

Puppy Love

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Unlikely Love Story

It seems impossible that a 500 pound lion and an 11 pound dachshund could enjoy being best friends, but at the G.W. Exotic Animal Park in Wynnewood, Oklahoma, this is exactly what happens every day. Bonedigger, the lion, was born with a metabolic bone disease causing him to be mildly crippled. When Bonedigger was four weeks old he was introduced to Milo who immediately took on the role of being the disabled cub's protector and they have been inseparable ever since. Milo has even learned to do an impressive growl as he tries to imitate Bonedigger's loud, puffing roar that can be heard over a mile away. The two are so close that Milo helps clean Bonedigger's teeth after dinner, and Bonedigger returns the favor by licking Milo with his tongue that is nearly the size of Milo's head. Every day the two can be seen sharing an affectionate cuddle.



LEO

Leo is the Latin name for lion.

The *lion* is considered the fiercest species of the animal kingdom.

The definition of *lionhearted* is to be exceptionally courageous or brave.

Dachshunds are extremely affectionate and loyal and will fearlessly protect their loved ones. For their protection always have them leashed while outside.

Leo the Lionhearted

Nikolina Vucetic was just 10 years old when she was attacked by a mixed bull-mastiff as she was walking home from a friend's house. Witnesses say the dog was dragging her back to his cage as if she was a ragdoll when help arrived in the form of a small dachshund named Leo. While out on a walk the miniature dachshund heard the little girl scream and without hesitation he ran to the rescue barking and biting the mastiff on the leg. Leo's bravery distracted the mastiff and enabled Nikolina to escape the clutches of the raging dog. Leo's courageous act to save Nikolina left him seriously injured and despite the veterinarian's best efforts the little hero did not survive. Leo's pet parent said he chose his dog's name because he had a heart as big as a lion. In honor of Leo's valiant act of bravery the community erected a monument of the little dachshund in a city park next to the children's playground. People visit the monument and leave gifts for Leo and give him an affectionate, well-deserved pat on the head.

Associated Press – Pancevo, Serbia 2015

