

Frequently Asked Questions

My Doggie Says...: Messages from Jamie *How a dog named Jamie “talks” to her people*

What is the book about?

My Doggie Says... is about a golden retriever named Jamie and her ability to communicate with her people, Fred and Barbara. Through different actions and body language, she sends messages like, “I really want to go swimming now,” or “Could I please have a puppy treat,” or “How come Okie-Dokie the cat is sleeping on my puppy pad?” The book contains eighty-five full color photographs to illustrate some of Jamie’s special communications. The reader learns how to become a better pet “listener” and how to create a more nurturing relationship with a pet.

What is compelling about this book?

Every dog lover sees his, or her, own pet, past or present, in Jamie. The book helps people to gain a better understanding of their pet and to build a more meaningful relationship with it. The book touches readers’ hearts right where they connect to their beloved pets. It brings even more joy to their pet experience.

To whom does this book appeal and why do they like it?

All pet-lovers, but especially dog-lovers, enjoy *My Doggie Says...* It reminds them of their own pet, and it makes them more aware of their pet’s communication. For some, it brings back memories of a pet from the past. For others, it encourages them to be more open to their pet’s communication and to work at building a stronger bond. Some cat-lovers have said it made them think about getting a dog. A number of senior citizens have enjoyed the book, as have young readers. One ADHD student, who had never read a book all the way through, amazed his teachers by reading *My Doggie Says...* from cover to cover. Students in grades 9-12, in Hickory, Mississippi, are participating in a *My Doggie Says...* essay contest. They were shown ten photographs and “Jamie quotations” from the book and asked to write an essay about animal communication.

Is this book a good gift? Why?

During the holiday season of 2006, many people bought the book as a stocking stuffer. It is small, reasonably priced, easy-to-read, playful and fun, and uplifting. The color photographs are entertaining. The book is selling well in gift shops, a veterinarian office, and a café. The book appeals to broad audience, including

children and senior citizens. Many people have bought copies for their dog-loving friends.

Why is this book unique?

The author is not aware of any other book that has the combination of full color photographs and stories about dog communication. There are books that interpret dogs' body language. "If the tail wags this way, it means X. If the ears are slanted this way, it means Y." *My Doggie Says...* is not a literal interpretation of dog body language. It is a playful, photographic and loving decoding of Jamie's messages. These are full-sentence messages like "can we please go to the lake now, so I can swim and retrieve my *floppy* (floating flying saucer)?" The book teaches the reader, by example, how to be a better "listener" to a pet's messages, and how to build a better relationship with a pet. Many dog books emphasize training, and how to move a pet into submission. *My Doggie Says...* is the opposite; it teaches how to listen to a pet and help its personality blossom.

Where can the book be purchased, and how many copies have been sold?

About three hundred fifty copies have been sold, since November, 2006, through half a dozen local (to Palos Verdes Estates, CA) establishments. In less than three months, Chez Allez, a small café in Palos Verdes, has sold ninety copies. The Wishing Well, at Lake Arrowhead, has sold fifty five copies. Recent new outlets include the Gift Shop at Torrance Memorial Medical Center, and The PetCare Company, in Hermosa Beach. Forty copies have been sold on-line at www.mydoggiesays.com and www.amazon.com.

What is the book's price? Is it reasonable and competitive?

The list price for *My Doggie Says...* is \$12.95. Each page is full-color on eighty pound stock, so the printing cost is greater than some books.

Is there a personal story here?

The day Fred received the first copies of *My Doggie Says...* from the printer, October 15, 2006, Jamie was diagnosed with canine lymphoma. She entered a chemo-therapy program, and her doctors expected her to live at least another year, but her stomach did not react well to the treatments. Jamie enjoyed two book signings, but she died on December 19, 2006, leaving “her” book as a tribute to a very special animal. This, of course, was extremely painful for author Fred. The pain was salved a little by a wonderful “thank-you-for-a-good-life” letter that K.O., Fred’s daughter-in-law, wrote to Fred “from Jamie.” The letter closes with Jamie saying, “When I got to doggie heaven, they already knew me, because they had all read *My Doggie Says...*” In memory of Jamie, Fred is serving as the MC for the Fido & Friends dog walk sponsored by the Wellness Community, an organization that serves human cancer patients. The next chapter of doggie communication has begun, as Fred and Barbara, his wife, are taking a female puppy from a brand new litter of nine golden retrievers. The new puppy will be Woodland Callaway del Campo, or call name “Callie.”

Other books by Marion Venture Publishing

My Doggie Says... is the only book currently published by Marion Venture Publishing. Early feedback from readers suggests that there is an opportunity to publish a related follow-on book incorporating stories from readers of *My Doggie Says...* This would probably be a simpler project involving fewer, if any, photographs. If written, it would be published in about 2009. Several other projects are under review.