

Living with Dogs in Our Community



Each direction on this medicine wheel has a big idea that goes with it. In the north, the big idea is thinking. You will learn how you can tell what dogs are thinking about. You will learn how to see their ways of speaking to people using their voices, tails, paws, eyes and bodies. This medicine wheel will help you remember how people and dogs can live well together.

Dogs Have Always Lived with Us



Traditionally, we had a relationship with our dogs that was one of respect and caring. When you show respect to someone, you use good words and good actions with them. Our dogs have always been respected.

Listen as Lee Maracle tells us about the respect she had for her dad's dog. Use this QR code or go to the link to listen to the story.



www.ifaw.org/maracle4

How Can We Show Dogs Respect?

We can show dogs respect by taking care of them. We can also show dogs respect by listening to them when they tell us they want to be left alone. Dogs who are not respected may bite.



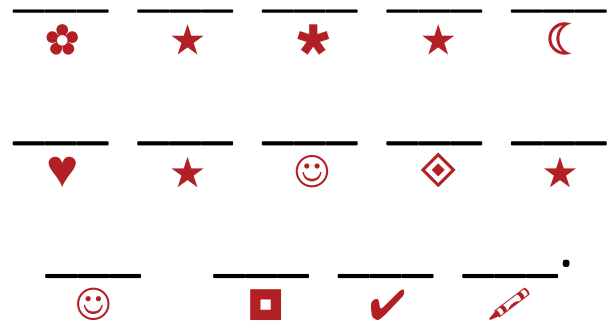
Dogs want to be left alone when they are eating, sleeping, sick or hurt, or protecting their puppies or things they care about.



Ey Swayel Lee Maracle

Elder Lee Maracle is a member of the Stó:lō nation and was born in British Columbia. She is a mother of four and a grandmother of seven. She is an author and a professor at the University of Toronto, as well as a traditional teacher at First Nations House, which is at the University of Toronto. She has had many dogs in her family at different times in her life.

Use the secret code to find out another way to respect a dog.



a = 😊	n = 🌸	s = 💎
d = 🟩	o = ✓	t = ❤️
e = ★	r = 🌙	v = ✱
g = 🖋️		

Answer: Never tease a dog.



Playing nicely is a way to show respect to a dog.



Dogs Tell Us What They Are Thinking

Dogs do not talk with words, but they can still tell us what they need. Dogs say things with their tail, body, eyes, fur, mouth, and the noises they make.

Dogs tell us things with their whole **body**. This dog is doing a play bow.

Listen to the **noise** this dog is making.



www.ifaw.org/dog-bark

Dogs say a lot with their **tail**.



wagging tail



tucked tail

"I'm nervous."



up high tail



"Don't come near me. I feel the need to protect myself."



www.ifaw.org/dog-growl

Listen to the **noise** this dog is making. This dog's **ears** are back and flat against her head. Her **teeth** are showing, and she is **growling**. This dog is not bad or mean. She is trying to tell you to stay back.



"I am happy."

This dog's **mouth** is open a little bit and is relaxed with his tongue covering his teeth. This is the doggy smile.

What Am I Saying?

Look at the pictures of the dog's body parts below. When is it safe to go near a dog? Put a ✓ on those pictures. When is it safer to stay away? Put an X on those pictures.

Fur				
	<hr/>			
Tails				
	<hr/>			
Ears & Eyes				
	<hr/>			
Mouth				
	<hr/>			

Look at the pictures of these dogs. Write what they are saying in the speech bubble.

Which dog is safer to go near? Put a check by that picture. Which dog is safer to stay away from? Put an X by that picture.



Answers—Fur: v, X; Tails: X, X, v, v, v, v, v, X; Mouth: v, v, X; picture 1: X; picture 2: v

Dogs Live with Us in Different Ways

Dogs live with people in different ways. Some dogs roam freely. Others live inside the house. Some dogs live behind a fence or tied up.

No matter how dogs live with us, they need to exercise. Dogs like to go on walks or runs. They like to chase balls or sticks. They need to follow their nose and explore.

Dogs who are always tied up can become bored and lonely. They have no friends to play with. Listen as Stanford Owl tells us about his job and how dogs feel when they are tied.



www.ifaw.org/owl

Kwesh Kwa Stanford Owl

Stanford Owl is a member of the Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation and lives there with his family. He is married to his lifelong friend Patty Ann and has three beautiful children. Stanford is also a grandpa and lives in a good way as a hunter and fisherman. He works with animals every day. He helps families with their dogs and finds homes for unwanted pets. He runs pet wellness clinics where pets get medical care.



How is this dog feeling? Why? When have you felt this way?



How is this dog feeling? Why? When have you felt this way?

Good Relations with Dogs You Do Not Know

We all meet dogs we do not know, and they also do not know us. Listen as Captain George Leonard tells you how to approach a dog you do not know.



www.ifaw.org/leonard2

Meeting Dogs

When you meet a dog that you do not know, do not run up to her. Let her show you who she is before you go near her. Look at her mouth, tail, fur, ears, and eyes. How do you think she is feeling? Look around, too. Is she guarding food or puppies? Does she want your lunch? Is she tied all by herself? If you answer yes, then it is safer to stay away from her.

If a dog rushes up to you, do not run away. Dogs love to chase and they will chase you! Instead stand still but don't stare into the dog's eyes. If you stare, you will make the dog feel like she needs to protect herself. If a dog is a friendly dog, then you can say hi by letting her sniff you.



