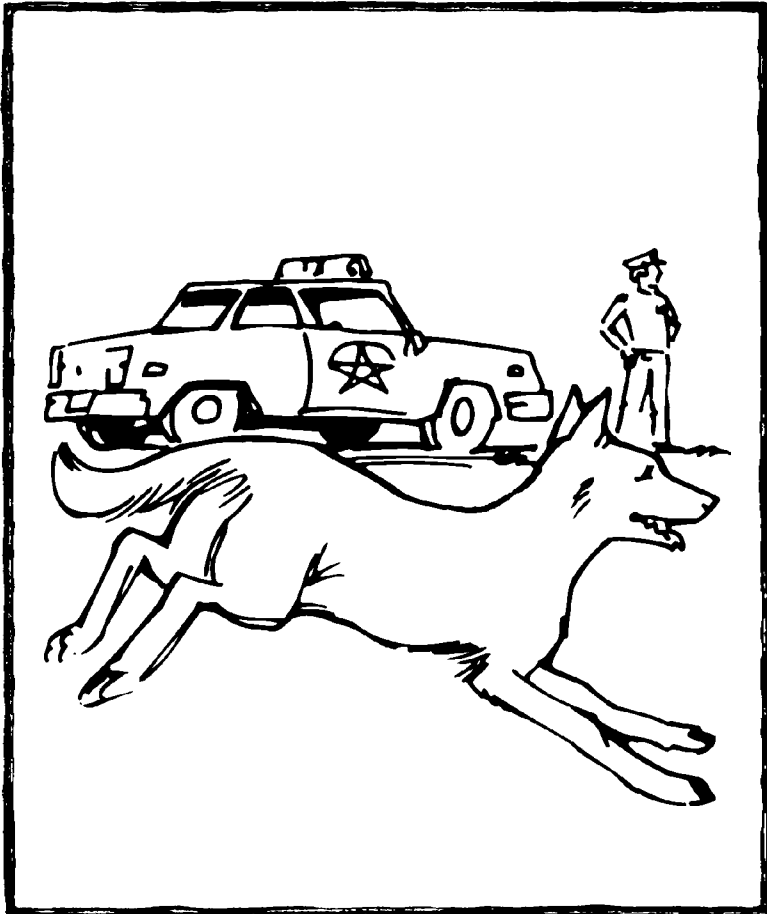


Dogs at Work

A Reading A-Z Level M Leveled Reader

Word Count: 744

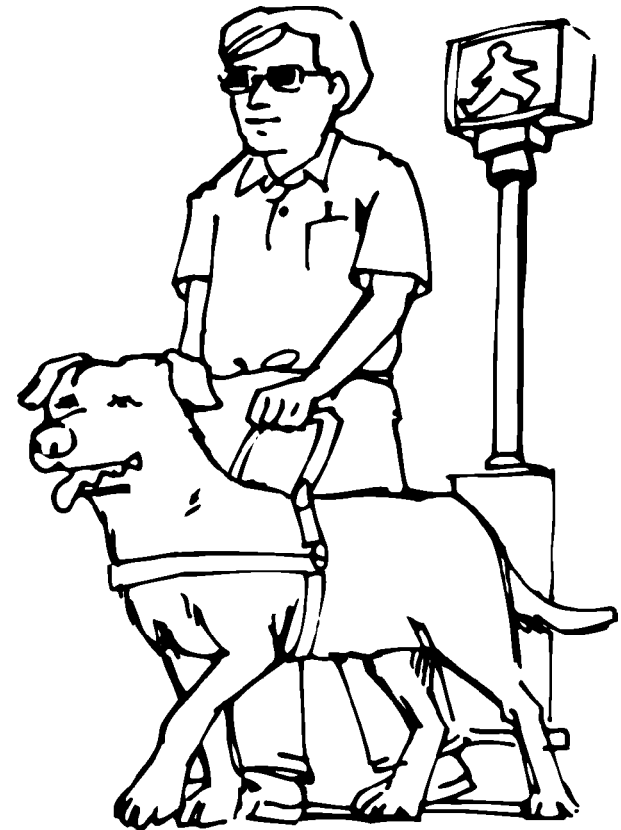


