

Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.



# PAWPRINTS

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**Vol. 2, Issue 6** **Read about animal helpers in this issue!**

## **Ricochet: The Dog Who Surfs to Raise Funds**

- 1 A dog on a surfboard is something you might enjoy seeing in a funny video. But would you believe that a real surfing dog could help raise money for those in need? A golden retriever named Ricochet is using her special talents to do just that.
- 2 Ricochet's trainer started coaching her to become a service dog when she was a puppy. Ricochet did well at many tasks during training. She learned how to turn on lights, tug open doors, and do other jobs. These skills would help her to assist a person with special needs. However, Ricochet had a bad habit that caused her to fail service dog training. She liked to chase birds. While this energetic activity might seem cute, it made Ricochet unfit to assist a person with special needs.

### **Surfing for a Cause**

- 3 Judy Fridono, the dog's trainer, concentrated on Ricochet's positive qualities. Like most retrievers, Ricochet loved water, so Fridono took her to the beach. Ricochet quickly became good at surfing. Her talent got people's attention. Fridono decided that instead of being a service dog, Ricochet would become a "SURFice" dog. The idea was that Ricochet could use her surfing talent to raise money to help people.
- 4 Ricochet's first fund-raiser was in 2009. She starred at a benefit to help a teenager named Patrick. Patrick was unable to walk, but he had always dreamed of surfing. At the benefit, Patrick and Ricochet were supposed to use their own surfboards. Ricochet decided to hop on Patrick's board, however. They surfed together, and thrilled spectators donated more than \$10,000. The money helped pay for Patrick's physical therapy and his own service dog.

- 5 Encouraged by this event, Fridono started the organization Surfin' for Paws-abilities. Ricochet now travels to different locations and surfs at events to raise money for the organization that helps people in need.



Ricochet surfs with Patrick at a fund-raising event in 2009.

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### **A Talented Fund-Raiser**

- 6 Ricochet also raises funds and awareness for many causes that help both people and animals. She's surfed to earn money to buy pet oxygen masks for fire departments. She's surfed at fund-raisers to help fight human and animal cancer. She's even shown off her surfing skills to raise money to buy teddy bears for children in hospitals and people in nursing homes. It should not be surprising that she has also surfed to raise money to supply food for animal shelters.
- 7 As of 2012, this amazing dog has raised \$250,000 to help those in need.

# Confetti, the Helpful Horse

- 1 Dogs have been used as guides for a long time. They are the most common type of guide animal. Many people who are blind rely on a dog to help with daily activities. Cheryl Spencer used to depend on a guide dog named Delta to help her. When Delta became unable to work, Spencer learned that some people use miniature horses as guides. At first, Spencer thought this idea was silly. But after learning more, she started looking for a guide horse.
- 2 First Spencer found someone who could train a guide horse. Then she set about finding just the right horse. In 2002 she e-mailed all the nearby miniature-horse farms looking for a horse, 26 inches tall at most, to be trained as her guide. She received an e-mail from a horse breeder named Barbara McDermott saying that the only horse McDermott had that might work was her favorite, Confetti, who was 27 inches tall. McDermott wasn't willing to give Confetti away at first, but Spencer was persistent. After Spencer explained her situation to McDermott, she asked to meet Confetti. A few days later Spencer, her husband, and her horse trainer visited McDermott's ranch.
- 3 When Spencer first met Confetti, she immediately knew the horse would be perfect for her. The trainer also thought Confetti would be a good guide. Even McDermott could see that Spencer was already quite fond of the horse. She agreed to allow Confetti to become Spencer's full-time guide.



© Courtesy of Cookie Serletic

- 4 Weighing 150 pounds, Confetti is the size of an extremely large dog. She goes everywhere a guide dog would. She even has a "horsey door" so she can go in and out of the house when she wants. Confetti

sleeps in Spencer’s closet and eats in the laundry room. When Spencer and her husband eat at a restaurant, Confetti goes with them. Confetti has flown to Boston and has even been to Walt Disney World®!

- 5 Confetti is only the third horse to be used as a guide animal in the United States. As guides, miniature horses have some advantages over dogs. Most guide dogs can work for only 8 to 10 years, but a horse can work for up to 30 years. These horses have excellent vision, are quick learners, and are gentle and smart. These qualities make them good guide animals and great helpers for people like Spencer.