Kwesh Kwa Captain George Leonard

Captain George Leonard, who is Anishinaabe, founded the MSAR (Meghan Search and Rescue) and Courageous Companions programs. George is a dog trainer who trains service dogs that work with soldiers who have returned home from war.

To Meet or Not?

Look at the dogs in the pictures. Circle the answers to the questions.



1. Her body language says she is
 - a. happy
 - b. scared
2. What should you do?
 - a. let her sniff me first
 - b. pat her head



3. Her body language says she is
 - a. happy
 - b. frustrated
4. What should you do?
 - a. pat her side
 - b. walk away



5. Is it safe to go near these dogs?
 - a. probably
 - b. probably not
6. What could you do to be safe if they come near you?
 - a. stand still
 - b. run away

Answers: 1. a, 2. a, 3. b, 4. b, 5. b, 6. a

A woman wearing a red t-shirt, blue jeans, a grey cap, and glasses is crouching on a sandy ground, smiling and petting a large white dog. Three children are sitting behind her, also smiling. The child on the left is wearing a black hat with a green band. The child in the middle is wearing a light blue shirt. The child on the right is wearing a light blue shirt and a purple skirt. In the background, there is a red barn with white trim and a grey roof. The entire image is framed by a red border.

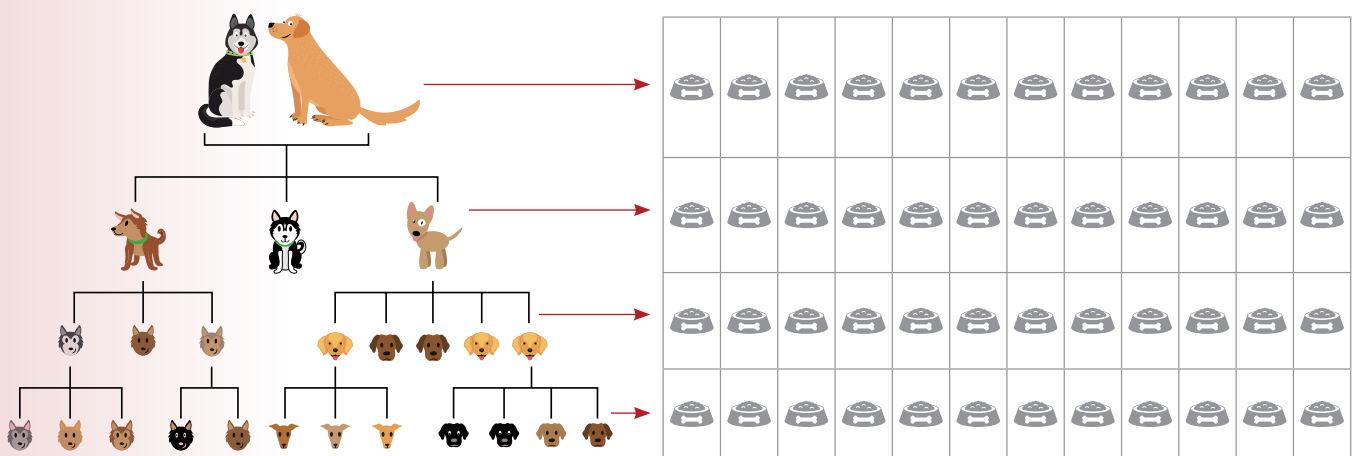
Veterinarians are doctors for dogs. They keep dogs healthy and take care of them if they are hurt or sick.

Listen as Grandmother Lee Maracle talks about getting ready to take care of your own dog.



[www.ifaw.org/
maracle2](http://www.ifaw.org/maracle2)

A dog who has not been spayed or neutered can lead to many puppies being born. All of these dogs need food to live. Color the boxes that show the number of food bowls each set of dogs will need.



How many dogs need to be cared for?_____

What other things do you think the dogs need to live well? _____

Reflection

We hope that you have learned how to see dogs' ways of speaking to people and how to think about safety around dogs you do not know.

First Nations people have had great respect for all living things including dogs. We hope that our communities can treat dogs well because we know that each of us can learn to have a good life with the dogs we meet, and have in our families.

Think about what you have learned about dogs and how they “talk” to us. Ask yourself these questions:

- How can I show respect to dogs now that I understand what they are saying?
- What are the best ways for me to stay safe around dogs?
- How do dogs let me know that I need to stop what I'm doing?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Information for Parents and Community Members

This activity book is about dogs and First Nations. It has been written by First Nations for First Nations. It is about how many of the First Peoples of North America have lived with dogs for a long time. Readers will meet Elders and others who share their stories about dogs and about caring for dogs. All of these people love and respect dogs, and they have shared their ideas about dogs with us. All are First Nations (Stó:lō, Ojibwe, Anishinaabe). We are proud to have them share about our peoples and our good ways with dogs.



IFAW—the International Fund for Animal Welfare—rescues and protects animals around the world. IFAW rescues individual animals and works to prevent cruelty to animals. IFAW speaks out for the protection of wildlife and their habitats.

IFAW also inspires young people to care about the welfare of animals and the environment.

IFAW knows that communities benefit from healthy and happy dogs and cats. IFAW reduces dog and cat suffering from cruelty and neglect by providing care to animals and support to communities around the world, including First Nations.