

Ricochet can counterbalance a surfboard to help riders stay upright

These superheroes walk on all fours

A new documentary profiles dogs that do very good deeds

EVEN THOUGH DOGS ARE GREAT AT being pets—they snarf leftovers, warm the couch and generally make you feel important—they can be so much more. Superpower Dogs, an IMAX film out this month, profiles K-9s who are serious do-gooders, taking on everything from avalanche rescue to saving lives with the Italian Coast Guard. One of the highlights is Ricochet, the San Diego-based

golden retriever pictured above. Trained as a service dog and also as a surfer, Ricochet combines the two as a surf-therapy dog for people with physical, cognitive or emotional disabilities. Since starting out in 2009, she's surfed with hundreds of individuals, including kids with special needs, who could use a buddy while on the board. –BILL KEARNEY



Reef

A four-year-old Newfoundland with the Italian Coast Guard, Reef specializes in water rescue. She has webbed feet, can deploy from a boat or helicopter and tow up to 40 times her own weight while swimming.



Henry

Working out of Whistler, British Columbia, Henry is a five-year-old border collie who helps with search and rescue in avalanche situations. Offseason, he uses his herding instincts to steer black bears away from human conflict.



Tony and Tipper

Brothers Tony and Tipper work at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya, Africa. They use their sense of smell to track poachers and help protect rhinos and elephants. More than 40 poachers have been arrested so far.



You don't need a golden ticket here

A 200-year-old Swiss chocolate factory is getting even sweeter

There are no Oompa Loompas or snozberries at Maison Cailler, but when this iconic Swiss chocolate factory reopens March 1 after a grand renovation. visitors will find a chocolate utopia fitting Willy Wonka's dreams. Celebrating its 200th anniversary this year, Maison Cailler is launching a new tour that includes an Aztec cocoa ceremony and a chocolate-molding demo. At the new tasting room, tables are filled with Cailler's most popular creations and guests can enjoy unlimited Interactive samples. And we all exhibits will know what happens highlight the history of to folks who get chocolate everything they ever making wanted: They live happily ever after. cailler.ch

CHOCOLAT AU LAIT

COURTESY OF SUPERPOWER DOGS (5) AND CAILLER (2), CHOCOLATE WORDS; KRISTY ALPERT