

# Fascinating DOGS

Origins and biology of the dog  
Dogs and their canine relatives · Dogs and man



## Classroom Materials

For primary school children

# 'Fascinating Dogs'

Dear Teachers,

Dogs play an important role in our daily lives and the lives of our families. An estimated 56 million dogs live in millions of European households as part of the family.

While many children dream about having a pet dog join their family, we also know that some children are afraid of dogs. This is usually because these children lack knowledge or have had limited socialisation with dogs or because they have had a bad experience involving a dog. Sadly, in some cases, members of their own family or close friends may have passed onto them their own fears or dislikes about dogs.

This booklet 'Fascinating Dogs' is aimed at explaining to children in an easy, lively and interactive way the origins of dogs, their domestication, their biology, some breeds, their role in society and in particular how dogs behave and how to behave with dogs. Just as all children should be taught how to cross the road safely, we believe that all children should be taught how to understand and behave with any dog that they will meet including their own family dog.

'Fascinating Dogs' was developed by educational experts and is already used by teachers and children in German schools to great success. The teachers have appreciated having a stimulating, useful and well-documented subject for primary school use while the pupils have enjoyed having such a lively and interactive topic as part of their curriculum.

This free material can be downloaded from the FEDIAF internet.

This booklet is also a "living document" so if you have any comments, ideas or suggestions for improvements on how to apply this material in your courses, we would welcome your comments.

We hope you have enjoyable and successful sessions using 'Fascinating Dogs' with your pupils.

Yours sincerely,



Thomas Meyer  
Secretary General · FEDIAF

## **The dog is an important member of your family** **Some notes on the teaching concept**

Dear Teachers,

Dogs are fascinating animals to watch and to share your life with. The teaching materials in 'Fascinating Dogs' offer an interesting, basic understanding of these popular pets. The information and materials in this booklet provide practical knowledge and appropriate information about dogs, which will help school children aged 8 to 12 to foster an understanding, respect and sensitivity towards the specific dogs and their needs. Our aim is for school children to learn to handle dogs safely, to develop their own sense of responsibility, along with knowledge and understanding of the biology, behaviour and 'language' of dogs.

This resource will help school children see how they can modify their behaviour around dogs so they can interact safely and happily. Understanding a dog's needs and instinctive behaviours is essential in developing a safe and rewarding relationship. Children describe their experience of such relationships as loving, friendly and as partnerships. We also like to learn new things. We would therefore be delighted to receive any comments, suggestions and specific ideas you may have for improving these teaching materials, so that we can continue to provide you with useful lessons in the next edition.

Your team from **'Fascinating Dogs'**

# 'Fascinating Dogs' – Master copy templates

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### Information sheets:

The information sheets are for both teachers and pupils; they contain information related to 'Fascinating Dogs' and provide the basis for filling in the worksheets.

### Worksheets:

The worksheets, which pupils can fill in during lessons or in study groups, are printed on the back of the respective information sheets.

## Dogs and their wild relations

The dog as we know it has a huge range of wild relations all over the world, including wolves, foxes, jackals and coyotes. The Australian dingo is a long-established wild dog. All the members of the ancestral dog family hunt for prey, but they also eat plants and fruit making them omnivores, just like us humans.

Wolf



Dog



Jackal



Fox



### From wolf to domestic dog

Around 10,000-14,000 (Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age) years ago, wolves and humans lived and hunted in the same areas. Some wolves were attracted to the food at waste dumps outside the Mesolithic villages and became tame, as they continue to do today in countries such as Romania. Those less frightened of people would have been the most successful in getting food and would have thrived by staying close to the villages, breeding with other more friendly wolves.

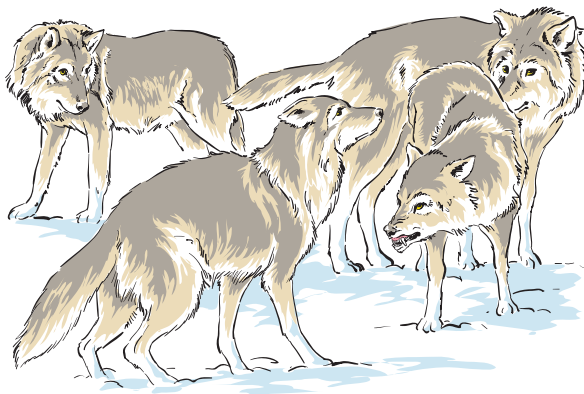
The tamest animals then moved into the villages to feed, where humans developed a closer relationship with their puppies. Eventually humans began to manage the dogs' breeding and were able to choose animals that had natural behaviours that were useful to them, such as hunting, herding and guarding.

### I have learned that:

Dogs have many wild relations, including wolves, foxes and jackals. A long time ago, some wolves began to move closer to people to steal food. These wolves became tamer, and then people began to breed them to develop the different characteristics that could benefit the villagers.

## Life in the pack

A long time ago pet dogs evolved from wolves, so some people think we should still treat them like wolves – but dogs today behave very differently to wolves and we should not treat them as if they are the same. Dogs enjoy being part of our human families; they do not want us to treat them like wolves living in a pack.



### Alpha myth

It was once believed that the leaders of a pack were dominant 'alpha figures' and that they would continue to fight other members of the group until they gave in. This is not true. Alpha males and females in any pack are usually simply the 'parents' of a pack, breeding litters of cubs and raising them with the help of previous generations.

### Working as a pack

Rather than fighting all the time and trying to sort out who is the 'boss' in the pack, wolves live and work well with each other as a family. They come together to hunt larger prey that they wouldn't be able to kill on their own. They also work together when it comes to raising their cubs, and providing them with food.



### Eating

In the past, some people thought the wolf leader would eat before the rest of the pack. This information was based on watching captive wolves – not wild ones. In the wild, if there is plenty of food then all group members will eat together at the same time, and feeding of any cubs or puppies takes priority.

### Sticking together

Wolf groups and families often groom each other. As well as helping to keep their coats clean and removing parasites, it is a social activity which strengthens their group bond.

### I have learned that:

Wolves usually live in family packs, where they work together to hunt and raise their young.

## Understanding the dog's needs

Dogs, even wild dogs, do not live in family packs like wolves. Domesticated pet dogs enjoy sharing our homes and lives and they dislike being left alone for too long. They enjoy taking part in family activities with us and thrive on the training, games and cuddles we can provide. As well as giving our pet dog the right amount and type of exercise and love, we must also protect him, look after his health needs, and feed him.

### The wolf in the wolf pack



### A dog in a human home



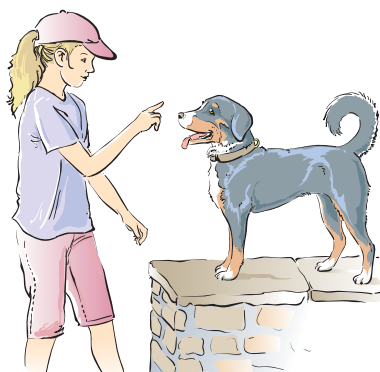
Wolves usually live in packs.	Wild dogs do not usually live in a pack, but pet dogs enjoy being in a human family, where they share our homes and lives.
Wolves must hunt for their own food, protect their young and ensure their own survival.	It is our job to give a pet dog everything he needs: food, health care, exercise, a warm bed and lots of love.
If wolves do not hunt successfully, they may starve – so they often work together to hunt large prey and to ensure the survival of the group.	Dogs can become protective of their food and might guard it, so you should leave a dog in peace when he is eating. Dogs can be trained from a young age to not see people as a threat to their food, but it is still a good idea to let them eat their meal.
Wolves live in the great outdoors and have a large territory to roam in.	Dogs live in our homes, but they enjoy going out and exploring different places on walks. Exercise keeps them fit and happy.
Wolves lick each other and themselves in order to keep their coat clean.	It is our job to groom our pet dog – by brushing and combing the coat and bathing him when needed. Some dogs need to have their coats trimmed or clipped.

