**Animal Wisdom**

**But ask the animals, and they shall teach you;**

**and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell you.**

***(Job 12:7)***

**They say animal behavior can warn you when an earthquake is coming. Like the night before the last earthquake hit, our family dog took the car keys and drove to Arizona. (*Gene Perret, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Husband: “Young George from work is getting married and he has asked me to be his best man!” Wife: “How lovely.” Dog: “What? But you’re my best man.” *(Alex Graham, in Fred Bassett comic strip)***

**Grandma: “It’s your birthday tomorrow. Grandpa: “It can’t be.” Grandma: “But it is.” Grandpa then says to the dog: “Birthdays are like undershorts, they creep up on you.” Dog: “Another reason to be glad I’m a dog.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**A woman who returned a book in a very tattered state to the Stroud Library in Gloucestershire, England, explained it was the fault of her dog, which had chewed it. The name of the book was How to Train Your Dog. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 59)***

**Six years ago, Nancy Best of Garberville, California, was lying on her couch when her dog Mia began repeatedly burying its nose in her right breast. Annoyed, Best felt for the spot that Mia kept nosing and found a lump. It turned out that she had breast cancer. Today, after surgery and chemotherapy, Best is doing fine. This isn’t the first time that a dog has apparently sniffed out cancer. Some scientists think that certain cancers contain “biomarkers” such ass proteins, which emit odors that a dog’s sensitive nose can detect. *(The Week magazine, February 17, 2006)***

**Snail says as it hears the phone ring: “That’ll be Mom. I’d better take it. She’s calling long distance.” Garfield: “Where does she live?” Snail: “Behind that shrub over there.” *(Jim Davis, in Garfield comic strip)***

 **Garfield: “Taking care of a cat isn’t easy, but it’s worth it! To the cat, I mean.” *(Jim Davis, in Garfield comic strip)***

**After we moved to the country, our cat, Sadie, became a particularly good mouser. I praised her efforts, and she began leaving the mice in conspicuous places so my husband could dispose of them. Along the way, Sadie even developed a good understanding of men. One morning, courtesy of Sadie, my husband found a dead mouse lying on the sofa next to the television remote control. *(Barbara DiAnnibella, in Reader’s Digest)***

**A cat and her five kittens came face to face with a large dog. The kittens ran away to hide, the cat started barking loudly, and the dog ran away. The cat turned to her kittens and said, “Now, you see how important it is to know a second language?” *(Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living magazine)***

**Snoopy: “Here’s Joe Cool hanging around the student union.” Charlie Brown: “Hi, Joe. How’d you do in chemistry today?” Snoopy: “That chemistry is a drag, man. Joe Cool can’t worry about chemistry when he’s busy hanging around the student union.” *(Charles Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**My son Kelly once took our German shepherd and yellow Lab with him to town to get farm supplies. He had to park his pickup a block from the store, so he admonished the usually obedient dogs to stay in the back of the truck until he returned. Kelly was in the store longer than he had anticipated. As he left, a woman asked him, accusingly, if the two dogs that had been running in and out of the next building were his. Embarrassed, Kelly said, “I’m sorry,” and rushed back to his parking space. There were the dog, tails wagging, the perfect picture of innocence – except that they were sitting in the back of the wrong pickup. *(Patricia Fort, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Dolphins are reported to have learned English – up to 50 words in correct context – but no human being has been reported to have learned dolphinese. *(Carl Sagan)***

**Dog says while taking a walk with the man: “You know, this would go a lot faster if we took the car.” *(Chris Browne, in Raising Duncan comic strip)***

**Man: “How many fingers am I holding up, Ruprecht?” Dog: “Don’t you know?” *(J. C. Duffy, in Go Figure comic strip)***

 **Woman: “What do you think about the idea of a flea collar, Ruprecht?” Dog: “I think it would highlight your earrings nicely.” *(J. C. Duffy, in Go Figure comic strip)***

