

The Story of Hachiko – The Loyal Dog

Man and his dog, It's a friendship as old as time and one of the most well-remembered stories is the story of the akita (a dog breed) named Hachiko and his owner, Hidesaburo Ueno.

In fact, the dog lived over 100 years ago in Tokyo Japan, yet his presence is still very much integrated into the city. Perhaps the reason that the story has stood the test of time is that it's an example of unconditional love and loyalty.



Hachiko the dog was born on a farm in 1923 and was later adopted by a professor of agriculture at the University of Tokyo, Hidesaburo Ueno. The two fell into a daily routine where Ueno and Hachi would walk together to the Shibuya train station where Ueno would pet Hachiko goodbye before getting on the train to work. Hachi would then spend the day waiting for Hidesaburo to come back. In the meantime, local shopkeepers and station workers would keep an eye on him while he held his vigil for Ueno.

This routine continued for several years until one day tragedy ensued. Ueno never came home from work as he suffered a brain hemorrhage and died. Of course, Hachi had no idea that this happened so the loyal dog continued to wait for his owner's return, every day like clockwork. When the train would appear so would Hachi searching for Ueno. Hachi never gave up hope and continued to wait over nine years

When Hachiko was found on the morning of March 8 1935 deceased due to natural causes. his body was taken to the train station's baggage room. A place that had been one of his favorite hangouts. He was then photographed surrounded by Ueno's wife Yaiko as well as staff members at the station Yoshizo Osawa, one of the staff members gifted the photo to one of his daughters. She recalled that her dad loved dogs and would often tell her about

Hachi and how he'd come daily to the station where staff would happily share their lunches with him. Hachiko's body was preserved and then kept at the National Science Museum of Japan in Tokyo.

A bronze statue of Hachiko was erected outside the Shabuya station as a tribute to the dog however the statue got destroyed in World War II. A new one replaced it in the same exact spot at the end of the war in 1948. And it remains there to this day. The spot has become a popular and beloved neighborhood park.

The memorial continued in that the station entrance closest to the statue was renamed Hachiko Gushi or “the Hachiko Entrance / Exit” in Japanese.

Furthermore, one of the train lines was also called the Hachiko line in honor of the 80th year of Hachiko's passing and the 90th anniversary of Ueno's death. A bronze statue of Hachiko reuniting with Ueno was also unveiled on March 8, 2015. The statue was placed outside the University of Tokyo's agriculture department where Ueno was a professor.



The story of the loyal Hachiko continues to be remembered and beloved by people everywhere.

Questions.

1. What happened to Hachiko's owner? _____

2. What did Hachiko then do? _____

3. Why do people remember Hachiko so much? _____

4. Have you ever had a dog like Hachiko? _____