

Insights and information from the Animal Kingdom.

All my life I have had animals around me from which I invariably learn things. Look very carefully at everything you see in nature, and think about it thoroughly, it will help you too. For example, I noticed that if you punish a dog, even if only a few times, like once or twice, even just a little too hard for what it has been up to, it remains traumatized for life, and always goes through life a bit anxious, even when it's just a little bit, you always notice the difference... That's how it is with children too, is the message I get.

From the chickens I learned that if you let them out of their enclosure (which is really big) a few times in a row, to walk around the whole garden, from the third day on they take it for granted and claim it, as if it were a right, and no longer a favor, probably, the chickens are right about that, but in the spring I need to protect my young vegetables from them if I want to eat. I also notice that the five strongest and boldest chickens exclude the sixth, and invariably try to prevent her from eating, taking a piece of the grain too. That is why it is important that every day I spread the grains as best as possible over the entire run, so that NO ONE can appropriate a pile and prevent another from eating too. Besides, it's not pleasant to be left out, the animal is clearly lonely, and I think those excluding her are just a bunch of obnoxious bastard chickens. Bah! My heart and sympathy goes out to the lonely dork, the others only arouse my disgust with their behavior. By really spreading the grains as well as possible, I also ensure that no group formation takes place, and that all chickens are equal and have equal opportunities.

I've learned from my now 21-year-old cat that it's extremely irritating when someone thinks only about himself, constantly demands that you drop everything to serve him first, even when he can't possibly be hungry, and when if you don't do what he wants, doesn't even shy away from terrorizing you, even calling you out of bed at night, until you get up and give him his way. It has therefore happened several times that I give him a kick in the ass, being careful of course that it does not damage him, but only makes it very clear that he really has to stop, something that always works for a few days, just like always giving him his way to "get rid of it, all that nagging", clearly encourages his annoying behavior. Because NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO TERRORISE ANOTHER ! Even if they think so.

My dogs have taught me that they are faithful to whoever they choose, that the greatest pleasure is being with the ones you love most and doing fun things together. That another being can only fully develop when it feels safe and loved and knows that when there is noise, someone has to intervene, to make it very clear that this is not how we live together. There is a difference between manifesting that you don't agree and killing each other off for nothing...

And that they all have to know that everyone is equal, loved and treated equally, so that they are not afraid of being passed over, being less than the others, or having to fight for their place in the hierarchy.

I don't own them, they're my non-human friends. I'm their leader, not their boss, a leader knows to only intervene when really necessary and as limited as possible....

And that death is not a bad thing, that it simply is a part of life, and must be accepted. That it is now, the eternal present, that counts. Every moment of every day again. It makes no sense to grieve.

From those filthy pigeons that were brought in here to help them survive, I learned that you should not allow anything into your house that does not belong there, because you will never get rid of them, not even when they can take care of themselves again just fine, and when their presence and nature means that you can no longer be yourself in your home, are constantly hindered by what they are doing, making daily life unpleasant for you, significantly lowering the quality of your life compared to what it would otherwise be to the point where you feel like your well-being doesn't matter at all, as theirs seems more important... you sometimes have to turn your heart into a stone to make sure you get rid of it anyway to free yourselves and can live happily.

The horses learned me that you should not take in anything that has more needs than you can handle.

And I have learned from the wild animals around me that they sense whether they have to fear you or not, and whether your presence among them in their natural habitat entails an added value or a risk, even a disaster. When they know that you are their friend and not their enemy, they like to be near you.

From the fish in the pond I learned that they increase in number very quickly, and that it is a good thing that herons and kingfishers come regularly, because only then everything remains in balance, which is necessary for everyone's well-being. Covering the pond with a net to prevent this natural process only ensures that not only the fish eaters go hungry, but also innocent victims, such as the frogs that get caught in the net.

From the ants in the garden I've learned that they are very interesting animals to study, the way they colonize, what activities they do for what reasons, that they are the natural cleaners who clean up what they can use that someone else has dropped, and that you don't have to fight / exterminate with ant bait boxes full of poison, that you can easily direct them to move if they are in a place you don't like, by carefully selecting their biotope to disturb them a bit, think of moving a stone under which they have built a nest without harming themselves, and putting it, or this construction a little further, somewhere where it won't bother you.

The earthworms provide the soil, compost and aeration, and are the favorite food of many bird species. Snails are also excellent food for chickens, for example, if the chickens can reach them often enough, it will remain under control without any poison that disrupts the entire ecosystem.

That owls in the forest next to you are not only wonderful to listen to from your bed, but ensure that you do not get an abundance of rats and mice around you, and that you better plant trees or a forest in which they can flourish and find a good home, then use rat poison because it kills not only the rats, but also all the animals that depend on them to feed. That you should think very carefully about the consequences of EVERYTHING you do, because they extend much further than you would think at first sight.

The world around us is a benefit, a true Blessing, for which we must AT ALL TIMES, take the best possible care of. Nor is it about us alone, far from it. My late mother always said that we don't inherit the Earth from our parents but borrow it from our children....