



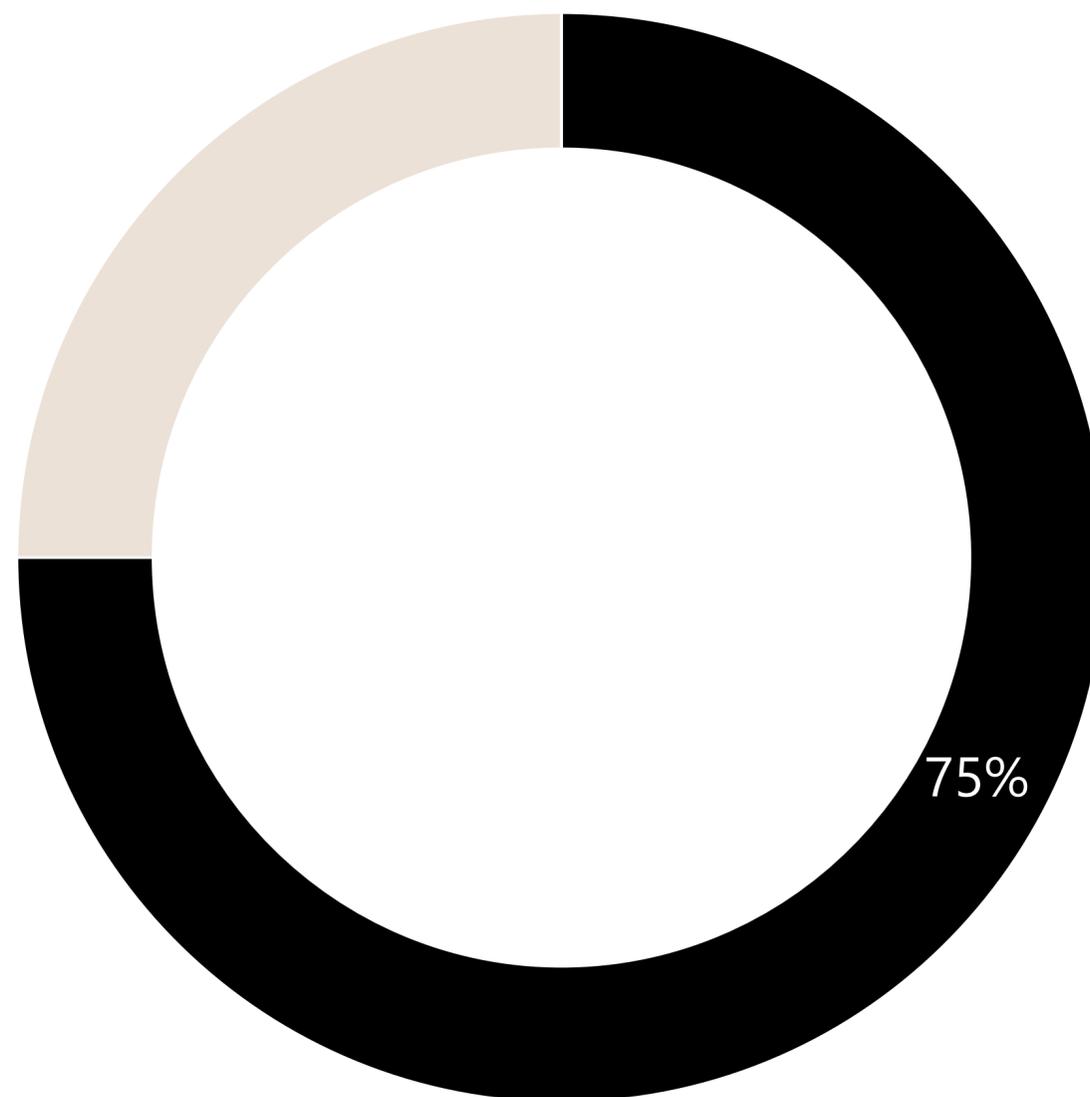
**Children &
Animals:**

**Widening
the
Circle
of
Empathy**

**Jennie Warmouth, PhD
Creating Change Symposium
January 23, 2019**



Children & Animals



(Melson, 2013)

Human-Animal Interaction & Child Development

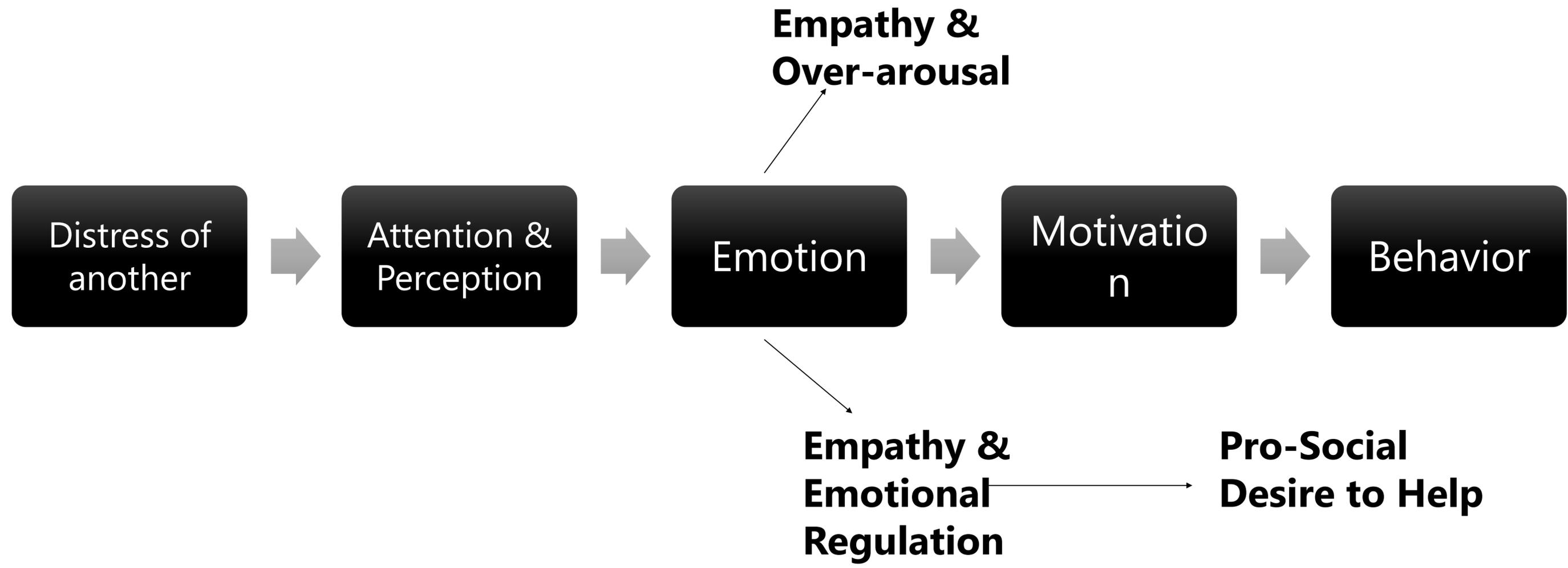
Ownership of dogs and cats during childhood and adulthood is associated with higher empathy scores later in life (Daly & Morton, 2009).