### I have learned that:

Dogs do not live in packs, like wolves, but they enjoy sharing life with a family. It is our responsibility to provide for all their needs and keep them healthy, happy and safe.

## How to keep a dog happy in his human family

When you first bring your dog home he will need time and training to adapt to family life. Every home is different. For example, some people don't want their dogs to be on the sofa, others might actually encourage it. It's important that all family members agree on the house rules before the dog arrives – and then stick to them so that he can get used to them.



### Clear instructions

As well as deciding on which house rules to enforce, agree to use the same training requests. For instance, if someone says "down" when asking the dog to get off the sofa, and everyone else says "down" when requesting the dog to lie down or "off" to mean "get off", then you can see why the dog would lie down on the sofa.



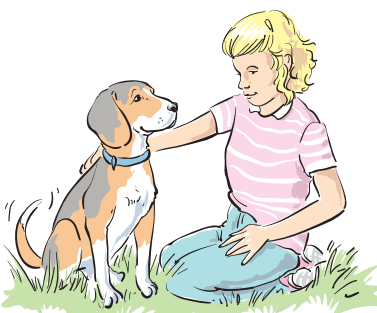
### An active dog is a happy dog

Dogs love physical and mental exercise. Like their wild cousins, dogs love to run and play outside, where they use their different senses to explore the environment around them. Look around you and make sure it is safe to let your dog off the lead before you do so.



### Playtime

Play is vital for all young animals. Through play, they can copy natural behaviours such as hunting. Puppies can also learn social skills, such as not to bite, as well as practising balance and co-ordination. Play gives the dog a chance to release his energy, use his brain, and bond with his family – whether human or canine.



### Love and affection

Dogs show us great loyalty and affection – and enjoy being loved in return. A dog often prefers his chest to be rubbed or tickled gently, rather than being patted on the head.



### Bedtime

A dog needs a place he can call his own – such as a bed, a cosy indoor kennel or a puppy crate, where he can rest undisturbed when he wants some peace and quiet. When he first joins your family, he might cry out at night because he is not used to sleeping on his own, but he will soon settle in his new surroundings.

### I have learned that:

It is important to consider what a dog needs in order to be happy in a human home. If I can 'think dog', it will help me to understand the world through my pet's eyes and strengthen the bond between us.

**1** Read each of the following statements. If you think what you've read is true then put a T for true in the box next to the sentence; if not then put an F for false in the box. (Watch out, sometimes both answers can be true or false):

**a**



Dogs prefer to stay at home all day.

Most dogs like to go out for a walk several times a day.

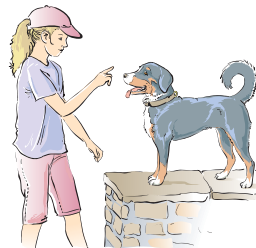
**b**



When a dog joins your family, he is already aware of your house rules.

It is important to teach your dog what is – and isn't acceptable in your home.

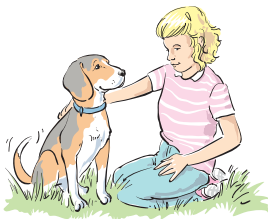
**c**



As a family, you should decide on what training requests to use, such as "sit", "down", "off", "leave", "stay" and "come".

Dogs know what we mean, regardless of what words we use.

**d**



Dogs like to be tickled on the chest.

Dogs do not enjoy being stroked.

**e**



Play is for children, not for dogs.

Through play, dogs learn and practise many skills.

**f**



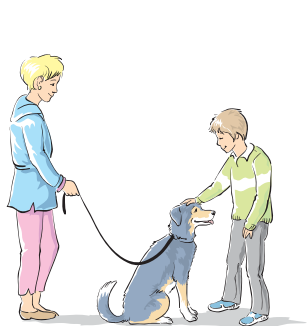
A dog needs his own comfortable sleeping area where he can rest undisturbed.

A dog might need a few nights to settle into his new home.



## Rules to keep you safe when meeting an unknown dog

When you take your dog out for a walk, he always knows whether the dogs or people he meets belong to the family or not. At first, two dogs that don't know each other might be unsure when they meet. They use body language to show whether they are friendly or not. A friendly dog will wag his tail and might try to get the other dog to play. An unfriendly or aggressive dog might growl, raise his hackles (the fur on the back of his neck) and look fierce. If both dogs are relaxed, they will sniff each other. Dogs can tell a great deal from first sniffing nose-to-nose and then nose to tail. They can sense if the other dog is male or female, whether he or she can breed, how old the dog is and whether they are healthy.



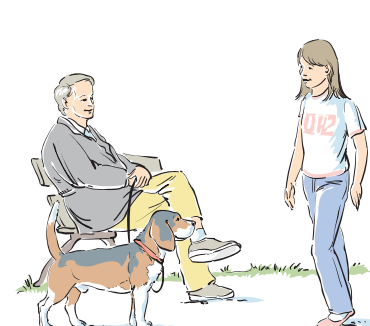
### Ask first – stroke afterwards

A strange dog knows perfectly well that you are not a member of his family. Never stroke him without asking the owner first, then slowly let him sniff your hand first, so that he learns who you are.



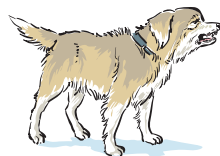
### It's rude to stare!

Staring can make a dog, or a person, feel uncomfortable and threatened. It is best not to stare a dog straight in the eyes until he knows you well and trusts you.



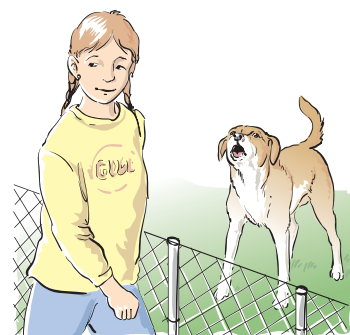
### Always approach from the front

Dogs usually approach each other from the front. A dog that approaches another dog from behind risks the other turning on him and biting. Always approach a dog from the front, so he can see you coming and doesn't get scared.



### Stand still if a dog threatens you

If a dog raises his hackles, he wants to appear big and intimidating. If he then stares you straight in the eye, he may be threatening you. Stand still and do not make a noise, look away from the dog and keep your arms down by your sides.



### Don't annoy dogs

Never annoy or tease a dog that is left tied up or may be running up and down behind his garden fence. Simply walking past and ignoring the dog will allow him to calm down.

### I have learned that:

Dogs behave in a certain way when they meet other dogs and people they don't know. If I learn to follow these rules whenever I meet a dog that doesn't know me, I may avoid being bitten by a nervous, angry or scared dog.

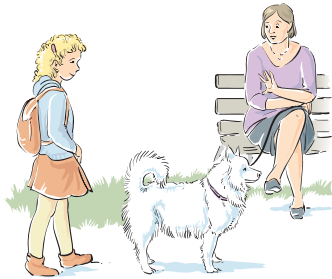
# How to behave when you meet a strange dog

# 5a

Worksheet

**1** Now you've learned what to do, look at the pictures below. Can you spot what these children are doing wrong? Write down what they need to do to keep themselves safe.

