Each direction on this medicine wheel has a big idea that goes with it. This medicine wheel teaches us about the Seasons of the year—Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. It also teaches us about the Seasons of Life—baby and child, teenager, adult and Elder. Each direction is about a time in a dog’s life.
What Is a Puppy?
Use the code to write the missing words. Find out facts about puppies.

1. A puppy is a ___ ___ ___ ___ dog.
2. Puppies are born in ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
3. Puppies need to stay with their mothers for ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ weeks.
4. Puppies need to drink lots of their mother’s ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
5. Dogs are puppies until they are about ___ ___ ___ ___ months old.

In the East is the season of Spring. The New Year starts in some First Nations on the first day of spring. It is the first season of the year because it is when life starts! This is the time when life starts to grow. Like the spring of the year, everything is new in the first part of a dog’s life as a four-legged being.

The spring of life is the time of puppies. Elaine Kicknosway tells us about good relations with dogs and why we need to treat puppies well. Use this QR code or go to the link to listen to the story.

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, dancer and a participant in ceremonies.
Love and Care for Your Puppies

In the spring of life, when a dog is still a puppy, she will need lots of care and love. The mother will need quiet time, shelter and warmth so she can feed her pups and keep them clean. Puppies have a lot to learn in the springtime of their life. They need to drink lots of their mother’s milk, open their eyes, and learn to walk, eat food, and live with other beings like us humans.

After eight weeks, a puppy can be given a new home. Puppies are a lot like human babies and children. They need to be taken care of.

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

www.ifaw.org/maracle2

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

www.ifaw.org/maracle3

Taking Care of Your Puppy

• Color the picture of the puppy.
• Color the things that your puppy needs.

• Give your puppy a name. Think about what your puppy looks like or how you think she will act.
In the South is Summer, which is the time when the days are long and there is much sunshine. The summer of life is the time when a dog is a teenager, which starts at about six months old. Your dog may look fully grown, but she is still learning. Your dog may still be clumsy, because she is getting used to how big she now is.

Your dog is a teenager and may try to see what she can get away with doing. It is normal for a teenaged dog to test what she can get away with. You need to remember to be patient with her but not mean so your dog understands what you are asking of her.

Your teenaged dog needs lots of exercise and friends. Listen as Stanford Owl tells us about his job as an Animal Control Officer. He tells us how dogs need exercise and play.

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.

Playing with Your Teenaged Dog
Your teenaged dog can run and play with you. He can lay quietly by you while you read, draw, or watch TV. He can fetch sticks or explore the outdoors with you. Your dog can be something special for you.

Color all the puzzle pieces with the number 5 to find out what your teenage dog can be for you.
In the West is Autumn, which is the time of year when it gets colder outside and the days are getting shorter. Some trees have leaves that change and fall off and the snow starts to fall. Dogs go through some changes too. Dogs that belong in our cold climate start to grow a thick coat to help keep them warm.

Autumn is the time in life when people have many responsibilities. They raise their children, they do their jobs, and they watch over others in a good way. Dogs also have responsibilities in their adult life.

Dogs will be loyal companions to families. Mother dogs will watch over and care for their puppies. Dogs will protect their homes and some dogs even go to work each day, doing jobs with humans.

Training a Dog
Dogs who live with our families can be trained. They can be trained to hunt, wait at the door, watch over us, come when called, sit or lie down, and more. Dogs are happy when they know what we expect them to do.

Listen as Grandmother Lee Maracle tells us about her dad’s hunting dog and how her dad trained the dog.

How can we train dogs well? Unscramble the words and write them in the blanks to find out.

1. We can use ___ ___ ___ ___ words. (ndki)
2. We can give dogs a ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ when they do something correctly. (rwdrare)
3. We can ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ a lot with our dogs. (ciprceat)

Answers: 1. Kind; 2. Reward; 3. Practice
Winter is the time of the year when Mother Nature takes a break. Plants stop growing, and some animals hibernate while others thrive in cold weather. It is a time for slowing down, spending time inside and sharing stories. Winter is the time of the Elder.

Winter is the time in life when a person or a dog has much wisdom. Wisdom is being smart about life. Wisdom is having stories to tell about how things could be done in a good way. Elders are wise. They have seen much in life, and have learned much in life. Our Grandfathers and Grandmothers can teach us much if we are open to learning.

Elder dogs may rest more. But they will wag their tails until they have to go to the Spirit world. How good their life is when they are getting old will relate to how well we take care of them.

Winter – The Time of the Elder Dog

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.

A Wise Dog Named Stinky

Elder dogs can teach not only young dogs, but also people about what is important. Listen as Captain George Leonard tells us about a wise service dog named Stinky.

Stinky knew how to help others. She helped people when they felt sad. Imagine Stinky helping you when you feel sad. Draw a picture.

www.ifaw.org/leonard3
In the winter, dogs need to have special care, especially Elder dogs, puppies, and dogs who are sick.

**Ears:** Ears are thin, so bring your dog inside during the coldest days and nights. This keeps the dog’s ears from getting frostbite.

**Mouth:** Every dog needs water to live. Water will freeze outside in the winter. Bring your dog warm water three times a day. Dogs also need more food in the winter for energy to keep warm.

**Fur Coat:** Dogs will grow a nice thick coat for the winter. If your dog has short hair, she will need to live in the house in the winter.

**Feet:** Feet are always touching frozen ground. Adults can help you trim the fur between your dog’s toe pads so salt, dirt, and ice don’t stick to the fur. Put some petroleum jelly on the dog’s pads to keep them from drying out and cracking.

**Dogs Need a Warm Shelter**

All dogs need a warm shelter or house to stay in. Maybe they share your house. Maybe they have their own. Draw your dog in a warm house. You can give your dog a warm blanket or pillow, too. If they are outside, adding straw to their house will keep them warmer.
The medicine wheel teaches us about the Seasons of the year and the Seasons of Life. We hope by seeing that dogs can live good long lives, you will choose to have one in your family for her entire life.

Think about what you have learned. Ask yourself these questions:

- What have I learned about caring for dogs during different seasons of their life?
- What have I learned about caring for dogs during different seasons of the year?
- How have my feelings about dogs changed?

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 (Swampy Cree, 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.