

WOLF

BY MICHAEL RODGERS, 13

Kevin Anderson excitedly packed his knapsack. He still couldn't believe it! Yesterday morning when he went downstairs to check out the Christmas presents, there sat a pair of cross country XY300L skis — the best brand made. Kevin had dreamed of a pair of skis for months. The snow was just perfect for a long trek across the mountainside. After a quick breakfast, a long lecture from his mom and dad, and a kiss on the cheek, he was off to have fun.

Kevin whistled for Wolf. Wolf was Kevin's dog, who wouldn't let anyone near Kevin. Even Kevin's dad, Rick, who was a fur trapper and a sled dog racer made Wolf bare his teeth. Wolf was known for his lightning quick reflexes, and everyone in the valley was afraid of him. As soon as Kevin whistled again, Wolf came bounding out of the woods carrying a half-eaten rabbit. He quickly finished the rabbit off and ran to Kevin's side.

They were off, Kevin sliding with grace and skill and Wolf trailing behind him.

Kevin's dad watched until they were out of sight and then went in for a second cup of coffee.

About three hours later, Kevin stopped to eat his lunch. He found a nice sunny place to sit on top of a rock and took out the lunch his mom had made. He quickly finished off two turkey sandwiches and started to break another one into chunks for Wolf.

Then, out of the corner of his eye, he spotted three shadows reflecting on the snow. He swirled around to see three half-starved wolves. They advanced toward him. Kevin threw his sandwich away from the rock, hoping the wolves would go after it. He prayed for Wolf to come to his rescue. The wolves moved toward the sandwich. Off to the right, Kevin noticed Wolf sneaking up on the other animals. Wolf gave a low growl and crouched into a fighting position.

Kevin did the first thing that popped into his head. He screamed. Hearing his master's yell, Wolf's growl turned into a hair-raising snarl that made the wolves stop in their tracks. Two veered off to the



side, leaving the third and strongest wolf to meet the dog head-on. Then the two other wolves circled in behind Wolf. All at once, they attacked. But they didn't expect the lightning quick speed of Wolf. As soon as the wolves got close enough to attack, Wolf leaped at the strongest one and ripped his throat with razor sharp teeth. Swinging around on his powerful hind legs, he landed on the other two wolves with such force and speed that they didn't have a chance to open their mouths to fight back.

Kevin stood astonished. When it was all over, Wolf came to him and licked his hand. Then he turned to finish the turkey sandwich. Kevin pulled himself together and gave Wolf a hug.

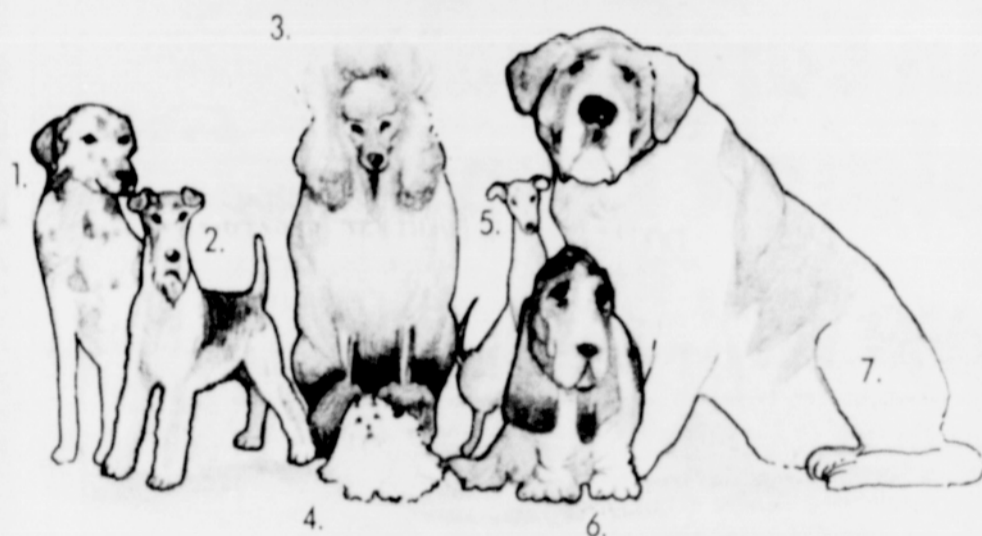
He didn't want to leave the carcasses of the wolves behind. He knew they were worth money. Luckily, his parents had also

given him a hunting knife for Christmas. He decided to skin the wolves and bring the pelts home.

On the way back, he met his father. His parents had started to worry so his father decided to meet him on the trail. When he heard about Kevin's adventure, his father decided that Kevin had proved he was mature enough to learn how to shoot a rifle. He said that Kevin had handled himself well in his trouble with the wolves. Kevin felt very proud that his father had such confidence and trust in him.

The next day they took the pelts into Fairbanks and outfitted Kevin with a new rifle. The remainder of the money went into a savings account for college. To this day, Kevin has not forgotten the afternoon that Wolf saved his life, and the trust he received from his father.

Dog Tags



Can you tag each dog to its breed?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Check your answers below. If you got four or more right you did dog gone good!

Here are some things for good pet owners to remember. Make sure your dog or cat has a license attached securely to his collar. And don't forget to put a leash on your pet when it is outside or when your taking it for a walk.



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Answers: 1. Dalmation 2. Terrier 3. Poodle 4. Mastiff 5. Whippet 6. Boxer/Hound 7. St. Bernard

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