

THE NATIONAL SERVICE DOG BRAVERY & ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

FRONTAL TO SPONSOR BRITAIN'S TOP SERVICE DOG AWARDS

There can be very few people who have or will ever experience the extreme pressure faced by the Service Dog Teams in their normal course of duty. Imagine working with your Explosive Search dog, knowing somewhere close by there are high explosives or bombs that could detonate at any moment and take the lives of yourself, your dog and your colleagues, and you have the responsibility to locate the offending objects. There is no margin for error, your calculations have to be 100% correct and the dogs' indication must be perfect. The pressure must be immense, yet you still have to remain completely calm and in control.

A police officer and his dog are often called upon, to locate and face dangerous criminals, to protect the lives and ensure the safety of the public. The thought of looking down the barrels of a loaded shotgun or revolver, which is being levelled at you by a criminal, must be a daunting experience, yet police officers and their canine companions have to deal with these situations on many occasions and apprehend the suspect. That is pure bravery from both the handler and his dog. You and I could walk away, a Police Officer can't.

Life and death situations arise in many guises and again a Service dog handler will often be called on to locate a missing child, an elderly person that may have wandered off and their safety will greatly depend on the dog using his nose and the handlers skill in recognising the signals. Just one wrong turn could mean the difference between life and death and it is up to the handler to ensure that he makes the right decision.

Out of nearly 6,000,000 dogs living in the British Isles, some 3500 work within the service dog domain in the Military, the Ministry of Defence, Police Forces, Customs and Excise, Prison Service and the Fire Service. Their role may also include detecting terrorists, earthquake victims, hidden drugs cache, controlling prison riots and rioting crowds – we all, at sometime, will rely on the expertise of the Service Canine Teams of dog and handler for help and in many cases never know that they are there.

The superb ability of the canine nose, hearing and stamina, along with the bravery and skill of the handler enables many tragedies to be avoided and crimes to be detected and solved.

Without the Service Dog a great many lives and even National Security would be in jeopardy. These dedicated handlers and their canine companions are paramount in ensuring the world is a safer place. In many cases every single day their lives are in danger, yet they carry on regardless with their devotion to duty and are 'proud to serve'.

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From these 3500 dogs and handlers, 16 have been chosen to receive the **National Service Dog Bravery and Achievement Awards**, regarded as the most prestigious in the Canine World.

In recognition of the Service Dog team's outstanding achievements, we offer our sincere thanks and gratitude for the work which more often than not goes unrecognised. It is with this in mind that the executive committee of **All About Dogs**, honour the dog sections for their magnificent contribution to society and their unstinting dedication to duty, with these National Service Dog Bravery and Achievement Awards.

These unique commemorative plaques will be presented by the Rt Hon Lord Petre, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex at All About Dogs, Britain's largest outdoor dog event, on Sunday 13th May 2007.

These awards are kindly sponsored by Drontal, Britain's favourite wormer.

Commemorative leads are kindly donated by John Humphris Ltd, suppliers of equipment for the professional dog.

ALL ABOUT DOGS
12th & 13th May 2007
The Brentwood Centre Showground,
Doddinghurst Road,
Brentwood,
Essex CM15 9NN

Gates open 10am – 6pm each day
Admission is just £5.00 for adults and £3.00 for children per day

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