**Dog Hall of Fame Content**

Sri Vidya Maddula

Wilmington University

DSN 6050

Professor: John Driban

Dog Hall of Fame Content

**About the Dogs of Each Category**

**Hero Dogs**

Hero dogs exemplify the extraordinary capabilities of everyday dogs, often stepping up to save or protect humans and other animals, sometimes at great personal risk. While they may not undergo formal training, their innate instincts and deep loyalty inspire them to act during critical moments.

**Real Life Stories of Hero Dogs**

**Golden Toby**

A woman named Debbie Parkhurst from Maryland was in distress due to a choking incident while she was eating an apple. Her Golden Retriever, Toby, noticed her struggle and sprang into action. He jumped up and placed his paws on her shoulders, knocking her to the floor. Then, he jumped up and down on her chest, successfully dislodging the food that was causing her to choke. Toby licked Parkhurst's face to keep her conscious. For his heroic actions, Toby was awarded the Dog of the Year (Reisen, 2021).

**Major the Hero**

When McGlade had a seizure, his brave Pit/Labrador Retriever mix instinctively grabbed the cell phone from his pocket and used his paw to call emergency services. Although the dispatchers thought it was a prank and hung up several times, Major’s determination never wavered, and he kept dialing. Finally, his persistence paid off when they heard McGlade in the background and sent ambulances. When the ambulances arrived, Major was waiting outside, ready to guide them to his beloved owner, displaying the power of loyalty and courage (Spies, 2021).

**Working Dogs**

Working dogs are specially trained to perform essential tasks that support humans across various environments. Through comprehensive training, these dogs develop the physical and mental skills required for their important roles, such as guarding, or engaging in search and rescue missions.

**Real Life Stories of Working Dogs**

**Barry the Saint Bernard**

Saint Bernards are large and imposing creatures. However, they are truly just big, affectionate bears. They were initially bred to serve as rescue dogs in frigid, challenging environments. They always embarked on missions in pairs so that once a person was located, one dog could provide warmth while the other went to get assistance. Barry the Saint Bernard excelled in his role, saving more than 40 individuals throughout his 12-year life, which is why, to this day, there is always a rescue dog named Barry at the monastery where he originally lived (“Top Five Insane True Dog Stories,” n.d.).

**Nemo – The German Shepherd**

Nemo, a German Shepherd born in 1962, was enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at 1 ½ years old. He was sent to South Vietnam in 1966 to collaborate with soldiers and sentry dogs. One night, Nemo alerted his handler to enemy soldiers, enduring gunfire and losing an eye but continuing the fight. He retired in 1967 as the first sentry dog to do so. Nemo saved his handler's life and died of natural causes in 1972 at Lackland Air Force Base, where a kennel now memorializes him (Dugal, 2024).

**Companion Dogs**

Companion dogs play a vital role in enhancing the emotional well-being of their human partners by providing support, comfort, and companionship. Though they may not have formal training, their friendly and loyal disposition makes them excellent companions for individuals navigating health challenges, stress, or feelings of loneliness. By fostering a strong bond with their owners, these dogs contribute significantly to improving the overall quality of life.

**Real Life Stories of Companion Dogs**

**Boxer – Ecofriendly Dog**

The bravery of Paris, a Boxer residing in Cornwall, England, might not be as spectacular as that of other heroic dogs, but she contributes in her own way. During her walks, Paris collects cans and plastic bottles, placing them in the nearest recycling bin. Nobody taught her to perform this task; it simply comes instinctively to her. She plays her role in helping the environment (Reisen, 2021).

**Golden Retriever – Frankie**

Susie’s Golden Retriever, Frankie, had a special talent for brightening people's lives. For over a year, Susie and Frankie visited a local nursing home and developed a strong bond with Jean, a resident in hospice care. Jean often stayed in her room, but she would always smile when Frankie arrived. Petting Frankie and watching her perform tricks seemed to lift Jean’s spirits. After getting a new red scooter, Jean began joining other residents for meals and looked forward to her weekly walks with Frankie down the hall.

One day, Susie missed a visit because she was sick. When she called the nursing home to say she would be back soon, she learned that Jean had passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family. Even in her last days, Jean had asked about Frankie and hoped for one more visit. Susie felt thankful for the difference Frankie had made in Jean’s life. Their visits gave Jean a reason to leave her room, connect with others, and find joy. In the end, knowing Jean also enriched Susie’s life (“Five Incredible Therapy Dog Stories,” n.d.).

**References**

Dugal, G. (2024, July 22). *Stories of dogs that saved their owners' lives*. Dogster. Retrieved from <https://www.dogster.com/lifestyle/stories-of-dogs-that-saved-their-owners-life>

Reisen, J. (2021, June 24). *Real-life tales of heroic dogs*. American Kennel Club. Retrieved from <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/lifestyle/real-life-tales-of-heroic-dogs/>

Spies, M. (2021, September 2). *Twelve incredible stories about dogs saving humans' lives*. iHeartDogs. Retrieved from <https://iheartdogs.com/12-incredible-stories-about-dogs-saving-humans-lives/>

Five incredible therapy dog stories. (n.d.). *Canidae*. Retrieved from <https://canidae.com/blog/5-incredible-therapy-dog-stories>

Top five insane true dog stories. (n.d.). *Fetch Pet Care*. Retrieved from <https://fetchpetcare.com/blog/top-5-insane-true-dog-stories/>