“Dogs are kind of like people—if you respect them, they will respect you.”
Sky Commanda, Ojibwe

Each direction on this medicine wheel has a big idea that goes with it. In the south, the big idea is feelings. Our feelings about dogs are important. This medicine wheel will help you remember how people and dogs can live well together.
Elaine Kicknosway 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.

“We are to be sweet with all of our relations, including dogs.” —Elaine Kicknosway

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

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.

All My Relations
Draw a dog where he fits in the circle of life. Draw other beings where they fit in the circle of life.
Dogs are our family and our 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?
How do these paintings show that dogs have always been our friends and family?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Does anything surprise you about how people and dogs live together in these paintings? Why or why not?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
The word *courageous* means very brave. *Companion* means someone who takes care of us and spends time with us—like a family member or a friend. The Courageous Companions program is run by Captain George Leonard. He works every day with dogs. He trains them to be good helpers for different people. He also trains dogs for police use, for search-and-rescue work and to help war veterans.

Some of the people who need a dog helper have special needs. They may be blind, deaf or autistic. It takes at least six months for Courageous Companions to teach a dog how to be a good helper for a person who needs help. Courageous Companions keeps working with the dog for his or her whole life, even after the dog goes to live with the person.

Courageous Companions chooses dogs from local shelters. There are many good dogs at shelters that just need to be trained. If a dog is going to help a child, the dog is trained to be kind and gentle with that child. Sometimes, you have someone in a wheelchair looking for a dog to help them get around. Then you need a very big dog helper. The dog will sometimes have to pull the person around, and big dogs are strong. They can work for many hours pulling a wheelchair on sidewalks and streets.

These special dogs are taught to work for people who need help. They are companions to the people. They learn to be good friends and helpers to the people who need them.

Meet 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.

Find the highlighted letters in the article. Write the letters in order on the lines and read the secret message.

Dogs can be __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __.

© IFAW Northern Dogs Project
When people use good words and good actions with you, they are showing you respect. When you show respect to someone, you use good words and good actions with them. 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.

Listen as Lee Maracle tells us what she learned about meeting the needs of her pet dog.

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.

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Traditionally, First Nations people had a relationship with their dogs that was one of respect and caring. We helped each other out. Dogs played important roles in our families, our communities and our nations.

Listen as Lee Maracle tells us how love and kindness are important things for your dog.

“How many First Nations languages such as Cree and Ojibwe have no word for pet, and the closest word in their languages is family member.”

— Lee Maracle

How do you show caring to a family member or friend? Draw or write your ideas.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

How can you show caring to a dog? Draw or write your ideas.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

www.ifaw.org/maracle3
We hope that you have seen that we 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 how people and dogs can live well together. Ask yourself these questions:

• How have my feelings about dogs changed?
• How will I show respect to dogs in my family and community?
• How will I be sweet to the next dog I see?

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, Ojibwe, Anishinaabe, Stó:lo). We are proud to have them share about our peoples and our good ways with dogs.