



CONVERSATIONS WITH PETS

Director: Justin Hawkes, Ian Hart Producer: Hayley Cunningham
Imagine if you could have a conversation with your pet... Faye Rogers can.

AVAILABLE ONLINE FROM 9 JULY 2015

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Animal lovers form a special bond with their pets but how deep does this go and what would happen if your pets could converse with you? World-renowned animal communicator Faye Rogers takes us through an honest and open journey of the conversations she has with animals around her. For anyone who wonders what their pets are thinking, feeling or saying Faye is the go to place through her ability to decode them.

LONG SYNOPSIS

It is a very human quality to communicate aloud with our pets while we take them for walks or ask them if they are hungry, not for a moment expecting a response. *Conversations With Pets* captures the other side of those conversations: the answers that we all secretly wish we could understand from our own pets through a domestic portrait of Faye Rogers at home with her furry friends.

It is unimaginable to think how an animal might respond to the things that we say but Faye shows a serious claim in having the ability to form these conversations leaving us questioning whether or not the animals are really talking or if Faye is channeling her pets and projecting what she wants to hear.

Conversations With Pets is *Dr Doolittle* meets *Babe*, *Turner* and *Hooch* meets *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective* in short documentary form.

Directors: Justin Hawkes and Ian Hart

Justin and Ian have been working on projects together for 15 years. A journey that has taken them from making puppet themed music videos in a Hamilton garage to surviving a stampede filming India's largest religious festival.

Ian is an award winning music video director, animator and director of prime-time documentaries for The Travel Channel International. He has recently returned to London. Justin has been working as a director in Europe and New Zealand specialising in music and documentary. Since returning to NZ, he has most recently worked as a story producer for *The X Factor NZ* Season 2 and *Dancing With the Stars*.

Producer: Hayley Cunningham

Hayley was the Series Producer on Season 2 of *The X Factor NZ*. She recently completed a lengthy stint on *The Amazing Race: Australia*, for which she won an International Emmy. Hayley has a comprehensive and varied background, from working on music documentary shows to producing the award winning first series of *The Jaquie Brown Diaries*.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

We planned to shoot the day-to-day life of an animal communicator and wanted to capture a domestic portrait of Faye interacting with her own pets and the everyday conversations that came up. This being a very observational documentary, we were hoping for surprises. Faye had a frantic call from an American client about a lost kitten so all of a sudden we stumbled upon a remarkable moment where she was communicating with the lost kitten to help him to be found. Faye has never been comfortable having outsiders see her channel a lost animal and so was reluctant at first. Building up trust over the previous day's shoot meant she was open to letting us film a little bit of her process.

We are very privileged to have been able to produce this short with the Loading Docs initiative. The challenge and also reward was being able to bring emotion and entertainment together in such a powerfully succinct package.

PRESS RELEASE

Faye Rogers is an 'Animal Communicator'. She communicates telepathically with all animals living or dead. According to her website, Faye has been able to hear what animals were 'saying' since she was a child, but it wasn't until she went to a dog club event that she learnt there was a name for what she did. Since that event nearly 20 years ago, Faye has worked to make a career for herself communicating with animals all over the world and teaching workshops on animal communication.

Faye is now the subject of a 3-minute documentary by directors Ian Hart and Justin Hawkes called *Conversations with Pets*. The 'short-doc' will be released online as part of Loading Docs 2015. Hart says that their intention with the film was to show the day to day life of an animal communicator but when they were filming with Faye she received a distressed call from a client whose kitten was missing and this became a significant feature of the documentary.

While filming with Faye, Hart says that they were surprised by how much she took on the anguish of being a communicator and that at times it was a burden for her. "Faye is not concerned with what people think of her unusual gift, she knows it's weird" says Hart, after all her mother didn't believe her. The filmmakers hope that *Conversations with Pets* will both surprise and challenge viewers, leaving some questions for audiences to ponder about animal communication.

The Loading Docs initiative that *Conversations with Pets* is a part of supports 10 filmmaking teams to experiment with the confines of a 3-minute timeframe to make innovative and creative documentaries that tell New Zealand stories, this year based around the theme of connection. You can view *Conversations with Pets* online at www.loadingdocs.net and [TVNZ OnDemand](#) from 9th July, 2015.

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