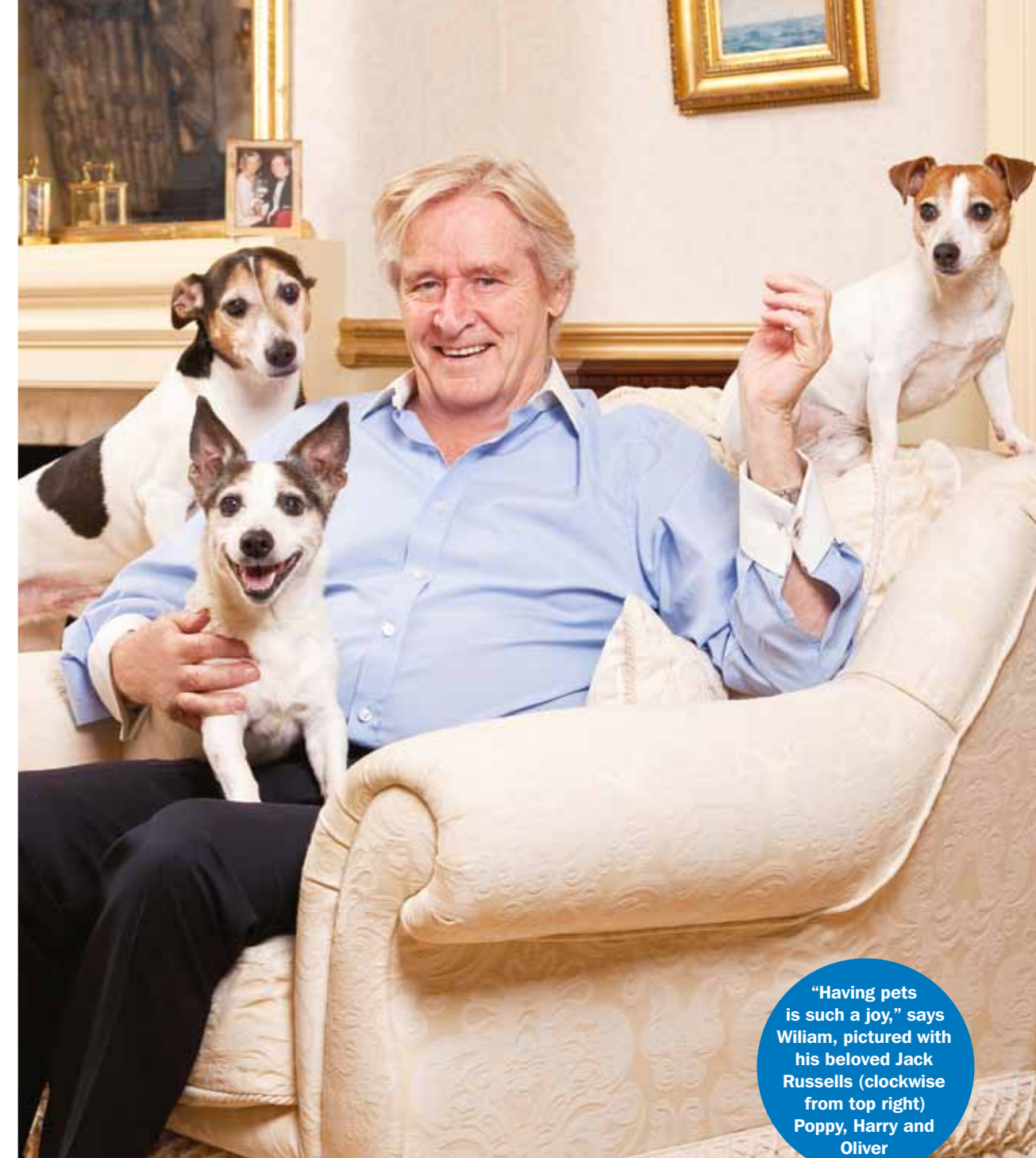
● Animals recognised in me an open channel through which they could pass information long before I ever did. Psychic ability is within us all – this can include "knowing things" without prior knowledge or having dreams that come true.

● When I want to communicate with an animal on behalf of its owner, I study its picture and send a telepathic message to start a conversation. They pass me sounds, visions and emotions which I relay to their owners. Animals' minds are open to receiving

and sending information and I am able to psychically tap into their wavelength.

● Animals communicate non-stop – do you think the only time horses speak to their friends is when they neigh? All animals can understand what they are told by humans, so I urge clients to tell their animals exactly what they want them to hear and understand. Animals are like children, they need explanations and reassurance."

Visit www.animaltalking.co.uk. Jackie's book, *Celebrity Pet Talking*, is out now, price £10.99, plus £1.95 postage and packing. See *Express Bookshop* on page 82.



“Having pets is such a joy,” says William, pictured with his beloved Jack Russells (clockwise from top right) Poppy, Harry and Oliver