Many children consider pets to be their friends, playmates and confidants (Melson, 2001).

Positive role models and interactions with companion animals → compassion for animals;

witnessing cruelty to animals → powerful indicator for future conduct disorders (Ascione, 2005; Flynn, 2000).

From Empathy to Action



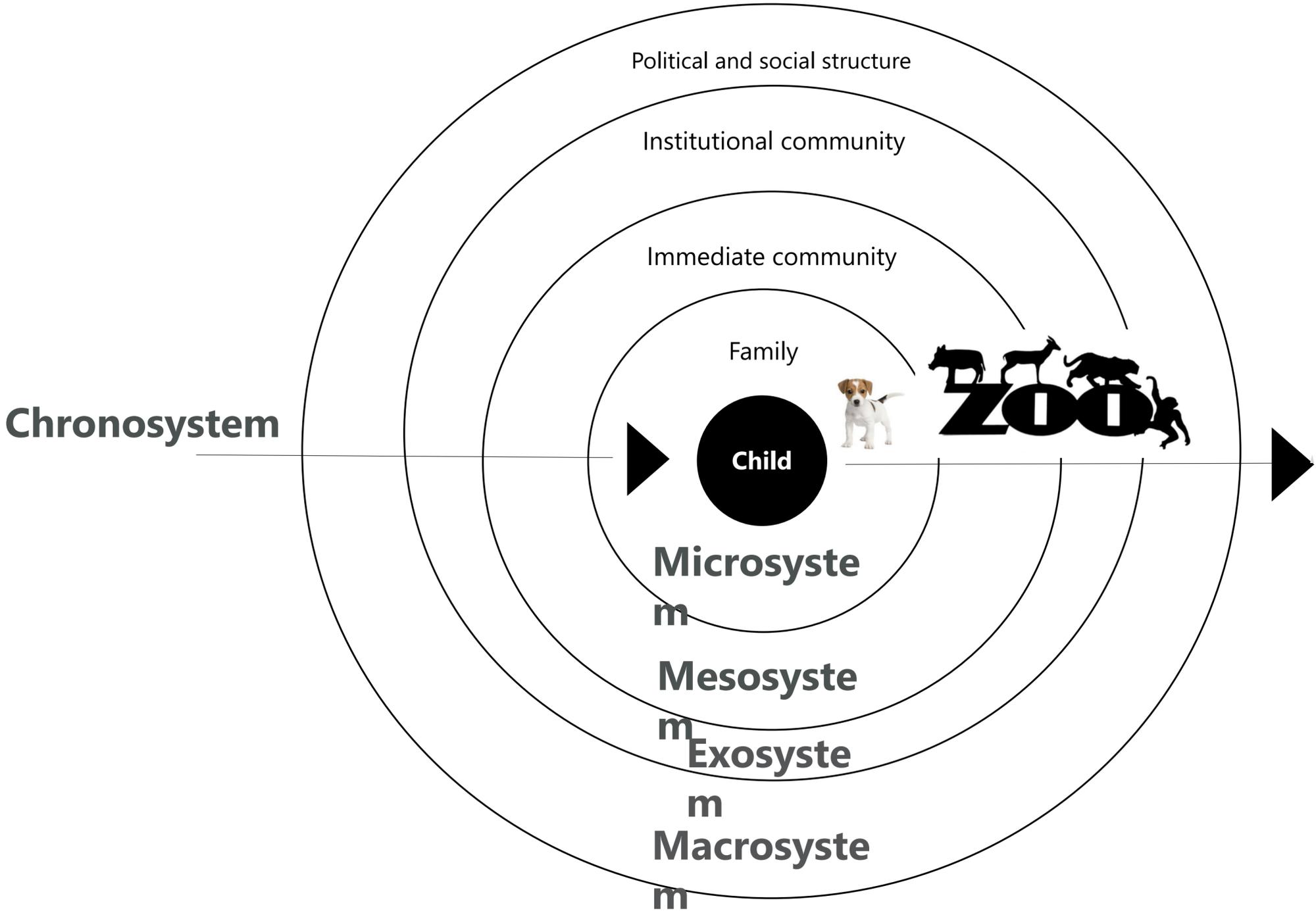
“Empathy as a cognitive-socioemotional-moral development process”

(Myers, Sounders & Brexell, 2009)

