This medicine wheel will help you remember how people and dogs can live well together. Each direction on this medicine wheel has a big idea that goes with it. In the east, is spirit. Our Elders tell us that our spirit knows how to live well with nature and that if we are thankful to the Creator for what we have in life, we can live in a good way. Spirit shares stories that our Elders have shared.
Treating All of Our Relations in a Good Way

**Spirit** means many things to First Nations People. Spirit means we learn how we are different from dogs and how we are connected to all living beings—plants, animals, rocks, the water, and so on. Spirit is also about the land we are from. Listen as Elaine tells us about the dogs and the natural laws for humans. She tells us to remember the sweetness of life and to treat all of our relations in a good way.

Use this QR code to listen to the story by Elaine Kicknosway. Or go to the link to listen to the story.

www.ifaw.org/kicknosway

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**All My Relations**

Draw a dog where she fits in the circle of life. Draw other beings where they fit in the circle of life.

- **Four Leggeds**
- **Swimmers**
- **Crawlers**
- **Two Leggeds**
- **Wingeds**

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**Kwey Elaine Kicknosway**

Elaine Kicknosway is from the Wolf Clan, Swampy Cree. She comes from Northern Saskatchewan. She is a member of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. She is a singer, a woman’s traditional dancer and a participant in ceremonies.

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Our Ancestors and Our Dogs Activity Book
Dogs in Our Ancestors’ Art

Our ancestors knew that it was important to live in a good way. They knew that dogs could be good friends and good family if we showed them respect. Our ancestors showed us that they had respect for dogs through the art they made. This is how they teach us we also need to live in a good way with dogs.

This old painting was done on rock along a lake in Minnesota. The Anishinaabe ancestors did this painting a long time ago. Can you see a person, a dog and a moose? They are all together. What do you think this picture shows?

This is a waapas. It is a bag people carried to collect food. It was made by the Wasca people who live in the west along the Columbia River. They used it to hold roots they dug up when they found food to eat. How many dogs do you see on the basket?

How does our ancestors’ art show that we have always gotten along with four-leggeds?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Our Ancestors and Our Dogs Activity Book © IFAW Northern Dogs Project
Wolves—Ancestors of Our Dogs

We all have ancestors. Our mom and dad are our ancestors. Our grandparents and grandfathers are our ancestors. All the family that came before us are our ancestors.

Dogs have ancestors too. Dogs’ ancestors are wolves. These four leggeds are related to our dogs, but they are different from our dogs. Wolves are wild because they don’t live with people.

This spoon was made by James Cross in 1890. He made the spoon with an eagle on the handle and a wolf on the bowl. He was Haida from Haida Gwaii on the Pacific Ocean.

Look closely at the wolf. How many teeth can you see on the wolf? Why do you think the artist put an eagle and a wolf on the spoon?

Design a Bowl

Draw a design on the bowl that shows that you respect the ancestors of dogs—the wolves.

The word “wolf” in different First Nations languages

Dakelh (Southern Carrier) – yus
Huron-Wendat – yänariskwa’
Algonquin – mahingan
Woods Cree – mahihkan

www.ifaw.org/word-wolf

How does your design show respect for wolves?
Most First Nations have Clans. Clan is the word for family in some languages. Clans are groups of families who are related and who are guided by an animal, a bird, a fish, or a reptile. Some nations have a Wolf Clan.

Listen to this story about how the Wolf Clan came to be. It is told to us by Willy Bruce, who is an Elder.

What a Dog Needs from Us

In the story Willy tells us that dogs like to live in family Clans. When a dog comes to live with us, he asks to be looked after in a good way. Read the clues below. The answers are what a dog needs from us.

<p>| | | | | |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. You can carry this in a bottle, but a dog needs you to keep her bowl filled with it.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>e</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. You can buy this at a store or cook it, but a dog needs it at least two times a day.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>3. This person helps keep dogs healthy.</td>
<td>v</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. This is what a dog gets when he chases a ball.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. When we care for dogs, we are showing this.</td>
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Answers: 1) water, 2) food, 3) vet, 4) exercise, 5) kindness

Our Ancestors and Our Dogs Activity Book © IFAW Northern Dogs Project
Honouring Dogs

Dogs have been honoured in many First Nations since time immemorial. Dogs are part of our families and part of our cultures.

Listen as Willy Bruce, who is a Dog Soldier, explains what a Dog Soldier does and about the powwow regalia he dances in.

www.ifaw.org/bruce2

Dog Dancing is common today in some powwows. Here is a picture of a Dog Dancer painted in 1834.

What are Dog Soldiers to their community? Color all the puzzle pieces with the number 3 to find out.

The word “dog” in different First Nations languages

Anishinaabemowin – Algonquin and Ojibwe – animosh
Mohawk – è:rhak
Tagish (Tlingit) – tlį
Haisla – wać
Dene – Ɂi
Mi’kaw – I’mu’j

www.ifaw.org/word-dog
Dogs are now our family and friends. If we take care of them, they will be loyal to us. If we show them love, they will love us back.

Listen to the story “Why Dogs Are Now Our Friends and Family.” The story was told to Captain George Leonard by an Elder.

The story “Why Dogs Are Now Our Friends and Family” tells how Dog helped Man and how Man helped Dog. Look at the pictures below. Write how the dogs and people help each other. Use words from the box to help you.

Words You Can Use
dog house wood man meals
safe treated well warm sled

How do dogs help people?

How do people help the dogs?

www.ifaw.org/leonard1

Our Ancestors and Our Dogs Activity Book © IFAW Northern Dogs Project
We hope that you have seen that our dogs have always been respected. How can we show respect for our dogs? We can feed them, give them water, show them love, give them somewhere warm to be in the winter, and never harm them or be mean to them.

Think about what you have learned about our ancestors and our dogs. Ask yourself these questions:

• Why do many First Nations show honour to dogs?
• How have my feelings about dogs changed?

1. ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

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 (Swampy Cree, 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.