Knowing Why a Dog is Manâ€™s Best Friend

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I have always wondered why a dog is known as manâ€™s best friend or is an example of honesty and loyalty. Over the years, I have tried to find out and even asked my friends on this topic, ultimately giving me no satisfactory answers. It was only after watching the movie Hachi: A Dogâ€™s Tale on my TV connected to Dish Network that I realized why a dog is the best loyal friend of man.

This movie is based on the story of a faithful dog Hachiko in Japan. Hachiko is a Japanese Akita breed dog and it is different from the American Akita breed. The story of the movies begins in a classroom where a young boy has to give an oral presentation about personal heroes. This young boy tells that his personal hero is his grandfatherâ€™s dog Hachi.

One day while coming from a meeting, Parker Wilson the boyâ€™s grandfather, a college professor finds an Akita puppy lying in a cage all alone. He instantly searches the surroundings to find its owner. Seeing no one around he goes to the station controller and informs him. The station controller being his friend tells him that he will inquire and find out whether someone has lost their dog or not. For the time being, he informs Wilson to take the dog to his house as he cannot take the dog since his wife is allergic to dogs. Wilson readily agrees because he was instantly attracted to the dog upon first sight.

He takes the dog home, but his wife tells him to find a suitable home for the dog someplace else, as they cannot have a dog in their house. The next day, the professor goes to his friend, the station controller, and asks him whether he got any information about the dog. The station controller informs him that he had no information and suggests giving an advertisement in the paper. The professor informs his wife about this and she gives the advertisement. But as days pass by, she sees that her husband and the dog develop a very good bond. A family calls on them asking if they could adopt the dog , she informs that he has already been adopted.

Professor Wilson sees a symbol on the dogâ€™s collar and takes the collar to his colleague who is a Japanese scholar. On inspecting the collar, the Japanese scholar informs him that the symbol means Hachi, which means good fortune in Japanese and also the number eight, which is considered a lucky number as per Japanese custom. So from that day onwards, the professor calls the dog Hachi.

As the years pass by, the dog and the professor develop a deep bond and become inseparable. The professor at times tries to find out why Hachi does not run and fetch a ball just like a normal dog. He tries to train him to run and fetch the ball, but the dog does not show any interest. Sometimes the professor felt that Hachi would only run and fetch the ball only for a special reason.

Hachi becomes so close to his master that he keeps following him to the train station and leaves only after seeing his master board the train. Then in the evening before his masterâ€™s train arrives, Hachi would come to the station and wait outside. When his master comes out of the train station, he would run fast and jump on his master with excitement to show his love.

One day while entering the train station, Hachi comes with a ball in his mouth and starts pushing his master to play with him. The professor gets surprised and becomes happy, but since he was getting late for his work, he tells Hachi to go home and promises to play with him after he comes back. While teaching his class, the professor holds the ball and thinks what made Hachi to suddenly fetch the ball, when he suddenly suffers from a heart attack and dies. Hachi waits for his master till midnight, not knowing that his master has passed away. The professorâ€™s son-in-law comes and

takes him home. While at home, Hachi searches for his master and does not find him anywhere.

The professorâ€™s wife filled with grief decides to leave the town and goes to her motherâ€™s place. She sells the house and gives Hachi to her daughter and her family. While at the daughterâ€™s house, Hachi would go everyday to the train station and wait for his master until the last train arrives. The professorâ€™s daughter and her husband tries to tell Hachi that the professor is dead and wonâ€™t come back, but the dog does not believe them. This daily routine continues for ten years where Hachi would go every morning to the train station and wait for his master until the last train arrives. Even though it would be snowing and cold, Hachi never moves from the front of the train station and waits for his master.

Hachi becomes physically weak because of his age but never stops his daily routine of waiting for his master. One day when the last train arrives, Hachi comes to the train station and closes his eyes. He closes his eyes and dreams that his master, the professor had come. The professor hugs his dog Hachi and takes Hachi with him to the Heaven.

At the end of the movie, in the closing credits, the story of the original Hachiko is revealed, and also tells about the bronze statue which is made on the place where Hachiko sat in front of the Shibuya train station in Japan. Watching the movie not only made me cry, but also made me realize how much loyal and faithful companion a dog is.

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Mark is a freelance writer and enjoys watching all kinds of comedy, action, emotional movies. He regularly watches these movies on his TV connected to a Dish Network.

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