

Dogs at Work

A Reading A-Z Level M Leveled Book
Word Count: 600

Connections

Writing

Write a story about a dog that helps someone in your community. Share your story with your class.

Science

Compare two dogs from the book. Organize your ideas using a Venn diagram.



Reading A-Z

Visit www.readinga-z.com
for thousands of books and materials.

LEVELED BOOK • M

Dogs at Work



**Multi
level
J•M•P**

Written by Keith and Sarah Kortemartin

www.readinga-z.com

Dogs at Work

Written by Keith and Sarah Kortemartin

www.readinga-z.com

Focus Question

How can dogs help people?

Words to Know

chemicals
comfort
detection

disabilities
medicine
spasms

Photo Credits:

Front cover, back cover (main), page 12: © ZCHD/airportk9.org (Supplied by WENN)/Newscom; back cover (inset): iStock.com/Sephirot17; title page: © KARL-JOSEF HILDENBRAND/AFP/Getty Images; page 3: © OMAR TORRES/AFP/Getty Images; page 4 (top left): © iStock.com/kadmy; page 4 (top right): © iStock.com/Jmichl; page 4 (bottom): © iStock.com/eAlisa; page 5: © Monkey Business Images/Dreamstime.com; page 6 (top): © jhphoto/Imaginechina/AP Images; page 6 (bottom): courtesy of Trevor Thomas; page 7 (top): © Arterra/UIG/Getty Images; page 7 (bottom): © iStock.com/David Osberg; page 8: © Animal Press/Barcroft Images/Barcroft Media/Getty Images; page 9: © Chris Shipley/The Morning Call/AP Images; page 10: © Liu Zhongjun/CHINA NEWS SERVICE/VCG/Getty Images; page 11: © Andy Casey/Barcroft Images/Barcroft Media/Getty Images; page 13: © Billy Hustace/Image Bank/Getty Images; page 14: © PARK JI-HWAN/AFP/Getty Images; page 15 (top left): De Meester Johan/Arterra Picture Library/Alamy Stock Photo; page 15 (bottom left): Jochen Tack/Alamy Stock Photo; page 15 (right): © Fiona Goodall/Getty Images

Dogs at Work
Level M Leveled Book
© Learning A-Z
Written by Keith and Sarah Kortemartin

All rights reserved.

www.readinga-z.com

Correlation

LEVEL M

Fountas & Pinnell	L
Reading Recovery	19
DRA	24



Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Service and Therapy Dogs	5
Search-and-Rescue Dogs	9
Detection Dogs	13
Conclusion	15
Glossary	16



Introduction

You probably know that some dogs aren't just pets—they hold jobs! What makes dogs good workers? They learn fast, and they also hear and smell better than we do. This means that dogs can do jobs that people can't. Some of their jobs may surprise you.

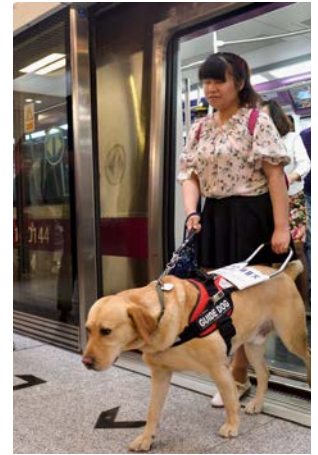
Service and Therapy Dogs

Many dogs work with people to help them feel better. These dogs are called *therapy dogs*. They **comfort** people and keep them calm. These dogs need to be very friendly. They are also trained to be calm around new places and people.



Simply petting a dog can make sick people feel better.

Other dogs help people with **disabilities**. These dogs are called *service dogs*. Service dogs can do many different jobs. For example, guide dogs help people who cannot see well. These dogs are trained to keep people from stepping into traffic. Guide dogs also lead their owner around things. That way, their owner won't trip or fall.



