

Libby



The Library Dog

A story about Davenport Public Library's favorite dog and mascot.



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One day, a very large dog wandered into the Davenport Public Library. She liked the place. It was warm and comfy and she liked the way it smelled of books and people. She especially liked the children's area. There was a giant stuffed horse to play with, pictures to color, and even a dog house of sorts in bright colors that she could curl up in. Well, one of the librarians saw the big dog and ran to the director.

"No running in the library," said the director.

"But," said the librarian, "there's a big dog in the library!"

"Is she running in the library?" asked the director.

"Well... no," admitted the librarian.

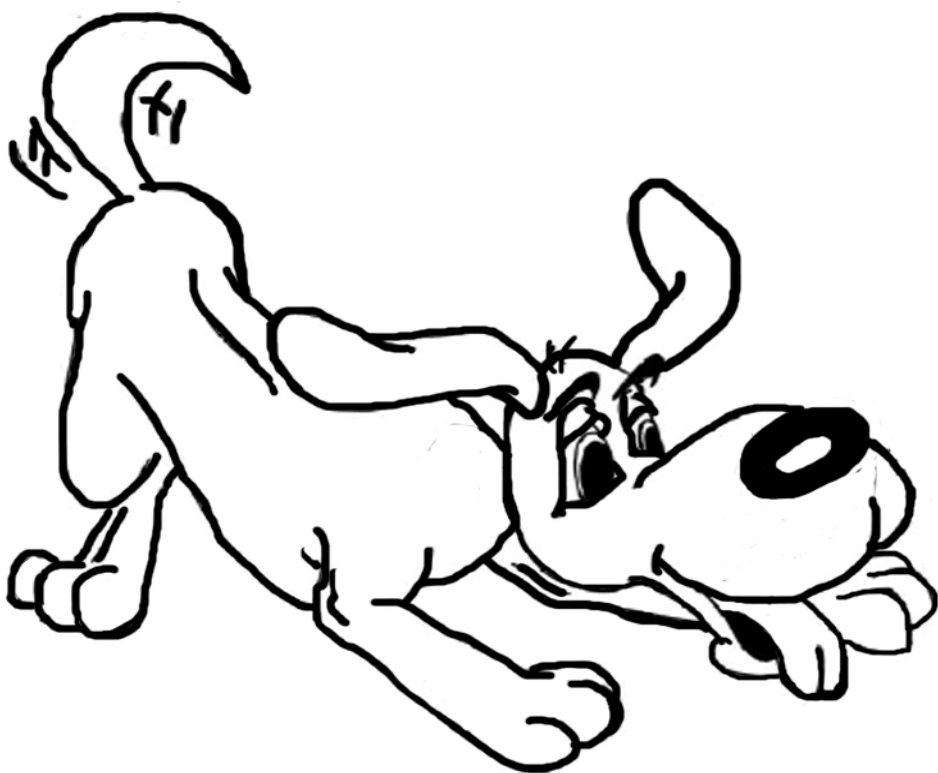
"Is she barking?" asked the director.

"No, she's not barking," said the librarian.

"Is she chewing on the books?" asked the director.

"No, she's not chewing on any books," said the librarian.

"Well, then, leave her be," said the director.



Eventually the big dog wandered into the story room for a little nap. A little bit later kids started showing up for story time and they sat down on the floor all around the big dog. The kids petted her and talked to her and the big dog liked being with the kids.