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**Use “Ricochet: The Dog Who Surfs to Raise Funds” (pp. 12–13) to answer questions 13–16. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.**

- 13** What prevented Ricochet from becoming a service animal?
- A** She was distracted by birds.
  - B** She had to get on a surfboard.
  - C** She had to learn how to open doors.
  - D** She received too much attention from people.
- 
- 14** The author wrote this article most likely to —
- F** convince the reader to support the work that dogs do for others
  - G** inform the reader about the special work of an unusual dog
  - H** explain to the reader how a dog becomes a service animal
  - J** teach the reader how to train dogs to surf

**15** What information is included in the section titled "A Talented Fund-Raiser"?

- A** Some of the causes that Ricochet has helped
  - B** A description of how Ricochet learned to surf
  - C** An explanation of why Ricochet could not be a service dog
  - D** A story about the first time Ricochet surfed to raise money
- 

**16** What is the best summary of the article?

- F** Ricochet can surf very well. She helps many people and animals who are in need. She has helped buy pet oxygen masks for fire departments. She has also helped raise money for teddy bears for children in hospitals and people in nursing homes.
- G** Many people have watched Ricochet surf. The first time the dog surfed for a cause, she hopped on the back of a boy's surfboard. People were amazed. Because of this, they gave money for the boy to get his own service dog.
- H** Ricochet helps people and animals by participating in fund-raising events. She helps out by surfing, even though she is a dog. The first person she helped was a boy named Patrick who had always dreamed of surfing even though he could not walk.
- J** Ricochet was training to be a service dog but did not qualify. Instead, she learned to surf, and her trainer realized that she could help others with this unusual skill. Today, Ricochet surfs for an organization that raises money for different causes.

Use “Confetti, the Helpful Horse” (pp. 14–15) to answer questions 17–20.  
Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

17 Read the dictionary entry for the word common.

**common** \ˈkă-mən\ *adjective*  
1. shared by people or groups  
2. regularly seen or used  
3. expected actions or behavior  
4. not having wealth or privilege

Which definition best matches the way common is used in paragraph 1?

- A Definition 1
- B Definition 2
- C Definition 3
- D Definition 4

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18 The reader can conclude that McDermott most likely —

- F thinks horses are better guide animals than dogs
- G enjoys helping others find guide animals to help them
- H believed Confetti needed more training to help Spencer
- J misses Confetti but is happy that the horse can help Spencer

**19** The author included paragraph 4 of the selection to —

- A** explain what Confetti does when she is not working
  - B** demonstrate that Confetti is a friendly guide horse
  - C** describe what Confetti’s life is like with Spencer
  - D** show that Confetti is able to take care of herself
- 

**20** What is the main idea of the selection?

- F** Spencer spent a long time trying to find a guide horse to help her.
- G** Confetti is a miniature horse that has become a wonderful guide animal.
- H** Guide horses must be trained before they can help people with special needs.
- J** Confetti is a lot like a dog and can go anywhere a guide dog can go.

Use “Ricochet: The Dog Who Surfs to Raise Funds” and “Confetti, the Helpful Horse” to answer questions 21–24. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

**21** One **difference** between Ricochet and Confetti is that Ricochet —

- A** helps a person with special needs
  - B** has an owner who cares about her
  - C** was unsuccessful at becoming a guide animal
  - D** had to learn to do something before helping others
- 

**22** **Both** selections express the importance of —

- F** making animals famous
- G** making new friends
- H** teaching about animals
- J** caring for those in need

**23** Which sentence best describes a **difference** between Ricochet and Confetti?

- A** Ricochet required training, but Confetti did not.
  - B** Ricochet helps many people, but Confetti helps one person.
  - C** Ricochet spends time outdoors, but Confetti works indoors.
  - D** Ricochet does not notice other animals, but Confetti does.
- 

**24** What is one **difference** between the animals featured in the two selections?

- F** Ricochet was able to stay with her owner, but Confetti had to leave her owner in order to do her job.
- G** Ricochet's duties are typical for a service animal, but Confetti performs tasks that are not usually done by an animal.
- H** Ricochet's owner believed she would make a good guide animal, but Confetti's owner worried that she would not make a good guide animal.
- J** Ricochet must stay at home with her trainer, but Confetti travels as part of her job.