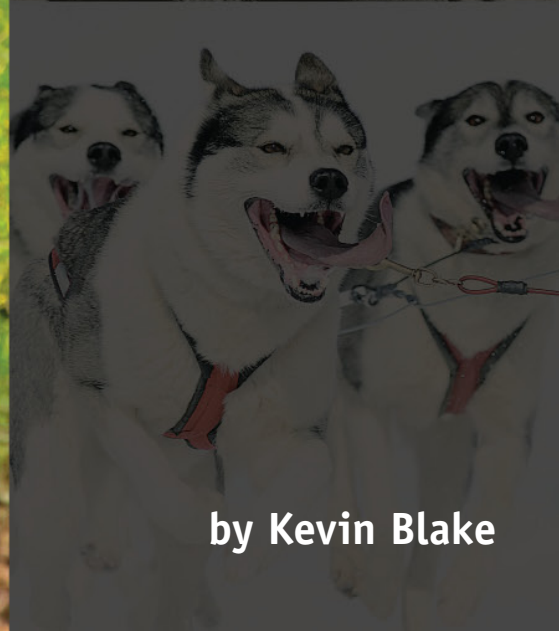
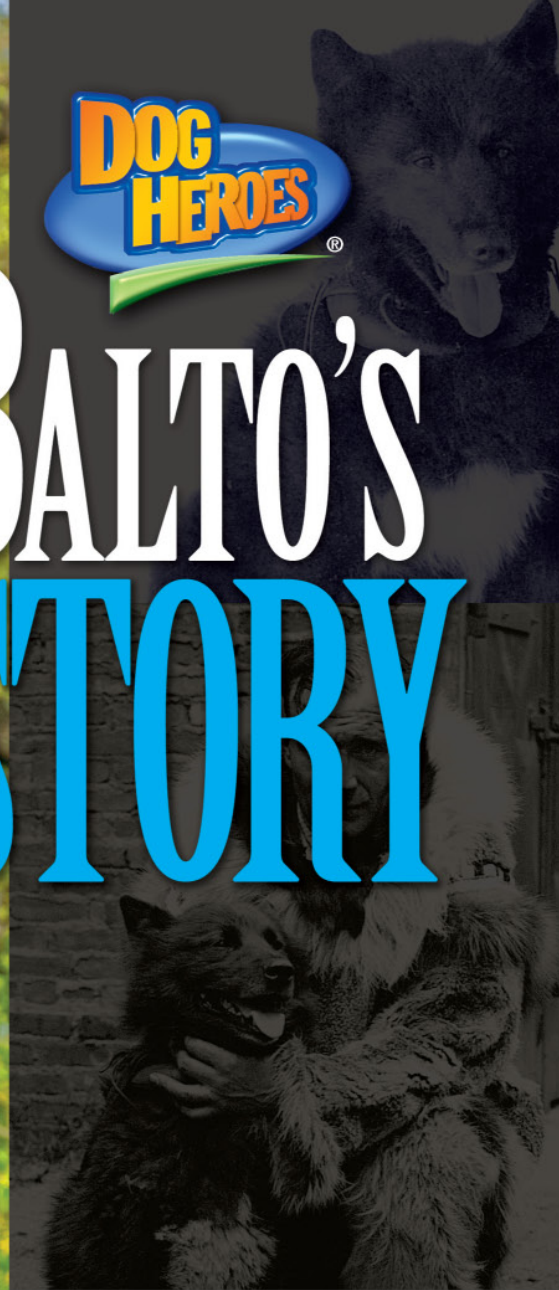




BALTO'S STORY



by Kevin Blake

[Intentionally Left Blank]



BALTO'S STORY



by Kevin Blake

**Consultant: Harvey Webster, Director
Wildlife Resource Center
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Cleveland, Ohio**

