

Dogs at Work

A Reading A-Z Level P Leveled Book
Word Count: 723

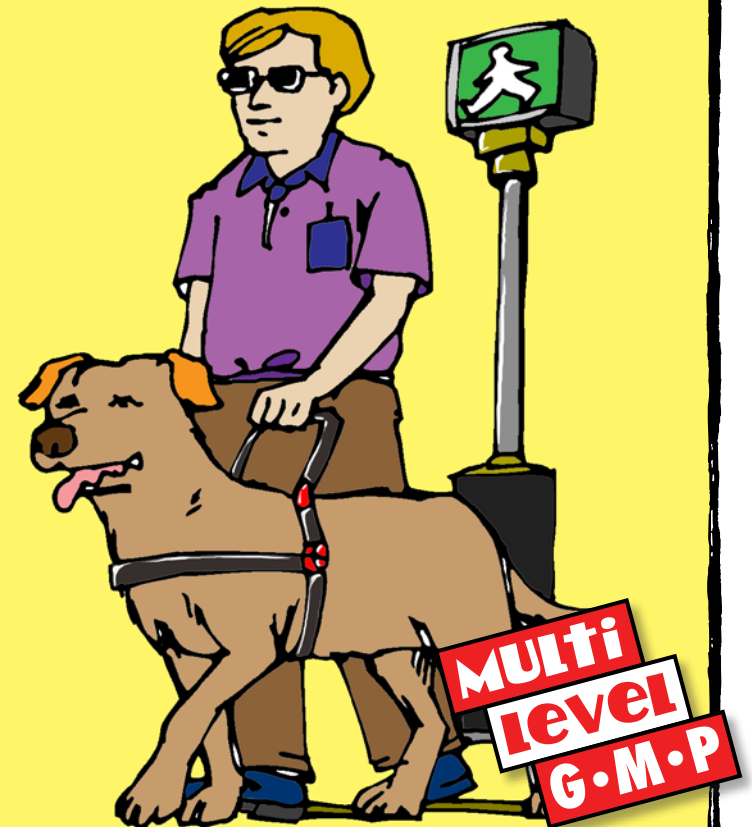


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Dogs at Work



Written by Kathie Lester
Illustrated by Joe Boddy

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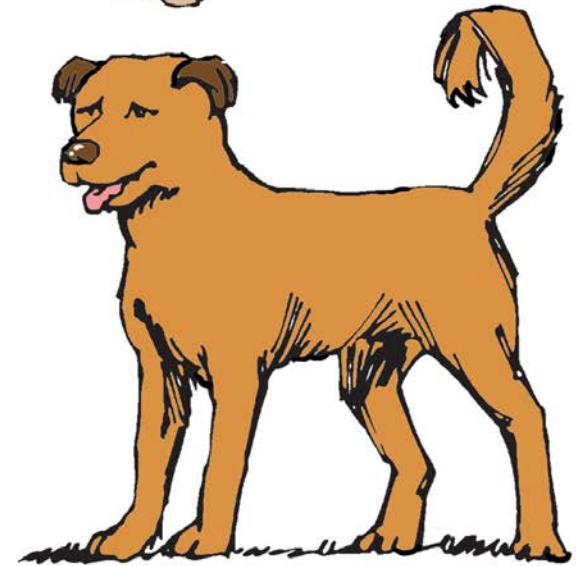
