The History of Service Dogs: How Do They Work?

Presented By:
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with Velcro
Educational Objectives:

• Examine the history of dogs in service
• Identify the multiple uses of Therapy Dogs for individuals with disabilities
• Identify the attributes dogs contribute in every discipline
• Opportunity at end of lecture to interact with Velcro
Dogs In History

• Dogs in our human societies have a long, complex and fascinating journey

• Wolf domestication for protection, work and later friendship

  » http://www.nwcreation.net/dogsandwolves.html
Dogs In History

• 300-272: BC Pyrrhus King of Epirus – Ancient Greece Used Dogs to Identify Killer of Master
• 1300: St Malo France Civil Patrol Dog Patrols Were Halted in 1770 after Naval Officer Killed
• 1461-1483: King Louis XI Reign Mont. St. Michael Abbey Stranger Warning Dogs

» http://www.police-dog.net/policedoghistory
Dogs In History

• 1895: Ghent, Belgium Cited as the First School for Training Dogs for Police Work
  – Population of 175,000 on 6,400 acres
  – By 1902 the program expanded with 120 men working with fifty to sixty dogs for patrol
  – Dogs on duty from 10:00PM until 6:00AM every day

» http://www.police-dog.net/policedoghistory
Dogs In History

• ~1910: Ghent Dog Program Expansion to Germany, Austria, Italy, England
  – Resembled an informal operation with dogs
  – Used as companions and observers
  – Were noted for a keen sense of smell
  – Mostly used for Patrol Dogs

  – http://www.police-dog.net/policedoghistory
Dogs In History

- Early English Adoption of Ghent Program
  - Resembled an informal operation
  - Was closely scrutinized and studied until 1934
  - International tension forced study to stop in 1939

» http://www.police-dog.net/policedoghistory/
Dogs In History

• 1907-1918: United States
  American Police Agency
  Police Dog
  – New York Police
    Department used trained
dogs on routine patrols
    • Personal pets taken for
      companionship
    • Used to roam with
      patrol rather than how
      we see police dogs
      utilized currently
      – http://www.police-
dog.net/policedoghistory
        1974.html
Dogs In History

- NY Program never fully developed and was abandoned in 1951 for various reasons:
  - Funding
  - Suitable Animals and Trainers
  - Need for constant in-service training
  - Lack of public acceptance

» http://www.angelfire.com/nm/mpk9dog/history/html
Dogs In United States

• Following Korean War canine state of the art training grew rapidly
• Crime rate in some cities were reaching epidemic proportions
• 1957 in Baltimore, MD developed a highly effective canine unit
• Proven to be successful in combating crime seen in the cities
  • http://www.angelfire.com/nm/mpk9dog/history/html
Dogs in United States

• 1970: Eighty departments using Dogs as part of their Patrol Force
• Included effective education in Canine Behavior and Training
• Major Cities Included: St. Louis, Washington, Chicago, Philadelphia and Miami

http://www.angelfire.com/nm/mpk9dog/history/html
Dogs in United States

• These Patrol Dogs led us into the well known K-9’s that advanced to:
  – Pursuit
  – Narcotics
  – Explosives
  – Evidence
  – Search
  – Rescue

» http://www.angelfire.com/nm/mpk9dog/history/html
Dogs in United States

• 1977: Military Police Dog Handlers
• Highly advanced training that is similar to the K-9 Police Dog
• FM 19-35, Military Police Working Dogs for further information
  » http://www.angelfire.com/nm/mpk9dog/history/html
Dog Attributes

• Fur:
  – Protection from thorns, sticks, sharp objects
  – Regulates body for heat and cold

» Beneficial Physical Attributes of a Dog for Law Enforcement
Dog Attributes

• Ears:
  – Much more sensitive to sound than human ears
  – Can hear the heartbeat of evading person

» Beneficial Physical Attributes of a Dog for Law Enforcement

Dog Attributes

• Eyes:
  – Unable to distinguish color as humans can
  – Better night vision than human
  – Greater ability to see movement than human

» Beneficial Physical Attributes of a Dog for Law Enforcement
» Pencil Drawing of Eye by Acacia Flocchini
Dog Attributes

• Nose:
  – Most highly developed
  – 220 million olfactory cells in Dogs
  – Compared to 5 million olfactory cells in humans
  – Used for tracking, detecting, locating

» Beneficial Physical Attributes of a Dog for Law Enforcement

» http://article.wn.com/view/2013/05/24/Dog_Bacteria_Bring_Potentially_Beneficial_Biodiversity_To_Ow/
Dog Attributes

- **Mouth:**
  - Used for capturing and holding
  - Dogs mouths can exert over 750 pounds of pressure per square inch
  - Can be trained for delicate mouth use

» Beneficial Physical Attributes of a Dog for Law Enforcement
Dog Attributes

• Legs:
  – Muscular to propel quickly and at very high speeds
  – Fastest Human can run approximately 23 miles and hour
  – Average Dog can run 32 miles per hour

» Beneficial Physical Attributes of a Dog for Law Enforcement
Dog Attributes

• Tail:
  – Acts as a counter balance when running at high speeds
  – Helps to make quick, sharp turns while maintaining balance

» Beneficial Physical Attributes of a Dog for Law Enforcement
Dogs: How Do They Work?

