

Schmoozing with schnauzers

RHS grad discovers he has a bit of Dr. Dolittle in him

BY RACHEL E. SHEELEY • STAFF WRITER • August 14, 2009

Playing in the backyard of his parents' North West Sixth Street home with the family collie Bandit, Tim Link never imagined that one day he would be able to communicate with animals.

However, Link discovered about five years ago that he had that gift and began helping people and [pet](#) companions communicate. He has written a book about his experiences, "Wagging Tales: Every Animal has a Tale," which he will talk about and sign this evening at Waldenbooks in the Richmond Square Mall.

Growing up in Richmond, Link didn't rescue [cats](#) from trees or talk to his dog. After graduating from Richmond High School and Ball State University, he took his bachelor's degree in sales and marketing into the telecommunications business. He climbed the corporate ladder, becoming vice president and director of business development at Motorola.

He married his high school sweetheart, Kim Kendrick-Link, and their life in Cumming, Ga., always has included [pets](#). They've worked with animal rescue groups and he was chosen president of the Forsyth County, Ga., no-kill animal shelter.

It was at a February 2004 workshop that what Link couldn't imagine came to light. The workshop had two purposes: to help people learn to center themselves, opening their hearts and minds and allowing themselves to let the world go; and to help people learn to use that quiet time to connect with their pets.

The dozen or so participants brought pictures of their pets and quizzed one another about facts that an owner would know but that a stranger would not, using questions like where they liked to sleep or what they liked to eat.

"Little did I know, I was getting 100 percent of the questions correct," Link said.

Link said he receives telepathic messages from animals in the form of pictures, words, emotions and colors.

Surprised, but not scared, Link wondered what he could do with such a technique. It wouldn't fit into his corporate career, although as word spread of his talent, even business acquaintances asked him to help locate lost pets or help them deal with discipline issues.

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In 2007, Link realized that his divine purpose was no longer in the cell phone business, but in helping give animals a voice so that people and pets can build the best relationship possible.

"I took that leap of faith ... a total change in life," Link said.

He began a business, Wagging Tales, through which he does individual pet consultations for a fee. He also does Reiki energy healing on pets. Much of his work is done by phone, simply using a photograph of the pet.

Link said that human mothers and babies communicate telepathically but that as verbal communication develops, other abilities are set aside.

Animals, he said, use that telepathy all the time. It's why two dogs will get up without a bark or growl and move to the door before someone arrives.

Link has worked with ordinary house pets like cats and dogs as well as rhinos, lions, tigers and bears.

He [shares](#) what he learns from a pet with the owner and together they determine what it means.

"Sometimes it's very clear and sometimes it's murky," Link said. Together they determine if the pet's problem is physical or emotional. He is even able to help with lost pets and with recently deceased pets.

"I'm communicating with them in the fashion they communicate with each other," Link said. "What I've been able to do is get back on that intuitive level."

After his first five months of consulting, Link's wife recommended he compile his experiences into a book. The result is "Wagging Tales," which chronicles the stories of 32 animals and offers 24 tips for building a better relationship with a pet.

He began promoting the book May 1 -- his birthday -- and has made appearances on TV and radio shows such as "Fox and Friends," "The Morning Show with Mike and Juliet" and even Shirley MacLaine's Independent Expression Internet radio show."

In seeking endorsements for his book, he contacted TV personality and Columbus, Ohio, Zoo expert Jack Hanna, just as Hanna was about to make a trip to Zimbabwe. Hanna read the book and 10 days later, Hanna not only endorsed the book but also consulted Link.

Hanna sent Link pictures of several animals he was working with in Africa and Link offered his assessments. That led Link to be invited to appear at the Columbus Zoo this Saturday.

"Less than two years ago, I couldn't imagine this. I would've thought I was nuts," Link said. "Now I think it's the right and perfect time."

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Tim Link works with his pet schnauzers. The author of "Wagging Tales: Every Animal Has a Tale," who grew up in Richmond, will sign copies of the book from 6:30-7:30 tonight at Waldenbooks in the Richmond Square Mall. (Supplied photo)

ABOUT TIM LINK

- 1982 Richmond High School graduate and 1986 Ball State University graduate
- In 1986, married high school sweetheart Kim Kendrick-Link
- Son of the late George and Elizabeth Link of Richmond
- Siblings: Cheryl Mullins and Vicki Saylor, both of Richmond
- Resides in Cumming, Ga., near Atlanta
- Realized his gift for communicating with animals in February 2004
- Left his corporate job in telecommunications in 2007 to create Wagging Tales, a business through which he communicates with animals and does Reiki energy healing on pets, www.wagging-tales.com
- Has two schnauzers, a rabbit, a turtle, eight finches and four fish tanks
- When visiting his hometown, his favorite restaurant is Clara's Pizza King
- Remembers the mall, where he used to buy Bresler's Ice Cream

IF YOU GO

- What: Richmond High School graduate Tim Link, an animal communicator, talking about and signing his new book, "Wagging Tales: Every Animal has a Tale"
- When: 6:30-7:30 p.m. tonight
- Where: Waldenbooks, 3801 National Road E., Richmond
- Info: (765) 966-5488
- Other regional appearances: 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15, at the Columbus, Ohio, Zoo's Teddy Bear Safari, www.columbuszoo.org; and after the 10 a.m. service, Sunday, Aug. 16, Unity of Dayton Church, 6741 Chambersburg Road, Dayton, Ohio. Info: (937) 233-7516