



Urban Animal

Animal signs are as abundant in the city as they are in the country. They are limitless and everywhere, but you must remember to give thanks and make a return offer whenever you receive

By Scott Alexander King

The Earth Mother is constantly reaching out to us. She presents us with wisdom and whispers her thoughts at every opportunity. Ancient teachings imply that the Earth is our Mother; that from her we came and to her we shall return, and that as her children, she supplies us with everything we need. She cradles us when we are despaired, feeds us when we are hungry and shelters us when we feel vulnerable. She loves unconditionally as Mothers do. She scolds, too, when we disrespect her, by lashing us mercilessly with storms and drought. She instructs us well in all of life's lessons: of giving and taking, love and war and of birth, death and rebirth. She teaches symbolically. Her acumen witnesses and supports our rites of passage, the changing of the seasons, transition of day into night and night into day, the waxing and waning of the Moon and the ebb and flow of Grandmother Ocean's tides. She gifts us with healing herbs, medicine stones and animals which act as mentors, healers and guides; each symbolically employed to offer a unique and sacred message intended to guide us to a place of individual and collective wholeness.

The animals present themselves when we need them most. They share their knowledge unconditionally, even if we do not consciously heed their wisdom at the time. The wisdom that the animals impart is powerful. Powerful enough to assist in the manifesting of abundance, change, healing and protection on every level. Those lucky enough to live in the country tend to take the silence and solitude of Nature for granted. We almost expect to receive signs from the animals daily.

Strolling down the driveway to collect the mail, for example, we may be met with surprises such as the cry of a Hawk heralding incoming messages, or a Glider about to demonstrate how to take that leap of faith we have been trying hard to ignore. To meet an Echidna is to be offered personal protection. She allows only those we trust and want near to venture within our sacred space. Her soft, unprotected underside is always exposed to Mother Earth, allowing the loving, nurturing, protective energy to be absorbed by her heart (and ours). Koala nurtures within us the knowledge that we hold all the answers to our own questions and that all the wisdom we seek is stored within our consciousness, while Platypus represents the true essence of women's sacred wisdom.

She teaches us to trust blindly in our inner direction and to move as one with the creative ebbs and flows of Mother Earth. The mob of Red Kangaroos resting in the neighbour's paddock, speak of family fertility, commitment and the promises we make when we take on the responsibilities associated with parenthood, while the Wombat digging around the foundations of the garden shed teaches us to speak up and to confront all wrongs aimed at us with confidence and a sense of assuredness. Wombat reminds us, however, to avoid being forceful, violent or rude.

As an emissary of Spirit, Eagle offers strength, bravery and discipline to reach ever-greater heights. While Eagle reminds us to remain humble, to never be over-confident and to always remain true to our original intent, the screech of a White Cockatoo can be seen as assurance of light at the end of the tunnel for anyone who is lost in their own personal darkness. Kookaburra speaks of the responsibilities associated with self-healing. To hear the 'laughing' call of the Kookaburra is a reminder to take responsibility for our own healing and to stop the pretence that all is fine in our world. Silent Kookaburra, however, guarantees that effective healing has been initiated and is set to