**a**

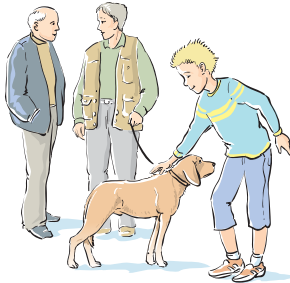


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**b**



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**c**



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**d**

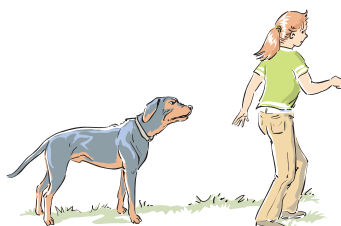


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**e**



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Worksheet

## How dogs communicate

A dog can communicate with other dogs using body language, facial expressions and sounds. For example, a relaxed-looking dog – with his tail waving behind him, his coat lying flat, and his ears hanging down or pricked forwards – is in a good mood. The dog can also use sounds to communicate with others: he can growl, bark, whimper, whine, or howl. Look at the pictures below, then read the text to see how the dog is feeling:



### The dog jumps up:

If the dog is clearly happy and relaxed, then this can be a sign of playfulness. He might go into a playbow with his bottom high in the air and his front legs on the ground. He might wag his tail and bottom excitedly, bounce on the spot, or even bring a toy and drop it at your feet so there's no mistaking what he wants!



### The dog is lying on his back:

This behaviour is often seen in puppies or less confident dogs when meeting new people or other dogs. It is a submissive gesture – to show that they are not a threat. The dog will look away and may also blink. His ears will be flat and he might lick the air, or try to lick the person/dog's face.



### The dog has his tail between his legs and his ears laid back:

He is afraid. Beware, this dog might bite to defend himself because he is scared.



### The dog is calm, confident, relaxed and showing interest:

He is not tense or rigid. His ears are up and his eyes are alert and welcoming. He might wag his tail. This dog is feeling friendly.

### The dog is holding his tail erect and showing his teeth:

This is an aggressive dog, he might lean forwards and stare. He will make himself look as big and scary as he can, wrinkling his nose, growling, raising his hackles and showing his teeth.



### I have learned that:

Dogs can use sounds and body language to communicate. If I learn to understand their language I will know if and when to approach a dog I don't know.

**1** How do dogs communicate?

**2** Look at the pictures of the dog below. Write the number of the dog expression next to the sentence that best describes what the dog is trying to say:

- a)  "Don't come too close, this is my territory!"
- b)  "I'm afraid. Don't come too close! Are you going to hurt me?"
- c)  "I know you are stronger than me and I want to show I'm not a threat."
- d)  "I am so excited. Come and play with me!"
- e)  "Don't be afraid to come closer. I'm in a friendly mood and I'd like to meet you."



## All dogs are different

Although all dogs are descended from the wolf, there are big differences between them. There are more than 400 recognised breeds and many cross-breeds (when two or more different breeds of dog are mixed together). Dogs come in all shapes and sizes, from tiny dogs to very large ones. Some have a long coat; others are curly or short-haired and some dogs like the Mexican hairless have no coat at all! There are also many different coat shades and colours, single-coloured, two or tri-coloured, with patches, mottles or spots. Despite looking very different, all dogs behave in similar ways.



Chow Chow



Rough Collie



Golden Retriever



West Highland Terrier



Wire-haired Dachshund



Yorkshire Terrier



Cross-breed



Dobermann



French Poodle



Alsatian or German Shepherd Dog

### I have learned that:

There is a huge variety of breeds of dog, but although they all look very different, they all behave in similar ways and they originally descended from the wolf.

**1** Can you match the names of the breeds of dog pictured here?  
Write the letters in the boxes below.

- |                          |                       |                          |                       |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | French Poodle         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Golden Retriever      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Alsatian or German Shepherd Dog |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | West Highland Terrier | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yorkshire Terrier     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chow Chow                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dobermann             | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wire-haired Dachshund |                          |                                 |

**2** Collect drawings, photos and pictures of dogs. Make a wall poster of all the different types you have found and display it in the classroom.

**3** Collect as much information as you can about your favourite breed of dog. Consider why you like this breed. Compare it to your friend's favourites.

**4** If you or your relatives own a dog, describe it to your friends.



a)



b)



c)



d)



e)



f)



g)



h)

## Dogs can do more than just play, eat and sleep

People have bred dogs for hundreds of years, during which time they have been able to breed specific qualities and behaviours which can help people in different ways. Some of the dog's earliest jobs were to guard the camps, help the hunters and control herds and flocks. Many dogs still do these jobs today, but many of them do other amazing jobs for us, too. They guide blind or disabled people safely through the streets, search for missing persons and help dig out people buried after disasters such as landslides, avalanches or collapsed buildings. Specially trained police dogs can pursue criminals and sniff out drugs and explosives.



### Watchdog

A dog's senses of smell and hearing are much better than ours. They can warn us when danger or a stranger is near us by barking loudly.



### Hunting dog

Dogs accompanied the very first humans on their hunting trips. A dog's great sense of smell allows him to track other animals such as rabbits, foxes and deer. Some dogs, like lurchers, help to chase and capture animals, whilst other smaller breeds like the Jack Russell can enter rabbit and fox holes to force them out in the open. Gundogs like Spaniels and Golden Retrievers will fetch the hunter's kill from thick undergrowth or from water and bring it back to him.



### Sheepdogs

Sheep herding dogs, such as Border Collies, use their hunting instinct of stalking and chasing to move the flocks. They are responsible for guarding the herd from danger and guiding them back to their pen.

### I have learned that:

Each different breed of dog has been developed to help humans by hunting, retrieving, or herding, as well as more complex jobs like working for the police and disabled people. Many modern breeds were bred simply to make loving pets.

**1** Look at the dogs in the pictures below. Now read the job descriptions underneath. Can you match each job description to a picture by writing the number in the box next to it?



a)  Job: \_\_\_\_\_

These dogs help blind people to move around safely. They warn them about steps or stairs, cars and other obstacles. They can lead them to a seat when they want to sit down, or guide them around the shops. Guide dogs must be fully alert at all times, so never distract them in any way.

b)  Job: \_\_\_\_\_

These dogs work for the police. They can sniff out illegal items, such as drugs and explosives at airports. They can track and arrest criminals on the run. They help to prevent fights at football grounds or guard buildings and compounds.

c)  Job: \_\_\_\_\_

These dogs find missing persons. They find them under rubble after earthquakes, or buried deep in snow after an avalanche; they can even find submerged people in water after a boat has over turned. Dogs like these save human lives.

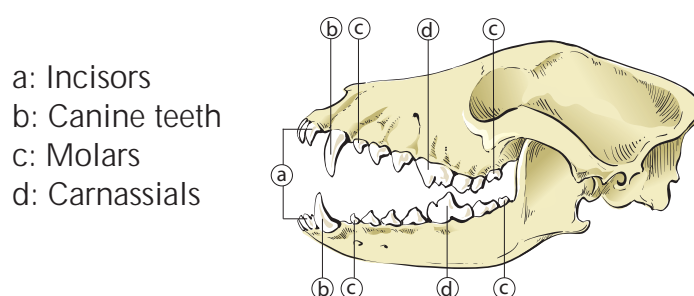
d)  Job: \_\_\_\_\_

These dogs pull sledges that carry people or goods in countries covered with ice and snow and where cars, ships or aircraft cannot operate. Despite the weight of the load, they can run very long distances and for hours on end.



## 1 A dog's teeth

A wild dog's main food consists of other animals (prey) and plants. The dog's teeth and jaws, therefore, need to be capable of grasping, holding, tearing and chewing, in order to do this effectively a dog has four different types of teeth. Like human children, puppies have 28 milk teeth, which they start to lose at 3 to 4 months of age. As shown in the diagram below, by 7 months of age, dogs have 42 permanent adult teeth:



The six incisors at the front of the mouth with their sharp edges are useful for gnawing meat close to the bone.

The four canine teeth, which are immediately obvious when a dog opens his mouth, are long and pointed and the dog uses them to grip and tear his food.

The molars are used for tearing and grinding and the carnassials are for shearing and slicing large chunks of food into pieces.