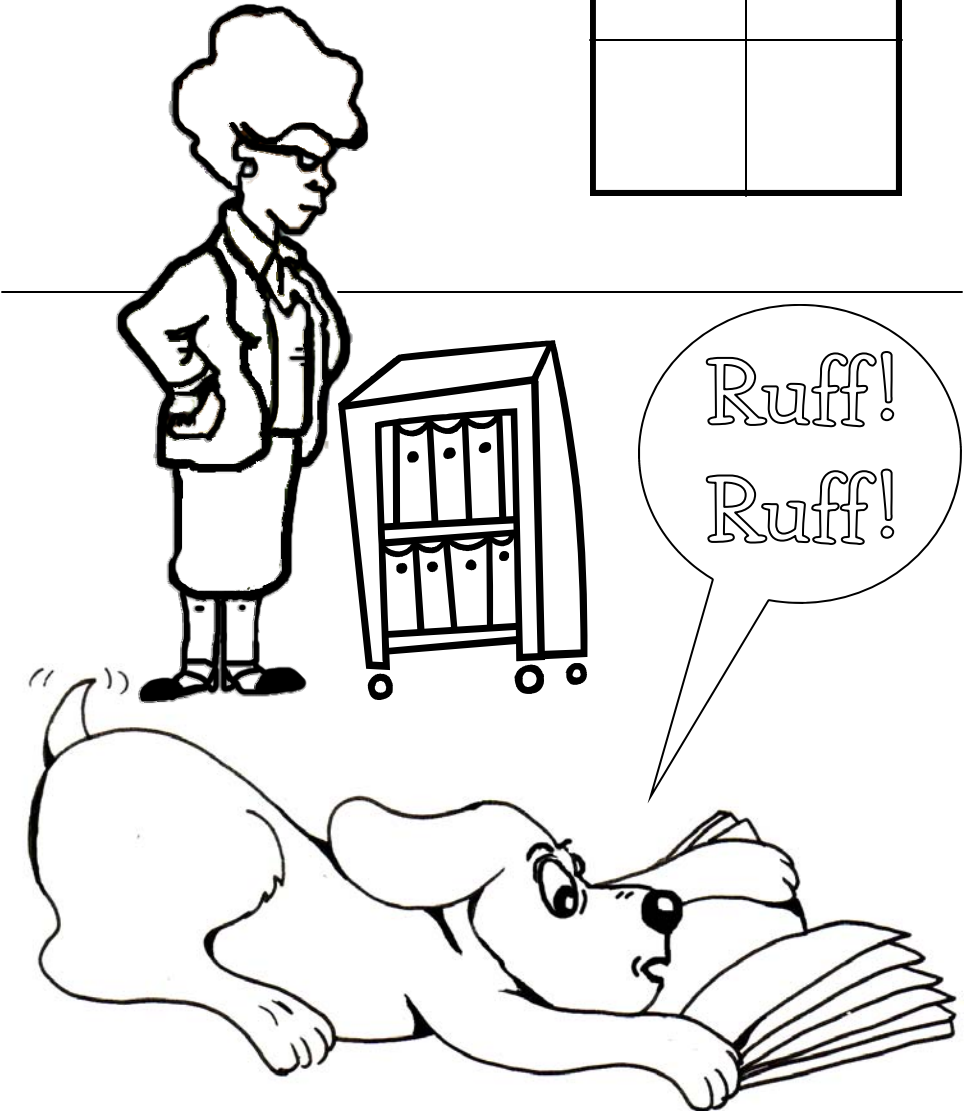
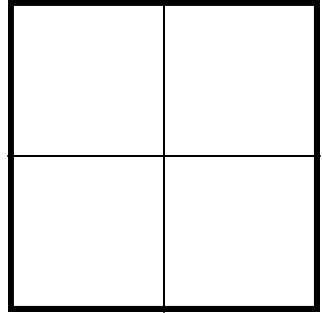
One of the children, little Sally Anne, clapped her hands and said, "Lie be daw!" The big dog wagged her big tail. Sally Anne's older brother, Matt, just rolled his eyes. No one could understand a word that came out of Sally Anne's mouth - she was only two!

Then the storyteller came in. At first she wasn't sure what to make of this big dog sitting in front of her. But the kids all liked the big dog and she seemed well-behaved, so the storyteller let the big dog stay in the room. Everyone had a wonderful time and when

the story time was over, the kids all got up to leave. But the big dog didn't want the story time to be over; she didn't want all the kids to leave! So she started to bark...
REALLY LOUD!



Well, this brought the director over and she shook her finger at the big dog and said, "There will be no barking in the library!" So the big dog lay down and whimpered. "Story time is over," said the director, "but you can come back again tomorrow for story time as long as you behave yourself and don't bark."



So the big dog left the library and came back the next day. It wasn't yet story time, so the director told the big dog to dust off all the computers, which she did with her great big tail. The big dog liked helping out at the library. When she was finished dusting, the big dog went into the story room and waited for story time to begin. Soon the kids started showing up and sat down around the big dog. Most of the kids gave the big dog a pat on the head and some of them even gave her a scratch behind the ear. Little Sally Anne clapped her hands and said, "Lie be daw!" and the big dog wagged her tail. Matt just rolled his eyes and sat down.



