

May 2010

Dog Leads Alaska State Troopers to Fire

By: Leslie Brown - dogspired.com



Buddy, a 5-year-old German shepherd, was honored as a hero for guiding Alaska State Troopers through back roads to a fire that was blazing at his owner's workshop on April 4.

At a ceremony for the brave dog, he received a commendation and a stainless steel dog bowl. The bowl was engraved with words of appreciation from the troopers for his diligence and assistance. The dog also received a big rawhide bone, and his human family got a framed letter documenting his efforts.

For some reason, Buddy knew that there was a fire, and went

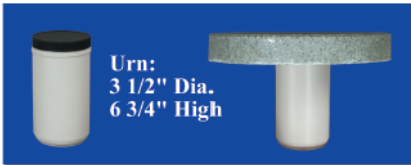
to get help for his family. The heroic deed was seen on a patrol car's dashcam video, which showed the dog meeting the trooper's car and then running toward the property just north of Anchorage in an area with about 75 miles of back roads. The dog kept looking back at the patrol car as he raced ahead, arriving just in front of the blaze. From there, the trooper guided firefighters to the scene. Buddy's owner, Ben Heinrichs, was almost tearful at the commemoration as he commented that the dog had saved his house and his family from the fire.

The family said they knew Buddy was smart and that he was very brave, twice chasing bears away while Ben Heinrichs was fishing.

Although Buddy was initially stuck inside the burning building, Heinrichs let him out and the dog was not injured.

"He's my hero," owner Ben Heinrichs said.

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Veterinary Pet Insurance Reveals Top 15 Feline Medical Conditions

Lower urinary tract disease is the top medical condition affecting cats, according to Veterinary Pet Insurance, which recently analyzed its database of almost 62,000 insured cats to find the most common feline health problems. The condition costs cat owners an average of \$260 per claim.

The top 15 medical conditions affecting both indoor and outdoor cats are as follows:

1. Lower urinary tract disease
 2. Chronic renal failure
 3. Skin allergies and infections
 4. Hyperthyroidism
 5. Diabetes
 6. Tooth infection requiring extraction
 7. Upper respiratory infections
 8. Ear infection
 9. Eye infection
 10. Constipation
 11. Asthma
 12. Soft tissue injuries/sprains
 13. Laceration and bite wounds
 14. Benign skin growths
 15. Gastritis/vomiting/diarrhea
- From Veterinary Practice News



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