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover and Title Page, © AlphaAndOmega/Alamy, © Wikipedia/Creative Commons, © Bettmann/Corbis/AP Images, and © ventdusud/Shutterstock; TOC, © AlphaAndOmega/Alamy; 4T, © Bettmann/Corbis/AP Images; 4B, © BSIP/UiG via Getty Images; 6–7, © Carrie McLain Museum/AlaskaStock; 7, © Wikipedia/Creative Commons; 8–9, © Museum of History & Industry, Seattle; All Rights Reserved; 9T, © PF-(sdasm4)/Alamy; 10, © Randi Hausken from Bærum, Norway; 10TR, © Wolfgang Kaehler/Corbis; 11, © Alaska Stock/Alamy; 12, © Underwood & Underwood/Corbis; 13, © Wikipedia/Creative Commons; 14, © Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.; 15, © AP Photo; 16, © Jeff Schultz/AlaskaStock; 17, © Bettmann/Corbis/AP Images; 18, © Jean-Erick Pasquier/Gamma-Rapho; 19L, © Associated Press; 19R, © Images & Stories/Alamy; 20T, © ventdusud/Shutterstock; 20B, © chaoss/Shutterstock; 21, © Jeff Schultz/AlaskaStock; 22, © Jeff Schultz/AlaskaStock; 23, © imagebroker.net/SuperStock; 24, © Bettmann/Corbis/AP Images; 25, © Carrie McLain Museum/AlaskaStock; 26, © AlphaAndOmega/Alamy; 27T, © Al Grillo/Zumapress.com; 27B, © Michael Penn/Juneau Empire; 28, © WildLivingArts/Thinkstock; 29TL, © Eric Isselee/Shutterstock; 29TR, © Yann Arthus-Bertrand/Corbis; 29BL, © Jagodka/Shutterstock; 29BR, © Eric Isselee/Shutterstock.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Joyce Tavalacci

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Dawn Beard Creative

Photo Researcher: Picture Perfect Professionals, LLC

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Blake, Kevin, 1978–author.

Balto's story / by Kevin Blake ; consultant, Harvey Webster, Director Wildlife Resource Center, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio.

pages cm. — (Dog heroes)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-62724-286-8 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-62724-286-4 (library binding)

1. Balto (Dog)—Juvenile literature. 2. Sled dogs—Alaska—Biography—Juvenile literature.

3. Diphtheria—Alaska—Nome—Juvenile literature. 4. Nome (Alaska)—History—Juvenile literature.

I. Title. II. Series: Dog heroes.

SF428.7.B53 2015

636.73—dc23

2014011635

Copyright © 2015 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Table of Contents

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| A Daring Path | 4 |
| Outbreak! | 6 |
| Isolated | 8 |
| Husky Power! | 10 |
| Underdog | 12 |
| Racing Against Time | 14 |
| Crossing Norton Sound | 16 |
| Balto Takes the Lead | 18 |
| Lost Trail | 20 |
| Almost Disaster | 22 |
| Arrival in Nome | 24 |
| A National Hero | 26 |
| | |
| Just the Facts | 28 |
| Common Breeds: | |
| Sled Dogs | 29 |
| Glossary | 30 |
| Bibliography | 31 |
| Read More | 31 |
| Learn More Online | 31 |
| Index | 32 |
| About the Author | 32 |



A Daring Path

Musher Gunnar Kaasen and his **lead dog**, Balto, were battling the worst winter storm to hit Alaska in twenty years. The temperature had dropped to -50°F (-46°C). Fierce winds roared at 70 miles per hour (113 kph) as snow pounded Gunnar's sled. The blinding **blizzard** made it impossible to see.



