

Pets Are People Too

Surrender by Carol Dorsey



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The word surrender has an allure to it, like breath on the wind. Its meaning provides a certain peace once it is absorbed throughout the body. As the insistence of control is relinquished, life falls into place as steadily as the beat of a drum. There is peace, calm, quiet, breath- and the key to the best outcome for the moment reveals itself. Surrendering is not a giving up of self. It is a clarity of heart to know when to release a hold on something that was not in your power to control.

My most poignant experience of surrender was when my dog, Shamus, was riddled with a rare form of cancer almost 2 years ago. It all began with a single, benign bump under his arm. I knew how to cure this; it was a no-brainer for someone trained in nutrition and holistic healing. I provided ample herbs, supplements along with his species-appropriate diet.

The next thing I knew, the bump was bigger and was malignant. I continued on my quest for a natural chemotherapy to rid him of this disease. I would prevail!

Over thirty bumps and some painful physical experiences from the treatment later, I finally surrendered to the disease. I knew I couldn't save him and was heart-broken. In his last few weeks, we just let it all unfold. His disposition never changed, his love still filled our

hearts every moment, his blood work was even normal and his organs were never compromised- but the cancer dominated. His last day in this realm was the first time he cried out from discomfort and we knew it was time. As we held him close in a loving embrace, we introduced the last surrender for his physical body since he was unable to do this on his own. As he drifted toward the beyond, I whispered for him to come back to us again when he was ready. We would be waiting for his return. Surrender.

This single experience changed my outlook on how I assist folks with their beloved animals. If their inclination is to move in a direction other than the one I recommend- I surrender. Pushing against their beliefs for what may be correct for their situation will not help their pet or them. I hold space for them in case they may decide differently in the future.

For now, I will bask in the sweet softness of surrender when I deem it appropriate and allow the unfolding of a new moment of conscious living to begin. From this place, I am led to the correct solutions instead of trying to force a solution that never comes; I am able to take in the whole rather than narrow my focus; I am able to provide with clarity instead of reading words from a book. I am always in awe of the lessons my beloved furry ones teach me. Thank you, Shamus.

I have received. LCM

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