FORM 3

CLOSE-UP

UNIT 4 : SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Reading : Page 44-45

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4 Special Relationships

Reading

A Look at the dogs in photos 1–3. Which ones do you think are 'working'?

B What sort of work can dogs do? Work in pairs and list as many jobs as you can think of in your notebook.

C Read the article about the relationships between humans and dogs. What reason does the writer give for the growing number of domestic dogs?

Word Focus

suspicious: describes an action that makes you feel that something is wrong or illegal
sniff: to smell something
physical disability: a physical illness or injury that makes it difficult for someone to do the things that other people do
rubble: the broken bricks, stone, etc that are left when a building falls down

Dogs in a human world

The friendship between humans and dogs possibly began 14,000 years ago. Perhaps wild dogs became interested in human rubbish, or humans took the puppies of wild dogs and trained them to be obedient pets and helpers. When humans choose the parents of dogs, they can create a wonderful variety of dogs with plenty of talents and many different looks. Here are four examples of 'a dog's life' in the human world.

A Food sniffer dogs

Jacques is one member of the Beagle Brigade, a group of beagles that work at international airports in the United States. Their job is to smell and find illegal fruits, vegetables and other foods in luggage and mail. These foods sometimes bring insects and diseases which could be dangerous for plants and animals. The beagle calmly sits down next to anything that smells suspicious. The dog's human partner then checks for illegal foods. Why beagles? They're friendly and cute, so they don't scare people as they sniff through the crowds. More importantly, beagles have an astonishing nose for food. The Beagle Brigade can find food in luggage and packages 84% of the time!

B Treated like a queen

Some dogs live in luxury. Tiffy, a lovely Maltese, is one of these. Her owner, Nancy Jane Loewy, treats her like a queen. She carefully prepares Tiffy's meals of meat, fish, chicken and a variety of fresh vegetables. Tiffy also eats yoghurt and biscuits after dinner.

Loewy's husband has a very good job and her two sons are away at university, so she has the time and money to treat Tiffy extremely well, and she truly enjoys doing it. 'I want to give her the healthiest, most wonderful life possible for as long as possible,' she says.

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D Read the *Exam Close-up*. Then read the *Exam Task* below and underline the key words.

Exam Task

Look at the sentences below about dogs. Read the text to decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. Write T (True) or F (False).

1. Wild dogs have existed for approximately 14,000 years. ☐
2. Humans are responsible for the different kinds of dogs in the world. ☐
3. All airports in the United States use beagles to check for food. ☐
4. Some foods are not safe because they can carry sicknesses. ☐
5. Tiffy eats home-cooked meals, not normal dog food. ☐
6. Jessie doesn't help the patients in hospital. ☐
7. Service dogs can do simple tasks for people who cannot walk. ☐
8. SAR dogs use their sense of smell to find people who are lost. ☐
9. Dogs that love to chase a tennis ball do not need rewards. ☐
10. It is possible that one day there will be no more wolves. ☐

Exam Close-up

Worrying about new words

- When you are reading a text, don't worry when you see vocabulary that you don't know.
- Remember that it isn't necessary for you to understand every word to find the answers to the questions.
- In your own language, when you see a new word, you can find the meaning by looking at the words around it. Do the same with English.

E Find the adjectives below in the text and then match them with the meanings 1–6.

dangerous astonishing lovely strong obedient beneficial

1. _____: listens and does what you say
2. _____: not good for you
3. _____: can move heavy things
4. _____: very nice, beautiful
5. _____: good for you
6. _____: very surprising

C Animal carers

Jessie is a whippet that visits very sick children in hospital. She shows them her love and gives the children a chance to exercise. When they feel down, Jessie makes them happy. Jessie helps patients like young Lukas Parks to stay strong during their time in hospital.

There are many different kinds of animals that help people. We train 'service dogs' to help people with physical disabilities. The best known service dogs are guides for the blind. But four-legged friends perform other roles too. They can learn to open and close doors, turn lights on and off, pick up objects from the floor and even pull wheelchairs.

D Doggie detectives

Search-and-rescue (SAR) dogs use their amazing noses to find people. Hercules, an Alsatian, can smell tiny clues that people leave wherever they go. These include bacteria, small pieces of clothing and hairs. He has found missing hikers and has searched through rubble after earthquakes and other disasters. SAR dogs must be strong, obedient, athletic and smart. Most of all, they must love to play. Trainers look for dogs that go crazy over a favourite toy, such as a tennis ball. Those dogs will do any job if the reward afterwards is playtime.

As workers or pets, dogs are certainly beneficial to humans in many ways. They have a special place as 'man's best friend' and this has helped dogs to survive in our world. Wolves and wild dogs have nearly disappeared from the earth, but the number of pets and working dogs continues to increase, because of their special relationship with humans.

Ideas Focus

- Do you know anyone who has an animal helper?
- Do you think it's right to let animals work for humans? Why / Why not?

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