

The Story of the Samson and The Dream Giver.

by Peter Dunnet

Everybody has a dream for their life. You may not have discovered it yet, but it is there in the corner of your heart waiting to be discovered. It was placed there before you were born by..... The Dream Giver'.

Part 1. Samson the Sea Lion Pup

Samson was a typical male sea lion pup. He was dark brown with a creamy front (when it was not dirty of course.) He had bright brown eyes and almost black flippers. He was the apple of his dad's eye and his mum Essie doted over him and took very good care of him of course. With plenty of feeding he became a chubby little chap. However, he could certainly bark (squawk) very loudly when upset or hungri. One of the most enjoyable times of the day was bath time. Samson enjoyed his bath very much...and usually needed it after a full days play. One day Essie had to go to the kitchen and leave him playing in the bath. When she got back Samson was missing. Where could the little pup be? It was then she noticed that from the soap suds...bubbles were coming to the surface. Reaching down she pulled him up. He had somehow already learned how to hold his breath under water and blow bubbles. He was giggling thinking this was very funny. Mummy however was not impressed! Feeding from mummy was ok but when it came to transitioning to sardines there were some difficulties. Often it looked like he had swallowed them...but then would split them out. However, with a bit of perseverance Samson finally came to enjoy them for his breakfast.

Gradually life became a more settled routine of feeding, sleep, feeding, sleep and finding enough time to catch sardines for his hungry little tummy. He grew quite quickly and was soon not a pup anymore.

Samson Growing Up

It was here now that Ordie, his dad, took a more active role with Samson than Essie. Samson proved a quick learner at swimming but getting around the house was a bit different. It took a few months for him to get up on his flippers and negotiate his way around. His favourite house toy was 'Vac' as he called it. This was a circular battery operated vacuum cleaner. All other things had to be put out of reach of course as the 'little monkey' was into pressing everything and bugging it up. He was a natural swimmer, of course, just like his older cousin 'Mermaid'. It was in fact Mermaid who taught him backstroke, something Ordie his dad had never been good at. Beach and playtime were Samson's favourites when he was allowed to play with all the other pups. He was very good at Beach Nose Ball. This was a game for two teams where after two flipper bounces you carried the beach ball on your nose to the try line...if you were not 'flippered' (tackled) of course. It was very competitive and at times there were a few bloody noses.

After swimming became a formality for Samson it was time to teach him to fish for himself. Ordie first taught him to surf and use his tricept and pec muscles to drive himself fast enough to get on the wave. This was necessary as some fish were very fast and you could miss the catch. It was a bit hit and miss for a while but gradually Samson was catching his own fish. Ordie was very proud of him!

Next came teaching Samson how to defend himself in case of attack by predators, as pups were very prone to attack and a lot did not survive to adulthood which was very sad of course. Ordie taught Samson how to twist, roll and dive to the left and right to avoid attack from the rear. If attacked from the front Ordie taught him how to dodge at the last second and then swim like mad to safety. It was all about being aware and not going surfing or fishing alone.