Gunnar and Balto

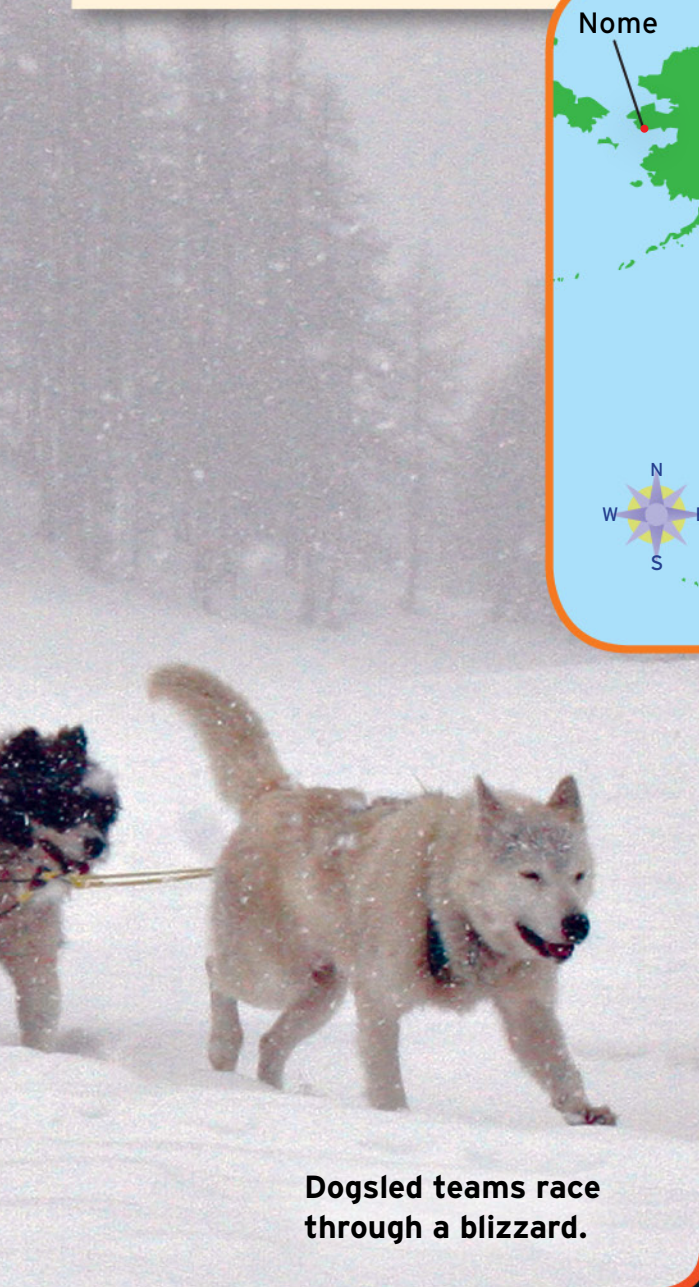


At -50°F (-46°C), it's so cold that, without gloves, a person's fingers can freeze solid within minutes.

Waiting for the weather to change, however, wasn't an option. It was already February 1, 1925, and the clock was ticking fast. Fifty miles (81 km) away in Nome, Alaska, dozens of the town's children were sick and near death. Gunnar and Balto carried the only medicine that could cure them. The storm couldn't stop them. The children's lives depended on it.