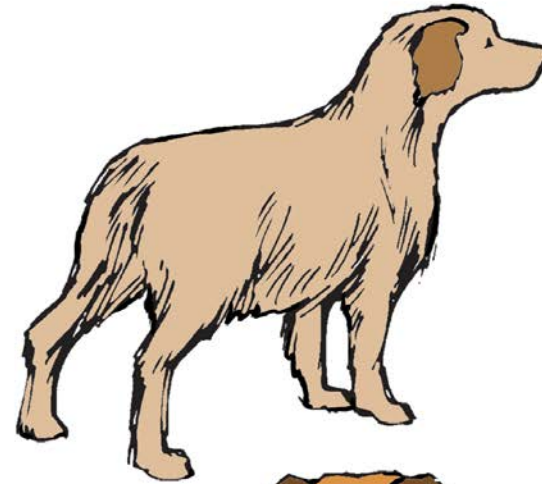
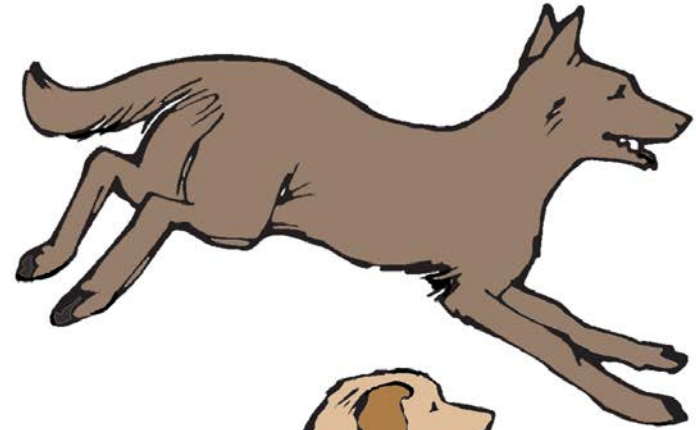
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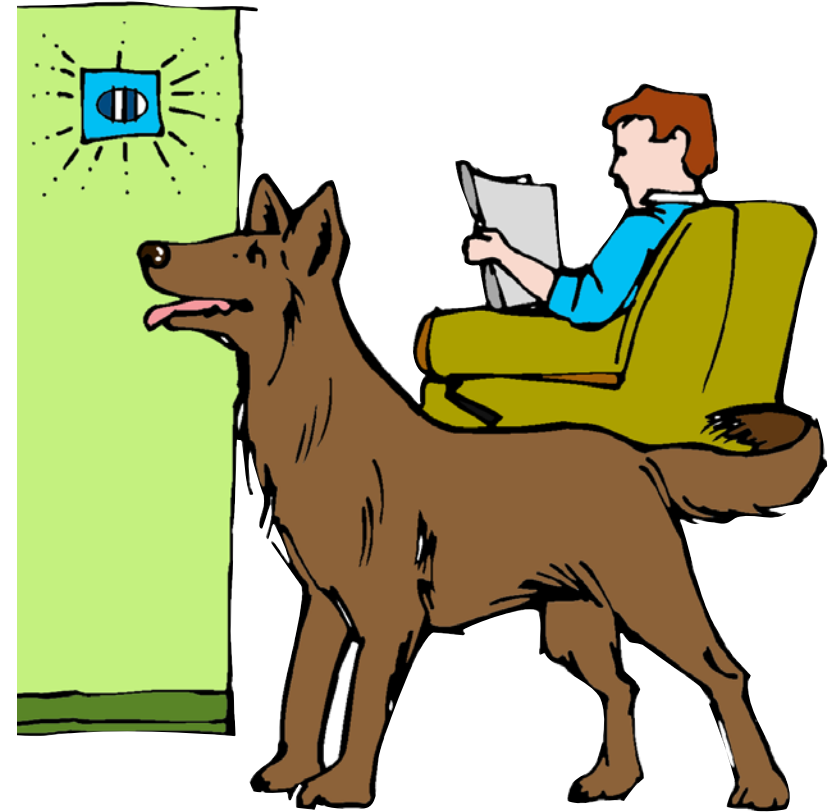
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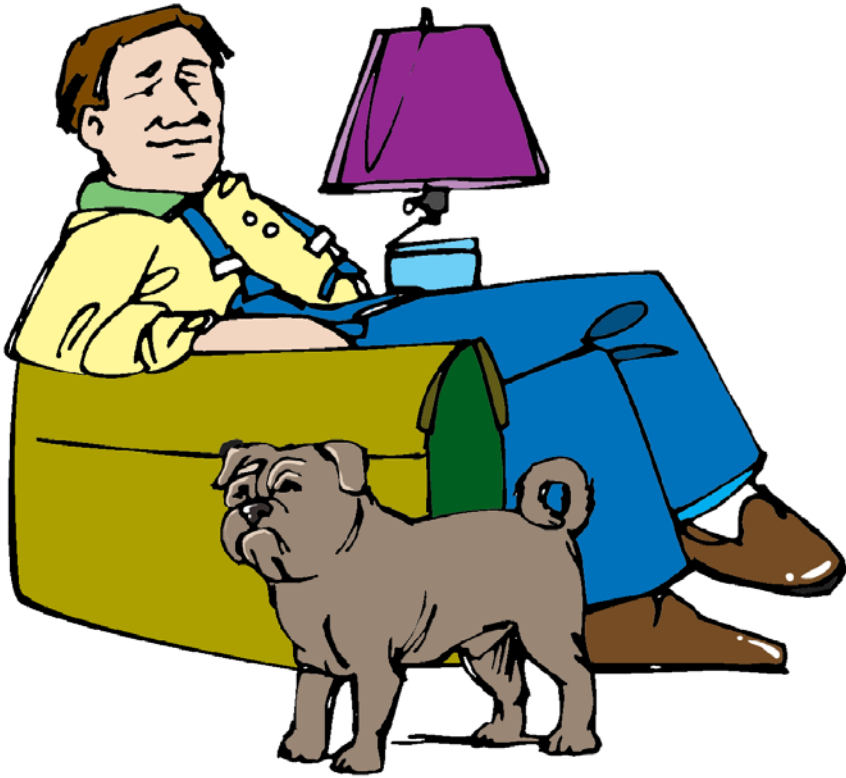
Introduction

