Owney was a dog who lived in the 1890s and loved being around the mail. As a pup, he belonged to a postal worker in Albany, NY. After his owner left, Owney stayed at the post office. Soon after, he began to follow mail on trains around the United States.
Mail Trains

Trains were very important to the postal service. Mail was sorted aboard moving trains while being transported from one place to another.
Owney was very helpful, keeping postal workers alert and watching over the mail. Always ready for adventure, Owney was constantly on the move, jumping between mail trains on his way to new places!
When Owney travelled to a new city, workers at the post office would attach a tag to his collar to show where he had been! Can you tell where any of these tags are from?
Owney’s Travels
Soon, Owney became famous, and needed a special harness to hold all his tags. Owney rode all over the country, and even travelled around the world, crossing the ocean aboard a steamboat!
As an old dog, Owney continued to follow the mail and ride aboard trains. He was beloved by his postal worker friends, who adopted him as their mascot!
By looking at Owney’s tags, we can learn where and when he visited different cities. Owney collected hundreds of tags through his years of travel.
Owney lives on at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, DC.
In July 2011, Owney completed a “makeover” to improve his appearance and preserve him for future generations.

Left: Taxidermist Paul Rhymer assesses Owney before his “makeover” treatment.

Right: This photo of Owney after his conservation treatment shows an improved appearance.
In July 2011, Owney was honored with his own commemorative postage stamp.
For more information about Owney and his adventures, visit the National Postal Museum’s website:

http://npm.si.edu/owney