



NAVY TAILS



Since the creation of the United States Navy, animals have played several important roles in the fleet; by providing everything from companionship to performing important jobs.

Serving as a “sailor’s best friend,” animals such as dogs and cats can be found aboard Navy ships to boost morale, provide friendship, and remind sailors of home during long voyages at sea. There are also instances when rather large and exotic animals have made their way onto Navy ships. The citizens of Sydney, Australia, for example, gifted the USS *Connecticut* (BB-18) a kangaroo in 1908.

The U.S. Navy has also trained animals such as pigeons and dolphins to help perform certain jobs that sailors cannot do. In the 1920s, prior to the widespread use of radios and other wireless communications, the Navy relied on carrier pigeons to deliver messages between ships, airplanes, and on-shore bases. Sailors have also trained various marine mammals, such as sea lions and dolphins, to assist them in underwater operations.



Additionally, the Navy has used animals to serve as ship mascots, symbols of courage, imagery in unit insignias (or badges), and have even named vessels after them. Perhaps the most beloved Navy animal of all is Bill the Goat, the mascot for the United States Naval Academy.

Animals have, and will always be, as important to the Navy as the sailors with whom they serve.

INSTRUCTIONS



1. Read the brief history on the roles of animals in the U.S. Navy.
2. Complete the Word Search below.
3. Answer the questions on the next page about your pet or a pet you know.
4. Color in the coloring sheet on the third page.
5. Make sure to tag the National Museum of the American Sailor with your completed projects on social media:



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WORD SEARCH

Use the Word Bank below to find the hidden words in this word search.

d	o	g	c	q	l	r
e	a	y	a	f	n	o
k	i	g	t	u	l	l
n	o	e	g	i	p	i
n	a	v	y	u	k	a
t	a	o	g	v	r	s

Word Bank:



Pigeon

Cat

Navy

Dog

Sailor

Goat

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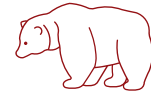




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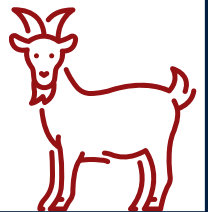
PROMPT QUESTIONS



Think about your pet(s) or any animal(s) you might know and answer the following questions:

1. When you are with your pet(s) or any animal(s) you know, how do you feel?
2. If you were a sailor and could bring any animal with you to sea, which animal would you pick? Why?
3. If you could be any animal, which animal would you choose? Why?
4. Can you think of any other ways animals might help sailors in the U.S. Navy?

Hi! My name is Bill.



s	j	v	g	o	a	t
a	v	n	y	v	o	u
d	!	g	e	o	u	
l	l	n	t	g	!	k
o	n	f	a	y	a	e
r	d	g	c	q	l	d

Word Find Answers:

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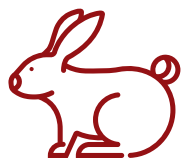


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COLORING PAGE

This coloring page is based on a picture of a United States Navy sailor playing with a dog in the early 1900s.



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