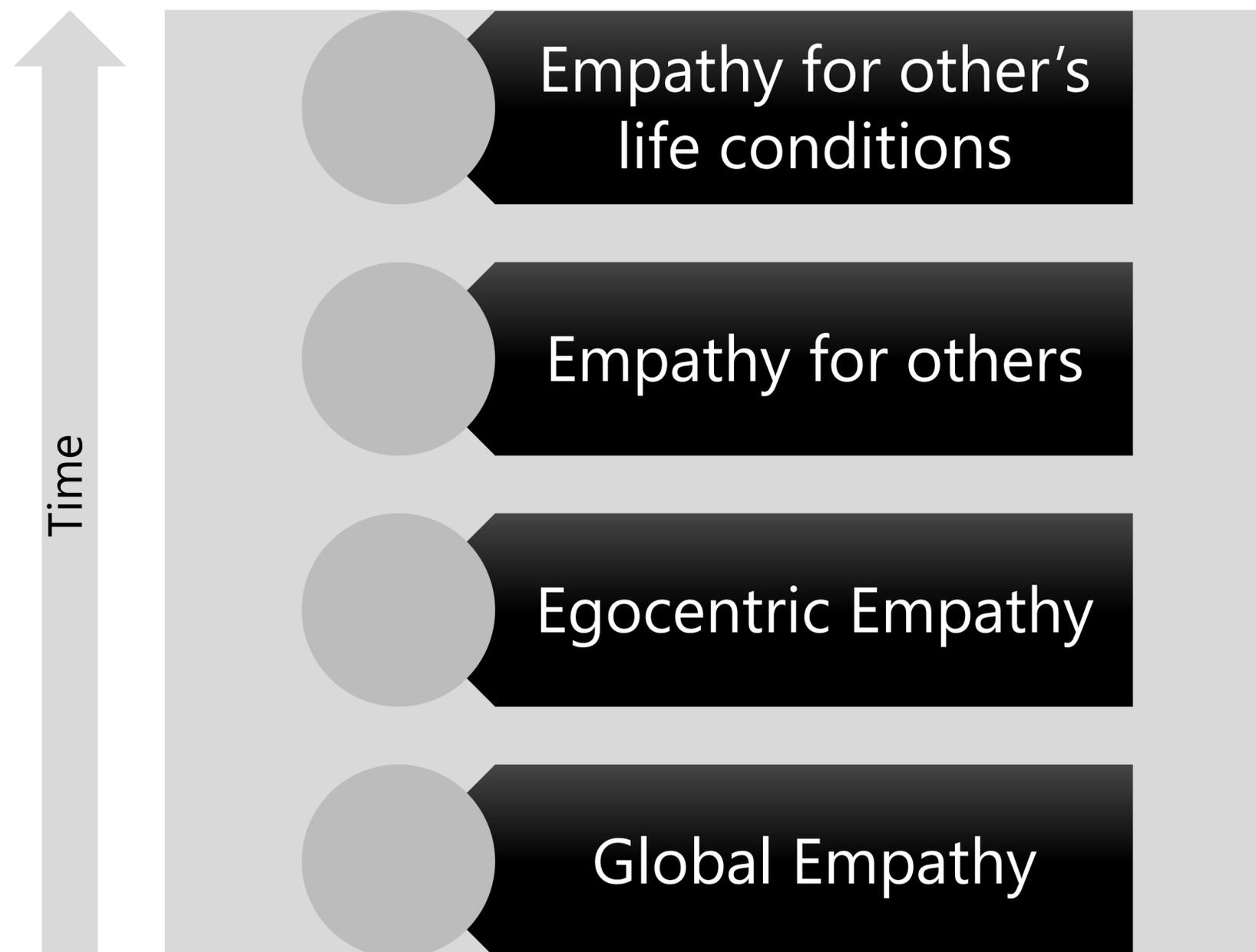
Ecological Systems Theory



Ecological Systems Theory



(Bronfenbrenner, 1979)

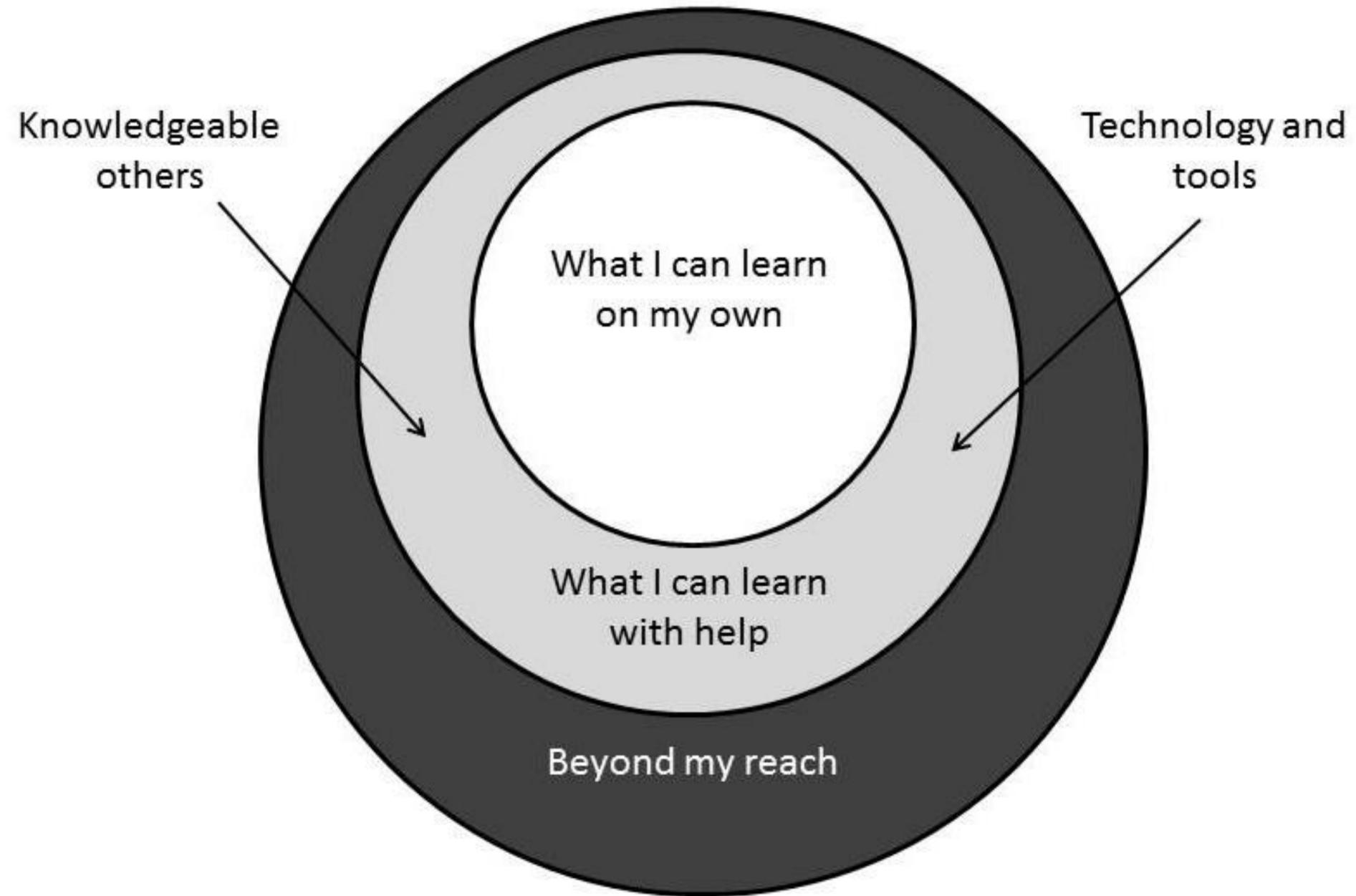


(Hoffman, 1982)

Moral Development

The child begins by experiencing all emotion as shared within the global and egocentric stages, progresses to a phase of recognizing and mirroring similarities between the self and other, and ultimately obtains the ability to draw much further connections across individuals, groups, physical distance, and time.

ZPD and scaffolding



(Vygotsky, 1978)

Best Practices in Empathy Focused Educational Programming

- **Framing** (language, behavior)
- **Modeling**
- **Increasing knowledge** (self, other, Like Me)
- **Providing Experiences** (direct interaction, connection)
- **Practice** (child must attempt to understand what the animal is experiencing to know what the animal needs to be happy, positive reinforcement)
- **Activating Imagination** (perspective taking dialogue, mimicry, role-play, storytelling)

Adoption Kennel Card

Tel.: 425-787-2500 x 801 | Fax: 425-742-5711



Dozer

Animal ID: A22147500 Stage: Available Review Date: Location: Dog Kennels/Dog Kennels

Description:

Dozer
Dog
Male
Akita/ Mix, Tan/ Black/ Tricolor, 75.00 pound
8 y 1 m 15 d , DOB: 2/28/2006, Currently Altered: Yes
Declawed: None
Collars: / , Bitten: Unknown, Distinguishing Marks: None

Intake Info:

Intake Date/Time	Intake Type	Intake Sub Type	Intake Reason
04/01/2014 04:38PM	Return	Returned Adoption	Behavior- E

Microchip Info:

Microchip #	Microchip Type	Implant Date
0A10287C2D	24PetWatch	2/28/2014

Pet ID Info:

Pet ID Number	ID Type	Issue Date	Expire Date	Issuer	Issuer Phone Number
011011		4/2014	3/4/2015	PAWS Spay & Neuter Clinic	425-787-2500



Adopt and Protect this pet with the 24PetWatch Gift of Pet Insurance. Visit us at www.24PetWatch.com or call 1.877.291.1524.
Make sure they can always find their way home with 24PetWatch lost pet recovery services. For more information visit www.24PetWatch.com or call 1.866.597.2424.



