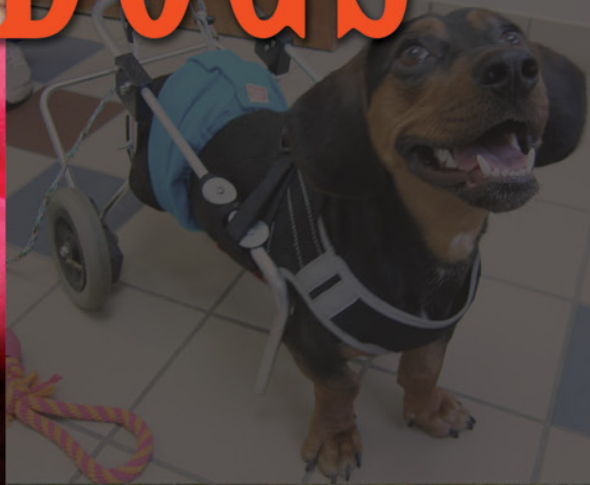




# SCIENCE DOGS



by Meish Goldish

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# SCIENCE DOGS



**by Meish Goldish**

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# Memory Champ

A black-and-white border collie named Chaser sat in front of a huge pile of toys. There were more than a thousand of them. Chaser's owner, Dr. John Pilley, had spent three years trying to teach his dog the names of all the toys. Now he was ready to see if Chaser could actually remember them all.

Chaser learned the names of more than 1,000 stuffed animals, balls, and Frisbees.

To test Chaser's memory, nine toys from the pile were placed in a row. Chaser was then asked to fetch one. "Find Inky," she was told. Chaser ran to the line of toys. She looked at each one and quickly snatched up Inky, the stuffed octopus, in her mouth. Then, one by one, Chaser was told to fetch the other toys by name. The smart **canine** identified all nine objects without making a single mistake! Chaser proved that a dog can learn and remember hundreds of words.



Dr. Pilley, a retired psychologist, taught Chaser new words by showing her a toy and repeating its name up to 40 times.

Chaser was able to remember the names of 1,022 objects and could fetch each one on **command**!

# Names and Actions


As Dr. Pilley taught Chaser new words, he wondered how the dog's mind worked. For example, when he said, "Fetch doll," did Chaser think the word *fetch* was part of the doll's name? Or did she understand that *fetch* was an action that she was supposed to do?

Chaser with  
a stuffed animal



To find the answer, Dr. Pilley taught Chaser two more action words: *paw* and *nose*. Then he told her to “Paw doll.” Chaser moved the doll with her paw, but she didn’t fetch it. When Dr. Pilley said, “Nose doll,” the dog simply touched the toy with her nose. Chaser showed that she understood the difference between objects and actions, just as children do!

Chaser fetching  
a tennis ball



Chaser’s ability to understand more than 1,000 words is similar to that of a three-year-old child.

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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 2012 Eureka! Honor Book Award from the California Reading Association.

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A dachshund named Jasper was unable to move his back legs after injuring his spinal cord in an accident. In 2012, scientists at Cambridge University tried an unusual experiment to help Jasper walk again. They took special cells from inside his nose and transplanted them in his spine. Would the cells be able to repair Jasper's damaged spinal cord?

For more than a century, dogs have played a key role in scientific discoveries that benefit both people and pets—from the invention of the pacemaker to a cancer-sniffing machine modeled after a dog's nose. Look inside to find out more about Jasper and other fascinating science 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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