

Sally's Snake Service

By Donna Bishop

Now if you ever saw a bull snake stretched across your pathway you would probably quietly excuse yourself and go in search of another path. This particular snake is known to roam the grasslands in search of other critters that are in need of her help. She runs a business called Sally's Snake Service. Sally is a companion to old and young snakes alike. She delights in snake sitting for a mob of newborn snakes while mother snake slithers off for a few moments of peace and quiet in the sun before gathering the next meal for her hungry brood. Sally even pitches in to scrounge up a meal or two for the new families when parents are totally exhausted.

Most of Sally's services are provided for elderly snakes that have a hard time managing for themselves. She has a list of friends that are expecting her to come by with enough food to satisfy their needs. Sally is very good at finding choice meals for her friends but she must spend many hours forging for food. She and her friends cherish the time they share in conversing about other friends, their neighborhood and common concerns. Their shared love brings them much joy.

One sunny day while Sally was concentrating on stalking a rabbit she looked up just in time to see the infamous Hank the Hawk swooping down in her direction. She froze all motion and fortunately for her the bunny became the hawk's target. Sally was so upset over the near miss of her demise that she headed home. Days passed while Sally lay motionless in her burrow. She was paralyzed by fear and could only think about her own safety. During one of her brief moments of sleep she had a dream of her joyful times shared with her friends. Sally suddenly was awake and realized her fears had caused her to neglect her friends who would be very worried about her and also very hungry.

Cautiously approaching the opening of her home, searching the empty sky, she quickly slithered into the deep grass for cover. Her confidence and courage increased as she successfully found food. Soon she reached the homes of her friends with a fine feast. The loving welcome erased all the lingering fears. Sally had isolated herself with her fear of dying and had almost caused her death and that of the friends she loved. Sally moved her home closer to her friends so they could all watch out for each other and share good times together. Moral: Fear is a state of mind overcome by love.