

Canine Coppers

The White House Guard Dogs

On Wednesday, October 22, an alarm went off in the White House—a man had made it over the fence and was running towards the building. Four seconds afterwards, Secret Service dogs Hurricane and Jordan were released to catch the trespasser.

“The swiftness of the response was impressive. They’re obviously dealing with a difficult situation, and they got him out of there in a rapid and professional manner,” said Representative Jason Chaffetz of Utah, who had praised the dogs for their bravery after watching a video of the attack.

Hurricane and Jordan are the official White House guard dogs. Both are Belgian Malinois, a popular dog among the police and Armed Forces for



Hurricane, NY Daily News



Jordan, Google Images

their agility, obedience, and strength. They have been called heroes by many for stopping the fence jumper, Dominic Adesanya, a 23 year old from Bel Air Maryland. Adesanya was charged for entering a restricted area and harming police officers, which may serve up to one year in prison. However, after punching the dogs, Adesanya received a deep dog bite to the leg and was taken to the hospital for his injuries.

Adesanya did not get far before the dogs attacked him. All Secret Service dogs, including Jordan and Hurricane, or USSS K-9 Hurricane and USSS K-9 Jordan, go through hours of training each week. A police or military dog's training begins as early as three days old, by taking them from their mothers and exposing them to light, noise, and distractions. According to Navy SEAL Mike Ritland, only one percent of the dogs make it through training.



Guard dog on duty, LA Times

According to the American Kennel Club, the Belgian Malinois is a very alert and high-energy breed. Malinois are more elegant and smaller boned than the German Shepard, but just as strong. They are also used for herding, sledding, and tracking. Always happy to have a regular activity or job to do, the Belgian Malinois is easily trained and intelligent. Surprisingly gentle, Malinois are usually very protective of their family or handler, which makes them excellent guard dogs.



Dog and handler patrolling the White House gates, Newsela

Although Hurricane and Jordan aren't dogs you want to go up and pet, off duty they both have relatively playful personalities. Hurricane is usually found playing with his Kong toy. Sunny and Bo, the Obama family's pets, on the other hand, are almost always ready to play, welcome visitors, and get attention. The Portuguese Water Dogs are often found playing on the White House lawn. When President George W. Bush was in office, however, the concern did arise that the police dogs might attack his adventurous terrier Barney.

“The best way these dogs are used is that they can chase down anyone,” said a military Belgian Malinois handler who was deployed with the Marines in 2005, “A Marine might not be able to catch someone, but the dogs will.”

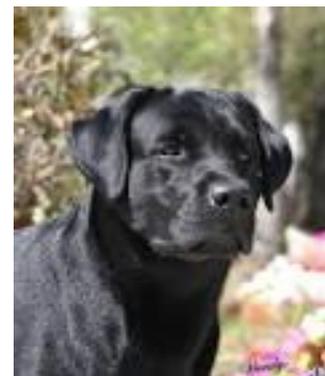
These dogs are the Secret Service’s strongest weapons, and will continue to be so as the current seventy-five canine forces expands. Hurricane and Jordan brought back the Secret service’s reputation, after the September fence jumping in which the intruder made it all the way to the White House doors.



Dog and handlers outside the White House, Content Time.com

Belgian Malinois were named after their home of Malines, Belgium, and share a foundation with the Belgian Tervuren and the Belgian Sheepdog. Belgian Malinois a standard breed in all countries but the United States. Unlike the German Shepard, the Malinois is generally gentle with younger family members, they are gentle enough to push a toddler’s car. They are extremely protective of their family, it is a bad idea to walk up to someone with a Belgian Malinois in public.

However, the Belgian Malinois is not for everyone. Malinois are very active; they need lots of exercise, and because they are born to work, can be very difficult as adults. Of course not all Malinois are this way, but they are never recommended to families with newborns and toddlers, who can easily irritate the dog.



Labrador Retriever, K9 Stud.com

While Belgian Malinois are certainly the most popular police and military dog, they are not very common among other lines of service. The classic Labrador Retriever, a highly versatile and alert dog, has been rated the number one breed of service dogs. They excel

as Physical Assistance Dogs, Therapy Dogs, Guide and Hearing Dogs, Search and Rescue Dogs, and Border Protection Dogs. They are also extremely good family dogs for people with young children and elderly people. Their friendly appearance and joyful personality gives them an advantage over the Belgian Malinois. Labs are also used as police dogs, but are not as common as the German Shepard, Belgian Malinois, and the Bloodhound.

Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, “What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight—it’s the size of the fight in the dog.”



The Belgian Malinois, Pet Finder.com

Hurricane and Jordan stopped a dangerous fence jumping, saved the president, and built both theirs and the Secret Service’s reputation. Man’s best friend has certainly earned his title through loyalty and bravery.

Calvin Coolidge once said, “Any man that does not like dogs and want them about does not deserve to be in the White House.”

As it turns out, he was right.