## 2 A dog's anatomy

The labels below identify the dog's body parts (his anatomy).



### I have learned that:

The dog is a predator (hunter) in the wild, so he has sharp teeth. It is important to recognise that a dog's jaw and teeth are strong and therefore dangerous. I should respect all dogs and follow the rules I have learnt to avoid being bitten.

**1** Fill in the gaps in the text below.

The six small teeth at the front of the dog's mouth are called 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
These are used for 2) \_\_\_\_\_.

The big pointed teeth are called 3) \_\_\_\_\_. They are strong and sharp. Dogs use them to hold, tear and sometimes kill their prey. They do not meet when the dog bites, but instead glide past each other like the arms of a pair of shears.

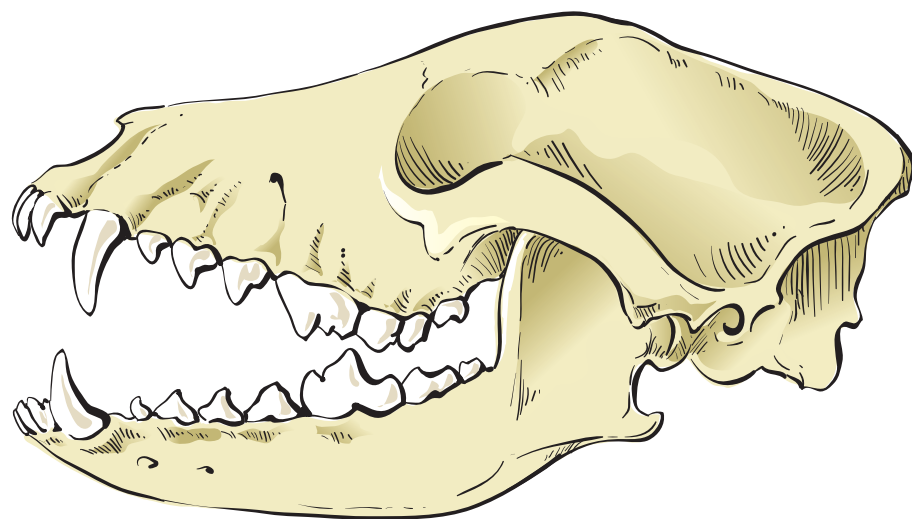
Bones and meat are sliced and crunched using the big jagged teeth towards the back of the dog's jaw called 4) \_\_\_\_\_. The food is then chewed and ground-up with the big flat teeth at the back of the jaw called 5) \_\_\_\_\_.

The part of the dog's face containing the nose, mouth and jaw is called the 6) \_\_\_\_\_.

A dog uses body language to express how he is feeling. If he excited he wags his 7) \_\_\_\_\_. If he wants your attention then he may well tap you with his 8) \_\_\_\_\_.

**2** Here is a picture of a dog's skull.

Colour at least one canine teeth red, one incisor green, one molar yellow and one carnassial blue.



## Keen senses

Even though dogs today no longer have to hunt to survive, many breeds still have very strong senses. Often the strongest, and the most important sense of all for the dog, is his sense of smell. Humans have 5 million scent cells in their noses to help them smell, compared to dogs which have more than 220 million scent cells! This means that a dog's sense of smell is at least 1,000 times better than ours! Dogs also have very good hearing, so we do not need to shout when speaking to a dog. A dog's eyesight however is less developed than ours when it comes to detail and colour, but he is much quicker than us to notice even the smallest of movements in his environment.

Dogs also do not have a well-developed sense of taste compared to humans. They prefer to use their noses to tell whether something is good or bad to eat, so often gulp down their food quickly after sniffing it first. A dog uses his tongue for other things, like lapping up liquids or keeping cool in warm weather or after exercise by panting (letting his tongue hang out and taking fast, deep breaths). When a dog pants, the moisture on the tongue evaporates and cools the air the dog breathes in – cooling his body.



### Ears

Dogs can have pointed or floppy ears, or even ears that are somewhere in between. Dogs do not have to turn their heads in order to hear something more closely because they can simply move their ears, which can point in different directions, together or independently. A dog has much better hearing than a human: he can hear distant sounds long before we do, and even high frequency sounds that we cannot hear at all.

### Eyes

A dog's eyesight is neither as sharp, nor as colour-sensitive as ours, but that's because it doesn't need to be. Instead dogs register even the smallest movement within their range of vision, very quickly. Some breeds, such as those that hunt by sight, can see what is going on to their left and right without having to turn their heads, because their eyes are placed more at the side of their heads rather than the front. Dogs, unlike us can see equally well by night as they do by day.

### Nose

A dog's sense of smell is very important to him. It allows him to follow trails to sniff out animals living underground, recognise other dogs that have crossed his path and to tell whether food is good to eat. A dog can recognise the scent of the people in his family from among thousands of others, and naturally he can smell if you have something tasty for him hidden in your pocket!

### How I see:



### How a dog sees:



### I have learned that:

A dog uses his senses to explore the world around. Dogs do not have a well-developed sense of taste, but can smell and hear things that we are unable to and they can see movement over much greater distances.

**1** Read the questions and then decide which of the two statements is correct. Tick the box next to the statements that correctly answer each question. Watch out, in some cases they are both right!

**a**



**How much better than humans can dogs smell?**

- A dog's nose contains more than 220 millions cells to help him smell.
- A dog's nose can smell more than 1,000 times better than a human's.

**b**



**How does a dog use his tongue?**

- A dog uses his tongue to test the taste of his food.
- A dog can make his tongue into a 'spoon' to lap up liquids.

**c**



**What is special about the way a dog's eyes can see?**

- They can pick up even the slightest movement.
- They can see colours better than human eyes can.

**d**



**What is different about a dog's ears compared to ours?**

- They are more mobile than human ears.
- They can be erect, floppy or somewhere in between.

**e**



**What is the difference between a dog's hearing and a man's hearing?**

- A dog's hearing is much more sensitive and he can hear sounds we cannot.
- Dogs cannot hear as well as humans.

**f**



**Which statement about a dog's nose is true?**

- The nose is a very important sensory organ to the dog.
- A dog's nose cannot smell as well as the human nose.

**g**



**Why is a dog's nose so important?**

- The dog can recognise people and other animals by their scent.
- The dog can follow scent trails where animals and people have been.

**h**



**Apart from drinking, what else does the dog use his tongue for?**

- The tongue has no other function.
- The dog uses his tongue to keep cool.

## From puppy to adult dog

Dogs, like humans, are mammals. Puppies are born helpless and need the care of their mother for the first eight weeks after they are born. During this time the mother feeds them on milk. From six weeks the puppies begin to eat solid food and become less reliant on their mother, this is often the time when they are sold as pets into their new homes. Dogs grow quickly and are often full size by the time they are 1 year. Some people say that a dog grows 7 human years for every one year.

A female dog is called a bitch. After 6 months to 2 years (depending on the size and breed of dog), the bitch comes into season – at which time, if she mates with a male dog, she can have a litter of puppies around 60 days later. The size of the litter can vary a lot depending on the age of the female dog, the breed of the male and female and their overall health.



### The first few weeks in a puppy's life

A new-born puppy is born deaf and blind. His sight and hearing slowly develop over the first 2 weeks and at around 12-14 days he is able to open his eyes. He is able to feel the warmth of his mother's body and is also born with a good sense of smell, helping him to find and drag himself to his mother to feed. He huddles with his brothers and sisters for warmth. When he is about two weeks old, he starts to take his first wobbly steps and over the next four weeks he starts to explore his surroundings and learn some social skills, under his mother's watchful eye.



