

Animals in the First World War

Over 16 million animals served in the First World War. Their work was extremely important, and they were also companions for soldiers during the hardship of war.



Horses, mules and donkeys moved ammunition and general supplies. They served as ambulances. Teams of gun horses pulled artillery. Cavalry horses were ridden in battle.



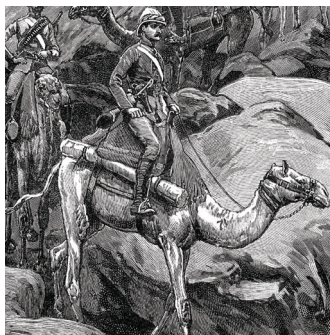
Dogs carried aid to the wounded. They took messages between the lines. They sniffed out enemy soldiers. They pulled machine guns and equipment.



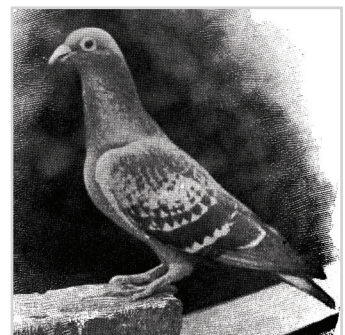
Cats kept down rats and mice at sea and in the trenches. They kept soldiers company, and were also used as gas detectors.



Canaries were used to detect poisonous gas in the trenches and in tunnels beneath.



Camels were used in the desert to carry food, water, ammunition and medical supplies. They also served as desert ambulances.



Homing pigeons carried vital messages.