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Level M Leveled Reader
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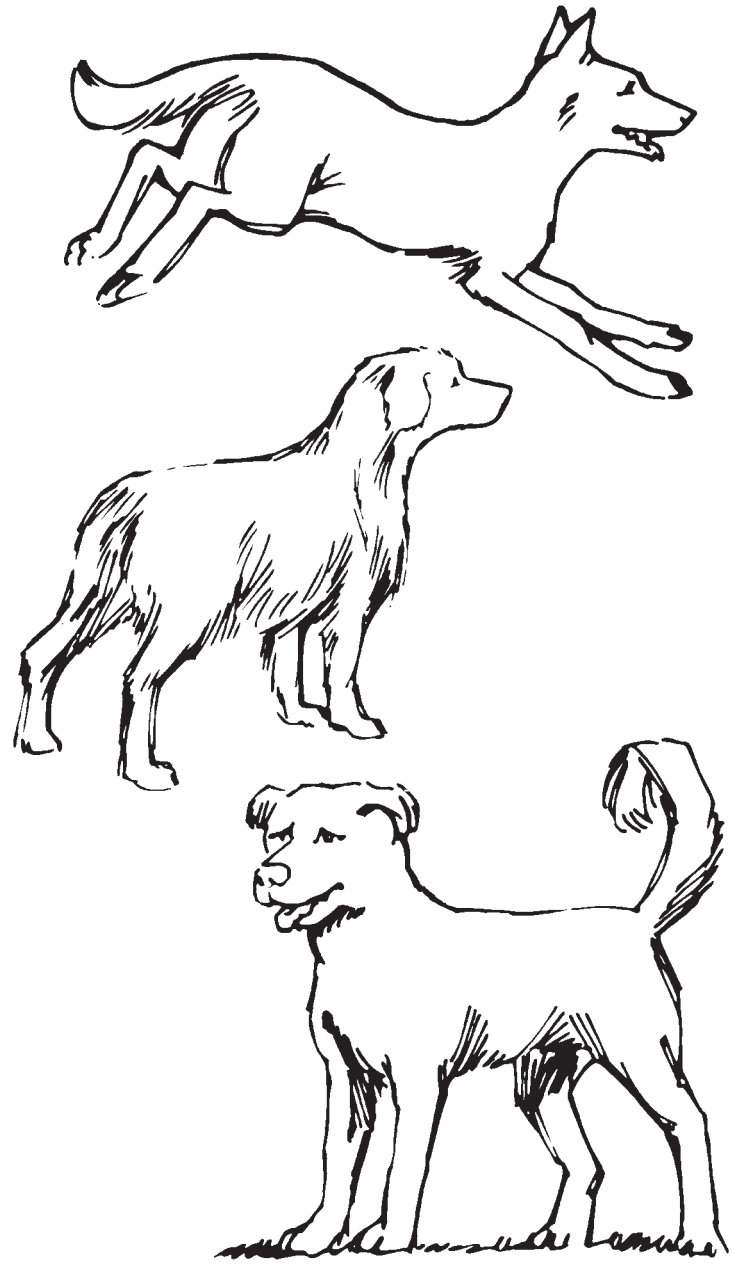
Correlation

