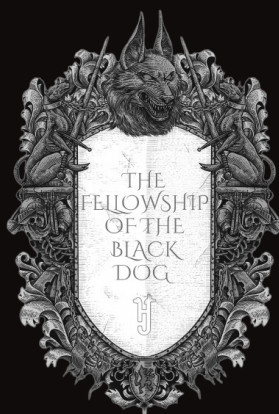


FANTASMS

A N D

FABLES

Issue #1: "Beware the Black Dog of Mystmoor!"



ANCIENT SONG OF THE BLACK DOG OF MYSTMoor

They see it here
They see it there
They see that spectre everywhere
In the haunted mists
Or on a bleak tor
The phantom Black Dog of Mystmoor!
Be-ware the Black Dog
Coming out of the Fog!
A hound of hell of darkest night



Dooms all it catches in its sight!
Be-Ware the Black Dog
When alone on the bog!
If you see it or hear its cry
The legend says that you must die!

Beware the Black Dog of Mystmoor!
Beware the Black Dog of Mystmoor!
Beware the Black Dog of Mystmoor!

BLACK DOGS OF LEGEND

Newgate Prison



The black dog of Newgate Prison is famous for dragging a long chain, and is often associated with executions, sorcery, and revenge. This black dog originated in the 17th century.

The Black Shuck

The Black Shuck is known most for its attacks, but also for its general portent for doom. The image featured here is of a weathervane atop a church in a city alleged to have been the victim of a Black Shuck attack.





The Cheney Hounds

The Cheney Hounds haunt the Parish of St. Teath, and are often said to come out during particularly rough weather. It is unclear how they and their owner originally died.

Peel Harbour

The black dog of Peel Harbour is known for preventing a skipper from reaching his boat ahead of a particularly stormy morning on the Isle of Man. This likely saved the lives of the entire crew, as the boat may have been lost in the sudden storm,



Betchworth Castle



This black dog is said to frequently haunt the grounds of Betchworth Castle, in Surrey. It is said to prowl the ruins, mainly at night. This particular black dog is also known as a “death dog,” and carries misfortune.

Slitting Mill



The Slitting Mill Bastard is from Cannock Chase, which is known for a variety of other supernatural and otherworldly sightings, including UFOs and a figure akin to Bigfoot. The Slitting Mill Bastard is joined by another black dog of the area, the Hednesford Hellhound.

THE BLACK DOG OF DEPRESSION



A “black dog” was often used as a euphemism for depression, particularly in men, in the early to mid 20th century. Winston Churchill was said to be plagued by this “black dog,” and in a time of war and economic downturn, it became quite commonplace. The idea of the “black dog” loomed over many of those who suffered from severe or manic depression, especially with a lack of support provided overall due to both time period sentiments and the war effort.

THE DOGS OF HEALTH

Many famous black dogs are known to be helpful, like the previously mentioned black dog of Peel Harbour, who saved an entire ship of fishermen.

Dogs as a whole are also known to have positive effects on mental health, despite the “black dog” being used as a euphemism for mental illness, particularly depression.

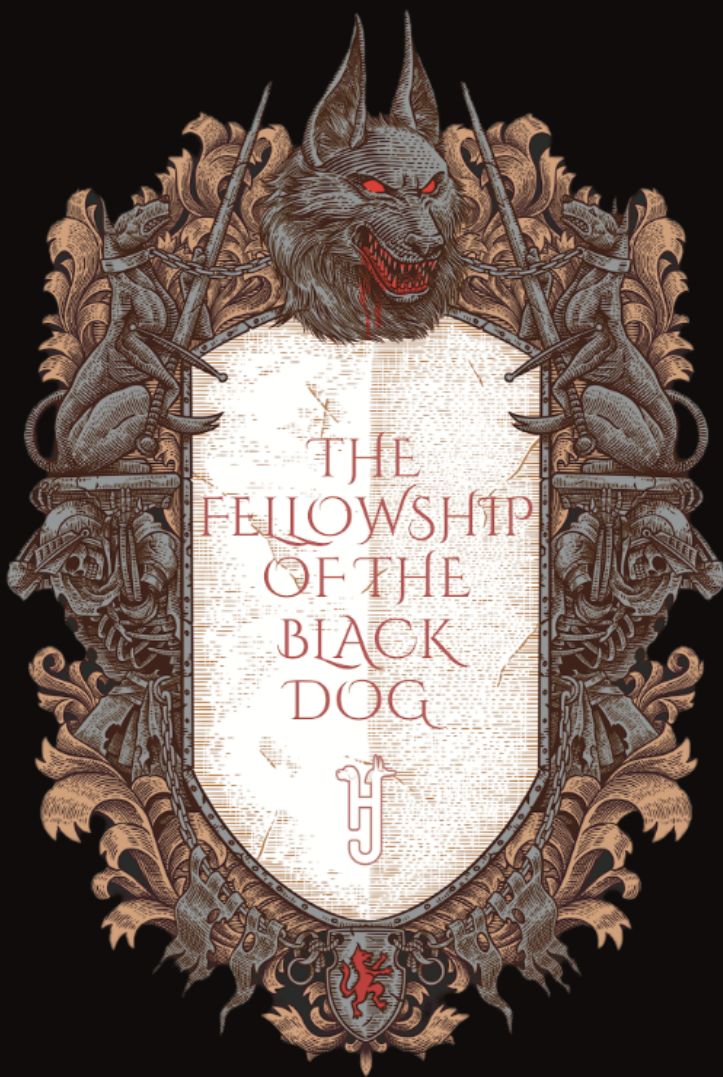


Dogs can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, and help to increase oxytocin and dopamine levels in the brain. Dogs are also particularly helpful in older communities, as they help to provide a sense of purpose, and mitigate some issues with memory loss and loss of activity.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE BLACK DOG



In the land of Mystmoor, shrouded in mystery and ancient legends, a chilling curse haunts the night. Those who glimpse the ghostly figure of the phantom Black Dog are doomed to perish soon after, their deaths wrought by supernatural forces. Bound by this eerie fate, the cursed form a clandestine club where only fellow witnesses of the spectral hound are welcome. In their secret gatherings, they share ghost stories and recount their harrowing adventures, finding solace and camaraderie in the shadow of their impending doom.



Ancient Song of the Black Dog of Mystmoor – Bruce Ballon

The Fellowship of the Black Dog – Bruce Ballon

Art and additional text – Abbie Hart

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