Living in a Good Way with Dogs: Our Stories

Path of Life

Medicine wheels are used to teach young ones and all people how to live in a good way. This medicine wheel teaches us about the seasons of the year. It also teaches us about the Seasons of Life—baby and child, teenager, adult, and Elder. Dogs can live long lives, and each direction is about a time in a dog’s life.

Elaine Kicknosway, Elder Swampy Cree

“When dogs are puppies they come into the world with sacredness. The natural law of feeling is already there inside each puppy.”

Lee Maracle, Elder Stó:lō

“Love your pet and include your pet in your family. Dogs are warm and attentive when they are loved.”

Thomas Louttit, Elder Moose Cree

“If you’re nice to [dogs], if you talk to them, they’ll treat you good as well. They will work hard to help you because you have shown kindness, treated them with respect and taken care of them.”

Captain George Leonard, Anishinaabeg, Manitoba

“Stinky was one of our first service dogs trained to be a companion for the military soldiers . . . She was a good friend, a good companion, and she even saved some lives in her work.”

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