



## Firehouse Dogs

Firehouse dogs have a proud tradition of service that can be documented as far back as 300 years to the days of the horse drawn fire wagons. At that time, the dogs were both friends and protectors to the horses and the firefighters, as well as guard dogs that defended the horses and equipment from being stolen. But perhaps their most significant job was to run ahead of the fire wagon clearing a path in the road for the horses and equipment. In the 1920's, when fire departments changed from horse drawn wagons to today's motor driven fire trucks, horses and dogs were both retired from their former jobs. Today's firehouse dogs are more than likely to be station mascots or simply buddies to the firefighters. The picture above pays tribute to the history of firehouse dogs with the Los Angeles Fire Department.