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



Tennille the Guide Dog

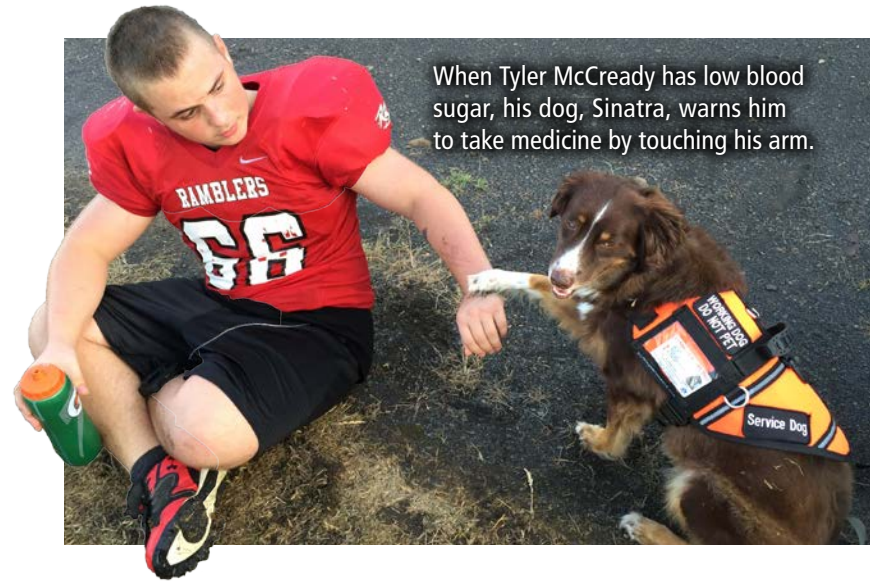
Guide dogs can help their owner have adventures. A guide dog named Tennille helped her owner hike. Tennille was the first guide dog trained to do this. Her owner, Trevor Thomas, is blind. Tennille helped Thomas over and around large rocks. Thomas hopes that he and Tennille can encourage other blind people to follow their example.



Service dogs help their owner with many day-to-day tasks. They can open doors by pulling ropes (left) and pushing buttons (bottom).



Some service dogs help people who can't hear well. These dogs listen for noises, touch their owner, and move toward the noise. Other service dogs help their owner move around. They pull wheelchairs, pick up dropped items, press buttons, and open doors.



When Tyler McCready has low blood sugar, his dog, Sinatra, warns him to take medicine by touching his arm.

Some service dogs can smell when their owner is about to be sick. For example, dogs can be trained to smell low blood sugar. These dogs can smell changes in blood and warn their owner to eat food or take **medicine**.

Other dogs can smell when a person is about to have a seizure. These sudden attacks cause body **spasms** and other problems. Service dogs can warn the person before it happens.

Search-and-Rescue Dogs

Some dogs work to find people who are lost or trapped. These dogs are called *search-and-rescue dogs*.

Many search-and-rescue dogs use their nose to find people who need help. Some of these dogs do this by tracking. Tracking dogs put their nose to the ground to follow a smell.



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

Other dogs search for missing people by sniffing the air instead of the ground. These dogs often work in a big search area. They can find lost hikers using only their nose. They can also find people trapped in buildings that have fallen down.



A firefighter uses a rescue dog to search for people after a landslide 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 can also pull small boats to land. Water rescue dogs need to be strong swimmers. For this reason, big dogs like the Newfoundland make good water rescue dogs. These dogs have webbed toes and fur that keeps out water. Plus, they are very strong. A 68-kilogram (150 lb.) Newfoundland can pull ten people to safety at once!

Odd Jobs

Dogs are good learners, and they can be trained to do very unusual jobs. For example, one dog worked at an airport in Michigan. His job was to chase wild birds out of the path of planes on runways. Another group of dogs had an unusual job at a baseball park near the ocean in San Francisco. These dogs jumped into the ocean to get balls that were hit into the water. This program is now over, but for a time, baseball fans loved to collect these "Splash Hit" balls.

