

Hero Guard Dogs at the White House

By McClatchy Washington Bureau, adapted by Newsela staff



A member of the U.S. Secret Service and a guard dog patrol the sidewalk in front of the White House, Sept. 22, 2014, in Washington, D.C. Photo: Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/MCT

WASHINGTON — Hurricane and Jordan, a pair of Secret Service dogs who were injured as they helped take down a White House fence jumper, returned to duty Thursday. The two quickly became stars.

Their success was a welcome change for the Secret Service, which has been much criticized since another recent break-in.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest hailed the duo at a daily press briefing Thursday. The Secret Service tweeted out their service pictures and mini-bios: “Jordan— black/tan Belgian Malinois, brown eyes, age 5, enjoys walks around (the) White House.”

Jordan and Hurricane, age 6, were taken to a veterinarian and treated for minor bruising. They were later released and “cleared to return to duty,” Secret Service spokesman Brian Leary said.

Intruder 0, Dogs 1

News footage of the incident showed the intruder wrestling and kicking the dogs on the North Lawn of the White House.

Dominic Adesanya, 23, was charged with two counts of assault on a police officer —the dogs. He was also charged with four counts of resisting arrest and unlawful entry, and one count of making threats.

Adesanya, who was unarmed at the time of his arrest, was treated at a local hospital for dog bites.

His capture after vaulting the fence was a bit of good news for the agency. The Secret Service has come under heavy criticism since last month, when a man with a knife in his pocket managed to scale the fence. The intruder ran across the lawn and got inside the White House before he was apprehended. President Barack Obama had just left for Camp David moments before the man climbed over the fence.

Dogs Get A Press Briefing

When last month's break-in occurred, the dog teams that protect the White House Were not released.

Fans of Hurricane and Jordan quickly suggested that they be awarded a presidential medal.

During the daily press briefing, Earnest hailed Adesanya's takedown. Reporters,however, noted that the intruder had made it over two layers of fence — the permanent fence, plus a shorter temporary fence installed after the September break-in.

Earnest said Adesanya's capture “underscores the professionalism of the men and women of the Secret Service.”

As for Hurricane and Jordan, Earnest made it plain they are working animals. They are unlikely, he said, to mix with the president and his family, or with Bo and Sunny, the Obama family pets. Bo and Sunny are both Portuguese water dogs and often greet visitors to the mansion.

“The animals that performed so bravely last night are not something that we come into regular contact with here,” Earnest said. “I think that there’s probably a good reason why these animals are kept at some remove from employees and others who frequent the grounds of the White House. I think the individual last night probably saw pretty vividly why we all keep our distance.”

They Train Hard For The Job

The Secret Service uses Belgian Malinois guard dogs, as the breed has considerable speed and energy.

The dogs, which the service says are “very sociable,” undergo 20 weeks of training before they begin working. After graduating from basic training, each dog retrains eight hours a week during its career.

The dogs stay with their handlers 24 hours a day and “become members of the family,” the service said. They stay with their handlers after retirement, generally at about 10 years old.

The breed is an “ideal watchdog and guard dog,” Animal Planet says, and is “protective of its home and family.”

Adesanya will be prosecuted under a law that makes it a serious crime to kill or injure any federal police dog or horse. Penalties range from one to 10 years in prison.

1. Which of the following is MOST important to include in a summary of the article?

- A. Hurricane and Jordan, a pair of Secret Service dogs who were injured as they helped take down a White House fence jumper, returned to duty Thursday.
- B. Bo and Sunny are both Portuguese water dogs and often greet visitors to the mansion.
- C. The Secret Service tweeted out their service pictures and mini-bios: “Jordan — black/tan Belgian Malinois, brown eyes, age 5, enjoys walks around (the) White House.”
- D. The Secret Service uses Belgian Malinois guard dogs, as the breed has considerable speed and energy.

2. Which of the following LEAST shows the Secret Service dogs as heroic?

- A. Fans of Hurricane and Jordan quickly suggested that they be awarded a presidential medal.
- B. Their success was a welcome change for the Secret Service, which has been much criticized since another recent break-in.
- C. “The animals that performed so bravely last night are not something that we come into regular contact with here.”
- D. The Secret Service uses Belgian Malinois guard dogs, as the breed has considerable speed and energy.

3. Read the sentence from the last paragraph of the section “Dogs Get A Press Briefing.”

“The animals that performed so bravely last night are not something that we come into regular contact with here,” Earnest said.

What role does this sentence play in developing the text?

- A. It describes the role of the secret service dogs in apprehending an intruder.
- B. It compares the role of the secret service dogs and the Obama family pets.
- C. It introduces a new idea.
- D. It summarizes a key concept.

4. **Which sentence in the introduction BEST shows the playful side of the White House and the Secret Service?**
- A. Jordan and Hurricane, age 6, were taken to a veterinarian and treated for minor bruising.
 - B. The Secret Service tweeted out their service pictures and mini-bios: “Jordan — black/tan Belgian Malinois, brown eyes, age 5, enjoys walks around (the) White House.”
 - C. White House press secretary Josh Earnest hailed the duo at a daily press briefing Thursday.
 - D. They were later released and “cleared to return to duty,” Secret Service spokesman Brian Leary said.