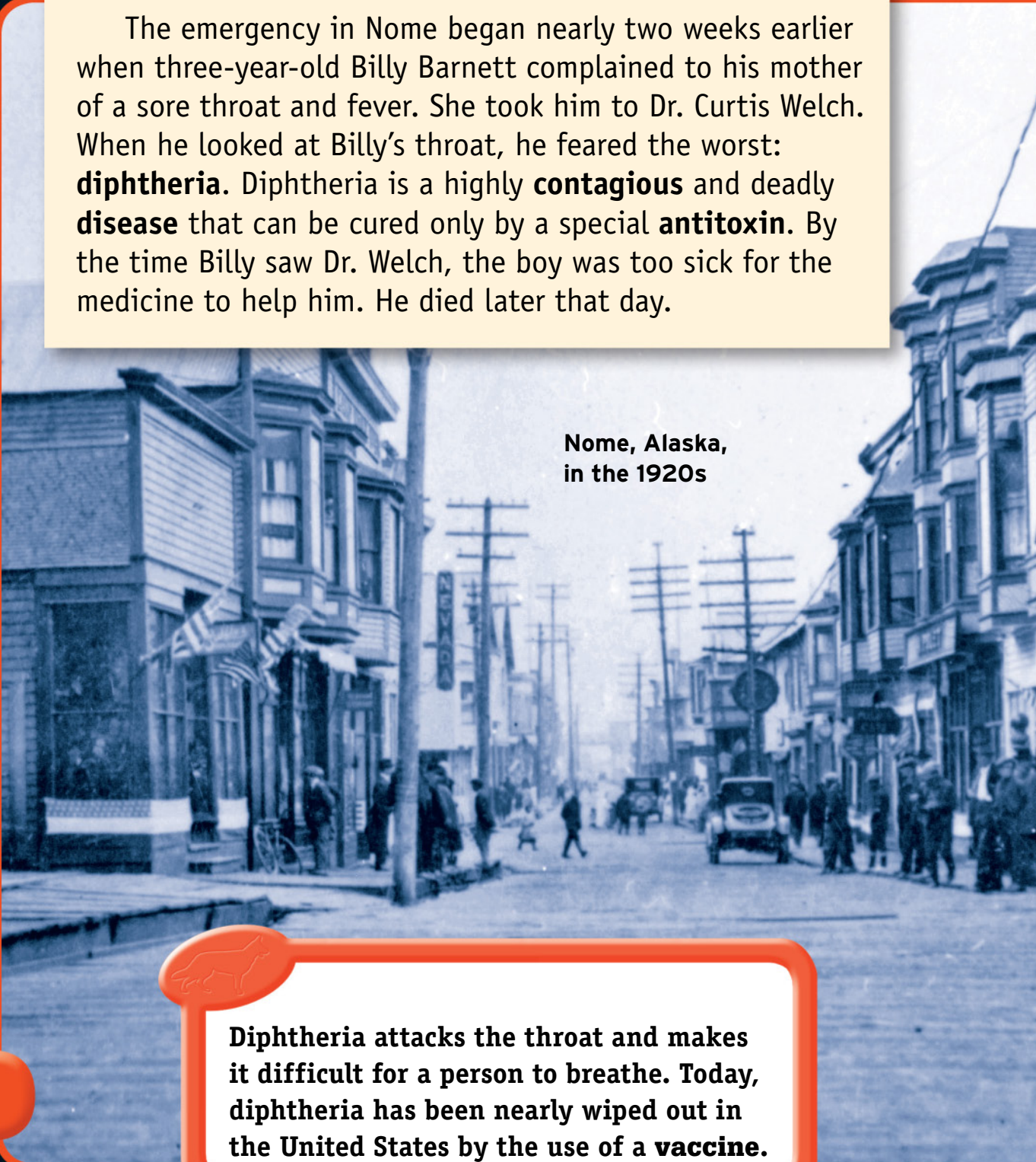
Alaska is the northernmost state in the United States.




Dogsled teams race through a blizzard.

Outbreak!

The emergency in Nome began nearly two weeks earlier when three-year-old Billy Barnett complained to his mother of a sore throat and fever. She took him to Dr. Curtis Welch. When he looked at Billy's throat, he feared the worst: **diphtheria**. Diphtheria is a highly **contagious** and deadly **disease** that can be cured only by a special **antitoxin**. By the time Billy saw Dr. Welch, the boy was too sick for the medicine to help him. He died later that day.




Nome, Alaska,
in the 1920s



Diphtheria attacks the throat and makes it difficult for a person to breathe. Today, diphtheria has been nearly wiped out in the United States by the use of a **vaccine**.

Over the next two days, more children became sick. It was an **epidemic**! Making things worse, Dr. Welch did not have enough antitoxin to help the sick children. He begged other doctors across the country for more medicine to be sent to Nome. Without immediate help, many would die.



RECEIVED AT
National Hotel
Phone Franklin 8897

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT.