### The puppy joins his family

By around six weeks of age, the puppy begins to eat solid food, and by the time he reaches eight weeks of age he is ready to move in with his new human family. By now he has learned that humans are kind, he has become used to the sights and sounds of the home, and has played endlessly with his brothers and sisters. He still has a great deal to learn in his new home, such as his name, basic training (including toilet training), he now needs to see and experience the outside world.



### Growing up

In the first few months of life, you will help your dog to become housetrained; learn the meanings of "sit", "down", "come" and other requests; learn the house rules and teach him how to behave around other people and animals. By playing with other dogs, he learns how to communicate with them, too. When out walking (once he has received all his vaccinations), he learns to walk to heel (close next to you) and gets used to street noise – such as lorries, motorbikes, planes and sirens.



### The adult dog

A dog never stops learning – he carries on learning for the rest of his life, which can be up to 15 years old, depending on his size and general health. An adult dog loves being in the company of his family. He is happy when we play and cuddle him, find jobs for him to do, train him and give him praise when he does something right.

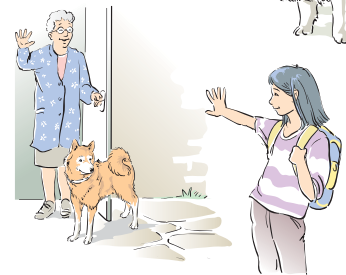
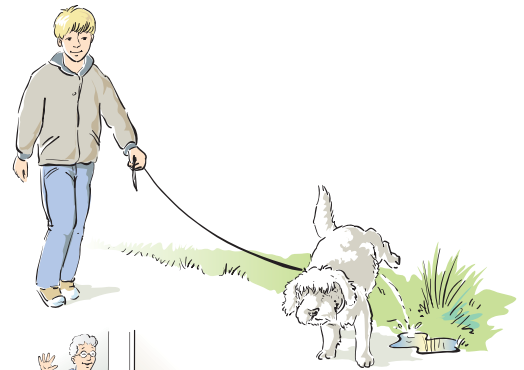
### I have learned that:

Just like me a dog's needs change as he grows from a puppy to a young dog and then to an adult. He learns a great deal while he is still young, but will enjoy learning throughout his entire life.

**1** The pictures below are a story board of a pet dog's typical day. Can you describe what is happening in each picture?

**2** Why is the daily routine shown in the pictures so important for dogs?

First thing /  
In the morning



In the afternoon



In the evening



## Which is the right dog for me?

Today, there are more than 400 different breeds of dog in the world and even more types of mixed-breed. Just like us, dogs can be quiet or lively; sporty or homely; stocky or skinny; large or small and everything in between. Some dogs enjoy following a scent trail in a wood or running on a racing track. When choosing a dog – how they look, or what colour coat they have should not be the only reason for your choice. It is important to think about your lifestyle and consider what breed of dog is best suited to your family. In a family home, only those that are well matched to their owners are going to be truly happy. The particular characteristics and personality traits of the various breeds of dog can be found in reference books on dogs, or on the Internet. You could visit a dog show to see lots of different dogs, where breeders will often give advice and information about the breed you are interested in.



### A pedigree dog

A well-raised pedigree puppy should have grown up with his mother, brothers and sisters and the breeder's family and perhaps other pets such as cats. He should have been well looked after by his human family and by the vet. The family will have started some early training, such as toilet training and introducing him to different people, and he will be eager to continue his training and learning when he joins his new family. He still has a lot to explore and discover in the world! Young dogs need lots of time and patience to teach, which everyone in the family must be prepared to offer.

### A dog from the animal shelter

Although puppies are often available, many dogs waiting in animal shelters for a new home are already older. The carers at the shelter know them well and should be able to match them to the right family. Such dogs are usually house-trained, vaccinated, neutered (no longer able to have puppies), wormed and have

been given a general health check by a vet. In many cases they have also received a little training, but some may have had bad experiences in their past and may need special behavioural advice, training and extra patience to help them overcome this.

### A dog or a bitch?

Male dogs are mostly larger, more muscular and heavier than female dogs (bitches). If a bitch is not neutered and is in season, males will often follow their strong instincts and will be likely to stray from home to find her. Bitches come into season usually twice a year and often attract all the dogs in the neighbourhood. During this time, they must be kept on a lead when taken out for a walk, or you could easily end up with an unplanned litter of puppies! All dogs ideally should be neutered as this not only prevents unwanted puppies, but also lowers the risk of certain diseases.

### Dogs in small homes or flats

Not all dogs need a garden. Many – particularly small (toy) breeds – can live happily in a flat or an apartment, as long as they are taken for walks regularly, at least twice a day. Small dogs, such as Pugs or Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, are playful, join in outdoor activities and require less exercise than larger and more active breeds, such as a Boxer or Retriever, who really need a garden, where they can let off steam and play between walks.

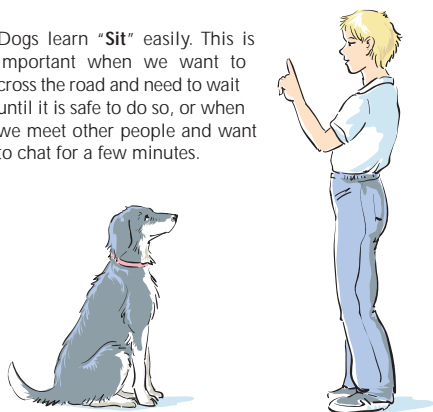
### I have learned that

Before getting a dog a family should think about all the things the dog will need and choose a dog that is the right size and breed for their family home and lifestyle.

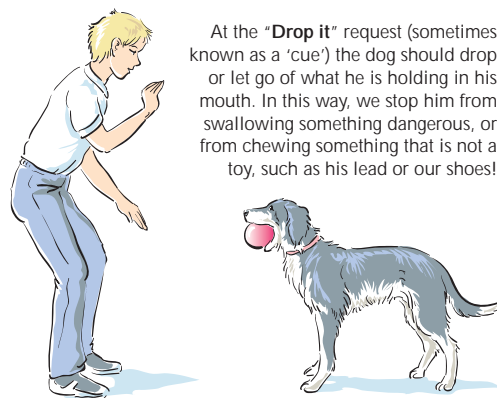
## A dog should go to "school"

When your puppy is about 12-20 weeks, you should take him to a puppy training class, where he will learn how to interact with other dogs and people, as well as basic commands. When puppy training is over, be sure to continue to teach your dog to accept new situations and to be well behaved. He will enjoy using his brain throughout his adult life, acquiring new skills and learning new sports and bonding with you and your friends. Training includes: learning how to walk on a lead without pulling, to sit and lie down when asked, to stay, and very importantly, to come back when called. Other exercises might include teaching your dog to leave or drop something when asked and perhaps some fun tricks.

Dogs learn "Sit" easily. This is important when we want to cross the road and need to wait until it is safe to do so, or when we meet other people and want to chat for a few minutes.



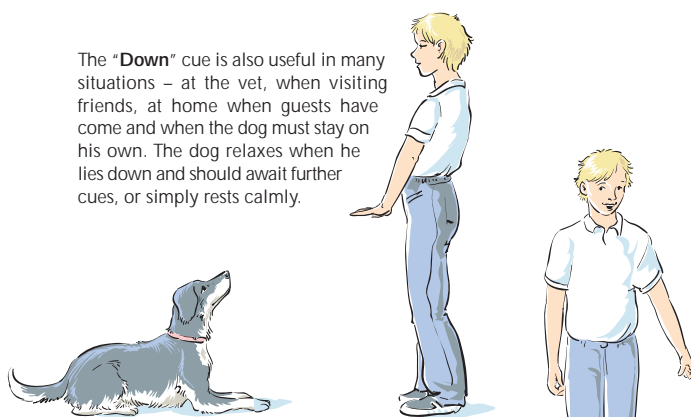
At the "Drop it" request (sometimes known as a 'cue') the dog should drop or let go of what he is holding in his mouth. In this way, we stop him from swallowing something dangerous, or from chewing something that is not a toy, such as his lead or our shoes!