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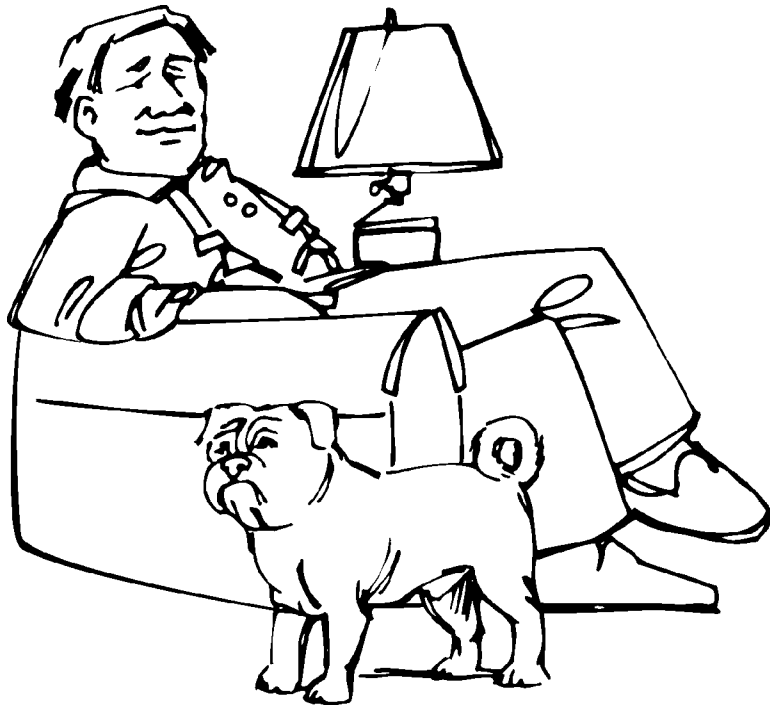
Introduction

Dogs are great pets and great friends. They are smart and have a great sense of smell. They like to be helpful and do many special kinds of work. Let's read about some working dogs.



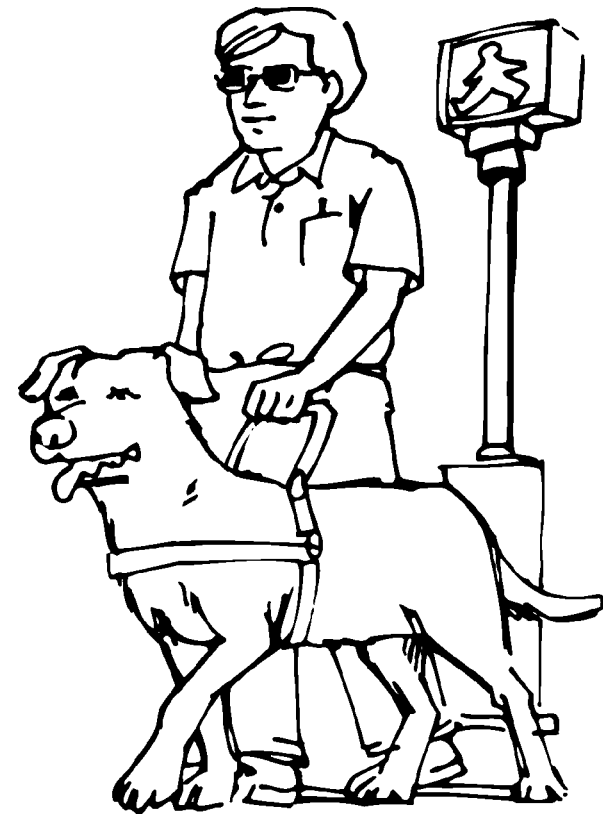
Hearing Dog

Deaf people cannot hear important things like an alarm clock, a doorbell, or a person calling their name. They wouldn't hear if someone was breaking into their house. A hearing dog is trained to alert them to sounds.



