Many veterinarians and animal caregivers want alternatives to Western Medicine for the animals they treat or with whom they live. In *The Proof is in the Poodle: One Veterinarian’s Exploration into Healing*, Dr. Donna Kelleher puts into words what I believe and have observed. “For fractures, intestinal blockages, dehydration, or bloat, conventional veterinarians served a vital role in saving animals. But there were others [animals] . . . that were capable of healing on their own with a subtle nudge in the right direction.”

Kelleher uses acupuncture, chiropractic, and herbs. I use bio-field energy methods, but the concept is the same—the gentlest, least invasive method is preferred. The examples of energy healing below are from people and animals I know. Their stories are included with their permission. Many practitioners have similar stories. The ones given here illustrate the wide range of energy healing possibilities and also some limitations.

**BEHAVIOR CHANGE - CALICO**
Calico is a healthy hen that became broody—meaning that she decided to sit on and hatch the eggs she laid. Since there was no rooster and the eggs were gathered daily, there were no future chicks to incubate. However, Calico insisted on sitting on the nest, a behavior that could lead to her death unless changed. Chicken husbandry experts recommend a few days in a wire cage or basket to stop broodiness and other less attractive options.

Healing Touch for Animals® (HTA) provides another option -- Bridging with Behavior Change™. Calico’s care person picked her up and carried her to my lap. I put my hands on her heart and throat and told her that sitting on the nest must stop because it was inappropriate behavior. She had a new job—to police the grounds and keep the bug population down. After five minutes or so of treatment, Calico had enough. She jumped off my lap and strutted away. Calico stopped her broody behavior that day. She continues to lay an egg a day and then leaves the nest to patrol the grounds for insects. The caregiver, a mental health professional, enjoyed a good laugh watching me do what he called cognitive behavioral therapy with a chicken. However, he agreed that it worked.

**REFUSING FOOD—GEORGINA**
Sherry called me because her beautiful 11-year-old Persian cat, Georgina, was not adjusting to the new home to which she and her husband moved after
they married. Sherry and Georgina had moved multiple times during the past two years, but this move was the hardest. Sherry moved almost everything out of her old apartment into the new house two hundred miles away. Georgina stayed at the apartment for three days while Sherry set up their new home. Georgina was well cared for by a friend who came regularly to feed and pet her – however – she refused to eat or drink. When Sherry returned, Georgina lay limp on the floor.

At her new home Georgina refused food, toileted inappropriately, and passed very hard stools. Georgina’s veterinarian examination showed she was a little anemic and had a slightly elevated white blood cell count, but otherwise her blood work was normal. At a loss for what to do, Sherry tried energy work.

Lavender essential oil helped Georgina relax during the HTA treatment. The session cleared and balanced her energetic system, opened the energy flow in her spine, and calmed her stomach and intestines. Georgina resumed eating, her elimination issues resolved, and she regained the weight she had lost.

**SURGERY SUPPORT—JACQUIMO**

Just as in humans, energy work helps those who have had surgery experience an easier recovery. Jacquimo, a sweet toy poodle, required knee surgery because the kneecap on the right rear leg would not stay in place. The previous year, Jacquimo had the same surgery on his left rear leg and it did not go easily. This time Nancy supported him with energy work.

Jacquimo had a pre-surgery energy session and energetic support during surgery. Having energy work during surgery is similar to holding a patient’s hand during a crisis. Deepak Chopra says, “You can grasp the patient’s hand at a difficult moment in surgery and see the monitors for blood pressure and heartbeat register the calming effect.” Jacquimo did well and a postsurgery energy clearing helped move the anesthetic out of his system.

However, when Jacquimo returned home, his recovery from surgery was slow. He was sluggish, almost dazed. He refused food and water and was not toileting easily. Nancy brought him for two more HTA sessions to clear the after-effects of surgery and support his body to self-heal. His bodily functions returned to normal and he began using his leg soon after. Both Nancy and Jacquimo’s veterinarian were amazed and delighted with how quickly his leg healed.

**EMOTIONAL HEALING—BAY**

If your animal is healthy and her environmental needs for food, exercise, companionship, and stimulation are met, but if she is chronically anxious, hyperalert, or depressed – treatment by an energy worker could help. Bay, a beautiful gelding with a loving home,
I used HTA energetic techniques to clear the aquarium water, then cleared and balanced the fishes’ chakras. As I worked, the fish became brighter; their colors reflected the infusion of energy. Crystal said the fish seemed giddy, as if they were on a sugar high. Their attention fascinated me as I did the work. By the end of the treatment, the fish seemed revived. The water and the fish were energetically clear and balanced. Despite the energy work, the few remaining large fish were unable to recover from their time in an inhospitable environment and died. However, the smaller ones lived and thrived in the stabilized environment.

ENERGY HEALING—POSSIBILITIES
Energy work does not replace veterinary treatment. It works in concert with the other choices you make about your animals’ health—medical treatments, nutrition, exercise, mental stimulation, and time with family. Energy Medicine is one aspect of a holistic approach to animals living their healthiest, happiest lives.

If you live with or know animals that are anxious, fearful, traumatized, or unhappy, energy therapy can make a difference. We do not know how animals experience energy work internally, but we can observe their bodies’ soften as deep relaxation allows and supports self-healing. Following the energy session(s), animals may begin to eat again, have less pain, recover faster, or have increased confidence and joy.

There is much to explore in the world of energy healing for animals. This is just the beginning. I invite you to explore the potential of energy therapy to transform and heal the animals you love.