BEHAVIOR PROGRESS REPORT

Page: _____ of _____

Animal Name: _____ PAWS ID# _____ Location: _____

Date	Progress Notes	Initials
3/1/14	Walks very nicely! Good Boy!	
3/2	Good leash skills. Listens well.	ST
3/4	AM Ditto. Sweet guy	AI
3/6	lots of energy - a real nice dog	ang
3/11	Ditto! Sweet boy	km
3/11	Great on leash. eager to please. Likes attention. Awesome Companion.	ST
3/20	likes to walk, not interested in fetch	ad
4/2	wonderful dog. loves to get outside! walk! a great jogging partner too. Very sweet and a good pup.	SF
4/3	AM Ditto	AI

Adoption Info:

Check out Mr. Smarty Pants!! Dozer is a super handsome boy who knows many commands and loves to show off his tricks. He has wonderful leash manners and gets on well with other animals. Dozer is the perfect combination of get up and go and get up and snooze on the couch. He is happy to take a walk with you or just spend a lazy afternoon snoozing. Dozer is best suited in a home with a family that has a rotating schedule and another dog buddy to keep him company. Come on in to meet your new best bud today!



Featured Pets Of The Week

████████ Elementary Pet of the Week

This pet profile was written by the incredible students of Jennie Warmouth's class at ██████████ Elementary.



There's only one thing **sweeter** than a SWEET-HEART and that's this little **CINNAMON** cat! She is the most beautiful brown-orange and gray little kitty who just wants to curl up in your lap like a **cinnamon roll**! All she wants are gentle pets along her smooth furry coat. You can count on her to **purr** and **purr** all day in your cozy lap. Cinnamon is only three years old! Her green eyes **sparkle** like the purest sugar! You are going to fall in love with her little white booties. She's playful, well mannered and ready to give YOU all of her loving heart.

'They believe they can make a difference'

Young students seek to help homeless animals get adopted.

BY J.J. JENSEN
Times

Glenna, a 6-year-old, sleepy-eyed Dalmatian, lives in a kennel at PAWS.

Officials for [redacted] would love to see her go to a good home, but they know she has some flaws. Glenna, who was given up by her former owner a few weeks ago, is distrustful and shy, and probably wouldn't do well in a home with young children.

However, a group of first- and third-graders at [redacted] School in [redacted] is determined to see her get adopted. Since October, the students have had a partnership with the [redacted] shelter in which they learn about the animals up for adoption and then write essays about some of them for PAWS' Web site.

"They believe they can make a difference, and that's the type of attitude you want in children," said [redacted] third-grade teacher involved in the project.

All of the 20 dogs and cats they have written profiles about this school year have been adopted.

"It's definitely gotten people more excited about coming in," said [redacted]. It was [redacted], who oversees the first-year project, a part of PAWS' [redacted] little [redacted] campaign.

It was [redacted] first-grade teacher Jennie Warmouth who came up with the essay idea.

In the past, she said, her class held fund-raisers for PAWS, but a new [redacted] School District policy prohibits such activities. She still wanted her students to be involved with animals, so she con-

tacted [redacted] about ways to help. During a class trip to PAWS, Warmouth suggested that her students write stories about the animals.

Thomas liked the idea because it was a way to get kids involved in helping animals. Warmouth, meanwhile, saw educational opportunities, such as practicing descriptive writing, sentence structure and using technology.

The instructors believe the exercise teaches compassion and respect for animals. Students also learn that some of the most frail and troubled animals may be euthanized if not adopted.

Technology is a big component of the project. Once a week, [redacted] e-mails Warmouth's class a photo of an animal up for adoption. PAWS volunteers then e-mail the students daily, telling them about the animals' characteristics.

Glenna, for example, "is a very sweet, good-natured and mild dog who likes to give you her right paw and likes her nose petted."

The students use this information as they write their profiles.

Once a week, [redacted] third-graders come into Warmouth's class and help the younger kids with ideas on how to best organize and illustrate the information. The students then write a profile and e-mail it back to PAWS, where it is posted online at [redacted].

"It's so empowering to see how creative teachers can be when given a little technology," said [redacted], noting the need for improved technology around the school district.

Third-grader [redacted], said students feel good knowing they



THOMAS JAMES HURST / THE SEATTLE TIMES

6, is one of 20 students in Jennie Warmouth's first-grade class working on profiles of animals up for adoption

have helped make a difference.

"A lot of people want animals, but they don't know enough about them," he said. "We want to get them more information."

As for Glenna, the students decided people going to the PAWS Web site would want to know she's "a loving dog with uniquely colored eyes: one is brown and one is blue! . . . Glenna needs a little bit of TLC to recover from the loss of her prior owner."

