

TRAINING: Event is part of Child Abuse Prevention Month

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allows adults to understand how to nurture safe and appropriate relationships with young people, and recognize when there are problems.

"Kids need to see us setting clear boundaries and respecting boundaries," Davis-Martin told *The Nugget*. "And they need to see us advocating for them."

Today, it is recognized that it is important that children be empowered to say "no" if they are uncomfortable, that they not be expected to implicitly obey anything an adult tells them.

"One adult should never have unlimited power or say over a child," Davis-Martin said. "We don't say 'do whatever the adult says'... it's about making good choices."

Interactions between adults and children should always be "interruptible and observable," says Davis-Martin.

"It creates a safer culture

for our children."

She notes that the language around child sexual abuse has changed.

"We don't use that term 'good touch/bad touch' anymore," she said. "Because 'bad touch' can feel good and that is really confusing for kids."

It all comes back to setting boundaries, empowering children and having adults respect those boundaries. If a child does not want to be hugged or kissed, any adult should respect that — even grandma. It really applies to everyone, adults or children, Davis-Martin observes. Everyone should have the right to set boundaries, and people should not simply assume that they can invade a person's personal space.

"This whole idea of asking before we touch is a wonderful thing," she said. "We teach our children to ask — and expect to be asked."

For more information on Darkness to Light, visit www.d2l.org. For more information on Circle of Friends: www.acircleoffriendsoregon.com/mentor.



Paw Prints

Jodi Schneider McNamee
Columnist

Do animals have souls?

For eons, men and women have pondered the question: Do animals have souls?

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, one of the definitions of "soul" is: The ability of a person to feel kindness and sympathy for others. And: A person's deeply felt moral and emotional nature.

Any dog or cat pet parent will tell you that animals have a sixth sense when it comes to understanding human emotional needs. For instance, when you are feeling down, an animal can often act as a better confidant than another human.

Animals possess a sense of fairness; they can distinguish between right and wrong, they are capable of fidelity, altruism, and even self-sacrifice.

Did you know that animals are aware of death? They have a sense of their own mortality, and grieve at the loss of companions, whether another animal or a human.

There are many examples of how dogs have sacrificed their lives to help humans.

Kabang lost her snout saving two Filipino girls from a motorcycle accident. And

for indisputable evidence of how courageous dogs can be, take a look at the team of golden retrievers who arrived in Newtown, Connecticut to help comfort the victims after the Sandy Hook shooting. Or the Japanese akita who jumped into freezing waters to save his suicidal owner.

Cats have also been known to go above and beyond for their humans — such as Tara, a normally mellow family cat that saved her four-year-old family member Jeremy from a scary, unprovoked dog attack.

In 1986, when a 5-year-old boy fell into a gorilla enclosure and lost consciousness, Jambo, a gorilla, stood guard over the boy while he was unconscious, placing himself between the boy and other gorillas until the boy was rescued.

For centuries, humans have imagined they are the only animals with morals. But humans are not alone in the moral arena, a new breed of behavior experts say.

"Dogs are thinking animals," said animal behaviorist Marc Bekoff, professor emeritus at the University of Colorado, Boulder. "They seek the outcomes they want. They avoid the ones they don't. They solve problems. They have expectations. They have hopes."

So, do animals have souls?

Let's see what a few animal lovers from Sisters Country say:

Sue Dolezal, airport controller for Sister Eagle Airport:

"Our dog Henry is 12

years old now. And from the age of seven weeks when we brought him home, he has been described as an old soul. He reads people. He reads me daily in my life. He cuddles when it is appropriate, he makes me laugh, and over the years as both a crisis response canine and a therapy dog, Henry has demonstrated the amazing ability to find the most stressed out person in a room and sit with them."

Sisters resident Sana Hayes, founder of Paws for a Visit:

"When you get very still and quiet, witnessing those moments we call life, you can surely notice a vibration or sense of presence from those no longer here. The body disintegrates, but the essence of that which has once touched our hearts resonates eternally. Most people who have outlived a beloved pet can attest to this depth of soul connection."

Longtime dog owner Helen Schmidling, former education editor for Banfield Pet Hospital:

"I do believe animals have souls — different from our souls — but nonetheless. For what is a soul? It's an immaterial part of a being, that life and spirit that inhabits our physical body. And once one has departed? It's still a spirit, a connection, a memory. We have established a deep and rich relationship with animals, inviting them into our homes as family members. When they pass on, a part of them remains connected to us, and that connection is purely spiritual."

WRECK: Sisters man was among the injured in crash

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Jeep Cherokee. The Jeep and Toyota came to rest in the eastbound lanes of Highway 126.

The driver of the Ford, Tyler J. Myers, age 22, of Corvallis, was taken by air ambulance to St. Charles Bend with life-threatening injuries. The driver of the

Toyota, Jacquelyn A. Ekern, age 49, of Redmond, was taken by ground ambulance to St. Charles Redmond with non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the Jeep, Hayden Jones, age 20, of Sisters, was taken by ground ambulance to St. Charles Bend with serious injuries.

Highway 126 was closed for about an hour and a half before one lane was opened. OSP was assisted by the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Cloverdale and Sisters fire departments.

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