

★ IT'S ALL ANIMALS!

ANIMALS THAT WORK FOR US

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Chapter 1:

Horses



A draft horse pulls a plow on a farm.

What Kind of Work Do They Do?

Many people go to work every day. Did you know that many animals go to work, too? They work for people.

Some animals are trained to do jobs. These

are **domestic animals**. This means they are not wild. They are tame. They live around people. Horses and cows are domestic animals. So are dogs.

Other animals work for people without training. Those animals do what's **natural** (NA•chuh•rul) for them. That means they would do those things without people around. One thing bees do is make honey. They use the honey. But people also take their honey. So bees work for people, too.

Traits make animals good at some jobs. Traits tell us what an animal is like. Some traits tell us what an animal looks like. Other traits tell us what an animal does.

Let's take a look at some animals that work.

Horse Power

Horses have worked for people for a long time. People first trained horses about 5,000 years ago. The horses worked as **draft animals**.

A draft animal pulls big loads. Horses are much stronger than people. So they pulled plows for people. Plows are used on farms. They cut open the soil. Then seeds can be planted.

Horses also pulled people in carts. People used "horse power" before there were cars. People still use horses as draft animals in many places.

Horses have done other work, too. Soldiers (SOLE•jerz) started riding horses about 3,000 years ago. They rode them into war. A few soldiers still ride horses now. Horses can go where trucks can't.



Police officers use horses to work in a park.

Horses once carried mail, too. Before trucks and planes, there was the Pony Express. Horses

took riders across 1,800 miles of the US. It took 10 days to get a letter. That was fast in 1860!

Horses still work for people now. Horses help police see over crowds. They help look for missing people. They help round up animals on ranches.

Horses have done many jobs for a long time!

Traits That Make Horses Good Workers

Horses are very strong. That is one trait that helps them work. They can pull big loads. They can carry riders.

Horses can also walk 30 miles a day. This

trait allows them to take people places. It means police horses can work all day.

Horses also go fast. They can run 30 miles an hour! Race horses can run even faster. They just can't go far at high speed.

Horses' feet help them work, too. Their feet are called **hooves**. Hooves have a hard cover on top. The bottom is thick and rubbery. These traits help horses walk where cars can't go.



Horses' hooves have hard covers. The bottoms are rubbery. These traits help them work.

All these traits make horses good at their jobs.

Taking Care of Horses

Horses need a lot of care. They need a safe place to sleep. They need a lot of water and food. They eat about 40 pounds of hay a day! Their hooves need to be trimmed every month or two. Horses' teeth need to be checked every year.

Not all horses are good at all jobs. They may need training to go from one job to another. Many police horses had other jobs first. Some were race horses that got hurt.

Horses must be trained to do police work.

They can't get upset in crowds. They can't get scared by gunshots. Training helps them do the work.

Fun Horse Facts

Horses can sleep standing up! They can also lie down.

Horses use the buddy system to sleep. One horse stays awake. Its "buddy" sleeps. Then the buddy wakes up. The first horse goes to sleep.

Chapter 2:

Bees



This bee has yellow pollen all over its body. The pollen came from flowers.

Bees also work. But people don't make them work. Bees do what is natural for them. They help people without meaning to do it.

Bees' biggest job is to **pollinate**. This

means that they move **pollen** from one plant to another. Pollen is a fine dust on flowers. Plants need pollen to make seeds and then new plants.

Why We Need Bees

We grow plants to get a lot of our food. Plants give us fruit, seeds, and nuts. Even chocolate comes from a tree! Many of these plants need bees. Why? Bees pollinate these plants. Without bees, many foods couldn't grow! Even the cotton for our clothes needs bees.

Bees don't move *all* the pollen. Birds, bats, and moths do it, too. But most of the work is done by bees.

How do bees pollinate? Bees visit flowers. Flowers have **nectar** in them. Nectar is a mix of sugar and water. It gives flowers their sweet smell.



Beehives are placed next to food plants. The bees will pollinate the plants.

A bee lands on a flower to eat nectar. The flower's pollen sticks to the bee. The bee carries it to the next flower. The pollen drops

off. Then that flower can make seeds.

Honeybees

Bees do another job for us, too. They make honey! There are about 20,000 types of bees. Most of them make just a little honey. Only honeybees make a *lot* of honey.

Honeybees live and work in a big group. The group lives in a **hive**. A hive has up to 60,000 bees. They all work to make honey.

How do they do this job? First they find some nectar. They suck it up. They bring the nectar back to the hive. They spit it out. The bees fan it to take out the water. Then it gets thick.

Why do bees make honey? So they can eat it! It gives them energy in winter. Bees make wax **honeycombs** (HUH•nee•komes) in the hive. This is where they make and store honey. They feed honey to baby bees in winter.



Worker bees take care of the hive. There is a large queen egg at the lower end of the honeycomb.

Some honeybees live for a few years. This lets them pollinate lots of plants. It also

lets them make lots of honey!

Some people keep bees so they can get honey. They are called **beekeepers**. They make hives for the bees to live in. They take honey from the hives. Then they sell the honey.

What Traits Make Bees Good Workers?

Different kinds of bees have different traits. This makes them good at pollinating different plants. One type of bee is small and fast. It can pollinate flowers that hang down. Another bee has a long tongue (TUNG). It can pollinate long, tube-shaped flowers.

All bees have some kind of hair. Pollen

sticks to their hairy bodies. This trait makes them good at the job.

Bee Problems

Some kinds of bees are dying off. One reason is bug sprays. Farmers use sprays to kill bugs that eat food plants. But those sprays also kill bees.

A second reason is that the world is getting warmer. Plants make flowers too soon, before the bees can get to them. So the bees are losing some of their food.

A third reason is illness. A tiny bug called a mite is making bees sick.

Food plants need bees to pollinate them.

If there are too few bees, plants won't be pollinated.

Beekeepers face another big problem with bees. Bees sting! Beekeepers cover their bodies and faces. This keeps them safe from stings. They don't like to work with bees on cold, windy days. Bees are more likely to sting then.

Beekeepers also use smoke to work with bees. This keeps the bees from getting upset. Then they won't sting.

Fun Bee Facts

Do you know how bees buzz? They make that noise by beating their wings. Bees beat their wings about 200 times a second!

Worker bees only live for a few weeks or months. But a queen bee can live for a few years.

Bees “talk” by moving their bodies. They do a “waggle dance” to tell other bees they found food.

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