J.J. Jensen: 425-745-7809 or
jjensen@seattletimes.com



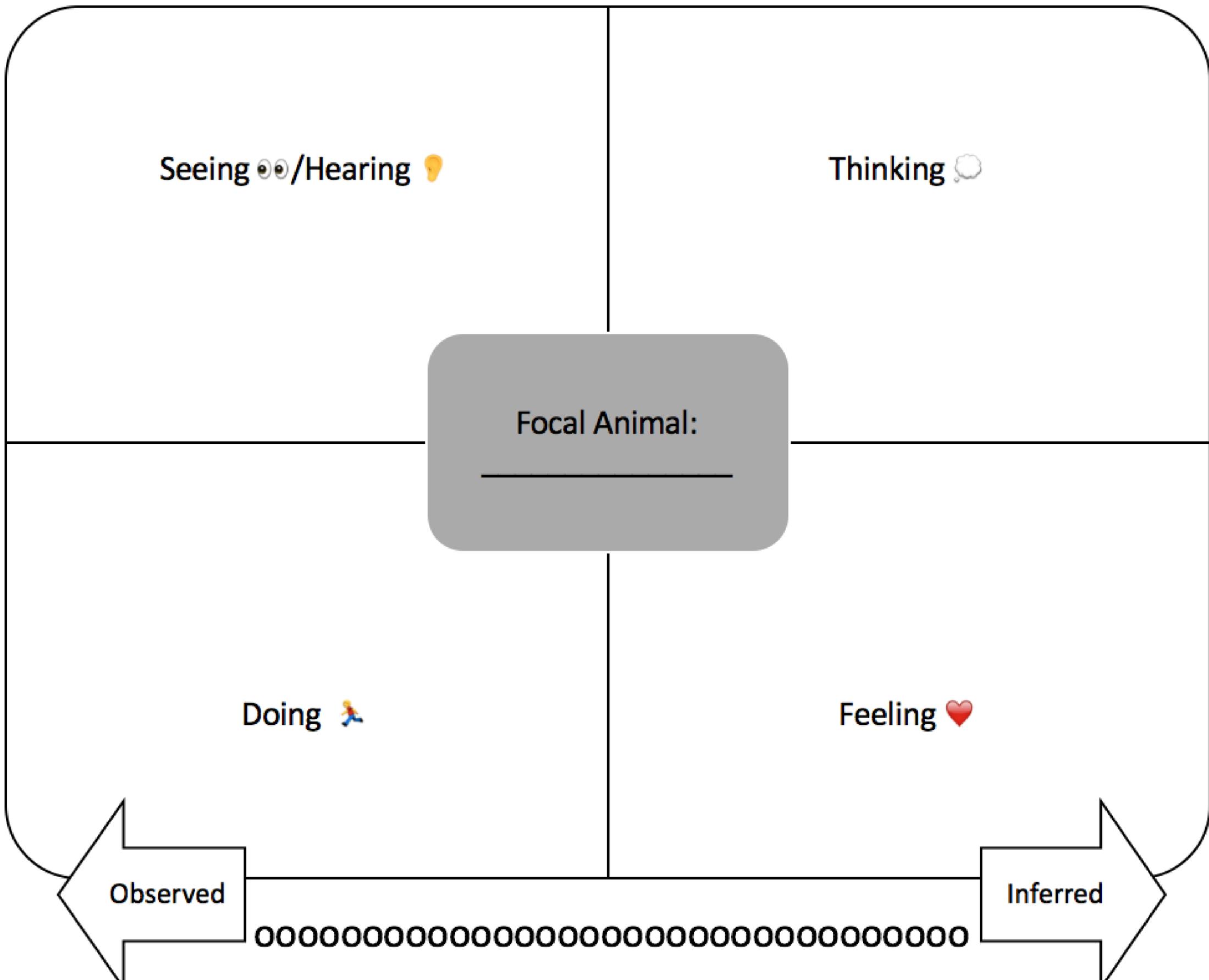
Glenna, a 6-year-old Dalmatian waiting to be adopted from PAWS, was the subject of a student profile posted on the shelter's Web site.



Perspective Taking

- Perceptual
- Cognitive
- Affective





“Like Me” Processing

JW: Dozer is large.
He weighs seventy-five pounds.

Isaac: I weigh like sixty-four pounds.



(Warmouth, 2017)

JW: When Dozer is sitting inside of his kennel at PAWS, I want you to *imagine* what he actually sees. Pretend you are him inside of that kennel. What does he see and think and feel?

Austin: He sees all these other dogs in kennels. He feels sad.

Samina: He sees some people adopting other dogs.

Austin: It makes you very sad.

Jenna: I think he feels hurt....He feels hurt like sad that they dropped him off.

JW: Abandoned?

Jenna: Yeah, abandoned him.

Destiny: What's abandoned?

JW: Abandoned is when you've been left.

Destiny: **Alone. I've been abandoned, too....I felt the same.**

Brandon: I think he feels scared on the outside but he might feel excited on the inside for someone to come.

JW: Brandon is sharing that it's possible to feel two things at once. Dozer might be acting scared on the outside while feeling hope on the inside. Austin, have you ever felt that way with your new foster family?

Austin: Yeah. Before when I was first moving, I was thinking inside of my head, "What if they just want to hurt me or beat me up?"

Austin: **I was like Dozer.**

Andy Meltzoff established the “**Like Me**” theory of infant development to describe how babies recognize cross-modal equivalences between acts they see others perform and their own felt bodily movements.

This recognition of self–other equivalences in action gives rise to interpreting others as having similar psychological states such as perceptions and emotions. The ‘like me’ nature of others is the starting point for social cognition (Meltzoff, 2007).

“Like Me” Theory





Dozer says, “Hi. My name is Dozer! Sometimes I am full of energy...other times I’m a couch potato! I would like a new home. I am brave. I will stand up for you because I love you with my heart. I want a good home. Please do not return me. I am looking for a forever family to repair my life and renew my spirit. I want to rewrite my story with you! I will repay you with love and kisses!”

Positive Reinforcement



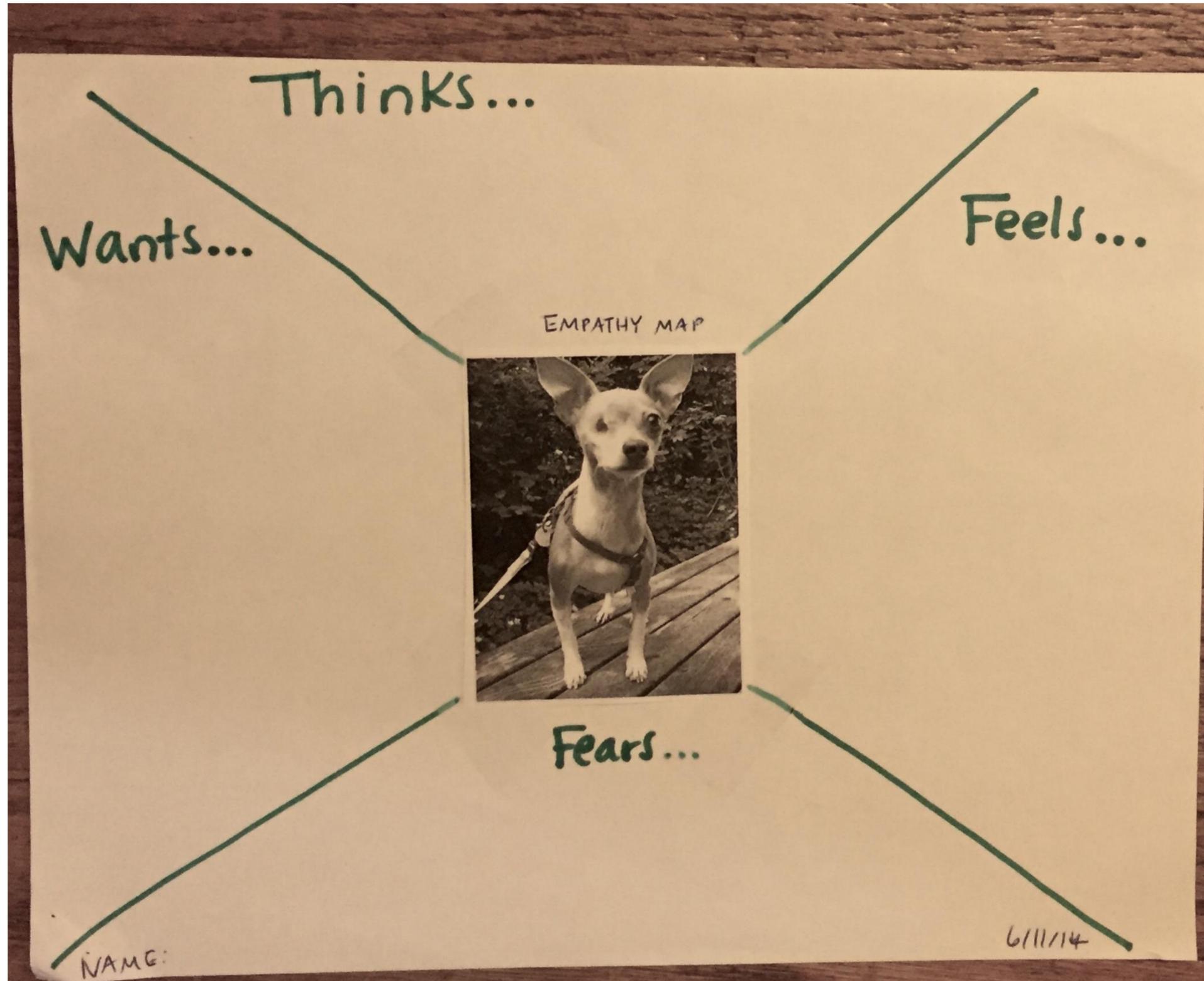
(Wamouth, 2017)