Once the dog has learned the "Heel" cue, we can walk him without a lead where it is safe to do so. But, on pavements or in unfenced areas near roads, a dog should always be on a lead. If something scares him or he sees something to chase, he could forget his training and run out into the road.



The "Down" cue is also useful in many situations – at the vet, when visiting friends, at home when guests have come and when the dog must stay on his own. The dog relaxes when he lies down and should await further cues, or simply rests calmly.



Puppies love to be near their family, they will follow you around and enjoy being close. They will often check how you respond to the new things in their environment. If you call your puppy, he will usually come running, so it's a good idea to teach him to come back when he is young and still enthusiastic about wanting your company. When he's older and is busy playing with other dogs or following an interesting scent, you'll have to be much more exciting and rewarding to get his attention to persuade him to come to you.



### I have learned that

A dog has to learn things, just like I do. It is important that he learns social skills and basic commands while he's young. Dogs enjoy learning throughout their lives and training is a fun activity we can do together.



## What a dog needs

Dogs need food that is quite different from ours. Many things that we enjoy eating are bad for a dog's health or even poisonous, such as chocolate. We should also take good care of their coat so that it does not become tangled and to stop parasites, such as fleas, from making their home in it. Dental care is also very important – daily cleaning with special dog toothpaste and toothbrush is ideal and there are special chews that help to clean dogs' teeth, too.



### Care

Caring for a dog doesn't just mean feeding him regularly. After all, they go outside with you every day and also like to roll around in mud and smelly stuff. Dogs with short coats should be groomed once a week; all other dogs should be brushed more regularly and daily if they have very long coats. Dead hairs will be removed during brushing and it also helps the coat stay shiny by spreading the dog's natural oils. A dog usually only needs to be bathed if he is really dirty or has rolled in something smelly. Make sure you use a special shampoo designed for dogs and don't bathe him more than once a month, or you will strip his coat of its natural oils.



### Feeding

Dogs have special nutritional needs that are different to ours. You can buy ready-made dog food that is balanced with the right nutrients and that will satisfy all his needs. It tastes good, and will give your dog all he needs to grow and to stay fit and healthy. You can buy dry, wet or semi-moist dog food and most foods come pre-prepared for puppies, adult dogs and even old dogs. All ready-made pet food comes with feeding guidelines that you will need to follow to make sure he does not become overweight. It is also ideal to weigh your dog on a regular basis. If you use food for training rewards, this should be taken out of his total daily food quantity, so that he doesn't eat more food than he needs. Treats should never account for more than 10% of your dog's total daily food intake. Also remember that a dog should always have access to fresh water.

## First Aid

When a dog has injured himself or is sick, he should be taken to the vet as soon as possible, never give a dog any medicines that are intended for humans, as they may be poisonous! Approach your dog with care, as he may respond differently because he is in pain. In emergencies, there are first-aid measures you can take to help your dog until you can get to the vet. If he is suffering from heat stroke or sunstroke, for example, place him in the shade or lie him on a cool surface and offer him water to drink. Small wounds can be bandaged to stop the bleeding.

### I have learned that

Owning a dog means I am responsible for everything the dog needs to stay happy and healthy. He should be fed, watered, groomed and given the right health care according to size, age and breed. Some of the foods we enjoy are poisonous for dogs.

## Buying and keeping a dog costs money

A dog needs more from his family than just love, attention, training and a good home. A dog also costs money – not just to buy, but to feed and care for properly throughout his life. Animal shelters usually ask for a donation, or may also charge a fee when you adopt a dog. Pedigree dogs bought from a breeder are usually a lot more expensive.

To begin with, you will need to buy some items to help your dog feel more at home:

- a blanket and bed
- bowls for food and water
- a lead or harness and a collar with an identity tag.
- an indoor or outdoor kennel
- a brush and a comb

These are all costs that only happen once, or every few years. There are also regular costs of food, health care, treats and toys for rewarding him. You may also need to consider other costs, such as training classes or pet insurance, as well as paying someone to take care of your dog if you go away on holiday. Here is a list of costs to think about before buying a dog:



### Going to the vet

Even if your dog is healthy, he will still need to see the vet regularly, at least once a year. Your vet will give him a thorough check-up and vaccinate him against common diseases. Your dog may also need plaque and scale removed from his teeth. Your vet can advise you on how often to worm and treat your dog for fleas and ticks.

The cost of the dog

Animal shelter or breeder

Basic equipment

- Bed and blanket
- Indoor/outdoor kennel
- Bowls for food and water
- Lead/harness/collar with identity tag
- Brush and comb

Regular ongoing costs for the life of the dog

- Food
- Treats
- Flea treatment (once a month) and worming treatment (once every 3 months)

Other costs

- Microchip implant +/- registration costs (one-off)
- Neutering operation (one-off)
- Vet check-ups/vaccinations (once a year)
- Training classes
- Pet insurance

### I have learned that

Caring for any pet involves money as well as lots of time and attention. A family needs to budget for the food, equipment and regular vet check-ups to make sure a dog is healthy and in tip-top condition.

4a

**The dog's human family**

1.a) F / T

1.b) F / T

1.c) T / F

1.d) T / F

1.e) F / T

1.f) T / T

5a

**How to behave when you meet a strange dog**

- 1.a) The child is approaching the dog from behind, thus risking being bitten. I must always approach a dog from the front so that he sees I am not a threat.
- 1.b) The child is stroking the dog without asking the owner first. The dog might feel under attack and bite the child. I must always ask the owner first if I may stroke the dog.
- 1.c) The child is looking the dog straight in the eye. The dog might find this intimidating and become aggressive. This is why I shouldn't stare at a dog.
- 1.d) The child is annoying a dog behind a fence. The best thing to do with a dog that thinks he is guarding something is to ignore him.
- 1.e) The child is running away from a growling dog. The dog would now like to chase the child and try to catch him. Even when I am afraid, I must stand still and try to ignore the dog.

**Dog language**

6a

1. The dog can communicate with his voice and his body. His body language and tail tell us how he feels. However, a dog also uses sounds to communicate, by growling, barking, whimpering or whining.

2.a) 3

2.b) 5

2.c) 4

2.d) 1

2.e) 2

7a

**Dog breeds**

1.a) West Highland Terrier

1.b) French Poodle

1.c) Yorkshire Terrier

1.d) Wire-haired Dachshund

1.e) Dobermann

1.f) Chow Chow

1.g) Golden Retriever

1.h) Alsatian or German Shepherd Dog

8a

**Working dogs**

1.a) 2 - Guide dog

1.b) 4 - Police/Customs dog

1.c) 1 - Rescue dog

1.d) 3 - Sledge dog

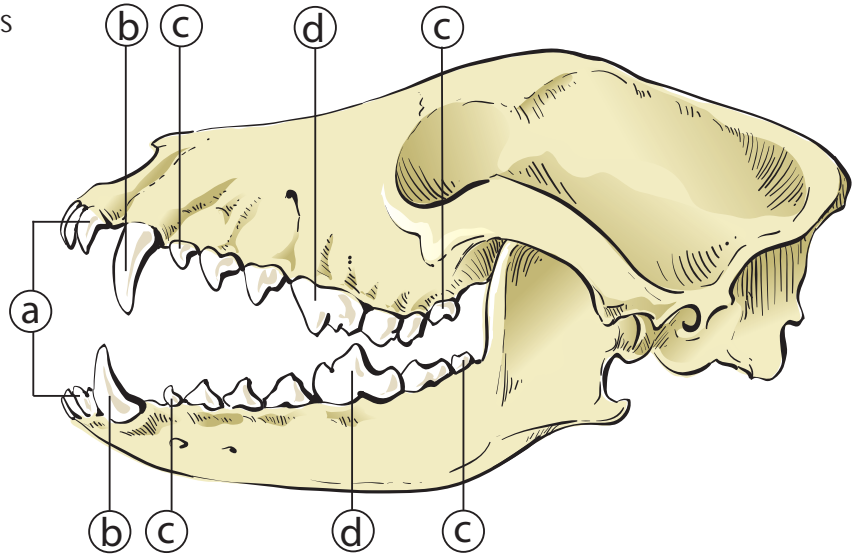
9a

**Biology of the dog I: Anatomy and teeth**

- 1.
- |                |                                   |            |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 1) incisors    | 2) gnawing meat close to the bone | 3) canines |
| 4) carnassials | 5) molars                         | 6) muzzle  |
| 7) tail        | 8) paw                            |            |

