

HUNTER TO HELPER

War dogs have been use in war as long as man has recorded battles, from over 4000 years ago carved reliefs show large mastiff type dogs accompanying soldiers attacking chariots.

The role of war dogs did not change for thousands of years. Basically large dogs attacking troops - sometime covered in armour themselves. Since those early times war dog roles have evolved to carry messages, carry stores, track down the enemy, detect roadside bombs or care for the wounded.

Initially dogs cared for the wounded in medieval times by licking cuts and wounds, this would clean them and prevent infections. During WW1 they would travel into no man's land and detect the wounded amongst the dead and return with a medic to attend them.

Today this has led to dogs to another caring role that of assistance dogs to veteran soldiers. These come in many forms from dogs caring for physically disabled veterans to companions of veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress.

