**Read the text below and answer the questions.**

Fred was facing an uncertain future. He was, it has to be said, a bit lazy. But then the Army stepped in, recruited and trained him. Fred is now serving his country in Bosnia. Currently, there are some 1,400 dogs and 470 horses serving with the British Armed Forces. When Fred’s owner was faced with having to move and not being able to take Fred with him, he offered him to the Army as a guard dog, knowing he would be going to a good home. A German Shepherd, Fred was assessed, deemed to have the temperament necessary for the job and went to Melton Mowbray to be trained. In six weeks he would be ready to join the 600 or so guard dogs helping British troops all over the world.

Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire is the home of the Defence Animal Centre. It is run by the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and is split into three sites: the Canine Division, the School of Equitation and the Services Veterinary Hospital. The Canine Division has 100 kennels where the noise of barking is such that ear defenders have to be worn. It trains both dogs and handlers for all three services, as well as for the Ministry of Defence Police.

Dogs taken on by the Centre are generally between 12 months and three years old. Perhaps not surprisingly, among the guard dogs German Shepherds or Rottweilers prevail. The reasons why animals come to the Defence Animal Centre can be anything from owners not anticipating the demands a big dog makes on them, to house moves or failed marriages. The DAC has a good relationship with animal rescue organisations.

“The dogs love the work“, said Capt. Holmes. “As pets, they spend most of their lives in the house with perhaps one walk a day. Here, they are allowed to run loose every day and do what is totally natural to them.“ Some dogs are recruited to the élite world of specialist search dogs. If successful they go to Northern Ireland where they search for explosives. Training is tough and the failure rate for these dogs, generally breeds such as Spaniels or Pointers, is high. Less than two thirds make it, compared to around 80 % of potential guard dogs who get through.

Service dogs are expected to work long days and to travel by any form of transport, so they are trained to cope with helicopters, fast boats and green vehicles. They have to work in areas where there is a lot of movement and noise. If they cower at gun ﬁre, for example, they will be rejected. Happily, there is no shortage of people wanting to take on the failures.

1. Fred has been trained as a ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Dogs are trained by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Defence Animal Centre.

3. Trainers protect their hearing with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. German Shepherds and Rottweilers make very good guard dogs. **Yes No**

5. Some dogs come to the Defence Animal Centre because their owners

didn’t realize how much care a big dog would need. **Yes No**

6. Why do the dogs love the working for the Army?

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7. Why do Army search dogs usually end up in Northern Ireland?

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8. A search dogs’ training is more demanding than a guard dogs’ training. **Yes No**

9. Training is more successful with search dogs than with guard dogs. **Yes No**

10. What happens if a dog shows fear at gun ﬁre?

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