



▲ Excited sled dogs get ready for the start of the Iditarod Dog Race, Alaska, U.S.A.

Dogs

in a human world.

- 1 The **partnership** between humans and dogs began perhaps 14,000 years ago. Our first interactions may have occurred when wild dogs
- 5 were attracted to human **garbage**, or humans may have **acquired** the puppies¹ of wild dogs and trained them to be **obedient** pets. By means of the careful **selection** of
- 10 dog parents, humans have been able to create a wonderful variety of dogs with **plenty** of **talents** and many different looks. Here are three examples of “a dog’s life”
- 15 in the human world.



▲ A beagle uses its nose to find meat and other illegal items in U.S. mail.

The working dog

- 20 Jacques is one of many beagles that work at airports for the U.S. **government** in a program known as the Beagle Brigade. Beagles were chosen for this work because of their powerful noses. Their job is to smell and alert officers to illegal fruits, vegetables, and other foods in **luggage** or in mail. They do the job far better than humans could alone.

- 25 Some of the beagles who work in the program are donated by private owners, but many are ownerless beagles rescued from animal shelters.² Many beagles who were scheduled to be euthanized³ are now working to keep their country safe from disease.

Treated like a queen

30 Tiffany, a beautiful eight-pound⁴ maltese is treated like a queen in New York City. Her owner, NancyJane Loewy, carefully prepares her meals of lamb, steak, salmon, tuna, chicken, and a variety of fresh vegetables. Tiffany also gets low-fat yogurt and cookies after dinner. Why? Loewy replies, “I have a dog because the dog needs me.”



▲ Tiffany, a Maltese, enjoys a life of luxury on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

40 Leowy, whose husband has a high-paying job and whose two sons are away at school, has the time and money to treat Tiffany extremely well, and she truly enjoys doing so. “I want to give her the healthiest, most wonderful life possible for as long as possible.”

The animal carer

45 Jessie is a whippet that visits children who are fighting deadly diseases. She brightens patients' days with love and gives children a chance to exercise. At the National Institutes of Health, Jessie helps patients like young Lukas Parks to stay strong during their long hospitalization.



▲ Jessie, a specially trained whippet, is a welcome visitor for patients at the National Institutes of Health, Maryland, U.S.A.

50 Whether as workers or objects of affection,⁵ dogs have certainly proven themselves to be beneficial to humans in many ways. At the same time, their special place as “man’s best friend” has allowed dogs to survive in a human world. While wolves and wild dogs have nearly disappeared from the earth, domestic dogs continue to grow in number, thanks to their special relationship with humans.

¹ Puppies are young dogs.

² An animal shelter is a place where animals that are lost or have no owners are kept.

³ An animal that is euthanized is painlessly killed.

⁴ Eight pounds = 3.6 kg.

⁵ Affection is fondness or liking for someone.