



SEIZURE- ALERT DOGS

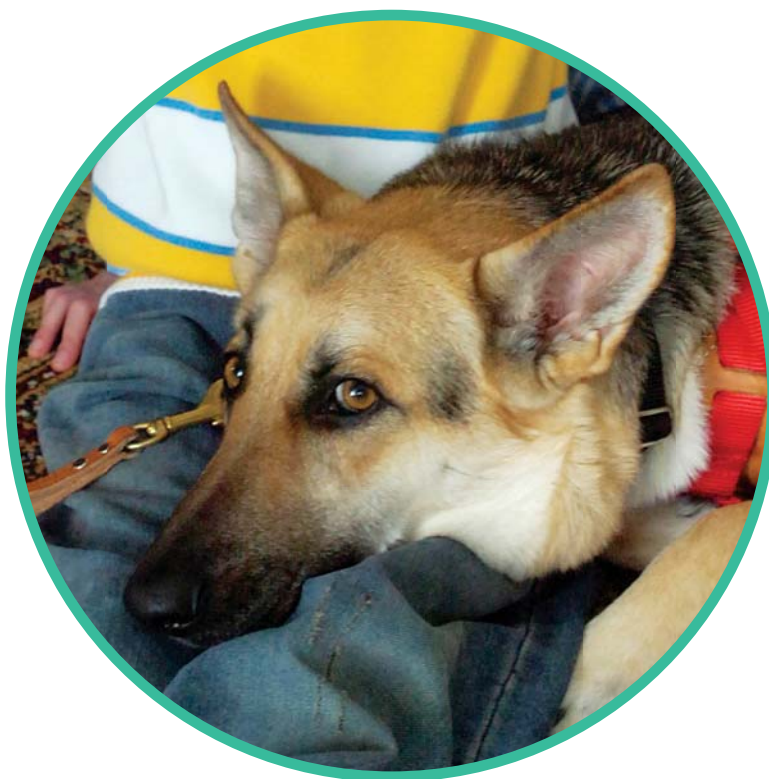


by Margaret Fetty

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SEIZURE-ALERT DOGS



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Executive Director, 4 Paws For Ability, Inc.**

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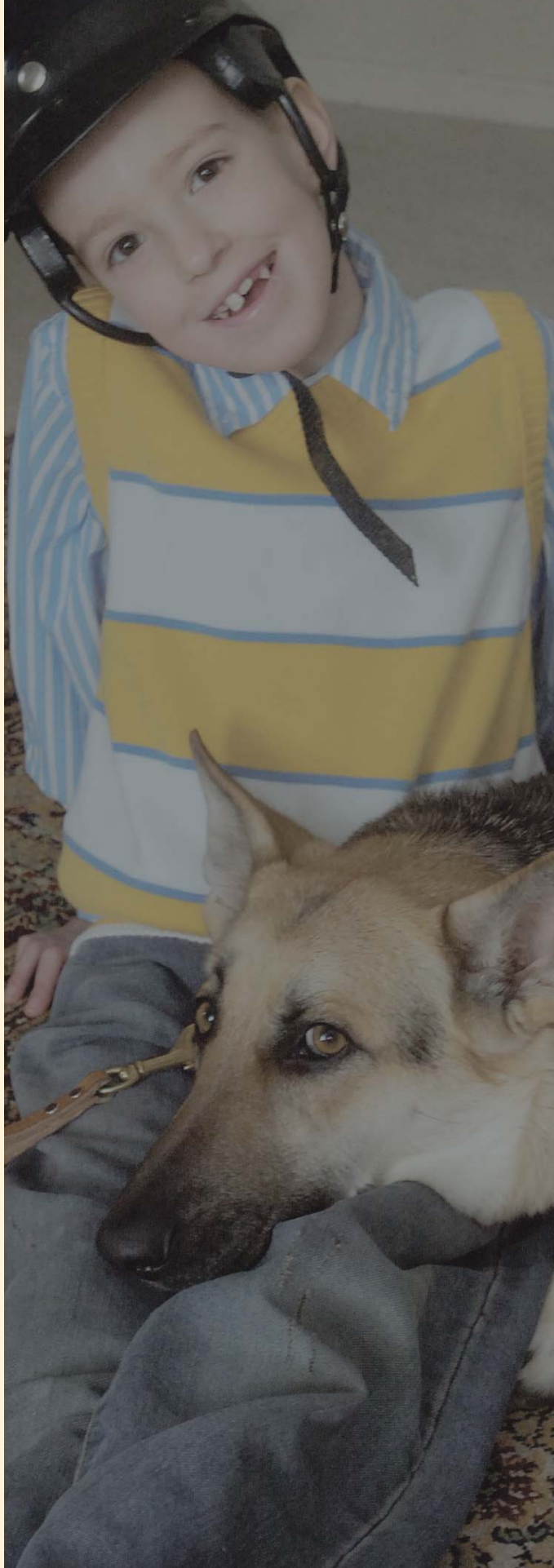
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Warning in the Park