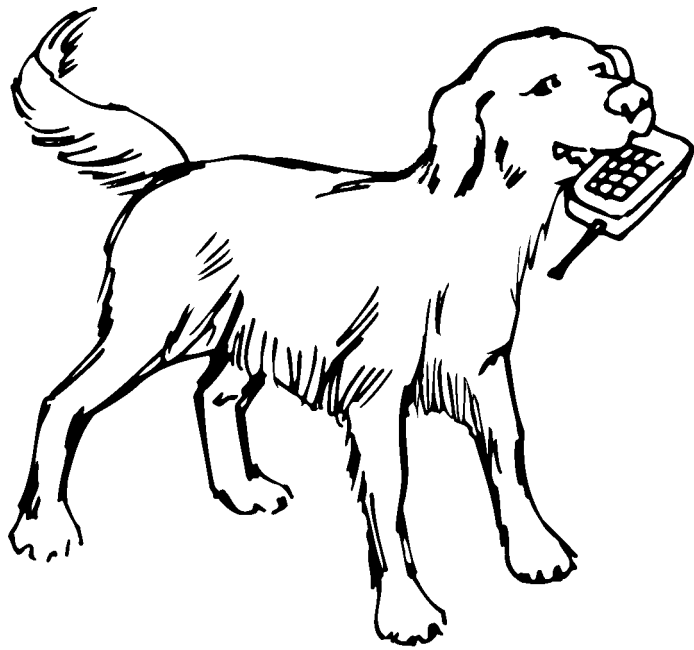
Therapy Dog

Therapy dogs must be very friendly and gentle. They visit people in nursing homes, hospitals, and homeless shelters. They listen quietly to secrets, and will never tell. Anyone who is sick or sad will feel better after these visits.



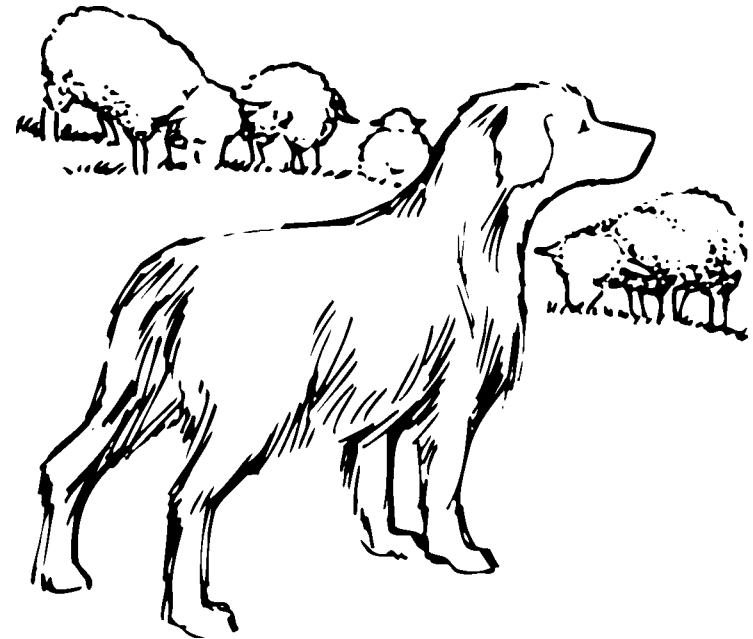
Guide Dog

A guide dog is the eyes of someone who cannot see. It can help a blind person cross a street. It lets him know when traffic has stopped. It can warn a blind person about curbs and steps.



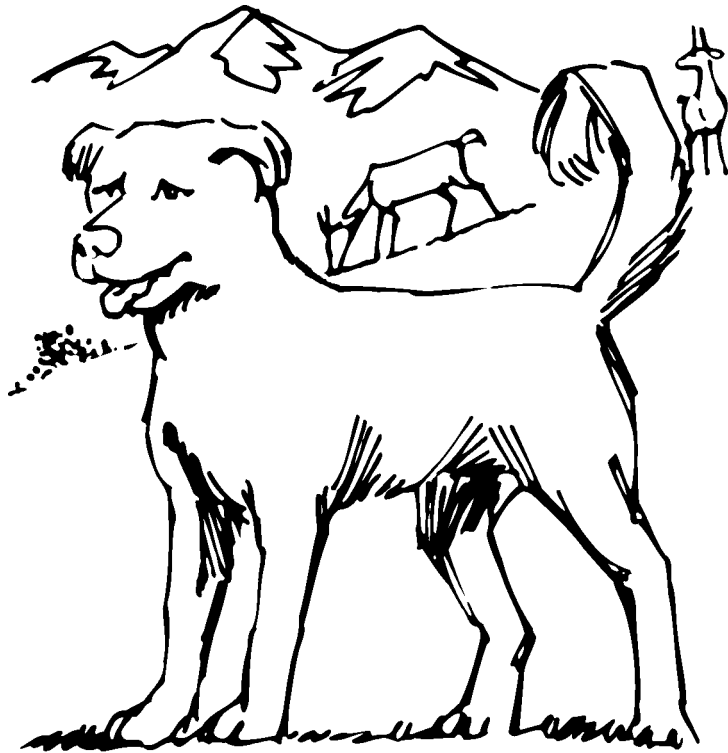
Assistance Dog

What if you dropped a pencil and couldn't pick it up? Or, what if you couldn't reach a light switch or an elevator button? What if you weren't able to open a door? An assistance dog is trained to help a person who is physically disabled.