The next day the big dog came back to the library even *earlier*.

“What am I going to do with you?” asked the director. Then she had an idea. The director put the big dog to work licking the envelopes of all the overdue notices. Then the big dog dusted bookshelves with her big tail. Then she wandered over to the story room to wait for story time. On her way to the story room, the big dog saw a small boy trying to reach a book on the top shelf. So the big dog let the little boy climb up on her back so he could reach the book. The big dog was always glad to help out and everyone loved her. Well, almost everyone.



The librarian still didn't think it was right to have a dog in the library. She was sure it had to be against the rules.

One morning, the big dog was in the director's office licking stamps for the overdue notices and the director was standing on a chair, trying to reach a book on the very top of a very tall bookshelf, when all of a sudden she tumbled backwards onto the floor.

"Ow," moaned the director. "Go get help," she said to the big dog.

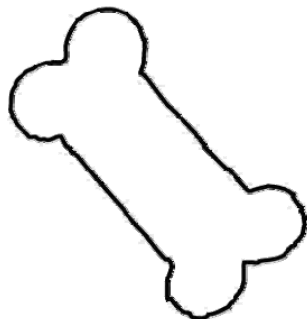
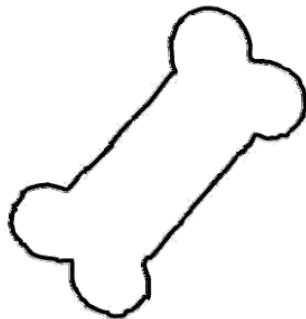
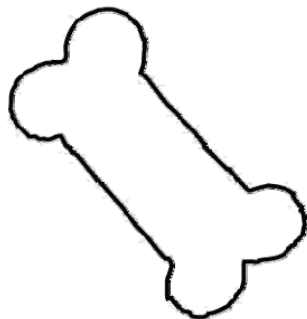
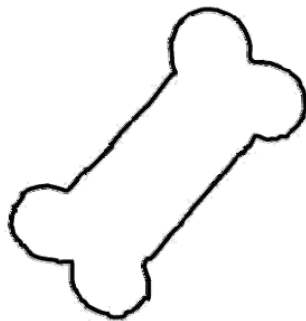
The big dog knew just what to do. She ran down the hall to the librarian's office. At first the big dog tried to get the librarian's attention by running around in circles in front of her.

"Go away!" said the librarian. "I haven't got time for your games."

Then the big dog sat down and whimpered.

"Don't waste your time begging from me," yelled the librarian. "Now go away!"

Finally the big dog jumped up, put her big feet right on the librarian's desk and barked her loudest bark.



“That’s it,” said the librarian, “There is no barking in the library. I’m going to report you to the director!”

With that the librarian marched down the hall to the director’s office and the big dog slowly walked out the front door. The big dog knew she wasn’t supposed to bark. She knew she’d broken the rules. So she left.

When the librarian came into the director’s office, she saw the director lying on the floor.

“I think I’ve broken my arm,” said the director. “Would you please call 9-1-1?”

The librarian made the phone call and made sure the director got to the hospital. Then she came back to the library. That afternoon there was a story time, but for the first time in a long time there was no big dog at the story time. The kids looked all around the library, but they couldn’t find the big dog anywhere. The grown-ups helped look for the big dog, too, but they couldn’t find her either.

The next day the director was back at the library with a cast on her arm. She looked for her friend the big dog, but the big dog wasn’t there. There was no big dog to help her with the overdue notices