Further distance
between child's
innate response
and focal animal's
traits



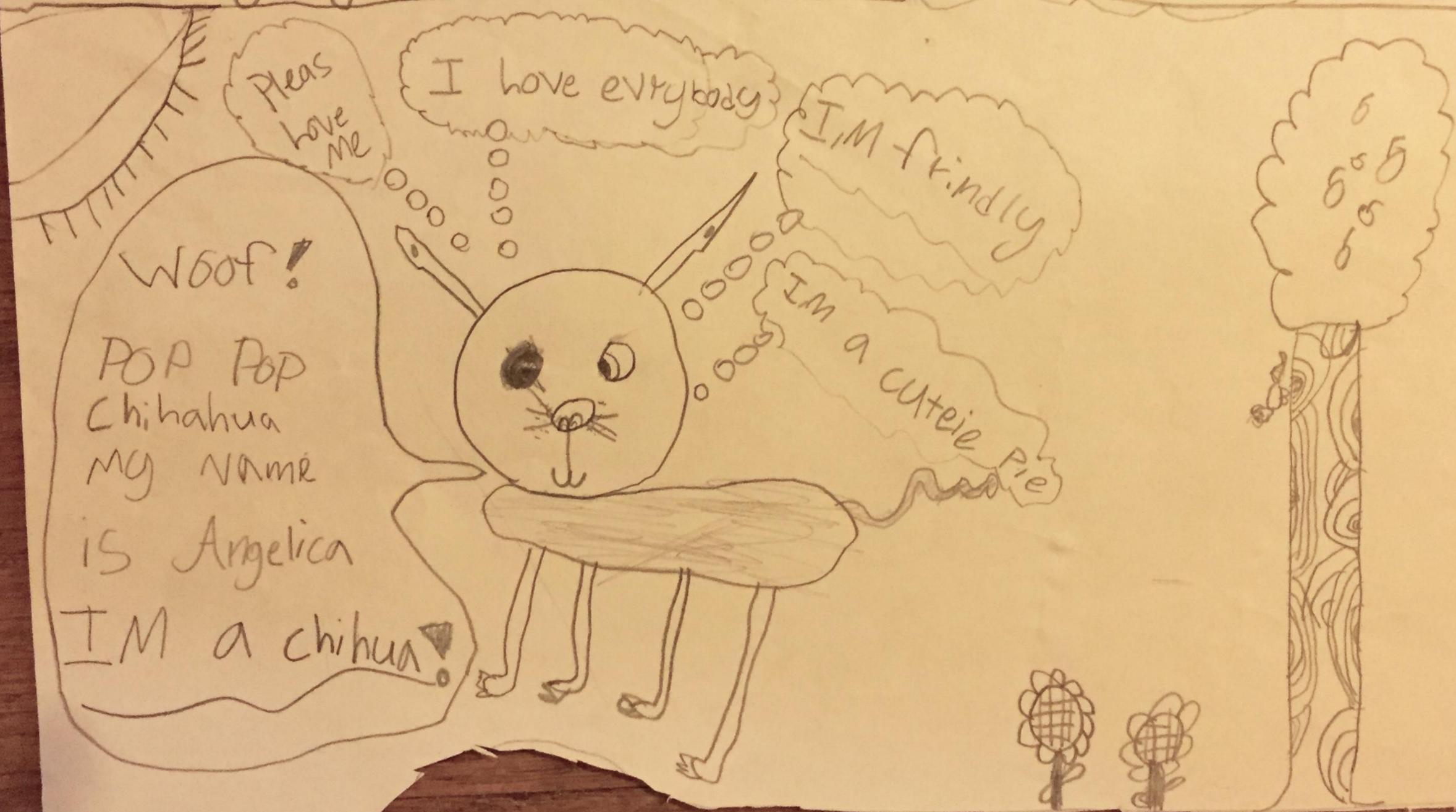
(Wamouth, 2017)

Inferred Cognitive and Affective Perspective Taking



Angelica

comic strip



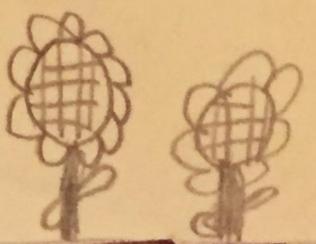
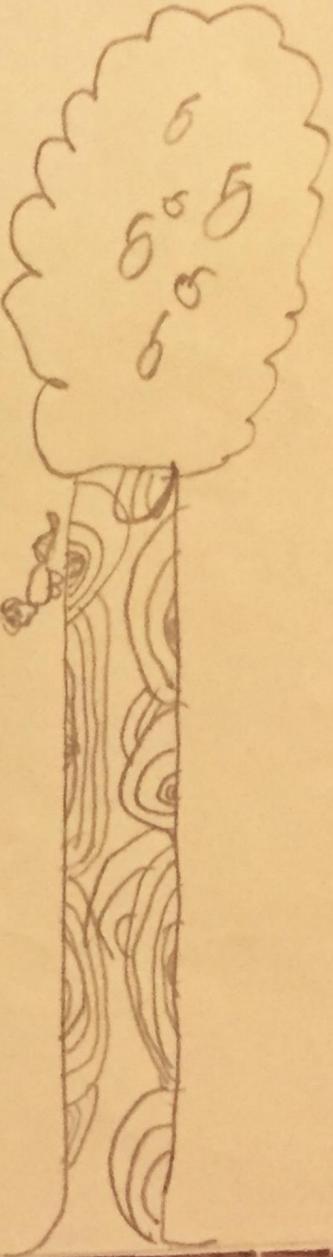
Woof!
 POP POP
 Chihuahua
 My name
 is Angelica
 I'm a chihuahua!