Herding Dog

Sheep spend most of their lives roaming large, grassy fields. Sometimes they need to be sheared or have health checks. Then the rancher has to gather them together. Herding dogs round up and move the sheep.



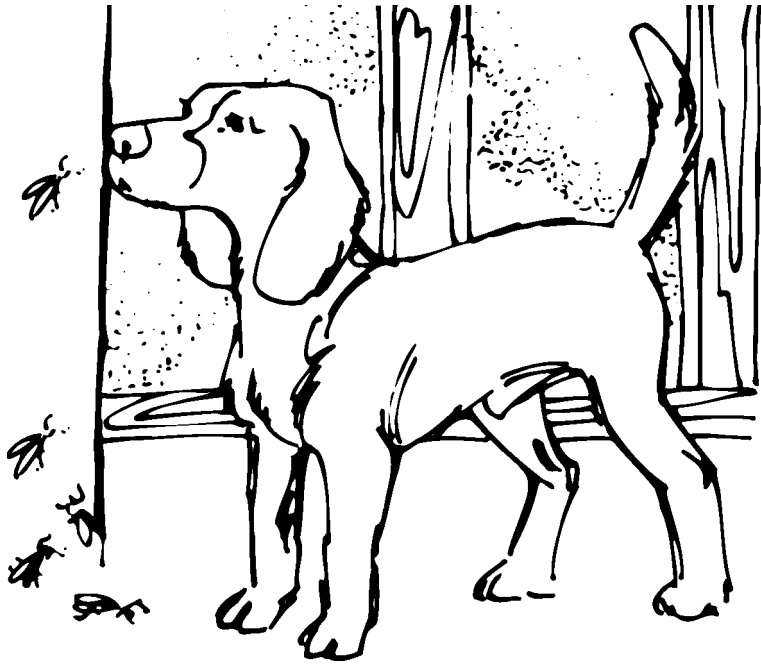
Livestock Guard Dog

Ranchers raise sheep, cattle, and goats in places where there are wild animals that want to eat them. A livestock guard dog grows up with a herd. He thinks they are his family. He defends them by scaring away dangerous animals.



Search and Rescue Dog

Sometimes someone gets lost in the woods. Or a person is caught in a building that has collapsed in an earthquake. Search and rescue dogs are trained to find people who are lost or trapped. They also are trained to climb very carefully through the rubble of fallen buildings.



Termite Dog

In hot, humid climates, termites damage buildings by eating the wood. They are hard to kill because they are hard to find. Specially trained beagles can smell where termites are nesting. Then people with special chemicals can get rid of them.



