

The Miracle Cat: The Treatment of a Cat that was bitten by a Tiger Snake

This essay illustrates an example of the power of an intimate relationship between a domesticated cat and a human being. Miraculous results are possible using the power of positive suggestions in adjunct to science. Science rationalizes the cause and effect to neutralize the poison while the belief systems or faith gives the patient hope to live. In this case the collaboration between the patient, the caregiver and the doctor determines the likelihood of success.

It is commonly stated that cats have nine lives. It is also known that a dog, by nature, serves its master whilst a cat demands attention or demands that its master give him food or strokes on his belly for affection. In fact a cat owns and dictates to its owner. To have a cat as a pet is like having another child in the family. Over the years I have adopted many kittens as well as more mature cats from the market place or from RSPCA animal shelters because I love cats.

What happens when a cat is taken away from its mother by a human is a crucial question. Cats can be great companions to all ages where there is a need to love and be loved by another. Consequently children, who have pets learn to give love and take care of another life. Similarly the elderly can feel relaxed simply by stroking a cat or a dog. In my observation when my cat throws himself on the floor as I get home from work, I can hear its voice saying, "Stroke me, I need a stroke". This means it is asking to be loved to satisfy its instinctual need. This implies that both cats and humans have an instinctual need to feel emotionally connected with each other. My deep relationship with my cat has made it

possible for me to share this paper in demonstrating that cats may indeed have 'nine lives', or at least, more than one chance to keep on living.

Theory

One animal whisperer and a cat observer noted, " Cats know that sleep assists the preservation, not only of your physical body, but also emotional, and spiritual self." She continued by saying , "They are totally absorbed in where they want to go or what they want to do. The goal is foremost in their minds, with no time for disbelief or distrust. Felines trust their instincts and intuitive senses and in most cases will succeed with ease and confidence".

The intimate relationship between animals and human beings was¹ demonstrated in animal hypnotism in the nineteenth century. There is a parallel process between the effects of the poison on the nervous system and the external suggestions on the psychic structure. The hypnotic effect, reportedly lasted longer when direct suggestions is given on a highly hypnotizable in both animals and humans. In the case of cataleptic (paralysis) or cataplexy caused by fright and anxiety and the sheer terror can lead to death. I will illustrate this phenomenon below.

Case Study

¹ Trisha McCAGH. (2010), The Animal Whisperer, McPherson Printing Group, Australia.

I found Calhoun, my son's short hair, black cat with white socks, semi paralysed one morning, his eyes wide open. However we could find no evidence of a tick bite. He had been bitten by blue ticks in the past, making him very sick and requiring hospitalization. We rushed him to the veterinary clinic and he was immediately admitted due to his severe condition, and was thoroughly, though unsuccessfully checked for ticks. As he could not swallow and progressively became more paralysed, Cal was given fluids intravenously and was kept under intensive observation. For the first two days Cal could not pass urine. However, the vet collected urine by massaging his bladder and sent the specimen for urinalysis. After seventy two hours I found him, the result came back indicating that Cal had been bitten by a tiger snake. Prior to this the vet almost lost hope for Cal to get better. I went to talk to Cal as if he could hear and see me. Since his eyes were open I gazed into his eyes as I talked to him. The paralysis was evident and Cal's body was rigid. I felt panic inside me. The vet was concerned and time was running out. Fortunately there was one phial of an anti-venom in stock. The vet told me that it had just passed the expiry date. The vet asked my permission to give it to Cal. Intuitively I felt it was necessary because we were on borrowed time. It was slow to take effect but I did not give up hope. After forty-eight hours after the injection of the tiger snake anti-venom there was still no sign of improvement. In fact his paralysis became worse. Again the vet almost lost hope and consulted me on his prediction that Cal could not be cured and recommended that we put him to 'sleep'. I told him that I would like to see Cal making my decision. I went to see Cal and asked, "Do you want to get better, Cal?" Through his eyes I received his message that he wanted to get better. It was another twenty-four hours before Cal before showing signs of muscular movement.