TELEGRAM

TELEGRAMS TO ALL AMERICA

CABLEGRAMS TO ALL THE WORLD

DELIVERY NO. 39

STANDARD TIME INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

THE MACKAY SYSTEM
POSTAL TELEGRAPH
COMMERCIAL CABLES
THE PULSE OF THE WORLD

NOME ALASKA JANUARY 22, 1925

CUMMING PUBHEALTH WASH DC

AN EPIDEMIC OF DIPHTHERIA IS ALMOST INEVITABLE HERE STOP I AM IN URGENT
NEED OF ONE MILLION UNITS OF DIPHTHERIA ANTOTOXIN STOP MAIL IS ONLY FORM OF
TRANSPORTATION STOP I HAVE MADE APPLICATION TO COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH OF
THE TERRITORIES FOR ANTITOXIN ALREADY STOP THERE ARE ABOUT 3000 WHITE
NATIVES IN THE DISTRICT

WELSH RELIEF STATION 295

Dr. Welch asks for more
antitoxin in this message.

Index

- Anchorage, Alaska 8
antitoxin 6–7, 8, 14–15, 18, 23,
24–25
Barnett, Billy 6
Baxter, Jirdes Winther 27
Blackie 14
blizzard 4–5
Bluff, Alaska 14, 18
Cleveland, Ohio 28
diphtheria 6–7, 27, 28
frostbite 19
Iditarod 27
Kaasen, Gunnar 4–5, 15, 18–19,
20–21, 22–23, 24–25
lead dog 4, 12, 14–15, 17, 18, 21
Nenana, Alaska 14, 25
Nome, Alaska 5, 6–7, 8, 10, 14–15,
16, 19, 24–25, 26, 29
Norton Sound 14, 16–17
Olson, Charlie 18–19
planes 9
Port Safety, Alaska 23, 24
puppies 11
sense of smell, husky's 20
Seppala, Leonhard 12–13, 15,
16–17, 18, 26
Shannon, “Wild Bill” 14
Siberian huskies 10–11, 21, 29
snowdrift 20
statue, Balto 26
telegram 7, 19
Togo 12, 17
Tolovana, Alaska 14
vaccine 6
Welch, Dr. Curtis 6–7, 26

About the Author

Kevin Blake lives in Portland, Oregon, with his wife, Melissa, and his son, Sam. He dedicates this book to both of them.

[Intentionally Left Blank]



BALTO'S STORY

It was February 1925, and musher Gunnar Kaasen and his lead sled dog, Balto, were facing the worst storm to hit Alaska in twenty years. The temperature had dropped to -50°F (-46°C). Fierce winds roared as snow pounded the sled. The blinding blizzard made it impossible to see. Waiting for the weather to change, however, wasn't an option. Fifty miles (80 km) away in Nome, Alaska, dozens of the town's children were sick with diphtheria and near death. Gunnar and Balto carried the only medicine that could cure them.

Look inside to find out more about Balto, including how he bravely guided a team of sled dogs on a grueling trip through blinding snow, over a half-frozen river, and through a mountain pass to deliver medicine to children in need.

Baghdad Pups

Balto's Story

Bomb-Sniffing Dogs

Combat-Wounded Dogs

Comfort Dogs

Disabled Dogs

Disaster Search Dogs

Dog Scouts of America

Eco Dogs

Fire Dogs

Ground Zero Dogs

Guide Dogs

Hollywood Dogs

Lifeguard Dogs

Medical Detective Dogs

Military Dogs

Pest-Sniffing Dogs

Police Dogs

Prison Puppies

Science Dogs

Security Dogs

Seizure-Alert Dogs

Service Dogs

Shelter Dogs

Skydiving Dogs

Sled Dogs

Snow Search Dogs

Soldiers' Dogs

Surf Dog Miracles

Therapy Dogs

Water Rescue Dogs

Wilderness Search Dogs

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

ISBN-13: 978-1-62724-286-8



9 0000

9 781627 242868