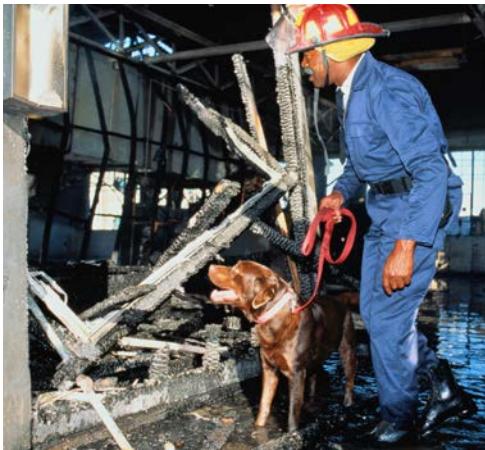


Piper the airport worker

Detection Dogs

Some dogs work as detectives. These dogs are called **detection** dogs. They help people find things that are hidden.

Police use detection dogs often. They use these dogs when a building has burned down. It may be hard to find out whether someone started the fire on purpose. The dogs sniff for **chemicals** that



A detection dog searches a burned building for chemicals.

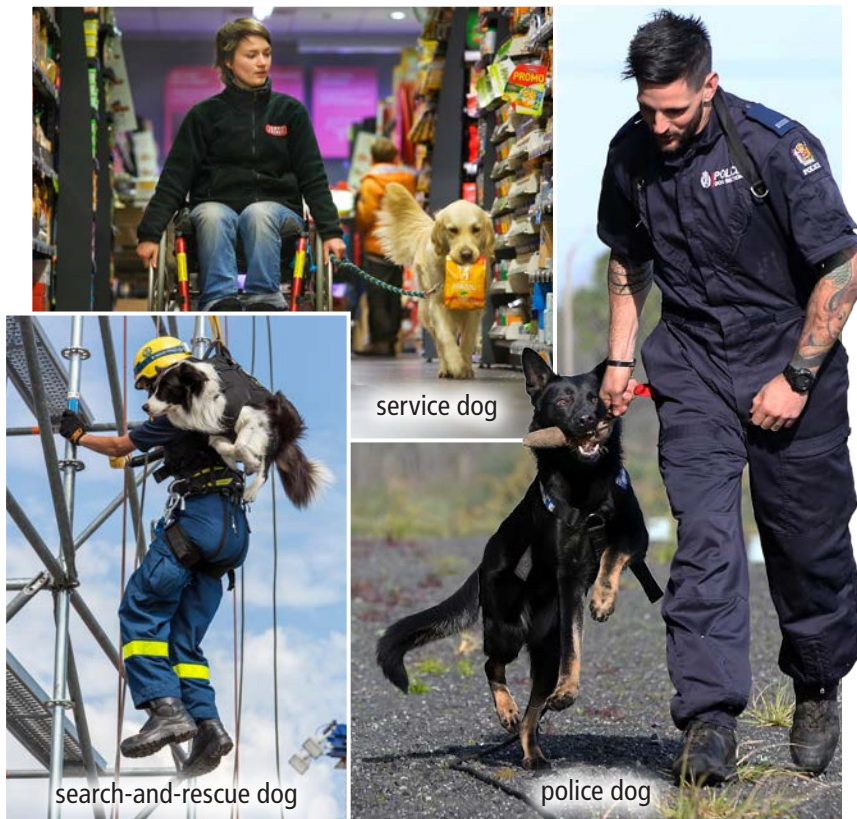
might have been used to start the fire. Police also use detection dogs to find criminals.

Detection dogs are also used at airports. These dogs search for items that can't be brought to another country or on a plane. They can sniff out these things in people's bags.

Other detection dogs search for termites in houses and other buildings. Termites damage buildings by eating wood. They are hard for humans to find, but these dogs can find them with their nose.



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



Conclusion

Dogs do many different jobs. From sniffing out termites to pulling a swimmer to safety, dogs help humans 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 properties and can combine with other substances to make new things (p. 13)

comfort (*v.*)

to calm down (p. 5)

detection
(*n.*)

the act of discovering the presence of something; the act of solving a mystery (p. 13)

disabilities
(*n.*)

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

medicine (*n.*)

a drug or treatment (p. 8)

spasms (*n.*)

uncontrolled and unnatural movements caused by muscles suddenly becoming tight (p. 8)