

## We Also Serve

*Read the short story. Then answer each question.*

## We Also Serve

Some of those who serve and protect us do so on wings, paws, or hooves. Animals such as horses, dogs and pigeons have been our faithful cohorts in times of conflict. They do not understand war. What they do understand is hard work and loyalty.

Maria Dickin saw the value of these acts of service. She wanted to find a way to bring to light the work of animals in war.

Maria started giving out a medal for animal acts of courage. The Dickin Medal is bronze with the words "For Gallantry" and "We Also Serve" written on it. The medal's ribbon is striped in green, dark brown and sky blue. These colors stand for water, earth and sky. They also represent services of naval, land and air forces.

The first Dickin Medals were given out in 1943. They went to three pigeons named White Vision, Winkie and Tyke. Each pigeon carried a message of distress from a downed plane. Each bird flew many grueling miles to reach help. Two of the pigeons battled severe weather on their journey. In each case, the pigeon SOS helped to find and save the crew.