2. The dog's teeth and jaws

- a: Incisors  
 b: Canine teeth  
 c: Molars  
 d: Carnassials



10a

**Biology of the dog II: Keen senses**

- |            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1.a) ✓ / ✓ | 1.b) - / ✓ | 1.c) ✓ / - |
| 1.d) ✓ / ✓ | 1.e) ✓ / - | 1.f) ✓ / - |
| 1.g) ✓ / ✓ | 1.h) - / ✓ |            |

12

**A dog's typical day**

- When the child gets up in the morning, the dog is already awake in most cases and says hello, wagging his tail to show he is happy.
  - Soon after getting up, the dog needs to go out for a walk.
  - When he comes back and has had a rest, then he will have his breakfast.
  - While the child is in school, the dog stays at home on his own or with a member of the family. When the child comes home from school, he is joyfully welcomed home because the dog can now go out for his second walk or have a play.
  - When the child is doing his homework, the dog dozes in his bed.
  - After that, the dog and the child can play with each other.
  - The dog enjoys a final walk before bedtime.
- A dog needs consistent house rules and likes to have routines in his life, such as when he is fed and exercised. A daily routine makes him feel safe. He also knows exactly when a child usually comes home from school and will welcome him/her with great joy!

# Test Yourself – “What do I know about dogs?”

## 1 The family dog

Read the statements below. Tick the box if you think what is being said is true of a dog's life in a family home:

- a)  Dogs prefer to stay at home all day.
- b)  Dogs can learn a lot from playing.
- c)  The family must agree on what the house rules are.
- d)  Dogs don't like to be stroked.
- e)  Dogs need their own sleeping area where they can rest in peace and quiet.
- f)  A dog might cry for the first few nights in a new home until he settles in.

## 2 Dog language

How does a dog communicate how he is feeling?

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## 3 How to behave when you meet a strange dog

Tick the box next to the statements below that you think are giving you good advice to follow when you meet a strange dog for the first time:

- a)  Before I stroke a dog, I must ask his owner for permission.
- b)  I must always look a dog straight in the eye otherwise I will make him feel insecure.
- c)  I must never approach a dog from behind.
- d)  When a dog growls at me, I must run away very quickly.
- e)  I should ignore a guard dog behind a fence. I should never annoy him.

## 4 A dog's typical day

Describe the typical day of a dog in his family.

First thing / In the morning

---

---

In the afternoon

---

---

In the evening

---

---

---



# Test Yourself – “What do I know about dogs?”

## 5 Dog breeds

Can you write down the names of six different breeds of dog?

---

---

## 6 A dog's anatomy, jaws and teeth

How well do you know a dog's anatomy, jaws and teeth? Answer the following questions:

a) What do we call the dog's teeth that are used for holding and tearing food?

---

b) What do we call a dog's feet?

---

c) What do we call the teeth that a dog uses to cut his food and to gnaw at bones?

---

d) What do we call a dog's 'mouth' area?

---

e) What does a dog wag?

---

## 7 A dog's senses

Which of the following statements about a dog's senses are true? Tick the box:

- a)  A dog's sense of smell is 20 times better than a human's.
- b)  A dog's sense of hearing is worse than a human's.
- c)  A dog can notice even the smallest of movements with his eyes.
- d)  The nose is a dog's most powerful sensory organ.
- e)  A dog uses his tongue to test the taste of his food.
- f)  A dog's ears are more mobile than a human's.

## 8 Working dogs

Can you identify these working dogs from their job descriptions?

a) These dogs sniff out illegal items such as drugs:

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b) These dogs find people under rubble:

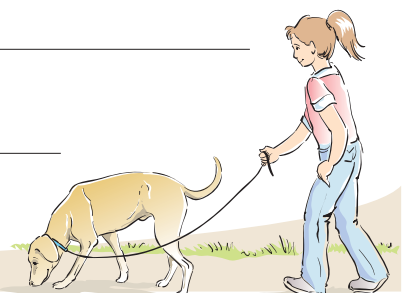
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c) These dogs help blind people to move around safely:

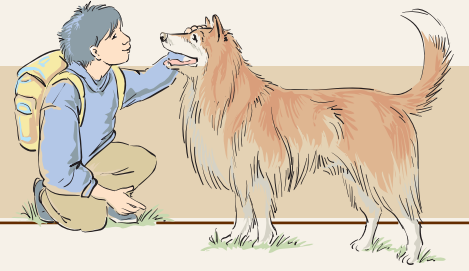
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d) These dogs help a farmer to look after his flock:

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# Certificate



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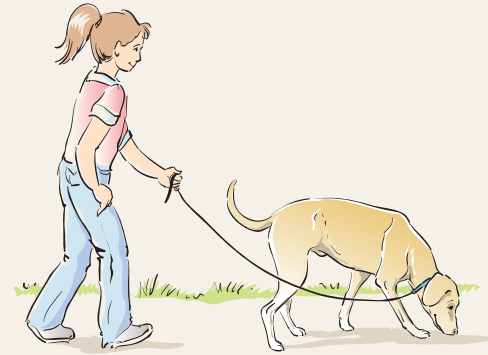
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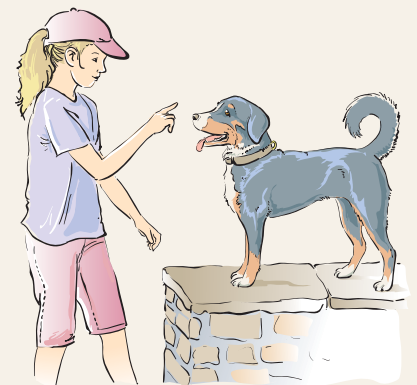
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has passed the

“What do I know about dogs?” test



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Place and date

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Teacher's signature



**1 The family dog**

- a) -      b) ✓      c) ✓      d) -      e) ✓      f) ✓

**2 Dog language**

A dog can communicate using body language, facial expression and his tail to show us how he feels. However, he also uses sounds to communicate, by growling, barking, whimpering or whining.

**3 How to behave when you meet a strange dog**

- a) ✓      b) -      c) ✓      d) -      e) ✓

**4 A dog's typical day**

**First thing / In the morning**, the dog is usually awake early and is happy when his family wakes up, too – he can then go out for his first walk of the day. This is followed by a rest, and then breakfast. While the children are in school, the dog stays at home and might have a snooze. **In the afternoon**, the dog would like to go out to the toilet and to exercise in the garden or have a walk. When the children come home from school, he is excited to see them. When the children have their homework to do, the dog likes to doze patiently near the children. Afterwards, they can all play together again. **In the evening**, the dog likes to go out for one last walk before bedtime.

