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How Do Animals Communicate With People?

"How about a snack - Pleaaaaase...?", says Sven in a whimsical voice, spoken by Kristoff. Animals have been communicating with their owners for centuries. It even happens in Disney movies! In this example from the Frozen movies, the owner named Kristoff, feels lonely and has no friend in the world except for his reindeer. He makes the reindeer talk in a funny voice like children making stuffed animals talk or when kids make toys talk. The child's stuffed animal or "invisible friend" could be a friend in the child's world like Kristoff's reindeer. When a person makes an animal talk, it comforts the person and may make them laugh, even though animals can't talk. Animals make great best friends!

My Grampie's dog, Beau, is a companion for him too. You know how you can sometimes tell when your friend is having a bad day because of the tone of your friend's voice or maybe how much your friend talks? Well, you can do the same thing with a dog too! Dogs might wag their tail or run around until they get a treat. I can tell that Grampie's dog, Beau, has been sad lately and sometimes hides under the bed when we visit, because his mama (my Grammie) died recently. He is very happy to see us because we remind him of Grammie. He curls up in our lap and does "wag-wag" and "helicopter" with his tail when he's excited. He alerts Grampie by barking when a stranger comes by, and he even chases the mailman outside!

Dogs can warn us of danger. Police will sometimes train dogs to detect harmful things like drugs. The training is like a game for police dogs. For example, one game may be to find the harmful object, then the dog gets a treat. At the Parks Mall in Arlington, there is a police dog named Joker who is trained to detect firearms. Dogs trained to do this are always with a policeman. A friend of ours has a dog, and one day the dog began barking loudly. The dog smelled smoke and got the owner to go outside of the house. Once they got out of the house, the owner realized that the house was on fire. It was very lucky that the dog was there, or the owner could have died in the fire. The dog wasn't trained as a police dog, but it still was able to find the scent! Your pet dog could one day save you and maybe others! There's a reason they call a dog "Man's Best Friend"!

Kids like me have dogs, shepherders have sheep, cowboys have horses, and crazy cat ladies have cats. Animals have been communicating with us for so long. They have so many great ways of communicating with us! Bark! Moo! Achoo! Wag-wag! Helicopter! What will they say in the future, and will we understand it?