While you read



Read the text carefully. Then answer the following questions.

Four-legged Heroes

With support from Antwerp University, Bart Weetjens created an organisation called APOPO in Tanzania, and with a team of researchers he developed detection rats technology (Hero RATS). Bart believes that we should treat rats as heroes.

HeroRATS were firstly tested in the real minefields in Mozambique. Rats are trained to sniff the ground in order to find underground landmines left in the area during past wars as many landmines are still alive. They usually explode, killing and injuring thousands of people.

The giant rats are never mistreated or killed doing their work. HeroRATS received multiple international recognitions, including the 2003 World Bank's Development Marketplace global competition.

While In real life, rats aren't seen as heroes and people usually have mixed feelings about rats and try to avoid them. Dogs have been known to be heroes and humans' friends.

There are many stories about dogs rescuing humans under extraordinary circumstances; provide warnings of danger; soothe and comfort; and perform challenging, heroic tasks. Dogs have lifesaving skills that we don't have as humans.

Dogs have an extraordinarily sense of smell. They can detect odors at extremely low levels and can distinguish odors that are subtly different. That's why, they are now being trained to sniff out chemicals from the body that are connected to diseases, even before doctors or laboratory tests can find them!

So, when you see a rat or a dog next time don't be afraid and remember these animals can save your lives.

1. What is Bart Weetjen's organization? What does it do?

2. Why does Bart think that rats are heroes?

3. What lifesaving skill do dogs have?

LIVEWORKSHEETS