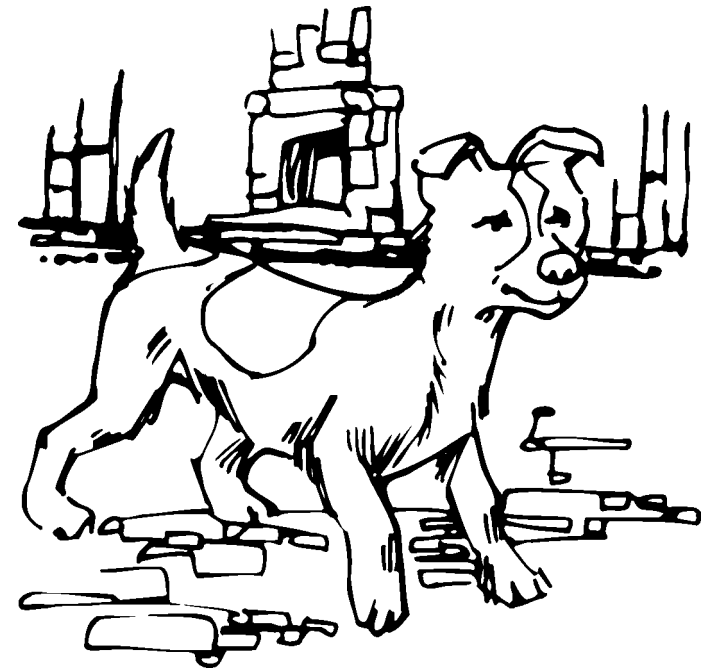
Hunting Dog

Dogs can find game animals for hunters. They point to them or chase them out of tall grass and brush. If a hunter shoots a flying duck, a dog will find it and bring it back, even if the duck falls in the water.



Police Dog

Police officers use dogs to catch criminals who are running away. These dogs can corner criminals until they are captured. Police dogs can also sniff out a criminal's hiding place. They will attack a criminal who is threatening a police officer.



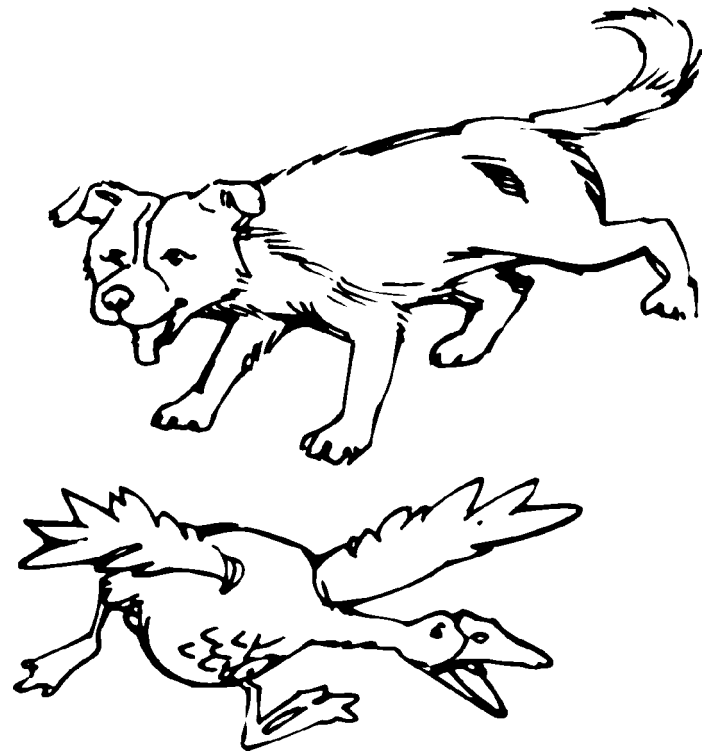
Arson Dog

When a building burns down, it is sometimes hard to tell if someone started the fire on purpose. Special dogs are trained to sniff through burned buildings. They alert their handler to gasoline or other things that might have been used to start a fire.



