

# ANIMAL HEROES

More ways and reasons to love our pets



## THE NOSE KNOWS

Luke, age 7, and his dog, Jedi, are pals, buddies, best friends. Luke is diabetic, and Jedi is his Diabetic Alert Dog. Jedi is trained to use his nose to detect when Luke's health is at risk and then alert an adult.

Late one night, Luke was asleep in a bed near his mother. Jedi was also nearby. Without his knowing it, Luke's blood sugar level dropped—a danger to someone with diabetes. Jedi smelled the change in Luke's breath and sprang into action. He jumped on and off the bed to wake Luke's mother. When this didn't work, he laid his body on top of hers. This woke her up. Then Jedi bowed; that's his way of saying that Luke's blood sugar is "low." Luke's mother was then able to care for him.



## CAT IN THE BOX

Masha is a stray cat. Her long, thick hair keeps her warm during the bitterly cold winters, and many neighbors feed her as she roams the streets.

One frigid night, Masha spotted a cardboard box in the chilly hallway of an apartment building. In the box was a tiny baby! The infant boy was dressed—but not well enough to protect him from the cold. Masha climbed inside the box and cuddled the child. Her warm body kept him comfortable and alive. Several hours later, when someone heard the baby cry, he was discovered and rushed to a hospital.

## KIDS CAN BE HEROES TO PETS, TOO!

Daisy the dog was homeless, dirty, and hungry when she arrived at the animal shelter. After being washed and fed, she was put into a kennel. Daisy had always run free, but now she was alone in a tiny room. She crouched in the corner, shivering with fear.

One day, Daisy heard a child's voice and perked up her ears. A little girl was sitting beside her kennel, reading a book out loud. The more the girl read, the less Daisy shook. After a few minutes, Daisy crept closer to the edge of her kennel. By the time the girl had finished reading the story, Daisy had relaxed and crept as close to the girl as she could.

Some time later, a family arrived to adopt a dog. Daisy bravely came to the front of her kennel to see who it was. She wagged her clean, fluffy tail and won the hearts of the family. Now she has a loving home. Kids who read to shelter dogs help the dogs to calm down. As a result, the dogs are adopted more quickly.



## KHAN DO

When a young family went to the animal shelter to adopt a pet, they did not know how important their choice would be. The family immediately befriended Khan, a Doberman Pinscher that had been abused. Khan seemed to like them, and he was the same height as the family's 17-month-old daughter, Charlotte.

Four days later, as Khan watched Charlotte play in the yard, he suddenly sensed danger. A large, poisonous snake was slithering toward the girl. Khan tried to push Charlotte away, but she wouldn't budge. Just as the snake was about to strike the child, Khan gripped his teeth on Charlotte's diaper and tossed her about 3 feet to safety. The snake instead bit Khan's paw! The family rushed him to a vet, who gave the dog an antivenom shot that enabled him to soon recover.

## FIRE ALARM

Patience the cat didn't have much patience early one morning in 2015. As her family slept, smoke began filling their house in Loysock Township, Pennsylvania. The kitchen was on fire! Patience jumped onto her owners' bed and yowled to wake the family. It worked! Everyone escaped safely thanks to impatient Patience.

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## OH, RATS!

African pouched rats can spread diseases and destroy crops, so some people jump to conclusions and think bad things about Henry, a 2½-pound African pouched—that is, until they learn how useful Henry and his friends can be.

Henry and other African pouched rats are being trained to smell TNT, which is contained in land mines. (Land mines are set in the ground during wars. Many innocent people have been hurt when they have stepped unknowingly on hidden mines and exploded them.) The rats' job is to run into a field and sniff for TNT. They don't weigh enough to set off the pressure-sensitive mines. When a rat smells the explosive, it scratches the spot where it is buried. The trainer, who holds the animal on a leash, marks the spot for professionals who will later remove the mine and then gives the rat a treat.

In 1 hour, Henry can locate more mines than a human with a metal detector can in a day. Every tasty treat that Henry and his buddies earn saves lives.

