

THE LOVED

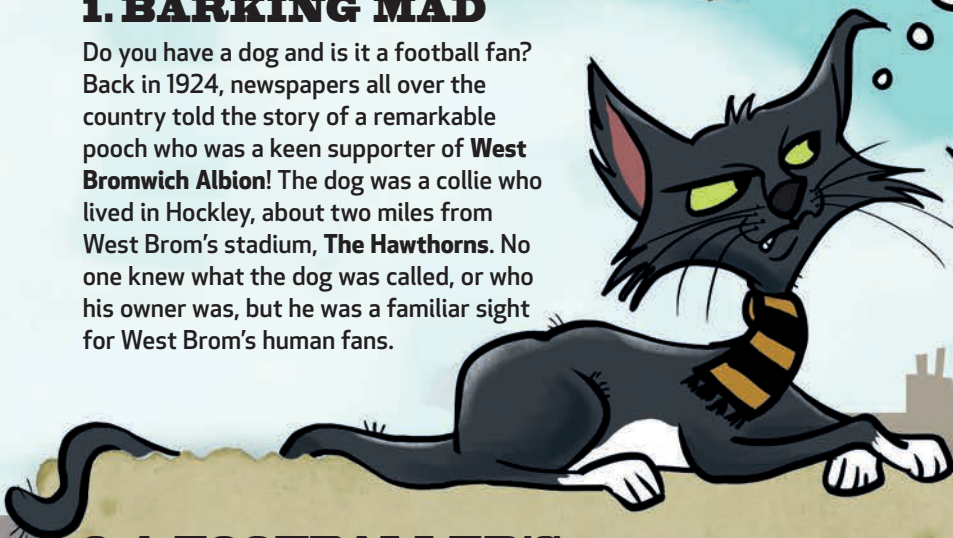
From travelling to matches with fans to barking at the players from the sidelines, dogs love watching football just as much as you do!



Show off...

1. BARKING MAD

Do you have a dog and is it a football fan? Back in 1924, newspapers all over the country told the story of a remarkable pooch who was a keen supporter of **West Bromwich Albion!** The dog was a collie who lived in Hockley, about two miles from West Brom's stadium, **The Hawthorns.** No one knew what the dog was called, or who his owner was, but he was a familiar sight for West Brom's human fans.



2. A FOOTBALLER'S BEST FRIEND

Every matchday, the **clever collie** got on a tram by himself and rode to The Hawthorns. He waited until the turnstiles opened, then went inside and mixed with the players while they were warming up. West Brom were in the old **First Division**, and they got big crowds of up to 60,000 people. Some of their most popular players were strikers **Stan Davies, Bobby Blood** and **George James.**

When the match started, the dog sat at one corner of the ground and watched patiently right through to the final whistle. Perhaps he barked rather than cheered! Afterwards, he trotted out of the ground, jumped on a tram and headed back home. Tram drivers and West Brom officials all knew the dog, even if they didn't know his name, and he never had to pay for a ticket!



DOG WHO FOOTBALL



3. A DOG'S LIFE

West Brom's collie wasn't the only dog seen at matches in the early days of football. **Newcastle United's** mascot was a dog, a black-and-white Great Dane named Rex who was owned by manager Frank Watt. Rex appeared alongside the players in team photos and watched every game from the side of the pitch. **Arsenal's** mascot in the 1930s was a Bullmastiff named Gunner and **Cardiff City** had a mongrel mascot called Jack.



4. WOOF CROWD

Today, you rarely see dogs at professional matches, except for assistance dogs that help fans with disabilities. But you can see lots of dogs at non-League matches – in fact, they are often welcomed. There's even a website called **Non-League Dogs**, with popular social media accounts, dedicated entirely to pictures of dogs watching football!

