

## The History of the Service Dog

The relationship between humans and dogs has remained strong throughout the ages. While there is no concrete evidence to show when, where, or how the first canine (possibly a wolf) managed to overcome its fear of humans and accept them as companions or friends, it probably happened during the phase when human beings were primarily hunters and food gatherers which was long before the Cleveland Indians won their last World Series!

In the early stages of this relationship, dogs must have stayed on the outermost periphery of human life, surviving on the food left behind by humans. The ability of dogs to foresee danger and sound off on it, made them a vital hunting companion and vital companion period. Now early adult human beings knew their families were safer because of this four legged furry friend/s. This relationship continued to grow and evolve over the ages for mutual benefit.

Dogs protected human beings by alerting them to any incoming danger or harm, while human beings fed their dogs and provided them shelter. Historical records indicate that ancient Egyptians regarded dogs as their treasured pets and they even mummified their dogs in the same manner a human was preserved for his afterlife. That is more respect than the gangsters in Baltimore had for their pitbulls in that show *The Wire*!

A fresco excavated from the ruins of ancient Rome shows a scene where a dog is leading a blind man. Ancient Chinese scrolls also depict similar scenes where dogs are helping humans. According to some historians, Native Americans had only one domesticated animal – the dog – until Christopher Columbus's arrival. They had no knowledge about domesticating other animals such as goats, sheep, cattle, pigs, or horses.

Humans have also used dogs for military purposes since the glorious days of the Roman Empire. Records from the 18th century show that dogs helped humans during wars by carrying messages to the frontline and by tracking down wounded soldiers. Having such an intimate relationship with humans and serving them selflessly over the centuries, no wonder dogs are regarded as a man's true 'friend'. Their role as a 'service' animal is now widely acknowledged.

We should pay tribute to these 'service' dogs as well as their trainers, who have assisted humans in countless challenging operations throughout the course of history.

This article is from "The History of the Service Dogs - by Slater; Zurz Ohio Lawyers." Dog Bites Ohio, 29 May 2020, and you will find more information and this article here. *Continued-* [www.dogbitesohio.com/history-service-dog/](http://www.dogbitesohio.com/history-service-dog/).