

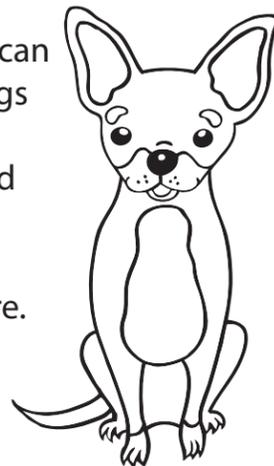
Dog Soldiers

Did you know that dogs could join the Army? That's right - Since WW I (WWI) American families have donated their dogs to the military to help our troops during wartime.

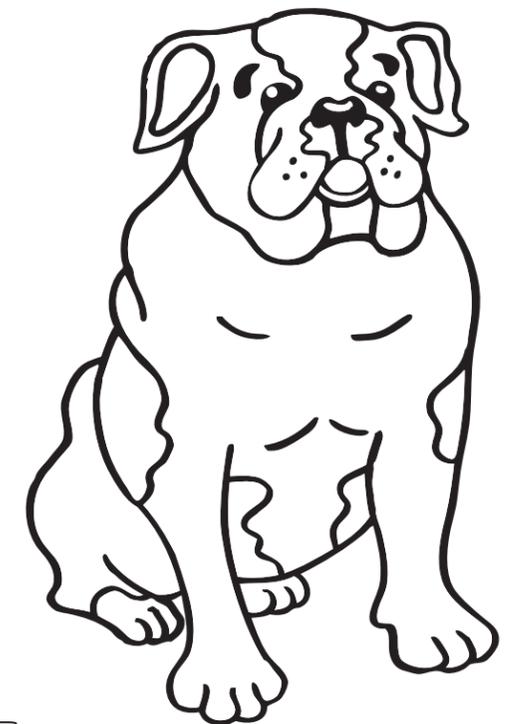
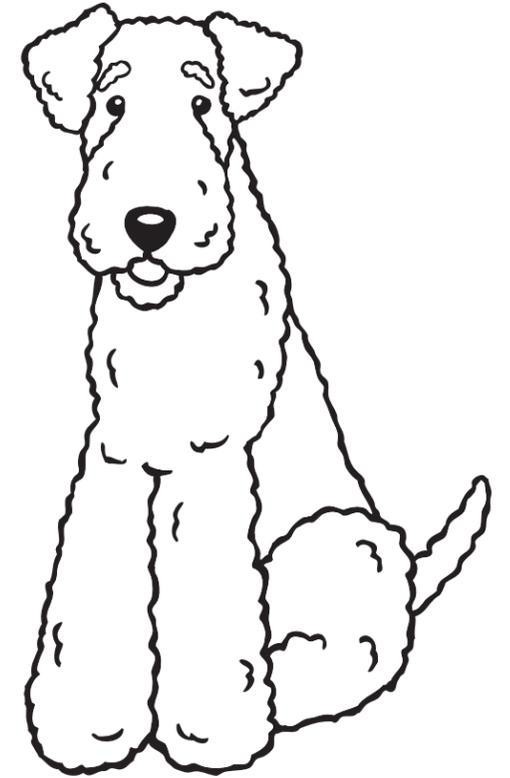
Dogs have served in most major battles including WW I and WW II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In Vietnam alone, it is estimated that these dogs saved over 10,000 lives!

Volunteers called "handlers" trained their dogs for a variety of purposes. In Vietnam, a Scout Dog Team consisted of a handler and one German Shepherd who served as the eyes and ears of Soldiers on the ground. The team walked out in front of the soldiers, looking for booby traps, ambushes, hidden weapons, or snipers. Other dogs, part of Tracker Teams, used their sense of smell to locate downed pilots, wounded GIs, or sometimes the enemy. Sentry Dog Teams, known in civilian life as K9 teams, guarded the perimeter of base camps, ammo depots, and supply areas. Their motto was to "Detect, Detain, and Destroy."

To find out more about these courageous service dogs, you can visit The United States War Dogs Association web site at www.uswardogs.org. You'll find historic information, true-life stories, dog show events, photographs, and lot, lots more.



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Patriotic Pooches