Gabe: The Dog Who Sniffs Out Danger
Walked in front.

George, a dog working in the military, was looking for explosives.

They were on a mission.

A group of United States soldiers.

It was a hot day in the war zone.
But Gabe did not stop. His paws were hot too. His fur was hot. And the hot, windy air. He sniffed the hot ground.

Gabe used his nose to search.

By the banks of the river for searching the steep area.

He followed Chuck's commands.

That soldier was his partner, Chuck.

One of the soldiers about 100 yards ahead of Gabe walked without a leash.
Every step Gabe took was dangerous. Explosives could be buried anywhere. Some could go off just one foot in front of him. Gabe had four feet. One misstep could cost him his life.

Chuck followed and watched Gabe. They trusted him, and his nose, with their lives. All the soldiers had faith in Gabe.
Suddenly Gabe stopped. He sat down. This was his way of telling Chuck he had found something.

"Come here, boy," Chuck called. Gabe trotted over to Chuck's side.
He was a hero!

Cabe saved many lives that day.

As well as a trained dog, no person or machine can smell things the explosives without Cabe.

The soldiers might not have found them. They found explosive materials buried under the ground. The soldiers searched the area.
They thanked Gabie too.
The soldiers gathered around.
Back at the base, the rest of
and his favorite toy as a reward.
Chuck gave him a hug.
They patted his side.
They rubbed his head.
The soldiers all thanked Gabie.
The soldiers valued the work Gabe did. They also liked having a dog at their base when they were so far from home. Everyone liked to spend time with Gabe.

Gabe loved all the attention, but his favorite person was Chuck. He and Chuck were a team. They worked together and they played together too.
Gabe had come a long way from his days in an animal shelter in Houston, Texas. He did not even know how to sit on command.

An animal rescue group stepped in. They took Gabe out of the shelter and sent him to the US Army. The army put Gabe in a program that trained dogs to find dangerous, hidden explosives.

Chuck was in the army to work with dogs. When he and Gabe met, it was love at first sight. Chuck liked that Gabe was a calm and friendly dog.

The two trained together at a military base in Texas. Gabe learned to tune out everything except for Chuck's voice. Chuck learned how to understand Gabe's smallest movements.

He enrolled in the program for five months.
Gabe searched roadsides,
their training to work.
When Gabe and Chuck were ready,
they were sent to Iraq.

and riverbanks.
He searched houses and other buildings in villages.

He searched flat, open fields, and rocky, hilly places.
He sniffed cars that had to stop at army checkpoints.

Some days Gabe and Chuck did not look for explosives. They stayed at the base and practiced.
On other days, Gabe and Chuck went to see wounded soldiers in army hospitals. Gabe wagged his tail. He opened his mouth. It looked like Gabe was smiling at the patients.

Gabe cheered everyone up. He was good medicine!
Gabe and Chuck were in Iraq for thirteen months. They went on more than 200 missions. Gabe found explosives twenty-six times.

He found more explosives than any other dog that served in Iraq. Gabe got forty awards for all his hard work. He was also named the country's top hero dog at the American Humane Association Hero Dog Awards one year!
It is important about doing a tough job when and
He taught them about respect and
Gabe inspired many kids.
Kids in schools.

Gabe and Chuck visited

from the army.
Adopt Gabe after Gabe retired
was that Chuck was able to

The best reward though,
Hero Dog Awards visit www.herodogawards.org.

The American Humane Association

He was a hero for his country,
He played with Chuck.

Some days, Gabby just played.

but he still liked to catch a ball.
Gabe is a real dog. He is a special dog who had an important job. He used his sense of smell to find weapons before they hurt anyone. Gabe saved lives! Read Gabe’s story to find out more about him and what makes him a Hero Dog.