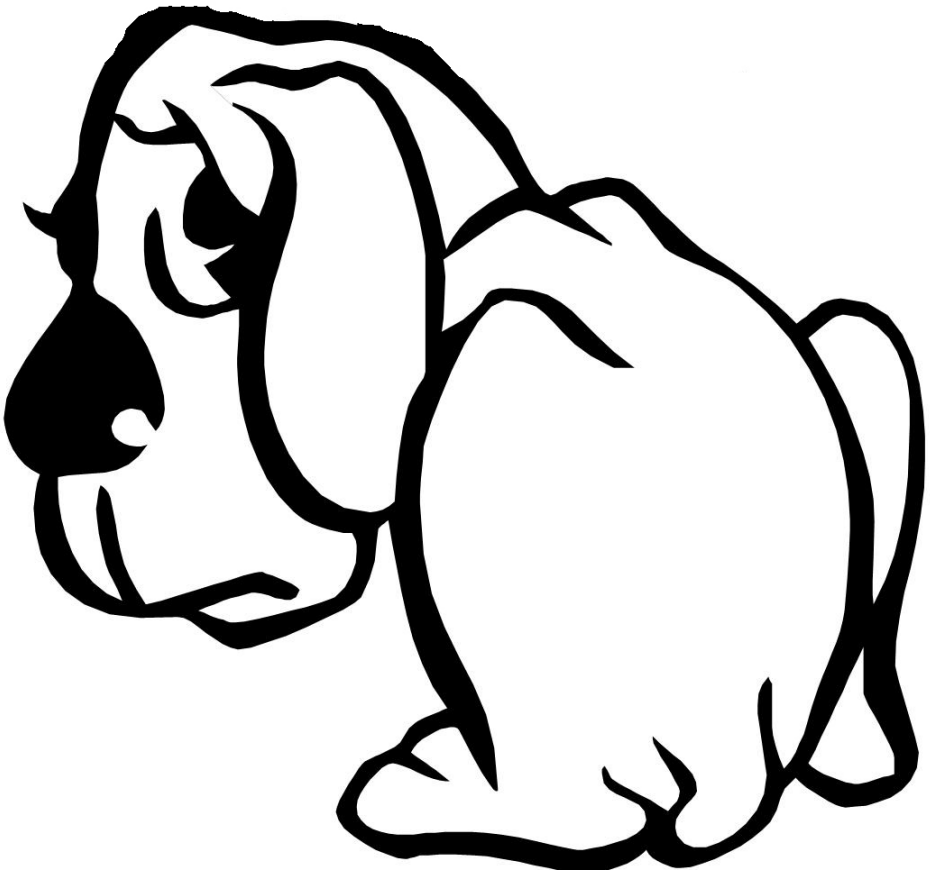
or dust the shelves or help the kids find their books. The library director missed her friend the big dog and she was very sad. The kids were sad, too. They missed the big dog at story times. So one rainy day, the librarian went looking for the big dog. She knew why the big dog had left. Barking in the library was against the rules and the big dog knew that. But the librarian knew how sad the director was without the big dog. And all the kids were sad, too. Even the grown-ups missed the big

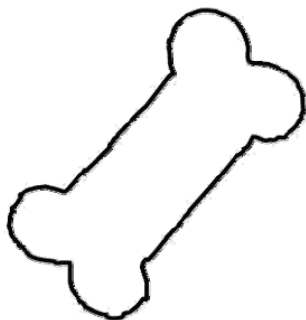


Oh how I
miss that
big library
dog...

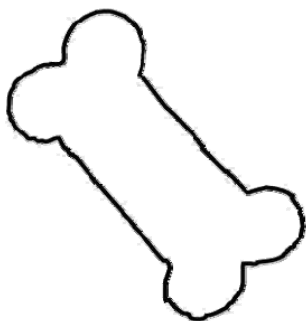
dog. So the librarian walked through the rain looking for the big dog.

She looked under cars, she looked on the sidewalks, she even looked up in trees! But the librarian couldn't find the big dog anywhere. She decided to take one more walk around the outside of the library and finally she found the big dog looking in the window at the children's story room. The big dog was all wet from sitting in the rain. Her tail and ears were both drooping down. She looked so sad.



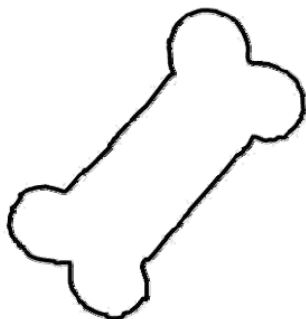


The librarian stood next to the big dog and said, “You know dog, you did a good thing helping the director the way you did. We took her to the hospital and she has a cast on her arm now. I think I was wrong about the rules. Sometimes its okay to break the rules... when you have a good reason.” Then the supervisor went home.



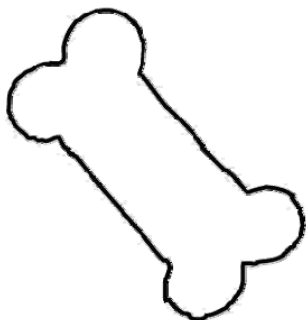
The next day the big dog was once again in the children’s story room waiting for story time to begin. When the director heard that the big dog was back she ran down the hall to the story room.