Pleas
 love
 me

I love everybody

I'm friendly

I'm a cuteie Pie



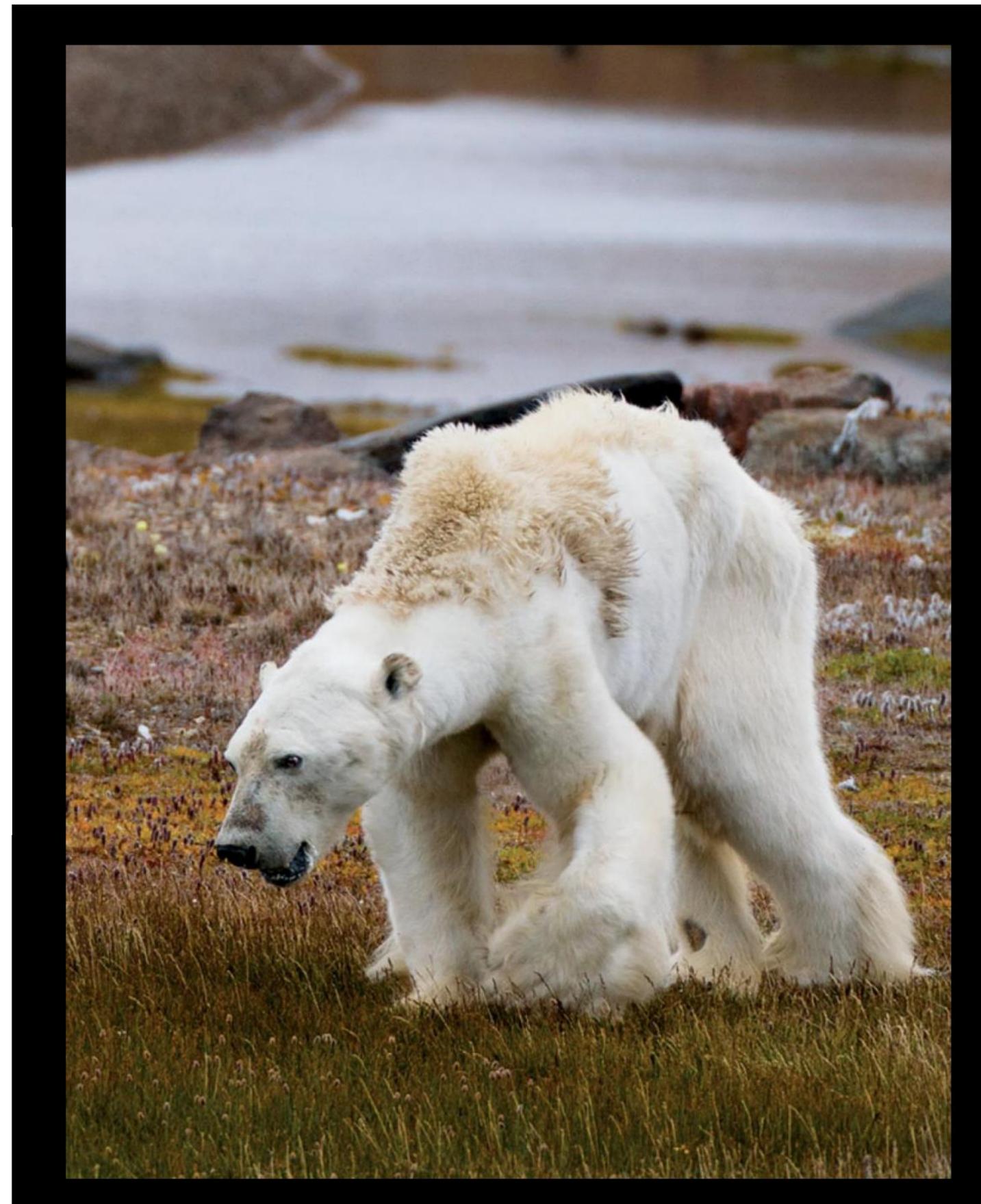


Photo by Christina Mittermeier, Nat Geo

Compassionate Action:

Writing on behalf of animal to directly impact her status

Name: ANGELICA

Species: Dog

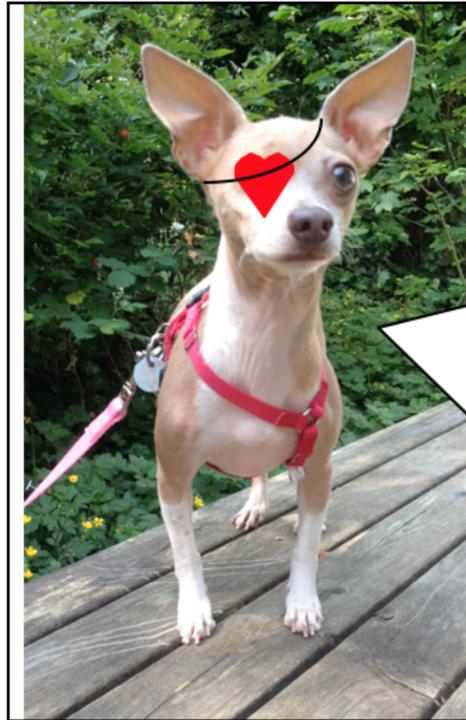
Breed: Chihuahua Mix

Age: 7 years + 4 months

Size: 7 pounds

FEMALE

ID # A21923668



Roses are
red,
Pirates sail
the deep
blue...
Angelica is
sweet and
says,
"I LOVE
YOU!"

AYE, AYE, MATEYS! Do YOU have the skills and patience to steer through a wee bit of stormy weather? Hurry up and arr(ghhh)rive at PAWS and find your treasure! "It's ME, Angelica! Your **perfect puppy pirate partner!!!!**" The only thing this little pirate is going to steal is your HEART!

You probably noticed that Angelica looks a little different because she lost an eye. **You need to take a second look at her.** This time look at her with your heart! Angelica is the GRAND PRIZE! She is really quiet and gentle. Angelica has a message for you, "My one and only eye shines as bright as the one and only moon!"

Angelica needs a very willing and understanding person. She needs a person willing to consistently potty train her and to help take care of her medical needs. She has a broken tooth...maybe you can replace it with a gold one!