Jewl Wall and her husband, Michael, were looking for a shady place to rest while enjoying the day at a Georgia theme park. Tagert, Jewl's Labrador retriever, walked alongside them. Suddenly, a crowd swarmed from behind, separating Jewl and Tagert from Michael.

As Jewl looked around for her husband, Tagert nipped her hand. Jewl knew what that meant. A **seizure** was coming! Shortly, she would lose **consciousness** and wouldn't know where she was.



Jewl and Tagert

Jewl quickly led her dog behind a game booth where she thought she would be safe. Almost immediately, the seizure struck! Unaware of what she was doing, Jewl started to walk away. Tagert jumped in front of her and stopped her.

For eight minutes, Tagert circled Jewl. No matter which way she turned, the Lab blocked her path. He knew that Jewl had lost consciousness and didn't know what she was doing. When the seizure finally passed, Jewl realized that she was still behind the booth. Tagert had kept her safe!

Tagert also helped Jewl, who is hearing-impaired, in another way. When someone called Jewl's name, Tagert would nudge her hand. Sadly, Tagert passed away in 2005.



A seizure can strike at any time—day or night. It may last from a few seconds to several minutes. People often take medicine to help control seizures.

Brain Signals

Tagert was a seizure-**alert** dog, which means he had been trained to warn people who have **epilepsy** of an oncoming seizure. During a seizure, the brain sends out signals that cause a person to feel and act differently than normal.

Candice, who has epilepsy, gets help crossing the crosswalk from her seizure-alert dog, Chiper.



Seizures can affect people in many ways. Some lose consciousness and fall down, often breaking bones. Parts of their bodies may shake, too. Others, like Jewl, walk around unaware of where they're going. For example, a person might walk into the middle of a busy street. When a seizure-alert dog warns his or her human partner of a seizure, the person has time to prepare and stay safe.



People with epilepsy can do the same things as people who don't have the condition, such as work, exercise, and play sports. Their dogs stay nearby to help if needed.

Epilepsy is not the only cause of seizures. Severe head injuries or illness can sometimes produce a seizure as well.

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About the Author

Margaret Fetty lives in Austin, Texas, with her two miniature schnauzers, Cabo and Tristian. All three enjoy long runs in the park.

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SEIZURE- ALERT DOGS

Jewl Wall and her husband, Michael, were looking for a shady place to rest. Tagert, Jewl's Labrador retriever, walked alongside them. Suddenly, a crowd swarmed from behind, separating Jewl and Tagert from Michael. As Jewl looked around for her husband, Tagert nipped her hand. Jewl knew what that meant. A seizure was coming! Shortly, she would lose consciousness. Would Tagert be able to help her stay safe?

Tagert is just one of many special dogs that help people like Jewl every day. Look inside to learn more about Tagert and many other amazing seizure-alert dogs.

Combat-Wounded Dogs

Disaster Search Dogs

Dog Scouts of America

Fire Dogs

Guide Dogs

Hollywood Dogs

Medical Detective Dogs

Military Dogs

Police Dogs

Security Dogs

Seizure-Alert Dogs

Service Dogs

Sled Dogs

Snow Search Dogs

Therapy Dogs

Water Rescue Dogs

Wilderness Search Dogs

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