- Official Dogs
- Working Dogs
- Therapy Dogs
- Service Dogs
- Rescue Dogs
Official Dogs Defined

• Military Police Dogs
  – Patrol
  – Companion
  – Sniffing
    • Bomb
    • Drug
    • Suspect
  – Trained specifically to assist Military Police

• Police Patrol Dogs
  – Pursuit
  – Fire
  – Bomb/Gun Sniffing
  – Cadaver Seeking
  – Suspect Seeking and Chasing
  – Patrol
  – Companion
  – Trained specifically to assist Law Enforcement
Rescue Dogs Defined

• Best know as St. Bernard Dogs
• Used in building collapse, avalanches and other disasters
  – Lost Persons
    – Trained specifically to work with a partner in recovery and rescue

Working Dogs Defined

- On Farms and Ranches they herd and protect the animals
- In Sports to pull sleds, race, dock-jumping, endurance, obedience training
- In Hunting to flush out and retrieve game
- Obedience competitions – Dock Jumping
  - Trained Specifically for Needed Area of Work
Service Dogs Defined

• Assist with Persons in a multitude of areas:
  – Guide Dogs/Seeing Eye Dogs – Assist
  – Hearing Assistance Dogs – Alerts to Noise
  – Seizure Awareness Dog – Alert to Aura
  – Diabetic Awareness Dog – Alert to Breath
  – Immobility Needs – Alert to specific need of individual such as fetching, guarding
    – Trained Specifically to Serve Individual in Need of Required Service
History of Service Dogs

• 1929: First Dog Guide School in the US was The Seeing Eye, Inc
  – For many years was the only training school for dog guides in this country
  – Assist for those visually impaired

• 1960: The practice of using Dogs to enhance the life of Persons with Disabilities became more wide spread

» http://www.booboooinc.com/sos/history.html
History of Service Dogs

• 1975: Canine Companions for Independence highly trained assistance dogs for children and adults

• 1987: Assistance Dogs International, Inc
  – Trained and placed dogs
  – Developed Minimal Standards
  – Created Guidelines and Code of Ethics

» http://www.boobooinc.com/sos/history.html
History of Service Dogs

• 1986: **Air Carrier Access Act** – Public access rights for persons with disabilities who have service dogs

• 1988: **Fair Housing Amendments Act** – Prohibits discrimination in the sale or rental of a dwelling based on disability

» http://www.boobooinc.com/sos/history.html
History of Service Dogs

• 1990: **Americans with Disabilities Act** – National access right for people with disabilities and their service animals

• The use of service animals has greatly improved the life for people with disabilities due to these 3 federal laws

» http://www.boobooinc.com/sos/history.html
History of Therapy Dogs

- During WW II – Corporal William Wynne had companion dog – Smokey
- Noted how Smokey was helpful on missions and with injured
- Dr. Charles Mayo – commanding officer allowed to go on rounds to visit wounded soldiers
- Smokey worked for 12 years
History of Therapy Dogs

• 1976: Elaine Smith RN started a systematic approach to use and training
• Smiths dogs visited institutions with a noted physiological effect on the patients:
  – Lower Blood Pressure
  – Stress Relief
  – Raising Spirits
  – Overcoming psychological disorders
History of Therapy Dogs

• 1982: Nancy Stanley founded Tender Loving Zoo- introduced severely disabled children and hospitals and schools – all along she was researching the effects

• As a result the concept of dog therapy has broadened to “animal-assisted therapy” or “pet therapy” including other animals such as cats, rabbits etc
Differences Between Service and Therapy Dogs

• Service Dogs
  – According to ADA 1990 trained to assist a person with a physical, medical or mental disability
  – These animals have the same rights as those of their owner

• Therapy Dogs
  – A trained dog to provide affection and comfort to persons in hospitals, Child Advocacy Centers, Assisted Living
  – Usually works with a handler that is present during these visits
Comparing Service and Therapy Dogs

- **Service Dogs**
  - Guide Dog or Dog Guide
    - Assist in vision loss either partial or complete
  - Mobility
    - Retrieve, open doors, push buttons, assist with walking and transfers

- **Therapy Dogs**
  - Handler of therapy dogs will encounter in hospitals and other settings persons:
    - Complete or partial vision loss
    - Immobility
Comparing Service and Therapy Dogs

• **Service Dogs**
  - Hearing Alert
    • Alerts handler with a hearing loss to sounds
  - Seizure Alert/Response
    • Trained to recognize the onset of seizures and alert or respond to the seizure

• **Therapy Dogs**
  - Hearing and Seizure Alert Handler
    • Multiple uses for service animal in this area:
      - group homes
      - assisted living
      - private homes with parent as handler
Comparing Service and Therapy Dogs

• Service Dogs
  – Medical Alert/Response
    • Trained to alert another of conditions such as:
      – Heart attack
      – Stroke
      – Diabetes
      – Epilepsy
      – Panic/Anxiety attack
      – PTSD

• Therapy Dogs
  – Handlers with Medical Alert – PTSD
    • Visit hospital settings, VA clinics
    • Child Advocacy Centers
      – assist in calming maltreated children
    • Prior to trial also used in court settings to calm maltreated child
      » National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse
Comparing Service and Therapy Dogs

- **Service Dogs**
  - Autism Service
    - Integrate the service animal to keep the incidents of volatile behaviors
    - Create safety for family members
      - Remember to protect service animal from any potential abuse

- **Therapy Dogs**
  - Handlers with Autism Awareness Dogs
    - Assist in therapy sessions, hospital settings, assisted living to help in calming and promotes social interactions
      - Handlers know to protect service animal from potential abuse
Uses of Therapy Dogs

• Healing
  – After Surgery
  – From PTSD
  – Anxiety
  – Fear
  – Trauma
  – Mental Illness

• A body of research has suggested that interactions with therapy dogs can increase oxytocin (bonding) and dopamine (happiness), while lowering cortisol
Valuable Websites

http://www.assistancedogsinternational.org/

http://humananimalsolutions.com/services_training/animal-assisted-therapy/
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Questions

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Thank you