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Paws with a Cause

Paws with a Cause (PAWS) is a nonprofit organization that provides specially trained "hearing" and "service" dogs to people with disabilities. It began in 1979 in Byron Center, Michigan, and was originally called Ears for the Deaf.

At first, the organization trained dogs to assist the hearing impaired. Over time, they expanded their service to training "service" dogs. A service dog allows a physically challenged person to have more independence. In addition, PAWS trains dogs to help individuals with multiple handicaps.

PAWS trainers select dogs from animal shelters and humane societies across the United States. Over 95 percent of the hearing dogs have been saved from possible death at these shelters. These dogs are then taken to the training center, where they spend several months in specific skill training.

The dogs' training consists of three parts. All the dogs are given basic obedience training. They learn to respond to commands such as "sit," "come," and "down." Dogs being trained for the hearing impaired are also given specific sound-alert training. These dogs learn to respond to six sounds: door knock, doorbell ring, two types of telephone rings, alarm clock, smoke alarm, and an intruder. Service dogs receive advanced training geared to the individual person's needs. They may learn how to turn off lights, pick up dropped objects, close doors, or serve as a support for walking. The final phase of training takes place at the recipient's home. A field trainer helps the dog bond with a new owner, learn commands, and get familiar with the needs and routines of the owner.

A trained dog is expensive. A hearing dog costs approximately \$5,000. A service dog costs around \$8,500. Individuals with



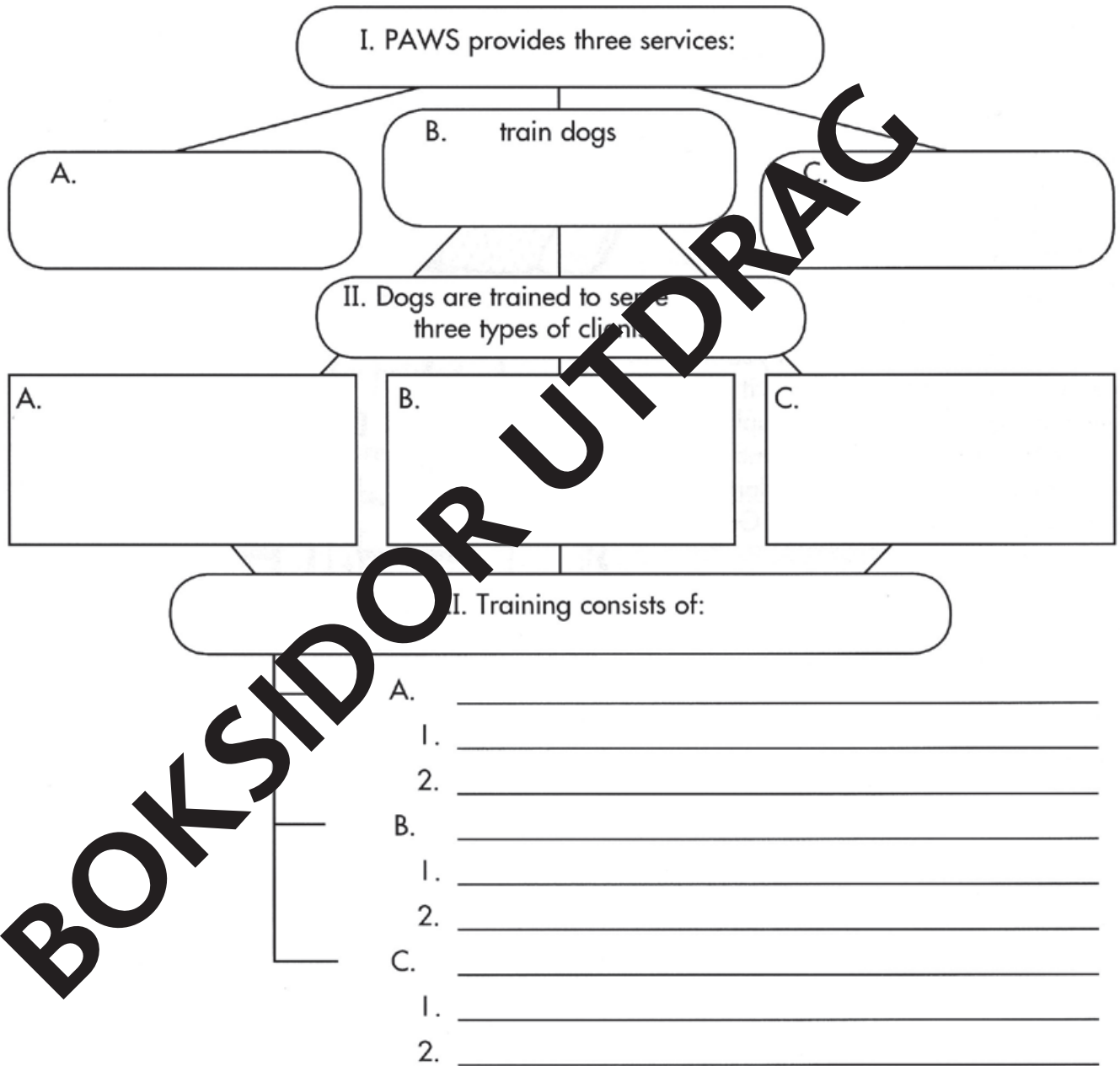
disabilities may purchase the dogs with their own money. PAWS has an active donation fund to assist individuals with the expenses incurred, but the waiting period is lengthy. Some organizations sponsor walk-a-thons or other fund drives to raise money for a member of their community. Also, generous students have earned money through creative methods such as the "Read-a-Million-Minutes" program.

In addition to rescuing many dogs from animal shelters and then training them for specific service, PAWS spends a great deal of time educating the public. Through community awareness presentations, PAWS is helping the public understand the legal rights of dogs for the hearing impaired and service dogs and the need for these dogs. With the help of these dogs, having a disability does not mean living with an inability.



Paws with a Cause

Directions: One way the author demonstrates a purpose for writing is in the information he or she chooses to include. Complete the story map with details from the passage.



IV. Write a sentence summarizing the author's purpose in giving these details in Paws with a Cause.

Whitesox

Sanding the board,
 My cat, Whitesox.
 Her tongue,
 Like fine grains of sand
 On paper,
 Licking the wood.
 An electric sander
 Giving out a quiet purr.
 Like a nail file,
 Smoothing out the edges.



Ouch! A splinter.

Directions: Modern poets often write **free-verse poems**. As the term indicates, the poet is free from conventions; free-verse poems do not contain regular rhythm or rhyme. Although poets may take certain liberties with the language, they often use natural rhythm and figures of speech, which help free-verse poems maintain their form. Answer the following questions about the poem.

1. To what does the poet compare the cat's tongue?

2. What two things in the poem could be "giving out a quiet purr"?

3. Circle the periods in the poem. Does every line end with a period? What can you conclude about free-verse poems after seeing where the poet ends sentences?

4. What might the "splinter" be that Whitesox comes across in the process of cleaning himself?

5. Write a free-verse poem of your own about a pet.