Dogs are smart. They are fun pets and great friends. Dogs can hear and smell better than we can. They learn fast and like to be helpful. Some dogs are trained to help with very special work.



Hearing Dog

People who can't hear may miss important sounds. They won't hear an alarm clock, a doorbell, or someone calling their name. They wouldn't hear a robber break a window. A hearing dog is trained to alert them to sounds.



Therapy Dog

Therapy dogs help people to feel better. They are gentle and patient. They visit people in nursing homes, hospitals, and homeless shelters. They provide quiet company when someone is sad or ill, or feels lonely.



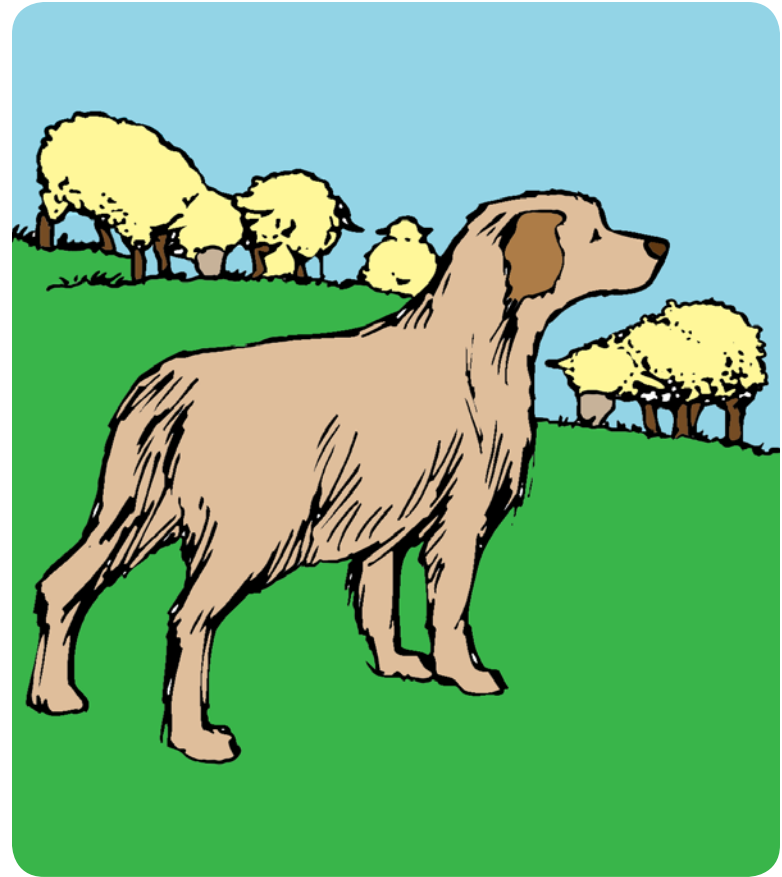
Guide Dog

A guide dog is trained to help someone who can't see. The dog always stays at the person's side. The guide dog helps a blind person cross a busy street safely. It can warn the person about curbs and steps.