**Man: “I’m getting old. My cheeks are puffy, my face is sagging. Look at the bags under my eyes. Wrinkles too, and I’m getting a gut. What do you think I should do, Garfield?” Garfield: ”I think you should close the drapes.” *(Jim Davis, in Garfield comic strip)***

**Police in Ethiopia’s Bita district say a pride of lions rescued a 12-year-old girl from her kidnappers, then stood watch over her until a search party arrived. Sgt. Wondimu Wedaj told the Ethiopian News Agency the girl was kidnapped by four people while she was on her way home from school. *(Steve Newman, Universal Press Syndicate, 2005)***

**Bird: “Shtinky! What brings you to the beach?” Dog: “I dunno. I guess I’m lost.” Bird: “Oh, one can never be lost. There’s always the north star!” Dog: “Yes, but, I don’t live there.” *(Patrick McDonnell, in Mutts comic strip)***

**Snoopy: “Sometimes I get some of my best ideas while lying in the sun. Somehow, I’ve never gotten a good idea while lying in the rain.” *(Charles Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**Cat: “What is the black stuff they drink in the morning?” Dog: “It’s magic stuff.” Cat: “Really?” Dog: “Yes! Haven’t you noticed they can’t speak until they drink it?” *(Chris Browne, in Raising Duncan comic strip)***

**During an auction of exotic pets, a woman who had placed a winning bid told the auctioneer, “I’m paying a fortune for that parrot. I hope he talks as well as you say he does.” “I guarantee it madam,” replied the auctioneer. “Who do you think was bidding against you?” *(Sharon Franks, in National Enquirer)***

**You can’t hunt pheasants in Chicago. The pheasants must’ve found out. Some places within the city limits – former farms awaiting the builders – have the densest concentration of ring-necked pheasants in the world. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Nelson: “Grampa, how long have you had Roscoe?” Grandpa: Oh, a long time, since he was a puppy. I still remember the day we brought him home from the humane society.” Dog: “What? You mean I was adopted?” *Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**A stray German shepherd rescued an injured woman in Thomasville, Georgia, after her car careened down an embankment. Shannon Lorio, 36, lost control of her car and was hurled out the rear window. She was sprawled on the ground, bleeding, when the dog, which was passing by, pulled her by her collar for 50 yards, to the edge of a highway. There, he let her lean against him while she flagged down help. Lorio has since nicknamed the stray “Hero,” and at least 50 people have offered to adopt him. *(The Week magazine, February 16, 2007)***

**Dad: “Oh, Duncan! You knew Daddy was oversleeping, and you came to wake me up! Thank you!” Dog: “You know, maybe as a reward you could walk me and feed me!” *(Chris Browne, in Raising Duncan comic strip)***

**Spider: “If you squish me, you’ll hate yourself in the morning!” Garfield: “Not likely. I’m never up before noon.” *(Jim Davis, in Garfield comic strip)***

**As Garfield just lays there, he says: “Soon I’ll be turning 25. Wow! The things I’ve seen, the things I’ve done. Well, the things I’ve seen, anyway.” *(Jim Davis, in Garfield comic strip)***

**Last week I was watching the puppies scrapping together to establish dominance. When the larger one definitely proved to be top dog, the small scrapper rolled over onto its back, exposing its tender, pink belly.  Laying there with its most vulnerable area exposed, the smaller dog trusted the larger one to honor his gesture of total surrender, which the larger one did. Ah-ha! There is a lesson here for me, I thought! *(Loretta Magnowski)***

 **Jon: “I’m going to vacuum this cat hair off the rug.” Garfield: “Think, Jon! If you left the cat hair, we wouldn’t need a rug!” *(Jim Davis, in Garfield comic strip)***

**Man: “There is nothing like a fresh vegetable.” Garfield: “And let’s keep it that way!” *(Jim Davis, in Garfield comic strip)***

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