On my next visit the vet met me with surprise in his voice, “Cal turned around one hundred degrees in the night”. I visited Cal every day except for one day in a week. Every time I drove into the car park the vet said that Cal moved his ears, anticipating my visit. I gave Cal stroked all of Cal’s limbs starting from the tail and progressing upwards to the head. As I stroked his hind legs I gave him positive suggestion; “We love you Cal and we want you to come home.” I repeated these positive suggestions and each time he responded. I felt relief and was happy each time I saw movements from any part of his body. I was happy that finally I was seeing the results from the treatment of the anti-venom and my positive suggestions. Slowly and steadily Cal was able to awake his muscles and limbs and finally his neck and head. He grew stronger and could stand up and walk on the twelfth day. This was a magic moment for me to see him walking. The vet told me that I was the only person who was positive all along. He said that he had consulted the veterinary faculties of two universities and both institutions said that there was no hope that Cal would recover.

Discussion

In contrast, around the same time that Cal was bitten, a fourteen-year-old boy from Western Australia died within two days of being bitten by a tiger snake.² I researched for further evidence of a success story involving tiger snake bites. Parallel to Cal’s case, elsewhere, an eighteen-year-old man was bitten by a tiger snake and almost had his hand and limb amputated.³ However, with the help of the anti-venom treatment and positive support and prayers from his family and friends globally, he recovered. The patient himself

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documented his inner feelings and thoughts by saying that he knew he would get better. He further said that his faith in God had helped him. He also said that he knew that he would get better. If he died he believed that God would be with him. Thus his inner beliefs and positivism in conjunction with his parents' prayer and beliefs and the scientific knowledge of the treating doctor resulted in the positive outcome. I was happy that this case, not only supports Cal's inner near death experience but also my positive suggestions to inspire Cal to come back to life.

This raises many questions about the treatment and the positive outcome in the case of both Cal and the eighteen-year-old. Indeed it was a 'miraculous cure', hence the title, "The Miracle Cat" which the vet wrote on the History Record. Cal was often referred by this title. The mystery and the complexities of the inner and outer mechanism of the mind in animals and humans are evident in this essay. The mutuality of the needs and desires to live, love and be loved creates the cycle of life and death in both animals and humans.

The vet recently told me that this was his first snakebite patient. As he wasn't familiar with snakebites, he didn't expect Cal to live. The cloudy nature of Cal's urine made him suspect that it could be due to a snake venom. It was later confirmed by the result of the urinalysis seventy-two hours after the snake bite. The weakening of the muscles and the lack of mobility confirmed that it was not a blue tick bite. Extreme anxiety was evident because Cal's eyes remained open due to the paralysis of the muscles of the eyelids until

I suggested that he close his eyes. Then and only then I realized that this was possible after all the limb⁴s and head and neck were functioning normally.

In a personal communication with the vet on Cal's case he said my frequent visits and talking to Cal had stimulated Cal's motivation to live. Here there is a mutual reciprocity between Cal and myself. It is worth noting it was only because of Cal's open eyes that I could gaze into his eyes. Both verbal and visual stimuli had a penetrating effect on Cal's will to live. Cal lived another ten years until he was eighteen years old. He died of a massive stroke.

The fact that cats normally lived a meditative life, they are able to follow their instincts. There's no confusion, compared to humans. We humans have lost our capacity to follow our instincts. Cats appear to have a private life and the loyalty to their owners made them capable of being dependent on their owner whenever they need to.

Reflections

What did I learn from this? I learnt that cats have thoughts, feelings and emotions like humans. To conclude, the combination of Cal's instinct and my intuition that he would get better, despite the vet's doubt whether Cal would pull through. This shows that domestic cats need to be loved and cared for like a member of the family. Indeed cats make very good companions to all ages. They follow their instinct in that they are very loyal to their

owner. They like to please their owners to extent that they hunt and bring back a present for their owners. Unfortunately they can face death or death experience as Cal did.

For me and the family Cal was a beautiful black cat, slender in shape and very friendly in personality. Cal died at eighteen years of age. Cals' companion, a less adventurous female tortoise –shell died at twenty years of age. In their places now I have a white Himalayan male and a chocolate brown Burmese female. They are the opposites in colours and characters but bonded as one soul, body and mind. Cats never fail to fascinate me in their capacity to relate to humans and yet remain their uniqueness relying on their instincts.