**5 Dog breeds**

German Shepherd Dog/Alsatian, Wire-haired Dachshund, Golden Retriever, Beagle, Yorkshire Terrier, West Highland Terrier, Chow Chow, Dalmatian, Collie, Dobermann, French Poodle, Spaniel, Pug, Boxer

**6 A dog's anatomy, jaws and teeth**

- |                 |         |             |
|-----------------|---------|-------------|
| a) Canine teeth | b) Paws | c) Incisors |
| d) Muzzle       | e) Tail |             |

**7 A dog's senses**

- a) -      b) -      c) ✓      d) ✓      e) -      f) ✓

**8 Working dogs**

- |                          |               |              |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| a) Police/Customs dog    | b) Rescue dog | c) Guide dog |
| d) Sheep dog/Herding dog |               |              |

**Note:**

The ‘What do I know about dogs?’ test yourself sheet is accompanied by a certificate that can be issued to the children. We recommend marking the test as ‘passed’ when at least 50 percent of the answers are correct.



## Brief explanation of terms used in the 'Fascinating Dogs' classroom materials.

### Alpha male, alpha female

A family → pack of wolves is usually made up of two parents and their offspring. The alpha female and the → alpha male are the parents, and also known as the breeding pair.

### Breeder

When a female dog (called a bitch) mates with a → male dog, she will usually have puppies later. People who make sure that dogs of a particular → dog breed mate with dogs from the same breed are called breeders. When the bitch has puppies, the breeders help look after them and organise their first vaccinations before they are given to their new owners – but not until the puppies are old enough to live without their mother, usually around eight weeks of age.

### Canine family

The Canine family is the scientific term for all dog-like animals ('Canis' in Latin means 'dog'). Besides the dog, the Canine family also includes the wolf, coyote, jackal and the fox.

### Crossbreed

There are about 400 different → dog breeds in the world – German Shepherds /Alsatians, Dachshunds and Golden Retrievers being just three examples. If a German Shepherd mates with a Golden Retriever, a puppy is born with characteristics from both his parents. He is called a 'cross-breed'.

### Diet

Humans and dogs are omnivores, meaning that we eat meat as well as vegetables/fruit. But this does not mean that we should share our own meals with dogs, as some foods, such as onions, grapes and chocolate, are poisonous and can be fatal to a dog. The best thing to give your dog is specially formulated complete and balanced dog food, which contains all the ingredients that a dog needs in the correct proportions. You should also always make sure that your dog has access to fresh, clean drinking water at all times.

### Dog breed

A 'dog breed' refers to a type of dog that looks the same as (or very similar to) others within the same breed. Different pedigree dog breeds include: the German Shepherd Dog, Golden Retriever and Dachshund. We often know exactly what pedigree dogs look like, what general characteristics they have, and what they are particularly suitable for – e.g. as hunting dogs, guard dogs or as family dogs. There are roughly 400 different breeds of dog worldwide. Pedigree dogs differ from mixed breed dogs, by having both parents and all their grandparents from the same breed.

## Brief explanation of terms used in the 'Fascinating Dogs' classroom materials.

### Domestication

When a wild animal evolves over time to become tame around people, scientists refer to this transformation as domestication. For example, around 10,000-14,000 years ago, wolves were attracted to human villages to scavenge on waste. Gradually, some wolves became less afraid of people and, when these wolves mated with each other, a type of dog was created. This dog wasn't as wild or reactive as the original wolf, and at the same time evolved to look very different and in more variable forms than the wolf. Humans selectively bred from this dog and today there are hundreds of breeds of domestic dog in the world.

### Female Dog

The term for a female dog is a bitch.

### House trained

Dogs do not like soiling their living space. They are clean animals and like to go to the toilet away from their 'den' or bed. A family dog must be shown where he is expected to relieve himself (e.g. out in the garden) and he should be taken there regularly in order to become "toilet trained" or "house trained". When a dog needs to go to the toilet, he often starts by turning round in circles and sniffing about. He should then be taken outside quickly, so that he can go to the toilet in the right place. He should also be taken out first thing in the morning, last thing at night, before and after a snooze, and after a meal. If he is taken out lots of times throughout the day, he won't be caught short in the house and will never need to use the carpet or floor as a toilet.

### Hygiene

'Hygiene' refers to health precautions. This means that we have to keep to a few rules if we want to live with dogs. For example, we must always wash our hands when we have stroked the dog. We must not eat anything from our dog's bowl, and the dog should never be allowed to eat from our plates. Regular vaccinations given by the vet and worming, tick and flea treatments, which can be given by you at home on the advice of your vet, help to keep your dog healthy. This means that you are at a much lower risk of catching parasites and diseases that can transfer between dogs and humans.

### Insurance

Lots of owners pay to insure their dog against accidents and illnesses. This means that your costs for certain vet treatments will be paid by the insurance company. It also pays for damage the dog might accidentally cause, such as if he runs out into the road and causes a car accident.

### Instincts

These are powerful natural behavioural motivations that an animal is born with and which help him survive. For example, a Greyhound puppy will instinctively run after something that races past. He does it without even thinking. A kitten's hunting instinct will mean she will chase and pounce on a small, moving toy. A human baby as well as a puppy has a natural sucking instinct, so that it can get the milk he needs.

### Male dog

The term for a male dog is dog.

## Brief explanation of terms used in the 'Fascinating Dogs' classroom materials.

### Muzzle

The proper word for a dog's nose and mouth is muzzle.

### On heat / In Season

The terms 'on heat' and 'in season' refer to the period in which a bitch can mate with a → male dog in order to have puppies. When a bitch mates with a male dog while on heat, she normally gives birth to puppies around 60 days later. Bitches come into season once or twice a year.

### Pack

'Pack' is the name given to a family of wolves that lives together. A pack usually consists of a pair of parents, i.e. the → alpha male and female, and their children, or 'cubs'. When the young wolves grow up, most stay to help their parents raise more litters. Some might leave to look for a mate and a new territory of their own, where they start their own pack.

### Pack leader

It used to be thought that the → alpha male was the pack leader; that he would make all the important decisions, tell the others what to do, and fight any pack members that didn't obey. But it's now known that the alpha male breeds and helps with other jobs, such as hunting and protecting the family rather than dictating everything. He might make some decisions, but other members in the pack also make decisions. The pack works as an extended family where everyone is an important, respected member, and where the young generally follow the lead of the parents.

### Paw

A dog's paw is at the end of its leg and is the equivalent of our human hand (front paw) or foot (rear paw).

### Puppy or Pup

A baby dog.

### Puppy Class

Like a dog training class or club, a puppy class is a place where a puppy can explore the world with his owner. He gets to know other puppies and people there and learns basic training, learning to respond to audible cues such as "Sit", "Come" and so on, and sometimes visual cues, such as hand signals. He will repeat enjoyable behaviour, so rewards are the best way to encourage him to learn.

### Request (Cue)

When you are training, it is important that you give clear instructions to the dog, so he understands what is required. A 'request' is when you ask him to do something, such as "Sit". It is helpful if all members of the family use the same requests, otherwise the dog will become confused. The most useful requests are: "Down", "Sit", "Come", "Leave", "Stay" and "Heel".

**Brief explanation of terms used in the 'Fascinating Dogs' classroom materials.**

## **Tail**

Dogs use their tails to "talk".

## **Territory**

A territory is an area that is inhabited by someone. Wolves that live in a → pack generally live in a particular area called their 'territory'. This territory is their home, and they will defend it against intruders, such as other wolves. For a dog, his home and garden are his territory.

## **Training**

A dog has to learn how to behave in our human world and in the family home. Dogs are very smart and quickly learn new exercises if the training is made fun and rewarding. You can learn how to teach your dog in a → training class, where he can meet other dogs and people.

## **Training Class/Club**

This is a place where dogs learn different exercises, such as "Down" or "Come". With guidance from an experienced dog trainer, we also learn to give the same clear instructions. In this way, we achieve a situation in which the dog can handle normal everyday life on the street and with people, and does not get himself or others into danger.

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