

Little Dogs
Röck! II

Shih Tzu

Lion Dog



by
Joyce Markovics

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Little dogs
Rock! II

Shih Tzu



by Joyce Markovics

Consultant: Jo Ann White
Author of *The Official Book of the Shih Tzu*
Past President, American Shih Tzu Club

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A Four-Legged Helper

The Doehrmans' new Shih Tzu (SHEED ZOO) was no ordinary pet. Georgie was a **service dog** that the family got to help their son, Alex, who has autism.

Almost immediately, three-year-old Alex bonded with Georgie—a friendly, outgoing ball of fur. “He never let her down,” remembers Alex’s dad. From the first day on, Georgie and Alex were inseparable.



▲ Six-year-old Alex with his mom and Georgie

Autism is a serious medical **disorder** that affects the brain and the way people communicate, form relationships, and behave. As many as 1 in 110 children in the United States have some form of autism.

Soon, incredible things began happening. Before meeting Georgie, Alex was unable to talk. However, within months of Georgie's arrival, Alex began speaking. He didn't just say a word or two. "Alex was talking in sentences," said his mom. Alex's parents were amazed! They knew that Georgie's relationship with Alex had helped bring about this change in their son.

Shih Tzus make great service dogs because of their willingness to please and to learn.



▲ **Georgie's small size and soft black-and-white fur made her a perfect cuddling buddy.**

A Lifelong Friendship

Over the next 14 years, Georgie and Alex grew even closer. Each day after school, the little dog greeted Alex at the door, licking him all over. At bedtime, Alex's autism made him restless. So Georgie slept next to him to help him fall asleep.



chrysanthemum



Shih Tzus are sometimes called “**chrysanthemum**-faced dogs.” The way the hair on their round faces grows in different directions reminds people of the way petals grow on a chrysanthemum flower.

▲ The Shih Tzu is known for its “pushed-in” face and its soft, warm expression.

Georgie also helped Alex in other ways. When Alex had trouble paying attention, the little dog bumped his leg to keep him alert. Georgie also watched over Alex when he was home alone, making sure he knew when the phone rang or when the smoke alarm went off. Georgie was more than a dog—she was the best **companion** Alex could have hoped for.



▲ The Doebrman family is thankful for Georgie's help. Sadly, Georgie passed away in 2009.

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About the Author

Joyce Markovics is an editor, writer, and orchid collector. She would like to dedicate this book to Maxwell, a Shih Tzu whose companionship and indomitable spirit have captured the hearts of his human family.



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Shih Tzu

Lion Dog

The Doehrmans' new Shih Tzu was no ordinary pet. Georgie was a service dog that the family got to help their son, Alex, who has autism. Within a short time after the dog's arrival, incredible things began happening. Before meeting Georgie, Alex was unable to talk. However, within months of Georgie's arrival, Alex began speaking in full sentences. In what other incredible ways would the little dog be able to help Alex?

Look inside to learn more about Georgie and other amazing Shih Tzus—as well as surprising facts about the little dog's history, its physical appearance, and its personality. You'll also discover what every Shih Tzu owner knows—that even though these dogs look small, in their own minds they're large and in charge!

Cairn Terrier
Hero of Oz

French Bulldog
The Frenchie

Miniature Schnauzer
Whiskers

Papillon
Monsieur Butterfly

Shih Tzu
Lion Dog

Toy Fox Terrier
America's Dog

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