

The DogChannel Newswire (10-23-08)

Warrior dogs not forgotten; detection dogs sniff out cell phones; and other news.

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Special-Ed Students Mourn Loss of Canine Classmate

Abby wasn't a trained, certified therapy dog, but her owner, special-education teacher Therese Russell, had a hunch the Golden Retriever would add a calming presence to her classroom in the Shoreline School District. For 12 years, Abby went to school with Russell, wore her own district I.D. badge, went down the slide at recess with her classmates and walked them to their buses in the afternoon. Abby died Oct. 10 of cancer, the Seattle Times reports.

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Warrior Dogs Not Forgotten

After the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, local military officials began talking about ways to fund a new hospital for dogs who help keep the world safe. Seven years later, Lackland AFB has a 38,000-square-foot hospital with surgical, imaging, and therapy rooms, and a breeding wing to help meet a growing demand for bomb-sniffing and sentry dogs to protect military bases, airports and other potential targets of terrorism, the San Antonio Express-News reports.

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Low-Cost Spay-Neuter Clinic Marks One Year in Business

Alabama's first low-cost, high-volume spay and neuter clinic is celebrating one year in Montgomery, and now the idea is starting to take hold in other cities. The clinic provides affordable spaying and neutering of cats and dogs and was created with the goal of reducing the pet population and euthanasia, the Montgomery Advertiser reports.

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Detection Dogs Sniff Out Cell Phones at Demonstration in Hagerstown

Alba, an 18-month-old Belgian Malinois, bounded into a conference room and leaped onto Maj. Peter Anderson. While most dogs are trained not to jump on people, Alba was just doing her job. "She found my personal cell phone," Anderson said to a small gathering of his fellow correctional officers, who were in Hagerstown this week to learn about detection dogs, the Hagerstown (Md.) Morning Herald reports.

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Experts Say Next Epidemic Will Start in Animals

A report to be released next week by the nonprofit Trust for America's Health asserts that infectious diseases from the developing world are anything but "a back-burner concern." The report, "Germs Go Global: Why Emerging Infectious Diseases Are a Threat to America," cites National Intelligence Estimates that conclude outbreaks of new and resurgent infectious diseases, many of which "originate overseas," kill more than 170,000 people in the U.S. each year, USA Today reports.

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