

Passage 2: Dogs Rule

By: Leah Lott

- 1 Dogs have done some incredible things. They are well-known for their energy, their ability to do tricks and protect people, their companionship, their loyalty, and even their ability to help people in ways that other pets can't.
- 2 Dogs help keep people active. While other pets have good effects on a human's health, dogs have the extra **benefit** of needing to be played with and walked many times a day. This means that a lot of dog owners are getting at least 30 minutes of exercise a day which helps their heart and overall health.
- 3 Dogs are more social than cats and they can help you be more social too. Studies have shown that people trust others who are walking a dog on the street more than those without dogs. If you are walking a dog, people are more likely to stop and talk to you than if you don't have a dog.
- 4 Some people don't like dogs because they think they are covered in germs. This is actually a good thing for a person's health. Those that are never exposed to germs get sick easier. People who own dogs get exposed to the germs that are on their dogs, so they are actually less likely to get sick. And if they do get sick, it is not very severe.
- 5 Another benefit of having a dog is that it can save your life. Believe it or not, dogs have been known to smell cancer. There are stories about dogs that kept sniffing and licking a lump on their owner's body. So then their owner went and got it checked out by a **specialist** and then they found out that the lump was cancerous. Some dogs are trained specifically to sense cancer. Dogs can also save your life by barking at intruders when they enter your house. Sometimes the intruder will go away when they hear barking. If the intruder is persistent and won't leave, then certain dogs will attack the intruder, or at the very least, communicate to their owner that someone is there that they do not recognize. Dogs have also been known to save people from fires.
- 6 Dogs can help people in ways that other pets can't. You don't see cats leading the blind, helping Policemen, or diving out of a military plane. Dogs can be trained to lead those that are blind. They are called "Guide dogs" or "Seeing Eye dogs." These dogs are trained to improve the independence and confidence of those that struggle with seeing. These dogs are legally allowed to go wherever their owner goes. Dogs can also be trained to find lost people and sniff out drugs. This is why Policemen use them. They can also be trained to attack and take down threatening people. One thing that is really interesting is that dogs can go skydiving. The military has taken them to places that other pets have never gone before so that they can sniff out **explosives**.



Glossary

benefit: something that helps your well-being or happiness

specialist: someone who knows a lot about a certain thing

explosives: things that explode, such as bombs