Dogs at Work

A Reading A–Z Level J Leveled Book
Word Count: 352

Reading A-Z

Dogs at Work

MULTI LEVEL J•M•P

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Focus Question

How can dogs help people?

Words to Know

chemicals	detection
comfort	disabilities
criminals	medicine

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Correlation

LEVEL J	
Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
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Table of Contents

sled dogs

hunting dog

herding dogs

Introduction

You probably know that some dogs aren't just pets—they hold jobs! Dogs learn fast.

They also hear and smell better than we do.

This means dogs can do jobs that people can't.

Service and Therapy Dogs

Many dogs work with people to help them feel better.

These dogs are called *therapy dogs*.

Therapy dogs are trained to **comfort** people and keep them calm.

Petting a dog can make sick people feel better.

Other dogs help people with **disabilities**. These dogs are called *service dogs*. Some of these dogs help people who can't see or hear well. Other dogs pick up dropped items and pull wheelchairs.

A guide dog helps its owner get off a train in China.

Tennille the Guide Dog

A service dog named Tennille helped her owner hike. Tennille was the first service dog trained to do this. Her owner, Trevor Thomas, is blind. Tennille helped Thomas step over large rocks. Thomas hopes that he and Tennille can encourage other blind people to hike, too.

Some service dogs can smell when their owner is about to be sick. They warn their owner to take **medicine**.

Some people get sick because they don't have enough sugar in their blood. This dog carries sweet drinks for its owner in case she needs them.

Sinatra the service dog puts his paw on his owner's arm. This is Sinatra's way of telling his owner to take medicine.

A search-and-rescue dog helps police find a lost boy.
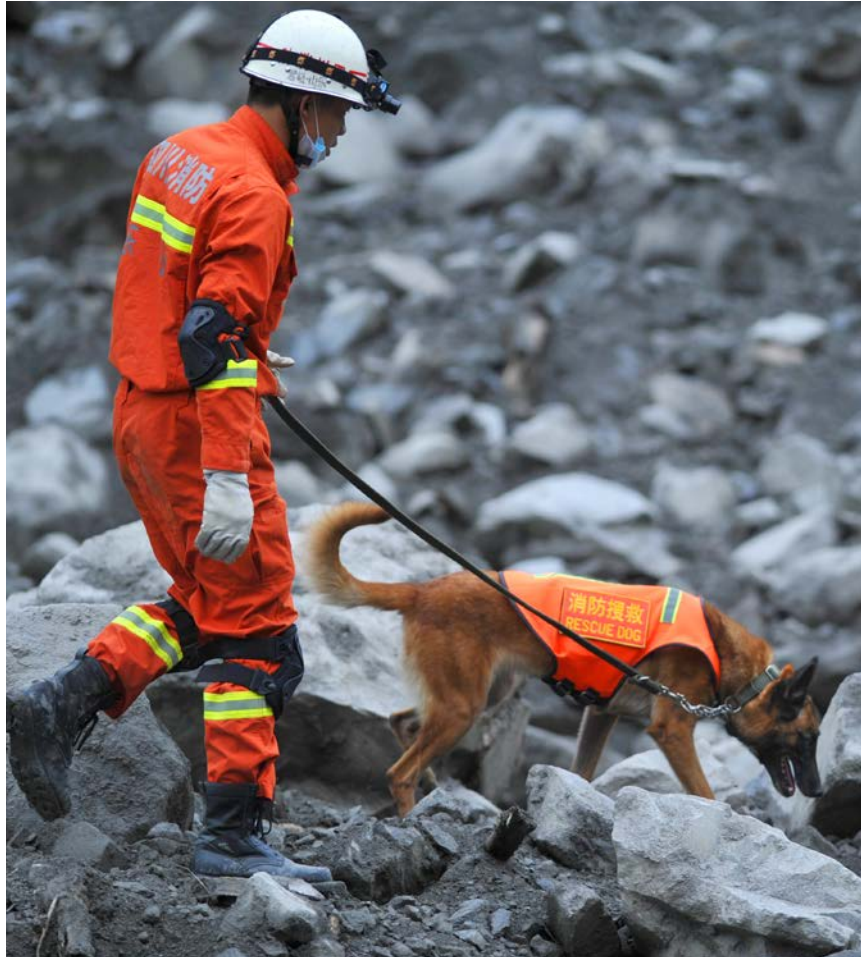
Search-and-Rescue Dogs

Some dogs look for people who are lost. They are called *search-and-rescue dogs*. Many search-and-rescue dogs use their nose to find people who need help. Some of these dogs sniff the ground to find people.

