



SHELTER DOGS



by Meish Goldish

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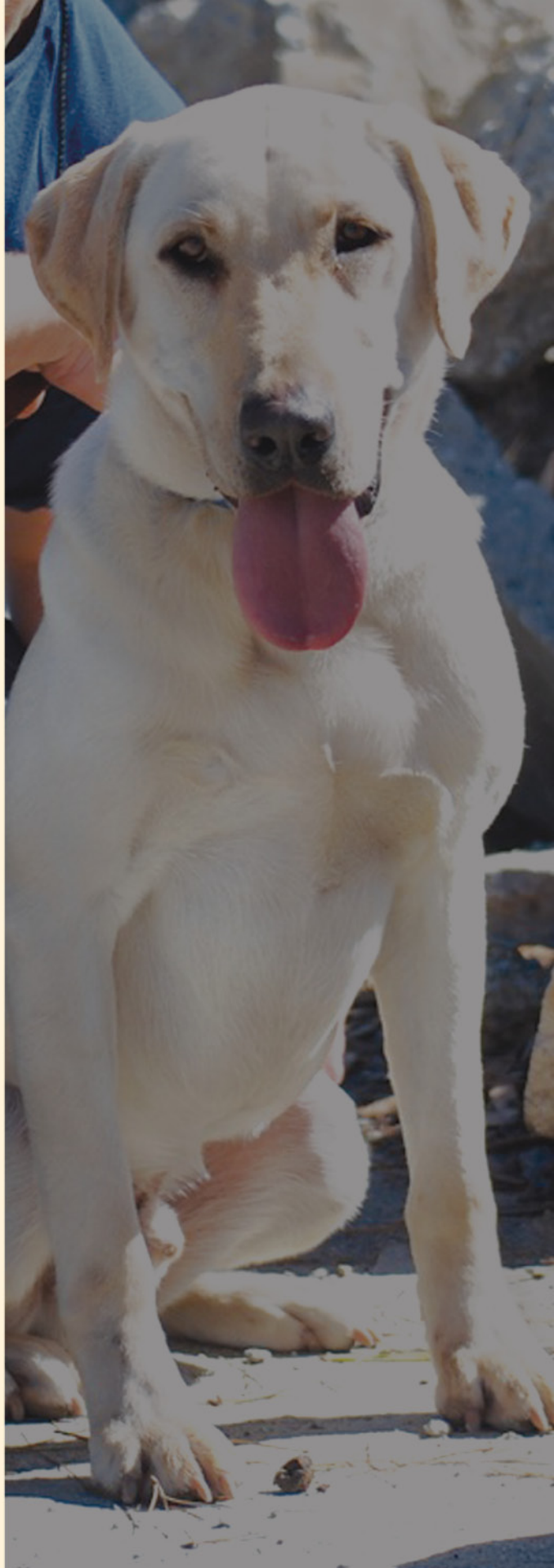
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A Dog Named Bear

In 2010, Debbie Zeisler **adopted** a huge dog named Bear from an **animal shelter** in Texas. Debbie, who suffers from **seizures**, felt an immediate connection with the 100-pound (45 kg) German shepherd. Little did Debbie know that one day Bear would save her life.



Debbie Zeisler
with her dog, Bear

Experts believe that Bear can smell a special scent that Debbie's body gives off before she has a seizure.

One hot summer day in 2011, Debbie left her house to check her mailbox. All of a sudden, Bear blocked her path by moving his body in front of hers. He sensed that she was going to have a seizure. Unaware of what was coming and eager to get her mail, Debbie continued walking. Then the seizure struck. Debbie fell down and banged her head. She lay **unconscious** in front of her house. Could Bear help her?



Some dogs can be trained to know when their owner is about to have a seizure. However, Bear never received any training.

Racing Against Time

As Debbie lay on the ground, Bear ran to get help. Using his large paws, Bear scratched on the front door of each neighbor's home. Luckily, two **animal control officers** finally spotted the dog. As soon as they saw the tag on Bear's collar that identified him as a **service dog**, they knew they had to find his owner. The officers quickly searched the neighborhood until they found Debbie's house.



When Bear and the officers arrived, Debbie was awake but dizzy and confused. The officers called an ambulance. Luckily, Debbie recovered quickly from her fall. For his quick action, Bear received the National Hero Dog Award from the SPCA of Los Angeles in 2012. "This just goes to show how amazing shelter dogs can be," said the SPCA's president.



SPCA stands for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The organization works to keep animals healthy and safe from abuse.

"I rescued him. He rescued me," said Debbie, speaking of her special companion, Bear.

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About the Author

Meish Goldish has written more than 200 books for children. His book *Dolphins in the Navy* received a Eureka! Honor Book Award from the California Reading Association in 2012.

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SHELTER DOGS

In 2011, Debbie Zeisler was leaving her house to check her mailbox when Bear, a dog that she had adopted from an animal shelter, suddenly blocked her path. Somehow, Bear sensed that Debbie, who suffers from seizures, was going to have an attack. Eager to get her mail, Debbie continued walking. Then the seizure struck, and Debbie fell down and banged her head. Bear ran to get help—but would he be able to find someone in time?

Many shelter dogs go on to do extraordinary things after being rescued. From searching for earthquake survivors to helping people with medical problems, these dogs prove over and over just how special they are. Look inside to find out more about Bear and other incredible shelter dogs.

Baghdad Pups
Bomb-Sniffing Dogs
Combat-Wounded Dogs
Disabled Dogs
Disaster Search Dogs
Dog Scouts of America
Eco Dogs
Fire Dogs
Ground Zero Dogs
Guide Dogs
Hollywood Dogs
Medical Detective Dogs
Military Dogs
Pest-Sniffing Dogs
Police Dogs
Prison Puppies
Science Dogs
Security Dogs

Seizure-Alert Dogs
Service Dogs
Shelter Dogs
Sled Dogs
Snow Search Dogs
Soldiers' Dogs
Surf Dog Miracles
Therapy Dogs
Water Rescue Dogs
Wilderness Search Dogs

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