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Animals Go to War: From Dogs to Dolphins

Jennifer Haltli

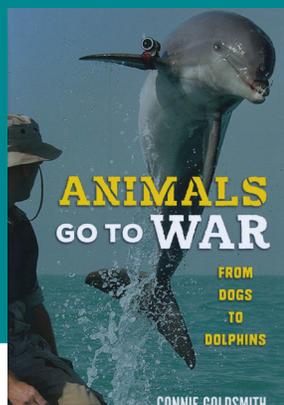
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Book Review

Animals Go to War: From Dogs to Dolphins

Author

Connie Goldsmith

Reviewer

Jennifer Haltli

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Rating

Dependable

Level

Intermediate

.....

Pages

136

Year

2019

ISBN

9781512498042

Publisher

Twenty-First Century Books

From heroic dogs and hunting house cats to unlikely creatures like pigeons, pigs, and camels, animals have turned the tides of battles and aided humans in dealing with the terrible aftermath. Working as fighters, transporters, messengers, detectors, searchers, rescuers, emotional supporters and spies, animals have served in wartime from Hannibal's era to today's war on terror. Babylonian reliefs pictured their exploits, ancient Greek historians chronicled their deeds, and modern European newspapers publish their photos. While exposing animals to wartime conditions is controversial, these beasts are often given military awards and are immortalized by the media and their handlers.

This attractive, colorful book has plenty of photographs and diagrams. The author also creates clever chapter headings that may make readers chuckle. The book discusses each animal species in turn, creating a fact-based narrative on both an individual and a species level. For example, the reader meets Reckless, a horse and Marine sergeant, who hauled five tons of ammunition to the front lines in a single day during the Korean war. But the author also gives the reader a broad view of how horses have served in different capacities during many different time periods. This species-centric focus does not provide the coherency that a chronologically-based narrative could have produced, but the author uses the form to include verbal and visual explanations of the traits that suit each species to its forms of service. This pseudo-scientific addition makes the book more than historical, fleshing it out to grab the interest of readers who like zoology.