

The Big Picture - What God Knows

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\$3.36 billion are spent on pet grooming at SPA's every year and yet 8 million pets lose their lives in animal shelters annually. Man's best friend, pampered or abused, can teach us lessons about what God knows – the Big Picture!!!



Let me introduce you to a dog named Koda, my grand-dog. He is actually a replacement dog. My children were canoeing in Northern BC on the Skeena River when they hit some rapids and lost control. They all survived except for their little havanese, Ozark. Needless to say a replacement had to be found immediately. The family went dog shopping. Little puppies were held and investigated but none were ready to come home that very day. Just when we were ready to leave, the breeder said "Do you want to hold a puppy from several litters before?" He was supposed to go to a home, but they never came to get him and other potential owners thought that he was too scrawny so he was never chosen. When my daughter held him, it was love at first sight. He was exactly what the doctor ordered. **What does God know?** "Don't judge by his appearance or height...The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

Zoe, another grand-dog, was chosen from a litter of 8 puppies for my youngest daughter. They all looked the same to me and each one was held and inspected and finally that special one was chosen. A picture was sent over the Internet and it was confirmed that Zoe was the one. Why Zoe? She had lots of spirit, energy and loved to snuggle. A few months later it was discovered that Zoe had one blind eye. That didn't hold back her spirit and love for life. **What does God know?** "Dear Friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit." 3 John 1:2

The last dog whose story I want to share is Maggie. Dear Maggie had a rough life for her first 3 years. She was moved from home to home. She was also being traumatized by the tenant in our daughter's basement and was acting very weird. It seemed that she had a bladder problem and they were considering having her put down. Our daughter didn't want to do it and asked if her dad would take the dog to the vet to have it done. Needless to say, he couldn't do it either. He fell in love with the dog and was soon attached. We took her back to Alberta with us and the bladder problem seemed to disappear. It must have been caused by her fear of the tenant. On the drive back to Alberta she was very fearful and she shook just about the whole way back. She wouldn't rest in the backseat at all, but was continually on the alert the complete drive home. There was definite fear in her eyes. She didn't know that we had saved her from death or that we were going to give her a better life. I would pet her and tell her that in a little while she would be in a good home and far away from her fears. Of course, she didn't understand me and wouldn't settle down or be calm. She didn't trust anyone it seemed!!!

That whole experience made me think about how God must feel toward us. He has our eternal good in mind and he has saved us from certain death, yet at times we are fearful of him. We don't put our complete trust in him. **What does God know?** "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

What God Knows – He's got the big picture

1. Don't judge people/motives/ideas
God's got the BIG picture
2. It doesn't matter what we are because we are all broken vessels.
God knows us very well and He's got the BIG picture
3. Trust in a power outside of ourselves
God's got the BIG picture

These are three big lessons in life that I learned from three dogs and I can rest in my Father's hands because I know that he sees THE BIG PICTURE.