“No running in the library,” shouted the librarian as the director ran past.



Everyone was happy to see the big dog back at the library, but the happiest of all was the director, who gave the big dog a big hug.

“Now that you’re back, I think it’s time we came up with a name for you,” she said.



All the children began shouting ideas so the director raised her hand. “Please, no shouting in the library.”

Just then, little Sally Anne tugged on the director’s sleeve.

“Lie be daw? Asked little Sally Anne.

“Wh... what? Stammered the director in confusion.

“Li by daw!” insisted little Sally Anne. The big dog wagged her tail.

As the director looked around she saw a boy approaching from the crowd.



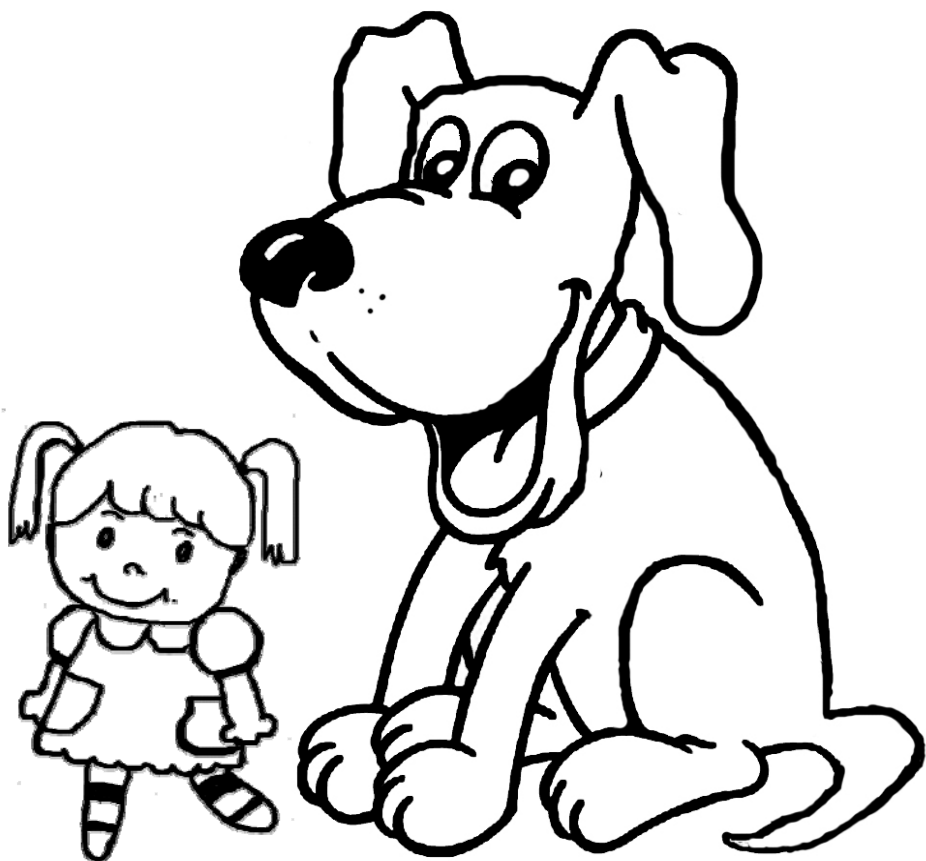
“Sally,” said the boy, “Mom’s been looking for you. You know you’re not supposed to wander off.”

“Lie be daw!” shouted little Sally Anne. The big dog stood up and licked Sally Anne’s face.

“Lie be daw! Lie be daw! Shouted Sally, as she gave the big dog a big hug.

Soon all the kids were laughing and shouting “Lie be daw! Lie be daw!” The big dog looked up at the director and wagged her tail.

“I see,” said the director, “you’re the library dog.”



“Lie be daw!” shouted Sally.

“Lie be daw!” shouted all the other kids.

“Lie be daw,” said the director with a shrug. “How about we call her Libby for short?”

The kids all began to chant, “Libby! Libby! Libby!”
Libby just wagged her tail.

Now Libby spends her days working at the library helping out where she can. At night she goes home with the director for a well earned supper.

So if you see a big dog wandering around the library, give her a big hug and say hello to Libby the Library Dog.





The End

Check Me Out!