Other dogs sniff the air.

These dogs can find lost hikers.

They can also find people trapped
in buildings that have fallen down.

A firefighter uses a rescue dog to search for people under rocks in China.

A Newfoundland practices a water rescue in England.

Some search-and-rescue dogs
work in the water.

Water rescue dogs can pull people
to safety.

They need to be strong swimmers.

For this reason, big, strong dogs
like the Newfoundland make good
water rescue dogs.

A 68-kilogram (150 lb.) Newfoundland
can pull ten people to safety
at once!

Odd Jobs

Dogs are good learners, and they can do very odd jobs. For example, one dog worked at an airport in Michigan. He chased wild birds out of the path of planes. Another group of dogs had an odd job at a baseball park near the ocean in California. These dogs jumped into the ocean to get balls that were hit into the water. The program is now over, but for a time, baseball fans loved to collect these "Splash Hit" balls.

Piper the airport worker
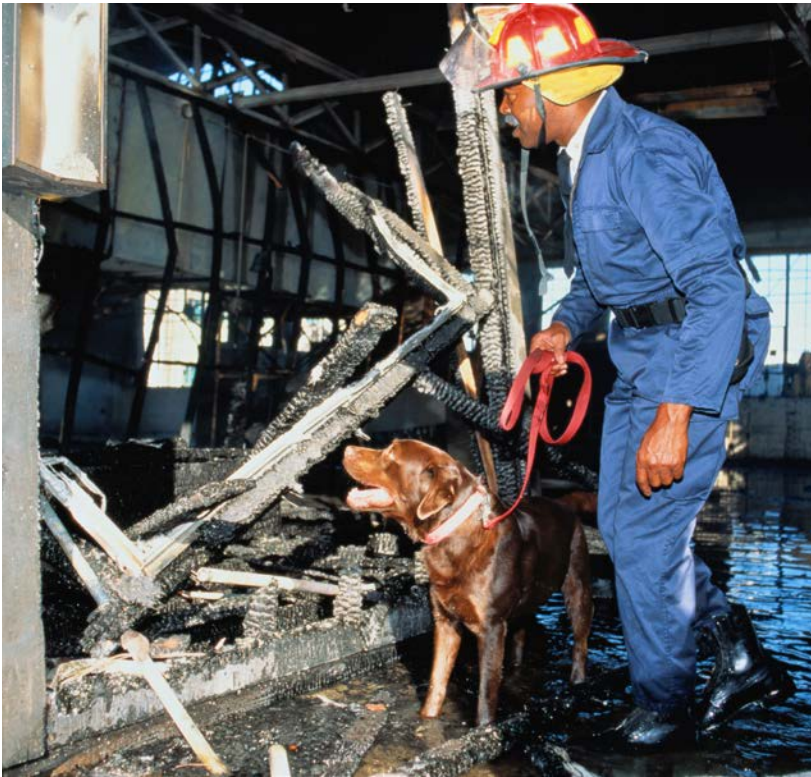
Detection Dogs

Some dogs use their nose to find things that are hidden.

They are called **detection** dogs.

Police use detection dogs to find **criminals**.

Police use a detection dog to search for a man who committed a crime.

A detection dog searches a burned building for chemicals.

Police also use these dogs after
a building burns down.
It may be hard to find out whether
someone set the fire on purpose.
The dogs sniff for **chemicals**
that might have been used
to start the fire.

Detection dogs don't just work
in the world of crime.
Some of these dogs search
for termites in houses and
other buildings.
Termites ruin buildings
by eating wood.
They are hard for humans to find,
but dogs can sniff them out.

Dogs sniff for termites at an important building in South Korea.

service dog

search-and-
rescue dog

police dog

Conclusion

From finding termites to pulling
wheelchairs, dogs help us
in many ways.
Dogs are strong, smart,
and friendly, and they
have powerful senses.
They are some of the
best workers around.

Glossary

chemicals (n.) substances that have certain features and can mix with other substances to make new things (p. 13)

comfort (v.) to calm down (p. 5)

criminals (n.) people who break the law (p. 12)

detection (n.) the act of discovering the presence of something (p. 12)

disabilities (n.) physical or mental conditions that make it hard for a person to do something (p. 6)

medicine (n.) a drug or treatment that helps with an illness (p. 7)