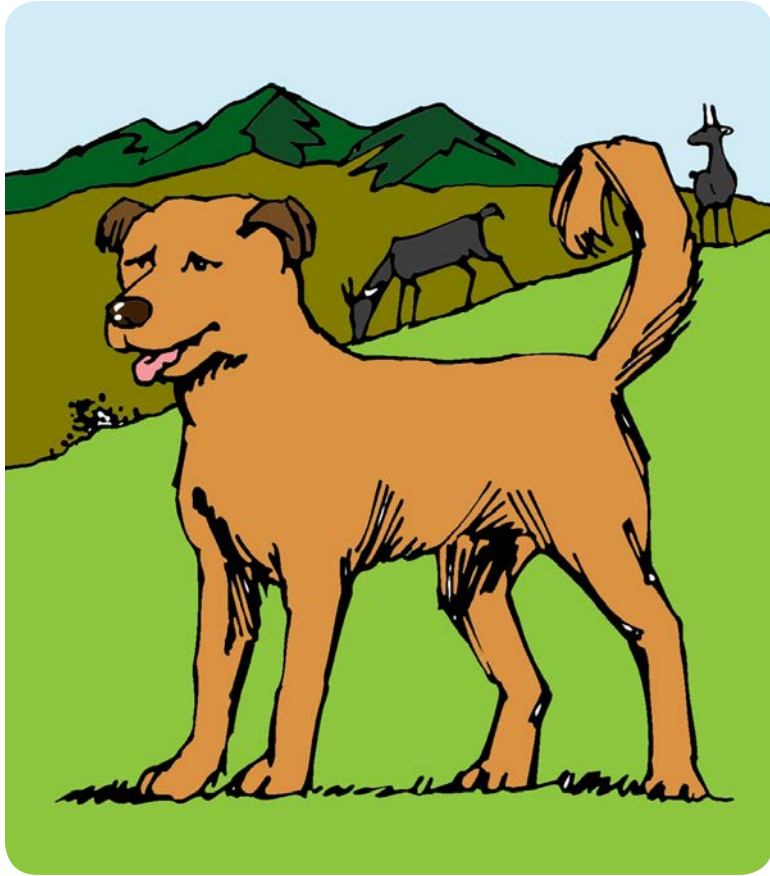
Assistance Dog

Some people have an illness or injury that makes it hard to move. What if you couldn't pick up something you dropped, or couldn't open a door by yourself? An assistance dog helps a person who has a physical disability.



Herding Dog

Sheep spend most of their lives in a large grassy pasture. They may wander to different areas. Sometimes the farmer needs them all in one place. The herding dog finds all the sheep and moves them to that spot.



