

# Puppy Love

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## *The Joys of Being Needed*

Many of us are aware of good will efforts that are performed every day by people just like us. We can also claim to hear these same people comment that they, “got more out of it than they did,” meaning the people receiving the kindness of the giver. Dogs, as well as people, actually feel the same fulfilling benefits of being givers. Libby and Justice (Briards) served as four-footed ambassadors at the 301-acre tourist site in Williamsburg, Virginia. Their job kept them mentally fresh, challenged, and able to adapt to new situations on a daily basis. Included in the bustling tourist activities were “cookies” of course, staring at a camera for selfies, and marching with the costumed Fife and Drum Corps parade. These two had the uncanny ability to zero in on any child with special needs. They would flop their shaggy heads into the lap of a child and patiently wait for their adoring pet. When it was time for Libby and Justice to retire it was vitally important to find a home with the feeling of “being needed.” Justice moved to a farm where he daily helps with herding the livestock, and sleeps in bed with his new pet parents every night. It was feared that Libby might be sad leaving Williamsburg, but it turned out her new job of being a service dog was perfect. Her mom says the first moment they locked eyes “it felt like she knew she was my heart dog forever.” And Libby gets a bonus, she gets to participate in the weekly formal parade at the Virginia Military Museum parade.



In the 1780's Thomas Jefferson served as the American Ambassador to France. While there he learned about the wavy-coated, 90 pound Briard and their superb heading skills. Envisioning a thriving wool industry in America he returned home with a mother Briard and two puppies. President Jefferson maintained a large sheep population alongside his Briards at his home in Monticello. They both had a job to do ~ they were needed!



Oliver is seven years old and still happily on the run. He works as a therapy dog everyday with his mom as she provides counseling services to her clients. Oliver lives in South Dakota with his adoring family.



## **Dachshunds At Work**

Dachshunds were bred to work. Embracing their role as a hunter they performed with dedication and precision, they were ferocious dogs who always got the badger. Smaller dachshunds were bred to hunt rabbits and other small intruders found in the fields and surrounding area. These dachshund were not bred for companionship. They were workers ~ they had a job to do ~ they were needed!

## *What's Love Got to Do With It?*

While it was true that dachshunds began their role as “badger dogs” in the 1600s they are seldom used for hunting today. But, they still have some left over traits of days gone by which explains how a 10 pound dachshund can ferociously take on a dog ten times his size. They are still adorable with their long sleek body and short legs that enabled a dachshund to go underground into dens and get their prey. Their job today is to love and be loved. They are fearlessly loyal and thrive on protecting those they love, and it is a pet parent's job to be devoted to them too. They both have a job ~ they are needed!