

Exercise 19

TYPE the following story text

Disregard any formatting – you will format the text later.

Man's Best Friend (press the enter key once to go to the next line)

"Man's best friend" is a common phrase about domestic dogs, referring to their millennia-long history of close relations, loyalty, and companionship with humans. The first recorded instance of the phrase "man's best friend" came from King Frederick of Prussia who in 1789 was quoted as saying "dog is man's best friend," apparently in reference to his beloved Italian Greyhound. It was likely popularized by its use in a poem by Ogden Nash and has since become a common colloquialism. (enter)

Before the 19th century, breeds of dogs (other than lap dogs) were largely functional. They performed activities such as hunting, watching, and guarding; and language describing the dog often reflected these roles. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, "In the oldest proverbs and phrases dogs are rarely depicted as faithful or as man's best friend, but as vicious, ravening, or watchful." Beginning in the 18th century, multiplying in the 19th and flourishing in the 20th century, language and attitudes towards dogs began to shift. Possibly, this societal shift can be attributed to discovery of the rabies vaccine in 1869.[1] (enter)

In 1870 Warrensburg, Missouri, George Graham Vest represented a farmer suing for damages after his dog, Old Drum, had been shot and killed. Vest's closing speech included this quote, "The one absolutely unselfish friend that a man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him and the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous is his dog." In 1958, a statue of Old Drum was erected on the Johnson County Courthouse lawn containing a summation of Vest's closing speech, "A man's best friend is his dog." [2][3] (enter)