



## ***Ni'NOXSOLA***

Elders in Residence Program  
Indigenous Education Comox Valley Schools

Sheila Buchanan  
Animals



Children have been asking me if I have met any wild animals on my way to checking my snares. I can honestly say I have never had this experience. I have never seen a bear or wolf on any of my forest walks.

The only time I saw a bear was when I was travelling by car and saw bears on the side of the road. I have also seen coyotes run across the road but have never encountered any of them otherwise.

To date the only place I saw a wolf was at the zoo. I have never seen one anywhere else. The animals avoided human contact because they feared humans, so they stay as far away as possible. They are very smart about staying out of sight. My grandma told me that when an animal hears human voices or any noise that is foreign to them in the forest they run away. They are just as afraid of us as we are of them. They only attack to protect themselves if they think danger is lurking. When a bear has babies, she may attack a human because she fears they may be harmed. They are very protective of their young.

Most animals wild or domestic are very protective of their young, just as humans are with their children. It is best to stay away from young animals although they are cute and cuddly, and most kids/adults want to reach out and touch or pet them. It is never a good idea to pet any animal. Pets can be dangerous as well. Unless you know the dog or cat, you should never attempt to pet it. If the pet owner feels it's okay to do so, then by all means. Dogs have been known to attack because they are not accustomed to strangers touching them. Cats can be the same way. It is best to avoid these situations. There are more variety of pets and it's possible they are all capable of protecting their territories. That's what it's all about.

There you have it, a little education about animal behavior, although brief, it may help us in the future to avoid getting hurt by any animals, wild or domestic.

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