Angelica says, "I'm the best! You can put me to the test!" Angelica has had one eye taken out and she may have lost a patch or two of fur, but she's still as cute as a puppy! Angelica is sweet and nice. Angelica says, "ACCEPTANCE IS SEEING WITH YOUR HEART...NOT YOUR EYES."

- **Pro-Social and Pro-Welfare Behavior Documented Post Program:**
- **Child participants return as “volunteer mentors” to incoming classes of writers**
- **Child participants and their families walk to the public library to use the Internet to check on the pets’ status and to research responsible pet care (knowledge seeking)**
- **Child participants (and their parents) take stray and unwanted animals to the shelter for rehoming and teach others in their network to do the same**
- **Child participants forsake birthday gifts in lieu of collecting pet supplies to donate**
- **Child participants manage schoolwide supply drives for the animal shelter**
- **Child participants have noticed injured wild animals in the community and have had the knowledge and confidence to take responsible action (seeking adult assistance)**



Empathic Concern ---> Compassionate Action

- **Implement the best practices in empathy-focused education that is meaningful to the audience and meets them “where they are”**
- **Make clear actionable steps that children and families CAN take to make a difference**
- **Provide positive reinforcement (important to partner with caregivers/family)**

Take Away Questions:

If people mirror similarities between the self and other, and ultimately obtain the ability to draw much further connections across individuals, groups, physical distance, and time...how will you connect with your audience's incoming perceptions in order to widen their circles of empathy?

How might perspective taking exercises enhance your program's wildlife conservation objectives?





Questions?

JennieMW@gmail.com

Name: Brooklyn
 Species: dog
 Breed: Terrier, American
 Pitbull mix
 Age: 1 year 11 months 21 days
 Size: medium
 MALE FEMALE
 ID # 17791683



Helow im Brooklyn
 and I Love to
 play with toys, and I Love
 tug. And I'm gentle
 with my mouth, and
 I won't bite you.
 And im kind to
 other dogs, and im
 polite to them and im too

much energy for the new baby in
 the home so come, and

PRIMARY ATTITUDE SCALE (PAS) (Grades K, 1, 2)

This group-administered test is designed to assess children's attitudes toward the humane treatment of animals. The test contains 23 questions asking for responses to items relating to the care and treatment of pets, farm animals, and wild animals. To avoid "response set" (a consistent tendency to follow a pattern in responding to test questions), on some items the YES choice was framed to be more humane, and on others the NO was framed to be more humane.

2. DO YOU THINK IT'S FUN TO BREAK UP A SPIDER'S WEB?



YES

NO

3. WOULD YOU BE SAD IF YOU SAW A HORSE FALL DOWN?



YES

NO

4. IS IT GOOD TO HAVE RULES, LIKE DO'S AND DON'TS, FOR TAKING CARE OF A CLASSROOM PET?



YES

NO

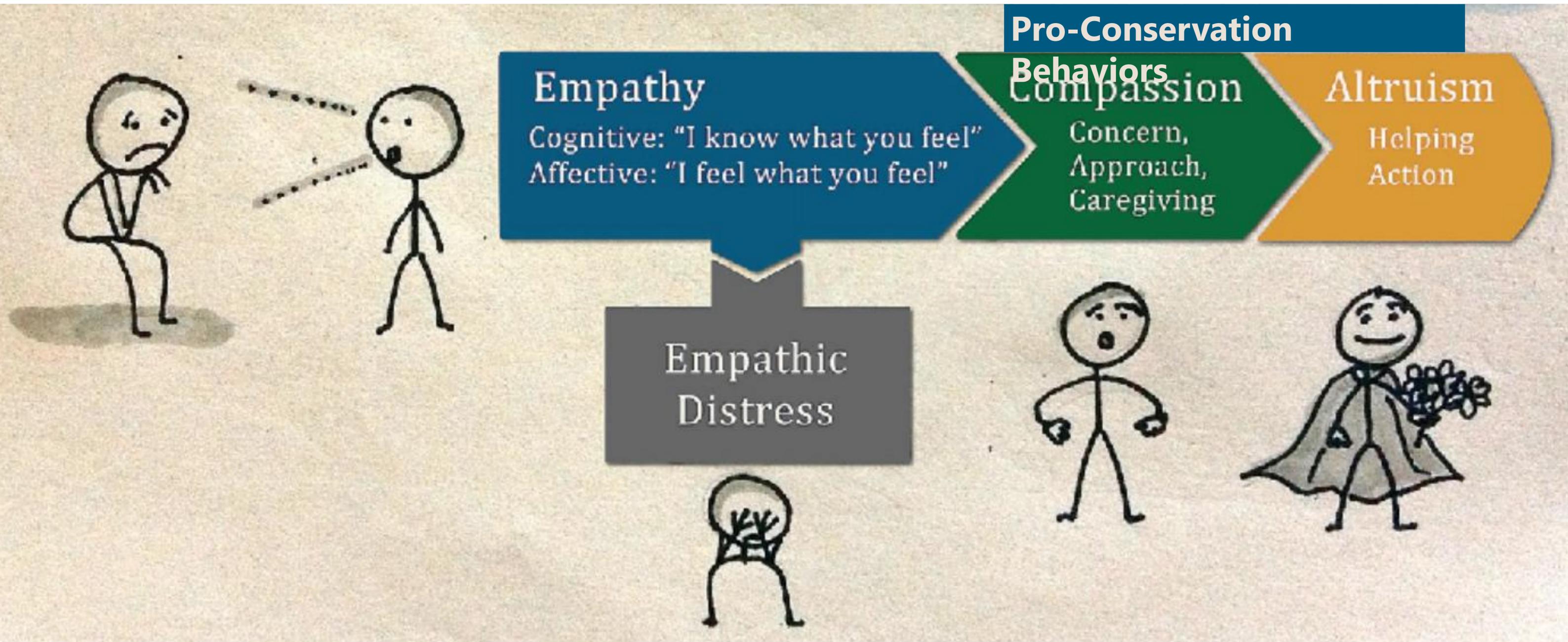
Bryant's Empathy Index for Children

Tick *Yes* or *No* if you agree with the sentence.

UNDERSTANDING FEELINGS (F1)

- 9 Girls who cry because they are happy are silly. Yes No
- 3 Boys who cry because they are happy are silly. Yes No
- 20 I think it is funny that some people cry during a sad movie or while reading a sad book . Yes No
- 2 People who kiss and hug in public are silly. Yes No
- 21 I am able to eat all my cookies even when I see someone looking at me wanting one. Yes No
- 16 It's silly to treat dogs and cats as though they have feelings like people. Yes No
- 18 Kids who have no friends probably don't want any. Yes No
- 10 It's hard for me to see why someone else gets upset. Yes No
- 17 I get mad when I see a classmate pretending to need help from the teacher all the time. Yes No

From Empathy to Action



(Peters, D., & Calvo, R.A., 2014)