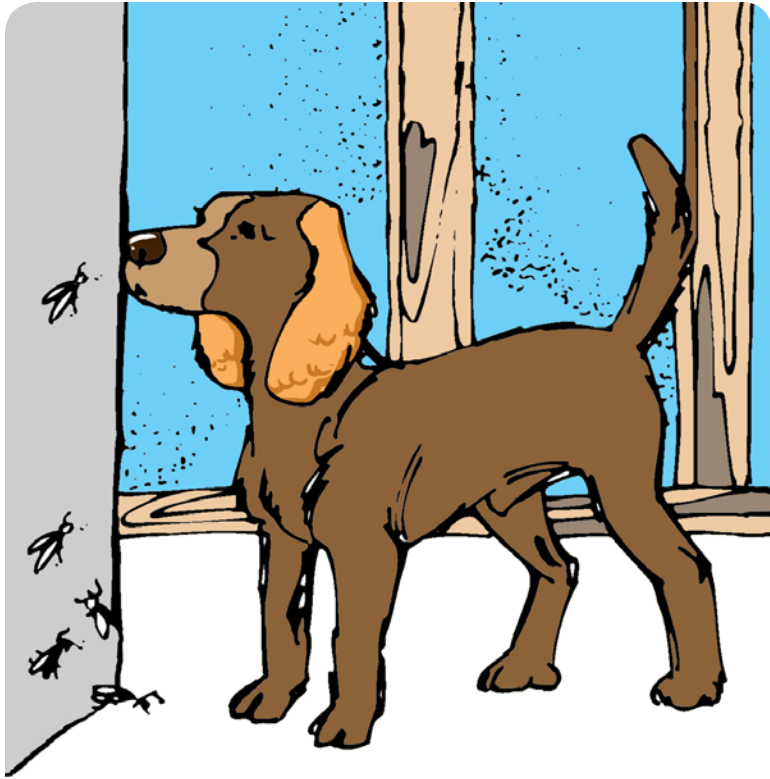
Livestock Guard Dog

Ranchers raise sheep, cattle, and goats in open countryside. An unguarded herd may be attacked by wild animals. A livestock guard dog grows up with a herd. They are the dog's family, and the dog protects them from danger.



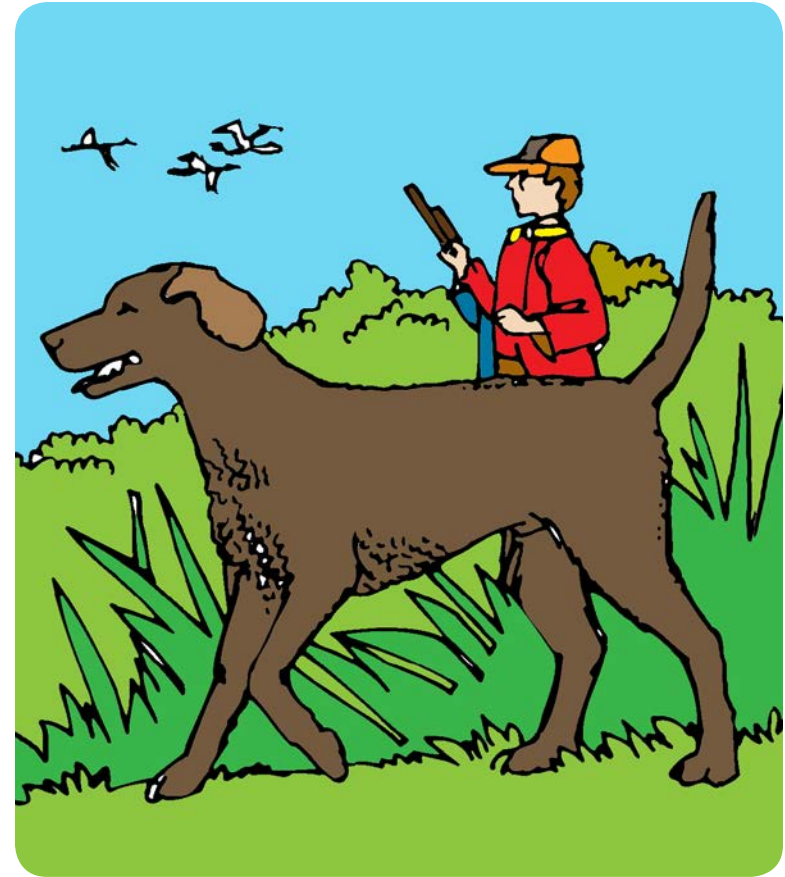
Search-and-Rescue Dog

Sometimes people are lost in the woods or are trapped in a building that fell down. Search-and-rescue dogs find people who are lost, hurt, or trapped. They move slowly and carefully, finding people rescue workers might not see.



Termite Dog

Termites are insects that damage buildings by eating the wood. They are hard to find, so they are hard to get rid of. Specially trained beagles can smell their nests. Then the termites can be destroyed, and the building can be repaired.



