



BRAVE HEARTS



by Meish Goldish

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Taking a Bullet

Late one night in July 2013, a man was standing outside his Virginia home when four armed robbers suddenly approached him. They forced the man into the house, where his wife and children were asleep. Then they began to steal items from the home. Lefty, the family's pit bull, sensed something was wrong and kept a close eye on the **intruders**.



The robbers planned their attack at night so it would be harder for them to be spotted.

Suddenly, one of the men pointed a gun at the father. Lefty sprang into action, fearlessly leaping in front of the **weapon** to protect her owner. The gunman fired, and the bullet struck the dog. The robbers then fled the house. Lefty was badly injured but alive. The brave-hearted **canine** had saved her owner's life!



The bullet **shattered** Lefty's right shoulder and damaged her right front leg.

Lefty, the family's pet pit bull

Losing and Winning

After being shot, Lefty was rushed to nearby Atlantic Animal Hospital. Doctors were unable to save the dog's damaged right front leg and had to **amputate** it. Luckily, however, the tough canine quickly recovered. She soon learned to walk and run on only three legs.

Lefty recovering after surgery



Because of all the **medical** treatment she received, Lefty had a big hospital bill that her family could not afford to pay. Workers at the animal hospital put Lefty's amazing story on the hospital's Facebook page. Many readers were so impressed by the dog's bravery that they sent **donations** to help out. These gifts ended up covering nearly all of Lefty's medical costs!

Dr. Michele Leatherbury,
owner of Atlantic Animal
Hospital in Accomac,
Virginia, with Lefty



Atlantic Animal Hospital's
Facebook page about Lefty
received nearly 5,000 views.

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About the Author

Meish Goldish has written more than 200 books for children. His book *Disabled Dogs* was a Junior Library Guild Selection in 2013. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

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BRAVE HEARTS

One evening in January 2010, 11-year-old Austin Forman went outside to collect firewood in his backyard. As the boy got closer to the woodshed, he saw a large animal with sharp teeth. Luckily, he had brought his golden retriever, Angel, with him. Suddenly, the fierce animal—a cougar—leaped at Austin. Angel bravely jumped in front of the cougar to protect the boy. Austin then raced inside to get help as Angel and the cougar fought. The brave-hearted canine had saved her owner's life! Look inside for this and other amazing real-life stories of courageous dogs willing to risk their lives to protect their human companions.

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