



## FIRST DIVINE SCIENCE

### **Everything I need to know about the Universe I learned from my dog.**

How many of you remember the popular poster “All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten” by Robert Fulghum? His list included things like 1. Share everything. 2. Play fair. 3. Don't hit people. And so until the end, # 16. “And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned - the biggest word of all - LOOK.” This spawned numerous books and posters about finding lessons in life all around us, including our pets.

One year ago, I brought home Rollo Dog from the shelter. We've been through a lot, good and bad, and as my fairly constant companion I decided to turn to him for some life lessons this week. These are some of them.

When I get home, he greets me every time like I'm the Publisher's Clearinghouse guy. Total excitement, total joy. It's just me! I don't have anything for him. But it's the most exciting part of the day for him, every day. For Rollo, lesson #1: Never let love get old. How many of us have had relationships and friendships where the other person becomes commonplace to us, and we don't jump up and down when we see them come in the door? Rollo teaches me that when you love someone, every time you greet them it's the best moment in life. Never let love get old.

My front door doesn't line up exactly, and when I go outside, sometimes the door doesn't latch all the way. Rollo has learned that if he walks up to the door and knocks on it with his paw, sometimes it opens. Sometimes it doesn't. But if he doesn't knock, the door doesn't open. So lesson #2 from Rollo is to knock on the door. Take the chance.

Whenever I have food, am cooking, am eating, Rollo is there under my feet waiting. He is SO sure that sooner or later, a bit of that yummy food is going to fall on the floor and it's going to be his. Lesson #3 from Rollo is to expect great things. He has faith that a piece of pepperoni from the pizza is going to find its way to him. He believes it. He trusts it. And I usually make sure his faith is rewarded.

Rollo's favorite thing in life is to have his chest scratched. When I stop scratching him, he grabs my hand between his paws and pulls it back down. He wants his chest scratched, so he gives me lesson #4 – When you want scratched, let somebody know. We struggle through life full of pride and trying to do everything on our own. If you want something from someone, don't be afraid to ask.

Rollo loves me, and my friends and family. But when strangers come knocking, he's a defensive protector. Lesson #5 – Set clear boundaries. It's okay to have boundaries. Louise Hay says “I don't let people walk through my mind with dirty feet.”

Rollo is everywhere. He's under my feet if I'm walking, he's on my chair watching TV with me in the living room, and he sleeps under my blankets with me every night. Wherever I am, Dog is. Dog is everywhere, therefore Dog is here. Within the walls of my house, Rollo is truly omnipresent. Lesson #6 – You are never truly alone. Whether you have a dog or not, you have an omnipresent parter that never leaves your presence, and sometimes will even trip you if you're not paying attention.

Lastly, Rollo and I have had some trying times. He's full of energy and young, and has been pretty destructive over the last year. He's ruined some furniture, some floors, a lot of shoes, and then some. He tries my patience. I have gotten mad at him. But shortly after, I'm reminded of how loving, kind, and innocent he really is, and I completely forgive him. He's so easy to forgive. It doesn't hurt that he's cute! And then I wonder why it's so easy for me to

forgive Rollo, but not myself. Why it's so easy for me to realize my love for my dog, but not for me. Rollo loves me unconditionally – but I don't. Lesson #7 is a work in progress – Love yourself as much as you love your dog, and as much as your dog loves you.

We have teachers and lessons all around us. This week I invite you to look at someone or something, or some situation in your life, and open your mind to whatever teaching it has for you.

The Universe is operating in its highest way to give you what you need, and school you what you need to learn. I have faith in this. And when we've learned what we need to from a challenging lesson, it moves on away from us. Whether your teacher this week is your boss, your neighbor, your relative, your car, your job, or your dog, I affirm that you will be receptive to the message that's been specially made and presented for your growth. Thank you for being here, and learning with me.

Love & Light,

Rev. Joseph  
First Divine Science of Hickory

And Rollo

