

# SGT RECKLESS AND USMC ANIMALS



## Horses in “Hands!”

For many centuries, a horse’s height has been measured in “hands.” The width of an average male adult’s hand is 4 inches. Measuring from the ground near Sgt Reckless’ front hoof up to the top of her shoulders, she was just over 13 hands high.



## How many hands tall are you?

- Measure your height with a tape measure.
- Place the tape measure flat on the floor.
- Place your hand down at the start of the tape measure.
- Stacking your hands one next to the other, like in the picture to the left, measure up the tape.
- Are you as many “hands” high as Sgt Reckless?



In October 1952, Lieutenant Eric Pederson, commanding officer of a recoilless rifle platoon in the First Marine Division, bought a little sorrel mare named Ah Chim Hai, or Flame of the Morning, from a young boy at a race track in Seoul, Korea, for \$250. The Marines had been fighting in rugged mountain terrain and packing their own artillery shells to the firing positions. A horse could carry far more than a man up those steep trails, and U.S. forces were using horses and mules captured from the enemy as pack animals. The Marines renamed the horse Reckless, the nickname also given the 75 mm recoilless rifles they used.

The Marines trained Reckless to carry 75 mm shells from the Ammunition Supply Point to the men who needed them – under fire and usually without an escort. On a single day in late March 1953 during the savage fighting for Vegas Outpost, Reckless made 51 trips, delivering 386 rounds to her Marines and bringing the wounded back to safety. The social Sergeant Reckless became a media star and shipped to the U.S. with the Marines in 1954, arriving in time to celebrate the Marine Corps birthday – with cake. Retiring at the rank of Staff Sergeant in 1960, she was stabled at Camp Pendleton until her death in 1968.

## Marine War Dogs

War dogs are a very important part of the Marine Corps. These dogs can do everything from detecting things under the ground, scouting booby traps, tracking, and guarding their Marines.



# USMC Animals Word Search!

SGT RECKLESS

HORSES

CHESTY

DOGS

EAGLE

TEUFEL HUNDEN



## Did You Know?

Chesty is the Museum mascot, and he is also a bulldog! Chesty is named after the very famous Marine, Lieutenant General Chesty Puller!

[www.mcu.usmc.mil/historydivision/Pages/Who%27s%20Who/P-R/puller\\_lb.aspx](http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/historydivision/Pages/Who%27s%20Who/P-R/puller_lb.aspx)

S	S	X	D	G	V	X	G	Q	T	I	W	K	S	V
E	H	S	V	S	E	J	H	L	U	H	I	F	I	L
S	V	X	E	E	A	G	L	E	R	N	X	H	B	W
R	K	M	T	L	F	E	T	N	P	Y	J	M	Q	J
O	Y	O	F	O	K	Q	S	N	T	V	V	K	Q	Y
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N	E	D	N	U	H	L	E	F	U	E	T	F	M	U
I	P	P	U	T	F	H	D	R	I	V	A	X	P	K
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D	V	B	A	Z	R	M	D	S	S	K	N	J	H	I

## The U.S. Marines are all “Teufel Hunden!”

Teufel Hunden is a nickname that the Germans gave U.S. Marines while they were fighting during World War I (1917 – 1918): What does Teufel Hunden mean? Circle the correct name and picture below!

*Terrible Cats*



*Devil Dogs*



*Fighting Horses*



[https://www.mcu.usmc.mil/historydivision/Pages/Customs\\_Traditions/Brief\\_History\\_USMC.aspx](https://www.mcu.usmc.mil/historydivision/Pages/Customs_Traditions/Brief_History_USMC.aspx)

National Museum  
of the  
Marine Corps



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