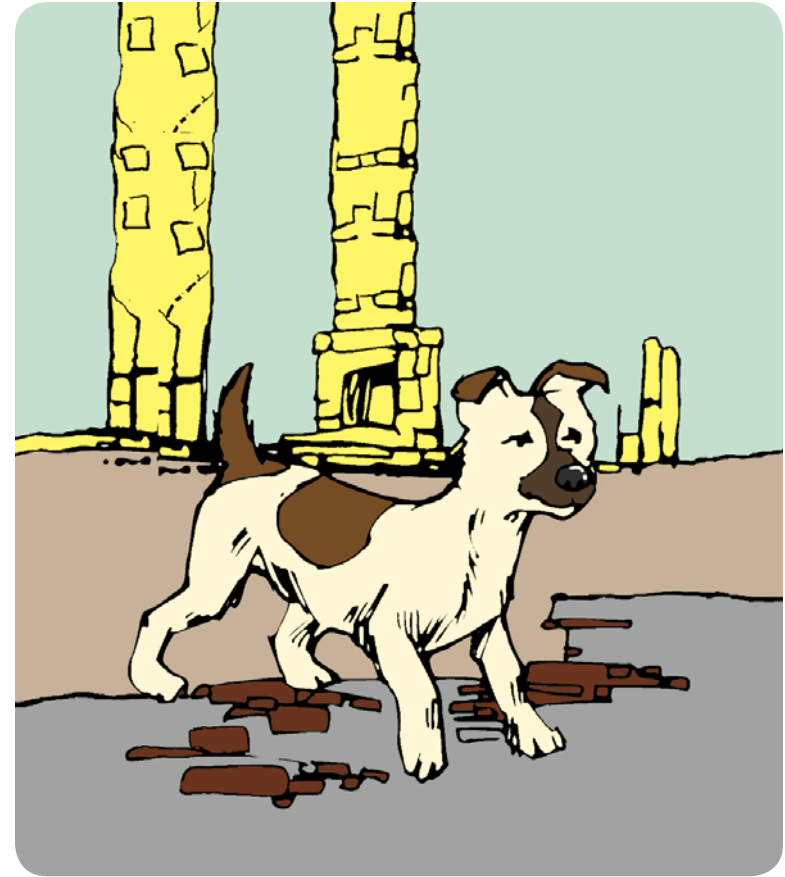
Hunting Dog

Hunting dogs are trained to help hunters find game animals. They point to them or chase them out of tall grass. If the hunter shoots a flying duck, the dog will find it and bring it back, even if the duck falls in the water.



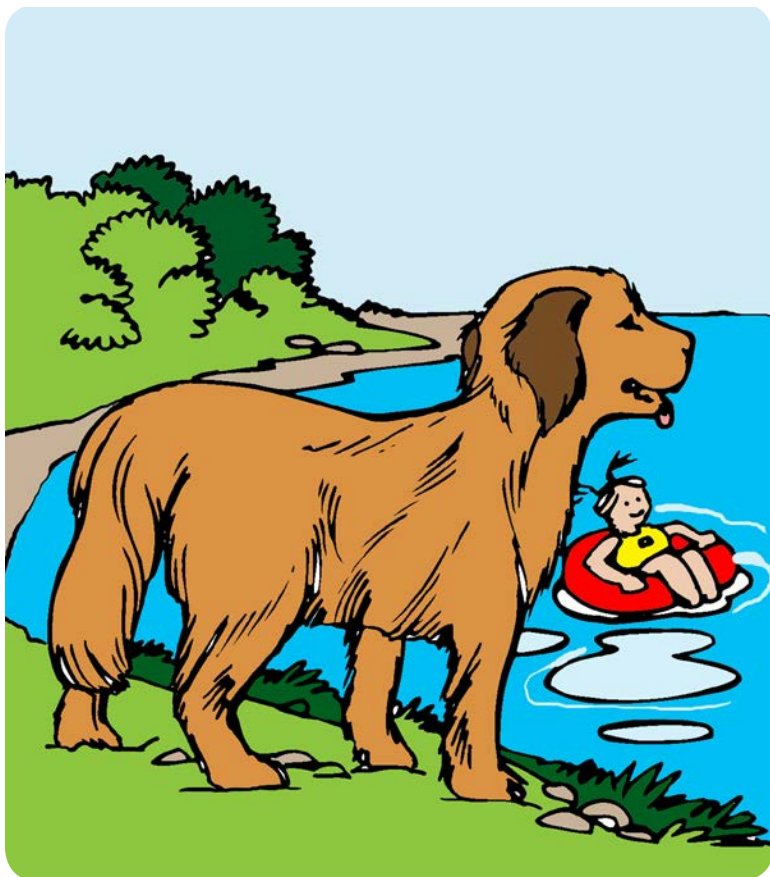
Police Dog

Police dogs can chase a criminal and trap him or her until the officer can make an arrest. Police dogs can also sniff out a criminal's best hiding place. They will attack someone who is threatening a police officer.



