

# Animals at Work

by Amanda Agee

Part 1

Humans have always depended on animals to perform many kinds of jobs. Animals have guarded homes, herded sheep, pulled plows, and provided friendship. Now animals are being trained to help humans in amazing new ways.

## Monkey Business

Part 2

A full-grown capuchin monkey can fit in your backpack. Capuchins are smart, playful, and good at using their hands to pick up and handle objects. This can make them very helpful to humans.

At Helping Hands in Boston, capuchin monkeys learn to open doors, unscrew bottle caps, fetch food, and even pop a video into a VCR. After graduating from the program, capuchins are placed in homes as companions to people who are disabled. To their owners, these monkeys are more than helping hands. “She gives me something to think about besides myself,” says one disabled teen. “Life wouldn’t be nearly as much fun without her.”

## Dogs on Duty

Part 3

Everyone has heard of Seeing Eye dogs that guide blind people. But have you ever heard of a Hearing Ear dog that acts as ears for a person who is deaf? When an alarm clock rings or a baby cries, these dogs let their owners know, and then lead them to the sound.

Highly trained dogs also help people who can’t use their arms or legs. At Canine Companions for Independence in California, dogs learn to obey 89 different commands. They can move wheelchairs, push elevator buttons, and even carry money to a check-out counter!

## Horse Power

Part 4

Special horseback-riding programs help disabled kids and adults. The horses in the programs are trained to stop if a rider falls off. Many doctors believe that a person who learns to ride a horse will be less afraid to try other new things.

### Resource Links

1 RDI Book 1: p. 373

SAM Keyword: Take Notes

Use with page 315.



## Take Notes

You can summarize and remember what you read by **taking notes**. When taking notes, you need to record only the most important information. Use the outline below to take notes about main ideas and details from the reading passage.

### Outline

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I. Main Idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Detail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Detail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Detail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Main Idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Detail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Detail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Detail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Main Idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Detail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Detail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Detail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use with page 315.