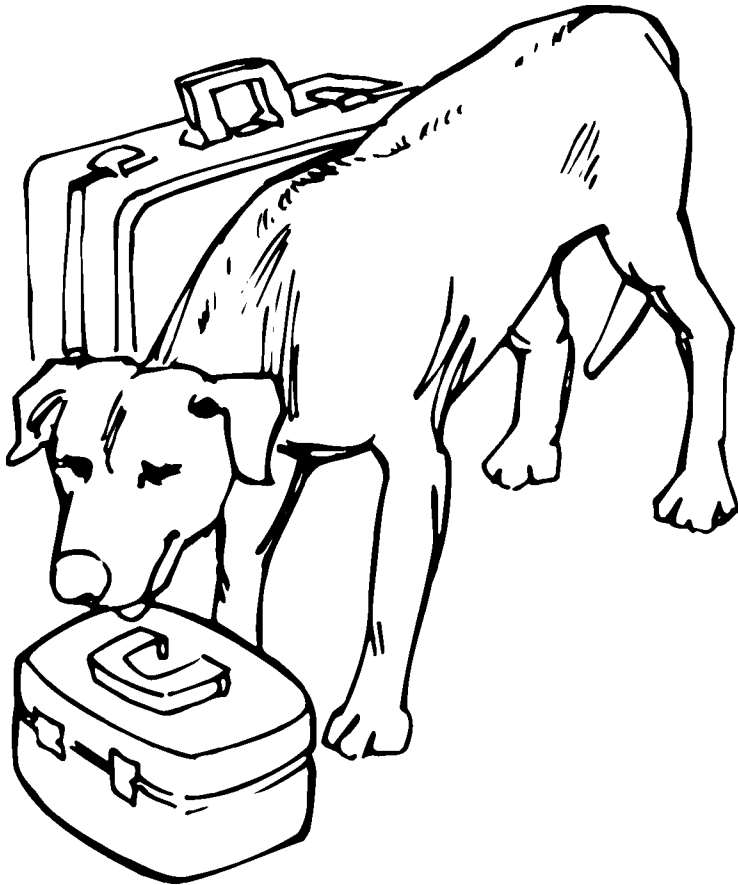
Water Rescue Dog

Newfoundlands are strong swimmers. They are used as lifeguards in Italy. They can pull a drowning person to safety. Sometimes they even jump from a helicopter to rescue a drowning person!



Goose Dog

Geese are pests at golf courses because they are mean and messy. They are also a danger around airports because an airplane can fly into a flock of geese. Airports and golf courses keep border collies around to chase away geese.



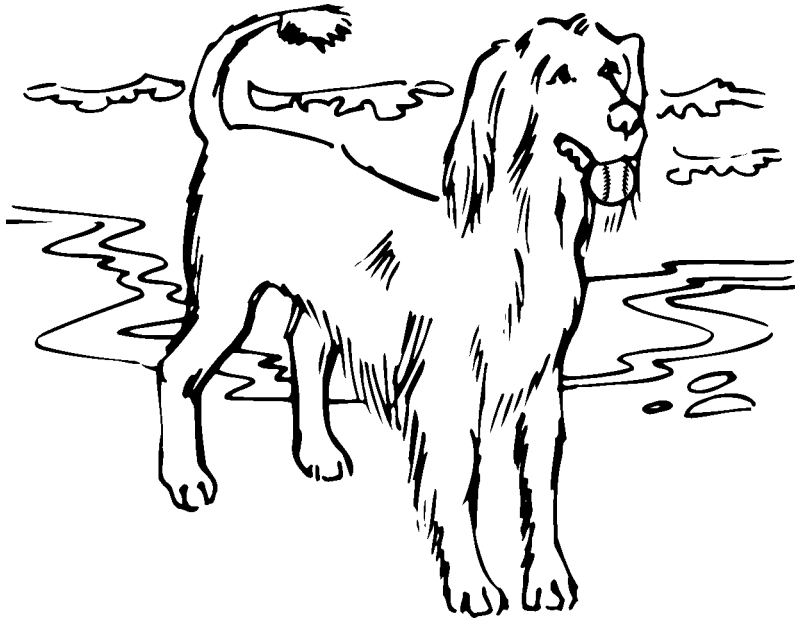
Drug Dog

People think of many ways to hide illegal drugs. Special dogs work at airports and post offices. They sniff baggage and mail to find hidden drugs.



Seizure Alert Dog

Epilepsy is a disease that makes a person lose control of his body for a short time. If this happens while a person is driving or swimming, he can get hurt or die. A seizure alert dog can sense when an attack is about to happen. It warns the person to get to a safe place.



Baseball Retriever

Pacific Bell Park is where the San Francisco Giants play baseball. A long home run can land in the water of San Francisco Bay. These balls, called Splash Hits, are valuable to collectors. The Baseball Aquatic Retrieval Korps (B.A.R.K.) is a team of trained dogs that retrieve the balls from the water.



Conclusion

These are just a few of the jobs that dogs can do. People are thinking of more jobs for dogs all the time. Dogs can be babysitters, TV stars, racers, circus dogs, rodeo clowns, movie stars, and sled dogs. Can you think of other jobs for dogs?