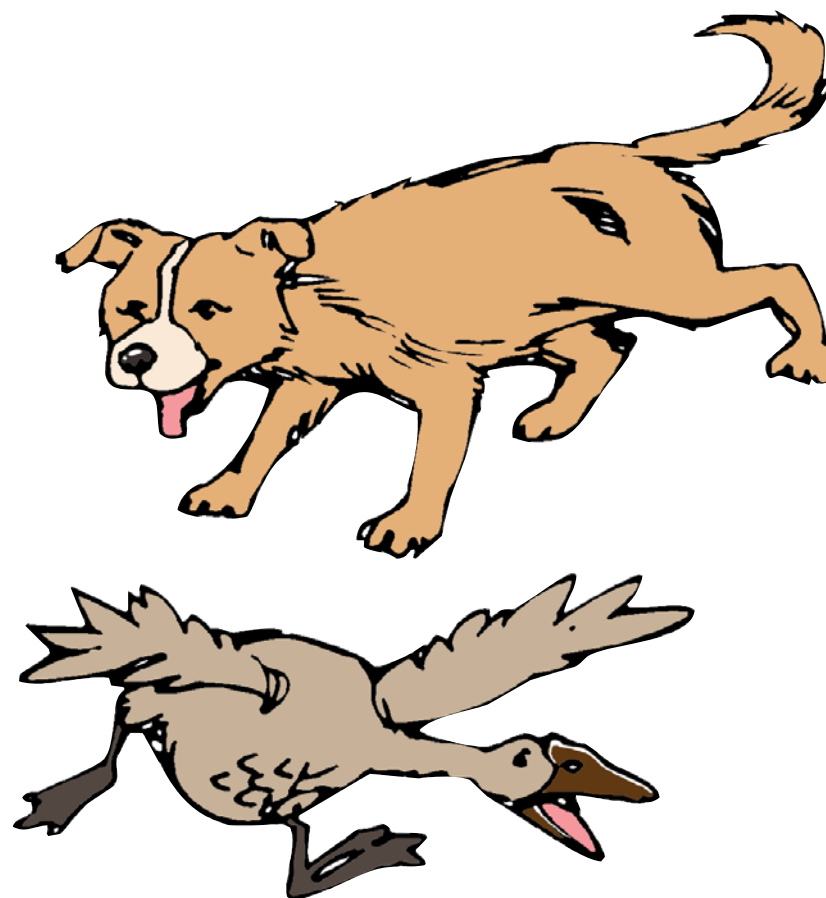
Arson Dog

After a building has burned down, it may be hard to find out if someone started the fire on purpose. Arson dogs are trained to alert their handler if they smell chemicals that might have been used to start the fire.



Water Rescue Dog

Big Newfoundland dogs are strong swimmers. In Italy, they work as lifeguards. They will jump in the water and pull a drowning person to safety. Some can even jump into the water from a helicopter!



Goose Dog

Geese are large and messy. At airports, they are a danger to airplanes landing or taking off. Geese also wander across golf courses. Border collies chase geese away from places where they may cause problems.



Drug Dog

Specially trained dogs work at airports and post offices to find hidden drugs. They sniff baggage, packages, and mail. Their amazing noses find even the best hiding places.



Seizure-Alert Dog

Some diseases cause seizures, during which a person loses control of his or her body for a few minutes. If a person is driving or swimming, he or she can be hurt or die. The trained dog senses a seizure may happen. Their early warning can help the person get to a safe spot.



Baseball Retriever

Pacific Bell Park is a baseball park located alongside San Francisco Bay. A long home run, called a Splash Hit, can land in the water! Baseball collectors value these balls. A trained dog from the Baseball Aquatic Retrieval Korps (B.A.R.K.) jumps into the Bay to retrieve each ball from the water.



Conclusion

Dogs help us do many types of jobs. They learn fast. Dogs help to keep us safe, play with us, and make us laugh. Trained dogs can even be babysitters, TV stars, rodeo clowns, and sled dogs. Can you think of other great jobs for dogs?